

## MALLA ANNUAL BASS DERBY 2018

Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup> was another day of intense heat and humidity like many of the others this summer. Regardless, anglers took to their boats as early as 6 a.m. seeking to catch a bass worthy of that large trophy waiting on Don and Brenda Martin's lawn. There were 51 adult anglers and 10 youth vying for prizes in this year's derby.

Happily, most anglers were able to weigh in a bass even though many BIG ONES got away. The biggest bass of 3 pounds 13 ounces was landed by Karlee Salmond in late afternoon. Several other anglers had bass 3 pounds or over early in the day, but Karlee was persistent and took possession of the title and the trophy for 2018. The annual challenge between Ron Higgins and Sandy Burgess resulted in the "Mayor" providing drinks at a local tavern the next week! Way to go Sandy!



*Karlee Salmond, First Place for Adults*

Among the youth, there was excitement as many were able to record a bass on the weigh-in sheet. First place trophy went to Dominic Martin who announced that he used the rod that he won last year, and it was really good at catching fish. His smallmouth weighed in at 2 pounds 10 ounces and apparently put up quite a struggle. His name will be placed on the MALLA "Under 12 years" trophy and he took home the first-place keeper.



*Dominic Martin,  
First Place for  
Youth*

Second place trophy went to Kristina Moore with a bass weighing 1 pound 10 ounces. Third place trophy went to Hanna McLaren with a bass weighing 1 pound 2 ounces. These keeper trophies were donated by Dave Johnston and the Fishing Committee would like to thank him for his generosity.



Hanna McLaren Third Place



Kristina Moore Second Place

Prizes! Prizes! Prizes! What a choice of prizes for adults and youth. Many thanks to the shoppers, Sheryl, Sandy and Brenda and to those individuals and businesses that donated the prizes.



Ron Higgins and Gerry Martin announced winners and thanked the participants and the donors.



A wide variety of potluck items covered the serving tables along with fresh fish of the day. (All large fish and most others caught during the derby, are released so there is no threat to the bass population.) For many dinner guests, it is their annual serving of fish from our lakes and it is greatly appreciated. Thanks to Don and Justin Martin for cooking the fish.



*Hanna and Lily McLaren, Don Martin, Sandy and Roy Burgess*

The 50/50 Draw netted \$ 116 to the Fishing Committee and an equal share to Dan Weber. Thanks to all who purchased tickets. Also, thanks to those who donated funds to support the meal (if they were not registered to fish but came to enjoy the social time).



An education component was included at this year's derby. An important appeal was made to the assembled group, from the Stewardship Committee. It was an alert to the landowners of a serious invasive species- **the Eurasian Water Milfoil**. Cathy Owen, Glen Fowler and Brenda Martin presented a sample of the culprit and outlined the potential disaster that our pristine lakes face. They described what steps have already been taken and that a work permit application has been made to MNR (Bancroft) to offer some control of the EWF. They did point out that it is virtually impossible to eradicate, but efforts from each of us may somewhat contain EWF this summer while we develop a more comprehensive plan. The plant is attaching to boats and motors and being spread throughout the lakes. A pilot project at the mouth of Ardoch Lake where it flows into the river is the priority this summer. Every landowner was encouraged to monitor the area in front of their property, pull out small EWF plants, rake out bigger ones without fragmenting them, scoop plants and segments that they find on the water or shores AND tell their neighbours about the issue. As well as the Invading Species signs, Alert Memos are available at the boat launch to help inform others.