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Greetings from Steve Mann LMAA President

Greetings to all LMAA Members. As I sit looking out over Lake Manitou, I see the signs that spring has arrived on the Island although the enthusiasm that normally accompanies it has been muted somewhat by the fact, we are still dealing with Covid and are currently in a gray lockdown zone. The possibility of having a Stay-At-Home order being issued by the Government remains as we move forward. None of this seems to have affected the robins, red-winged blackbirds and sandhill cranes who are going about their seasonal activities. The ice is slowly melting and starting to move around the lake. Last year was pretty much a wash for the LMAA as most Island events including ours were cancelled. This year is starting to look like a repeat, although we will make decisions on what we will be able to do on a week by week basis and let the Membership know details on the LMAA website. With Covid-19 protocols in place the lake stewards will again place the marker buoys out on the lake on a best efforts basis. Thank you once again for this valuable service. The North American Lake Management Society - Eastern Canada has indicated that they will be restarting the Lake Partner water monitoring for Lake Manitou this summer. Our lake steward David Kains has agreed to resume his historical sampling of our lake. Thanks again David. If conditions improve, we will hold our AGM and INFO

night this summer with Covid-19 protocols in place. (dates to be announced). Our Treasurer Martin Peddle has indicated that over half of our members renewed their memberships, and I am sure more will follow. Those that normally pay at the AGM or Info Night can make payment online through our web page. All our annual bills including insurance, FOCA and Wild Apricot web administrator have been paid leaving us with an adequate cash reserve of over \$13,000. Once Covid ends we will once again be able to meet as friends and neighbours to enjoy our precious Lake and Island. Until then, stay safe, stay healthy and be kind.

Steve Mann President, LMAA

Did You Know That?

The township of Assiginack borders most of the east side of the Lake Manitou shoreline. The administrative headquarters for the township are in Manitowaning. The township is named after Jean- Baptiste Assiginack a member of the Odawa nation. This individual is credited with many achievements but possibly most significantly as a signatory of the Manitoulin Treaty of 1862. There are several books that detail the treaties that have helped shape much of life on the Island as we know it today. One book is by Dr. Cecil King a noted Canadian Educator who grew up on the Wikwemikong First Nation. His book entitled "Jean -Baptiste and the Odawa First Nation 1768-1866 is available for sale online at the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation in M'Chigeeng and at the Expositor Book Store in Little Current. You may also be interested in reading a thesis by Allyshia West, University of Victoria MA (2010). It is available online at <https://www.sfu.ca/ipinch/sites/default/files/thesis.allyshiawest.2010.pdf>

News From FOCA

Lakeshore Capacity Assessment: The Facts what are LCA and LCM? **Lakeshore Capacity Assessment** (LCA) is a planning tool developed by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) to predict the impacts of shoreline development on water quality of inland lakes on the Canadian Shield. The LCM, or **Lakeshore Capacity Model**, is one component of the LCA approach. The model is used to determine the maximum allowable development that can occur on the shorelines of a lake without impairing water quality. Why should cottagers care about LCA? Protection of water quality is essential to protecting the environmental, recreational, economic, and property value of a lake. Therefore, it is in the best interest of "cottagers associations" and residents living on lakes to safeguard their water resources. LCA is one way that municipal planners can help protect the water quality of lakes from excessive development along their shores. Copied from The Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations

It should be noted that although Lake Manitou is not a “Shield Lake” many of the same at capacity criteria were used when designating Lake Manitou as “At Capacity” especially those related to our thriving lake trout population. Read in more detail Information about this important topic at the following FOCA website

Fact sheet: <https://foca.on.ca/lake-capacity-assessment/>

The LMAA is a member of FOCA. As such I encourage you to read their newsletters, reports, and other items on their website.

Phosphorous in Lake Manitou - “What’s the Fuss”

Phosphorous is a naturally occurring substance that is essential for plants and animals. It is found naturally with the breakdown of rocks, soil, and organic materials. It is in the food we eat. So why the concern about phosphorous levels in Lake Manitou? Phosphorous is good in limited quantities. A little extra phosphorous added to your garden makes for healthy plants and more vibrant growth. A little is good but too much especially in the wrong place leads to disaster. In a lake, too much phosphorous leads to dead fish, smelly green water and in some cases the water can become toxic to humans, fish, livestock, and wildlife. Not long-ago Lake Erie became so polluted with too much phosphorous and nitrogen that a huge algal growth explosion called an algal bloom formed that created toxic water. Even the water treatment plant could not make the water safe to drink for the city of Toledo, Ohio. The phosphorous is not toxic but add phosphorous to water causes excessive plant and bacterial growth.

One of the consequences of too much plant growth in Lake Manitou is low dissolved oxygen in the water (hypoxia). Lake trout are sensitive to dissolved oxygen levels. The oxygen is used up by organisms that decompose decaying organisms in the water such as algae. This means there isn’t enough oxygen left for the fish. Is dissolved oxygen a problem in our lake? Not usually but, sometimes especially, in late summer. Here is a quote from Clare Nelligan who spoke to the LMAA at an information night. She was studying lakes specifically, Lake Manitou at Queens University.

“In the early fall of 2011, the dissolved oxygen levels in the west basin were **2.5 milligrams** while in the east basin it measured **6.2 milligrams**. Both fell below the standard,” said Ms. Nelligan. This resulted in the province deciding in 2017 that Lake Manitou is at capacity. The standard for Lake Trout is a minimum of **7 milligrams per litre of lake water**. Less than this and the fish suffer, and this can result in fish kills.

These exceptionally low readings are a warning sign that even beautiful Lake Manitou is not immune to what may be excessive algal growth. This low dissolved oxygen in the water is not a good thing especially for the lake trout. As climate change evolves so will surface runoff from

heavy downpours and summer water temperatures will increase. There is a significant risk of increasing amounts of phosphorous reaching the lake from heavy rains and blue green algae thrive in warm water. It seems likely that climate change may increase the sensitivity of Lake Manitou to phosphorous loading. **Something to think about!**

How do we reverse or prevent increasing effects of phosphorous in our lake?

Over development is likely the biggest water quality issue on Lake Manitou. More cottages and homes mean more phosphorous entering the lake. Even a well functioning septic system can over time eventually saturate the surrounding soil with phosphorous. Once that happens the phosphorous starts draining directly into the lake. Converting seasonal cottages to year-round homes also greatly increases the potential for phosphorous to enter the lake from the septic system and from surface runoff. Phosphorous can also enter the lake from contaminated drainage ditches and streams that flow into the lake. The number of cottages and homes along and near Lake Manitou is well over 400. One cottage by itself has little effect on water quality but over many years many cottages in combination have a big impact.



A small segment of an algal bloom.

How can residents on Lake Manitou and surrounding shoreline areas help to keep phosphorous from getting into the lake?

Here are a few affordable common sense practices.

1. Avoid lawn fertilizer applications especially anywhere near the lake shore or flowing water headed toward the lake.
2. Keep lots of shrubs, trees and wild plants between your septic field and the water.
3. Make sure your septic tank is functioning in top form and have it cleaned out regularly.
4. Avoid using phosphate laden substances (detergents) that go down the drain.
5. Support government programs such as “At Capacity” that are there to protect your lake, to ensure the water stays clean, and the fish are healthy.
6. If you graze cattle and they drink from the lake minimize their time and space in the water. Consider fencing off the lake shore and streams from cattle.
7. Minimize the area of cut lawn especially near the shoreline, leave a wide buffer.
8. Support “Manitoulin Streams” - an organization dedicated to maintaining healthy lakes and streams on the Island.



A fall moonlit evening on Lake Manitou. Let's keep our water pure.

CULINARY DELIGHTS

Wendy's Zippie Chickie

Ingredients

- 4 boneless chicken breasts
- 1/2 cup lime juice
- 1/3 cup oil
- 1 tbsp red pepper flakes
- 4 tbsp balsamic vinegar
- 3 green onions, chopped
- Salt and pepper to tasted
- 1/4 cup chopped cilantro (optional)
- 2 chipotle peppers, chopped (optional)

Directions

- Place all ingredients except chicken into a bowl and whisk together.
- Place chicken into a large zip lock bag and pour in marinade.
- Seal bag and shake.
- Marinate for 3 hours to overnight.
- Great to throw into a cooler for camping – to cook later.

Thank you to Sharon Cooper for sharing this recipe.

If you have a recipe to share, please email mharvey102@hotmail.com

Kids' Corner

Ghost Towns on Manitoulin Island

There are ghost towns on Manitoulin. Some are close to Lake Manitou. What is a ghost town? They are not towns that have scary ghosts haunting people in the night! They are the remains of old towns that have disappeared. There is nothing left but maybe a few walls or a chimney and maybe a cemetery with tombstones. Why do once thriving towns turn into ghost towns? Usually, the ghost towns started out as a small village or town that included a lumber mill or a mine. On Manitoulin Island our biggest ghost town is at Michael's Bay. It was a lumbering town. It started when the first settlers started moving to the Island 150 years ago. Why did Michael's Bay become a ghost town? Our forests have a limited number of trees so once all the trees were cut down and turned into lumber there was nothing left, and people packed up and moved out of Michael's Bay. There are many, old lumbering towns in Canada that are now ghost towns and it is the same all over. When the trees are cut down too fast and there are no young ones that have grown and are ready to be cut that's it, you are out of wood and you are shut down. And that is how a ghost town is born. The same thing for mining towns once all the gold or copper is gone the town disappears and turns back into forest.

The Manitou River that starts at the south end of Lake Manitou at the Dam at Sandfield is a good reason why sawmills located at Michaels Bay. First, the river was used to float the logs from Lake Manitou all the way down to Michael's Bay. Horses and sleighs were used in the winter to move the logs out onto the ice and then in the spring, the dam at Sandfield would sometimes be opened to let water rush down the river so there would be enough water to float the logs on the journey to Michael's Bay. A second reason for locating at Michael's Bay was that the Manitou River was used as a source of power to turn the giant saws that cut up the logs into lumber, shingles, and railway ties. Once the trees were cut up the lumber was sent by boat to the big cities on the Great Lakes especially Chicago and Detroit. There would have been lots of big strong horses used in Michael's Bay to move logs down to the river and deliver supplies from the boats to the town. I don't know if there is even one horse left in Michael's Bay today.

Today you can drive into Michael's Bay. You will find some cottages, but you would never know there was a town there. Kids used to go to school there and play in the woods around the town. There were churches, stores, a post office, and lots of houses, all have disappeared. The forest has grown back where houses once stood. So that's the story of Michael's Bay. If you are driving down Government Road not too far from the town of Tehkummah consider asking the driver to turn onto the Michael's Bay Road and take a ride back into history. Try to imagine what it would have been like to be a kid growing up in a lumbering town with your Dad being a lumberjack working in the wilderness 150 years ago.

More information can be found on this website for a first hand account of life in Michaels's Bay so long ago.

<https://sites.rootsweb.com/~onmanito/mbhistory.htm>



Sleighs like this were used to move logs on Manitoulin Island. “The men in the picture are ‘Lumber Jacks’”.



The lumber mill in Michael's Bay may have looked a bit like this. The big water wheel on the side powered the saw.

Members' Notice Board

Check the LMAA website for updates. lakemanitouarea.ca

- The LMAA 2021 AGM. It may not be held this year depending on the covid situation.
- Lake Manitou Area Association Information Night. The Education Committee will decide when and if this event will take place. Check the website for updates.
- The Little Current bridge will be replaced with another 2-lane truss swing bridge very similar to the current one lane bridge. It will be located very close to where the old bridge is located. Construction start date not available.

This link has more information www.swingbridgestudy.ca/docs

- A big thank you to Manitoulin's frontline Covid 19 workers such as health care workers, first responders, grocery store workers, retail employees, restaurant staff, truck drivers and delivery services, postal workers, firefighters, police officers, teachers, housekeeping staff and utility workers. And let's not forget the parents who continue to tutor and home school their children through the pandemic. Words are not enough to thank you for your strength, courage, and dedication to help all of us as we navigate through this pandemic.

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.



Looking west towards McLean's Mountain summer 2020. We are blessed to be on Manitoulin Island.

The Breeding Bird Atlas

Data collection for the third Breeding Bird Atlas for Ontario has begun and will continue for 5 years. With over 20 years of information on bird populations, ornithologists can determine what birds are present during the nesting season and trends in their numbers and distribution. As the world changes so do bird populations. Some species of birds are moving into new areas and others are fading away. Overall bird populations are falling due to factors such as climate change, habitat destruction and pesticide use. Thanks to the many volunteers on Manitoulin Island who will be recording bird sightings and other bird related data and contributing their findings to the Breeding Bird Atlas third edition. Lake Manitou is included in the study.

Directors' Roster	Winter Address	Summer Address
President and Director : Steve Mann	220A Demmys Road Mindemoya ON POP ISO 705 377- 7950	Same
Past President and Non-voting Director: Paul Moffat	Box 41-78 Heron Trail Manitowaning ON POP1N0 705-859-3362 herontrail@gmail.com	Same
Vice President and Director: Sharon Cooper	905 Roderick Avenue, Sudbury ON. scooperdoda@gmail.com	27 Franks Road East Mindemoya ON. POP1S0 519 915- 2325 226 344-2365
Secretary Vacant		
Treasure and Director: Martin Peddle Eagle's Nest Area	21 Bentgrass Green Nepean ON K2J 4Y1 613-816-9143 martin.peddle@icloud.com	95 L7J Lane One RR2 Manitowaning ON POP 1N0 705-859-3559
Director: Jim Booth Eagle's Nest Area	32 Gloucester Court Sudbury ON P3E 5N5 705-673-6684 boothj@vianet.ca	327 Wilton Trail Manitowaning ON POP 1N0 705-561-5919
Director: Rob Chown Holiday Haven Area	125 Merrygale Dr. Sudbury ON P3E 6K5 705-670-9365 robert.chown@rbc.com	124 Loon Lane Manitowaning ON POP 1N0
Director: Michael R Costigan Eagle's Nest Area	4 Nuttal St Cambridge ON N2C 4J3 519-654-7324 mikecostigan@hotmail.com	91 L&J Lane One RR2 Manitowaning ON POP 1N0 705-859-2705
Director: John Coulter Rockville Area	5521 Lakeshore Drive , Apt 326 Fort Gratiot MI 48509 810-987-7527 coulterslanding@comcast.net	54 Manitou Haven Trail RR1 Mindemoya ON POP 1S0 705-377-4709
Director: Bruce Fraser Holiday Haven Area	30 Cobalt St Box 401 Copper Cliff ON P0M 1N0 705-682-0953	148 Heron Trail Manitowaning ON POP 1N0

	brucefdbm@gmail.com	705-665-6012
Director & Newsletter Coordinator	16 -571 North St	156 Johnston Rd
Mark Harvey	Sault Ste. Marie ON P6B 6K7 705-949-1515	RR1 Mindemoya ON POP 1S0
Silver Bay Road Area	mharvey102@hotmail.com	705-377-5269 705 949-1515
Director	63 Muscovy Dr	224 Nighswander Rd
Brenda Hoyt	Elmira ON N3B 3M6 519-669-0920	RR1 Mindemoya ON POP1S0
	bchoyt@hotmail.com	705-377-7715
Director Ken Stewart	106 Cannard's Lane Mindemoya ON. POP1S0	
Gibraltar Rd. Area	705 968-1380	Same
	Kenstewart6757.ks@gmail.com	
Director: Mike Thompson	153 Old Mill Trail	Same
Holiday Haven Area	Manitowaning ON POP 1N0 705-859-2423	
	manitou58@gmail.com	
Education Committee:		
Sharon Cooper	scooperdoda@gmail.com	519-915-2325
Committee chair		226 344-2365
Marian Lohead	mlohead@hotmail.com	450-663-4968
Pat Costigan	patriciawilliamson39@gmail.com	705-859-3505
Nancy kains	isleaway@gmail.com	705-377-6640, 519-576-1912
Ken Stewart	kenstewart6757.ks@gmail.com	705-377-6041 705-377-7921
Lake Stewards:		
Rob Coulter – Rockville Area	rgcoulter@sbcglobal.net	705-377-4709, 248-852-2574, 248-217-5618
David Kains – Gibraltar Area	isleaway@gmail.com	705-377-6041
Mike Thompson – Holiday Haven Area	manitou58@gmail.com	705-859-2423
Web Site Administrator	salisbury@cox.net	Summer 705- 377- 4982
Stan Salisbury	Home winter 352-335-6596	
Hospitality Co-ordinator		
Brenda Edington Sandfield	brendaedington@gmail.com	705 673-2531

Have a Great Summer Wind Swept Editors Mark and
Jennifer Harvey