

November 26, 2024

To: UFRCA Members

From: Vic Paul, President

November Update from the President

Greetings and, to our American members, Happy Thanksgiving!

At the August 4th AGM, Amanda Mainville, Jenny Young, Victoria Little, Liliane Murdoch, Jamie Macdonald, Jon Lemke, Tim Murdoch, John Corbeil and Vic Paul were elected to be your Board of Directors for 2024/25.

At a Board meeting on October 7th, an election of Officers for UFRCA was held. The Officers for UFRCA for the coming year are:

President – Vic Paul

Vice President – Amanda Mainville

Treasurer – Jamie Macdonald

Secretary – Victoria Little

Key committee/Liaison leaders are:

Membership – Jenny Young

Environmental – Tim Murdoch

Dokis First Nation and FRSC Liaison – Amanda Mainville

West Nipissing Liaison and Land Conservatory – Jamie Macdonald

MNR and French River Park Liaison – John Corbeil

Before I provide further updates, I want to take a moment to recognize Amanda Mainville's contribution to UFRCA. A longtime member, she led the LPP water testing activities from 2010 to 2014. I want to acknowledge her leadership as President from 2019 to 2024. UFRCA almost collapsed during Covid and the year after. Her diligence and perseverance ensured that UFRCA survived and with a reenergized Board elected in 2023, lead the reengagement of UFRCA on critical issues and challenges that threatened the quality of life on the Upper French River. True to her love for the French River, Amanda will continue serve UFRCA as Vice President and as an important liaison with key communities in the coming year. Thank you, Amanda, for your contributions over the years.

Another glorious season on the French ended at the end of October. While we hibernate in our winter dens waiting for the ice to be off the River in the Spring, the Board will be focussing but not limited to, four initiatives over the next couple of years. Preservation of our Natural Resources, building stronger community relations, growth in membership

engagement and participation and building a robust communication process with and among members are the main focal points. There are a number of activities associated with each initiative and work on these has begun and will continue over the winter. An example is the work being done by the Environmental Committee on water testing. Watch for an update from this group that will be sent out on November 27th. As well, strengthening our liaisons with key communities continues, seeking ways to collaborate with them on mutually beneficial issues. Details to follow as they become available.

Water testing is an important activity that keeps everyone connected to water quality that is so crucial to sustaining our way of life on the River. We are seeking members to help with the testing process during the 2025 summer season. Please read the information in the Environmental Committee's November 27th update on how you can contribute.

We will be building a member's only section on our website. Initial work to set this up has started. More information to follow. We are continuing to work on the quality of our website and how to integrate into our communication process.

Recently, we were able to secure, at no cost, a nonprofit subscription to Microsoft Office 365. This will help the Board manage the affairs of UFRCA and enhance our communication with members.

Later in January, we will hold a video conference meeting with members where we will provide a mid-winter update on the progress on the various activities and seek your input on issues that are important to you. More information to follow.

Winter weather can be challenging. Stay safe and well!

Best regards to All,

Vic