

**Mazinaw Property Owners' Association
Annual General Meeting, Saturday June 13, 2020
Zoom Video Webinar**

MPOA 2020 AGM

The logistics for this year's AGM were changed because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

- The first decision was to move from a physical location to a video conference (webinar) format. A webinar is very interactive, allowing attendees to vote, to participate in the Q&A and to initiate discussions by using the 'raise hand' icon.
- That resulted in moving the date from the July long weekend to early June. Because internet access is poor to non-existent at the lake, an earlier date would have more members at their permanent homes and able to access with high speed internet.
- Finally, the meeting was shortened to accommodate the video format.

Unfortunately, what was lost was the fun of the 'meet and greet' and the opportunity to include more guest speakers.

Participation

65 Mazinaw cottages were represented at the meeting with one or more people participating per cottage.

Guest Speaker: Mayor Ron Higgins, representing North Frontenac

Guest: Reeve Henry Hogg representing Addington Highlands.

Presentation Content

The presentation slides are available from the MPOA web site and should be used along with these minutes for a full understanding of the meeting.

The web site access is www.lakemazinaw.ca. From there, select the Meetings & Newsletters tab.

Call to Order - Fran Bates

Fran welcomed all participants and introduced the MPOA Board members with a slide showing the names and positions.

A motion to approve the 2019 AGM minutes followed. The motion was put forth by Suzanne Sills and seconded by Arndt Kruger. Participants were able to vote using the Webinar voting tool managed by Kerry Skipper. The motion passed.

MPOA BOARD Positions	MPOA BOARD Members
President	Francine Bates
VP	Bob Reid
Treasurer	Rosemary Prevoe
Secretary	Suzanne Sills
Communications & Webmaster	Nancy & Kerry Skipper
Lake Steward	Vern Haggerty
Membership	Kate McGovern
Community Relations liaise	Arndt Kruger
FOCA Rep	Murray Russell
Director	Jamie Fraser

President's Report - Fran Bates

Fran noted the MPOA Board was particularly busy since the last AGM. These included:

1. Meetings

- Board Meetings + Sub-committee Meetings
 - 6 + 3 respectively.
 - Outcomes: Action item review; Finalized Newsletter; By-law updates; Learning how to hold a virtual AGM; Preparation for 2020 AGM.
- FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations)
 - 4 meetings (2 in person seminars; 2 webinars).
 - Outcomes: Allows MPOA to learn of activities, concerns on other lakes and take advantage of best practices.
- Bon Echo Superintendent Clark Richards
 - 2 meetings re water safety at the Narrows; & Water quality.
 - Outcomes: Learned that Bon Echo Park has the knowledge and equipment to ensure lake is clean. Water safety and congestion around the narrows is being addressed with new signs and new buoys. Electrical repairs are underway for the light at the narrows. As well, strategies were discussed for a future contract with the canoe and kayak rental company; and educating campers via newsletters.
- OPP
 - 2 phone meetings re water safety; firearms; crime prevention / cottage watch (see later section for more detail).
- NFLAA (North Frontenac Lake Association Alliance)
 - 2 NFLAA meetings as 'guest' (see later section for more detail).

2. 2020 MPOA By-laws

- By-laws are our contract on how we as a board operate in the interest of our members. Because they have not been updated in several years a sub-committee of Fran Bates, Arndt Kruger and Rosemary Prevoe completed the task, then asked all MPOA members to review them before attending the AGM in preparation for voting.
- Rose Prevoe put forth the motion to approve the By-laws and Bob Reid seconded. The motion passed.
- The MPOA by-laws can be found on the www.lakemazinaw.ca website. From there, select the Home tab.

3. Membership

- There are 369 total properties on Mazinaw Lake. The membership has 60% of the total. YTD we are sitting at 104 members.
- Options to pay the \$20 membership fee are e-transfer (see below for more detail), cheque by mail or credit card through PayPal. Fran thanked Smarts Marina & Browns campground for assisting with payments in the past.
- Please continue to spread the word of the MPOA and ask your neighbours if they've remembered to renew...and new cottagers, to let them know about the association. We are stronger as a group.

4. e-Transfer

- This year, with the addition of e-transfer, members are finding it easier to pay this yearly recurring expense. It has also proven to be an excellent way to track & record who has paid without as much administration time.

5. Gypsy Moth Traps

- In the past, the traps have been sold at the AGM. With this not being an option, a new distribution method was required. It should be noted that the traps have been very effective at controlling these pests on the lake and there is strong support for continuing with the program.
- This year members were asked to pre-order the traps.
- Arndt Kruger, who has always led the charge on this project, made arrangements to have Milligan Meats act as the distribution point. Those who ordered traps can pick them up starting at noon on Saturday, June 27.

• 6. Social Events

- Last year approximately 80 members came to the MPOA corn roast/potluck. A very big thank you to the van Kempen's for opening up their property two years in a row for us to enjoy getting to know our fellow neighbours.
- The kayak group made several outings last year. You can read more about their trip up the Marble river in our newsletter.
- With the pandemic, social activities are not being planned this year. If this changes, you will be notified.

Members' Concerns (see presentation for more detail)

Most of these have been covered by emails and/or the newsletter. The web site access is www.lakemazinaw.ca. From there, select the Meetings & Newsletters tab and/or the Focus Items tab. Fran addressed two outstanding issues.

1. Firearms

- Concern was expressed on the use of firearms for target practice and/or outside of hunting season at the AGM last year. Issues were around the effects on pets who are scared

and possibly run off, and people walking on the trails behind the cottages were worried about getting hit by a stray bullet. The Kaladar OPP advised that it is not OK to use firearms outside of hunting season unless you have a specific protected area to practice. If concerned, the OPP can come look at the site of the target practice.

While people would prefer this was not carried out at all, if it is done, they would appreciate knowing in advance if anyone/group is planning an extended practice session. Please send a note a couple of days in advance, if possible, to communications@lakemazinaw.ca and we will put a notice on our website.

2. 'Bay' Watch

- A local OPP constable advised that the 'Cottage Watch' is no longer an OPP initiative and they no longer do winter cottage patrol. People can present their concerns at a local council meeting or talk to permanent residents about helping.
- To determine the extent of concern, MPOA sent a survey to members a few weeks ago. 80 people responded.
 - 11% experienced a break-in over past 5 years – biggest item taken was boat and motor; smallest was they didn't take anything but left a bunch of garbage behind – door broken.
 - 40% reported issues due to mother nature.
 - Types of issues: flood; tree fell on power line to just their place knocking out the power; tree fell on roof causing water damage; broken window.
 - 50 % can travel to cottage to check in the off season.
 - 83% have trusted neighbour who will check on cottage while they are not there
 - Number of permanent residents willing to check to be determined.
- MPOA advice: Talk to trusted neighbours about an informal local (bay) watch group
 - Know their contact information in case of an emergency
 - Be aware of what suspicious activities might be
 - Do a perimeter check after a storm
 - Share with each other when they will not be there
 - Introduce yourself to new cottage owners
 - If you do witness → Go to a safe distance & call 9-1-1 (crime), or Hydro (downed tree on line) or cottage owner (downed tree on cottage)
 - Volunteer to do check-ins if you are up when neighbours are not.

If you have an issue, inform the MPOA so we can track and determine the size of the issue make sure we let people know of a break in, the location and to be vigilant. This is how the MPOA can add value at this time.

NFLAA (North Frontenac Lake Association Alliance) (see presentation for more detail)

- This is an affiliation of 19 lake associations in North Frontenac formed in 2010. Its mission to provide lake associations with representation to address common interests.
- The value we get is similar to the value we see from FOCA, but more local.
- We cross two townships, but what applies to North Frontenac will generally apply to Addington Highlands.
- Some focus items are around good septic practices (see Lake Steward report below). They are also working on some items related to internet & cell services in the township.
- There is a one time admin fee of \$25 to join.
- Jamie Fraser has been representing us at the NFLAA meetings. The MPOA board recommends that the MPOA join this affiliation.

- Mayor Higgins added that he was involved in the set-up of the NFLAA. It has done a lot of good for the area over the years and he highly recommended that MPOA join. The motion to join the NFLAA was put forth by Jamie Fraser and seconded by Murray Russell. The motion passed.
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Communications (see presentation for more detail)

- The MPOA website: Continues to get a lot of traction: 800-1000 unique visitors per month (Apr/May)
 - Newsletter (3rd Edition): One of the big ticket items the board spent a lot of time on was the 3rd edition of the spring MPOA Newsletter. The web site access is www.lakemazinaw.ca. From there, select the Meetings & Newsletters tab
 - 34 pages of great stories, and good information;
 - We had approx. 260 downloads. If you haven't had a chance to read through it, you are encourage to do so.
 - Thanks to all the board for submitting these articles and a special thank you to Kerry and Nancy Skipper who spent endless hours (weeks) putting this together, adding pictures and wrapping into a final product.
 - Facebook: The survey recently sent shows 58 % would like an MPOA FaceBook page and 42% said they would not. There is no commitment to move forward with this as the board still needs to discuss the logistics. Stay tuned.
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Treasurer's Report (see presentation for more detail)

- Our bank position remained strong for the past year due to the excellent membership renewals for 2019.
 - We are uncertain if we will get the same level of memberships in 2020 with the pandemic.
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Lake Steward Update - Vern Haggerty (see presentation for more detailed statistics on this important issue)

1. Lake water calcium levels.
 - Calcium is essential for survival of many aquatic species .
 - Fortunately Mazinaw monitoring shows calcium levels steady at acceptable levels since 2008.
 2. Road Salt (NaCl).
 - Road salt migrates into our waters, yet has not been monitored in Mazinaw
 - Zooplankton (food for baitfish such as herring which our Lake Trout feed on) levels coincide with known road salt applications.
 - MPOA will request water samples of sodium chloride levels on the west side of the lake adjacent to Hwy 41.
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Cottaging in/after Pandemic - Mayor Ron Higgins

The following Questions were posed to the Mayor:

Question: What is the guidance for Seasonal Residents?

Answer: In March & April the township was very concerned about seasonal residents impact on the community. That concern is at a lower level now. All are welcome to North Frontenac and asked to follow pandemic protocol (distancing, masks, hand washing, etc.). The mayor asks that

people follow the recent guidelines to stay on their properties as much as possible. Visits between cottages is restricted to 10 people.

The township website www.northfrontenac.com. lists the places where medical care is available.

Question: What do the local businesses want? Should we bring our supplies from home or go to the local shops to support their business? What are their protocols for shopping at their places?

Answer: Everyone will be treated as an equal with no restrictions to local businesses and medical facilities (call first if possible).

Question: What if I get sick? Do I need to travel back home to get medical attention?

Answer: There have been 63 Covid cases in the township, no deaths and no ICU requirements. We are in a good position to help if you become ill.

Note: A key item worksheet on the pandemic is updated weekly and is accessible through the township website at www.northfrontenac.com. Select Community, then Covid. Mayor Higgins meets every Monday with mayors from Kingston and Lennox to ensure a coordinated response.

Question: Are Short Term Rentals allowed?

Answer: The restrictions have been lifted.

Currently considering introducing by-laws to regulate rentals. On Friday this will be presented to council. (see General Discussion below for additional information).

Other questions posed to the mayor, which were not pandemic related were:

Question: Does the township spray for Gypsy Moths?

Answer: The township does not spray for gypsy moth control. Research indicates that there are too many unknowns with spraying, such as the effect on hummingbirds, etc. Traps are the preferred solution. The township has no control over what people do on their private property.

Question: Tappings Landing public dock is in need of repair. I understand this is being fixed this week. Would you please comment?

Answer: Mayor Higgins confirmed the dock has been repaired.

Note, Mayor Higgins answered additional questions during the General Discussion segment of the meeting. See below.

MPOA Board Announcements/Changes

Retiring Board Members

1. Arndt Kruger, Community Relations
2. Murray Russell – FOCA Rep
3. Francine Bates – President
4. Kate McGovern – Director of Membership

Proposed New Board Members

1. Kirsten Houghton
2. Ian Philips
3. Amy Fraser

Motion put forth by Bob Read and seconded by Kate McGovern to approve new board members. Motion passed.

General Discussion

Question: What does the phosphorous level mean for the lake?

Answer Vern Haggerty: It creates nutrients that cause weed growth.

Question: Are there penalties on poor septic systems?

Answer Mayor Higgins: This is high on the township priority list. The Health unit in Kingston has the authority to shut down systems that have been identified as deficient. Currently inspections are voluntary, however there is work underway to change that to mandatory. Building Inspectors do the septic inspections.

Answer Reeve Hogg (Addington Highlands): In 2021 Building Inspectors will be responsible for inspections in Addington Highlands.

Question: There is no proper internet on the lake. Is anything being done?

Answer Mayor Higgins: This is being worked on at all levels. The Eastern Ontario Regional Network has funding to improve cellular and broadband services in underserved locations. Inspection work has started. By late summer or early fall work will start. Over the next 3 years we will have much better service.

Question: Is the visibility of towers being considered?

Answer Mayor Higgins: The NFLAA (see earlier reference) is a powerful organization and can influence what happens.

Question: What if there is a second wave with the pandemic?

Answer Mayor Higgins: Seasonal residents will have time to react appropriately. There is unlikely to be an order to leave. As taxpayers, seasonal residents are allowed to enter their cottages. Any instructions would probably be guidelines rather than orders.

Question: Are the board members that are resigning leaving now or at the end of the year?

Answer Fran Bates: They are resigning as of this AGM, but the resigning board members will ensure good turnover, and I will be available for the new President for this year.

(Note, Kate McGovern updated this information to advise that her resignation is at the end of this season).

Question: Is Marble Lake Road to be top dressed or paved?

Answer Mayor Higgins: It is part of our ten year plan. Contact Darwyn Sproule, the Public Works Manager for details.

Question: Are public events such as Sail Mazinaw and the Cloyne Craft Show being cancelled?

Answer Reeve Hogg: Not sure about the Craft Show, but it is likely to be cancelled as has all other events.

Answer: Sail Mazinaw has a FaceBook page so you can check there.

Question: Where does the MPOA stand on shutting down leaking septic systems and how does someone provide input on their concerns to MPOA?

Answer Bob Reid: Vern's comments that there could be leaking septic systems is based on the findings of the NFLAA that 3% of the total inspected were faulty. This is a hypothetical comment. Unfortunately, only 11 properties on the lake volunteered for inspection last year and they are likely ones that did not have major problems.

Answer Mayor Higgins: It's a sensitive issue. If inspections are made mandatory many people who can't afford it will be in difficult situations. This and other issues will be addressed with the ministry in August. Mayor Higgins will keep the MPOA appraised.

Answer Reeve Hogg: the NFLAA has gathered a lot of information on septic concerns and can be used as another avenue for information.

Answer Fran Bates: Use the MPOA Communications vehicle to register concerns. The email address is communications@lakemazinaw.ca.

Question: What will the mayor be recommending on cottage rentals?

Answer Mayor Higgins: We are looking at a registration process through the township, including a registration fee. The recommendation is for owners to be provided with guidelines on garbage disposal, fire bans, noise issues, etc. Fines to be levied, and if the number of fines exceed a certain limit, the registration would be cancelled. This will be presented to council for discussion.

Question: Can we still order gypsy moth traps?

Answer Fran Bates: Orders through the MPOA ended on June 6.

Answer Jamie Fraser: The Newsletter suggested the following alternatives - traps can be home-made, purchased at many hardware and gardening outlets, or ordered on-line.

Comments from Mayor Higgins:

For the Cottage (Bay) Watch concerns, there is a new business in North Frontenac for monitoring cottages. The owner is Tammy Watson. She can be contacted through her FaceBook page. This is one of the better Zoom meetings he has attended.

Meeting Adjourned

