



Cottage News

August, 2025

Marcus Beach Cottage Owners Association

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President's Message

We have several new owners this year so, on behalf of all existing owners, a big welcome to Marcus Beach!

The summer cottage season is almost over and what a great year it turned out to be. If you like lots of sun while sitting on the porch or by the dock then the summer of 2025 was certainly wonderful.

Of course, this lack of rain is also a fire hazard so a reminder that as of this writing (August 26th) Haliburton County continues to impose a total fire ban. The fire ban includes any burning of any kind, day or night. The propane gas BBQ's at the cottage may continue to be used.

Last year a major focus was our landscaping planning. The issue is well documented and was discussed at some length at the AGM. This newsletter contains an update on the topic and the ongoing efforts to implement the landscaping plans.

The annual survey will be published shortly and we encourage everyone to take a few moments to complete the survey. This is your opportunity to make suggestions and share your thoughts about any aspect of the property.

The Board is beginning to compile a list of owners who are interested in becoming future Board members; more details can be found in one of the enclosed articles.

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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Landscaping Update

A summary of both short and long term landscaping plans were presented at the 2024 AGM. There are 19 separate plans presenting the planned view from each cottage porch to the lake which are available for download on the Owners Dock of the Marcus Beach website.

The goals of the study are:

- Improve views to the lake
- Reduce maintenance effort
- Encourage more species diversity - particularly within the goldenrod meadows
- Work towards a forest that is sustainable

The plans worked within the constraints of both local and provincial regulations and by-laws which dictate what can and cannot be done to trees and vegetation close to the shoreline.

The short and long term landscaping plans are complimentary and should be read in conjunction with other landscaping plans that have been conducted in the past that dealt with other aspects of our property (like erosion control).

All these plans are available on the website under the "Owners Dock" for those who are interested.

Progress to Date

Work began on cottages one to ten last fall. Trees were cut down or "limbed up" and the alders and goldenrod were trimmed back or removed entirely in some locations.

The original intent was to work on

cottages 11 to 19 this past spring but the weather was too wet - the machinery would have damaged our property (especially Joe's Trail).

The property only became dry enough to work on at the beginning of our busy summer season. Knowing the work is very loud (chain saws, woodchippers), the decision was made to begin again in September and October.

In the meantime, we are continuing to trim the alders that are in front of cottages as well as the goldenrod at those cottages where it has become a problem.

Going forward

Every year, with the assistance of the landscape architect, progress will be reviewed, assessed, and then continued to ensure that we are consistent with the long-term plan.

The landscaping plan is also not set in stone. If adjustments need to be made over time those changes will be made.

Save the Date 2026 AGM

Mark your calendars!

The next AGM of the Marcus Beach Cottage Owners Association will be held on **Saturday, April 18th, 2026 from 10am to noon** via Zoom.

Marcus Beach Board

Once again, a huge thanks to all owners who volunteer to help manage Marcus Beach. The 2025/26 board members are:

- Paul Geukers** (President)
- Stewart Dean** (Treasurer)
- Barbara Metaxas** (Secretary)
- Bruce Miller** (Operations)
- David Lee** (at Large)
- Mary Gingrich** (at Large)
- Lynne Gutteridge** (at Large)

A special thank you as well to all the owners who help out with the many special projects!





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Survey Reminder

The annual owners survey will be coming out shortly and stay open until the end of 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.

The results of the annual survey will be published in the next newsletter.

Board Volunteers

Over the next few years, several Board members will be stepping down so we are asking owners to consider volunteering for Board membership in the coming years.



There are seven positions on our Board and three are legally required: President, Secretary and Treasurer. Typically, an additional Board member takes on the role of Operations and is the main liaison with Linda regarding property maintenance and major capital projects.

The remaining three Board members are "At Large" and help with a variety of projects.

Recent examples include the creation of a "new owner" orientation presentation, overhauling the cottage binder, and creating a Marcus Beach Facebook site. There always seem to be interesting items to discuss.

Beyond these projects there are of course the issues of the day to deal with whether they be financial discussions, considering owner comments and suggestions, or issues that Linda brings forward seeking Board input.

We have Board meetings by Zoom every month (except for July and August). Meetings are typically 1-2 hours, depending on what is on the agenda. Once a year we all meet in person sometime during the Fall maintenance period.

If you are intrigued and would like to spend some time in helping improve our cottage community, please consider spending some time as a Board member.

We welcome both new and long-time owners. If you are interested, please send a note with your background and interest to:

marcusbeachboard@gmail.com

What's That Bird?

Have you ever sat on your deck or walked on Joe's Trail and wonder what kind of birds are doing all that singing?

I'm sure we all know what a robin, blue jay or chickadee sound like but there are many, many other birds that call Marcus Beach home.

There is a free app for IOS or Android phones that lets you record a bird song and the app will identify the bird!

The app works completely offline, so you can identify birds you hear no matter where you are.



Merlin®

The program is called Merlin Bird by Cornell Labs.

Fire Extinguishers

Every cottage is equipped with a fire extinguisher, mounted next to the kitchen window. But if you had a small fire in your cottage, would you know how to use it?

The Fire Department suggests using the acronym "PASS" to remember the steps.

- (P) pull the pin
- (A) aim the nozzle to the BASE of the fire
- (S) squeeze the handle to start the flow
- (S) sweep the nozzle from side to side until all flames are extinguished

If you use the fire extinguisher, please make sure to let Linda know so that it can be replaced.

If the fire is too big or is out of control, leave the cottage immediately and call 911.

The fire extinguishers are checked annually during our maintenance week and updated as necessary.

Let's hope you never have to use it!



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Photo courtesy of Melanie Duke

Linda's Report

It has been a very busy summer season! A few updates and reminders for owners:

Countertops

As you may recall, we have started replacing kitchen countertops. The next four cottages that will have theirs replaced during the Fall maintenance period will be cottages 1, 4, 11 and 13.

Occupancy

Just a reminder to please let me know if anyone other than an owner is using the cottage (whether that is a renter, friend or family member). Please also notify me if the cottage is going to be unoccupied for the week, as this provides an excellent opportunity to get some maintenance work done outside of the busy maintenance week.

Check-In Time

Please don't come to your cottage before your check in time! This year we had several owners show up not just a few minutes, but hours early. The cleaners and staff need

all possible time between the previous owner leaving and the next owner arriving to get the cottage ready. Please don't assume that if the cleaners are done, the cottage is ready for occupancy – we are doing work on it for the full three hours.

If you arrive early, please relax on the dock, or head into town for a snack. The cottage will be ready at your published check-in time – and if you've forgotten what that is, please drop me a quick note.

BBQs

This summer, we had fewer complaints about dirty BBQ's – thank you to all the owners for keeping them clean.

Kitchen

A quick reminder that last year, we cleaned out extra pots, pans, dishes, and other items from cottages and placed them in the Lost and Found bins in the basement.

Some of these items have made their way back upstairs and once more, I'm beginning to hear complaints.

Cleaners do not have the time to review the entire cottage inventory on every clean, so please remember to take your additional items to the basement. I understand people believe that everyone would appreciate your extra items, but that is often not the case. Please help out by keeping only MB items in the common areas.

Finally, if you see something that needs fixing or replacing, please either fill out a Cottage Action Sheet or drop me an email. There is no need to wait until your week is over – any time you notice something please let us know. I can be reached at:

marcusbeachmanager@gmail.com

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](#)

[Ice Fishing Regulations](#)