WHAT'S INSIDE

Did You Know That?

Did you know the OMNRF conducts a survey of Lake Manitou every 5 years. This provides important data about fish stocks and water quality. Find out more about these valuable surveys in this edition of Wind Swept.

News From FOCA

It is generally understood that economic activity generated from cottagers plays a major role in maintaining a healthy local economy in waterfront communities across the province of Ontario. Manitoulin Island is heavily dependent on tourism dollars especially that procured from cottagers for taxes, retail sales, construction, and the service industry. When the tourists leave at the end of the season many businesses shut down or reduce their hours. Cottagers appreciate what the local community provides in the way of infrastructure and services ensuring we have what we need for an enjoyable season at the lake. This symbiotic relationship works well and benefits many.

A FOCA requisitioned summary of a study on the wealth generated by lake shore property owners is on the following page.

The Economic Impacts of Waterfront Property Households in Ontario

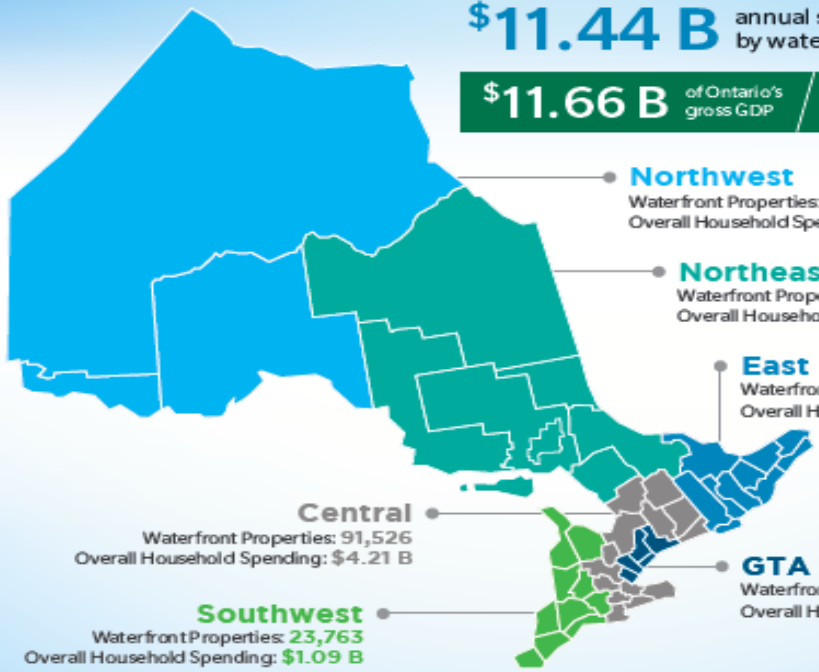
In 2022, the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) commissioned a report investigating the economic impacts of expenditures by waterfront property owners (WPO) on the Ontario economy. As the province-wide organization representing 525 member Associations, and on behalf and the entire waterfront community in this province, FOCA notes the significant contribution made by WPO to Ontario's economy. This is important context for decision makers at all levels, particularly our municipal partners.

For more, download the full report from our webpage
https://foca.on.ca/wpo-economic-impact

248,763 waterfront properties are located in Ontario

$11.44 B annual spending by waterfront properties

$11.66 B of Ontario's gross GDP | **$700 M+** in property taxes



Northwest
Waterfront Properties: 19,903
Overall Household Spending: $0.92 B

Northeast
Waterfront Properties: 57,492
Overall Household Spending: $2.64 B

East
Waterfront Properties: 51,586
Overall Household Spending: $2.37 B

Central
Waterfront Properties: 91,526
Overall Household Spending: $4.21 B

GTA
Waterfront Properties: 4,493
Overall Household Spending: $0.21 B

Southwest
Waterfront Properties: 23,763
Overall Household Spending: $1.09 B

For every **10** waterfront properties | **6.3** Ontario jobs are created | **5.4** in the local community

Study authors: Avaanz Ltd. • Prepared for FOCA, September 2022

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FOCA Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations

THE OMNRF BROAD - SCALE MONITORING PROGRAM and LAKE MANITOU

A few Lake Manitou residents reported fish netting activity in the lake this summer. This was part of the Broad Scale Monitoring Program conducted every 5 years by the "Ministry" now known as the OMNRF. Lake Manitou is a high priority lake from a fishery management standpoint. It is the source of breeding stock for especially lake trout that are raised at the Blue Jay Creek/Sandfield Fish Hatcheries. These artificially raised fish are used to stock many lakes. Lake Manitou is one of the provinces premier south of the "Shield" lakes with a rather unique limestone bed rock geology. Combine this with the exceptionally high recreational potential of the lake and it is no wonder Lake Manitou has been chosen as a "Trend" Lake under the monitoring Program. To qualify as a "Trend Lake" there must a healthy population of trout or walleye. Only a small percentage of Ontario lakes qualify as "Trend Lakes" and only 10% of trout lakes have been designated "Trend Lakes ." "Trend Lakes" are surveyed every five years. All other lakes know as "State Lakes" are monitored very infrequently if at all.

What does this mean for Lake Manitou residents? It means the lake is being very closely watched for changes in fish populations, invasive species and changes in water chemistry and algal growth. Lake Manitou is receiving special attention.

What affect does the survey have on the lake and recreational lake users? It has very little affect. The number of fish surveyed, and sample is negligible when compared to those caught and kept for eating by recreational fishermen. The data generated by the survey is invaluable in sustaining the many quality attributes of the lake. Simply put we are very fortunate to be a "Trend Lake."

Some LMAA members may be concerned that the OMNRF activity has not been adequately communicated to them. For example, "what are those nets doing out in front of my cottage?" and "what affect is that going to have on my ability to catch fish?" These are very reasonable concerns. There is room for improvement in communication and this is a "2-way street". It is important for our organization to maintain a good relationship with OMNRF and communicate frequently with them.

The following is a good a start at implementing better communication between those who live by the lake, play on the lake and those elected to ensure the lake is taken good care of.

The Ontario Government has given our association permission to copy some of their Broad Scale Monitoring (BsM) Information Bulletin material into Wind Swept.

The BsM program is designed to:

- describe the distribution, amount, and diversity of fishes in Ontario
- estimate the current state and changes over time of Ontario's fisheries
- identify natural and human-caused stresses affecting fisheries including invasive species
- provide reports on the state of fisheries and aquatic environments in Ontario including water quality.

To collect fish for sampling, nets are set at a range of depths in the evening and raised after sunrise. The nets are set perpendicular to the shore. Some nets are **large mesh gill nets** which catch fish over 20cm, and others are **small mesh gill nets** used to catch those under 20 cm. The fish are then analysed for a wide range of features such as weight, species, stomach contents and much more.

"Netting begins in late May after the surface water temperature reaches 18ºC or greater. The number of nets used per lake is based on lake size (surface area) and depth. Netting locations are randomly selected by depth strata (1–3 m, 3–6 m, 6–12 m, 12–20 m, 20–35 m, 35–50 m, 50–75 m, >75 m) and distributed across the entire lake." Of particular interest to those who enjoy lake trout fishing is the BsM program sampling of water temperature and dissolved oxygen."

The following paragraph from the BsM bulletin explains the importance temperature and oxygen"

Temperature and dissolved oxygen

"Dissolved oxygen and temperature profiles are recorded using a digital oxygen/temperature meter at the deepest location of the lake. Measurements are observed and recorded at the surface, and then at every metre until 16-m depth, then at every 2 m to the lake bottom. From this information, a temperature/dissolved oxygen profile is created: a graph showing how temperature and dissolved oxygen change with depth in a lake (Figure 4). The temperature and dissolved oxygen measurements provide information on fish habitat and the types of fish that can live in the lake. For example, lake trout require high oxygen levels in the cold deeper portions of the lake to survive."

If either water temperature or dissolved oxygen levels change too much lake trout could be in trouble. Dissolved oxygen in the west basin of Lake Manitou has at times been close to the critical minimum for lake trout. The effects of climate change and nutrient loading in the lake are being watched closely as these 2 factors could have a negative impact on dissolved oxygen.

Lake Manitou facts

Location: SANDFIELD

Surface area: 10588 ha

Maximum depth: 49.1 m

Average depth: 14.6 m

Water clarity: 9.8 m

Monitoring activities

- ☑ Fish netting
- ☑ Fish contaminants
- ☑ Zooplankton
- ☑ Water chemistry
- ☐ Bathymetry
- ☑ Water temperature/dissolved oxygen
- ☑ Aquatic invasive species

Netting summary

Netting period: Aug 15 to Aug 21 2016

Number of nets set: 55

Number of fish species caught: 20

It is not only activities that take place directly on the lake that can impact the health of the lake. "Plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their physical environment function together as an ecological system. Ecological systems that support fish communities can have aquatic, wetland, riparian or terrestrial components."

This suggests as shoreline residents what we do on shore can have a huge impact on the health of the lake and fish populations. We should all be concerned about altering shoreline vegetation, filling in wetlands, and land use impacts from shorelines and water courses that flow into the lake.

The following links provide detailed information about the BsM Program.

https://www.ontario.ca/page/broad-scale-fish-community-monitoring.

This web site gives more of a summary overview of the BsM Program . https://www.ontario.ca/page/broad-scale-monitoring-program

The results from the most recent BsM on Lake Manitou this summer were not completed as of Nov 1, 2022.

Fisheries Management Zone (FMZ) 10 new proposed Management Plan is open for public review and comment on the *Ontario Environmental Registry* until Dec 12. Lakes on Manitoulin Island are part of FMZ 10. Lake Huron is not in FMZ 10.

The purpose of this plan copied from the ERO is outlined below

"The management plan for Fisheries Management Zone (FMZ) 10 is intended to outline the status of the fisheries in the zone, document existing challenges and opportunities, describe management objectives and ultimately provide direction for management of fisheries in the zone ."

Here is the link to the draft FMZ 10 Management Plan posting on the Ontario Environmental Registry (ERO) for your review and comments. The link closes **Dec** 12 : **www.ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-6024**

The Lake Partnership Program

Once again, this summer our LMAA Lake Partnership volunteers have continued to monitor changes in the water quality of Lake Manitou. One of the samples they take is for monitoring phosphorous in the water. Too much phosphorous can be an indication of contaminated water draining into the lake and lead to excessive agal growth.

The following link shows 17 years of phosphorous (P) levels near Moody Bay.
https://www.ontario.ca/page/total-phosphorus-report?id=64510002

Note: P levels of 10µg/L (0.01mg/L) or less are considered low and should help prevent excessively low oxygen levels in the lake due to decomposing plants and bacteria . A level over 30µg/L is high with a good potential for excessive plant and bacterial growth .

LMAA Information Night 2022

I would like to thank our president **Mike Costigan** for providing the following report on the 2022 Information Night.

Hi everyone,

I just wanted to congratulate our education committee, Sharon Cooper, Pat Costigan, Nancy Kains, Ken Stewart, & Marian Lochead for their hard work in organizing what was a very well attended and successful Information Night. Approximately 70 people were in attendance, and they were treated to 3 excellent presentations!
Our main speaker was April James, and the topic of her presentation was " How scientists Use Lake Water and Elements for Long Term Ecosystem Monitoring Future Planning. April was very passionate about the research she does in this area and was able to tie Lake Manitou into the research she has done on Lake Nipissing.

Our very own Ken Stewart & David Kains were the second presenters and did a fabulous job in showing all attendees what is involved in the gathering of water samples for phosphorus testing and water clarity (secchi disk readings) that goes on monthly from May to August each year as part of the Lake Partner Program.
I learned from speaking with David that he has the locations (one in the West Basin & one in Sandfield Basin) GPS marked so readings are taken in the same exact location each time....what an improvement from years past! They also informed the group on locations of Shoal makers that are placed each spring and removed in the fall. I was particularly pleased when David was sharing some water clarity results that they had recently taken and got a depth of 7 meters for the sechii disk reading in the Sandfield Basin.
Thank you, guys, for all the work you do on behalf of the LMAA!

The final speaker was Seija Deschenes from Manitoulin Streams. She summarized some of their project work over decades in the Manitou River and Blue Jay Creek and the successful result they are seeing in the health of these streams and rivers.

Finally, we sold $340 in apparel, maps, & tidbits books. Membership renewals and donations totaled $620 and 25 surveys were filled out with a few being promised to be sent at a later date. I will summarize the results of the survey for our fall directors meeting..... date yet to be determined!

Last but not least the door prize table was fantastic...another big thankyou to the committee for their hard work getting donations for these!

Thanks again for all your commitments to the LMAA, we are off to a great start after a few difficult years of Covid.

Mike Costigan
President
Lake Manitou Area Association

Thanks to Brenda Edington for submitting this photo.

Fall is a beautiful time of year along Frank's Road. Thanks to Gerry Cooper for submitting this photo.

CULINARY DELIGHTS

BAKED RAINBOW TROUT RECIPE

https://www.wholesomeyum.com/rainbow-trout-recipe/

· 4 4-oz Rainbow trout fillets

· 3 tbsp Olive oil

· 2 tsp Lemon juice

· 2 cloves Garlic (minced)

· 2 tsp Fresh parsley

· 2 tsp Fresh dill

· 1/2 tsp Paprika

· 3/4 tsp Sea salt

· 1/4 tsp Black pepper

· Thin lemon slices (optional)

1. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F (204 degrees C). Line a small to medium baking sheet with foil or parchment paper.

2. In a small bowl, whisk together olive oil, lemon juice, garlic, dill, parsley, and paprika.

3. Place the trout fillets onto the baking sheet. Use paper towels to pat the fish dry.

4. Brush the trout on both sides with the olive oil mixture. Season both sides with sea salt and black pepper, leaving the fish skin side down at the end. If desired, place thin lemon slices all over the fish.

5. Bake for 10-12 minutes, until the trout internal temperature reaches 140 to 145 degrees F (60 degrees C).

Thanks to Jen Harvey for submitting this delicious recipe.

Members' Notice Board

Plans are being made for next summer. Mark your calendars for these 2 important LMAA events.

1. LMAA - **AGM - Saturday July 8, 2023 @ 10:00 am** at the Sandfield School House.

2. LMAA – **Information Night - Wednesday Aug 16, 2023 @ 7:00 pm** at the Sandfield School House.

Refer to the LMAA website for updates about current, past and future LMAA events.
https://lakemanitouarea.ca

- A proposal for Picnic Island has been drafted **by Brenda Edington** a long time summer resident of Sandfield and a LMAA Director.

Proposal for Restoration and Preservation of Picnic Island on The Manitou River 2022-23

Picnic Island is located between the Lake Manitou Dam and Hwy 542 bridge in Sandfield.
Access from Hutchinson Road via a six foot wide walking bridge.
Note: the bridge's foundation is also being undermined from exposure to swift high river water.
The erosion of Picnic Island has been noted for approximately 13 years. Root systems are being exposed causing smaller bushes, shrubs and natural grasses to be dispersed. The most viable and drastic change has been the loss of five mature Cedar Trees centred on the Island. The entire Island's land mass is spongy and weak. The deposition of sediment, soil, rocks and plants by high swift river water levels, (not practiced historically), would appear to be the cause.

Proposal: LMAA collaborates with Manitoulin Streams in a venture to stop the the erosion and rebuild the Island to preserve its structure. Drafting a restoration restoration plan that could be implemented during the approved Ministry time time period next summer. Noting that this may take several years to complete.

Picnic Island is often flooded during Spring Runoff. Notice the green picnic table partially under water. Cedar trees marked with an X have reportedly been heavily damaged or washed away since this photo was taken.

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Have a safe, healthy and cheery winter and a very

Merry Christmas

Wind Swept Editors - Mark and Jennifer Harvey

All the best to you and yours in 2023