



The Loon's Call

President's Message – Donna McLean

SUMMER of 2020— MEMORABLE OR FORGETTABLE?

Even when I slow down, it appears that time doesn't. How can it be mid-November with Christmas only 40 days away! We closed up 3 weekends ago—the latest date ever—and then when summer weather returned I was regretting it — more time on the dock would have been spectacular... big sigh.

HIGHLIGHTS AND GSLRA ACTIVITIES

- Activities of the Board this summer were largely limited to telephone calls, distant dock visits and emails; however
- Membership recruiting continued—we engaged several new members but the total number of memberships collected was on the low side — typically we pick up 20-25 at our AGM which didn't happen yet; *see Note by Dave Stephens, Membership Chair*
- Water Testing—when the Muskoka Lakes Association (MLA) decided to cancel their program for small lake associations due to COVID, our resident tester offered to step up and do whatever he could to continue testing on some limited basis— *see Note on Water Testing by Joanne Smith*
- Development—this area was quiet although the Town was still conducting site visits for permits etc. No news on this front is generally considered good news. We note that the Moody Bay property remains 'For Sale' as the owner has decided to sell the property outright rather than develop it as originally envisioned. We will continue to monitor this property as the Town approval becomes a perk when trying to sell in the future. Stay tuned
- Volunteerism—we have had 2 new cottage owners come forward to stand for election at our upcoming AGM. But there are several Executives who have

served for a long time — perhaps it is your time to consider joining the Board, for a two-year appointment. *See Note regarding virtual Annual General Meeting (AGM) to be held on Sunday, December 6, 2020 at 2:00 pm.*

- Water Safety and Courtesy to Neighbours Docks—every year I say the [new] boats get bigger while Gull and Silver Lakes get smaller. This summer was no different. And with new boats, typically comes new drivers and larger wakes. And COVID resulted in attracting many more visitors— both daily and short term renters And the potential problem with that is a) lack of knowledge of the laws b) unfamiliarity with the lake geography c) unconscious lack of care for the safety of residents and d) lack of awareness of the damage inflicted on docks and tethered boats. *See Note on Safe and Quiet Boating*
- City Hall Issues—while the building was physically closed, the Town of Gravenhurst (TOG) was fully operational and I believe was successful at keeping the Lake Associations informed regarding issues of mutual interest such as garbage collection, Air B&B noise and crowding, Fire bans, Beach closures and business openings and closings [alerts].

We were able to spend more time at the cottage this past summer and I count that in the positive column for 2020. The weather was good, the water was warm and I noticed more birds. But I missed the socialization with long time neighbours and friends!!

What the summer of 2021 will look like is anyone's guess ... but no matter

what, your Executive will be available to advocate, inform and take action when needed!

Donna McLean, President



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

2020 has been some year! Our memberships have dipped in number to about 45. I have not pursued people this summer owing to COVID-19. I am hoping to put in place area captains for next Spring and we will do a mailing explaining this strategy. For this mailing we will include a page on the reasons and benefits of membership.

Historically, an urgent issue such as the Moody Bay or Great Gulf-Homes developments resulted in an increased number of paid-up memberships. In quieter times, it seems like folks simply forget to renew. And lest you forget, we even take interac funds! How easy is that? It's not too late to send in your \$35 membership. Forms can be found on our website. You can email or mail them. Going forward, we have planned a formal mailing and early AGM, with identifiable area captains in place, and this campaign should get our numbers back up! I would like to set a target of 100 members (approx. 50%) for the season.

I'm hoping that COVID-19 will be under control soon and look forward to a wonderful 'normal' summer in 2021. In the meantime, Happy Winter.

Dave Stephens, Membership



Water Testing Results for 2020/2019

The MLA (Muskoka Lakes Association) did not collect or analyze lake water quality in 2020, due to Covid-19 restrictions. However, our organization is very fortunate to have had the help of one of our members, Bruce Elliott, to continue the testing on Gull and Silver Lakes, along with helpers Anne Elliott and Greg Keast. Many thanks!! This included data collection of E. coli and Total Coliform numbers, as well as Secchi Disk, Temperature, and relative water level readings; the data collected also noted prior rainfall and any other pertinent factors, such as prevalence of Canada Geese. Phosphorus levels were not able to be tested due to the lab facility being closed down for the year. However, this value is monitored for long term trends, typically consistently increasing over 3-5 years before there is a major concern.

I have used Bruce's raw data to calculate the Means and Geometric Means in a manner similar to the MLA analysis, and recorded both 2020 and 2019 in the data table below:

Test site	E. coli Yearly Geometric Mean (cfu/100ml)		Total Coliform Yearly Geometric Mean (cfu/100ml)		Secchi Disk Yearly Mean (m)		Temperature Yearly Mean (° C)	
	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
GULL LAKE								
1 (Lily Bay)	4.6	6.6	77.4	153.9	3.8	4.1	22.3	24.0
2 (Hewitt St)	4.4	1.4	134.2	222.8	-	-	23.0	24.0
3 (Pinedale)	8.0	4.6	60.1	259.4	-	-	22.3	24.0
4 (Park Dock)	7.6	22.0	52.6	161.3	-	-	22.3	24.0
SILVER LAKE (Wetland Input)	1.0	5.2	24.0	73.1	3.0	2.0	22.7	24.0

- Larger E. coli numbers will result from large rainstorms (washing dog/bird feces into waterways)
- Aging sanitary sewer infrastructure can leak waste into storm sewers that run into lakes
- E. coli can survive and sometimes even reproduce outside of hosts, such as in stream sediments or in beach sand
- Higher temperatures = higher growth rates. Optimal = 37°C. Bacterial death = 70°C.

E. coli values at the Gull Lake Park dock are clearly much higher in 2020, although still below the MLA target critical value of 100 cfu/100ml. Note: The Simcoe Muskoka Dept of Health tests the actual beach area weekly, making beach advisories/closures as necessary. There can be a large difference in readings between the beach and our test site which is a few hundred metres away. Total coliforms are significantly higher in 2020. The clarity of Gull Lake improved slightly in 2020, while the clarity of Silver Lake decreased. Temperatures of both lakes increased.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

- The water level was about 3.5 inches lower in June 2020 than 2019, and about 4.5 inches higher in both July and August 2020.
- June: The flock of geese seemed to be spending most of its time at Gull Lake Park.
- June: Lake use by humans is less than other years. Could less water circulation due to less boat traffic be a main factor? Could a solution be to mount water agitators on the barge to get the water moving? Or is it because with fewer people around, the waterfowl have increased their presence in the park?

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WATER TESTING RESULTS FOR 2020 continued

- Through the warmer summer months, there was an increased use of the park and its facilities by visitors. (Some major concerns of poor behaviour have been discussed with the Town).
- I called the Simcoe Muskoka Department of Health on July 30th and spoke at length with one of the Health Inspectors re how and when sampling is done at Gull Lake Park. In short, they take 5 samples on one day each week. The Geometric Mean is important, as is each sample. If any sample is >400 cfu/100ml or if the Geometric Mean of the batch is >200 cfu/100ml, then an Advisory is posted. She also noted that she had inspected a nearby Splash Pad where there have been geese problems. This group is spraying with garlic, which is typically for mosquitoes but also deters geese. It must be repeated as it diminishes. She also noted that the geese have an annual molting period of about 6 weeks (late June to August) when they are flightless and typically spend more time in land areas where they can access water and food easily... like Gull Lake Park
- My husband and I spoke with the Muskoka Goose Control in mid-August. They (Kim French and her husband) patrol with a dog and remove goose feces from several parks and one golf course. Gull Lake Park was their “hot spot” this year, being the only location where the geese numbers are “out of control”. Her count (mine too) was 32 + 1 lonely male. There was a high reproductive rate this year, therefore even more geese can be expected here next year. The team collected ≥150 lbs daily, much higher than 2019. Nests are not in the park vicinity, so they cannot control that part. She also noted that she has had success with using a kayak to send geese away on other sites and has asked for the use of a kayak at the Lifeguard Station to do so....She also suggested more calls being made to the Town re By-Laws and Complaints. Gull Lake Park is under the jurisdiction of the Town, not our GSLRA. However, the issues/concerns occurring there have an effect on the health and safety of Gull Lake and the enjoyment of residents of both Gull Lake and Silver Lake.....

GRAVENHURST IS HURTING :(

It comes as no surprise that COVID 19 has heightened the ‘neediness’ in Gravenhurst and surroundings. Job loss or insecurity, roller coaster openings and closings of restaurants and other establishments and even closing of the Salvation Army thrift store has impacted those in need. Even purchasing personal protective equipment can use up part of the already meager disposable income of some town-folks.

So how can we help?

- **G.A.P.—** Gravenhurst Against Poverty — more than ever this is a vital service offered to those needing a hand up. The need and the work of providing meals and food supplies continues especially through the pandemic! Find out how YOU can help. GO TO www.gravenhurstagainstpoverty.com.
- **Free Stuff For Daily Needs—** Barry and Theresa Buker continue to provide hope for a better future by matching up donated goods to whomever has need. Find out how you can help at <http://freestuff4dailyneeds.com/>.

ALL DONATIONS ARE MOST GRATEFULLY RECEIVED — *Oboronto*” is an African word meaning ‘I’ exist because ‘we’ exist. Together we can make a real difference. Oboronto!!! ♥♥♥

AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- WHEN:** SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2020 – THE FORMAL PART OF THE MEETING WILL COMMENCE AT 2:00 PM
- WHERE:** DUE TO COVID 19 WE WILL CONDUCT THE MEETING VIRTUALLY – DETAILS TO FOLLOW
- WHO:** ALL RESIDENTS OF GULL AND SILVER LAKES – NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!
- WHAT:** *The GSLRA Board will make a presentation, to be followed by a Question and Answer period.*

WE WILL DISCUSS:

- ⇒ GSLRA FINANCES
- ⇒ WATER QUALITY
- ⇒ SAFE AND QUIET LAKE BOATING ACTIVITIES
- ⇒ TOWN AND WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT
- ⇒ DELIVER OF MUNICIPAL AND DISTRICT SERVICES, MUNICIPAL SPENDING AND ACCOUNTABILITY
- ⇒ TAXATION
- ⇒ VOLUNTEERING AND ELECTION OF DIRECTORS FOR ENSUING YEAR

Call or email me if you are interested in joining the Board or a Committee dmc 416 417 8349 donna.mclean@rogers.com

\$\$\$ FINANCE REPORT \$\$\$ - submitted by Paul Temple, Treasurer

“If you are passionate about life near the water and determined to help sustain it, join us in keeping our lakes safe, quiet and respectful”

With thanks for all that Safe Quiet Lakes does for us ...

Gull & Silver Lakes Residents' Association		
Cash Flow for the period Jan 1 to Oct 31, 2020		
	to Oct 31, 2020	2019
Balance of funds as of Jan 1	\$ 16,506	\$ 15,437
Revenues		
Memberships	\$ 1,680	\$ 2,255
Interest	\$ 379	\$ 1
	\$ 2,059	\$ 2,256
Expenses		
Annual Meeting	\$ -	\$ (371)
MLA Water equipment & supplies	\$ (531)	\$ -
MLA Water Testing	\$ -	\$ (818)
MLA Membership 2017-2020 fees	\$ (485)	\$ -
	\$ (1,016)	\$ (1,189)
Closing Balance [see notes]	\$ 17,549	\$ 16,504
Assets		
End of period Bank balance	\$ 2,049	\$ 2,760
GIC(s)	\$ 15,500	\$ 13,746
	\$ 17,549	\$ 16,506
GIC [matures 20-Apr-2022]	\$ 9,000	
GIC [matures 27-Sept-2021]	\$ 6,500	
	\$ 15,500	

[1] 2019 closing balance differs due to rounding

[2] Not reflected in the 2020 statement is an outstanding invoice for new signage for the Silver Lake narrows in the amount of \$593.

BOATER'S CODE

Respectful boating guidelines from Safe Quiet Lakes

1. I will never operate my boat beyond the level of my skills.
2. I will be aware of and obey all laws and regulations governing operation of my boat.
3. I will operate my boat with caution and courtesy to others at all times.
4. I will minimize my wake impact on shorelines, docks, structures and people.
5. I will always steer well clear of other boats, swimmers and wildlife.
6. I will set a speed and heading that is safe and comfortable for my passengers and others on the water.
7. I will provide safety instructions and offer appropriate life jackets or PFDs to everyone who travels in my boat.
8. I will carry all equipment necessary to operate my boat safely and within the law.
9. I will not consume drugs and alcohol in my boat or allow my boat to be operated by anyone who is impaired.
10. I understand that boating is a shared experience and I will not create excessive noise or operate my boat in a manner that disrupts the peaceful enjoyment of the lake by others.



Max Speed 10/km/hr
And
NO WAKE within
30 metres (+/- 100 Ft.)
from the shoreline

THIS IS THE
LAW. WE MUST
ALL DO OUR PART
TO BE LAWFUL
AND RESPECTFUL

HEWITT ST BINS UPDATE— the Good News is due to limited Town resources to meet the increased garbage needs this past summer from the increased inflow of waterfront residents, we got to keep our bins a little longer. The BAD NEWS is they are still slated to be removed—probably in 2021 but no later than 2023. Stay tuned ...