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Greetings from Steve Mann LMAA President

Holiday greetings to all of our members, both seasonal and permanent residents on behalf of the Board of Directors.

What a year it has been. Covid-19 has changed the world and how it operates. With the U.S. borders closed many if not most of our American members were unable and disappointed that they couldn't visit their favourite lake this year. For those of us able to be here there has been a noticeable lack of events on the Island with most being cancelled this year. Hopefully things will be resolved going forward into next summer.

In the meantime, although we had to cancel our Annual General Meeting and Information Night, the Executive and Board of Directors

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have carried on the business of the Association as best we can. In no particular order here is a list of what we were able to do.

1. We ordered and received a third printing of “Lake Manitou Historical Tidbits” and they were delivered to the Education Committee for sale.
2. Our deployment of the lake marker buoys took place in the spring and they were removed in the fall thanks to the Lake Steward Volunteers.
3. Our financial obligations for insurance and FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottage Associations) membership fees have been paid.
4. We provided a \$500 grant to the Manitoulin Phragmites Project which was matched dollar for dollar by The Gosling Foundation.
5. The annual water sampling for clarity and oxygen levels was cancelled this year by the provincial government.
6. Members have been billed for their annual dues through our Wild Apricot LMAA website.

This year has been filled with disappointment, tragedy, unease and stress with a few rays of sunshine breaking through. By working together with a common cause, we will make it through these trying times.

In the meantime, stay safe, stay healthy and be kind.
Happy Holidays!!

Steve Mann LMAA President

Did You Know That?

The LMAA is a participating member of the Lake Partnership Program. LMAA volunteers collect water samples and other water quality data each year. They are sent to a laboratory for processing. A report is then generated that provides a current assessment of the health of our lake and a historical record of changes that may be taking place.

The **Lake Partner Program** is a volunteer-based water-quality monitoring program for Ontario's inland lakes. The Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks coordinates this program from the Dorset Environmental Science Centre (DESC) in partnership with the **Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations**.



Lake Manitou late fall 2020

News From FOCA.

The LMAA is a member of FOCA. As such I encourage you to read their news letters, reports and other items on their web site

<https://foca.on.ca/2020-lake-stewards-newsletter/>

The story featured below is taken from a FOCA newsletter. It outlines activities that help cottagers, especially children to engage with their natural environment around the cottage. This can be fun for the entire family and a great learning experience for children.

Nature Fun at the Lake by Drew Monkman If there's any bright side to the COVID-19 crisis, it's the gift of time that we've been given. Why not use it to reconnect with nature? There's an amazing natural world to explore on and around Ontario's lakes. Encourage your kids to be inquisitive, to ask questions, and to "plug in" to nature through their senses. Here's some activities in which the whole family can participate.

Engage your senses

1. **Rainbow Colors:** Cut up a variety of paint color samples – especially greys, browns, yellows, oranges and greens – into smaller pieces. Hand out 5-10 pieces to each child. Ask them to try to find natural objects (e.g., grasses, rocks, buds, lichens, bark) that exactly match the colour of each paint sample.
2. **Smell Cocktail:** You will need some small cups and twigs. Selectively harvest tiny "bits" of nature and place them in the cup: a bud, some conifer needles, a flake of bark, some pine gum, etc. When you have four or five items, stir them with a twig. This is your smell cocktail! Give your creation a name – perhaps "summertopia" – and let everyone smell each other's concoction.
3. **Bag:** Give everyone a small bag. Find five or so familiar objects from nature (e.g., different conifer needles, bark, moss, etc.) and place them in the bag. Touch Taking turns and using only the sense of touch, challenge the kids to identify the objects in each other's bags. Salamander sleuthing Hunting for salamanders is great fun. They are most commonly found in wooded areas under fallen logs, old boards, and large rocks. Carefully lift up the rock or piece of wood and peak underneath. The most common species are the Spotted, Blue-spotted and Red-backed. If you find a salamander, observe their colouring.

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A summer scavenger hunt.

Kids love scavenger hunts. Challenge them to find the following items – with help where needed – and to maybe even keep a few for a cottage nature table! Adapt as necessary.

1. 3 different kinds of wildflowers
2. A mushroom growing from a tree trunk
3. A tree with holes excavated by a woodpecker
4. Berries on a tree or shrub
5. Cones on a pine or other conifer
6. Lichen on a tree or rock
7. Moss
8. 5 leaves of different shapes and shades of green
9. A leaf partly eaten by insects
10. The smell of decaying leaves
11. The smell of two different kinds of conifers
12. Something soft
13. Something rough
14. 4 different creatures under a rock or log
15. A turtle on a log
16. 2 different kinds of frogs
17. 2 different kinds of butterflies
18. 2 different kinds of dragonflies
19. 5 different kinds of birds
20. 3 different bird songs or calls
21. A water strider
22. A whirligig beetle
23. A fish

FOCA adds: Drew Monkman is an award-winning environmental advocate, and naturalist. A retired elementary school teacher, Monkman is the author of several nature guides including *The Big Book of Nature Activities*.

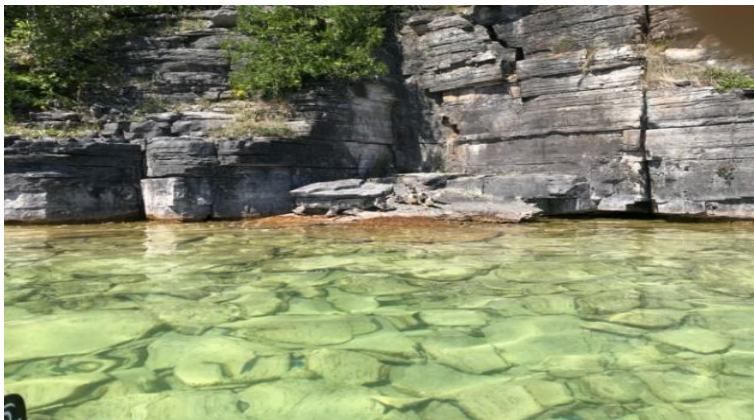


Photo credit Sharon Cooper

The limestone cliffs south east side of Lake Manitou near Sandfield

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Culinary Delights

Lake Manitou Whipped Shortbread Cookies

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup unsalted butter softened
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1/2 cup cornstarch
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Nonpareils for decorating

1. Preheat oven to 300°F. (Yes, that's 300 – not a typo.)
2. Cream the butter and powdered sugar in the bowl of a stand mixer with the paddle attachment or hand mixer with a very large bowl. Mix it until it's nice and light and fluffy and smooth, about 3-5 minutes, scraping the bottom and sides of the bowl during mixing. (3 minutes for a stand mixer, 5 minutes using a hand mixer.)
3. Add the flour, cornstarch, salt and vanilla and mix until smooth, scraping the sides and bottom of the bowl as needed.
4. Scoop 1 tablespoon size balls of cookie dough and roll them between your palms to form a ball. Place on cookie sheet. These don't spread so you don't have to space them more than 1-2" apart.
5. Lightly flour a fork and use the tines to press down the cookies. Top with nonpareils in your desired color.
6. Bake for about 20-22 minutes or until the bottoms are lightly browned. Cool slightly before removing from pans.
7. Store in an airtight container for up to 4 days or freeze for up to 2 months.

<https://www.crazyforcrust.com/whipped-shortbread-cookie-recipe/>
Harvey for sharing her recipe.

Thanks to Jennifer

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Members' Notice Board

Craig Hoyt passed away this summer. He was a well known personality residing on the shore of Lake Manitou. He will be sorely missed. Our thoughts and sympathies go out to his family and friends. His wife Brenda Hoyt has kindly provided us with a few farewell words to help us all cherish the memory of Craig.

Lake Manitou became Craig's most favorite place after a family vacation in 1986. Every year thereafter the family's summer vacation was spent at Mountain View Resort. In 2006 Craig and Brenda purchased the Fourpoints cottage. It became Craig's second home with him residing there from early May til Thanksgiving. Brenda joined him on her retirement in 2011. He met many people and developed lasting friendships with Islanders and annual visitors.

Craig was an avid fisherman and outdoors man. His greatest joy was to be on the water ... fishing. He learned the Lake, its depths, shallows and fishing spots. He pleased in taking friends and family fishing, teaching them about fish and how to fish. He was so pleased and proud that several of his grandchildren shared his love of fishing.

Craig respected Lake Manitou and encouraged all to value and respect its shores, pristineness and inhabitants.

Tentative Dates

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Check the Spring 2021 Windswept for

- An update on the LMAA 2021 AGM
- Lake Manitou Area Association Information Night

Check the LMAA website for the most up to date information about LMAA events.
lakemanitouarea.ca

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If your organization is a community service type, not for profit organization run by volunteers located in the Lake Manitou area send in an announcement for an activity and it may be posted here.

An unwelcome visitor to the shores of Lake Manitou

Our organization as indicated in the President's address on the first page of the newsletter, provided a donation of \$500 to the ongoing Phragmites control program on Manitoulin Island.

Phragmites australis also known as European common reed grass has invaded many of Ontario's shorelines, wetlands and roadsides ditches. This very aggressive very large grass is destructive. It displaces native vegetation and animals and can render cottage shorelines almost unusable. It can grow so tall and thick it blocks views and is almost impossible to walk through. No doubt it can cause shoreline property values to plummet.

Manitoulin Island is fortunate to have a group of dedicated people who search out and destroy colonies of common reed grass every summer.

The program has been highly successful at controlling this grass and in inhibiting its spread across the Island. If you find this grass growing in your neighbourhood, please report this to the Phragmites control program. Check the LMAA website for contact information.

<https://lakemanitouarea.ca/news> or manitoulinphrag@yahoo.com

There is a wealth of information online that can be used to help identify this grass. In a nutshell this grass is very tall, thick stemmed, over 2 meters in height and produces an ostrich plume like flower and seed head that is a light brown in colour in the fall. It likes to grow in moist areas such as roadside ditches and sandy or clayey shoreline areas.



Summer image of Phragmites on the Silver Bay Road, Lake Manitou



Winter image of Phragmites along a lake shore



Phragmites that has been pulled up. It is being dried in the hot sun for several days to ensure it cannot resprout. Once thoroughly dried it can be sent to a land fill or burned in accordance with all local bylaws. It may also be pulled and immediately stuffed into black plastic garbage bags and left in the hot sun for several weeks. Do not compost or discard Phragmites over the back fence. It has an amazing ability to resprout. There may be seeds present that could germinate and start a new colony. For more information www.thelandbetween.ca

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Late fall on Lake Manitou



Sugar maple fall colours in Central Manitoulin.

Pictures courtesy of Sharon Cooper.

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Looking west towards the Newby's Bay area. We can all dream of warm summer evenings like this. Before you know it we will be "living the dream", enjoying another beautiful summer on the Island.

Photo compliments of Sharon Cooper

MERRY CHRISTMAS, WISHING YOU A HAPPY AND HEALTHY 2021.

MARK AND JENNIFER HARVEY EDITORS WIND SWEEP

"Let's Keep Our Lake Great"