



MLA's Water Quality Test Results for 2019



In the summer of 2019, over 100 dedicated MLA water quality volunteers performed over 945 tests at 180 sites, grouped in 55 areas, to safeguard lake health and recreational water quality.

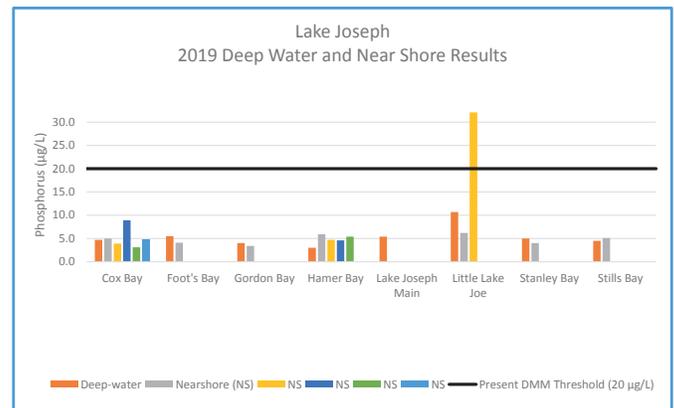
Despite a record spring flood and high temperatures, overall water quality was generally good to excellent. Of the 55 areas sampled by MLA, 42 were rated green [or excellent], 9 were rated yellow [increased vigilance] and 2 were rated red [unacceptable]. Yellow areas include: Cox Bay, Gull Lake, Gullwing Lake*, Mirror Lake and Skeleton Bay [based on elevated phosphorus]; Minett* and Walkers Point [based on elevated E.Coli]; and Boyd Bay plus Windermere* [based on past algae blooms]. Only three of the above areas [marked *] were rated yellow in 2018. The two red sites were sections of Bass Lake and Brandy Lake [due to active algae blooms evaluated by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit in 2019]. Algae blooms were added to the rating criteria in 2019 accounting for two yellow and two red rated sites this year. Numbers do not add since newer test sites were not rated. We note that Minett was only rated yellow despite a reported onshore commercial sewage system malfunction.

The Total Phosphorus results are shown below by lake. Most Muskoka lakes have Total Phosphorus [TP] less than 10ug/L [ie. oligotrophic range]. However, a few such as Brandy Lake, have natural Total Phosphorus levels near or above 20 ug/L [ie. eutrophic range].

MLA is particularly vigilant in areas where the natural lake condition has changed. Deep Water tests are important indicators of lake health. Near Shore tests are important indicators of water quality for residents' recreational activities. Near Shore sites frequently have higher results than Deep Water sites because there is a greater volume of water at the Deep Water locations to dilute contaminants. Many of the higher Near Shore results in 2019 were associated with stream inflow area or nearby sources of decomposing natural materials [wetlands].

MLA's annual report, including details on specific areas, can be found on the MLA website at www.mula.ca

LAKE JOSEPH



Spring Total Phosphorous at Deep Water sites in Lake Joseph [orange columns] generally is below the long term lake average of 4.1 ug/L [reference HESL 2016]. The only exception for 2019 is in Little Lake Joseph. Markedly elevated spring Total Phosphorous was found Near Shore sites in Little Lake Joseph. The annual average Total Phosphorous in Little Lake Joseph decreased from spring values, indicating that the cause of the elevated spring readings [believed to be decomposing organic matter] had dissipated throughout the summer. Annual TP increased at Cox Bay leading to a yellow rating. The single Near Shore high annual Hamer Bay reading is consistent with previous years at this one site.

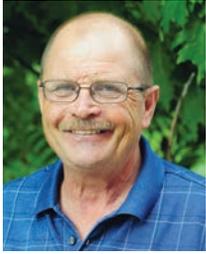
continued on page 3

In this Issue...

President's Message.....	2	FOCA	5
Water Quality Test Results	3	2019 Photo Contest Winners	6-7
Snowmobiling In Muskoka	4	Local's Corner	8



President's MESSAGE



Greetings from Muskoka. It is mid-January and we are in a veritable winter wonderland thanks to a recent 7-8 inches snow fall across the region as you can tell from the adjacent winter picture.

By the time you read this it will be in early February and most of the meetings referred to will be recent history but we think you need to know about them none the less.

GARBAGE BIN REMOVAL UPDATE

In the late summer, the District came up with a program to eliminate all non-supervised/unlicensed garbage bins within four years. To be fair, this was a provincial directive to be executed by the District. At the time of writing, a clear articulation of the alternative service offering to be provided by the District has yet to be made public. We do know that 25 bins have been classified as high risk and that 13 could be removed as early as this spring, meaning some islanders who rely on those 13 bins may have no appropriate and convenient place to drop their garbage and recycling unless they drive to existing transfer stations.

The MLA has had three individual meetings since October with the District's Public Works in Bracebridge to work on alternative garbage disposal solutions. Our focus has been on getting a list of high risk affected sites, timing of removal and alternative service offering definition. By the time you read this a fourth meeting will have taken place on January 22nd. At the fourth meeting we discovered alternative services and communication to those using the bins is still not acted on. The MLA communication arm is ready to help! We will continue to keep you informed.

IT IS MLA BOARD NOMINATIONS SEASON

We are looking for two or three members to join our dynamic 18 seat board or join one of our committees in a "get acquainted" role. Retired professionals are ideal for the role but a number of our current Board members also hold full time jobs.

Personal referrals are the very best kind. If you know of any MLA members who you think would be a good fit for either a board or committee member please let me know. You will have received the Call for Nominations letter in your in box by now and feel free to use that as a recruiting tool.

SHORELINE OVER DEVELOPMENT

Our vigilance regarding over development across Muskoka, not just Minett continues. The LPAT hearings coming up regarding the Legacy Cottages on February 27th and 28th are a major milestone for us. We are working collaboratively with Friends of Muskoka (FOM) on this file and once again will keep you in the loop following the meeting.

STITCHING MUSKOKA TOGETHER

When I spoke at my first AGM as president in July 2018, I mentioned one of my objectives was to develop a stronger working relationship with other Muskoka interest groups. We currently enjoy a great working relationship with Friends of Muskoka (FOM) and have made progress building bridges to Muskoka Ratepayers Association (MRA), Safe Quiet Lakes and the Muskoka Watershed Advisory Group (MWAG). After all, we are all in this together!



MUSKOKA WATERSHED NEWS

The MLA has met with The Muskoka Watershed Advisory Group in a one-on-one listening session where MLA advocated for (a) an integrated watershed plan and (b) a legal/regulatory entity to have ownership of the Plan [such as a Conservation Authority]. This input was based on letters we submitted to both Ministers and the Special Flood Advisor hired by the province. Following the meeting the MLA has undertaken to make written input.

Having made input previously, the MLA made an abbreviated presentation at the January 23rd Listening Session to allow other groups to speak. The session has been constructed to promote public understanding of the MWAG mandate and respond to clarifying questions rather than provide a forum for presentations. Written submissions after the meeting are being encouraged. This Muskoka Watershed Advisory Group is dynamic and focused on the task at hand!

LOOKING AHEAD

As we hunker down either in snowy Ontario or warmer points south a few promising events are on the horizon.

Antique and Classic Boat Society - Spring Tour of wooden boat builders in April.

The MLA Seedling Day and Water Quality Training on the May long weekend.

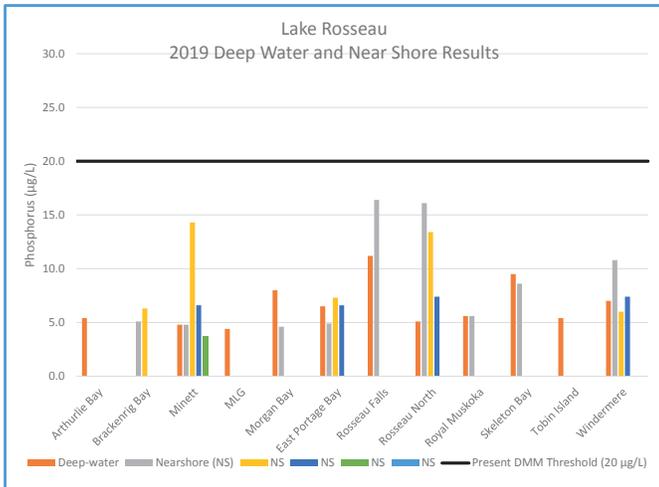
As usual, do not hesitate to email me at lawton.osler@oslerhr.ca if you have any questions.

Have a peaceful and happy new year!

Lawton Osler - President

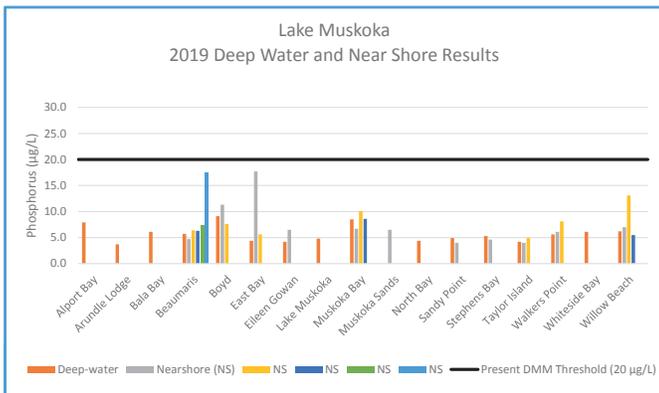


LAKE ROSSEAU



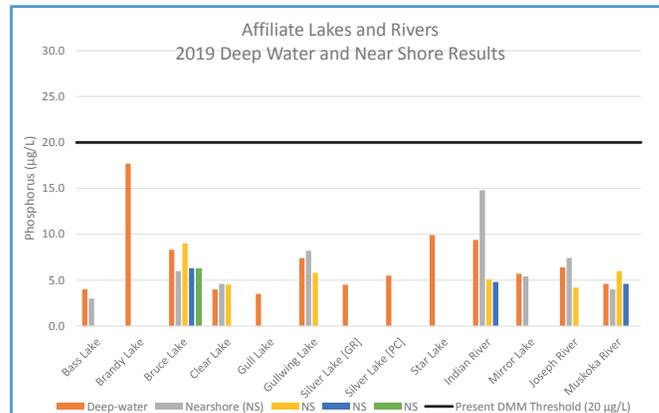
At Lake Rosseau, spring Deep Water Total Phosphorous readings [orange columns] are generally below the long term average of 7.1 ug/L – again well within the oligotrophic range. Moderately elevated spring Total Phosphorous is found at two of the Deep Water sites – Rosseau Falls and Skeleton Bay. Five sites showed elevated spring Near Shore: Minett, Rosseau Falls, Rosseau North, Skeleton Bay and Windermere. Most of these elevated Near Shore sites are located on or near inflowing streams.

LAKE MUSKOKA



For Lake Muskoka, spring Deep Water Total Phosphorous [orange columns] is generally below its long term average of 6.3 ug/L – also within the oligotrophic range. There were no significant exceptions. The Near Shore spring readings at Beaumaris, East Bay and Willow Beach are elevated. Similar to other lakes, these higher readings are associated with inflow streams or nearby sources of decomposing organic matter. Annual average readings at East Bay and Willow Beach were lower, suggesting that the cause of the higher spring values dissipated over the summer. Walker Point had elevated E. Coli at one site leading to a yellow rating.

SMALL LAKES & RIVERS



Most of the Small Lakes and Rivers have Deep Water spring phosphorous readings [orange columns] under 10 ug/L [oligotrophic], comparable to the larger Muskoka lakes. Higher phosphorous [ie over 20 ug/L] is normal for Brandy Lake [a tea stained lake]. Elevated Spring Total Phosphorous was found at the Star Lake and Indian River Deep Water locations. Reasons for these higher readings are potentially related to urban loadings [Port Carling] or decomposing organic matter [Star Lake & some Indian River shorelines].

ALGAE BLOOMS

While not part of MLA's current sampling program, Harmful Algae Blooms [HAB's] were reported in 2019 at two locations: Bass Lake and Brandy Lake. Four locations were reported in 2018 [two of which left the MLA program after 2018]. Measurement of blue green algae blooms is carried out by the Spills Action Line [MOE] and the Simcoe Muskoka Department of Health. MLA tracks this condition through participation in Muskoka Watershed Council and its Algae Working Group.

ROAD SALT

Recent research indicates that the zooplankton in the Muskoka Lakes is ten times more sensitive to salt than previously understood. Zooplankton are the base of the food chain for small fish and are important to lake health as they consume algae and filter the lake water. Salt levels are being monitored in the lakes by the District Municipality of Muskoka's water sampling program. Data from this program indicate that salt in Muskoka Bay is slightly above the critical level based on the recent research and salt in Lake Joseph is just under this level. MLA is tracking this condition through participation in the DMM working group on salt reduction.



Do you know what an MLA Secondary Membership is?

Secondary Members are for those over 30 years of age who share the family cottage but reside at a separate permanent home address. This membership provides the opportunity for future generations to receive all MLA correspondence and their own family listing in the yearbook. For only \$50.00 you can sign up your children and their families to be members. We need to engage the younger generation and get them involved. The greater our membership, the more we can do to protect the Muskoka we know and love. Please call the office with any questions! 705-765-5723

Enjoy Snowmobiling this Winter in Muskoka!

Although it has been a mild start to the season, winter is here in Muskoka! Many of our members continue to spend more time in Muskoka during the winter months to explore all the winter adventures Muskoka has to offer. Whether you are curling up with a blanket in front of a fire, exploring your property or local trails by snowshoe, getting exercise on your cross-country skis, getting ready to drop your line ice fishing (when weather permits) or discovering the back country on a snowmobile, there is lots to keep you busy! Snowmobiling is one of the most popular winter sports in Muskoka. With 1,500 kilometres of groomed trails in the Muskoka region, with trails scattered all over Muskoka leading to most towns and services. Muskoka is connected to 38,000 kilometres of trails in Ontario, so a snowmobiler can travel further by trail than on the entire 400 series of highways. Snowmobiling is quite an organized sport with the establishment of the Ontario Federation of Snowmobiling Clubs (OFSC) which covers 17 Districts in Ontario. There are 9 clubs in the Muskoka Snowmobiling Region (MSR), now referred to as District #7.



safe, respect private property by staying on the trail, take in the beauty of your surroundings and have fun! If you are looking for more information, please visit the Muskoka Snowmobiler Region's website at www.msrnsnowtrails.com. Use this link to view the OFSC Interactive Trail Guide or download the new 2019-2020 app by Go Snowmobiling Ontario. This app will allow you to see your location on the map, view nearby services including places to eat and gas stations, allow you to browse a list of snow tours and easily find your location and share itineraries with friends and family.

The OFSC application uses GPS on your phone to show where you are, like Google Maps, and it's easy to determine which snowmobile trail you are on and your exact location. It's handy to quickly view which trails are open (green, yellow) vs still closed (in red). The access to the interactive and real time app is in the Apple App Store and Google Play (OFSC Interactive Trail Guide). It's friendly to use, easy to scroll around and zoom in on your route options.

There is lots to keep you busy!

Each club in the MSR has a regional trail design, maintenance, signage and of course land owner permission for trail use. Within the MSR, all the individual snowmobile clubs work collectively to connect trail systems and integrate their trail permit systems. The MSR also helps to maintain a balance of club resources and grooming equipment. Snowmobiling allows its rider access to landscapes and scenery that cannot be reached in the summer. With many local area restaurants, lodgings and retailers catering to snowmobilers along the trail system, riders can easily travel 100-200 or more kilometres each day with the comfort of knowing that around the next corner awaits a hot meal, a comfortable bed or that local shop with that perfect gift that would have been almost impossible to have found otherwise.

Trail access is allowed by snowmobile trail permit, available at ofsc.on.ca. Active riders buy a full season pass for only \$200 for the full year. You can also purchase day, weekend or week long passes for occasional trail riders.

Exploring Muskoka by snowmobile is truly a snowmobiler's paradise. If you find yourself out exploring on your snowmobile be sure to be



Image of OFSC interactive map as of January 23rd, 2020, clearly showing the trail conditions. Green and yellow open, red, not open yet.

New Members

Please welcome the following as new members of the MLA! From September 17, 2019 to January 20, 2020

Everett & Maureen ANSTEY
Wilson CLEMENTS
Carolyn CULLEN
Greg & Alex DOWNS
Jake GOSELIN
Jeffrey KIRSH
Joel KIRSH

Jennifer LEBOW
Susan LEMELIN
Ron MCARTHUR
David & Tina OSTERMANN - GISONDI
Jonas PRINCE
Ernie RETTIG
Mike ROBBINS

David RUSSELL
Jeff STARKMAN
Fred STUMP
Christopher WARD
Ontario SPCA - Muskoka Animal Centre

Web Member Directory!

Do you have your yearbook at home or at the cottage? With our new password protected online Web Member Directory it doesn't matter if you forget your book! It is easy, log into your account with your primary email or MLA membership number and password. You can then access the directory by clicking on "Member Directory" on the homepage of the website. You can use the alpha search, type in a first or last name, or even look up your MLA geographic code and see all the other MLA members in your area.

FOCA – yes, you're a member!

MLA is a long-time member of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) and that means all of us can access FOCA member benefits.

But what does that mean?

For more than 55 years, FOCA has been the voice of waterfront Ontario. In 1963, a small group of cottage owners united as a provincial organization that has grown to represent more than 500 lake associations with 50,000 families



across the province. Our united voice carries weight on the issues that matter. The issues evolved over time, but the motivation remains the same: to protect the sustainability of Ontario waterfronts and freshwater resources for our kids, and their kids after them.

Over the years, FOCA has played an important advocacy role on environmental and policy concerns. In the 1980s FOCA fought hard for government action on the issue of acid rain, and lobbied to stop the use of toxic Dombind as a road-dust suppressant. FOCA secured your right to vote at the cottage in Ontario municipal elections as second-home owners. FOCA's Lake Stewards are at the core of the Lake Partner Program of volunteer water quality monitoring to inform scientific and policy decision-making in the face of a changing climate.

Over the past decade, FOCA has gone to Parliament Hill and Queen's Park to speak out against federal and provincial omnibus bills that gutted protection for our fisheries and fish habitat. FOCA worked with partners to secure land owners' rights during claim-staking after years of behind-the-scenes work on the Mining Act, and FOCA continues to sit as a stakeholder at the table for discussions about the Algonquin Land Claim.

FOCA has lobbied hard in recent years for reforms to water management planning, and continues to work to ensure that land use planning is responsible

Can your family afford to keep the cottage?



There is no "one size fits all" solution

- What are your Capital Gains tax owed?
- Where is the money coming from to pay the taxes owed?
- Have you had these family discussions?

We have been working with families since 1997. Our Estate Planning Team understands the importance of keeping memories alive and capturing new memories for yourself and future generations.

HEAD OFFICE
425-6755 Mississauga Road
Mississauga, Ontario
L5N 7Y2



CarteFinancial.com
T: (647) 354-7463
savingthefamilycottage@gmail.com



Cottages are special places.
Let us help you protect them.

David Browne • Cockburn Island
dbrowne@mnr.ca • 416-520-7042

Darcy Browne • Cockburn Island
darcybrowne@mnr.ca • 416-520-7042

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



RECOMMENDED BY THE MLA FOR MEMBER INSURANCE SERVICES

and accountable to community interests. In 2017, after more than 18 months of FOCA's advocacy efforts on the issue of dock permits, Ontario confirmed certain occupations of public land would be enabled without an MNRF permit (subject to conditions, and only where allowed by municipal bylaw or Federal statute).

FOCA holds intervenor status on the Ontario Energy Board and, on behalf of members across the province, has most recently been lobbying hard against proposed changes to the Seasonal Class of Hydro One customers, that would see many member's annual electricity bills rise by \$1,000! A final decision is pending; watch for updates in the FOCA Elert (e-newsletter). Sign up for free, here: <http://bit.ly/FOCAElertSubscribe>.

FOCA assembled the most comprehensive risk-management program for volunteers in rural environmental groups, through the FOCA Insurance Program. The program insures nearly 400 lake associations across Ontario, to protect volunteer boards with cost-effective liability insurance. Each of you can also access CottageFirst, the first group insurance program for cottage owners, available exclusively to FOCA members through Cade Associates Insurance Brokers. Find out more: <http://cadeinsurance.com/cottagefirst/>.

Got a cottage-country question? FOCA publishes a wealth of information online for members. Find fact sheets and brochures about invasive species, climate change concerns, municipal engagement, healthy waterfronts and so much more, here: <https://foca.on.ca/resources/>.

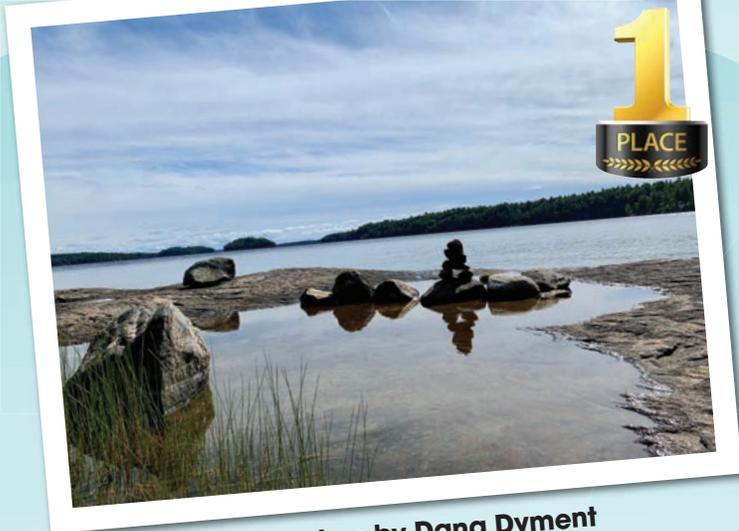
While you're at it, check out all the offers, discounts and other benefits available to you, because of our association's annual membership in FOCA: <https://foca.on.ca/member-services/benefits/>.

Lake associations across the province benefit from FOCA's ongoing research, information, and advocacy. FOCA is here to help our association, and to help make continued progress on the issues most important to waterfront residents. The work continues, and FOCA is leading the way toward a sustainable freshwater future for Ontario.

Photo Contest Winners

Congratulations to this year's Photo Contest Winners! We received a total of 98 entries and were impressed by the quality of the submissions! The selection wasn't easy but a panel of judges agreed that the following pictures best reflected their respective categories. The first prize winners of each category will receive an 18"x 24" plaque mounted print of their photo, courtesy of Aben Graphics, which will be presented at the AGM. For those who didn't win first place, look for your photos in our publications!

NATURAL SHORELINES



1
PLACE

Photo taken by Dana Dymont



2
PLACE

Photo taken by Janet Butler



3
PLACE

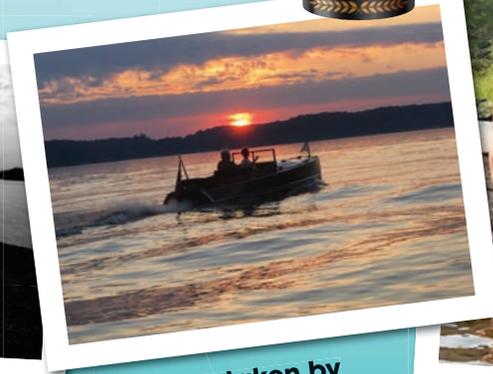
Photo taken by Janet Butler

MUSKOKA TRADITIONS



2
PLACE

Photo taken by Victor Chow



3
PLACE

Photo taken by John Bosomworth



1
PLACE

Photo taken by Melissa Idiens

YEARBOOK COVER

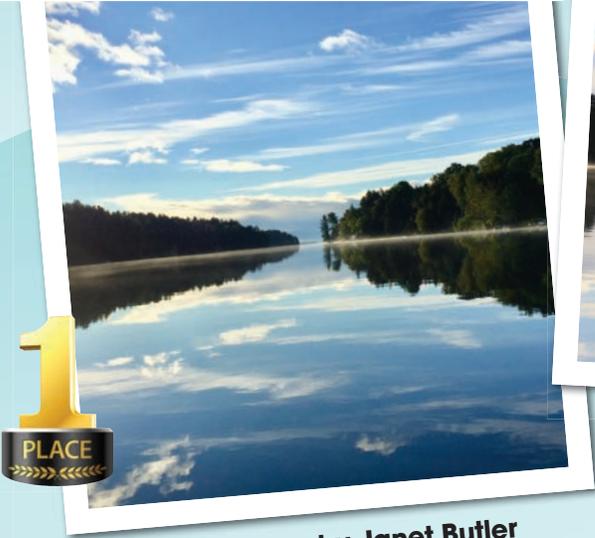


Photo taken by Janet Butler



Photo taken by Janet Butler



Photo taken by David & Virginia Graham

We were so impressed with these we had to include them for all to see!

HONOURABLE MENTIONS



Photo taken by Vibeke Ball



Photo taken by Susan Hare

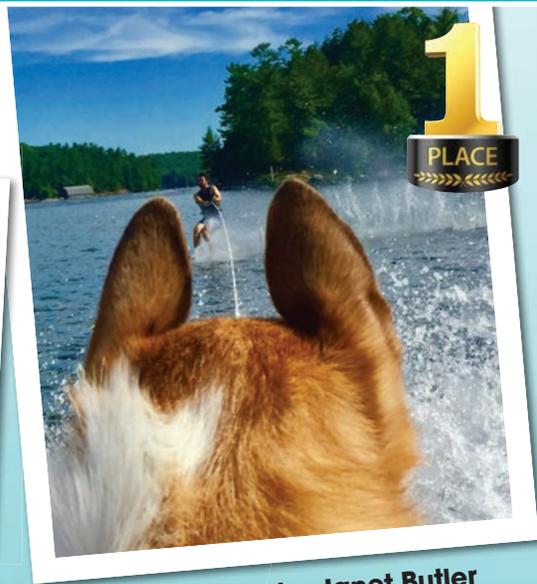


Photo taken by Janet Butler

Sponsored by

Aben
graphics Ltd.

www.abengraphics.com

MLA 2020 PHOTO CONTEST

Entries may be submitted by MLA members and their families in the categories of:

Wooden Classics - We know you have them, snap a photo and capture all the memories that go along with it. Show us your antique and classic wooden boats!

Wave The Flag - Calling all members! Do you wave a flag to show your pride or support? Whether it is an MLA flag, burgee or one that represents your country we want to see it!

Life at the Cottage - What is your life at the cottage? Coffee on the dock, boating, campfires, games, nature, sunsets? Send us an image of what "Life at the Cottage" means to you!

2021 Yearbook Cover - Want to have your photo of Muskoka featured on the MLA yearbook cover? high resolution, portrait orientation photos only please!

Local's Corner

Chef Henrie Bistro & Café



Ask a local Mactierian about where their town fits on the cottage country map and they might say it's a little off the beaten track. Perhaps it is, but a visit to Chef Henrie Bistro & Café is likely to pull Mactier into the spotlight.

Henrie's menu features dishes that pay homage to his Austrian heritage and the local Ontario produce he sources. The restaurant opened in 2018 and was recently renovated, with new décor and a revamped kitchen.

Chef Henrie has lived here since he was two years old. His parents immigrated to Canada from Austria in 1987, and the whole family now lives in Mactier.

Henrie received his culinary training in Austria where he apprenticed for three years and graduated in 2014. He entered a competition called "The Golden Spoon" which featured new and rising young chefs – and he won it!! After working for several years in various Austrian restaurants, he decided to open a restaurant in Mactier.

Owning and managing a restaurant is never easy work, but Henrie appears to thrive and is in his element. He buys all his produce within 100 miles in the summer and his meat from local butchers. As much as possible, he supports the local businesses and finds the quality of the products superior to wholesalers.

Bikers have been known to ride their motorcycles from Toronto to the restaurant, have a schnitzel for lunch, and then ride home to Toronto. Clearly the schnitzel is one of the crowd pleasers! In addition to the schnitzel, he offers homemade soups (a new one each day), made-to-order burgers, and kaiserschmarrn which is an Austrian dessert specialty. Everything he cooks is fresh and made to order.

Chef Henrie Bistro & Café is open year round, although closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Of course they are also licensed through the LLBO, and you can also bring your own wine for a corkage fee of \$10 to \$18. 339 High St., Mactier P0C 1H0. www.chefhenrie.com.



THE GARDINER TEAM

CLIENT FOCUSED · RESULTS DRIVEN

JIM GARDINER* 705.646.7358

IRIS GARDINER* 705.646.6367

CHESTNUT PARK REAL ESTATE LIMITED, BROKERAGE

chestnutpark.com | Office: 705.765.6878

110 Medora Street, Port Carling, Ontario P0B 1J0

Call us for a FREE
and confidential
property evaluation

LIST LOCAL. MARKET GLOBAL.

**CHESTNUT
PARK**
REAL ESTATE LIMITED, BROKERAGE
CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE



Contact Us

Muskoka Lakes Association, Box 298, 65 Joseph Street, Port Carling, ON P0B 1J0
P 705-765-5723 | F 705-765-3203 | E info@mla.on.ca | W www.mla.on.ca

