

MALLA Summer Newsletter (August 1, 2020)

MALLA Executive has prepared these updates to share with our members in an effort to inform you about events and activities greatly affecting our two lakes. Our thanks to Cathy Potts for maintain the website. www.malla.ca

Ardoch Lake Condominium Development Ruth recooper424@gmail.com

On July 22nd the County of Frontenac held a Public Meeting for the Application for Ardoch Lake Draft Plan for Vacant Land Condominium. It was held virtually through a *ZOOM* conference session with Megan Rueckwald (Manager of Community Planning & Economic Development) as facilitator. In addition to County staff and the Developer's consultants, 34 people were part of the meeting on the computer or by phone. Hopefully the internet and phone connections allowed you to be involved. To all those who forwarded e-mails we appreciate that you took time to share your views.

The Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) with Dennis Boyle as Chair, and members Phil Leonard, Lisa Henderson, Barbara Sproule and Ron Higgins, received input from those who had registered to present and those who wished to participate during the meeting. Thanks to Ruth Cooper for doing a great job with a ten-minute presentation representing MALLA. In addition, the Ardoch property owners had Gord Nielsen, from Michalski Nielsen Associates Ltd., provide a ten-minute presentation, highlighting areas of shortcomings or areas of concerns, regarding the Draft Plan. Some key concerns were: 1) for such a large-scale development as this for a lake of this small size (just over 200 acres) and character, nearly doubling the number of shoreline lots, there is considerable potential for impacts on water quality, other environmental qualities, recreational experience and aesthetics- it should be done in phases; 2) only **6** of the 17 shoreline lots meet the **minimum** shoreline frontage requirements of the current Official Plan of 77 m; 3) two proposed lots, #16 and #17, have planned septic systems only 15 m. back from a water course (it should be a 30 m setback), providing a direct conduit for sewage to enter Ardoch Lake and 4) the wetland boundary of the large wetland containing the Heronry is not accurately depicted on drawings accompanying the application, with it coming much closer to the lake in vicinity of lots #3 and #4, than is shown on the plan. Road A will have to be shifted in order to buffer that portion of the wetland and this may affect the viability of lots 3 and 4.

Ecovue Consulting Services Inc., and Niblett Environmental Associates (now GHD), on behalf of the developer, stated their key points and responded to inquiries. They stated that the development was "appropriate" for the lake, and that by averaging all the lots, including the ones that were larger due to terrain or other features, that the Township's Official Plan minimum shoreline frontage was met. ECS staff also fielded responses (in brackets) to other concerns:

- failing to examine The Lake Plan (Bev took over file one year ago and missed it on Municipality website. Has looked at it now.)

- poor information about boat traffic, common dock size and launching (Still not fully drawn up)
- a very new Phosphorus-reduction Tertiary septic system that requires year-round maintenance and monitoring (will be monitored by Health Department, transferring to Township)
- who will monitor and ensure that individual lot shorelines will keep their vegetation intact and no docks, as promised in the developer's plan. (Enforced by zoning bylaws, condominium and subdivision agreements, and need MVCA permit before a dock could be built)

Powerful support was also delivered from the North Frontenac Lakes Associations Alliance in an e-mail from President, Bruce Moore. It stressed that "20 Lake Associations disagree with the introduction of lot size averaging as an approach to justify that the development is in compliance with the Official Plan....It was always considered, throughout the Official Planning process, that lot size and water frontage would be a baseline minimum to be enhanced by other environmentally appropriate interventions." Contact with the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations and the Chair of the Lake Networking Group also expressed concern that lot size averaging would set an undesirable precedent. (Note: In fact in Oct., 2017, there was a case with a proposed development near the Stony Lake wetlands, where the OMB ruled that the most current Official Plan guidelines must be used. Niblett Environmental Associates were involved with that case.)

The recommendation of the PAC will go to County and to the Township. MALLA will keep the membership updated with information as best we can.



Stewardship Committee has taken a hard blow with loss of members for various reasons. Our marine biologists, Bud and Mary live in Virginia and have been unable to cross the border. Cathy Owens has resigned to work on improving her health. We thank Cathy for her contribution. Brian Palmer lost the family cottage to fire on Ridge Lane in early summer. ***We are recruiting; anyone who has an interest in any aspect of lake preservation will be a great candidate.*** For

Stewardship. LSC developed the Lake Plan available on the website; it will give you an initial sense of the goals. The main 2019-2020 foci: preservation of walleye and turtles; water quality monitoring and protection; invasive species monitoring; and the pilot project for Eurasian Water Millfoil. Being a seasonal property owner has not hindered participation in the past, so we would be pleased to have some volunteers.

Phragmites control

Last summer work was conducted on two major phragmites outbreak sites on Malcolm Lake. It was not expected to “eliminate” the growth but to “control”. If you have phragmites on your property we strongly recommend that you intervene early. As Stewardship Chair, I attended a workshop last October, on this topic. One option noted in the literature is the use of chemicals but as waterfront property owners we know that this would have toxic results if leakage into the lake happened. Controlled burn of large patches may be an option. Mechanical treatment described below was deemed to be most effective and early intervention is important. If you need further information e-mail or phone Brenda. (613) 479-2837 dbmartin@xplor.net



Phragmites crowds out native vegetation which interrupts habitat and food resources for local wildlife. Allowing tall stands of phragmites also increases the risk of fire. The Lakes Stewardship Committee (LSC) is recommending mechanical treatment where the plants on land are cut down to the roots and removed by hand. This should happen before the pods go to seeds. Once removed the plants need to be transferred away from the water and later burned. If the plants are in the water digging them

out seems to be the most effective control.



Eurasian Water Millfoil update Brenda dbmartin@explornet.ca



This pilot project is continuing with exciting news for our most recent control strategy. The drone flights will happen in August to provide comparison data to assess EWM growth.

LSC has worked toward completion of 2020 objectives set out in the EWM Management Plan (2018-2020). Adjustments were made as results came in from our partners in the project. Carleton University 1) examined the impacts if any, for the use of the benthic barriers (burlap) on aquatic habitat

and 2) assessed the use of biodegradable benthic barriers (burlap) as a control of *M. spicatum* beds (EWM). The sampling that grad student, Patrick Beaupre conducted measured water quality parameters by comparing a control patch and the Ridge Lane EWM impact patch where a section was smothered with burlap. In many cases there were no significant differences, but there were significant differences for the following: Higher conductivity in EWM; lower Ph in EWM patches; way less light penetrating to the bottom in impact patch. Placing more rolls of burlap was deemed unnecessary since it was determined what we needed to know. The affects reported by Carleton University indicated that there was no harm to other species; the EWM had not come through the burlap (although it was going around the outside edges); one type of crustacean was replaced by another type but did not have a significant impact on zooplankton density Both phosphorous and chlorophyll levels were low which was interpreted as a good result. It was noted that fish dispersal, dispersion and distribution may be affected; however, the burlap strips may provide a corridor for fish travel, especially bass.

With respect to our plan to add a water blanket to a sample colony to determine the impact, Wade Leonard was able to do this at one of his ponds. Light deprivation did halt growth and increased decay.

Another planned intervention was to place buoys in the predominant Ridge Lane patch to alert boaters. It was hoped that the markers would reduce boat traffic from the boat launch through this dense patch. This strategy was modified following a significant reduction overall in boat traffic in June and July of this year. Far less fragmentation has been noted around the lake and shorelines in beach areas and so the markers have not been placed YET.

The exciting component of the pilot study has been the research in the field of weevils. Weevils are already in our lake but not in the quantity needed nor directed at the EWM colonies. At the October Eastern Ontario Lake Links conference MALLA presented our project and had a large booth area for sharing with the participants. Thanks to Wade Leonard weevil samples were on

display and enthusiastic discussion from many Lake Associations and environmental groups such as MCVA, Watersheds Canada and FOCA motivated him to pursue the culturing of weevils. There are no known weevil producers in Canada and American suppliers () for the Trent University and Big Cedar Lake project were terminated when American weevils were not allowed to be transported into Canada. At that time each weevil cost about \$1.00!

Wade undertook an expansion of the weevil production and an abundance are available to MALLA for this pilot. We can make a donation that can be covered with funds from our last fundraiser. The Stewardship Chair has been in contact with Professor Jesse Vermaire, Carleton University who will be continuing the EWM sampling this summer and into fall. Professor Vermaire has studied EWM for several years and is deemed an expert in this field. Professor Eric Sager, Trent University was a partner in the project several years ago where weevils were introduced into Big Cedar Lake (near Peterboro). Professor Sager has provided advice and encouragement should we proceed with weevils as a control strategy. LSC anticipated a roadblock if we needed a permit for the next step. Professor Sager informed us that permits were not required for stocking them as they are a native species. We have attempted to verify this before proceeding, but we are working on a plan subjected to modification if new information arises.

In a grid style area of the Ridge Lane patch, it is our intention to mark off small sections some of which will receive weevils, another section double that amount and another section double that amount. We will have drone maps before the stocking and months later to determine if there is any difference. This specific area will be marked by buoys in the hopes that boaters will avoid. People will need education about weevils such as how they survive in winter and LSC will be happy to provide educational material as we move forward.

Membership Allan jamieson_a@sympatico.ca

Treasurer Allan Jamieson thanks everyone who has joined MALLA again or as a new member. We have reached last year's membership numbers; we expect that we can exceed them based on the many new property owners. Fourteen new membership packages were delivered since the long weekend in May. Some people have been on the lake for several years and MALLA did not have names or contact information. Others have purchased last fall or this year. To all newcomers, WELCOME TO THE LAKES. To those who have renewed, we thank you for your continued support. If your neighbour is not a member yet, please help us by encouraging them to do so. A membership form is attached for easy access.

Secretarial Items

Kathy ksmipicadilly@gmail.com

Kathy Smith, Secretary, is a hard-working lady (911 dispatcher working out of Kingston) who volunteers her time to conduct the major communications for MALLA. Memos and messages have increased substantially in the past few years as MALLA Executive endeavours to keep property owners in the loop. There are times when Kathy is required to work overtime and may not get home for a couple of days. If you have an urgent matter and Kathy has not responded in 48 hours, please try one of the other Executive. The rest of us are retired and may be able to step-up. This is in reference to a complaint that the fire ban memo of the Township was not deemed "timely" enough. Township memos are posted on their website and that may serve as an alternative as well. Our apologies if you were negatively affected in any way.

Kathy was instrumental to improve the membership registration process with an on-line fill-in form and assist with the e-transfer procedures. It is important to provide the form with your current information so MALLA can communicate with all members.

Social activities



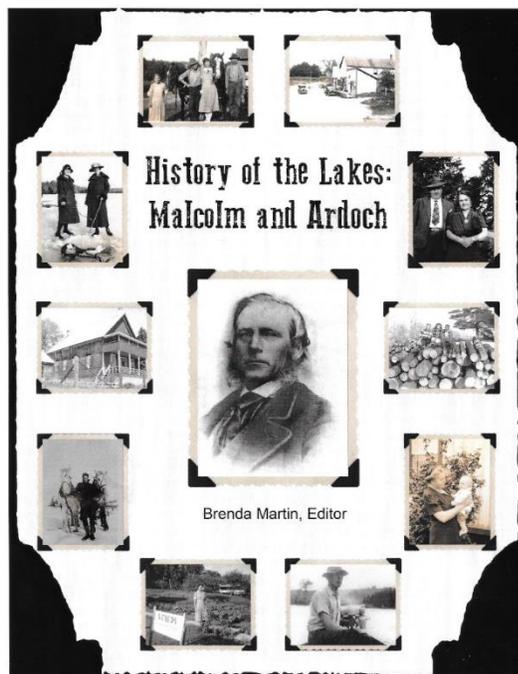
Thanks to the six boaters who took the initiative to do a mini-Canada Day Flotilla. It brought cheers around the lake and was much appreciated. Sorry that there are photos of only two boaters. They were the ones close enough for me to take photos...the rest must have been practising social distancing!

Our Social Committee Director, Sheryl and Fishing Committee Director, Dan have moved from the lake to the village of Ardoch and they have given their resignations although we hope to see them on their pontoon boat. For her many years committed to providing leadership with MALLA social activities we are very thankful. Sheryl not only co-ordinated all the meals for our enjoyment, she was a major part of every fundraiser for MALLA. On behalf of the members, we would like to thank Sheryl for her dedication to serve as a Director for MALLA.

As you are well aware it is a time of social distancing and restrictions to social activities are the new normal. The Fish Derby and dinner which appeals to over 100 people cannot be organized under the new guidelines and therefore we have cancelled until next July. (Hopefully it can happen then.) To Dan, who led the Fishing Committee through significant projects such as walleye spawning bed enhancement on both Malcolm and Ardoch Lakes, boat safety etiquette card development, placement of the shoal marker buoys annually, boat and people support for the drone flights, fundraising for fishing committee projects, and the annual bass fishing derby. MALLA would like to express our sincere appreciation for the time and effort that Dan invested to protect our fish habitats.

We are planning the Corn Roast on August 22nd (5 p.m.) at Smith's 1029 White Birch Court using the social distancing guidelines. MALLA will supply corn, hot dogs, plates and utensils. Guests are asked to bring a potluck dish to share, your beverages, lawn chair and \$ if you want to participate in a 50/50 Draw. RSVP # to Kathy by August 12th if you plan to attend. Likewise, the Winter Social February 13, 2021 MAY proceed. We will keep you informed as we move forward.

We need volunteers to join the Fishing Committee and the Social Committee. Please consider donating some time to help our lake community. Whatever summer social activities you do as a family, please stay safe.



This book is 232 pages with both colour and antique photos documenting the early settlement of the lake area and 18 settler families. It describes Services, Social Life and Businesses from the 1860s.

In the fall orders were taken for the book and it was produced as a fundraiser for MALLA. Many were used as Christmas presents. There have been several requests for the history book; none are available. We are prepared to produce more books if there is an interest. The cost is \$50.

Place your order (by August 31) dbmartin@xplornet.ca so that the books can be published in time to be picked up at the lake and avoid expensive shipping costs.