

Shabomeka Leg Power Trails and Logging Operations.

On 16 March 2021, Ian Philips, MPOA Director of Membership, had a Zoom meeting with Laura Logan, the President of the Shabomeka Lake Association and Margaret Hatton, the Company Forester for Mazinaw-Lanark Forest Inc. We wanted to talk to Margaret about the plans for Block 54 and Block 45 in the logging plan. These two blocks encompass the forest where the Shabomeka Leg Power trails are. By coincidence, it is Laura's uncle, Glen that created and continues to maintain the trails, although at the age of 85 he is slowing down. Laura was there not as an advocate of Glen's but rather to represent the cottage owners on Shabomeka Lake.

Margaret works for the Mazinaw-Lanark Forest Inc: <https://www.mlfi.org/>, an organization representing individual logging companies. It is not part of the government. From their website:

Mazinaw-Lanark Forest Inc. (MLFI) holds a Sustainable Forest Licence (SFL) issued by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry for Crown Lands in Frontenac, Lanark, Lennox & Addington, and part of Hasting County. The company office is located in the village of Cloyne. Shareholders/partners include 7 sawmills, 12 independent logging companies, and one pulp mill. With the exception of the pulp mill, all shareholder/partners are independent, local, family owned businesses, many of which have been in business for generations, and planning for future generations. Logging and forestry activities date back to the mid 1800's with the square timber era and later the sawmill industry.

I recommend visiting the Mazinaw-Lanark Forest Inc.'s website. Margaret told us a lot about forestry practices, her role in planning, various harvesting operations, etc. It was informative.

Laura and I plan on meeting up with Margret in late April to walk some of the trails to give Margaret a chance to see what we are attempting to protect. I can tell you that we can't stop the logging and that logging is going to impact some of the trails, but hopefully their impact can be minimized. The extent of that impact is still unknown. According to the plans, Block 54 has until 2023 to be logged. Block 45 is open to logging for the next 10 years.

Shabomeka Lake Association: <https://www.shabomekalake.com/>

Mazinaw-Lanark Forest Inc: <https://www.mlfi.org/>