

2019 President's Year End Address

As we head towards a new year, I would like to take a moment to share some of what the MLA has been up to and thank our volunteers for all their efforts. For current details on any of these topics subscribe to Your Mississippi Minute: <https://www.mlakes.org/mla-publications>. And don't forget to join us at the AGM on May 21, 2020, 6:30-9:00 in Brunton Hall at the Beckwith Township office!

FLOODING

Spring 2019 saw the lake rise to within 6 cm of the 100 year flood level last seen in spring 1998. This caused considerable hardship for many. Many properties suffered serious damage and many folks had restricted access to their homes and cottages due to flooded roads. On October 31 Douglas McNeil completed his report including 66 recommendations for the province. You may want to have a look: https://www.ontario.ca/page/independent-review-2019-flood-events-ontario?_ga=2.152328890.2031682448.1575128699-2126333136.1549460970

WATERSHED PLAN

The MVCA has undertaken to draft a new Mississippi River Watershed Plan. Doreen Donald, the MLA VP and Environment Chair and I are sharing a seat on the Public Advisory Committee in this effort. It is planned to be released in 2020. For details see: <http://mvc.on.ca/mississippiriverwatershedplan/>

CAUTIONARY MARKERS

Well the buoys are out for winter and the ice is in. When deploying the buoys this spring the Miss LA had a motor failure. Given the age and usage, it wasn't a complete surprise, however thanks to some very generous help from Matt Illott, Jim Tye and Phil Zymiak the buoys were deployed when the water finally got to a reasonable level. THANKS!!

Dave Duncan, the MLA Boating Committee Chair sourced a great quality 'like new' motor and the Miss LA was restored to service in July. Thanks Dave! You can reach Dave at boating@mlakes.org

ENVIRONMENT

The MLA Environment Committee, led by Doreen Donald, has had another banner year that included efforts such as loon counts, invasive species sampling, water sampling and a frogbit pull. I had the good fortune to participate in the loon count and sampling for the invasive species Eurasian Milfoil. It was simply a fantastic experience to get onto our wonderful lake to help with these projects. I encourage everyone around the lake to get involved. It's fun! Contact Doreen at environment@mlakes.org. Thanks to the entire committee for your efforts!

COMMUNICATIONS

Henk de Jong, our new Communications Committee chair, has been busy! Thanks to his initiative and help from our Secretary Andre Langlois (I helped a bit too) we are proud to announce the introduction of a new website very soon. Little by little you will see new graphics and features along with a great new home page. Best of all the new URL is much shorter: mlakes.org. Thanks Henk and Andre! Reach out to Henk at comms@mlakes.org. We welcome new members!

Anne Gourlay-Langlois is the editor of the YMM, our e-newsletter (and she also looks after the MLA money as Treasurer). I'm sure you'll agree that this is an extremely informative and timely publication. Thanks Anne! Sign up for it at: <https://www.mlakes.org/mla-publications>

Lynn Bell (my better half and a longstanding member of the comms committee) has had another banner year raising money for the MLA through advertising. We still have advertising spots available on the website and YMM. You can reach her at advertising@mlakes.org. Thanks Lynn!

PRIVATE ROADS

Richard Teahen has continued his efforts to document very useful information for use by our members who live on private roads on our website. He covers topics such as establishing a Road Committee, liability issues, road dues collection, incorporation, and municipal grants. He also conducted a Town Hall meeting back in July which was very well attended. In 2020, with the assistance of Ross Button, the Chair of our new Municipal Relations committee, we will be re-invigorating our efforts to help the Road Committees around our lake to tackle their issues. You can reach Richard at roads@mlakes.org and Ross at mun-rel@mlakes.org.

REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY

The MLA is a vibrant organization engaging in many efforts in areas such as boating safety, water level reporting, water quality and education. To keep our efforts laser focused, we will be reaching out to do a 'values assessment' of our membership in 2020. When you see an invitation to share your views, please participate! Thanks!

TO GET INVOLVED IN THE MLA

See <https://www.mlakes.org/members> or reach out to me directly: president@mlakes.org

Bye, Rob