



*Muskoka*  
**WATERSHED COUNCIL**

**Minutes**

**Friday, September 19, 2008**

**1:00 p.m.**

**Council Chambers – District Municipality of Muskoka  
70 Pine Street, Bracebridge**

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**Present:**

Ian Turnbull (Chair)  
Margaret Casey  
Lou Guerriero  
Anna Mallin  
Steve Munro  
Al Shaw  
Jim Walden

Ken Black  
Doug Cross  
Elaine Jackson  
Don McVittie  
Ross Raymond  
Tom Smith

Ben Boivin  
Deb Cumming  
Eleanor Lewis  
Rob Milligan  
Peter Seybold  
Phung Tran

**Regrets:**

Patricia Arney  
Karen Flood  
Anne Lindsay  
Brian Sturgeon  
Rick Wright

Fran Coleman  
Diane Griffin  
Don MacKay  
Janette Sutey  
Scott Young

Richard Corcelli  
Steve Inniss  
Mary McCulley  
Brian Tapley

**Staff:**

Judi Brouse

Rebecca Willison

**Guests:**

Tom Bryson

Mike Walsh

**Welcome**

Ian Turnbull called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

**Confirmation of Minutes**

**MOTION** by Ken Black, seconded by Anna Mallin

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated June 20, 2008 be approved.

**CARRIED**

**PS-MSN 2008 Community Stewardship Award Presentation**

Muskoka Watershed Council member Ken Black was presented with the 2008 Community Stewardship Award by Parry Sound-Muskoka Stewardship Network Chair Tom Bryson in recognition of his invaluable contributions to natural resource stewardship and education.

### ***Council Biographies***

Muskoka Watershed Council members Ken Black, Ben Boivin and Margaret Casey provided brief verbal autobiographies for the Council.

### ***Committee Reports***

See the attached "[Update on Committee Activities.](#)"

**MOTION** by Doug Cross, seconded by Margaret Casey

THAT the MWC "Update on Committee Activities" report dated September 12, 2008 be approved.

**CARRIED**

### ***Year-to-Date Activity Report***

A [Year-to-Date Activity Report](#) for Muskoka Watershed Council, including a financial report on designated funds, was distributed with the agenda. The Activity Report will be shared with the District Municipality of Muskoka, Muskoka Heritage Foundation, and watershed municipalities. It is anticipated that Activity and Financial Reports will be developed and distributed on a semi-annual basis.

### ***Interim Report Card***

The Strategic Directions Committee has developed a draft interim report card on municipal planning. Judi Brouse reviewed the contents of the draft and solicited input from the Council. Following a lengthy discussion on the content and format of the interim report card, it was agreed that MWC will aim to release the interim report card on the long weekend in May with a full page advertisement, media release, and background report on the MWC website. A revised draft will be brought forward for Council input in the new year.

### ***Roundtable Update from Member Organizations***

Please see the attached [MHF and MHT Activity Report](#) for activities undertaken by the [Muskoka Heritage Foundation](#) and [Muskoka Heritage Trust](#).

[Huntsville Lakes Council](#) – Elaine Jackson will be stepping down as HLC rep on MWC and will be replaced by a new member at the next meeting. Ian thanked Elaine for her hard work on MWC the past several years and wished her luck in the future. HLC is undertaking a strategic planning exercise, has worked with the Town of Huntsville to acquire navigational buoys, and submitted 53 recommendations to the Town of Huntsville that were incorporated into their Official Plan.

[Muskoka Lakes Association](#) – Peter Seybold and Eleanor Lewis – the MLA hosted 2 workshops during the summer on stewardship and water quality that were well attended and Judi Brouse was a feature speaker at the AGM in July. The MLA's water quality program was removed from the Environment portfolio and given its own portfolio. The program has over 100 volunteers and promotes stewardship and awareness.

### ***Updates & New Business***

- Margaret Casey notified Council that the Marnoc Development proposed for Lake of Bays is coming before LOB Council again and requested that MWC submit another letter to the Township restating MWC's earlier position on habitat fragmentation.

### ***Correspondence***

- Notice of Muskoka Centre Sewage Treatment Plant Demolition by C.C. Tatham & Associates Ltd.
- Notice of Completion for a Category B Project Evaluation (Class Environmental Assessment) for the Mary Lake Dam by the Ministry of Natural Resources.
- Notice of Completion of Consultation and Documentation Report - Category B (Class Environmental Assessment) for the Muskoka Centre Sewage Treatment Plant by the Ontario Realty Corporation.
- Notice of a second Open House for the Bala Falls Small Hydro Project by Hatch Energy.
- Notice of Design and Construction Report Submission for Highway 400 Service Roads in Georgian Bay Township from URS Canada Inc.
- Request for input from the Township of Georgian Bay for their Master Plan and Urban Design Guidelines for Port Severn.

### ***Next Meeting***

The next meeting of the Muskoka Watershed Council is scheduled for Friday **October 17, 2008** at **1:00 p.m.** in **Partners Hall** in Huntsville. Lunch will be provided prior to the meeting courtesy of the Huntsville Environment Committee.

### ***Adjournment***

Ian Turnbull adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m.



# *Muskoka*

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## WATERSHED COUNCIL

To: Muskoka Watershed Council  
From: Committee Chairs  
Date: September 12, 2008  
Re: Update on Committee Activities

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### **Communications Initiatives**

The Best Practices Brochure on Wetlands was produced and almost 4,000 brochures have been distributed to date. The Waterfront Investment brochure created in 2005 was reprinted as the original stock of 20,000 had run out. Public Service announcements ran throughout the summer on various Best Practices topics on the five local Moose FM radio stations as well as The New CHAY. MWC members wrote a series of articles on topics from the 2007 Muskoka Watersheds Report Card that ran in the Muskoka Sun newspaper. A small sub-committee of representatives from MWC, MHF and MHT will be formed to develop a process for creating and approving communications tools that feature all three organizations.

### **Strategic Directions Committee** – *next meeting: Friday, October 3rd at 10:00 am in the Oak Room*

The Bulk Water Removal paper approved in June was distributed to relevant organizations and posted on the MWC and Munk Centre websites. An Interim Report Card on Municipal Planning has been developed and will be discussed at the MWC meeting on September 19<sup>th</sup>. The Committee is looking for someone to coordinate the Environmental Lecture Series held in conjunction with MHF. Anyone interested in helping should contact Judi at [jbrowse@muskokaheritage.org](mailto:jbrowse@muskokaheritage.org). Three lectures have been held to date, all of which were well attended. A sub-committee has been formed to develop a response to DMM's Economic Strategy Phase 2 Report.

### **Policy & Research Committee** – *next meeting: Friday, October 17th at 10:00 am in the Town of Huntsville Council Chambers*

A letter is being drafted to the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's site selection committee outlining why Muskoka would not be a good place to bury uranium waste. Position papers on wetlands and power generation have been drafted and are in the process of being finalized. Both papers will likely be brought forward to MWC at the meeting on October 17<sup>th</sup>. A position paper on pharmaceuticals is in the initial stages of development.

### **Executive Committee** – *next meeting: Friday, October 3rd at 1:00 pm in the Oak Room*

An Activities Report will be distributed twice a year to MWC members and partner organizations outlining what MWC has accomplished. The report will also include a financial statement for designated funds. The first Activities Report will be brought forward at the MWC meeting on September 19<sup>th</sup>. A policy is being developed to guide MWC on responding to issues and will be brought forward at a future MWC meeting. MWC Committee structure and tasks are being revisited in order to better align them with the goals and objectives adopted by MWC in June.



# *Muskoka*

## WATERSHED COUNCIL

To: Muskoka Watershed Council Members  
Re: 2008 Year-to-Date Report  
From: Ian Turnbull, Muskoka Watershed Council Chair  
Date: September 6, 2008

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This overview of Council's work year-to-date will help guide us in the months ahead. Activities have been aligned with our objectives. Please contact Committee Chairs (Rob Milligan, Patricia Arney, Doug Cross), me or Judi Brouse if you have any questions. Your feedback will help refine our work in the months ahead. This report will be shared with colleague organizations.

### Objective: Evaluate the Watersheds

- MWC and Muskoka Heritage Foundation are co-sponsoring the Muskoka Inventory Project, a GIS-based tool that identifies significant natural areas and areas requiring remediation; terrestrial component is complete; aquatic component nearing completion; Inventory in use by Muskoka Heritage Trust to develop a land acquisition strategy

### Objective: Advocate for the Watersheds

- MWC adopted an Economic Development Position Paper and presented to the District Planning and Economic Development Committee in April
- MWC adopted a Bulk Water Position Paper in June; communication of the Paper is ongoing; working with the Township of Georgian Bay to circulate through the municipal process at AMO and the Great Lakes Cities organization
- MWC provided input to the District's Strategic Stormwater Management Project
- MWC provided comment to District on Hydro One's vegetative management plan in April
- MWC provided comment to the Township of Muskoka Lakes on their Official Plan review in August
- MWC is providing input to the District's Forestry By-law
- Work is ongoing developing a Power Generation paper
- Work is ongoing developing a Wetland Position Paper
- Work is ongoing collaboratively with Muskoka arts and culture organizations towards a cultural mapping of Muskoka
- Work is ongoing collaboratively with District towards a Muskoka visioning process

### Objective: Communicate and Educate

- Wastewater Technical Bulletin prepared and posted to the website in April
- Caring for Your Wetlands brochure completed in April
- Articles based on 2008 Report Card published in summer papers May to September, and in yearbooks of the Muskoka Lakes Association, Lake of Bays Association and Muskoka Lakes Ratepayers Association
- Radio Public Service Announcements produced for summer broadcast in Huntsville, Gravenhurst, Bracebridge, Barrie, Parry Sound, Haliburton and Bancroft
- Work is ongoing working collaboratively with the Muskoka Heritage Foundation and Muskoka Heritage Trust towards joint communications initiatives
- MWC and the Muskoka Heritage Foundation presented a two-day Social Marketing Workshop in April
- MWC and the Muskoka Heritage Foundation presented a lecture series:

- Gord Miller – Environmental Commissioner of Ontario — an overview of the environmental record of the Ontario Government – Huntsville, February 28, 2008
- David Pearson – Professor at Laurentian University – the health of our lakes with respect to Climate Change – Bracebridge, April 24, 2008
- Andrew Paterson, Norm Yan and Keith Somers – the Health of our Lakes; Thirty Years of Data at Dorset – Bracebridge, July 31, 2008
- Presentations at Muskoka Watershed Council meetings:
  - Golf Courses: Fore or Against Nature – The Proof of the Pudding is in the Eating – *Mike Michalski, Michalski Neilson & Associates Limited*
  - Ontario Planning Approval Process with a focus on Red Leaves
  - Crown Land Use Planning and Forest Management Planning – *Kim Benner & Jan McDonnell, Ministry of Natural Resources*
  - Certification Systems in Canada – *Steve Munro, Westwind Forest Stewardship Inc*
  - Road Ecology 101 – *Brad Steinburg, Algonquin Park*
  - Climate Action Muskoka ‘Towards a Sustainable Muskoka’ – *Stan Hunter & Dave Rasmussen*
  - Tour of Port Severn, Township of Georgian Bay – *Mayor Jim Walden (June)*
  - Tour of Huntsville – *Mayor Claude Doughty (October)*
- Presentation on MWC to the annual meeting of the Muskoka Tourism Marketing Agency in May
- MWC display and personnel on hand at the lecture series, the Muskoka Lakes Association annual meeting (July), and the Muskoka Heritage Place Anniversary (July)

Objective: Promote and Demonstrate

- MWC and Muskoka Heritage Foundation co-sponsored implementation of the Well Aware program funded by Green Communities Canada
- MWC and Muskoka Heritage Foundation are co-sponsoring the Eco-driver program, a stewardship and education program for drivers on how to reduce fuel consumption through proper driving and vehicle maintenance; program delivered in cooperation with Bracebridge and Muskoka Lakes Secondary School and a local car service shop; funded by Green Communities Canada
- MWC is working collaboratively with the Muskoka Heritage Foundation, Muskoka Heritage Trust, Westwind Forest Stewardship, and the Parry Sound – Muskoka Stewardship Network to launch the Muskoka Envirocredits program

Governance

- MWC membership strengthened with addition of four new members representing north, south and west Muskoka
- MWC Mission, Goal and Objectives revised, refined and adopted in June
- MWC met in Georgian Bay Township in June and will meet in Huntsville in October; over the next year, MWC aims to meet in municipalities throughout the watersheds
- Work is ongoing in review of committee structure

This report aims to communicate Muskoka Watershed Council activities to members and supporting organizations, specifically the Muskoka Heritage Foundation and the District Municipality of Muskoka. We thank both for their critical support, the former for office overhead support and the latter for seconded staff support. The [attached report](#) summarizes the status of project-specific funding held by the Muskoka Heritage Foundation for Muskoka Watershed Council related projects.

Respectfully submitted,



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# MHF AND MHT ACTIVITY REPORT

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**1. Fundraising** – The Foundation has undertaken the following fundraising events this summer

- The Summer Tour was held on July 18, 2008 and toured three cottages on Lake Muskoka.
- The Wenonah Cruise was held on August 7, 2008 and toured the north end of Lake Muskoka.
- The golf tournament will be held on September 26, 2008 at the Bigwin Island Golf Course in Lake of Bays.

**2. Natural Heritage** - The Natural Heritage Committee has visited nominees for the Natural Heritage Stewardship Awards to be presented at the AGM in October.

**3. Built Heritage** - The Built Heritage committee has visited nominees for the Built and Heritage Stewardship Awards to be presented at the AGM in October. The Muskoka Visual Heritage DVD was previewed in July and copies will be on sale in early November.

**4. Joint Ventures MWC & MHF**

**Lecture Series** - The next lecture in the '2008 Environmental Lecture Series' has not been determined at this time.

**Well Aware Program** - Kathy Clark, Water Guide for the Muskoka Well Aware program, has handed out more than 900 information kits to the public since April. She has completed 40 self guided well assessments and hopes to reach 50 before the end of the season. The program has been well received in Muskoka and Kathy has been a great ambassador for MHF & MWC. Staff recommends that we apply for funds from Green Communities Canada to run the program again in 2009.

**Eco-Driver Project** - The project is just starting. There is a community volunteer, Lorne Sculthorp who is working with a BMLSS student, Charlie Ward. They will be making presentations to high school classes and organizing workshops at Two Guys Auto in Bracebridge to educate the public in fuel efficiency and maintenance of vehicles. The third activity will be public awareness blitzes at local gas stations and major parking lots in town.

**Watershed Inventory** - The Watershed Inventory position has been filled. Derek Gilby has joined us from Nova Scotia for one year contract.

**5. Muskoka Heritage Trust**

Since the middle of August, there have been 10 inquiries about the Trust and protection options available to landowners. The Trust now owns 9 properties totaling almost 1,000 acres and has conservation easements on 4 properties for almost 85 acres. There are three properties on the priority list to work on over the next year.

The Technical Advisory Group has been very active over the past month. Members have visited several sites and are completing the required monitoring reports for a number of held properties.

**6. Annual General Meeting** - The Annual General Meeting is on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. at the Turner Centre in Bracebridge.