



MACA NEWS

Serving property owners on Long, Negaunee, Wenona and Miskwabi Lakes

YOUR MACA EXECUTIVE

President: Peter Dilworth
Vice President: Andy Mosher
Treasurer: Virginia Vranckx
Secretary: Manny Lawson

Directors:
 Katarina Bassan (Webmaster)
 Steve Dyce (Fish Community)
 Dave Ewart (IT)
 John Ewing (Roads)
 Stephen Foster
 Tim Hagarty (Lake Steward)
 Bill Lester
 Phyllis McCulloch (Membership)
 MaryAnn McFeeters (Roads 636)

www.mymaca.net



Photo: Seagulls at Miskwabi Lake Island, by Susanne James

President's Message

Another cottage season has drawn to an end and we are all making sure our lawn furniture is tucked away and our water systems are winterized. This past summer proved to be a good one for MACA as we were able to return to a more normal schedule of events, including hosting the first ever canoe/kayak poker run which was well attended and lots of fun.



As you will read in our Lake Steward's report, this past summer MACA stepped up water quality testing and we will be testing our waters for the very first time in the winter. Also in this newsletter you'll find the winners from this year's photo contest.

The MNRF has brought forward proposed changes to fishing regulations that could materially affect fishing on our lakes. I would encourage all anglers to carefully read the summary of these proposed changes on page 6 of this edition of our newsletter.

The Municipal Elections held last month will bring change to Dysart et al's Council. MACA welcomes back Mayor Murray Fearrey as well as our new Counsellor, Nancy Wood-Roberts.

Be good and stay healthy.

Peter Dilworth, MACA President

2023 MACA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Spring Cleanup Day:

Sunday May 21

AGM:

Saturday, July 8
(Lunch to follow)

Canoe/Kayak Poker Run:

Saturday, July 22

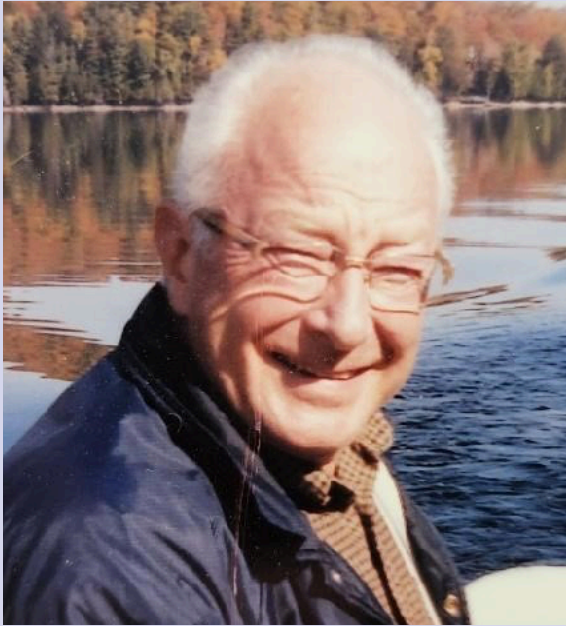
Photo Contest:

Entries by August 12

Wine and Cheese:

August 19th

MACA Remembers Haden Heathcock 1941 - 2022



It was with great sadness and heavy hearts that we learned about the passing of our friend and fellow MACA Executive Haden Heathcock on August 21st.

Haden was a long-term cottager on Miskwabi Lake. For more than 20 years he was an insightful and enthusiastic member of the MACA Board where he took on a leadership role in helping to preserve water quality. He was a faithful water tester for Miskwabi Lake. Haden loved the outdoors and was an expert canoeist. Haden had enjoyed a long and rewarding career teaching music at Lorne Park Secondary School in Mississauga where he directed many concert and stage bands while helping produce wonderful musicals.

Haden was a kind and respectful person who was liked and admired by all that knew him. He made many significant contributions to MACA and will be missed by our Miskwabi Lake community.

Thanks from the Loons

by Virginia Vranckx

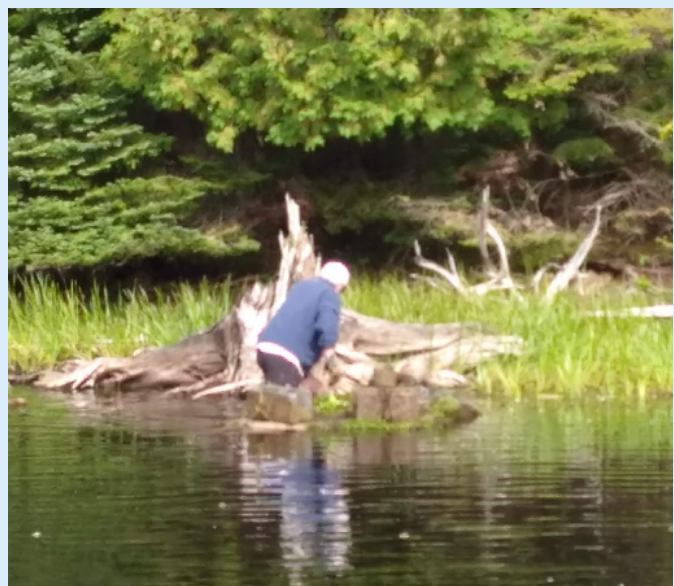
According to the reports from the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey (which MACA contributes to) more and more loon nesting is successful because the parents have found a floating platform to use and humans respect their need for privacy (i.e., NO close encounters and NO large boat wake).

Fluctuating water levels during the June incubation period can cause loons to abandon nests they have built on shore. Their legs are far back which helps make them excellent swimmers but lousy walkers.

For years we have had platforms on Miskwabi and Wenona Lakes, and floating caution signs on Miskwabi, maintained by local folks. The loons have benefitted from these efforts and helped our lakes reach an above average breeding success.

This year two baby loons were born on Wenona and have reached large adult size. The platform nest on Miskwabi was not as lucky. For an unknown reason the loons abandoned it in early June. However, a large young loon was spotted on the lake three weeks ago which had to have come from Long Lake as they cannot fly yet.

So three young loons will fly away southward from our lakes this November/December!



A volunteer repairing the loon nest on Miskwabi Lake

Wine and Cheese



Thanks to Michael Harrison and Kim Wilkinson for hosting this year's Wine and Cheese at their cottage on Miskwabi Lake. It was a wonderful day and a beautiful setting for the event. Close to 125 members attended. A good time was

had by all. Again MACA gathered donations of non-perishable food items for the Haliburton Food Bank.

Thanks Michael and Kim for being such great friends to MACA!




Ask a Master Gardener

Knowledgeable about all things green and growing in Zone 4, the Haliburton County Master Gardeners can give you quick advice on a gardening question. They can also visit your property, for a donation, to give you a more considered and detailed assessment and guidance about design, shoreline restoration, native plant and tree identification and assessment. Please contact coordinator@gmail.com and/or visit their website: www.haliburtonmastergardener.ca.

Directory of Native Plants for Your Property Including Shorelines

In this region we are blessed with many beautiful native plants, shrubs and trees. There are good reasons to maintain a backbone of native plants along with exotic ornamental plants acting as accents particularly along shorelines. Use the Master Gardeners' 75-page directory (see below) to identify the natives you have and others you may wish to plant. After you do this, go to the Buy Local page and find where you can purchase plants locally, and where you can buy large numbers of plants wholesale. Alternatively you might consider booking a property consult with the Master Gardeners who will identify and provide you with a list of the native plants on your property as well as providing you with a list of additional plants to augment what you have. To view or download the directory, go to: <https://www.haliburtonmastergardener.ca/resource/shoreline-restoration/>

Article based on notes from the



MEMBERSHIP CORNER

by Phyllis McCulloch, Membership Director



In January 2023 we will start our "Membership Renewal Process". It is important that we continue to have a strong and growing membership so we have the resources to continue our efforts to protect our lake waters and to host our many events throughout the summer.

Our on-line process through our new website is quick and secure. Watch out for the renewal information in January. We will again hold our "Early Bird Draw" with prizes drawn for at our AGM in July.

Just A Reminder - Keep your 911 Sign clear of snow so it is visible if emergency services are required at your property.

Lake Steward's Corner

by Tim Hagarty, Lake Steward



Fall has arrived and we have survived the summer! We completed comprehensive water testing of our 4 lakes in August and September. This included measuring dissolved oxygen levels and temperature profiles at various depths in our waters, testing for ammonia, water clarity, phosphorus, calcium, pH/ conductivity, nitrogen and micro-plastics. The results are not in yet but as soon as we receive and analyze them we will let you know. Not only will we have the results for our lakes, but we will be able to compare them to the other lakes tested, as 10 Lake Associations and a non-developed lake participated in this pilot program. Hopefully this will give us enough information to formulate plans for the future health of our lakes. We are anticipating a first ever winter testing program and of course will continue the testing next summer.

We also completed the Lake Partners water testing and in September sampled for Benthos Invertebrates as we continue to collect data about the health of our lakes.

We were very pleased to notice some shoreline planting this spring and summer and we continue to encourage all property owners to evaluate their shorelines and take the necessary action to protect them. See our website, under Lake Health, for ideas. Small things, like not cutting your grass down to the lake is a great start. Leave a 10 foot border to the lake and let it grow wild , add some deep rooted shrubs and you are on your way.

The Chinese Mystery Snail continues to be an issue in the Highlands, fortunately there have been no sightings on our lakes. If you take your boat from lake to lake or you know people that do so, please clean and dry your boat before setting out on the water, theirs and ours.

We are extremely fortunate to be on the headwaters of the Burnt River, with very little water entering our system from other lakes or rivers, so if we have water quality issues, we need to look in the mirror. Only together, can we keep our waters healthy.

Have a wonderful winter.

Treasurer's Report

by Virginia Vranckx, MACA Treasurer



Thanks to the many folks who renewed their membership this year, and to quite a few new ones, our total receipts for 2022 amounted to \$8340.00. Just about the same as last year.

MACA expenses were also in line with last year, currently totalling \$6134.00. In addition, we will soon receive invoices for the extensive water testing program on our four lakes that we are now involved in for the second year in a row (approx. \$2200.00 to come).

After this and a few other small expenses are paid, it is expected that our carryover will be in the order of \$6400.00, just about the same amount as we started the year with.

Thus MACA is in good financial shape to carry forward with our priorities in 2023. As a note, an increase in membership fees was discussed at the recent Board meeting but deemed unnecessary at this time.

Full financials will appear in the Winter Newsletter after our fiscal year end.

Enjoy the rest of the autumn season and thanks for joining MACA!

5th Annual MACA Photo Contest

We are pleased to announce the winning photos from MACA's 2022 Photo Contest. This year's theme was "Getting Back Together Again". We had 18 entries in total, including photos of getting together with family and friends, participating in cottage related activities and even furry friends getting together. Judging was completed at the MACA Wine and Cheese event. Here are the winning selections. Congratulations Tracey, Susanne, Dean and Madison. Check out our website for all the photos submitted.



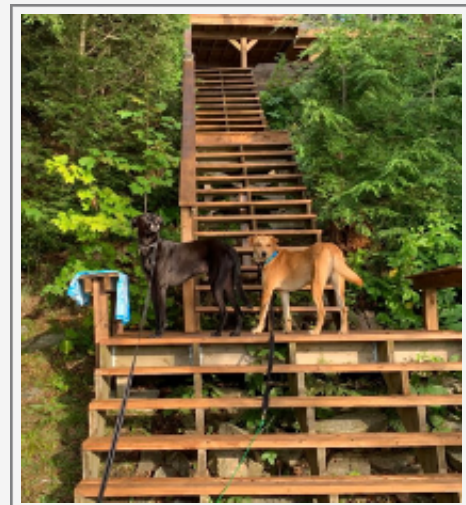
1st Fireside Fun, Tracey Borg



2nd Poker Paddlers, Susanne James



Tied 3rd Back Together - For the First Time on Miskwabi, Dean Wilmot



Tied 3rd Harley and Dante Reunited at Last, Madison Lee

Fish Community Update



By Steve Dyce

By all accounts, 2022 was a pretty successful fishing year. The fall fishing season is winding down and we are organizing our gear for storage, winterizing our boats and will wait patiently for spring/summer 2023. Others are preparing for the winter ice-fishing opportunities in and around the MACA area.

Whichever group you fall under, you should be aware of the new fishing regulations proposed for Fisheries Management Zone (FMZ) 15 - our area - that could come into effect as early as next season. A draft plan was recently put forward by the FMZ 15 Advisory Council and released at the end of September by the MNRF for public review and feedback no later than November 28th.

The 191 page Management Plan working draft pdf document can be viewed on the province's Environmental Registry of Ontario at <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-5715>. For those of you who are keen readers, you can also find the 309 page "Background Information" pdf document released in 2019 that examines the issues to be considered. Note that you can provide feedback directly on-line by clicking the 'submit a comment' button (requires you to register once you click the button) or by submitting written comments by mail - details on the ERO webpage noted above.

There are proposed changes to fishing seasons, catch limits, some minimum size restrictions, and live bait restrictions that affect many species including Bass, Lake, Rainbow and Brook Trout, Walleye, and Whitefish.

So what does this all mean for MACA lakes? As I read it, the biggest change affects lake trout fishing on Miskwabi and Long Lakes which are considered small natural producing lakes under 500 hectares.

The proposed regulations for Lake Trout will see the season change to the 3rd Saturday in May to Labour Day and minimum size of 40 cm (page 153/154 of draft) with licence limits of Sport (2) and Conservation (1). This means no ice fishing for Lake Trout on Miskwabi/Long. For any nearby larger lakes >500 hectares there is still a proposed ice fishing season but shortened to the Saturday before Family Day to the 3rd Sunday in March, with only 1 line allowed. Bass season will open one week earlier (3rd Saturday in June) and extend to December 15th. No changes are proposed to Panfish or Pike.

While the proposed regulations introduce substantial changes for Lake Trout fishing, these new regulations are developed based on scientific analysis and recognize that climate change, which is causing warmer water temperatures and less oxygen, is impacting Lake Trout populations.

If you want your opinion heard, please visit the ERO site noted above and start reading. Remember that feedback closes November 28th. I will provide updates when available.

Some final thoughts. For all those who fish on our lakes, please be aware of the fishing regulations and licence requirements. Remember to take all precautions to ensure invasive species do not enter our lakes. Finally - after this summer's unfortunate incident where a kingfisher was found ensnared in a discarded fishing line/hook in a tree and - despite great efforts by Brian Burnett to get the bird to proper care - eventually succumbed to its injuries, please retrieve your snagged lines and dispose of used line/hooks properly - not on our shores or in our lakes. The impact on our wildlife can be devastating.



There is a charitable organization in Haliburton County that you may not have heard of, but that impacts hundreds of residents every day. SIRCH Community Services is an innovative and fluid organization that focuses on reducing poverty, creating resilience and encouraging connection. Starting in 1989, SIRCH incubated and divested several services that county residents now take for granted, (such as adult mental health services and community hospice). Then it turned its attention to how it could level the playing field for residents who were struggling with food security, unemployment, isolation, and other factors that influence general health and wellbeing.

Today, SIRCH provides free nutritious meals (47,000 portions just since the pandemic) through its Community Kitchen program. It offers training, also free, in basic carpentry, food service and other skills that are needed by employers in Haliburton County. It provides low cost furniture, clothing, electronics and more through the Thrift Warehouses in Haliburton and Bancroft, and also donates household items to families who have been homeless, burned out or have fled an abusive relationship and are starting over.

This summer, SIRCH created resilience in over 80 children who were entering or were in junior kindergarten. School's Cool, a program created by SIRCH, increases critical developmental skills that aid in the chances of those children being successful in school.

SIRCH encourages moms who are feeling the pressure of raising young children to join their peer support and parenting groups. Seniors feel less isolated through SIRCH programs like Memories to Life and The Community Table. The Bistro and Bakery offer affordable food and a welcoming place to connect, with any profits going back into SIRCH.

You can help SIRCH and help your community!

- Volunteer for one of their programs.
- Renovating or updating your space? Donate the things you no longer need to the Thrift Warehouse.
- Visit the Bistro & Bakery and dine in or take home some delicious meals and treats.
- Sponsor a program (they would love to hear your ideas!)
- Contribute to SIRCH's Gifts from the Heart campaign this fall or visit their website to donate monthly.

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members." - Coretta Scott King

To get in touch with SIRCH or to donate, go to www.sirch.on.ca or call 705-457-1742.



Article based on notes from the

Reporting Road Problems

The Municipality of Dysart has a new web portal to track road problems and concerns. If residents, both full time, and part time, need to contact Dysart Roads, it must be through Dysart's new web page portal. Apparently, all concerns are processed daily through the website address noted below.

The web site is <https://www.dysartetel.ca/en/municipal-government/report-a-concern.aspx>

Winter Driving Tips



1. Create a 'survival kit' with gloves, booster cables, shovel, windshield fluid and first aid kit
2. Carry sand
3. Check weather and road conditions often
4. Keep a safe distance behind snow plows
5. If you don't have them, get winter tires
6. Slow down and give yourself extra travel time
7. Clear snow and ice from your vehicle
8. Wear comfortable clothes
9. Keep a full gas tank
10. Travel with a fully-charged cellphone
11. Avoid using cruise control on slippery roads
12. Learn to recover from a skid

[Based on files from CBC News]

Careful when Hiking During Hunting Season

Each autumn brings another hunting season to Haliburton. This year's gun-hunting seasons in our area will end on November 20th. During this time of year keep walks and hikes to main roads. Remember to wear your "hunter orange" clothing, pets too. There are additional seasons for bow-hunting and for other species. For complete details visit <https://www.ontario.ca/files/2022-08/mnrf-2022-hunting-regulations-summary-en-2022-08-11.pdf>



Protecting the land we love
for future generations

MISSING


Have you seen these 'Lost' Ladybugs?

Two 'Lost Lady Beetles'— if you find one - WE WANT TO KNOW ABOUT IT!



Nine-Spotted Lady Beetle
Look for 4 black spots on each side, plus one split down the middle.







Transverse Lady Beetle
Look for 4 long black spots, plus a black band across the top.

These native Lady Beetles, once common in Ontario, are now endangered and HHLT is looking for them this summer.

Two not 'lost', but very rare Lady Beetles, if you find one - WE WANT TO KNOW ABOUT IT TOO!



Two-Spotted Lady Beetle
Easily recognized by the one spot on each side.



Parenthesis Lady Beetle
Instead of spots, look for 2 paired marks that look like Quotations marks.


If you think you see any of these Lady Beetles take a picture (from several angles if possible), with notation of location found, then post on iNaturalist "Lady Beetles of Haliburton County" project or email, along with your contact information to admin@haliburtonlandtrust.ca

Nine-spotted and Transverse Lady Beetles are species at risk (SAR) in Ontario and HHLT is trying to help! We will be searching our own properties and we are hoping you will help by becoming a Citizen Scientist and help sleuth on our behalf in your backyards or along your favourite hiking trails.


These beauties are not picky about their habitat, as long as they have food (like aphids). They will live in farm fields, meadows, forest edges, clearings, backyards and gardens.....so please keep your eyes open!

Even though tiny, they play an unique role in the food web ecosystem. Each time a species disappears the food web gets weaker. We need to keep the web strong to support all life on Earth, including humans!

Not to be mistaken for these impostors



Multicoloured Asian Lady Beetle
Can come in different colours, but always has too many or too few spots. Common non-native, often invades houses.



Seven-spotted Lady Beetle
Yes - not the correct number of spots. Unfortunately very common, but invasive.

Photos obtained under Creative Commons licenses. Credits: Nine-spotted-Rebecca Ray, Jason Headley; Transverse—Lon&Queta; Two-spotted—urjsa; Parenthesis-Blain Perrick; Asian and Seven-spotted-Oregon Department of Agriculture.

Funding for this project was provided by the Government of Ontario

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