



**MUSKRAT WATERSHED COUNCIL (MWC)**

Meeting of the Board of Directors

**Meeting Minutes**

**Online through Google Meet**

**Thursday, March 17, 2022, 6:30 p.m.**

**1. Call to Order and Record of Attendance**

The meeting of the Muskrat Watershed Council was called to order at 6:40 p.m.

**Attendance:**

**Present:** Karen Coulas, Rene Coulas, Debbie MacDonald, Jeff Reeves, Barbara Green, Gerry Rook

**Regrets:** Dave Thomassin, Andy Laird, Michael Gulliver, Evelyn St. Amour, Andrea Bishop, Anna Marie Blum, Erin Dolan

**Council Representative Present:** Mike Moore, Township of Whitewater Region

**Council Representative Regrets:** Claus Trost, Township of Laurentian Valley Township

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

Debbie approved the agenda, Jeff seconded it.

**Approval of minutes from February 17, 2022 meeting:**

Rene approved the minutes, Gerry seconded.

**3. Treasurer's Report- Debbie**

- See attached document.
- Debbie sent out a letter about membership and received six membership renewals.
- Debbie has sent T4s to MWC employees.

- SBCNA Bingo: Debbie has volunteered to do the first volunteer shift on April 24, 2022 from 3:30-5:30 p.m. She has received confirmation of retraining from all but three of our SBCNA volunteers. Debbie has issued our March Awareness report.
- Debbie and Barb will represent MWC at an Eco Fair at the Pembroke Memorial Centre on Friday May 13 and Saturday May 14. Rene will get the MWC materials from Andy to set up the booth. Debbie will have more MWC handouts printed.

#### 4. Directors' Reports

##### Agricultural Committee Update – Karen & Rene

- GLLAF: Barb will send an article and photos about the project to Whitewater News.
- Soil project: We are not going to continue with this project because Soil and Crop have a similar project and we don't want to be in competition with them.
- Ag Climate Solutions - Living Lab: Karen will attend a webinar on March 24, 2022, to find out whether we could contribute or whether there might be money available or projects we could do.
- Watersheds Canada - The Ghost of Phosphorus Past: Gerry will try to attend this presentation on March 23, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. Rene will attend if Gerry can't.
- Replanting: Watersheds Canada is looking at funding for some replanting.

##### Science Committee Update

- Dave hasn't had a chance yet to talk to Ivan about the possibility of planting at the beach so Karen will call Ivan about this.
- Water testing at our sites won't be happening this year because of work-to-rule action by Algonquin College.

##### Communications & Media - Karen

- We were contacted by the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) about an information session on Wed. April 6. We may not be required to attend. Karen will send the invitation to Debbie in case it affects the treasurer's activities.

##### Fundraising Committee Update - Karen

- No update

#### 5. Old Business

- FOCA Succession Seminar : FOCA is only offering this seminar virtually. We decided to wait until an in-person seminar is possible.

- Dave will be in touch soon with the MWC volunteers who will be learning to use the Hach water testing kit.
- FOCA Annual General Meeting: - Barb (for Anna-Maria and Debbie who attended the meeting):
  - There is a free data tracking program by The Gordon Foundation, a charitable organization dedicated to protecting Canada's water and empowering Canada's North. Called Data Stream, the program allows multiple users to compile information on water quality.
  - Golden Lake and Bonnechere River are increasing their membership by delivering “Welcome New Cottager” packages to new arrivals.
  - Lake Bernard Property Association received the FOCA award for their work collaborations with two municipalities on the lake to address blue-green algae blooms and fluctuating water levels. After round table discussions, they were able to focus efforts on optic issues and launch an education campaign that engaged communities with great success.
  - The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) reminded property owners and renters to register for this fall’s municipal elections on [voterlookup.ca](http://voterlookup.ca) Some cottagers may not know that non-residents and their spouses both have the right to vote as members of the community. This is true even if the cottage is in only one spouse’s name.
  - FOCA has Help Protect our Lakes posters (see below) to educate people about how to prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species which can occur throughout the movement of watercraft overland to other waterbodies. The signage explains **Clean, Drain, Dry** practices. Upon removing a watercraft from a waterbody, boaters must remove drain plugs, drain all on board water and remove any aquatic plants. Before reaching a new launch site, the watercraft, watercraft equipment and any vehicle or trailer used to transport the watercraft or equipment must not have an aquatic plant, animal or algae attached to it. Watercraft includes any motorboat, rowboat, canoe, punt, sailboat or raft. FOCA also has a fact sheet on invasive species and a poster on septic reinspection (see below) as well as a video on septic systems:
 

<https://foca.on.ca/septic-systems/>
- Pirate Parade Flotilla: Some lakes, such as Olmstead-Jeffrey Lake, do an annual flotilla on Canada Day as a way to increase awareness of the lake association while having fun.
- “Floating Cottages”: There is some concern about these houseboats or barges that are proliferating. They can be moved around and anchored to shore with a

ramp. Some are rented out and have been used to tie up, party, move on and leave a mess behind. They are not yet an issue on Muskrat Lake but may be on the Ottawa River.

**6. Other/New Business**

- Cobden Beach: MWC has asked the supplier, Weeds B Gone, for more enzymes and for a quote on new weed mats but we haven't heard back yet.

**7. Next Meeting**

Our next meeting will be a face-to-face meeting in the basement of the Whitewater Township Municipal Building for those wishing to attend in person. Others can still join in remotely on Google Meet.

April 21, 2022, 6:30 p.m.  
Township of Whitewater Region Municipal Building  
44 Main Street, Cobden ON

OR

**GOOGLE MEET**

[meet.google.com/ezd-qitc-btk](https://meet.google.com/ezd-qitc-btk)

**+1 587-978-1050 (PIN 460326449)**

8. Adjournment: 7:32 p.m.

**Minutes recorded and submitted by:** \_\_\_\_\_

Barbara Green, Secretary, Muskrat Watershed Council

**Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_

Karen Coulas, Chair, Muskrat Watershed Council

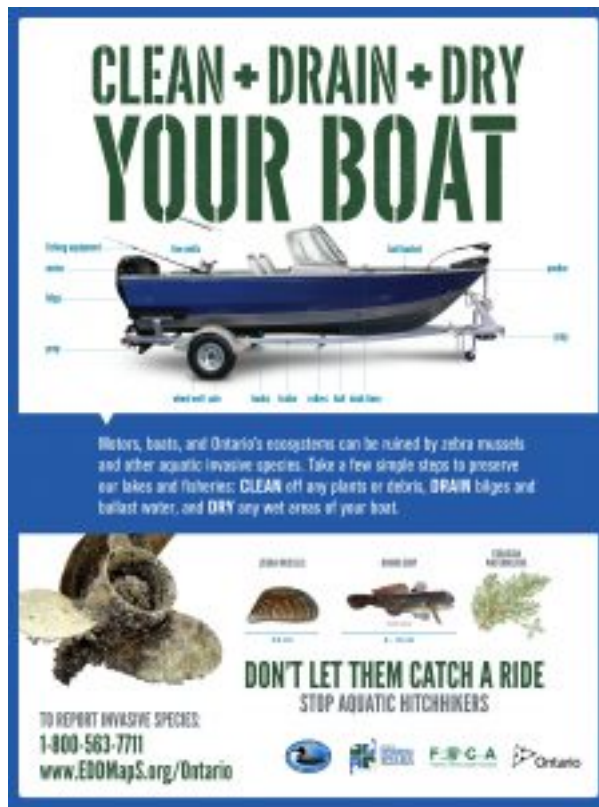
**DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MWC MEMBERSHIP FOR 2022!**

**COST IS \$20 PER MEMBERSHIP**

**IT'S EASY TO RENEW - JUST SEND AN E-TRANSFER TO:**

[muskratwatershedcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:muskratwatershedcouncil@gmail.com)

(Please put your name and email address in the message box so we can email your tax receipt.



# Septic Re-inspection Programs in Ontario

## A FOCA Report for Community Groups (2019)

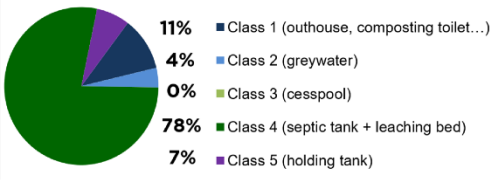
Ontario has 250,000 rural waterfront properties, and most rely on on-site wastewater treatment systems—also known as sewage systems or septic systems—to manage their household wastewater. FOCA initiated a project with partners to explore successes, challenges & lessons learned from existing municipal septic re-inspection programs across Ontario.

**Top take-away:** Education is key to successful sewage system management

### Re-inspection statistics about the state of sewage systems across rural Ontario:

(consult the report for data sources & full details)

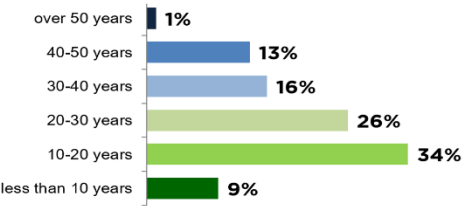
### Class of Sewage Systems: among a set of 1,000 re-inspections in 2018



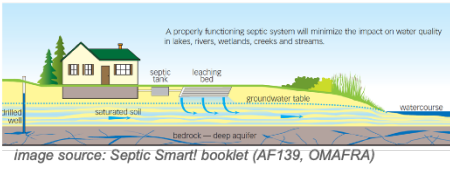
only **16%** of systems required a pump-out (solids over 1/3 of tank volume)

**3/4 of major deficiencies were found in systems 30+ years old**

### Age of Systems: among a set of 750 re-inspections in 2018



View the complete report online: <https://foca.on.ca/septic-systems>



### Municipal Case Studies:

- Township of Leeds & the Thousand Islands
- Municipality of Callander
- Township of Rideau Lakes
- Tiny Township

	Twp. of Leeds and the Thousand Islands	Municipality of Callander	Rideau Lakes Township	Tiny Township
Location (Counties)	United Counties of Leeds & Grenville (in eastern Ontario)	Adjacent to North Bay, on south-eastern shore of Lake Nipissing	Rideau Lakes (north of Perth, in western Ontario)	South shores of Georgian Bay
Population (2016)	9,405 (StatsCan)	3,863 (StatsCan)	10,207 (StatsCan)	11,787 (municipal residents)
% of Household sewage	5,576	250 properties, systems within 150 meters of a watercourse (freshwater)	2,258 (the entire township is privately-owned)	Total of 712 housing units, 49.9% are septic



### Project Research Partners:



## FACT SHEET



### INVASIVE SPECIES

Through the Docktalk program, FOCA encourages landowners to help prevent the spread of invasive species.

**WHY? To prevent the degradation of the lakeside environment, such as:**

#### **Hostile takeover: loss of habitat**

On land or in water, invasive species can move in and take over. Invasive plants monopolize land and nutrients, choking out native vegetation. Invasive animals compete with native species for food and space. Add fast reproduction to the equation and it's easy to see that invasive species can overwhelm an ecosystem in no time.

#### **Loss of native species and biodiversity**

Without key food sources and habitat, many species' populations plummet. If the takeover is hostile enough, invasives can cause the loss of native species in local areas. Some invaders are predators, diseases, or parasites that directly harm native species.

#### **Extremely difficult to get rid of**

Because invasive species are not native to the area, there are usually no natural forms of control such as predators or disease. And because they are fast reproducers, catching up to their spread and cutting it off is extremely difficult. Prevention is worth a ton of cure.

**If you find invasive species or think you have invasive species on your property**

**Call the invading species hotline at 1-800-563-7711**

or

**Visit [www.invadingspecies.com](http://www.invadingspecies.com)**

#### **Learn to recognize invaders**

Your first defence against invasive species is knowing what they look like and knowing the signs of an invasion. Find out what species could be moving into your lakefront uninvited and be ready with their eviction notices. For more information and before taking any steps, contact the invading species hotline.

---

***An invasive species is an exotic, or alien, species that negatively affects the environment (native species or an ecosystem), the economy, or society. Invasives tend to be hardy, fast at reproducing, and have no natural predators in their adopted homes.***

---

**Spread the word – but don't spread invasive species. Find out how ...**

---

Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations 201-159 King Street Peterborough, ON K9J 2R8  
Phone: (705) 749-3622 Fax: (705) 749-6522 Email: [info@foca.on.ca](mailto:info@foca.on.ca)

**[www.foca.on.ca](http://www.foca.on.ca)**

MUSKRAT WATERSHED COUNCIL		TREASURER'S REPORT - March 2022	
<b>Meeting Feb. 17th, 2021 - Scotia Account Balance</b>	<b>\$ 35,290.44</b>	<b>Business Chequing Account</b>	
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenses</b>	
2022 Membership donation	\$ 20.00	Scotia Monthly Fee	\$ (8.00)
2022 Membership donation	\$ 19.12	GLLAF Project Coordinator	\$ (449.59)
2022 Membership donation	\$ 120.00	E-Transfer Fee	\$ (1.00)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$159.12</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ (458.59)</b>
<b>Current Amount in Scotia Account</b>	<b>\$ 34,990.97</b>		
(Note: Float \$250.00)			
<b>Meeting Feb. 17th, 2021 - BMO Account Balance</b>	<b>\$ 7,623.69</b>	<b>SBCNA Charity Gaming Business Account</b>	
<b>Income</b>	-	<b>Expenses</b>	
March 2022 - SBCNA Charity Bingo Deposit	\$ 405.51		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 405.51</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Current Amount in BMO Account</b>	<b>\$ 8,029.20</b>		