**Mazinaw Property Owner’s Association Annual General Meeting**

**Saturday, July 2nd, 2016 10 am – 12 pm**

**Barrie Township Hall - Cloyne, Ontario.**

**Board Members Present:** Arndt Kruger, Fran Bates, Richard Colden, Liz Russell, Murray Russell, Lisa Martin, Kelly Wilson and Archie MacDonald.

There were approximately sixty to seventy MPOA members in attendance.

**Call to Order –** The meeting was called to order by Arndt Kruger (president) at 10 A.M.

* Arndt asked if there were any changes or additions to the today’s AGM agenda – nil.
* 2015 AGM minutes and 2016 AGM agenda approved – Motion forwarded by Jeff Doll and seconded by Murray Russell.

**President’s Report – Arndt Kruger**

Each MPOA board member introduced themselves and identified their role on the MPOA.

2015-2016 Year in Review:

* MPOA successfully advocated for the preservation of the Denbigh ambulance service which was in jeopardy of being discontinued.
* Water Quality issues were a major focus of this year’s MPOA duties - important to the lake’s health therefore a main theme of our agenda this year.
* Any dock/floating dock over 15 square meters must have a permit from the township but new this year is that you must now have a permit from the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) as well.
* Tapping’s Bay – dock and signage completed. Discussed with members the need to improve the ramp. Previously had investigated parking improvement but that was denied by the township engineer. (Later in meeting the Deputy Mayor of N.F. Fred Perry agreed to give consideration to the ramp improvement and advised the MPOA to work with Corey Klatt next year on this proposal). MPOA to follow up next year on this.
* Importance of using Gypsy Moth traps. Traps for sale at AGM and new pheromone strips and sticky pads were given out free of charge. Very important to use and replace yearly to help prevent the spread of Gypsy moths which are harmful to our forest. The traps need to be put up immediately to attract the male moths before they have an opportunity to mate.
* Arndt expressed his thanks for the hard work of the MPOA board members.

**Treasurer’s Report – Richard Colden**

* Revenue down a bit year over year, partly due to increased membership in 2014 due to a Lake Directory issued that year.
* Went over MPOA financial statement - highlighting increase in cost mostly due to insurance premium new this year. Other expenses include FOCA membership and website.
* Possible increase in membership dues next year if not enough members sign this year.
* Motion forwarded by Bob Reid and seconded by Ann Hawkins on Treasurer’s Report.

**Water Quality - Lisa Martin**

* **Invasive Species Testing – (Lisa)** Previous years samples for Zebra Mussels and Spiny Water Fleas have come back clear (negative). This year’s test came back non-conclusive. This does not mean that it is a positive result – arranged to resample and re-test again.
* **Boat Washing –** Discussed the importance of raising awareness to avoid transfer of invasive species when boats in and out of various lakes. If the boat, motor, trailer are out of the water for more than 5 days, no boat washing required. This was not the case for many community partners. Hydro and Bell did not previously have a boat washing procedure but have implemented one after contact with the MPOA. OPP and Department of Fisheries now have agreement with Bon Echo Park to use their boat wash equipment because of discussions with MPOA at 2015 AGM.
* **Signage** - Board confirmed signage at Tapping’s, Brown’s and Bon Echo Park to make boat launchers aware of invasive species. MPOA to verify Smart’s has signage displayed. Lisa confirmed that bilge water needs to be cleaned out as well if needed, as well as wash hull, trailer and motor. Recommended best to leave boat out of water for minimum of 5 days prior to entry to another lake to kill invasive species and stop transfer.
* **Love Your Lake –**Arndt presented on behalf of Jillian Rohonczy (of Watershed Canada). Organization is run by Watershed Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Federation. Program involves representatives to take pictures of all shoreline properties and then create an individualized assessment. Each property owner will receive their personal assessment with suggestions on how to improve their shoreline health (to improve overall lake health). Suggestions include putting in native plants near the shoreline to act as a buffer to decrease runoff into the lake. Program requires volunteers to assist them. Board asked for members of the MPOA to help with this. The program is free and completely confidential, no information will be shared with anyone other than the property owner and there is no obligation on the property owner to carry out any recommendations. Privacy concerns were brought up to the board such as; pictures of properties being posted or shared. Similar concerns were addressed at Bob’s Lake where this program was carried out. Arndt offered to clarify with the “Love Your Lake” program how these concerns will be addressed. Arndt confirmed no information or results will be shared with the MPOA either. Motion to go through with the “Love Your Lake” program was forwarded by Ann Hawkins, and seconded by Bob Reid, with 3 members opposed, all other members in favour; zero abstentions.
* **Mississippi Valley Shoreline Naturalization –** presented by guest speaker, Caleb Yee

**Caleb** gave a very informative presentation on how complex water quality is and the many factors that affect it such as; geology, weather, shoreline erosion and changes in land use. Increase run off can transport nutrients and chemicals into the water. We can decrease runoff by having rain barrels and proper eavestroughs, replant natural vegetation and reduced hardened surfaces (eg; interlock stone rather than concrete). See website mvc.on.ca/shoreline-planting for more information. Caleb advised that for orders less than 20 trees/shrubs, if you email them, they will do a bulk order and deposit your order at a centralized location for you to pick up next spring, ALL FREE OF CHARGE. More information will be coming on this initiative in the fall 2016.

* **Fish Habitat Improvement (Watershed Canada) -** presented by Arndt. Their objective is to create and improve habitat to increase fish populations. MPOA submitted application in January 2016 for consideration. Waiting to hear back on approval of a government grant. If approved it will take place in 2018.
* **Water Levels –** Lisa shared details from MVCA email the fact that the Mississippi river is in mild drought conditions, while some tributaries are moderate or close to severe drought. We've had a little rain so hopefully it’s improving. Although our lake is pretty much at level (dropping now though), flows into the main branch of the system are 25%, to as low as 10%, of normal. Everyone should be conserving water as much as possible, even well water use. Use rain barrels to collect any rain water, avoid power washing. “Only a significant amount of rainfall over a large portion of the watershed will be required to return the watershed to normal conditions”. Visit www. mvc.on.ca/water-levels for more information.
* **Healthy Septic Systems** – Lisa advised there is info on the MPOA website with suggestions to promote a healthy septic system. Some good points to remember are: to never drive over or use the area of the tank or tile bed, trim deep root plants regularly to avoid damage to weeping tiles, decrease use and only put organic matter down septic, avoid chemicals, use bio-degradable products, and no hazardous waste in septic. Storms can cause excessive run off into system. Promote pumping out system as groups to save on cost. Fred Perry (Deputy Mayor of North Frontenac) also commented that NF Township randomly chooses cottages to have a “voluntary septic inspection”. You can also call the township to be put on the yearly list. Request from the audience to Fred to take back the request to look at mandatory septic inspections.

Fred Perry also mentioned the cost of the OPP continues to be on the rise year to year.

**Fire Ban –** Arndt confirmed there is a complete fire ban on in our area due to lack of rainfall and extreme drought conditions. This also includes prohibiting the use of fireworks.

**Membership and Communication – Fran Bates**.

* Good hits on MPOA website – lots of email correspondences received at the communications@lakemazinaw.ca id.
* New “Buy and Sell” section on website for members only – water/cottage items/cottage for sale only. Send e-mail (no PDF) with only a few lines - will retain for 3 weeks. No liability to MPOA.
* Check “Lost and Found” section of website (retains items for only 1 week).
* Approximately 75 changes to directory – insert will be sent via e-mail to current members only – paper copies were available at the meeting for non-computer users.

**Dark Sky Initiative -** Murray Russell

* Presented Dark Sky Initiative to promote awareness for MPOA members. This initiative is found throughout the world including parts of Canada, U.S., Australia and New Zealand. Recommendations from FOCA to property associations have been happening for many years on this topic.
* Useful information provided on this topic as to the effects of light pollution has on the environment as it causes profound changes to wildlife and aquatic life. It is a cause for concern here as some residents use very bright lights.
* Recommendations include: using lower wattage light bulbs that point downward, not leave on lights all night and for security reasons it is better to use sensor lights as they startle thieves who are not sure if they triggered the light, or the home owner. Home Depot now sells shrouded lights. Pamphlets were made available to provide more information on this topic, as well to share with other property owners.

**Emergency Preparedness -** Murray Russell

* The board had ongoing discussions regarding the possible purchase of two fire pumps for the members’ use in the event of a fire emergency. After much discussion and investigation on the MPOA board, the board made the decision not to pursue this. Arndt commented on the many problematic reasons of not having a MPOA shared pump(s) including; portability, training required, regular maintenance and possible liability.
* It was recommended by the board that any interested members consider getting together with neighbours and discuss the possibility of shared use of a privately purchased pump.
* Reminder there is good information on our website from NF/AH fire chiefs on emergency preparedness. This included the importance of having a “road side access buddy “for water access property owners. In case of emergency at your lake-access cottage, you could get over to your buddy’s address on the road-side and 911 would meet you there. \*Important to know the 911 address in advance or the EMS cannot be dispatched.

**Call for New Members -** Two new candidates put forth their names for consideration to join the MPOA board of directors. Kate McGovern - her aunts both had properties in Campbell’s Bay since the 1950’s and Harry Van Ymeren – a ten-year resident of Barber Bay. Motion to accept these nominations was forwarded by Murray Russell and seconded by Richard Colden. Thank you and welcome aboard!

**Questions, Concerns and Comments from members:**

* Carol Colden thanked the MPOA board for all their hard work on great initiatives this year.
* Dennis Richard of Sail Mazinaw wanted the members to know that next Saturday will be their 2nd annual Sail Mazinaw event. Sailors are invited to meet for breakfast at Mazinaw Lake Resort at 8am on Saturday July 9th.
* Joyce Marshall of the Land O’Lakes Garden Club wants to encourage us to plant and bring flowers to enhance our environment.
* Tony mentioned that if you have an emergency generator, sump pumps can be used as a fire pump, which can be a huge cost saving.
* A member asked about exemptions from the noise bylaw by Mazinaw Lake Resort. It was confirmed that they asked for three exemptions to the noise bylaw (use of amplified music) and were granted one for July 2nd, 2016.
* Arndt responded to questions and concerns about property taxes, Algonquin Land claims and wind turbines.
* A concern was raised that the agenda this year was too water quality focused. A member reminded others to check the MPOA agenda prior to the meeting if they wish other topics to be added to the agenda and they can make a request by submitting an email to communications@lakemazinaw.ca.
* Arndt thanked Fran Bates for all her dedication and long hours on behalf of the MPOA board.

Adjournment at 12 P.M. Motion carried by Murray Russell, seconded by Carol Colden.