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President's Message

What a difference a year makes. Last year at this time we'd had an unseasonably warm and dry spring followed by forest fires (and smoke) in northern Ontario and Quebec, which resulted in a near perpetual fire ban all summer, not to mention unpleasant smoke in the air for many weeks. This year has been cool and damp and as of this writing we have yet to have a fire ban other than the usual "no daytime fires" caution.

Keep your eye out for deer this summer! We seem to have an unusually high number of them wandering the property, sometimes with fawns in tow. If you're lucky, you may even see an occasional buck. We think they know they're safe on our property and so far, they're not doing any damage and are a treat to watch.

One of the major topics of interest last year was our landscaping, and the desire of many owners to improve the sightlines from the cottage porch to the lake. The Board has retained The Planning Partnership, a landscape architectural firm based in Toronto, to develop a detailed landscaping plan for both the short and long term. Most of the summer will be data gathering and conducting a site survey, so we expect to have something to report back to all owners in the autumn.

Our goal is to have a sustainable plan that promotes native plant and tree species and will not require intensive staff maintenance. While we wait for the report, the usual activities will continue, from thinning out (or removing) trees as appropriate and trimming back the fast-growing alders.

Cottage week selection sheets have been emailed out; if you haven't received yours yet, please contact Linda immediately. They are due back by Wednesday, July 10th. You will receive your final selections in mid-August.

There is lots of information in the newsletter – we hope that you have the time to read it all. In the meantime, if you have any questions at all please don't hesitate to contact the board at marcusbeachboard@gmail.com.

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Carefree
Shared Cottage
Ownership



Cottage News

Welcome

As we mentioned last fall, Brian McGroarty decided to fully retire after spending many summers helping out at Marcus Beach.



This year, we are happy to introduce Joe Lopez (pictured left) who will be assisting James Allison (right) with the summer maintenance.

Joe used to own his own small maintenance company and has already been helping out at Marcus Beach for several years. Please be sure to say hello to him when you see him this summer.

New Owner Orientation

One of the suggestions that came out of a previous owners' survey was to have an orientation for new owners to help them fully enjoy Marcus Beach right from the first day.

The Board thought this was an excellent suggestion and this year two Board members (Mary Gingrich and Barbara Metaxas) developed

an orientation program for new, incoming owners.

Conducted via Zoom, the orientation gives an overview of Marcus Beach and its amenities and also provides an opportunity to answer any questions new owners may have.

Recycling Shed

For some time now the three receiving sheds for our recyclables have been showing signs of age. They now require regular maintenance and in some cases the doors are difficult to operate, especially in the winter season.

The sheds have served us well, but we are now ready to announce a new approach!

Some time this summer (once the township finalizes the permit) you will see one large new walk-in building next to the office, sheltering you and the recycle bins from the wind and the weather. It will include windows, lighting and some much needed additional storage space.

We predict you will find it so inviting that every family member or guest

will anxiously volunteer to take that garbage run!

Once inside the recycle shed we ask you and your family members to carefully take note of the signage to ensure that all recycled items are deposited in the correct bin. There will be dedicated locations for folded cardboard and returnable beverage containers. Please do your part to keep this new facility organized and tidy.

The garbage dumpster will be relocated to beside the recycle building, so it will no longer be the first thing you see as you enter the property.

One of the old recycle structures is being re-purposed for a firewood storage shed, and materials from the other two structures will be salvaged for other purposes.

Save the Date 2025 AGM

Mark your calendars! The next AGM will be held on **Saturday, April 26th, 2025 from 10am to noon** via Zoom.



Photo courtesy of Ann Teschke



Cottage News

Farmer's Market

For any avid readers of the local Haliburton Highlander paper, you will know that there's been some intense negotiation between the town and the local farmers regarding the weekly summer market.

The town wanted to recoup some of the maintenance costs associated with cleaning up after the market, while the farmers believed they provide a service to the community and can't afford to increase the cost of selling their wares.

In the end, an amicable resolution was found, whereby each farmer at the market will contribute a flat \$5 donation to the city every week they attend. And the market is officially on!

For anyone who has never attended, the market is a lovely summer activity at Head Lake Park in Haliburton.

Local farmers and craftspeople sell everything from produce to baked goods, honey to jewelry. It's a great way to support industry as well as a fun morning in town.

The market runs every Tuesday from 10:00am to 2:00pm, from May 14 till October 8. Get there early!

Head Lake Park

After you've enjoyed the Market, parents and grandparents should head a little further into the park and discover a newly renovated play area for children which includes two new structures – a large climber for littler ones and a large wooden net area for bigger kids. And a children's zipline for all ages.

If you decide to stop by with your children, be prepared to stay awhile; it's a terrific play area.

Survey Reminder

The annual owners survey will be coming out in mid-July and stay open until the mid September.



When you receive the survey please do take a few moments to fill it out. The survey is an invaluable tool for the Board to get the pulse of what is on owners' minds.

Netflix?

Several owners have noticed that Netflix seems to have stopped working on our TV's. Please don't call Linda for a fix – this is a technical change that Netflix made during a recent upgrade, and declined to update the software on many TV's such as the ones at Marcus Beach.

Although a few owners have suggested that we replace the TV's,

that is not currently in the plan as the TV's are all working well (aside from not streaming Netflix).

So what to do? Here are a few suggestions on how to get to Netflix (or any other streaming service).

Amazon Fire Stick (or something similar)

These are widely available at any big electronics store. They come with two parts; one is a remote control, the other plugs into the HDMI port at the back of the TV.

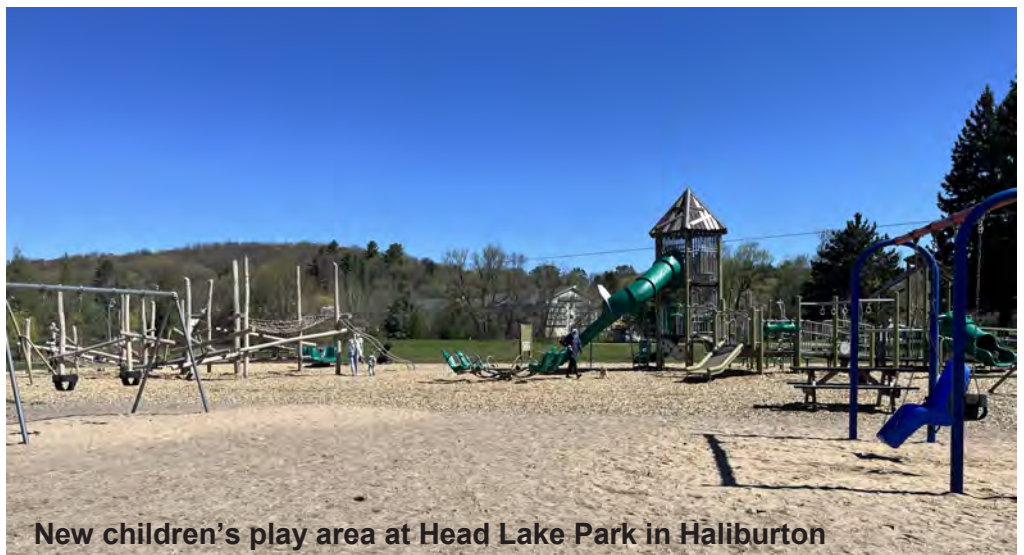
You may have to configure it the first time you use it, but after that, using this remote will give you access to any streaming services to which you subscribe.

External Device

You may have a laptop or other device that you can use to stream Netflix. It can be connected with an HDMI cable to the TV. You can then share your screen with the TV and watch your show there.

Casting

Your iPad or other device may have the ability to 'cast' to the TV. This can be easy but is highly dependent on the age/brand of your device.



New children's play area at Head Lake Park in Haliburton



Cottage News

Linda's Report

The last three cottages have now had their roofs re-shingled so that now completes the roof maintenance for at least twenty years (we hope).

During Spring Maintenance all the cottages had their carpets and living room furniture steam cleaned; blankets have been replaced where needed.

The Itty bitty library is being very well used; I have been keeping a close eye on it so it does not get too cluttered.

The bases of the fire pits near cottages 2 and 8 have been raised as a number of owners were concerned they were a hazard for young children.

Firewood boxes are full and ready for the summer. We have had a lot of rain, so we are hopeful we won't have too many fire bans.

We have added some new balls (basketball, volleyball and tetherballs) to replace worn equipment. All the boats and watercraft are in good shape.

Landscaping

In June we cut down several dead or dying trees between the cottages and Joes trail. Given some of the subsequent high winds we've experienced this summer, we are very glad we did!

The trees that we were removed were all put through a wood chipper and those wood chips have been spread out along the wetter sections of Joe's trail.



Photo courtesy of Melanie Duke

Check In / Out Times

At the AGM there were a few questions about the check in and check out times. Here is a quick reminder:

Cottages 1, 3, 4, 6, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17 and 19 have a check-in time of 2:45pm and a check-out time of 11:00 am.

Cottages 2, 5, 7, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18 have a check in-time of 6:00 pm and a check-out time of 2:45 pm.

Cottage 8 has a check-in time of 4:00 pm and a check out time of 1:00 pm.

All renters are required to check out **one hour earlier** than the above check out times.

Please don't try to check in before your posted check-in time. The staff need all the time available to fully prepare the cottage after the previous owner has checked out.

Resources

There is so much to see and do in Haliburton! Here are a few resources on the Internet to help you:

Highlander Newspaper:
[The Highlander](#)

Tourism site with suggestions:
[My Haliburton Highlands](#)

County of Haliburton official site:
[Haliburton County](#)

Hiking Trails:
[Haliburton Hiking Trails](#)

Dining Suggestions:
[Restaurant Ideas](#)

Garbage and Recycling
[Minden Recycling](#)

Fishing Information
[Zone 15 Regulations](#)