



"Let's keep our lake great"

WIND SWEPT

The Lake Manitou and Area Association Newsletter

WIND SWEPT FALL 2023

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President's Message

Another summer on Lake Manitou has come and gone and what a summer it was! I don't remember a summer where our beloved lake was so flat for so many days. Regardless it was a fantastic summer for spending time on the lake and I hope you all took advantage of whatever lake activities you enjoy most.

As usual our summer public meetings went off without a hitch! If you were unable to attend the Annual General Meeting or the "Information Night" you missed two very informative events. One important item that I want to bring to everyone's attention is that a motion was passed during the business portion of the AGM to raise the membership fees to \$30 per year starting in 2024! The membership fees have not increased since the inception of the LMAA in 1993 however the associations costs have. Details of the membership fee breakdown were provided in the spring edition of Windswept.

<https://lakemanitouarea.ca/resources/Documents/Newsletters/Windswept%20spring%202023.pdf>

Secondly, we have had significant turnover in some positions in the LMAA administration. I would like to thank once again, John Coulter, Mike Thompson and Jim Booth for their long-time service as directors with the association. At the same time, I would like to welcome Manuela Marchment to the executive as our new Secretary! We also created a new position on the executive that was also passed with a motion. Sandra Manera, who was previously our secretary has now moved into the newly created “Communications Director” position. They both have already made significant contributions to the LMAA!

I hope that you have noticed the increased effort to communicate information to the membership and ultimately raise the profile of the LMAA. Our Communication’s Committee has been hard at work putting out monthly eblast’s on relevant topics that affect life on the lake, reminder notices of public meetings, and website improvements.... We also now have a social media presence through our newly created Facebook page!

In addition, we have created a new LMAA Brochure that we hope will add to the awareness of the LMAA and continue to grow our membership! We need your help to do this, and these will be available for you in the spring to pass along to your friends and neighbors informing them about what the LMAA does and the benefits of membership! See your nearest director to get them!

Finally, our website continues to evolve and improve. For those that attended one of our public meetings you saw all the newly created LMAA apparel that is available to purchase. Well, you can now purchase any item on our new online store by clicking on the link <https://lakemanitouarea.ca/Online-Store> or by visiting the website! What a great way to start your Christmas shopping and support the LMAA at the same time!

As 2023 comes to an end I would like to thank once again all those who work so diligently to “Keep Our Lake Great”!

Michael R Costigan President

Did You Know That?

Lake Manitou has been designated as “At Capacity “ by the OMNRF. What does that mean? Here is the definition

It has long been recognized that nearshore development can have an impact on the integrity of the natural biota, and water quality. As development occurs on inland lakes, there are economic, social and community impacts as well. At a certain point, the lake can be said to be “at capacity” meaning further development would degrade its condition.

From FOCA

News From FOCA.

partner webinar: Septic Systems 101

Thursday, November 30, 2023 - the next *Drinking Water Wise Webinar* in the series from **Quinte Conservation** will be "**Septic Systems 101**" featuring Sandy Bos, a Building Inspector with the Township of Muskoka Lakes talking about types of septic systems, management, issues and their potential effect on water quality. [Register](#) here and bring your questions for the Q&A session!

image: Quinte Conservation

To register for the webinar right click on "Register" and open the hyperlink

A message from Sharon Cooper LMAA Vice President

Incorporation

As of August 4, 2022, we are now the Lake Manitou AND Area Association and have a new corporation number. This is because the organization lost its corporate status about five years ago, for not filing its annual returns. For your information, annual returns are now filed on line within a few weeks of holding our AGM. All of our corporate information is in the Ontario Business Directory, and we file our annual return directly there. Also, in order to meet the requirements of the new Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA) we revised our bylaws and they were approved at the AGM in July.

Education Night 2023

The Information Night was held on August 15th at the Sandfield Schoolhouse Hall, and was a great success. This year's speakers were:

Dr. Dennis Higgs, Department of Integrative Biology, University of Windsor who spoke on Fish in relation to Bio Acoustics and Sensory Ecology.

Dr. Christina Semeniuk, Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research and Department of Integrative Biology, University of Windsor who spoke on The Cumulative Effects of Multiple Stressors on the Adaptive Decisions of Wildlife

Seija Deschenes, Director of Manitoulin Streams who provided an update on the work being carried out this year on Manitoulin Island.



Judith Jones guest speaker at the 2023 LMAA AGM and Mike Costigan LMAA president. Judith made a presentation on her Phragmites Control and Eradication Program on Manitoulin Island



Early morning on Lake Manitou

The Search for Phragmites

A brief Introduction to Phragmites

Phragmites is a type of perennial grass that also goes by the scientific name of *Phragmites australis* and the common name of common reed. Phragmites or Phrag. for short is the name most used on Manitoulin Island.

Most of the phragmites we have in Ontario is exotic and comes from Europe and Asia. There is also a native variety that is not overly invasive. The following information is based on the highly invasive exotic variety.

This grass first showed up in Canada over 100 years ago. It likely came in cargo ships from Europe. This grass is Ontario's worst invasive grass species. It is a very tall, very thick stemmed grass with wide leaves and a very large plume like flower/ seed head. Once it gets a foot hold (root hold) it spreads rapidly and takes over the ground displacing native plants and animals. It is believed to secrete a substance that suppresses the growth of other plants. It can take over an entire



shoreline or beach. It can make a shoreline almost impossible to access or for a beach to be used for swimming and relaxing on. This plant can cause severe ecological and economic damage. In its native range over in Europe it is a more favoured plant and less destructive. In Europe it has many uses such as basket weaving, roof thatching, paper making, erosion control, habitat restoration and possibly some medicinal uses. Around here is almost exclusively **bad** with very few positive

qualities.

*Late summer fall Phragmites
seedheads*

Phragmites spreads to new locations in nature primarily from seeds, but also from pieces of

lateral stem and pieces of root. It is commonly found along the shores of the Great Lakes where seeds float in from afar. It is also most common along roads and trails. Pieces of stem and root stick to the tires of ATVs and construction equipment like those that clean out ditches. It can even be spread on boots and shoes or hitch a ride on a wild animal or end up dumped in with a pile of discarded garden waste. Once a plant is established it can spread rapidly forming a giant patch. Roots and stems grow rapidly sideways and new sprouts come up from these at various points. Most phragmites patches are clonal meaning they are derived from just 1 or a few plants that all are interconnected. Disturbed roadsides, shorelines, ditches, and beaches are favourites spots for phragmites. This plant seems to be able to grow in a very wide range of environments. It prefers moist to wet areas and can survive with its feet in the water.

There is a war on against phragmites in Ontario. This battle is being fought by suppressing the plant by digging, chopping, cutting, drowning, burning and spraying with Round-up herbicide. The herbicide most often gives the best result.

Phragmites is alive and thriving on Manitoulin Island. The Manitoulin Phragmites Project under the direction of Judith Jones is currently knocking back phragmites every year. Fortunately, the grass is being successfully kept at bay by Judith and her hard-working dedicated crews. It will require a constant long-term effort to

prevent it from over spreading the Island and damaging many of the shorelines, wetlands, roadsides, and beaches we have all come to cherish.

There is a plethora of web sites that document phragmites in the Great Lakes area. Here is one. www.greatlakesphragmites.net,

Phragmites on Lake Manitou by Mike Costigan LMAA President

For those of you who were unable to attend the 2023 Annual General meeting, you missed a



Judith Jones Speaking at the LMAA 2023 AGM

highly informative presentation by Judith Jones, who is the coordinator of the Manitoulin Phragmites Project. The Manitoulin Phragmites Project was started 8 years ago to control Invasive Phragmites (Canada's worst invasive plant) across all the Manitoulin Region. Her presentation answered the following questions. How is the battle to eradicate phragmites going on the Manitoulin? How does one tackle such a tough plant? What does this invasive plant do to shores and wetlands? Is Invasive Phragmites affecting Lake Manitou? Judith had real examples of phragmites for members to see to help them identify what invasive phragmites looks like. She also showed pictures of damage as well as successful eradication here on Manitoulin Island.

Shortly after the AGM, Judith along with two employees from Manitoulin Streams Improvement Association did a survey of Lake Manitou in search of Phragmites. Thanks to David Kains, one of our lake stewards for providing his boat, the group spent two days mapping the location of phragmites infestations on Lake Manitou. The only remaining part of the Island to Survey is Green Bay. Lake Steward Dave Kains took the survey team out onto Lake Manitou to search for Phragmites



Lake Steward Dave Kains takes survey crew out onto the lake.



Searching for Phragmites.



Phragmites along the lake shore



Streams employee in the Phragmites



Phragmites up close.



Phragmites on shore



Documenting location of Phragmites stands.

The Chart below is a summary of the survey's findings.

| UTM Easting | UTM Northing | Location | Description | Patch Size | Photos taken |
|-----------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|------------------|
| Day1 – July 18, 2023 | | | | | |
| 415883 | 5067399 | Start Point - Jumps Bay | Cannard's Lane | None | None |
| 416494 | 5067400 | Belle Bay | Spans back of the bay, not in water. Large | 80m long, 10m deep | 2 |
| 417366 | 5067670 | SE side of Moody Bay, bottom part | Smal bit of American Phragmites at edge of sedge meadow | A few m ² , not much | None |
| 417366 | 5067670 | SE side of Moody Bay, bottom part | American Phragmites on shoreline, lots | 100 m of shoreline | 3 |
| 417506 | 5068506 | Ben's Bay | Extensive patch, possibly American phragmites. Mud/painted turtle? 1.2m water depth. Possibly send to genotype | 2/3 of Bay occupied | 2 |
| | | End point | Newby's bay | None | None |
| Day 2- July 28, 2023 | | | | | |
| | | Start Point | Yellow Rock Point | | |
| 423631 | 5071622 | Gushy Bay | Gushy Bay, to the right of the red house. Right by the trailer and small shack/house. East side of Gushy Bay | 20m ² , pretty dense, small patch. | None |
| 423631 | 071622 | Gushy Bay | | | |
| 424434 | 5071032 | Between Camden & Lonestar Point | Possibly American Phragmites. Located behind rocks out in the water, in fen-like area. | 35-40m ² , not very dense | Binocular photos |
| | | End point | | | |

The picture collage of phragmites on Lake Manitou was part of the survey process but we cannot confirm the correlation to locations identified in the chart. The summer of 2024 will see the completion of the survey of Green Bay and hopefully the beginning of the removal process. Any removal of phragmites will be led by Judith Jones along with volunteers from the LMAA. Stay tuned for more information on this LMAA project next summer.

Eblasts from the Past

- Lake Manitou has been designated by [the Guinness World Records](#) as the largest lake within a lake
- [CBC shares](#) Manitoulin Island is one of the seven wonders of the world
- [World Atlas lists](#) Manitoulin Island as one of the ten largest islands within a lake in the world

We would like to thank everyone for your membership, that helps us on several levels; water testing, shoal markers, our website and newsletter subscription, insurance, FOCA membership, donations to Manitoulin Streams.

Please continue helping us minimize our impact by changing a few habits to [reduce phosphates](#) in the lake.

McLay Development

The municipality approved for Phase 1 to proceed and shared that the properties will have a 30 meter setback of natural vegetation, 6.75 foot opening at shoreline, soil and erosion control, a Septic Ecoflow/Waterloo system, stormwater management, and archaeological assessments.

This first phase will include water testing and the results will be shared with us. Rob Coulter will continue to be our liaison to keep everyone informed on the progress.

Let's welcome all our new neighbours and share how to [enjoy living on the lake responsibly](#).

Septic Maintenance

Everyone needs to look at their septic system for regular maintenance. Here's a quick 5 minute video to remind you of the [dos and don'ts](#).

Algae Growth

Recently, Clare Nelligan, a [PhD student at the time shared](#), "Low oxygen conditions are often a result of two distinct stressors, nutrient inputs and/or climate warming." Nutrient inputs is something we can try to mitigate. This would include our use of household cleaning products, soaps, fertilizers, pesticides, and proper maintenance of our septic systems. Nutrient increases [promote algal growth](#), which is starting to accumulate in our lake around the end of summer.

If you spot algae this summer, please let us know through '[Contact Us](#)' on our website.

Buoys

The [water level on all lakes](#) is monitored to understand the overall impact nationally. We continue to monitor our lake for new shoals and marking them with buoys, along with the existing ones to keep boaters safe.

Lake Manitou has several factors that affect its water level; including evaporation, rain and snowmelt; plus, the Sandfield Dam into the Manitou Stream that supports fish farms. We do not have any control over the dam, this is managed by the Ministry of Natural Resources electronically through the Manitoulin-Sudbury District. This year we have had discussions to foster a closer relationship with them to better understand the rationale and schedule. [Check out their response to us!](#)

Thanks for loving our lake!
Sandra Manera LMAA Communications Director

Meet your LMAA Volunteers submitted by Mike Costigan

Nancy Kains – Education Committee Member



I'm Nancy Kains from the Education Committee. I grew up on a farm outside Stratford in Perth County. We walked to a one-room school called Brocksden. It is the oldest country school in Perth County and now a museum. After high school, I attended Stratford Teacher's College. It is now a museum. After teaching in Oxford County for a few years, I farmed in Waterloo County and then Grey County where I also taught. I took my last class to Brocksden and The Teacher's College when I retired. Dave and I continued the northern trek to Manitoulin to get closer to water. We renovated a cottage on Cannards Lane. My interests include finding speakers for the LMAA information night, gardening, quilting, bush work, fishing, and hunting.

David Kains – Lake Steward



I'm originally from the London area in Southern Ontario where I grew up in the 50's on a dairy farm. My family farm had a river running through it and that perhaps explains my early interest in the outdoors. I went to the University of Guelph to study Resources Management. Following that I worked for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, as a Fish and Wildlife Technician in Clinton for 6 years. It was while in Guelph, I took an introductory course in Beekeeping and an Apiary course at Fairview College in Peace River country, in northern Alberta. I stayed on and worked in the College Apiculture Program and at the Beaverlodge Experimental Station, which led me into Commercial Beekeeping with a company I called, Star Thistle Apiaries in Grey County. Twenty years ago, in 2002, I decided to retire from commercial beekeeping and my wife Nancy retired from teaching. It was our love of water and all it had to offer that helped make the decision of where we should live for retirement. As a result, we chose Manitoulin...and

moved to the shores of Lake Manitou near Big Lake and we love it here! We have continued with a few bees and added chickens and a sugar bush. As part of being on the LMAA my interest is in water sampling, which I have been doing since 2012. It is just another good excuse to take a boat ride on beautiful Lake Manitou!

Submitted by Mike Costigan LMAA President

Goodbye to a Founding LMAA Member

Alex Lohead

Alex Lohead was one of the founding members of the Lake Manitou Area Association (LMAA). Together with Peter Edward as President, Alex as Vice-President, Mary Hutchinson as Secretary / Treasurer; and John Edwards and Doug Hutchinson as lake stewards, the Lake Manitou Area Association was formed in 1993. Alex remained in the Vice-President position until 2000, was the Treasurer from 2001 until 2007, then a director from 2008 until 2013. Alex was instrumental in writing the original Constitution and making the Association into a Corporation. The overriding mission of the association has been and continues to be to promote the Stewardship of Lake Manitou's waters so that future generations are able to enjoy the lake in the same way we have. Alex was very dedicated to educating the members of LMAA to take care of the lake, maintain septic systems, learn about zebra mussels and other topics. His love of the lake included boating, fishing lake trout and bass, and of course going for that early morning swim (usually beginning on the long weekend in May).

In later years, he loved to sit on the porch and drink his coffee watching the peaceful ebb and flow of the lake, even if it meant he needed his winter jacket. For years, Alex was a lake steward and would help take the Secchi Disk readings and water samples with Peter Edward, Mike Costigan Sr, David Kains, Brad Sparks or whoever volunteered to help. He enjoyed helping to monitor Lake Manitou to ensure it was clean and clear. Before and after the Annual meeting and the Information Meetings, Dad was often seen at one of the tables at the back of the room, selling LMAA T-Shirts, hats, zipped up sweatshirts etc. Up until he died, one of his favourite sweaters was his LMAA zipped up sweatshirt. It was hard to get it off him long enough to get it washed!

For several years, Manitoulin Streams was involved in doing Manitou River restoration, up near the Dam in Sandfield. Alex would be there in his rubber boots, with his shovel helping out as needed or helping to organize the other volunteers (or granddaughters) to get done what needed to be done. Alex always enjoyed the friends he made and the many activities he participated in, with LMAA!

Submitted by Alex's Daughter Marian

Thankyou Marian Lohead



Alex Lohead on the front porch of his cottage enjoying the view over Lake Manitou with his wife Mary. Both long term LMAA members. Thankyou Marian for the Photograph.



Evening Sun enveloped by an amazing cloud formation over Lake Manitou, Summer 2023. Thankyou Gerry Cooper for this photo

LMAA Memorial

Paul Moffat

On June 18, 2023, the LMAA lost a very significant member of the Lake Manitou community. Paul was passionate about all things Manitoulin but had a particular interest in the LMAA as a permanent resident on Lake Manitou. Paul spent 23 years on the Board of Directors. He first became a director in 1999, was VP from 2005 – 2018, President from 2018- 2019 before retiring as Past President in 2022. Paul was simultaneously active with Manitoulin Streams. He was involved with this organization from its infancy and was the second President of Manitoulin Streams serving from 2007 – 2011 and Vice Chair from 2011 – 2015.

Paul was also a past Mayor of Assiginack township. He will be greatly missed by the communities that he served and loved. The LMAA donated on his behalf to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Thank you To Mike Costigan for providing this memorial.

Members' Notice Board

Check the LMAA website for updates. lakemanitouarea.ca 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.

Mark Your Calendars

- LMAA AGM July 9, 2024 at 7pm at the Sandfield Schoolhouse Hall
- Education Night August 20, 2024 at 7pm at the Sandfield Schoolhouse Hall
- Welcome to our 2023 new members

Welcome New Members

The LMAA is continuously trying to attract new members. Welcome to our 2023 newest members!

Champagne Victoria Aulinger

Marilyn & Gordon Clarke

David Johnson

Ruth McDonald

Simon & Andrea Robarts

Bob & Sharon Watson

Lucia Weiler

Anne Brisbois Abbott

Sara Hull

Ann Marie & Gilbert Labre

Tann Murray

Bass Creek Resort (Ted Semadeni)

Wee Point Resort (Mike & Debbie Whatling)

If you have a neighbor who is not a member speak to them about the benefits of joining the LMAA!

Thanks to our Shoal Marker Volunteers! By Mike Costigan

Every spring and fall these volunteers put out and remove shoal markers around Lake Manitou on behalf of the LMAA on dangerous shoals that have been identified.

Thanks to the following people for there service:

Jim Booth – Dukes Bay/Vanzant's Landing Martin Peddle/Mike Costigan – Acre Shoal Roger Sheppard/Brian Bradley – Sheppard's Rock Mark & Laura Varey – the Narrows David Kains – Bear Island & Roper Island

We lost two markers this year.... One from Sheppard's Rock and one from the Duke's Bay Area! If anyone has found these on their shorelines, please contact Ken Stewart at 705-377-7921! They have stickers on them identifying them as property of the LMAA. New for 2024, 4 shoal markers will be placed around Wee Point Resort courtesy of owners Mike & Debbie Whatling.

If you know of a shoal in your area that should be marked, please contact Ken Stewart and the LMAA will arrange the purchase of the markers.

Directors' Roster

| LMAA: Officers, Directors & Committee Members - 2023 NOV. | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|------------|---------------------------|-------------------|----|---------|--------------|
| Office | Surname | First Name | Contact Information | Home/lake address | | | Home/Lake Ph |
| Officers/Directors | | | | | | | |
| President | Costigan | Michael | mikecostigan@hotmail.com | | | | |
| Eagle's Nest Area | | | 4 Nuttal St | Cambridge | ON | N3C 4J3 | 519 654 7324 |
| | | | 91 L& J Lane One | Manitowaning | ON | P0P 1N0 | 705-859-2705 |
| Vice-president | Cooper | Sharon | scooperdoda@gamil.com | | | | |
| Silver Bay Road Area | | | 905 Roderick Ave. | Sudbury | ON | P3E 6J5 | 226-344-2365 |
| | | | 27 Franks Rd E. | Mindemoya | ON | P0P 1S0 | same |
| Secretary | Marchment | Manuela | mmarchment@gmail.com | | | | |
| | | | 172 Franks' Road West | Mindemoya | ON | P0P1S0 | |
| Director of communications | Manera | Sandra | sandra.a.manera@gmail.com | | | | |
| Silver Bay Road Area | | | | Mindemoya | ON | P0P 1S0 | |
| | | | | | ON | | |
| Treasurer | Peddle | Martin | martin.peddle@icloud.com | | | | |
| Eagle's Nest Area | | | 21 Bentgrass Green | Nepean | ON | K2J 4Y1 | 613-816-9143 |
| | | | 95 L&J Lane One | Manitowaning | ON | P0P 1N0 | 613-816-9143 |
| Past President | Mann | Steve | smann220a@gmail.com | | | | |
| Rockville area | | | 220A Demmy's Rd | Mindemoya | ON | P0P 1S0 | 705-377-7950 |

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|--------------------------------|------------------|---------|---------|------------------------------|
| Directors | | | | | | | |
| Sandfield Area | Edington | Brenda | brendaedington@gmail.com | | | | |
| | | | 54 Manitou Haven Trail | Mindemoya | ON | P0P 1S0 | 705 673-2531 |
| Silver bay Road Area | Harvey | Mark | mharvey102@hotmail.com | | | | |
| | | | 16-571 North St. | Sault Ste. Marie | ON | P6B 6K7 | 705-949-1515 |
| | | | 156 Johnston RD | Mindemoya | | P0P 1S0 | 705-377-5269 |
| Rockville Area | Mann | Steve | smann220a@gmail.com | | | | |
| | | | 220A Demmy's Rd | Mindemoya | ON | P0P 1S0 | 705-377-7950 |
| Silver bay Road Area | Payne | Don | payne@interlog.com | | | | |
| | | | 35 Christman Court | Markham | ON | L3P 3C7 | 905 294-4819 |
| | | | 162 Frank's Road, West | Mindemoya | ON | P0P 1S0 | |
| Camp Mary Ann Area | Roy | Heather | heatherroy24@gmail.com | | | | |
| | | | 167 Camp MaryAnn Road | Mindemoya | ON | P0P 1S0 | 205 691-0856 |
| | | | | Lively | ON | | |
| Gibraltar Road Area | Stewart | Ken | kenstewart6757.ks@gmail.com | | | | |
| Gibraltar Road Area | | | 106 Cannards Ln | Mindemoya | ON | P0P 1S0 | 705-377-7921 |
| Education Committee | | | | | | | |
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| | Costigan | Pat | patriciawilliamson39@gmail.com | | | | 519-576-1912 705-377-6640 |
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| | | | 2741 Melvin Ave. | Rochester Hills | MI | 48307 | 248-852-2574 248-217-5618 |
| | | | 54 Manitou Haven Trail RR1 | Mindemoya | P0P 1S0 | | 705-377-4709 |
| Gibraltar Road Area | Kains | David | isleaway@gmail.com | | | | |
| | | | 118B Cannards Lane | Mindemoya | ON | P0P 1S0 | 705-377-6041 |
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| Newsletter editors | | | | | | | |
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| | | | 156 Johnston RD | Mindemoya | ON | P0P 1S0 | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Website Admin | Salisbury | Stan | sasalisbury@cox.net | Gainesville | FL | 32635 | 352-335-6596 |
| | | | 160 Jules Lane | Mindemoya | ON | P0P 1S0 | 705-377-4982 |

Hope you enjoy this edition of Wind Swept and have a great winter and a Happy Holiday Season.



Your Editors

Mark and Jennifer Harvey

