

MPOA 2021 NEWSLETTER



Picture taken by Iain Howieson, upper Mazinaw Lake

Website: www.lakemazinaw.ca Facebook: Mazinaw Property Owners Association
Email: communications@lakemazinaw.ca e-transfer: treasurer@lakemazinaw.ca

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President's Corner

By Bob Reid

As our long and challenging winter draws to a close our thoughts turn to enjoying time at Mazinaw Lake. The board and I wish to welcome any new cottagers and invite them to join the 200 + members of the Mazinaw Property Owners Association - an organization run by volunteers and devoted to making the best possible cottaging experience for both permanent and seasonal residents of our lake.



I was in diapers when I enjoyed my first summer at Mazinaw and in the 70 years since then I have seen many changes. We have lost some of the early lake fixtures such as Mazinaw Boys Camp and the Mazinaw Inn and have seen a significant increase in the number of new buildings along our shores. New communication towers that initially seemed an intrusion on our sunset views have done much to improve cell and internet service. The sounds of Mazinaw have changed little in 70 years, though with the quiet spring in 2020 I heard some usually reclusive whip-poor-wills for the first time in 30 years. I continue to enjoy the sounds of happy families enjoying the water on those hot summer days.

The quality of our lake water has remained remarkably good, in part, because we are at the headwaters of the Mississippi Valley watershed but also due to the diligence of our members in avoiding water contamination through runoff and septic leakage. We encourage everyone to get a septic inspection

and to conduct any necessary maintenance. Regular monitoring of water quality is conducted in partnership with the Lake Partner Program and the recent "Love your Lake" initiative in 2018 provided individual property owners with a confidential report and suggestions to enhance and maintain a "naturalized" shoreline. The fishery at Mazinaw remains healthy and has been supported, in part, by projects like our underwater brush bundle placement around the lake in 2018 and the increasingly popular 'catch-and-release' approach to fishing.

The Bon Echo provincial park and our spectacular cliffs have made Mazinaw a popular tourist destination and I am pleased to say that park officials have taken significant efforts to accommodate the 200,000 + visitors annually with minimal adverse impact on lake residents. Activities at 'the narrows' continue to present some challenges but in general efforts to mitigate these problems are succeeding.

I rarely see windsurfers (a national trend) and the number of sailboats has declined with the loss of the Camp Mazinaw fleet but canoes, kayaks, paddles boards, and the occasional rowing scull seem to have taken their place. Unfortunately, I have seen single swimmers unsupervised far from shore and Sea Doo operators racing far too close to shore. Everyone needs to use common sense and take personal responsibility for their actions if we hope to preserve the excellent safety record we have enjoyed in the past decade.

The board has tackled several important issues during the off season and details of these are highlighted in the articles that follow. We have

participated in consultations regarding the [Mazinaw-Lanark 10- year forestry plan](#) (2021-2031), the ongoing [Algonquin Land claim](#), unauthorized shoreline camping, the [gypsy moth infestation](#), and challenges posed by a growing number of commercial cottage rental operations on Mazinaw.

On behalf of all the board and all the MPOA membership I would like to thank Francine Bates for her 10 years of hard work on the executive and her leadership of this organization as its recent president. She has been integral to the development of our MPOA website and the quadrennial directory of Mazinaw properties and property owners. Not only was Fran kind enough to offer her technical skills and know how to produce this spring newsletter, but also, she has kindly agreed to project manage the development of our updated Mazinaw directory slated for release in the spring of 2022.

I would also like to express our deep appreciation to Kate McGovern who in late 2020 concluded a successful term on the board of MPOA, as the Director of Membership. Kate's hard work was also critical in finalizing our last MPOA directory.

Last summer due to Covid our AGM was switched from a live interactive session in Cloyne to a virtual Zoom meeting. In addition, our very successful MPOA barbecue from previous years had to be cancelled. Once again, this year the AGM will be conducted by Zoom on Saturday May 29th from 10:30-12:00. An email will be coming with registration information closer to the date. If individuals have concerns or questions that they would like discussed during the AGM

these items should be submitted in advance by email to communications@lakemazinaw.com

In conclusion: Please support your MPOA, renew your membership and encourage your neighbours to do likewise, respect the lake and its environs, be good to your neighbours, stay safe and have a wonderful Mazinaw summer.

Bob Reid

MPOA President



photo by Carol Colden

Did you know:

Before you cut down trees at your shoreline, please consider this information from Watersheds Canada:

Restoring a natural shoreline will improve your lake and shoreline health. Throughout their lifetimes, over 90% of aquatic species use shorelines for food, shelter, breeding, and rearing areas. Natural shorelines help protect your property from erosion, reduce flood water damage, and improve water quality.

What's Happening in 2021

Mark your calendars



Last year we moved the *Annual General Meeting (AGM)* from an in-person meeting held the first Saturday of July each year to a zoom call held in June to ensure more people could attend from home. It was very well attended and we received positive feedback. The 2021 AGM will be held via zoom on **May 29th, 2021**. If you don't have internet or zoom, please consider attending with someone who has (that is in your bubble).

Did you know that the AGM is where we vote on issues so please attend and let your membership vote be counted?

Membership fee due **July 1st**

- *If you are attending the MPOA AGM, please pay your membership fee **PRIOR** to the meeting in May*

This summer the board will be preparing for a new **MPOA directory**. We will be collecting your contact information in the summer months of 2021 for a publication in the spring of 2022.

More than ever the **Northbrook Foodbank** could use your help. Please mark your calendar for Labour day and / or Thanksgiving as a reminder to donate your non-perishable food rather than bring them home when you leave the cottage for the season. On these weekends, the MPOA will arrange a convenient drop off location for you. More information will be given closer to the dates.



Photo by Cheryl Hunchak



Photo by Rob Reid

A Look At The New Board

President: **Bob Reid**
Vice President: **Amy Fraser**
Treasurer: **Rosemary Prevoe**
Secretary: **OPEN**
Memberships: **Ian Philips**
Webmaster & Communications: **Suzanne Sills**
Lake Steward: **Vern Haggerty**
FOCA Rep: **OPEN**
NFLAA Rep: **Jamie Fraser**

Retired in 2020:

- Francine Bates, President
- Kate McGovern, Memberships director
- Murray Russell, FOCA Rep
- Arndt Kruger, Community Relations
- Kerry Skipper, Webmaster
- Nancy Skipper, Communications director

Changes in 2020:

- Bob Reid moved from VP to President
- Suzanne Sills moved from Secretary to Webmaster & Communications director
- Jamie Fraser assumed the NFLAA liaison role
- Amy Fraser & Ian Philips were elected to the board at the 2020 AGM. Besides taking on the roles above, Amy created & is MPOA Facebook administrator.

Notes:

- Please consider volunteering by either helping with some MPOA projects, or by joining the board.
- We are especially in need of someone to fill the Secretary role. This is a very important role! Carol Colden has offered to take on this role in the interim.
- The FOCA rep role is also vacant and needs to be filled. In this role, the board member will be the liaison with FOCA, attend their two meetings per year, and keep our MPOA members up-to-date on important news affecting cottagers across

Ontario. For more information about [FOCA](#).

We need you!

We are looking for an enthusiastic member to join our MPOA Board. Please consider **submitting your name forward before May 15th to communications@lakemazinaw.ca and volunteer a little time to the lake community you love.** It's not a large time commitment and you'll be joining a great team; learn about things affecting the MPOA first hand – we are ready to embrace your new thoughts & ideas!

This could be a good experience for a mature Highschool or University student to add to their resume.



Photo by Euan Ferguson

KEEPING UP-TO-DATE ON COVID-19

As people start to think about coming up to the cottage, the Township of North Frontenac are urging all MPOA members to keep up-to-date on Covid-19 by referencing this link on a regular basis:

<https://www.northfrontenac.com/en/our-community/covid.aspx>

2020 Photo Contest

The MPOA board challenged all members to another photo contest in 2020. There were some great entries – below are the top 3 winners, as voted by you. They won an MPOA ball cap which will be delivered this summer.

You will see some other entries scattered throughout the newsletter. Congrats to the winners and thank you to who submitted photos, or who voted on the results.

Congratulations to our winners



1st Place – Double Rainbow by Iain Howieson



2nd Place - Kayak in the Mist by Rose Prevoe



3rd Place – After The Storm by Tristan Levere

At the same time, the MPOA board challenged all members to write an article for this newsletter. You can find two adorable children stories written about what interested them at the cottage in 2020 within this newsletter.

Lake Steward Update

Fish Habitat Enhancement Project At Mazinaw Lake

By Vern Haggerty

In case you missed it on our MPOA Facebook page the following is a link to our 2018 Brush Bundles project, then and now:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xzColM99uVQ>



Water Quality Update

By Vern Haggerty

As reported at the 2020 AGM Water Sampling in 2020 was delayed. Due to the late season approval to proceed with sampling and the fact that the Lake Partner Program (LPP) have yet to be published their 2020 results, our Mazinaw LPP volunteers may not have sampled.

Your Lake Steward participated in a Watersheds Canada “Planning For Our Shorelines” survey.

Planning for our Shorelands is a collaborative project bringing together expert planners, scientists, and lake stewards from across the province. Its objective is to provide a meaningful best-management practices resource which promotes sustainable shoreland land-use practices and policies in Ontario’s municipalities. Given the importance of shorelands to humans, wildlife, and the physical environment, sustainable land-use practices in Ontario’s municipalities will be critical for protecting the shores of our lakes and rivers now and in the future.

Our message was the lack of sediment control on new construction. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans regulations require that on any new construction project a proper sediment control plan be in place. When was the last time you saw a sediment fence along the shore of Mazinaw; or any other lake, when someone was undertaking a construction project?

Maintaining an undisturbed vegetated buffer zone between areas of on-land activity and the high-water mark can also be a very effective way to prevent sediment runoff.

Our goal is to see a closer working relationship between the local conservation authorities and the building officials; at the site plan approval stage, where it becomes standard practice that an acceptable sediment control plan is in place.

Enforcement of Noise & Fireworks Complaints

By Vern Haggerty

Both North Frontenac and Addington Highlands have noise by-laws. However only Addington Highlands addresses fire-works. For both Townships the By-Law Officer is responsible for enforcement of noise complaints.

For North Frontenac the public may contact the Frontenac Municipal Law Enforcement Inc directly at (613) 541-3213 if their questions/complaint/concern involves noise per the Township's [Noise By-law](#).

In Addington Highlands fireworks are only permitted on Victoria Day, Canada Day & Labour Day. Should your Addington Highlands neighbours be inconsiderate of our lake-side community, please speak with the Township CAO/Clerk Treasurer; Christine Reed, 613-336-2286 ext. 2014. As the Addington Highlands noise complaint form is not posted on their website, Christine will assist you in formally registering your noise complaint and send you their complaint form.

The link to the Addington Highlands noise by-law is [Addington Highlands noise by-law](#).

If the noise complaint in either Township involves Alcohol, Drugs, Violence, etc. please contact the Ontario Provincial Police via 9-1-1

(for emergency situations) or 1-888-310-1122 (for non-emergencies).

Did you know:

Do I need a Permit to install a dock?

"Dock and shoreline construction rules and regulations"

As Mazinaw is part of the Mississippi Valley Watershed the following is the Dock Policy of the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority. Hopefully this PDF will assist you in determining whether or not a permit is required:



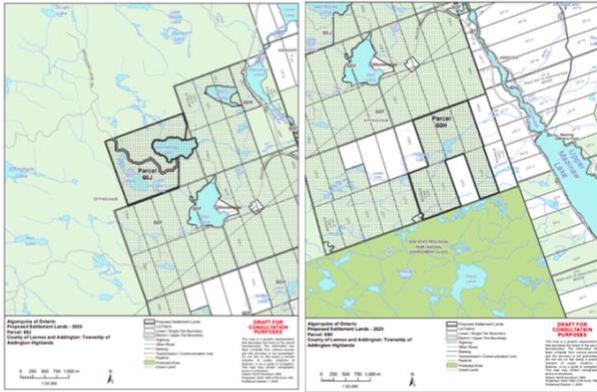
https://mvc.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Dock-Policy_1.pdf



photo by Scott Elliott

Algonquin Land Claim

I had the opportunity to attend a live-streamed presentation to Addington Highlands Township council by representatives of the Algonquin Land Claim Committee on Dec 15, 2020. They showed maps identifying proposed settlement lands ([https://www.ontario.ca/page/algonquin-land-](https://www.ontario.ca/page/algonquin-land-claim-environmental-evaluation-report#section-2)



[claim-environmental-evaluation-report#section-2](#) and explained that the boundaries of the claim were based on the watershed which was historically used and occupied by the Algonquin people. Relevant to Mazinaw are parcels of lands (see above) abutting the north of Bon Echo Park but not touching Mazinaw Lake. Another parcel does run along the west shore of Mackavoy Lake and other parcels incorporate Feeny Lake, Machesney Lake, and Stoll and little Stoll Lakes. Road access for cottagers in those areas will be assured in any final agreement. Once transferred, the lands will be privately owned by the Algonquins of Ontario (AOO) and subject to the same municipal land use planning and development approvals as other private lands. If any Algonquin landowners require building permits, they will pay standard

Did you know:

For motorized boats:

Operating a boat in an unsafe manner (e.g. not paying attention to others using the waterway) can lead to a charge of 'careless operation of a vessel' and a \$450 fine.

The law states that you must be going no more than 10 km per hour when you are within 30 metres (100 feet) of shore.

When on the water at dusk or at night, always have your lights on. This seems obvious, but there are many who do not follow this important safety procedure at Mazinaw.

Always be on the lookout for paddlers, swimmers. This is especially true when pulling a skier, or a tube. Pull them in the less congested area (e.g. away from the section of bay between Bon Echo rock and the campground).

Waves from boats too close to shore and erode the shoreline and wreak havoc on your fellow neighbour's docks! There can be children and family pets swimming close to shore.

No matter where you are, always be cognizant of the wake you are creating and try to minimize it around paddlers (canoeists, kayakers, Stand Up Paddleboards (SUP)). **Pass behind the paddler and NOT in front of them.**

For paddlers:

Clear 'the Narrows' at Bon Echo quickly – do not linger, use it as a photo op spot! It can be a major point of congestion

Wait until it is safe to enter the channel (do not pass in front of a boat that is already in the channel). It is difficult for a boat going slow through the Narrows to maneuver around you at the last minute!

Where possible, paddle on the outside of the markers rather than within, to leave the channel open for boats who must go through the markers. This will help ease congestion.

Thank you, and please be respectful & safe.

rates and they will pay taxes on their properties. When a fire ban is in place, they will also be subject to the same rules. AOO will have a joint role in managing provincial parks. When I asked what role the AOO would have in managing Bon Echo Provincial Park I was told that this would not be defined until the park management plan was updated. As far as harvesting (fish, deer etc.) the new treaty must recognize court ordered rights for aboriginal people however the negotiator stated that they will try to standardize policies (hunting and fishing seasons and bag limits) for all in the best interest of conservation.

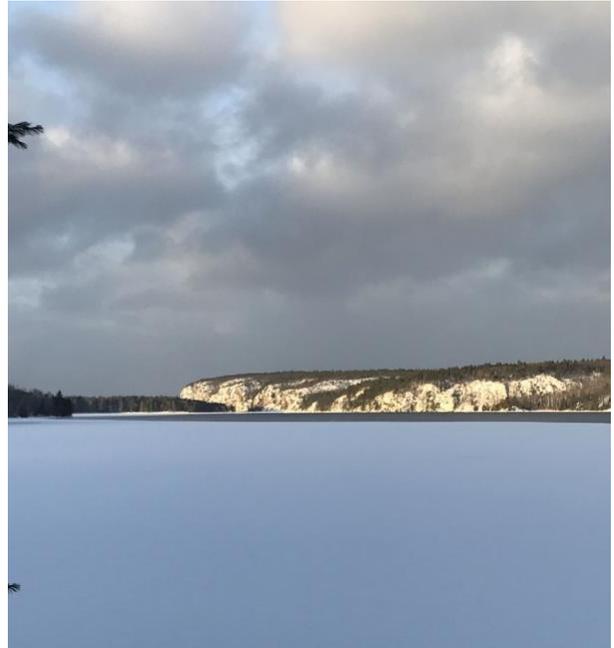


photo from Smarts Marina's collection

Search **Mazinaw
Property Owners
Association** and
click request to join

MPOA Facebook Group

Last summer the MPOA created a Facebook Group as a way for cottagers to share information, connect and highlight fun things happening around the lake. The Group has seen some great discussion by cottagers seeking advice on various topics such as finding contractors and internet service. Given what we went through last summer with gypsy moths, there have been many posts on the topic with cottagers showing devastation, and tips and tricks for what to do. This summer will likely see several additional posts on gypsy moths as we move into the second summer of the outbreak. Over the winter there have been updates about ice conditions on the lake for cottagers looking to access their cottages.

The Facebook Group is an additional and/ or alternative place to the MPOA website for members to post items for sale, or items Lost & Found. The Group is also a great place to meet your neighbours virtually- especially important over the last year given physical distancing and other public health recommendations as a result of the pandemic. Additionally, the MPOA Board uses Facebook as a place to post information of interest to cottagers as another way to quickly get information out to the membership. The Group is quickly growing with just over 100 members as of the end of March. We look forward to seeing more members join in 2021, and keep an eye out for posts.

MPOA Website

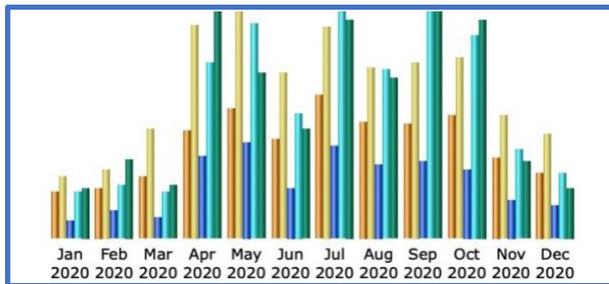
By Suzanne Sills

The MPOA web site www.lakemazinaw.ca continues to be a popular place for members (and others) to find information on Lake Mazinaw and what the MPOA is all about.

The chart following shows the web site usage statistics monthly for the year 2020.

In addition to the chart statistics, the tracking identifies the countries where the accesses originated. The highest numbers of visit counts are from Canada and the United States, other countries include Ukraine, South Korea, Russian, Czech Republic, Moldova and 20 more.

Seems we are international!



Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2020	345	462	3,242	8,604	463.55 MB
Feb 2020	378	520	5,113	9,757	742.17 MB
Mar 2020	460	815	3,828	8,605	486.81 MB
Apr 2020	812	1,600	15,342	32,605	2.05 GB
May 2020	968	1,720	17,745	39,736	1.49 GB
Jun 2020	742	1,239	9,226	23,270	1008.31 MB
Jul 2020	1,077	1,595	17,088	42,531	1.98 GB
Aug 2020	874	1,284	13,775	31,218	1.45 GB
Sep 2020	858	1,324	14,368	41,955	2.07 GB
Oct 2020	925	1,351	12,857	37,728	1.98 GB
Nov 2020	609	921	7,177	16,397	715.74 MB
Dec 2020	491	788	6,055	12,210	469.34 MB
Total	8,539	13,619	125,816	304,616	14.81 GB

Membership Update

By Ian Philips

The summer of 2020 was a challenging year, but despite everything that happened, our membership supported the MPOA wonderfully. There were a total of 202 paid-up members. This is out of a total of 371 properties on Lake Mazinaw. This includes everyone along the lake and the properties that are on the other side of the roads that run along the lake, including the bay that is north of Brown's trailer park.

Membership payment methods varied. Our preferred payment method is e-transfer. More than half of the payments, 123, were done by e-transfer. For methods of renewing your membership, please visit our website at <https://www.lakemazinaw.ca/renew.php>.

YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Please don't forget to inform us of any changes to your contact information. Especially your e-mail address as it's our primary vehicle to communicate with you.

Did you know:

Always check with your local fire department info line 613-336-1851 or the Township of AH & Township of NF website to ensure there are no fire bans

Getting Ready for the 2022 MPOA Directory

by Francine Bates

Every 5 years or so, the MPOA puts out a new copy of the directory which is produced hardcopy for our current members, plus we give a copy to the Police, Ambulance Services, and Hydro to facilitate them finding us around the lake in case of an emergency. Last year there was a lot of turnover of cottages and the board decided that we would put in the effort of collecting information this summer with a distribution target of spring 2022.

What's the value?

While it is cool to see where people on the lake live, things happen! A boat floats away; a tree falls on your neighbour's roof; a cottage comes off its foundation; and you want to call and let your neighbour know about it. Each year we get people contacting the MPOA asking how they can reach a neighbour because of an emergency. If you own a directory, it makes it that much easier.

What can you expect?

If you are a member and we have your current email address, you can expect to receive an email from us asking you to confirm your contact information. We ask that you then validate that all the information is current, whether you moved, eliminated your land line, changed your email address etc.

If we do NOT have your email address, the board will be going around collecting this information from anyone who wishes to become an MPOA member and wants their information added to the directory. If no one is home, we will leave behind a pamphlet noting how to reach us. This will be done following all health guidelines (e.g. wearing a mask, staying 6 feet away).

How can you help?

Two things.

1. If you think you have a horizontal, high resolution picture of the lake that we could use to wrap the directory in for our front & back cover, please submit it to communications@lakemazinaw.ca
2. This is an enormous effort for a small board who have volunteered to be part of this project, along with their other board duties. If any MPOA members are chatting with their neighbours (while social distancing of course) who may not be members, please ask them to reach out to us proactively, this would be very much appreciated. It may reduce the number of places we need to go!

They can find the new members form on our www.lakemazinaw.ca website, under the tab Membership and send it to communications@lakemazinaw.ca and, they can e-transfer their \$20 membership fee to treasurer@lakemazinaw.ca (note their 911 Mazinaw number and Name).

Thank you.



photo from Barber Bay



photo by Keith Eva

Short Term Cottage Rentals

Over the past few years, the MPOA has been receiving an increased number of complaints about the bad behaviour of some cottage renters. We are aware that some cottagers will rent to friends or small family groups to offset the increasing costs of cottage maintenance and taxes. In general, these are not the problem cases.

Many lakes have seen the recent emergence of cottages built or purchased for the express purpose of commercial rental operations. Typically, the complaints we receive are coming from such unsupervised rentals to larger groups of partiers who clearly do not share the same values and priorities of long-standing lake residents.

In response to a recent request for additional property severances on a commercial rental

location on the south east shore of Mazinaw the MPOA asked cottagers to weigh in with their concerns. We heard from many of you about excessive noise, late night fireworks, incidents of careless boating, garbage being left at the side of the road, among other things. The MPOA board took these concerns to the North Frontenac Lake Association Alliance (NFLAA) asking for the support of their twenty- member lake associations in calling on the Township of North Frontenac to address the need for stricter regulation of commercial rental operations. MPOA also wrote to the mayor and council of NF suggesting that a distinction be made between occasional renters and commercial operations. An example we presented was that people renting for no more than 4 weeks per year and to groups of 6 adults or less be exempt from inspection and licencing that would be required of all other commercial rental operations.

At a North Frontenac special council meeting on the issue of short-term rentals on February 19,2021 a very cursory discussion ensued with little attention to the many concerns that cottagers had expressed to the Mayor and council in email correspondence. There was general agreement that a bylaw requiring inspection and licencing for everyone would present an unnecessary burden for those who rent periodically to small groups for a week or two each summer and could add significant costs for the township. However, the “solution” proposed and passed by council at that meeting really did not address the concerns that led to the meeting in the first place. The council passed a motion: “instructing staff to increase communications with respect to short-term rentals” and requested that complaints be formalized via documentation in a timely manner so they can be addressed by a bylaw enforcement officer.

The MPOA plans to continue to work with the NFLAA to push for a more robust and fair solution to concerns expressed not only by members of MPOA but also by an increasing number of

cottagers across Ontario. The Federation of Cottagers Associations (FOCA) has identified this as a major priority.

In the interim we recommend that any complaints be formally documented on the township's complaint website (<https://www.northfrontenac.com/en/township-services/report-an-issue.aspx>). Dangerous or criminal behaviour should be promptly reported to the OPP at 911 or 1 888 310 1122.



photo by Suzanne Sills

Did you know:

Fireworks & the Environment:

Fireworks are environmentally damaging and have an effect on the health of our lake? They are made of cardboard, plastic, gunpowder, heavy metals and chemicals which falls to the ground and/or lake when they are set off. Recently, our members have noticed that people are setting off fireworks in the winter and the garbage is left sitting on the ice, to sink into the lake in the spring! Please be respectful everyone.

Not only that, but they affect our pets who cannot be consoled and shake long after the fireworks end. But, what about the forest animals...and our precious loons, and other birds?

Fireworks present a very real threat of forest fire when it is dry or windy.

Addington Highlands now has a fireworks bylaw and are only allowed on 3 specific weekends.

Military Exercises at Mazinaw Lake

The Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) were conducting training exercises March 1st to 5th around Mazinaw Lake. Residents were told they might notice military aircraft, vehicles, and snowmobiles, uniformed military personnel with weapons. Maybe you were lucky enough to see them in action. Terry Napier shared these amazing photos:



The paratroopers were to land and stay overnight in Hungry Bay but the week before the drop, temperatures changed and the bay had too many slushy areas.

To all service members, thank you for your sacrifice and service!

Treasurer's Update

January 31, 2021

Thanks to a robust membership our financial position remained strong for 2020. Despite COVID complications we had about the same membership as the previous year. We were close to break-even for the year, however the numbers have not yet been finalized as our year end goes until March 31st. We are able to keep the fees at a modest **\$20.00** again for the upcoming year.

One of the options last year was Paypal, which upon review the board decided to discontinue as this option was not used often.

It is worth repeating... We encourage all members to use our preferred contactless option of **e-transfer** please. Instructions are noted in "Your Membership fees" article adjacent. Thank you.

Should e-transfer not be an option for you, then you can mail your cheque as per the instructions in the section "[Your Membership fees](#)". Thank you.

Rose Prevoe
Treasurer, MPOA

Your Membership Fees

As always, the membership fee of \$20 is due by July 1st. However, if you plan to attend our AGM in May, payment by e-transfer will be required at least one week prior to joining the meeting as per our MPOA by-laws, only current members may attend and vote. We thank you for your prompt membership renewal.

e-transfer is our preferred method of payment as it is contactless, instantaneous, & provides excellent tracking for our records. Send to payment to treasurer@lakemazinaw.ca.

- Please make note of the 911 civic number of your property and your first & last name to which the fe apply in the note section of the e-transfer.

You can also pay by cheque but please note these will only be cashed periodically.

- Payable to "MPOA" at P.O. Box 251, Cloyne Ontario K0H 1K0.
- Please make note of the 911 number of your property to which the fees apply in the note section of the cheque (and your email address)

Photo by Francine Bates



Internet Access on the Lake

By *Suzanne Sills*

Today

This article is for those of you who have cottages that do not have access to internet service provided by the telecom companies (e.g. Bell, Telus) - primarily water access & remote road cottages. At this time the only two options for Internet are via *satellite* or *cell*.

Satellite

Currently there is only one known provider of satellite service on the lake - Xplornet. They have several packages available based on your usage and speed requirements. The packages are all subject to a one year contract. If you cancel a \$10/m fee is applied until the end of the contract period. The least expensive service at \$69/m offers 2.5Gb usage with 5Mbps speed. There is an installation fee that starts at \$99, but could be more based on location. Although Xplornet offers seasonal service they charge \$25/m during the suspension period.

Cell

This assumes you are able to receive a cell signal (at least one bar) at your cottage. There are several companies that sell cell boosters. Depending on the strength of the signal you are starting with, some boosters can improve your reception well enough to check email, load web sites, have Skype calls, etc. Something to keep in mind with cell service (as with any other service) is that you are still sharing your signal with everyone else using the same provider. That means when the lake, and especially Bon Echo Park are busy, the signal slows up considerably - sometimes to the point of not being usable at all. All that being said, I have

been using a booster for a couple of years now and am mostly satisfied considering the challenging situation.

If you would like more information, please feel free to contact me at my email below. I would also be interested in hearing from those of you who have internet service at your remote location, who your provider is, what equipment you are using and how it is working for you. If you send your information to my email below, I will compile it, and make it available to anyone who is interested. My [email: ssills@bell.net](mailto:ssills@bell.net)

Coming Soon

In our last Newsletter we talked about the Ontario Government's announcement about the expansion of broadband and cellular service in the province. In the 2019 Ontario Budget, they announced multi-million dollar project over the following five years for broadband and cellular expansion.

To bring a more local perspective I contacted the EORN (Eastern Ontario Regional Network). EORN is a 'non-profit organization dedicated to improving rural connectivity, supporting economic growth and enhancing quality of life'.

This organization is our voice into the Ontario Government's expansion plan for cell coverage called the Cell Gap Project.

'EORN is spearheading a \$300-million public-private partnership to improve cell service across the region. Both the federal and provincial governments have contributed \$71 million each while an additional \$10 million has been contributed from the members of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) and most

municipalities within the Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus (EOMC). Rogers Communication has been selected through a competitive bidding process to improve the coverage and capacity of cell networks in the region and will be contributing the balance of the funding.'

Here is a link to more information and to stay up to date on the Cell Gap Project:

<https://www.eorn.ca/en/projects/improving-cell-service.aspx>

The project is expected to complete by 2025.

Space

Elon Musk's SpaceX is perhaps our saviour!

From an article: 'SpaceX is expanding a test of its Starlink Satellite internet and could bring the service to other countries next year, CEO Elon Musk says. The space-exploration firm will send out "several thousand more" invitations to customers this week for the so-called beta test of Starlink, which connects users to the internet through a network of hundreds of satellites orbiting the Earth. Musk said SpaceX will aim to bring the service to Europe and India next year following its initial launch in the US and Canada.'

In February, Starlink sent emails to MPOA members who had expressed an interest in being part of the first offerings. Here is the information of interest. Please note the line at the bottom showing the deposit as being 'fully refundable'.



We await with bated breath.

If All Else Fails

You can stand on your tippy toes on the highest section of your property with your hand held in the air or as far out as you can on a rainy day, hoping for that signal!



Don't forget about our [Advertisers](#) by going to the end of this newsletter. Thank you for supporting our local businesses.

Mazinaw -Lanark Forestry plan 2021-2031

In Ontario, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) is responsible for the long-term health of Crown forests (public land). Through forest management planning, forest managers provide for healthy forests now and in the future and provide a range of sustainable benefits (e.g. timber and commercial products, wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities). The frequency and extent of public consultation for Forest Management Planning in Ontario is mandated by the Crown Forest Sustainability Act (1994) and laid out in the Forest Management Planning Manual (FMPM 2020). Consultation phases for the upcoming ten-year plan are as follows:

Stage One - Invitation to Participate (October 2018)

Stage Two - Review of Long-Term Management Direction (July 28th-August 27th, 2020)

Stage Three - Review of Proposed Operations (November 11-December 10th, 2020)

Stage Four – Review of Draft Forest Management Plan (60-day review period tentatively scheduled for March-May 2021)

Stage Five – Revision and Approval of the FMP (tentative July 2021)

Notices

The challenge for various lake associations has been that these Forest Management Plans are only revised once in a decade and board members of the lake associations change more frequently than that. As a result, lake associations often learn about proposed logging plans late in the consultation process and new board members face the same issues each time.

In an effort to streamline this process MPOA joined 6 other lake associations (Kasawakamak,

Skootamata, Weslemkoon, Buckshot, Ashby and Brule) in writing to Alison White, Assistant Regional Planning Forester, for the MNRF to request that an absolute minimum of protections be built into all future management plans without the need for individual lakes associations to review and comment each time (available on the MPOA website).

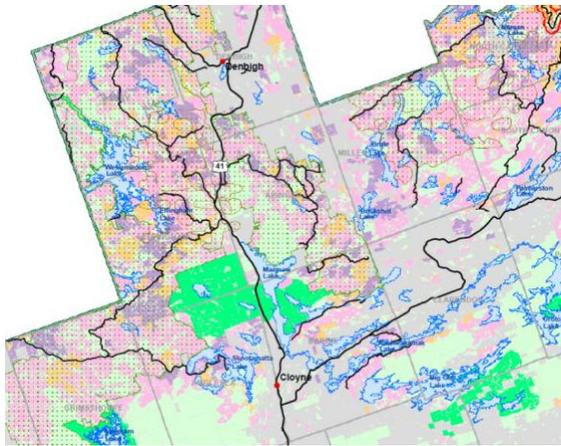
These requested protections included:

1. No logging or forestry activity should be conducted within 150m from all lake shores, rivers and streams, and nearby wetlands
2. No logging or forestry activity to be conducted within 300m from designated lake trout lakes
3. To preserve the current viewscape, there should be no forestry activity within the highest ridge lines visible from the lakes, if beyond the setbacks referenced above
4. There should be no alteration to, or use of, primary access roads and recreational trails, or visible activity of forestry operations from the roads or trails near the lakes
5. There should be no forestry activity within hearing range between May 1st and Nov. 1st
6. No logging or forestry activity should be conducted within 500m from private property.

The Ministry provided a lengthy response (available on our MPOA website) which basically stated that many of such protections are already included and that when the actual planned logging areas were identified we still needed to proactively speak up.

The proposed ten year plan for the Mazinaw area is shown below. Green is Park/ conservation areas; Purple is planned logging and Pink is optional logging areas.

Note that there is no Planned logging on the shores of Mazinaw at this time however “optional areas” shown in pink on the accompanying map” are shown on the east shore at the very north end of the upper Mazinaw, adjacent to the south shore of German Bay, and along the south side of the Shabomeka Lake Rd. The ministry has advised that further consultation would occur should any of these optional areas be considered for logging.



MPOA Mandate

In the spring of 2020 the MPOA Board revisited and updated the MPOA bylaws to better reflect our mandate, mission, roles and governance. These updates were shared with the membership prior to the spring 2020 AGM. One important update to highlight is the revision to the mandate to more clearly define our directive for members. The updated mandate of the MPOA reads “The MPOA is an unincorporated, not-for-profit association of individuals formed to promote the preservation and protection of natural and scenic beauty, fish, wildlife and water quality of the area. The MPOA strives to advance the common interests of its members dealing with different levels of governments, organizations and agencies relative to the Mazinaw Lake community.” Please keep this mandate in mind when you are contacting or seeking support from the MPOA Board.

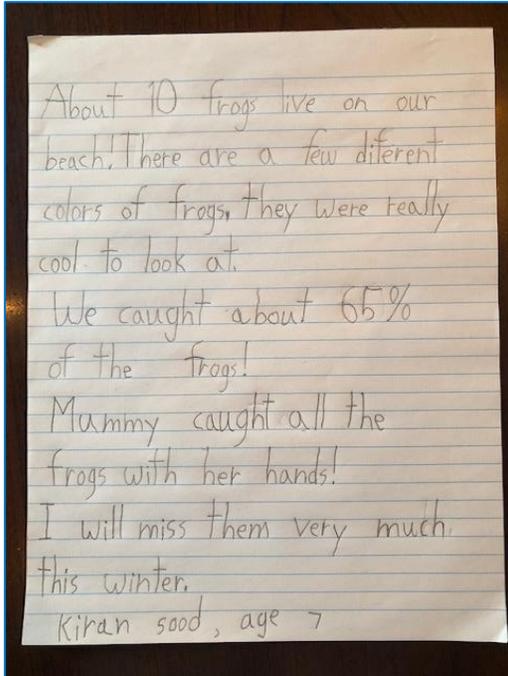
If anyone is interested in reading the full bylaws, they can be found on the lakemazinaw.ca website.



1. **Do not burn garbage** or any material restricted by the Ministry of the Environment such as rubber, plastics, foams, treated wood, or any material which could cause toxic or noxious gasses. **Most of these materials can be either recycled or composted.**
2. Select a site at least 5 meters from forest, buildings or combustible material.
3. Clear an area 2 meters around the incinerator down to mineral soil or rock.
4. Use a metal barrel in good condition and not larger than 0.5cubic meter (17.7 cu. ft.)
5. Support the material off bottom and provide holes to allow air to enter from under material.
6. A heavy metal mesh with holes less than 5 millimeters (1/4 in.) must be placed on top of barrel to prevent sparks from spreading fire.
7. Keep a shovel or rake and water nearby.
8. Do not dump ashes until they have been cold for at least 3 days.
9. Do not leave incinerator unattended while burning.
10. Ensure there is no fire ban in place.

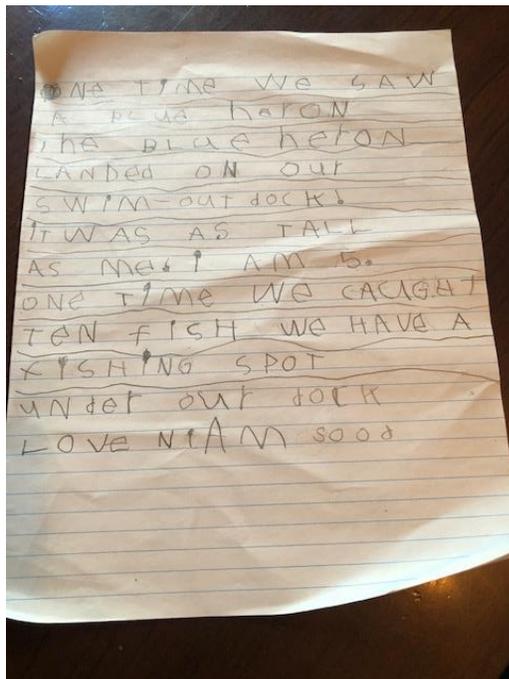
Adorable Children's Stories

Article by Kiran, age 7



Submission by Kiran Sood, age 7. He is the photographer as well!
Way to go Kiran. You're a great story teller, photographer and mathematician. I love the picture you took of the frog. Did you name him? His colours are so cool and his neck is amazing.
We hope your frogs are waiting for you when you come back after the winter.
p.s. We think your Mummy is brave.

Article by Niam, age 5 "Blue Heron"



Submission by Niam Sood, aged 5.

What a good story about the Blue Heron. You were lucky to see him as they can be quite shy. He sounds like a very tall heron.

What did you do with all the fish you caught? I love to eat fish if you would catch them and prepare them for me.



Gypsy Moths: It's No Laughing Matter

by Francine Bates

I have been coming to the lake for the past 52 years and never have I ever seen a caterpillar infestation like we experienced last year! You could actually hear them munching on the leaves!

At first I didn't think they were on our property, until I leaned on a tree and my hand was wet with caterpillar goo! Gross!



I mentioned it to a friend. She said she had so much caterpillar poop on her decks that she had to sweep them off every morning before they stuck to the wood permanently. Who knew caterpillar poop was a thing!

Another friend said she was eating her dinner and a caterpillar fell from her eat-in tent, into her salad. Good thing she saw it happen. It got worse for her when the Daddy Long Legs arrived by the dozens to eat the caterpillars and they were all over the inside of their tent! Sound like a horror story out of a bad movie, right?

Eventually, the caterpillars became moths and I'm not sure what was worse....the caterpillars or the moths! Our beloved trees around the lake were raped of their leaves.

This picture was taken at the Narrows.



photo by Fran Bates

My husband and I went down to the dock one afternoon to enjoy a drink at the end of his work day. There were literally thousands of moths flitting around and they kept getting under his sun glasses. He aborted the drink and ran (again literally) back up to the cottage.

I am sure you all have your own gypsy moth war stories. If misery loves company, I hope sharing this has made you feel a bit better. But, it's no laughing matter.

If you want more information about gypsy moths, or possible effective treatment options, check out [FOCA's webinar](#) or [Q&A](#), or the article below.

Gypsy Moth Update 2021

by Bob Reid

Gypsy moth Pheromone traps

Due to the extensive Gypsy moth outbreak we are currently experiencing, the MPOA will not be offering gypsy moth traps for sale this year. Traps probably reduce the number of fertilized females when moth populations are low between major outbreaks, however they offer virtually no benefit currently.

While it may be satisfying to empty a trap full of dead moths every few days during a major outbreak this does nothing to reduce defoliation. The caterpillars do all the munching, only males can fly and females are generally found on or near the trees they fed upon. Due to the number of male moths in flight last year and the expected number this year the use of female pheromone traps would do little to disrupt males from finding and fertilizing the real females.

Aerial spraying of *Bacillus thuringiensis*

Aerial spraying by a company like Zimmer aviation is expensive (about \$400 per lot up to one acre) but, if done at the critical time when eggs have just hatched around mid to late May, will definitely reduce defoliation on the sprayed area. Contracts with Zimmer were required no later than March 1, 2021. Some, including experts from the MNRF, argue that spraying may delay the emergence of some natural pests such as those listed below. For this reason and due to the expense of widespread spraying MNRF does not plan to do spraying on crown land near Mazinaw.

Natural enemies of the Gypsy moth

This NPV (nucleopolyhedrosis virus) is usually the most important factor in the collapse of gypsy moth outbreaks in North America. The virus is always present in a gypsy moth population and can be transmitted from the female moth to her offspring. It spreads naturally through the gypsy moth population, especially when caterpillars are abundant. During a gypsy moth outbreak, caterpillars become more susceptible to this virus disease because they are stressed from competing with one another for food and space. Typically, 1 to 2 years after an outbreak begins, the NPV disease causes a major die-off of caterpillars.

Another natural killer of gypsy moth caterpillars is a fungus called *Entomophaga maimaiga*. Fungal spores that overwinter in the soil will infect young caterpillars early in the summer. When the young caterpillars die, their bodies produce windblown spores that can spread and infect older caterpillars. Large

caterpillars killed by the fungus will hang head down from the tree trunk, and the bodies of the dead caterpillars appear dry, stiff and brittle. Within several days, the cadavers fall to the soil and disintegrate, releasing the spores that will overwinter back into the soil.

Destroying egg masses

The best bet for management of future gypsy moth damage to your property in the short term if you choose not to spray is to remove and destroy egg masses in the late summer. Use a hand-held vacuum or scraper and collect eggs into a bucket that you fill with soapy water for 48 hours to kill them.



Photo by Rob Reid

If you have one particular tree that seems to be in peril due to Gypsy moths there is a way to have professionals inject the trunk annually during an outbreak with a chemical called [emamectin benzoate](#) which poisons the leaves that caterpillars like. This may be expensive and is not useful for a forest.

Unauthorized Camping

by Bob Reid

There has been a recent increase in the number of reports of individuals establishing unauthorized campsites along the shores of lakes and rivers in North Frontenac and Addington Highlands.....possibly worsened by the Covid lockdowns in 2020.

Last summer a tent with firepit and ATV access trail was placed on the shore of the popular canoeing route from Mazinaw to Shabomeka Lake. The campsite, well below the high-water mark, was active along the creek draining Semicircle Lake into Mazinaw Lake from June well into September.

According to Ontario law anyone can pitch camp on "General Use" crown land in the same spot for up to 21 days in a calendar year (unless there is a post stating otherwise). On the atlas cited below each parcel has a description of whether hunting and fishing may be allowed (in season and with necessary licences). Fires are determined by local policy. After 21 days, the campers must move on to another site a minimum of 100 meters away. This eliminates squatters' rights and helps reduce the environmental impact. The precise designation of land use can be located by

visiting "[Ontario's Crown Land Use Policy Atlas](#)" on-line:

The Township of North Frontenac has [By-Law #66-17 Camping on Municipal Property](#) in place which is available for review. The only Mazinaw area identified in this bylaw is Tapping's landing. This by-law was amended in August 2020 to include that camping is not permitted on Township owned road allowances throughout the Township. "If you observe people camping in unauthorized areas within North Frontenac Township you are able to access our [Complaints Policy](#) on the NF website at to submit a confidential complaint."

Addington Highlands currently has no bylaw addressing unauthorized camping. Last summer there was a delegation to Addington Highlands council from the Skootamatta District Ratepayers Association regarding this matter and the decision was made to form a working group to investigate the issue and make recommendations to Council. Joel Arthurs (president of the Skootamatta District Ratepayers Association) was selected to represent the interest of the various lake associations on the working group and he tells me that they have had a first meeting and identified the need to add a representative from Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to their group.

Luke Hillyer (luke.hillyer@ontario.ca) at MNRF notes the way to report a potential natural resource violation would be to call it in to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry TIPS line, (877)-847-7667. Depending on the nature of the potential violation, it will be referred to a Conservation

Officer or Bancroft District staff (613-332-3940) for follow-up.

More serious offences should be reported to the OPP (Kaladar detachment: Emergency- 911; Non-emergency- 1-888-310-1122



photo provided by Pauline Smart

Tapping's Landing

By Jamie Fraser

For good reason, Tapping's Landing is a topic of discussion for the MPOA every year. It is used by many cottagers and visitors each summer. Over the years, the MPOA have worked diligently to make improvements including the fundraising and building of the dock extension. The township of NF owns the dock and has been very good to fix any damages that occur, with appreciated urgency. With the ice conditions this year it looks like we will be working with the township in early spring once the ice goes out. Please watch our Facebook and website for updates on when the dock will be in condition for use.

As well, the improvements to deepen the ramp increased its utility.

In 2020, member's focus was a new long smoldering issue: parking.

It was a health emergency and subsequent ambulance access issue (luckily, the outcome was good) that led MPOA to investigate and then propose changes to the North Frontenac Council. It came as no surprise to discover there were many different concerns and opposing opinions about this topic, summarized as follows:

1. Emergency vehicle access
2. Resident access
3. Reluctance by boaters to use the turnaround
4. Parking and queueing on the pond causeway
5. Dangerous blind spot created at the lookoff point
6. Parking bans leading to long walks back to vehicles causing delays to launch

Measurements were taken and existing signage was inspected. The key findings were:

1. The causeway does not have 'no parking' signs distributed along its length.
2. The causeway cannot support parking at all if two lanes of traffic are to be maintained.
3. Parking too close to the lookoff point on the pond side does create a dangerous blind collision spot.

4. Allowing parking only on the pond side of the causeway creates a single lane for traffic and the potential for delays to emergency vehicles. In some areas of the causeway, a wide emergency vehicle would be unable to pass.

5. Parking on both sides of the road past the landing and up to Viking Point Lane creates a single lane that is sometime not passable by wide emergency vehicles.

6. The turnaround end of the road is underused, as is the turnaround itself (many boaters use Viking Point Lane as a turnaround).

After careful consideration, the MPOA agreed to deal with the safety related issues immediately and continue to work with cottagers in the coming years to come up with a plan for more convenient boat access and parking. Our recommendations were sent to Council, the Public Works Manager and Public Works Foreman reviewed the boat launch and parking on North Mazinaw Heights Road and Council approved the following changes (#348-20):

- Installing “No parking” signs on the lake side from the landing to just north of Viking Point Lane. There is a wide shoulder/parking spot just north of Viking Point Lane that we want to retain.

- Upgrading and extending existing “no parking” north of the landing on both sides of the road extending north from the landing for the length of the causeway.

- Upgrading and replacing the older existing “parking ahead” signs at the approach of the landing indicating the availability of parking further down North Mazinaw Heights Road.

- Brushing the North Frontenac section of North Mazinaw Heights Road to provide clear access on the shoulders and to facilitate parking later this fall (2020).

As a follow up to the Council decision, the MPOA submitted the following additional requests:

1. No parking signs extend all the way to the look off and on the Park side all the way to the corner at the top of the look off.

2. A No Parking sign erected in the middle of the turnaround at the end of North Mazinaw Heights Road.

3. A sign at Viking Point Lane entrance indicating the turnaround is 100m further ahead.

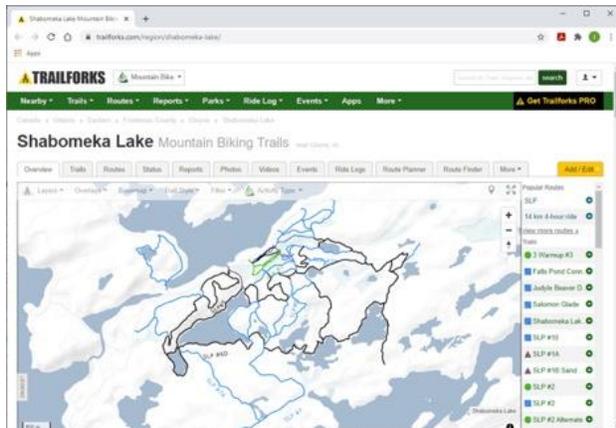
4. A culvert down the east side of the road south of the landing and filling in the ditch to widen the road beyond the landing.



Shabomeka LegPower Pathfinders Trails and Proposed Logging

by Ian Philips

One amazing but relatively unknown resource to the Mazinaw Lake region are the Shabomeka LegPower Pathfinders hiking trails. This is an extensive network of hiking, biking and skiing trails surrounding the Little Shabomeka Lake area. These trails were started back in the mid 1980's by Glen Pearce when he and his family moved there. They are lovingly maintained by the Shabomeka LegPower Pathfinders. If you Google them, you will find many references to the trails. I personally believe that the best resource to explore the trails is



the “[Trailforks](https://www.trailforks.com/)” website and app. You can see the trails on the above screenshot.

The trails are classified based upon their relative difficulty, from the easiest “green” trails, average “blue” trails and more challenging “black” trails. Every trail is numbered and there are trail signs on most of them. The great thing about Trailforks is that every trail has an elevation profile, with information on its length, and hike duration.

However, not all is secure for these trails. They are located on crown land. In the summer of 2020

it came to our attention that there is a proposal to log all the land these trails are on! This proposal is outlined in the Mazinaw/Lanark 2021-2031 Forestry plan: A forestry plan for the next decade.

This logging proposal was circulated to various stakeholders by the MNR for feedback. The timeline for feedback was short and the board discussed aspects of the plan as they applied to Mazinaw. Information about this proposal can be found under the “Focus Items” tab, “Forest Management Plan” on the MPOA website (<https://www.lakemazinaw.ca/forest-management-plan.php>).

The [Shabomeka Lake Association](https://www.shabomekalahike.com/) was similarly alarmed at this logging proposal. We have been in touch with them. We will keep our MPOA members informed of any developments as the logging proposal impacts our shared resource.

On 16 March 2021, I met with the Shabomeka Lake Association president and the Mazinaw-Lanark Forest Inc (<https://www.mlfi.org/>) forester to discuss the impact of the logging on the trails. All three of us will be walking the trails in April so that the forester can see what we are trying to protect. More information can be found on our [website](https://www.shabomekalahike.com/).



photo by Tony Timperio



NFLAA

By Jamie Fraser

At our 2020 AGM, the membership voted for the MPOA to join the North Frontenac Lake

Association Affiliation (NFLAA). This move by the MPOA has greatly increased our awareness of the issues faced by similar lake communities, strengthened the NFLAA with our voice, and brought a powerful lobbying organization into our corner. The NFLAA membership includes Buckshot, West Shore Mosque, Ardoch, Big Gull East End, Sunday, Malcolm, Mississagagon, Palmerston, Shabomeka, Mazinaw, Kashwakamak, Macki, Sand, Grindstone, Norcan, Crotch, Brule and Canonto Lakes.

2020 highlights for the NFLAA were as follows:

Restricting condo development: The NFLAA lent support to an Ardoch Lake community group and their challenge of a Council decision to grant waterfront waivers to a local condo developer. The challenge was successful and the Ardoch Lake condo developer was forced to scale back its waterfront development plans to meet the existing restrictions.

Cellphone coverage: The NFLAA is reaching out to the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) cell gap project to ensure NFLAA member concerns are met regarding coverage and capacity. The EORN is pushing for a higher standard of internet service than what CRTC is recommending. The NFLAA agreed that a letter supporting steps to improve

bandwidth in the near term will be sent to the EORN.

Lake carrying capacity: Recreational carrying capacity estimates the development and activity load of a lake. The County expects this estimation work to start in 2021. The NFLAA has asked to be included in the Working Group at both the County and Township level and has received positive interest.

Septic inspection: The NFLAA submitted a report to Council recommending a septic re-inspection program. The MPOA supported this initiative as it would help ensure the health of our precious lake. The report recommendations included: mandatory septic inspection and certificate of compliance issued for cottage sales, and mandatory re-inspection of all septic systems installed before 2001.

Mazinaw-Lanark Forestry Plan: Currently under review for 2021 harvesting. Other lakes reported positive interaction with the logging company. While the current plan does not impact the shores of Mazinaw Lake, the MPOA is continuing to monitor the plan and engage with the MNR.

Joint website: We are very pleased to announce that the new website for all lakes in NFLAA is now live at: [North Frontenac Lake Association Alliance \(nflaa.ca\)](http://NorthFrontenacLakeAssociationAlliance(nflaa.ca)) or <https://nflaa.ca>. There is also a new email associated with the site: info@nflaa.ca

Whiteduck Provincial Park: The Algonquins of Ontario and the Ontario Government proposed the establishment of

Whiteduck Provincial Park as an addition to their 2016 land claim settlement agreement. The proposed expansion of the park from an area surrounding Crotch Lake to include the South Shore of Big Gull Lake impacted access road ownership to 50 Cottages on the South Shore of Big Gull Lake. The MPOA expressed its support for the NFLAA request for better communication of the plan for this new park. We also expressed our neutrality by pointing out that Mazinaw Lake has had a good relationship with Bon Echo park since its inception in 1965 (the land was donated to the province in 1959).



Curious Snapping Turtle by Bob Reid

In Local News

“As A Community We Are Strong”

By Nancy Skipper

One can only say the local scene this past year was very extraordinary indeed! Many programs, services, events etc. were postponed or cancelled due to the COVID 19 virus. Programs from the Mazinaw Swim Program, the monthly Garden Club meetings, the

weekly Drop-In lunch, the Lions Toll Road and so many more were called off. However, what was not cancelled was the absolute gift of community and how everyone pulled together in a time of need. The local community went into full-gear to help one another out during this past year.

Charlene and Team Foodland began a grocery shopping, curb-side pick-up, or delivery program. Her Team answered emails, made grocery lists, packed groceries, and got them ready for pick-up or delivery. Many people came forward to help with deliveries including the Land O’Lakes Lions.

Essential workers were (are) to be admired for getting up each day and going to work for the community not knowing if they would come into contact with the virus. Some of our community angels are paramedics, volunteer firefighters, Charlene and Team Foodland, Eric and Team Tobia’s Pharmacy, the employees at the LCBO, PSW’s working at Pine Meadow, and the list goes on and on. People in the community showed their appreciation to essential workers through cards and gifts of thanks, flooding Facebook and the local column with words of appreciation, bringing pizza, Girl Guide cookies, coffee, juice, and other goodies and most importantly through buying local, shopping local, and eating local.

During this past year the community took to heart, “buy local, shop local, and eat local.” Because of this approach most businesses, services and restaurants remained opened. But, as we are aware of, in most communities people were laid off work. This led to an increase of those vulnerable to food insecurity and lacking any disposable income for items like Christmas gifts. Although the Community Christmas Parade (of which the fire

department collected food and Christmas gifts) was not happening, it did not stop Santa, volunteer firefighters, and members of Land O'Lakes Community Services to park trucks at Foodland and collect items needed to fill Christmas hampers. "Filled to overflowing were two pickup trucks inside and out with your donations of food, toys, cash and gift card donations to the Christmas toy/food drive. The community donated approximately \$2400.00 worth of groceries, \$1200.00 in cash donations, \$400.00 in gift cards and over 100 toys for the Christmas Hamper program at Land O'Lakes Community Services." This helped Land O'Lakes Community Services to come to the assistance of over 120 families with this essential program costing over \$10 000.00 to pull off!

Local restaurants began offering daily meals for take-out. That continues today. Some restaurants helped out Land O'Lakes Community Services by preparing the meals for Meals on Wheels thus keeping this vital program going. People offered their services to bring the meals to those in need.

A new Facebook group was formed: **North Frontenac & Area Caremongering Group-Community Response to COVID-19.** The goal of this group is to organize the local community centrally on the grassroots level to ensure vulnerable community members and the ill have necessities. It is also for the redistribution of resources in the case that stockpiling prevents people from accessing basics.

Although this past year was challenging for all businesses, there were many rays of sunshine poking through. Rodger Holden's "Hearth at Home (Cloyne) celebrated being in operation for one year in May. Services include woodstove/chimney installation and cleaning,

WETT inspection, and the sale of the best selection of BBQ's on the market! Rodger Holden also has his woodworking shop. He has won many awards Ontario-wide for his creations. He also displays local artists' work. Another celebration was the opening of Finnegan's General Store in April 2020.

Owners Stephanie and Michael have transformed what used to be Grand's General Store to being a hub of activity for the community. Coffee is always on, ice cold scented water awaits you on a hot day, the Book Nook is there for you to bring in a book and take a book to read, fresh produce orders from the community are delivered weekly, local artists are displaying their creations, pizza is ready when the high school students pop in for lunch. If you have any specific needs, they will gladly add it to their shopping list. And soon their ice cream parlour will be open for the season! And do not forget to order and purchase a beautifully framed wooden custom board of our lake!

Opening soon right next door to Finnegan's is John Todd's carpentry shop boasting of unique outdoor lounge chairs and harvest tables. In John's words "To be honest, the "shop" came about somewhat by surprise. We were working on some projects for the Friends Of Bon Echo and needed a heated space. Jamie mentioned this to Michael & Stephanie of Finnegan's and BOOM, two days later we were moving in and getting swamped with requests for outdoor lounge chairs and harvest tables. We still have a fair chunk of work to finish for FOBE so our "official" opening is probably a still a few months away. My hope is that will give us a chance to come up with a name!"

"One of the heroes of our community is Brian Milligan and Team Milligan Meats. Working tirelessly seven days a week to provide you the

best cuts of meat you will ever find.” Milligan Meats is located in Cloyne.

Just North of Cloyne is “The Maz.” Although Gerard and Nancy are closed for the winter, they busy themselves with ordering top-of-the-line kayaks, paddleboards, and much more for you to enjoy your stay on our beautiful lake.

Order now before they are all gone!

Not knowing what new measures would become the norm at any given time the Smart Family a Team Smart’s Marina were always there to make sure your boat was serviced, to transport goods to your cottage, to watch over your cottage, and much more.

The tennis courts in Cloyne were marked for both tennis and Pickleball this past spring.

Many got out try their hand at Pickleball.

As mentioned earlier, restaurants owners have been cooking up a storm for take- out.

Restaurants including Joje, Addison’s (makes Keto food as well as the normal menu), North of 7 Cod Father, Hunter’s Golf, Horseshoes, Disc Golf Course, Mazinaw Lakeside Resort, North of 7 Restaurant, and Rosie’s are here to cook you a scrumptious meal.

The Friends of Bon Echo have a new Executive Director Jamie Uson. His overriding goal as ED is “to begin reviving local pride in the incredible asset we have in our backyard. The Park is the economic engine of our community and I see it as an obligation to give our visitors the best possible experience in order to keep them coming back and, most importantly staying longer.” This summer you must find your way to the Park and check out the new improved look and services at Greystones Store. Stay a while, and while browsing enjoy an ethically produced cup of coffee.

There is so much more which can be added to this report from the generosity of the

community to the hard work of businesses, services, restaurants, etc. It is hoped everyone can continue to” buy local, shop, local, and eat local” while at the cottage.

In ending I share the following from someone in our community: “These are unprecedented times. How we treat each other will determine the strength of our community! The support shown to each other is extraordinary! Each one of us is making a big difference in our community through the support you are showing! Keep it up! As a community we are strong! As a community we are showing how kindness matters!”

As Coretta Scott King said “The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.”

Bon Echo Provincial Park Superintendent Message

By Clark Richards, Superintendent of Bon Echo Park



 **Bon Echo**

Ontarians have reconnected with nature in a major way this year. Activities such as camping, spending time at a cottage, fishing and hiking are more sought after than ever during the pandemic. This trend truly reinforces the important role quality natural resources play in supporting sustainable

recreation opportunities and promoting health and wellness benefits. The majestic natural beauty of Mazinaw Lake and Bon Echo Provincial Park provides us with a place to unplug from our busy lives, find spiritual renewal and ultimately connect with nature in a safe manner.

A visit to Bon Echo Provincial Park this year may be a little different from what you are used to and our Park team, Friends of Bon Echo and Contractors are here to help you have a memorable and safe experience. The safety of our visitors and staff is always our top priority. We will continue to implement measures to address overcrowding and promote physical distancing in our park spaces including limiting occupancy. Some park buildings and services will remain closed. A priority for enhanced cleaning and disinfection will be placed on essential areas and high-touch surfaces in public spaces including washrooms and other shared facilities. Before you visit the park please review the Bon Echo webpage for the latest operational updates.

•ontarioparks.com/park/bonecho. Our talented Discovery Education team will be active with a variety of self-use, virtual and some in-person interpretive products. Keep up to date with the latest Bon Echo Discovery programming, park information, and check out our natural and cultural heritage photos and facts on the Bon Echo social media channels.

•[Instagram.com/bonechopp](https://www.instagram.com/bonechopp)•[Twitter.com/BonEchoPP](https://twitter.com/BonEchoPP). The active and dedicated Friends of Bon Echo Park will be operating the beautifully restored Greystones Gift Shoppe and Café. Greystones has a wonderful selection of local

goods and art and offers the perfect setting to enjoy a delicious coffee in front of the rugged beauty of Mazinaw Rock. The tour boats will not be operating in 2021. Canoe, kayak and paddle board rentals will be available at the Lagoon through the Bon Echo Outfitters contractor. In the spirit of collaboration, the Mazinaw Property Owners Association and Bon Echo Provincial Park will continue to promote watershed stewardship with education and signage. Additional “No Wake” and water vessel speed limit signs will be installed at key locations such as the Narrows on Mazinaw Lake. As well, the buoy markers at the Narrows will be upgraded. Protecting the shoreline on Mazinaw Lake is vital to maintain and improve its ecological integrity for you and future generations. Thank you to the MPOA for their unwavering support for watershed stewardship. Please do your part and stay safe.

Clark Richards.



photo by Dan Mailer

From the Reeve of Addington Highlands

By Henry Hogg

This past year has presented numerous challenges as we adapt to the ever-evolving circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 Pandemic. Council provided relief where possible for tax payers and adjusted processes to ensure the health and safety of residents and staff.

Although the pandemic presents us with its own challenges, there are others which the Township faces on an ongoing basis. While some areas of the municipality have access to cell phone service and high-speed internet, there is a large portion of the Township where this service is unavailable. Council continues to support initiatives such as those that the Eastern Ontario Regional Network is working on in an effort to make available cell phone service and high-speed internet to all residents and property owners in Addington Highlands.

In addition to cell phone and high-speed internet availability, aging infrastructure and the funding to repair and/or replace this infrastructure continues to be a challenge. While minor projects are completed using reserve funds and Gas Tax Funding, larger projects are more difficult to complete given fiscal restraints. Council and staff continue to prioritize projects by updating the Township's Asset Management Plan and seek funding opportunities where available.

Our office is open to the public and staff is available to answer any questions or assist in any way.

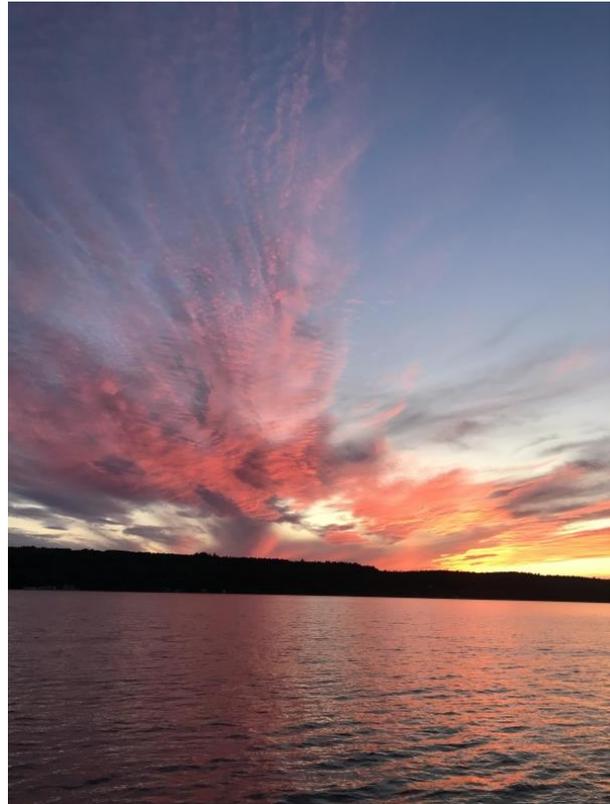


Photo by Doug Schultz

Messages from Mayor of North Frontenac

By Ron Higgins

Short Term rentals – North Frontenac entertained the idea of having a short-term rental bylaw this year. This was initiated last summer when we had a number of COVID related issues for Airbnb. After discussion we

decided not to implement the bylaw as it would have a negative impact on occasional cottage rentals and the knowledge, understanding and cooperation of our seasonal and non-seasonal population related to COVID protocols showed we do not need that bylaw for COVID purposes. Any other issues not related to COVID can be addressed through already established bylaws.

Gypsy Moths are going to be bad again this year. I had some spruce trees dying from the moths so I cut them down over the winter. Each spruce tree had an estimated 50-75 eggs sacs on each tree. I estimate that each sac averaged 500 eggs = 25000 to 75000 per tree. I noticed sacs on living trees as well. I have ordered my tanglefoot and tree wrap to protect my fruit trees and other trees I want to keep long term. Go to Amazon to order yours.

I wish everyone all the best during this pandemic and with vaccines being rolled out I am looking forward to start the journey back to normal. I also want to thank everyone for the diligence in addressing COVID, North



Frontenac has had only 1 case and that was back in April 2020. Enjoy the summer

FOCA: Hydro Rates to Increase for Mazinaw Cottagers

By Bob Reid

In September 2020 the Ontario Energy Board tasked Hydro One with eliminating the “seasonal” ratepayer class for electricity consumption. A property qualifies as seasonal if it is a secondary residence where the owner resides for less than eight continuous months a year. According to Cottage Life magazine approximately 148,000 customers are classified as seasonal with nearly half of them being cottagers.

The Federation of Cottagers Association (FOCA) has fought against this since it was first announced because cottagers in low density zones (such as Mazinaw) would see a 100% increase amounting to an additional \$650 per year. FOCA points out that hydro rates for the average household have increased 4% since 2018 and that cottagers already contribute a significant proportion of local tax revenue.

The OEB has yet to decide whether this change will take effect on January 1, 2022 or on a later date. Hydro One has proposed rate

The ice starting to heave near Brown's Campground, March 2021 - Photo by Joanne Richard

mitigation measures for customers who are expected to see a total bill increase of more than 10% because of moving to another rate class, which would involve phasing in the increase over several years.

More information about FOCA and its role in fighting the rate increases can be found at this link: <http://foca.on.ca/electricity-pricing/>. FOCA remains hopeful that a letter writing campaign to MPPs could see the OEB decision reversed. The MPOA have been keeping you involved in this discussion since 2018 and most recently you would have received an email on February 3rd asking you to take action.



What is FOCA?



- *Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations*
- *Their mission: to protect thriving and sustainable waterfronts across Ontario*
- For over 50 years, FOCA has been the voice of Ontario's waterways and lake associations. Our united voice carries weight on issues that matter! **FOCA represents 50,000 families in more than 500 associations across the province.**
- FOCA keeps us informed about changes in legislation and other timely cottage-country news.
- **FOCA is the provincial voice representing volunteer associations and individual property owners all across Ontario. The MPOA is a member of FOCA**
- Each year, the MPOA attend the FOCA seminar in the spring and fall. This is one of our valuable sources of information of upcoming items or events that the MPOA may wish to participate in, or inform our members about.
- To learn more, visit www.foca.on.ca

About our Fire Department



By Casey Cuddy, *Fire Chief, CEMC*

Addington Highlands (Kaladar/ Barrie & Denbigh) Fire Dept.

The KBFD operates out of 2 stations and works in conjunction with neighbouring departments as needed.

Northbrook Station (Hwy 41 south of Northbrook): has main offices, training facilities and houses a front line Pumper that carries 1,000 gallons of water and can pump 1,250 gallons per minute, a 3,000 gallon tanker, a heavy Rescue which carries the jaws of life, medical supplies for Emergency First Response, and support equipment for all other types of calls.

Cloyne Station (Hwy 41 North of Cloyne): houses a 1,500-gallon Tanker, a wild land truck which carries wild fire gear and medical supplies, a UTV (off road vehicle), a boat, and this spring will see a new mini pumper capable of pumping 1,050 gallons per minute.

Both stations respond to all calls together.

The department has 30 volunteers that carry pagers and respond from home or work etc. When someone calls 911 for fire department the call is answered by another department that then dispatches us.

The Department responded to 200 calls in 2020.

Returning to the Cottage Fire Safety

Tip Sheet

Install smoke alarms on every storey and outside all sleeping areas. It's the law for all Ontario homes, cottages, cabins and seasonal homes to have working smoke alarms on every storey and outside all sleeping areas.

- Test smoke alarms at least monthly or each time you return to the cottage. Pack a new smoke alarm and extra smoke alarm batteries in case they need replacement.
- Install and ensure carbon monoxide alarms in your cottage if it has a fuel-burning appliance.
- Develop and practice a home fire escape plan to ensure everyone knows what to do if the smoke alarm sounds.
- Know your cottage's (civic address) emergency sign number and post it by the phone for guests.
- Clean barbecues before using them. Keep an eye on lit barbecues and ensure all combustibles, as well as children and pets are kept well away from them. Fires can happen when barbecues are left unattended.
- Keep barbecue lighters and matches out of sight and reach of children.
- Remember to bring a flashlight with extra batteries.
- Check heating appliances and chimneys before using them.
- If using a heater to warm up remember to give them space, keep combustible items away from them and never leave the room with them on.

- Make sure your laneway is accessible. Cut brush, over hanging limbs etc. back to ensure a 12 foot wide by 12 feet high clear way for trucks as well as sufficient turn around areas. Remove sharp rocks along the edge and ensure a solid road surface.
- Check to determine if Camp Fires are permitted before starting one. The fire department will put on a Fire Ban if climatic conditions and fire danger risk is extreme. Fires should be built on bare soil or on exposed rock. Remove leaves and twigs within 2 meters from around the fire to keep it from spreading. Always keep a bucket of water, sand, or even a shovel close by and supervise the fire at all times. Never leave a camp fire unattended.
- Check to determine whether open air burning is permitted before burning leaves, brush etc.. If open burning is allowed. Aside from campfires No burning is permitted between 7 am and 7 pm from April 1 to Oct 31 annually.
 - Fire Ban information is available on the townships web sites
www.addingtonhighlands.ca ,
<https://www.northfrontenac.com> or by calling 613-336-1851
- If you must smoke, do so outside. Keep a large can with water nearby so cigarette butts can be safely discarded. If you drink, do so responsibly. Smoking and alcohol consumption are contributing factors in many fatale fires.
- Burn candles in sturdy candleholders that will not tip and are covered with a glass shade. When you go out, blow out!

Moths

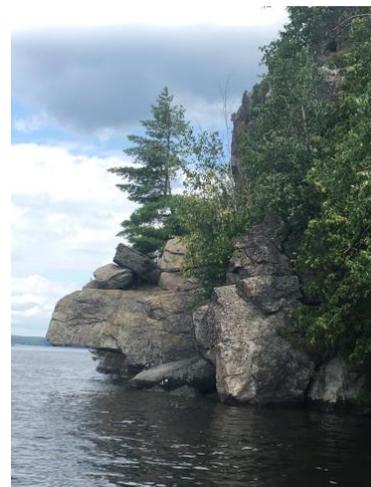
By Rose Prevoe

Much has been written about our gypsy moth issues of last summer. They are an invasive species and as such are destructive.

There are many other moths which are beneficial. These are in decline. Years ago many moths would hit the windows at night when the lights were on. This is now a rare occurrence. I remember seeing beautiful moths like the Luna moth. I can't recall when I last saw one of these. They are quite large and easy to identify. Here is a picture of one.



Perhaps if you are lucky enough to spot one, you could take a picture and submit it for one of our photo contests. There are many other lovely native moths. They are beneficial because our native birds need them to feed their young. Try identifying the native moths and take a picture. This is an activity that the children might enjoy.



*photo:
Turtle rock*

Water Levels

By Jennifer North, Water Resources Technologist, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority



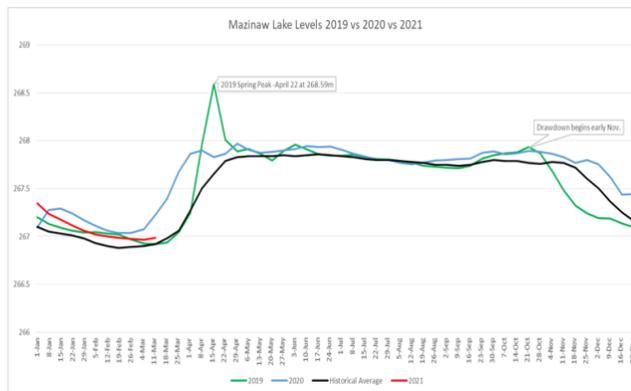
Currently we are seeing below average water content in our snow pack and starting to see runoff from mild temperatures and rainfall.

Operating regime for the Mazinaw Lake dam under below average snow conditions are as follows:
 Once the ice has melted from the shore, levels should gradually increase to the target level of 267.80 m. Complaints can be expected if high winds occur during the time the lake is building and ice is on the lake. There is no suitable solution to this problem since majority of the damage seems to be permanent fixed docks which cannot be removed.

If the dam is operated to maintain the lake level at a static elevation until the ice is completely off the lake, there is not enough water available to fill the lake. Note: There will be little to no flow available from the Semi-Circle sub watershed of this basin due to the operation of Shabomeka Lake Dam.

If levels stabilize below 267.80 m, stoplogs will be replaced at a rate of two logs (one per bay) every four to five days until levels reach 267.80 m. Care must be taken to ensure that the flow is not completely cut off from the dam since the walleye spawn in the channel below the dam. Once the fish have begun to spawn it is necessary to maintain as constant a flow as possible over the spawning beds for a period of four to six weeks without dropping the lake level below an elevation of 267.70 m. Following this period the logs are replaced at a rate to maintain levels between 267.90 m and 267.80 m to start the summer.

Updated Watershed Condition Statements can be found on the MVCA website; www.mvc.on.ca as well as our Facebook and twitter accounts. Daily water levels and flows are available through an interactive watershed map on the MVC website at mvc.on.ca/water-levels/. The diagram below shows current water levels on Mazinaw compared to both 2019 and 2020.



Why Join the MPOA

We keep our nose in what is happening and pass important information on to you:

- Locally in the news
- We are on the local government's distribution list for items of interest in Addington Highlands and North Frontenac; things that might affect your taxes, or your quality of life at the lake; and we inform you on what you could do to influence change
- We are a member of the Federation of Cottage Association (FOCA)
- We are a member of the North Frontenac Lake Association Affiliation (NFLAA)
- We are hooked in with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) and the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) and are involved in their projects to improve the water quality and fish habitats at Mazinaw
- We stay close with the superintendent of Bon Echo Provincial Park

We provide a sense of community

We help address issues that affect our lake experiences such as water levels, dark skies, water safety, etc.

How can you communicate with us?

- o Send an email to communications@lakemazinaw.ca.

How do we communicate with you?

- o The MPOA has its own website www.lakemazinaw.ca and a Facebook group (Mazinaw Property Owners Association).
- o The HOME page on our website is where we put the latest news stories but we also have a FOCUS ITEMS tab for project updates and initiative.
- o As well, we send out emails on important topics to those of our current members who keep their emails up-to-date and registered with us
 - o so please remember to let us know if you change it
 - o also, to renew your membership each year by July 1st to stay on our distribution list
- o And finally, we are kicking off the 2021 cottage season with our 4th edition of the MPOA Newsletter

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