



Annual General Meeting Agenda

Friday, January 22, 2021

1:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89720426519?pwd=M3VEZzBaMFFOREZrS05QZExBUk1BQT09>

Meeting ID: 897 2042 6519

Passcode: 170277

1. **Presentation**

- 1.1. A pan-Canadian comparison of provincial cyanobacteria bloom management policies, programs, and practices – *Rebecca Gasman, Masters candidate, York University*

Ms. Gasman will offer preliminary findings from her work identifying and comparing current cyanobacteria bloom management strategies for lakes from five provinces in Canada – Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, and Nova Scotia – in order to address knowledge gaps.

2. **MWC Annual General Meeting Call to Order** – *Chair Geoff Ross*

- 2.1. Welcome
- 2.2. Approval of Minutes – as this is the first AGM for the Muskoka Watershed Council, there are no minutes from the previous AGM to approve.

3. **Chair's Annual Report** – *Geoff Ross*

MOTION THAT the [Chair's Annual Report](#) dated January 15, 2021 be approved.

4. **Treasurer's Annual Report** – *Peter Sale*

- 4.1. **MOTION** THAT the MWC financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2020 be approved.
- 4.2. **MOTION** THAT the requirement that the financial statements be audited for the 2021 fiscal year be waived.
- 4.3. **MOTION** THAT the firm Gilbert & Larkin LLP be retained for the fiscal year 2021 to provide accounting services for MWC as needed.

5. **Appointment of Directors** – *Christy Doyle*

- 5.1. **MOTION** THAT Geoff Ross, Kevin Trimble, Peter Sale and Karen Maxwell be appointed as Directors for the Muskoka Watershed Council for 2021.

6. **General Business** – *Open to All MWC Members*

7. **Adjournment**

- 7.1. **MOTION** THAT the first Annual General Meeting of the Muskoka Watershed Council be adjourned.



MUSKOKA WATERSHED COUNCIL

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Annual Report

TO: Muskoka Watershed Council members
FROM: Geoff Ross, Chair
DATE: January 22, 2021
RE: 2020 Chair's Annual Report

MUSKOKA WATERSHED COUNCIL: 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

Despite shifting social protocols due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, MWC continues to focus on developing and delivering evidence-based programs that evaluate and promote the health of the watershed in a rigorous, defensible manner and produce results that can be understood and implemented by agencies and residents across the watershed and beyond.

With the District of Muskoka's continued support for MWC, and the remarkable efforts of its dedicated and diverse volunteers, the organization has thrived over the past year and is making significant strides in the emerging virtual world. Virtual meetings are now routine and preliminary observations suggest that attendance has increased, perhaps because people from across the watershed and beyond may now participate from any location at their convenience. This has also had the added advantage of lessening carbon emissions, which is consistent with other objectives of MWC.

In 2020, MWC has undertaken the following key project and programming priorities:

1. Elected a new Chair and Vice-chair for the 2020-2022 term;
2. Initiated an organizational strategic review to reaffirm Muskoka Watershed Council's mandate and membership responsibilities;
3. Concluded Year One of the Algae Monitoring Program pilot project with the release of the Interim Report and Story Map (<https://www.muskokawatershed.org/programs/algae-monitoring-program/>). Year 2 of the pilot project is anticipated to take place in 2021;
4. Released a white paper related to the need for Integrated Watershed Management in Muskoka (<https://www.muskokawatershed.org/wp-content/uploads/IWMP-WhitePaper-Jan2020.pdf>) and developed related outreach and communications materials to facilitate the initiation of the proposed approach and, in turn, implement the recommendations of the white paper;
5. Release a paper on the history of water management in the Muskoka River Watershed (<https://www.muskokawatershed.org/wp-content/uploads/WaterMgmt-Nov2020.pdf>);
6. Developed a "climate education capsule" appropriate for both elementary and secondary school curriculums. This content was originally intended to be delivered in-person, in classrooms, but is now being recorded and will soon be offered for local schools to use in their online learning modules;

7. Hosted and/or participated in over twenty online outreach sessions across Muskoka and beyond, covering topics like algae, climate, and recreational water quality;
8. Six MWC meetings were held in 2020 and featured a number of excellent presentations from speakers and organizations from across the province. Recordings of presentations are now available on the MWC website at <https://www.muskokawatershed.org/resources/presentation-archive/>;
9. Produced various communication pieces, including over 13 columns in the local media (<https://www.muskokawatershed.org/blog/category/articles/>), three newsletters (<https://www.muskokawatershed.org/events/downstream/>), regular MWC Highlights, and a brochure on safe salt use (<https://www.muskokawatershed.org/wp-content/uploads/StepsForALowSaltDiet4x11.pdf>);
10. Completely refreshed and restructured the MWC website (www.muskokawatershed.org) to comply with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) standards. The MWC website had 22,880 pageviews in 2020;
11. Supported various programming initiatives through the employment of a Watershed Health Intern (December 2019-May 2020) funded in part by MWC and primarily through external funds secured through a grant from Colleges and Institutes Canada;
12. Although field work was suspended in 2020 due to COVID-19, property reports for each property on Kahshe Lake and Bass Lake assessed through the Love Your Lake program in 2019 were available for download in 2020, and the Lake Summary Report for each lake was submitted to the lake association. The Love Your Lake program (<https://www.muskokawatershed.org/programs/lyl/>) is delivered by MWC with the support of the District of Muskoka, and is funded by the Canadian Wildlife Federation and the Government of Canada through the Canada Summer Jobs program; and
13. Expanded the Natural Edge shoreline re-naturalization program (<https://www.muskokawatershed.org/programs/the-natural-edge/>) to encourage waterfront property owners to plant native species along the water's edge. The program was created by Watersheds Canada with funding support from the Canadian Wildlife Federation and Love Your Lake. 24 site visits were carried out across Muskoka area watersheds and 16 Shoreline Re-naturalization Starter Kits were distributed, including a well publicized project spearheaded by the Lake of Bays Association at the South Portage Dock on Lake of Bays. In total, 1,318 native plants were planted on over 340 metres of shoreline.

2021 KEY PROJECT AND PROGRAMMING PRIORITIES

Despite shifting social protocols due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, MWC volunteers continue to focus on developing and delivering evidence-based programs that evaluate and promote the health of the watershed in a rigorous, defensible manner and produce results that can be understood and implemented by agencies and residents across the watershed and beyond.

For 2021, MWC proposes the following key project and programming priorities:

1. Complete an organizational strategic review and reaffirm Muskoka Watershed Council's mandate and membership responsibilities.
2. Continue working towards implementing MWC's recommendations from its 2016 "Planning for Climate Change in Muskoka" report (particularly including those related to the hydrology and algae initiatives, as well as the impacts of development on watershed health).

3. Continue to provide outreach, communications and support related to MWC's position for Integrated Watershed Management in Muskoka, facilitate/participate in the initiation of the proposed approach and, in turn, the implementation of the recommendations of MWC's white paper.
4. Increase awareness of local climate change impacts and related mitigative/adaptive actions to improve Muskoka's capacity to respond to our changing climate through community outreach, particularly through school boards when possible.
5. Continue and, where possible, expand the algae monitoring pilot program within the watershed.
6. Assist with the delivery of the Muskoka Summit on the Environment ("Creating Climate-Resilient Communities") in Fall 2021 and plan for a potential Muskoka Stewardship Conference for 2022.
7. Enhance MWC's ability to comment on local municipal official plans by developing a policy document outlining overarching policy objectives aimed at improving watershed health.
8. Continue to host engaging speakers on a range of environmental topics for the public, primarily in conjunction with MWC's monthly meetings. Recent MWC speakers have included: Lakehead University's Dr. Ellen Field on climate communications and Trillium Lakelands District School Board's Student Senate on Climate (November 2020), and staff from Ontario's Invasive Species Centre (October 2020).
9. Implement the Love Your Lake and Natural Edge programs on several lakes across the watershed (2021 lakes yet to be confirmed).
10. Expand and enhance communications and partnerships with Area Municipalities, Provincial representatives, lake associations, community groups, and local and social media channels to share resources and strengthen collective environmental efforts in Muskoka and beyond. This includes continued representation on the Province's Muskoka Watershed Advisory Group, continuing MWC's newly re-established monthly column in the local media, refreshing MWC's online communications, and seeking speaking engagements across the watershed including all watershed municipalities when possible.
11. Seek and administer external funding sources to support program delivery and expansion (i.e., administer grants associated with the Love Your Lake and Natural Edge programs; submit a grant application to the Trillium Foundation to support the algae monitoring pilot program; seek a FedNor grant to support an intern, etc.).
12. Strengthen the volunteer capacity of MWC (e.g., ongoing recruitment of new members, appointing a youth representative, etc).
13. Support and/or partner with related District of Muskoka initiatives when possible (i.e., climate action initiatives, floodplain mapping project, etc.).
14. Undertake other new projects that may arise during the year that fall under MWC's mandate.

Respectfully submitted,



Geoff Ross
Chair, Muskoka Watershed Council