



Invasive Plant Species in Muskoka

The District has identified three key invasive plant species that are having a serious effect on Muskoka’s environment. These include Invasive Phragmites (*Phragmites australis* subsp. *australis*), Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) and Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*).

Invasive species are extremely difficult to eradicate once established and their ecological effects are often irreversible as they can alter entire habitats and/or food webs, decrease biodiversity, and threaten species at risk.



1) PHRAGMITES

Invasive Phragmites:

- grows in stands that can be extremely dense with as many as 200 stems per square metre;
- can grow so densely that it crowds out other species;
- can reach heights of up to 5 metres (15 feet), and
- has stems that are tan or beige in colour with blue-green leaves and large, dense seedheads.
- Invasive Phragmites uptake nutrients from their environment and out-compete native plants such as cattails and willows; they result in loss of habitat for other plants and animal/aquatic life and further jeopardize species at risk
- Inhibit agricultural drainage ditches and cause flooding
- Can have a density of 200 plants per square metre; their dead

stalks resist decay, filling in open ponds and creating dead zones unusable for wildlife

- Once their seeds colonize an area, they spread quickly with seeds and rhizomes (horizontal plant stems growing underground).
- Further spreading by earth moving equipment along roadways, in new subdivisions, and across farm fields

(do not put in a garbage bag or attempt at having these plants collected at the curb)



2) JAPANESE KNOTWEED

The stalks grow straight up and can reach as high as 3 metres. The stems appear to be round and reddish-purple in colour. Large, heart-shaped leaves form in a zigzag pattern along the hollow stem. Flowers are cream coloured that grow vertically from the stem in clusters.

Japanese knotweed has a strong root system and can spread about 10 metres from the parent stem and has the ability to grow through concrete and asphalt. This fast-growing invasive species is known to change river flows, interrupting spawning beds, it rips through roadways and even threatens foundations of homes.

Knotweed commonly grows in gardens, along roadsides and near old buildings or former building sites, according to Ontario’s Invading Species Awareness Program. Some studies suggest the plant has extended its range by climate change. While knotweed stems are known to survive

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President's MESSAGE



One of the very few positive things I can say about this continuing pandemic is the opportunity to connect with our members through various webinar offerings. We had an extremely successful water levels session at the end of March, ran water quality training for our volunteers virtually and in early June a session on naturally beautiful shorelines. Rebecca Willison of the District and Muskoka Watershed Council walked us through the relationship of the shoreline condition to the health of our lakes – measured by water quality, fish and wildlife, erosion protection and natural vegetation. Laura Thomas of Hidden Habitat talked about landscaping to discourage some wildlife like geese and encourage others like hummingbirds, bees and birds, all the while enhancing the beauty of the shoreline. Javier Capella of Trees and Woodlands Consulting helped us understand how to protect our trees during construction so that it does not take 125 years to regrow those majestic white pines. They aptly demonstrated the importance of this intersection between land and water for biodiversity, water quality, resilience to flooding and climate change.

The shoreline however is more than our environmental lifeline – for me it is my mental health lifeline. Coffee or drink in hand I can stare at the waves splashing on the shoreline for hours, watch the sun set over the trees and of course the slow turn of the colours as cottage season comes to close. The shoreline is my focal point, so it is no wonder that so many of our members responded in the recent survey we undertook for our strategic plan that you most value water quality for swimming (93%) and natural shorelines (91%) around your lake. Similarly, you expressed most concern for the potential future degradation of water quality (88%) and over development of the shoreline (85%).

We have all done our bit of development on the shoreline, but there is a disturbing trend to take down large swaths of trees along the shoreline and backshore, then to blast and landscape with lawn, granite patios, wide steps and replaced vegetation rather than working around the mature trees that give our properties and shorelines character. A planner I once worked with talked about building at Whistler BC and needing to embrace the slope and design with it not against it. Who would ever think of trying to take away the mountain – why would you go there without it? That has always stuck with me.

Shorelines are the commodity of Muskoka — the piece of shoreline property we purchased or inherited is our investment that appreciates over time as our trees grow. Real estate investors like to say that “buildings depreciate, land appreciates”. Muskoka waterfront properties have provided an exceptional return on our investment – in more than just financial terms. But just this past month we saw photos circulating of an island in Lake Joseph practically clear-cut, sparking outrage. A petition for action had at time of writing over 1550 signatures and rising by the second. Sadly, this is not the only example of landowners taking the trees and shorelines into their own hands – to mold Muskoka’s naturally beautiful shorelines into something else – taking down the mountain, so to speak.

The MLA has been taking strong positions on shoreline development recently, be it resorts or individual lots. We had an amazing response to our resort survey with Friends of Muskoka (1700 respondents) about the proposed Minett Official Plan Amendment policies. We have a seat at the table for the Township of Muskoka Lakes Official Plan review underway right now and we participated in the last District OP and continue to engage as they tackle their resort policies. Our intent is to ensure the creation of strong policies to support the importance our members place in good water quality and natural shorelines. When the MLA advocates for the environment, we are taking action to protect your investment. The greatest value of my property lies not in the building, but in the sunset view and wooded shoreline and forested property. When people drive in our winding gravel road and turn into our place nestled in the hemlocks they know they have arrived in Muskoka. I have done my best not to diminish the Muskoka experience for my neighbours – those who must look at my shoreline - and I expect the same of them. Let’s continue to work together to respect the value of our shorelines for ourselves and for future generations.

Deborah Martin-Downs - President

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Invasive Plant Species in Muskoka *Continued from page 1*

temperatures as low as -35C, Canadian frigid winters could be the country's saving grace as the cold will slow down the growth.



Photo courtesy of Patrick Hodge, MNR

1) GIANT HOGWEED

Giant Hogweed, (*Heracleum Mantegazzianum*), is an invasive plant known for its enormous size. Giant Hogweed has two major negative impacts. Firstly, due to its invasive nature, it poses a threat to native biodiversity. Secondly, Giant Hogweed is a public health hazard. It produces a noxious sap that sensitizes the skin to ultraviolet light. This is known as photosensitivity, which can result in severe and painful burning and blistering. It is important to avoid any skin contact with this plant.

- The plant can grow from 2.5 to 4 metres high (8 - 14 feet).
- The saw-toothed leaves are deeply lobed and can grow to 1 metre (3 feet) across.
- The stems are hollow with dark reddish-purple splotches and coarse white hair.

- The watery sap produced by the leaves and stems contains a chemical that causes skin to become highly sensitive to the sun.
- Small white flowers are clustered in an umbrella-shaped head that can grow larger than 30 centimetres (1 foot) in diameter.
- The seeds are oval and flat.

For more information on these invasive species, please visit:

Government of Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry at: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/invasive-species-ontario>

District of Muskoka at: <https://www.muskoka.on.ca/en/environment/invasive-species.aspx>

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Educate yourself on known invasive species in your area. Never plant, transport, spread, or release invasive species. Report invasive species to EDDMapS Ontario or the Invading Species Hotline 1-800-563-7711.

The EDDMapS Ontario app brings the power of EDDMapS to your smartphone. Now you can submit invasive species observations directly with your smartphone from the field. These reports are uploaded to EDDMapS and e-mailed directly to verifiers for review.



MLA Membership

If you haven't already done so, please renew your membership at www.mla.on.ca or by calling our office at 705-765-5723.

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Culinary Corner

Nothing says summer like the smell of cedar plank salmon cooking on the BBQ. This recipe provided by our very own Christine Gillmore was one she learned at her time in culinary school. A fun fresh summer twist on BBQ Salmon. Please enjoy!

Cashew, Pineapple and Cilantro Infused Teriyaki Salmon

INGREDIENTS

- 2 lb salmon filet
- cedar planks for cooking the salmon (soak in water 2-3 hours prior to cooking)
- salt and pepper
- 1 ½ cups of rice (sticky sushi rice is best)
- 3 tbsp olive or avocado oil
- 3 cloves of garlic minced or crushed
- 1 inch of ginger, grated finely
- ½-1 cup of cashews (can be omitted for allergens)
- ½ cup pineapple chopped fresh is best

SAUCE

- 3 tbsp soya sauce
- 3 tbsp hoisin
- ½-1 cup of pineapple juice
- 3 green onions
- A pinch of red pepper flakes
- 1 cup of chopped cilantro
- ½ tsp cornstarch or your preferred thickener
- salt and pepper

DIRECTIONS

- Prep
1. Salt and pepper salmon
 2. Cook Rice as per directions once done open lid and set out to cool as the rice will be made into fried rice patties

SAUCE

1. Turn your stove top on to a medium high heat setting use a saucepan or skillet and add 1 ½ tbsp to the cooking oil
2. Once oil is hot, add the garlic and ginger for about 1 min or until fragrant and clear in colour
3. Add the cashews and sauté for a couple minutes until you smell a roasted nut smell
4. Add the pineapple depending on your love of pineapple you can add a full cup and continue sautéing until pineapple is slightly transparent and a deep gold colour, about 1 minute.
5. Add soya sauce, hoisin, pineapple juice, and red pepper flakes
6. Add corn starch or your preferred thickener
7. Add cilantro and stir for about a minute
8. Salt and pepper to taste
9. Remove from heat and cover

SALMON

1. Start the BBQ and using a cedar plank place on the BBQ if not using a plank oil the bottom of the salmon so the skin will not stick to BBQ
2. Place salmon on the cedar or BBQ and cook until done 15-24 mins depending on thickness juice runs clear and salmon is peach throughout and not translucent

RICE

1. Turn stove on to medium high heat and add the remaining oil.
2. Grab a bowl big enough for your hand to fit in and wet your hands lightly
3. Take a good handful of rice and form into patties
4. Place rice patties no more than 3 in a pan and fry for a few minutes on each side until outer layer is golden

Plate the rice add salmon over top of the rice cake and pour sauce over both, add fresh cilantro to garnish. If you are looking for a nice side accompaniment, try Broccolini! Serves 4-6



MLA 2021 Bursary Winners Announcement

2021 Bursary Winner Hayden Foley



The Muskoka Lakes Association (MLA) has awarded its 9th annual MLA Bursary to Hayden Foley, a Grade 12 student who is graduating from Gravenhurst High School. The \$5,000 award is provided to one student who demonstrates exceptional qualities and achievements and financial need to continue to their chosen post-secondary education.

The quality of applicants from throughout our area was outstanding!

Hayden is an honours student and an enthusiastic member of the school's

FIRST Robotics Team of more than 30 members that participates in the annual international competition to build robots to solve an engineering challenge, develop community partnerships and promote STEM education (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) locally. His fundraising for the team included more than 50 cold calls on local businesses. He is also active in his church.

In the fall, he will begin the Engineering program at the University of Guelph.

Hayden has been saving for his post-secondary education through part time work since Grade 9. During the pandemic, he was designated an essential worker. Informing him that he had won the bursary left

Hayden uncharacteristically speechless; he is very grateful to the MLA for this award.

Special Recognitions To Emily Boone And Jessica Doucette



In addition to Hayden, two others stood out amid an excellent group of applicants.

Emily Boone is an honours student in French Immersion at Bracebridge and Muskoka Lakes Secondary School. She is a voracious reader and volunteers to support the local swim club and minor hockey. Emily has demonstrated courage and humility in dealing with life's challenges. She has a love of history and is a passionate guide at the Bethune Memorial House. Emily looks forward to studying History at Glendon College of York University.

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Jessica Doucette is graduating with honours from Gravenhurst High School and will be studying Child and Youth Care at Cambrian College. She is a compassionate part time staff member – a pandemic essential worker – at a retirement home where she lives out her passion for helping vulnerable people such as those with Alzheimer's. Her career goal is to return to Muskoka to help families who are affected by Autism.

In recognition of their qualities and achievements, MLA has provided Jessica and Emily each

with a special award of \$500 toward their post-secondary education. They are very grateful for this assistance.

All candidates express their gratitude to MLA for supporting local students through the annual bursary program.



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Philip Goad • Laurie Island
pgoad@mmr.ca • 416-738-4412



RECOMMENDED BY THE MLA FOR MEMBER INSURANCE SERVICES



Annual General Meeting
Wednesday July 21st, 2021 at 5pm

MLA AGM

The MLA AGM will be virtual again this year. We look forward to having you attend as we reveal our strategic plan and celebrate the Association's work and elect our new board members. To register via zoom, [click here](#).

Bring Muskoka Home- Shop Now! ShopMuskokaLakes.ca

The Muskoka Lakes Chamber of Commerce has launched a multi-vendor marketplace showcasing local Muskoka retailers, artisans and other business services. The new ShopMuskokaLakes.ca is a co-operative, online community marketplace that provides a selling platform both for vendors who had no previous online shop presence, retailers already experienced in marketing their products online, and even those not interested in selling online.

Chamber Executive Director, Norah Fountain adds the Chamber's main message hasn't changed. "When in Muskoka, we say shop our local stores in person. Our retailers can't wait to see you again. But when you

can't be here, or we're in lockdown, and you want to still touch, taste and live the Muskoka experience? You can Shop Muskoka Lakes, anytime, from anywhere."

The Chamber's Shop Muskoka Lakes Support Local community project has been made possible through funding by FedNor and the government of Canada through the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF) and through operational funding from the Township of Muskoka Lakes.

We hope you will check it out!

Muskoka Lakes Chamber of Commerce



The Chamber's Norah Fountain helps Carson Wroe of Muskoka Chair Company get ready for a photo shoot of his family's famous Muskoka Chairs. Photo by Natalie MacMillan.



Shop Muskoka Lakes is the only online store to offer birchbark greeting cards from Creative Muskoka Cards handmade by Frances Mae Balodis in Utterson. Photo by Norah Fountain.



Candice Sheriff of TREEO, the retail home of Live Edge Forest, is one of the woodworking artisans featured on Shop Muskoka Lakes. Photo by Norah Fountain.

MLA 2021 Yearbooks are here!

Have you picked your copy up yet? We are offering curbside pick up while the office remains closed to the public. Please contact us at 705-765-5723 or email us at info@mla.on.ca to arrange your pickup.





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Local's Corner

CLARION BOATS OF MUSKOKA



The sight of a classic wooden boat majestically cruising our lakes always makes one stop and admire. The classic lines and exquisite workmanship evokes memories of days long ago.

Recently, one of our local residents and realtors, Paul Crammond, announced that he had purchased the intellectual assets of Clarion Boats. For over 30 years, Clarion has been a builder of custom mahogany racers, runabouts and launches. Paul has rebranded the company Clarion Boats of Muskoka, and is creating a new generation of boats.

Paul has been a cottager in Muskoka for over 50 years. He knew the founder of Clarion Boats, Dwight Boyd through the Antique and Classic Boat Society. When Dwight decided to retire, it seemed the perfect opportunity to purchase the intellectual assets. Originally Clarion Boats operated out of the Kawarthas, so they did not have a strong Muskoka presence. This seemed like a wonderful opportunity to bring the boats to Muskoka.

The unique draw of Clarion is that the boats are not only beautiful, but are built with the modern technology that makes them much more reliable, durable and easier to maintain than previous generations of wooden boats. Each boat takes approximately 2500 skilled man hours to construct and is

built here in Gravenhurst. The designer, Steve Killing, is a veteran Canadian boat designer and is best known for designing the Canada One sailboat that raced in the Americas Cup in the 80s.

Clarion boats are now being built to custom order by Brackley Boats in Gravenhurst. They employ five full time employees who build not only Clarion boats but also restore and repair antique wooden boats.

When people see a Clarion boat in the water, the emotional impact is almost immediate. The connection with a wooden boat and our Muskoka heritage is hard to explain. Paul says this is often the moment a potential purchaser decides it is something they want to own. Each boat is custom made, and the purchaser can choose the stain, upholstery, chrome trim and interior seating configuration. They can even choose the engine size.

The pandemic has created a real shortage in all recreational products from canoes and kayaks to fiberglass boats and outboard engines. Fortunately for Clarion Boats, their production schedule has not been affected by supply issues, and they are still able to offer boats for sale. For available inventory, check out the website at www.clarionboats.com.

Cathie Mostowyk



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