

Mazinaw Property Owners Association Spring Newsletter April 2022



| | |
|--|----|
| Winter Fun on Mazinaw Lake | 2 |
| A New Season | 5 |
| MPOA Lake Directory - 2022 | 5 |
| Improved Rural Cell and Internet Service | 6 |
| Fire Safety Reminder | 7 |
| Invasive Species at Mazinaw | 9 |
| Lake Water Quality Testing | 14 |
| Lake Tree Planting | 15 |
| Tapping's Landing | 16 |
| Communications Strategy | 16 |
| Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) | 18 |
| Short Term Rental (STR) | 19 |
| Municipal Election | 21 |
| MPOA Board Member Changes | 22 |
| By-Law Updates | 23 |
| Treasurer's Report | 23 |
| Lake Mazinaw Group Activities | 24 |
| Annual General Meeting | 25 |

WINTER FUN ON MAZINAW LAKE

Several people have shared pictures of Mazinaw in the winter. The ice was 18 inches thick in places and the snow was plentiful. It is great to see folks enjoying all seasons at Mazinaw.





PHOTOS COURTESY OF VERN HAGGERTY, DAN SOOD, BOB KING

Easter photos from a previous year:



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PAULINE SMART



A NEW SEASON

Cottage season is only weeks away! We are starting it off with our MPOA Annual General Meeting (AGM) on May 14, 2022 at 9:30 am (by Zoom). This newsletter will provide information on recent and planned activities by the MPOA in preparation for the AGM. Several issues will require a vote by members (including elections to the board and updates to MPOA by-laws), so your attendance will be greatly appreciated. You will receive an email invitation to the AGM the first week of May.

MPOA Lake Directory - 2022

Every four years a new lake directory is produced. This requires considerable effort to identify new cottage owners and to reach out to previous members for up-to-date contact information. **Ian Philips** has done an enormous amount of work collating this information in a comprehensive membership database. In addition, he has researched maps of the lake, together with land registration information, to produce detailed maps showing approximate locations of individual properties.

This new directory is meant for members only (not for commercial use), although we do share copies with the township offices and local emergency services. Members who have renewed their membership for 2022 are entitled to one free copy. In case you want a directory for both cottage and home, additional copies can be purchased for \$10. Last fall we approached over 100 local businesses about supporting the cost of this directory through advertising with business cards on the back pages. Many stepped up and we are grateful for this.

Please shop locally and offer these businesses your support!

The cover page of the 2022 directory highlights the beauty of the rock exceptionally well. Thank you Lisa M. Johnson for your painting "Bon Echo Last of the Season" from 2017.

Mazinaw Property Owners Association

Lake Directory 2022



www.lakemazinaw.ca

communications@lakemazinaw.ca



Improved Rural Cell and Internet Service

You may have heard about a new initiative to improve cell and internet services in rural areas of Ontario. The Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) Cell Gap Project is moving forward. Here is an outline of ongoing activities:

The local partner in the project is Rogers. The Rogers tower near Bon Echo will be upgraded this year. Schedule is by 4th quarter. There will be a new Rogers tower installed in 2023 on the west side of Hwy 41 across from Hungry Bay.



The first phase is to improve cell service, which will also improve data over cell. Users will see improved coverage (distance), capacity (# of users) and fewer dropped calls when the area is busy (ie. when Bon Echo is full). Note: users with other service providers can roam with Rogers.

The next phase (timeline TBD) is to install wireless broadband on the same towers. Once the towers are up they will be available to other service providers to co-locate equipment. It is expected that Bell and others will do this.

You can hear more about about the Cell Gap project at our AGM Zoom call on May 14th. A representative from EORN will be presenting. As mentioned previously, you will receive an email invitation to the AGM the first week in May.

Fire Safety Reminder

There have been two major fire emergencies on Mazinaw lake in recent years. Last summer some boaters observed an unattended smoking fire along the shore near Bon Echo. They quickly assembled a bucket brigade and called the local fire department. Fortunately, what could have turned into a devastating forest fire, was prevented by the quick actions of those involved. Our lake, with its beautiful pines, remains vulnerable to forest fires, especially during dry hot summers. We all need to exercise caution: observe fire bans, keep cooking fires small and always attended with a water source and/or fire extinguisher handy. Fireworks on windy nights are a recipe for disaster. We all need to do our part to preserve the beauty of the forests that surround Mazinaw. Below are suggestions from Fire Chief Casey Cuddy of the Addington Highlands Kaladar/Barrie & Denbigh (KBFD) Fire Department.

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, with 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 (Utility Terrain Vehicle), a boat, and a new mini pumper capable of pumping 1,050 gallons per minute. Both stations respond to all calls together.

The department has 30 volunteers who carry pagers and respond from home or work. When someone calls 911 for the fire department, the call is answered by another department that then dispatches us. The Department responded to 200 calls in 2020.

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 heater to warm up remember to give them space, keep combustible items away from them and never leave the room with them on.

Here's an important note from both our townships (North Frontenac and Addington Highlands):

Please remember, except for cooking or warmth, no fires shall be set out of doors between the hours of 1AM and 7 PM from April 1 to October 31 inclusive, in any calendar year.

Invasive Species at Mazinaw

To date, as far as we know from periodic testing and personal reports, Mazinaw has been spared the invasion of aquatic species that have the potential to negatively impact our lake.

Elsewhere, in areas as close as Haliburton, *eurasian milfoil*, has started to plug up some shallower waterways. It is a fast-growing perennial which forms dense underwater mats that shade out other aquatic plants. When these plants decay in the fall they cause a reduction in oxygen levels that can affect fish. Tiny plant pieces can develop into new plants and because of this eurasian milfoil is readily spread by currents, boat propellers, trailers and fishing gear that move fragments to new areas.



Zebra Mussels continue to constitute a significant threat to our lake, especially with so many boats travelling to the park from other affected bodies of water. This invasive species of mussel was transferred to the great lakes from the Black Sea region via ship ballast in the 1980s. Since then, they have spread rapidly to many Ontario lakes. These mussels are capable of heavily colonizing hard and soft surfaces including docks, boats, and extensive areas of shoreline including beaches. These colonies filter water to the point that most plankton are removed which (though causing clearer water) can have several adverse effects. Clearer water allows greater penetration of sunlight and growth of other vegetation at greater depths. They have been associated with toxic algae blooms and when covering the bottom or shoreline they can impact fish spawning and cut the feet or hands of swimmers.



Zebra mussels



Motor with encrusted zebra mussels

Other species which can hitch a ride in water from other areas include the *spiny water flea* (a very small predatory zooplankton that eats other valuable plankton species), the *round goby* (a small ravenous bottom dwelling fish that competes with other fish species) and the *rusty crayfish* (an aggressive species that eliminates native crayfish).



Round Goby



Spiny water flea



Rusty Crayfish

The MPOA wants to remind all boaters and fishers not to bring water in ballast or bait buckets from other regions. Boats moving from another

body of water to Mazinaw should be thoroughly washed to avoid introducing these harmful species.

Ontario has a number of invasive plants species including *purple loosestrife*, *garlic mustard*, *buckthorns*, *giant hogweed*, and *phragmites*. Phragmites may appear to be an attractive ornamental grass however, it is extremely destructive and should never be introduced to a new area. It is already filling ditches and marshland from Toronto to Montreal with the real potential to move northward towards Mazinaw. Its dense growth overpowers all other marsh plants and has a negative effect on the health of our wetlands.



Purple Loosestrife



Garlic Mustard



Buckthorn



Giant Hogweed



Phragmites

Invasive species affecting the forests around Mazinaw include *Lymantria Dispar Dispar* (LDD moths), the *Emerald Ash Borer*, and *Beech Bark Disease* (an insect-fungus hybrid that destroys bark and ultimately kills beech trees)

We have recently had an outbreak of LDD (caterpillars) but some indicators suggest that the infestation is declining in parts of Ontario with the re-emergence of a fungus that kills the caterpillar before the moths emerge to reproduce. LDD is not to be confused with tent caterpillars which are native to North America. Both may cause significant defoliation. The most recent outbreak of tent caterpillars in Northern Ontario was in 2020. Typically, both of these pests will have a population explosion about every 10 years.



LDD Caterpillar



Tent Caterpillar (native to NA)

LDD Lures

Lures for LDD traps will be offered to MPOA members at the subsidized cost of \$5 for a package of 5 lures. These can be obtained from our Lake Steward on June 11th between 10:30-12:30 at the cottage of Kip and Mari Van Kempen or by contacting Hilary Vaillancourt at communications@lakemazinaw.ca to set up a pickup time.



Emerald Ash Borer



Beech tree affected by beech bark disease

Lake Water Quality Testing

Normally lake water sampling is performed by volunteers to the Lake Partner Program. The Lake Partner Program (LPP) is a water quality monitoring service run through the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MECP), and the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA). Water samples are taken by volunteers,

from hundreds of lakes. These use Secchi disc measurements of water clarity and chemical analysis for phosphorus calcium and chloride. Due to Covid the most recent results are from 2020.

All of the results on Mazinaw show a healthy lake. Secchi disc depths averaged 4.5-5 m in 2020. Total phosphorus levels across Mazinaw are in the range of 3-6 ug/L. Calcium levels range from 7-8 mg/L. Chloride levels ranged from 4.7-5.4 mg/L.

In addition, in 2019, Vern Haggerty and Bob Reid collected samples at six locations in both upper and lower Mazinaw to be tested (free of charge) at the Queen's University lab of Graham Cairns PhD. These samples were to assess the impact of road salt (by measuring chloride levels) and to examine levels of calcium. Here are the results:

Chloride levels (in large part a reflection of rock salt runoff from winter use on highways) were well below the danger zone (120 mg/L). Chloride levels on Mazinaw were in the range of 5-8 mg/L.

Calcium (low calcium levels can lead to a variety of adverse effects such as toxic algae blooms and damage to other invertebrates, amphibians, and fish species). Levels were adequate at 8-11 mg/L. Adverse effects seen if Ca below 1.5 mg/L

Lake Tree Planting

The Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) once again offered subsidized trees and shrubs for shoreline plant to MPOA members. This year we had 22 properties order 322 plants. If you placed an order the plants will be available for pick-up at the property of Kip and Mari VanKempen on June 11 from 10:30-12:30. If you are unable to do so on this date please email Gillian Van Kempen at communications@lakemazinaw.ca for alternative arrangements.

Tapping's Landing

The No Parking signs were installed at Tapping's Landing last spring and after an initial "getting used to" period, drivers were soon utilizing the available parking at the end of the road more than they ever have in the past. Please continue to obey the signs.

Communications Strategy

This year the board formalized a comprehensive Communication Plan that considers when and how to reach our desired audiences. In summary:

Our Annual General Meeting:

- Minutes of the past year's Annual General Meeting
- Report of decisions taken, activities engaged in and results accomplished over the year
- Financial report
- Report on future plans
- Any proposed by-law changes
- Elections to the board
- New business
- Guest speaker(s) dependant on time available

Our Newsletters:

At least twice annually to inform members on a variety of issues, progress on projects and to provide educational/helpful information.

Our Political Partnerships:

To strengthen the influence of MPOA on local government/associations to be sensitive to cottager and lake issues.

Our www.lakemazinaw.ca Website:

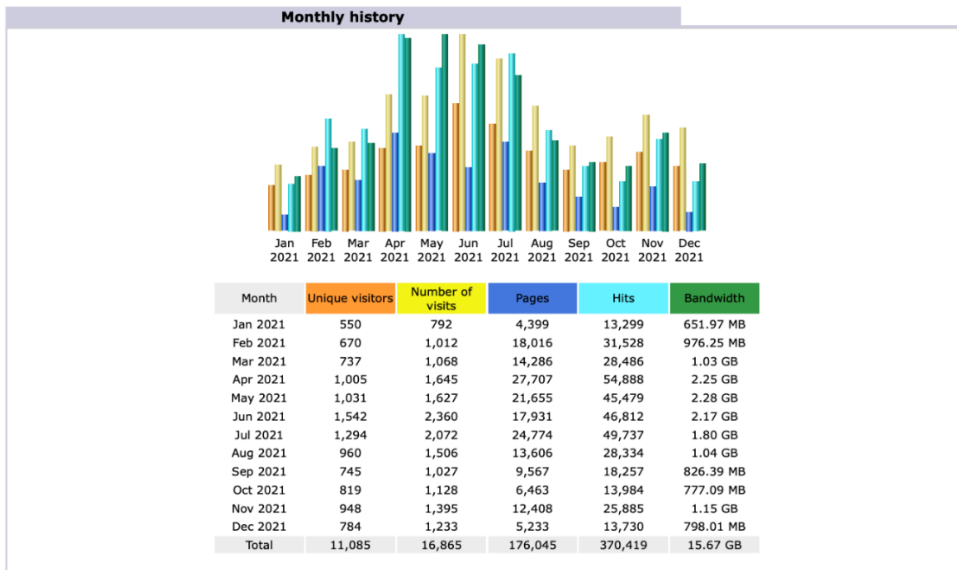
To inform the general public about MPOA and provide our members information on ongoing issues and educational material. The website also provides links to additional resources and contacts.

Our website has had some upgrades and important additions. On it you will find a list of current MPOA board members and their contact information, copies of minutes and previous newsletters and updates on issues of concern for property holders. Suzanne Sills, our current Communications Director has added an excellent section on Day Trips for those looking for an adventure on the lake or within 150KM.

The table below shows visits to our website which peak between April and July.

| | | | | | |
|------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Reported period | Year 2021 | | | | |
| First visit | 01 Jan 2021 - 00:49 | | | | |
| Last visit | 31 Dec 2021 - 23:59 | | | | |
| | Unique visitors | Number of visits | Pages | Hits | Bandwidth |
| Viewed traffic * | <= 11,085 Exact value not available in 'Year' view | 16,865 (1.52 visits/visitor) | 176,045 (10.43 Pages/Visit) | 370,419 (21.96 Hits/Visit) | 15.67 GB (974.2 KB/Visit) |
| Not viewed traffic * | | | 264,117 | 397,260 | 12.48 GB |

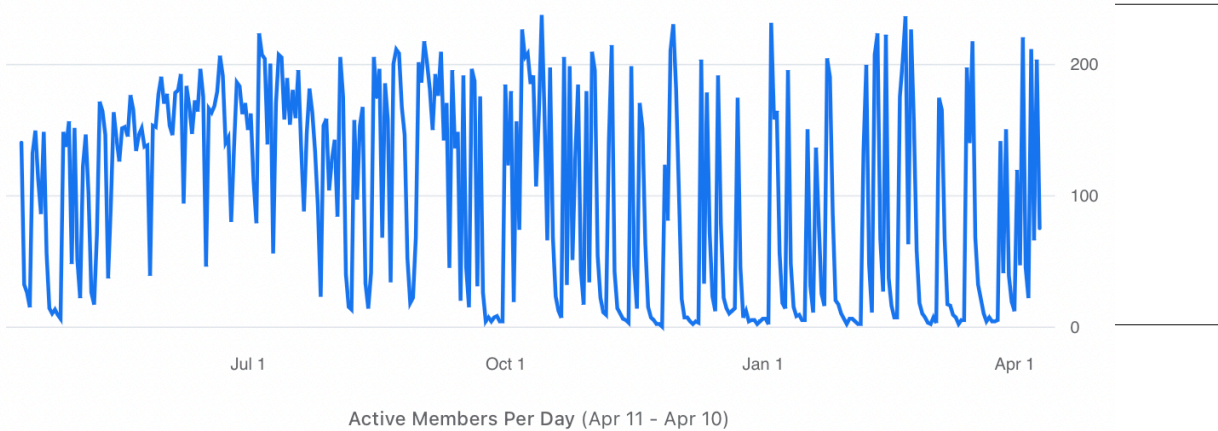
* Not viewed traffic includes traffic generated by robots, worms, or replies with special HTTP status codes.



Our Facebook Page.

284 Active members ⓘ

Apr 11, 2021 - Apr 10, 2022



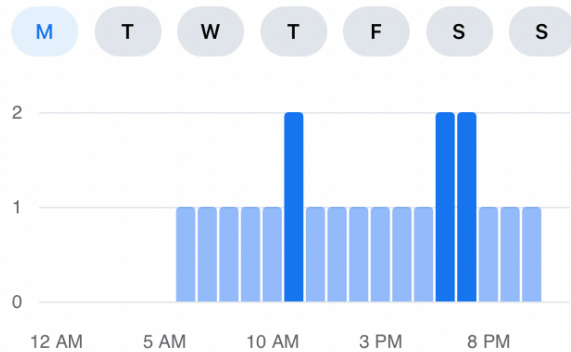
Popular days ⓘ

The average number of times group members post, comment or react on a given day in the specified date range.



Popular times ⓘ

The average number of times group members post, comment or react at a given hour of the day in the specified date range.



Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA)

As many of you are aware, MPOA is a member of FOCA. This umbrella group represents the interests of all Ontario cottage associations, particularly on issues of province-wide concern. What you may be less familiar with is the wealth of useful information to be found on their website: www.foca.on.ca/

Many of the articles are pertinent to the individual cottage owner.

Examples include:

- Welcome to Cottage Country
- COVID - 19 Updates from FOCA
- Electricity Pricing
- Emergency Response in Remote Areas
- Lake Partners Program
- Owner's Guide to Healthy Waterfronts
- Invasive Species - Overview
- Responsible Cottage Rental
- Boating Safety
- Cottage Roads

As an MPOA member you are also entitled to received the FOCA E-alert (Newsletter) directly. Sign up here: <https://foca.on.ca/news/elerts/> . If there are issues of a province-wide nature that you do not find but think should be addressed, email us at communications@lakemazinaw.ca so we can forward your suggestion on.

Note: To access some materials you may need to use the FOCA Username : **focamember** and Password : **Foc@M3mb3\$2014**. The FOCA contact is Michelle Lewin, communications@foca.on.ca 705 749 3622 if you have any connection issues.

Short Term Rental (STR)

The MPOA continues to work with the North Frontenac Lake Association Alliance (NFLAA- an alliance of 18 lake associations in North Frontenac) on the issue of STR.

Those in North Frontenac will have recently received a letter included in their tax bill from Mayor Higgins. The letter outlines existing by-laws and advice for cottage renters that, if adequately enforced, may alleviate

some concerns brought forward by neighbouring cottagers. The website of the Township of Addington Highlands also has a Cottage Kit that renters can purchase to provide necessary guidance to renters on garbage disposal, fire safety and other relevant topics.

Last Fall we reported that Mayor Higgins had struck a committee to further review the issue of STR. The MPOA, as a part of NFLAA, has representation on this committee. The Mayor has also issued invitations for representatives from the councils of both Addington Highlands and Central Frontenac. Unfortunately progress on this committee has been slow. We will, however, continue to press for a proper by-law. The fact that the STR issue is heating up in all of cottage country and the upcoming fall election may be factors encouraging them to take the matter more seriously. Another positive note is that the councils for both South Frontenac and Central Frontenac have received citizen petitions on the issue of STRs.

The MPOA position on this committee will be to urge the adoption of a by-law which will provide rules within which individual cottage owners could still rent out their cottages for limited periods of time while strongly limiting the ability of larger commercial operators (Air B&B, VRBO, etc.) from imposing themselves on small cottage communities.

It is our hope that this committee can also be a forum for discussion of the broader need for increased protection of lakefronts from over development by commercial enterprises, e.g. subdivisions, condominiums, time shares. This is an increasingly serious problem in those areas of cottage country closer to Toronto and Ottawa. We feel it is timely to address this before it becomes a bigger problem at Mazinaw.

If you would like to provide the MPOA Board with feedback on these issues and/or would like more information on our position, please email us at communications@lakemazinaw.ca.

We will keep you updated.

In the meantime, if you experience any difficulty with a neighbouring STR or want to express your views, please contact the mayor and your member of council. It remains critical that they understand that this issue is not going away and that concern is growing.

Below is brochure that the Township of North Frontenac created for the operators of Short Term Rental properties.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

As an STA operator, you are a 'landlord' under Provincial legislation and have important legal tasks and responsibilities such as:

- Keeping your property in good repair
- Obeying all provincial and municipal health, safety and maintenance standards;
- Ensuring your guests understand and adhere to all municipal bylaws;
- Providing your guests access to vital services such as hot and cold water, electricity, heat and fuel;
- Ensuring working smoke alarms are installed and maintained on every storey and outside all sleeping areas.
- Ensuring working Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarms are installed adjacent to each sleeping area if your house contains a fuel-burning appliance, fireplace or an attached garage;
- Testing smoke alarms/CO alarms annually, when the battery is replaced, changes are made to the electric circuit or changes in tenancy;
- Providing smoke alarm/CO alarm manufacturer's maintenance instructions to tenants.
- Providing portable fire extinguishers with a minimum of 2A-10BC rating on each floor area including the kitchen with each being inspected and tagged annually;
- Instructing occupants on the emergency procedures to be followed when a fire is discovered.

**"WITH GREAT POWER COMES"
GREAT RESPONSIBILITY**
- UNCLE BEN, SPIDERMAN

OTHER MATTERS

Parking
Ensure guests do not park on any public road in the Township.

Property Lines
Guests advised of correct property lines and use can reduce friction with neighbours.

Wildlife
Encounters with wildlife are common in our rural area. Ensure guests understand proper garbage storage and bear precautions. For more information please visit www.ontario.ca/bearwise.

Septic Systems
To protect your property and the environment, ensure your guest understand proper septic use.

Respectful Boating
Reminding guests about respectful and safe boating use can reduce conflicts with others on the water.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

If you have a concern or a community member has approached you with one, consider speaking with them to try to come to a resolution. Here are some tips that may assist you

- Analyze the Problem
- Stay Calm
- Be Specific
- Listen Actively
- Blame the Problem, not the Person
- Work Together
- Agree to Disagree
- Seek Assistance (if necessary)

Township of North Frontenac
Four Seasons, More Reasons

SHORT TERM ACCOMMODATIONS "STAs"

INFORMATION FOR OPERATORS IN NORTH FRONTENAC

Municipal Election

This fall will see another municipal election. It is critical that council members understand that cottagers vote if they are to listen to the MPOA and other Lake Associations. To this end, the MPOA, in association with the NFLAA and other individual cottager associations in Addington Highlands, will provide information to members on how to vote

electronically in the local election. We will also distribute a questionnaire to those running for office to canvass their views/positions on issues of relevance to cottagers. We will not be endorsing specific candidates. The results of this questionnaire will be circulated to all MPOA members.

The board has worked diligently over the past year to build membership in our organization since our collective voice is much more likely to be heard when addressing issues related to Mazinaw. We currently have a record number of member properties (236 in 2021-2022).

MPOA Board Member Changes

Four of our current board members will be leaving following the AGM in May 2022. **Rose Prevoe** who has served the organization tirelessly as Treasurer; **Suzanne Sills** who has done a superb job as Communications Director, and I, having completed 5 years on the board with the last two as President. **Jamie Fraser**, one of our two representatives to the North Frontenac Lake Association Alliance, will also be stepping down as Amy Fraser, our current VP, moves into the position of President.

In our winter newsletter I put out a call for interested parties from the MPOA membership to join the board. We have had two folks step forward: **Hilary Vaillancourt** has expressed interest in our Lake Steward role and, if elected, she would replace **Gillian Van Kempen**. Gillian would move to the position of Treasurer. **Joanne McRae** will take over from Suzanne Sills and will bring a wealth of experience to the role of Communications Director. **Jeanette Wilson** stepped up at last year's AGM to take the role of Secretary where she continues to make a significant contribution. We are always looking for interested parties to join the board and assist with ongoing projects. If you or someone you know has the energy and time to help, please ask them to contact me through communications@lakemazinaw.ca.

By-Law Updates

Since some of the energetic individuals joining our board are family members of property owners rather than the actual property owners on Mazinaw we felt it would be timely to update our by-laws to allow them to be included on the board. A vote on this modification will be held at the AGM. The proposed by-law changes will be circulated by email in advance of the AGM.

Treasurer's Report

This past year has certainly had its challenges. The MPOA is fortunate to have had a record-breaking number of new and renewed memberships.

Our current financial position is excellent. Because of this the board will be able to undertake some new lake-life improvement projects, with member approval. You are invited to submit suggestions for use of some funds (limit \$1000 per project) which will enhance the quality of life on the lake. Preference will be given to projects with broad impact on Mazinaw property owners over projects with local benefits only.

Suggestions can be submitted to communications@lakemazinaw.ca.

Please do so by the end of April 2022 so they can be added to the agenda at the May 14 AGM.

Here is the year end Treasurer's report:

MAZINAW LAKE PROPERTY OWNER'S ASSOCIATION
SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
For the year Ended March 31, 2022

| | | |
|----------------|--|------------------------|
| RECEIPTS: | | |
| | Memberships | \$4,845 |
| | Advertising revenue | 2,025 |
| | | <u>6,870</u> |
| DISBURSEMENTS: | | |
| | Directory expenses | 441 |
| | Gypsy moth traps | 537 |
| | Insurance - Liability, directors & general | 1,359 |
| | Memberships - FOCA | 1,041 |
| | Meetings & office & general | 140 |
| | Website | 570 |
| | | <u>4,088</u> |
| | Excess of receipts over disbursements | \$2,782 |
| | Opening bank balance | <u>11,762</u> |
| | Closing bank balance | <u><u>\$14,544</u></u> |

Lake Mazinaw Group Activities

From time -to-time we receive requests for organizing/supporting group activities on the lake.

In 2019 and 2020 a 'meet and greet' members' barbecue was graciously hosted at the cottage of Kip and Mari Van Kempen.

Activities organized by either the MPOA or others have include sailing day (Sail Mazinaw), a kayak/canoe outing to Mcavoy Lake, a Canada Day boat parade and fireworks display, a photo contest, and cottage stories from young children for our newsletters.

Each of these efforts requires someone to take the lead. This year, we will be looking at a fun golf tournament.

If you are interested in any of these projects and have some time to commit, please email us at communications@lakemazinaw.ca

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will be held by Zoom on Saturday May 14, 2022 from 9:30-11:30.

An agenda and Zoom link will be emailed to all members the first week of May.

If you have an issue you would like added to the agenda, please email me at least 5 days in advance of the AGM:
communications@lakemazinaw.ca .

ROBERT REID, PRESIDENT MPOA