



# MACA NEWS

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

## YOUR MACA EXECUTIVE

**President:** Peter Dilworth

**A/Vice President:** Steve Dyce

**Treasurer:** Virginia Vranckx

**Secretary:** Stephen Foster

### Directors:

Katarina Bassan (Webmaster)

Dave Ewart (IT)

John Ewing (Roads)

Tim Hagarty (Lake Steward)

Manny Lawson (Community Research)

Bill Lester (Long)

Phyllis McCulloch (Membership)

MaryAnn McFeeters (Roads 636)

Andy Mosher (Past President)

[www.mymaca.net](http://www.mymaca.net)



Photo: Fall for Fall, by Katarina Bassan

## 2024 MACA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### **Spring Cleanup Day:**

Sunday May 19

### **AGM:**

Saturday, July 6th

### **Canoe/Kayak Poker Run:**

Saturday, August 10th

### **Photo Contest:**

Entries by August 17th

### **Wine and Cheese:**

Saturday, August 24th

## President's Message

Greetings to all of our Members! As we conclude another cottage season, I hope you were able to enjoy the wonderful fall colours this year.

This past year we were pleased to hold several events including a very successful wine and cheese get together hosted at Mike Harrison and Kim

Wilkinson's beautiful cottage. At that event we all voted for the winners of MACA's photo contest - see page 4 for the winning photos.

Next year we will be celebrating MACA's 50th Anniversary - a special accomplishment for sure. Thanks to all of our members for your unwavering support and to all the volunteers who put in hundreds of hours to keep MACA thriving.

Finally, your MACA Executive are in the process of updating our bylaws to conform with the new Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act. We will be looking to get them approved at next year's AGM.

Be good and stay healthy.

*Peter Dilworth, MACA President*



## MACA's Wine & Cheese



Many thanks to Michael Harrison and Kim Wilkinson for again hosting MACA's Wine and

Cheese at their cottage on Miskwabi Lake. It was a beautiful day. It was a great opportunity to socialize with friends and neighbours. A record setting number of members attended. It was fantastic to see so many young adults helping out. Thanks so much to Jenna, Paul, Dylan, Amanda, Tara, Ben and of course Paul and Michael C.

Again MACA gathered donations of non-perishable food items and monetary contributions for the Haliburton Food Bank.

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

## ***Dysart Endorses the Cell Tower on Wenona Lake Rd.***

The proposed 60 metre cell tower on Wenona Lake Road received council's approval in September. This initiative is part of the Eastern Ontario Regional Network's 'close the gap' project designed to improve connectivity for 99% of residents in our region. While it is likely that the tower will have lights, Rogers has promised to install shields to limit the impact on our nights skies. Before construction can begin on the tower, the project requires approval from the department of Innovation, Science and Economic Development.



Simulation of the Cell Tower from Wenona Lake Road

## ***Dysart Council Is Considering Whether to Amend the Official Plan and Zoning Bylaws to include Shoreline Structures***

At its October 24th meeting Dysart Council expressed a desire to allow limited structures in the waterfront setback. Apparently the volume of complaints about existing non-compliant shoreline structures (e.g., sheds, saunas, etc.) is so large that Council is looking at the solution of just changing the bylaws to allow these structures. It is noteworthy that this type of change would represent a significant departure from the current Official Plan which is focussed on protecting lake health and ensuring lakes have natural shorelines. Nevertheless, Council has asked the Director of Planning to work from the least restrictive similar bylaws in the County (those of Highlands East) and bring a proposal back to the November 28th meeting. While it is still early in the development process, we can only assume that a change of this magnitude will require public consultation - stay tuned.

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

**by Phyllis McCulloch, Membership Director**



In January, we will be sending out the information regarding renewing your MACA membership for 2024. Be sure to watch for that e-mail notification in the new year.

2024 is the 50th Anniversary of MACA and we are planning to have T-shirts and hats available to purchase. More details to follow.

## Treasurer's Report

**by Virginia Vranckx, MACA Treasurer**



As MACA's financial year-end approaches the association continues to be able to achieve its goals due to the continuing support of all its members. This year membership revenue is \$8220.00.

Like elsewhere, we experienced an increase in some of our expenses. Memberships in the Coalition for Equitable Waterflow, The Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners Association, and the Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association were up slightly, totalling \$1376.00. This was mostly due to the fact they must now charge HST. Our insurance expense was up only slightly at \$1546.00. Contribution to the cost of the Wine and Cheese was \$1500.00. Our spring membership drive which included mailing of the Spring Newsletter to all area property owners was \$1138.00. Over 90% of members join thru the website, increasing credit card fees to \$251.33. Other expenses were in line with last year and in total expenses so far are \$8189.00.

We have yet to pay the invoices for water testing which should amount to just over \$2400.00.

Even with this level of spending we anticipate a year-end bank balance of over \$4000.00. Exact financials will be published in the Winter Newsletter.

As a note, we are working on changes needed to be in compliance with the new Ontario regulations governing Not-for-Profit organizations. This may impact our financial procedures and reporting for the next fiscal year.

Thanks for your continued support!

## Lake Steward's Corner



**by Tim Hagarty, Lake Steward**

We are pleased to tell you that we received the results of our latest water testing and the results are in line with expectations. The next step is to take the results of all 5 tests done over the last 2 years and correlate the results to see if we have any trends worth noting, more to come.

I attended a seminar on Harmful Algae Blooms last week with the following takeaways on possible causes of these blooms.

Phosphorus is and will continue to be a major cause of Algae Blooms. We did have some high readings on Wenona Lake earlier this year so we, meaning all of us, must do everything we can to reduce phosphorus entering our lakes. See our website for ideas.

Reduction or loss of Zooplankton can be a cause of Algae Blooms. This can be accomplished by:

1. Loss of Natural Shoreline - need I say more here!
2. Spiny Water Fleas (SWF) - an Invasive Species, love to consume Zooplankton. They have been found in lakes in Haliburton, some close to our water bodies. They are introduced by boats from other lakes containing SWF's not properly cleaned before entering our lakes.
3. Road Salt - all our Municipally maintained roads use road salt in the winter. There are studies ongoing to try and reduce/eliminate the use of road salt. Please remember, that if you must use road salt on your walkways, some of it will end up in our lakes, so be as stingy as you can.

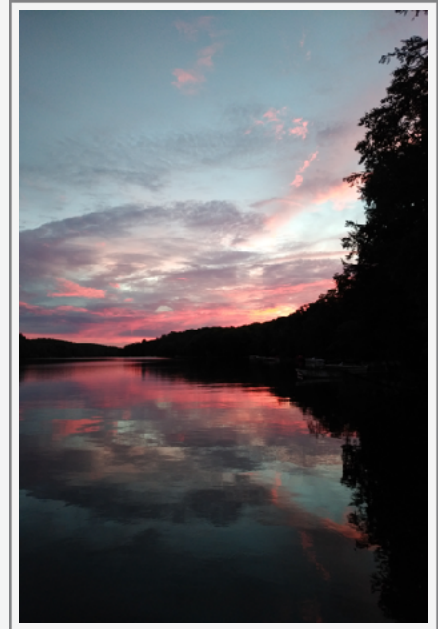
Once we review all the water testing numbers we will let you know if we are seeing any troubling trends. We will also consider Invasive Species testing again, but testing for Invasive Species is like shutting the barn door after the horses have left ... once they are here, they are not leaving, so please follow the cleaning process if you are moving boats etc. from another lake.

## MACA Photo Contest Winners

We are pleased to announce the winning photos from MACA's 2023 Photo Contest. We had over 30 entries in total, including photos of adorable children and pets, wildlife, sunsets and of our beautiful lakes. Judging was completed at the MACA Wine and Cheese event. Here are the winning selections. Congratulations Roman, Dave, Connie and Erica. Check out our website for all the photos submitted.



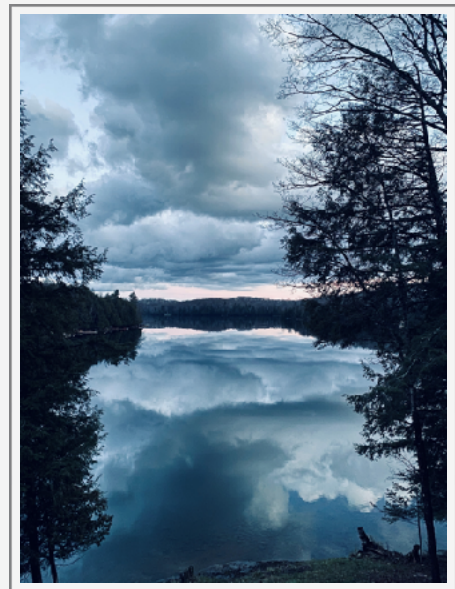
**1st** *New Year's Morning, Roman Elinson*



**Tied 3rd** *Sunset on Long Lake, Connie Lester*



**2nd** *Miskwabi Magic, Dave Westbrook*



**Tied 3rd** *Wenona Reflections, Erica Masters*

## Don't Kiss your Ash Goodbye

Our trees and lakes are suffering from low levels of Calcium in the soil, the lasting impact of decades of acid rain. The lack of calcium is slowing down the growth and harming the health of our trees when we need them most.

### Spreading your own ash = Healthier trees that

- Grow bigger and faster
- May be able to remove more carbon from the air, having a positive impact on climate change
- Increase their transpiration - with the potential to reduce the impact of spring flooding
- Will be more resistant to blowdown in storms and to forest fires, because there is less standing dead wood



### Here is the scientific data

One 750 gram yogurt-type container filled with ash will restore the calcium lost in one square metre of land. (That's the same as 4 tonnes per hectare.)

### What else do I need to know to spread my ash?

- Only use clean ash. Do not burn metallic foil, plastic products, pressure-treated wood, construction waste or wood that may contain chemical preservatives, insecticides, glue, nails, staples, other metals or paint.
- Allow your wood ash to cool completely - for several days before spreading. Hot ash is a real fire risk.
- Rake the ashes to ensure there are no non-ash items.
- Keep your ash dry until you are ready to spread it.
- Wear a mask, gloves and long clothing when spreading ash.
- Spread it in a location that you can keep people and pets away from for a couple of days. Any forested area is good as is property surrounding your trees.
- Only apply ash to each location once. Research suggests that one application, is enough to replace 50 years of calcium depletion caused by acid rain.
- Spring, summer and fall are all good times of year for spreading ash. Avoid spreading in areas near surface water.
- No trees on your property? Offer your ash to your neighbours and friends

### Fun Fact

If we could spread ash on all the forests in Eastern Canada it would have the same Climate impact as planting 1 billion new trees.

Sources - this article is based on years of research by the Friends of the Muskoka Watershed (FOTMW) in cooperation with Trent University. For more info and to support FOTMW visit <https://fotmw.org/>. If you are adding ash and restoring your forest, please let FOTMW know by emailing [spencer@fotmw.org](mailto:spencer@fotmw.org) !

Article from the



## Reducing Microplastics Consumption

A recent study shows that we inhale approximately a credit card's worth of plastic each week. This is an alarming fact to be sure, as the impact of microplastics on the human body is still largely unknown. Microplastics are now starting to show up in our lakes. It begs the question: how can we reduce our interaction with microplastics when there is so much plastic all around us?

**Avoid Sealing Food In Plastic** - Plastic-covered items have long been associated with sterile environments; however, Saran Wrap and other single-use utensils, have been attributed to higher levels of microplastic ingestion. You can reduce the amount of microplastic you ingest by avoiding single-use utensils and plastic water bottles. To explore alternatives, you can look into travel utensils or beeswax food wraps - check this link to make your own [DIY Beeswax Food Wraps](#)

**Avoid Heating Plastic** - When plastic is heated, it breaks down into microplastics at a higher rate, meaning that plastic-lined containers for hot beverages, or even food-grade nylon designed specifically for baking, can all increase the amount of microplastics that we ingest.

**Surround Yourself with Natural Textiles** - By surrounding yourself with natural fibres, you can dramatically decrease not only the amount of plastic you consume but also the amount of plastic you are putting directly into the water when you wash your clothes. However, natural textiles will still shed chemically treated microfibres into the watershed unless they are filtered out. Click this link for [Microfiber Washing Machine filters](#).

**Avoid Dust-Filled Environments** - It is commonly said that household dust is approximately 20-50% human skin. If that isn't enough to give your surrounding area a quick clean, it turns out that dust also contains quite a lot of microplastics as well. One of the simplest solutions to avoiding microplastic may be to simply limit the amount of time you spend in dusty environments, by dusting more often with natural cleaners or limiting the amount of carpeting in your home.

It looks like microplastics are all around us, and it is easy to find the information overwhelming. However, one of the best solutions is to inform yourself of the issue and alternatives, so you can make educated choices about how you want to interact with your surroundings.

Adapted from an article by Georgian Bay Forever <https://www.georgianbayforever.org/> and input from the



**MACA is looking for volunteers to help organize events or to join our board. If you are interested please contact us at [miskwabiareacommunityassoc@gmail.com](mailto:miskwabiareacommunityassoc@gmail.com)**