



MACA NEWS

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

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

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Steve Dyce (Fish Community)
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John Ewing (Roads)
Stephen Foster (Negaunee)
Tim Hagarty (Lake Steward)
Bill Lester (Long)
Phyllis McCulloch (Membership)
MaryAnn McFeeters (Roads 636)

www.mymaca.net



Mist Across the Wetlands, Photo by Susanne James

2023 MACA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Spring Cleanup Day:

Sunday, May 21st

AGM:

Saturday, July 8th

Canoe/Kayak Poker Run:

July 22nd

Photo Contest:

August 12th

Wine and Cheese:

August 19th

President's Message



Greetings everyone.

Spring is finally here!! I look forward to seeing everyone around the lakes as the weather warms, and hope to see you at the Spring Clean-up Day in May and/or at our AGM in July.

MACA is doing some spring cleaning on our by-laws and governance practices to bring them in line with the updated Ontario Not-for-profit Corporations Act (ONCA) regulations. We hope to bring these to next year's AGM to get approved by our membership.

If you have not already renewed your MACA membership, please consider doing so ASAP. You can renew online by visiting www.mymaca.net and clicking on the "Membership" link.

Also, if you are interested in volunteering with MACA or running for a spot on our board, please connect with me.

I hope you find this newsletter informative and that you all enjoy another wonderful cottage season in our little corner of paradise.

Peter Dilworth, MACA President

MINDING LAKE HEALTH IS YEAR-ROUND



The Threat of Spring Runoff

During Spring, melting snow and stormwater runoff make their way to the lake, carrying pollutants and nutrients that raise phosphorus levels.

High phosphorus levels trigger excessive algal growth that leads to blue-green algal blooms.

Limiting phosphorus loads is the key to keeping our lakes healthy.

How you can protect your lake from runoff...

- **Maintain a natural shoreline**
- **Keep your septic pumped/healthy**
- **Pick up dog droppings**
- **Avoid using fertilizer**
- **Refrain from mowing grass**
- **Dispose of construction waste properly**

By Jeannette Brumell

Spring is the Time of Year for Planting

Planting native flowers, grasses, bushes and trees along your shoreline has been scientifically proven to help buffer our lakes from unwanted nutrients related to human activities at our cottages and along our cottage roads.

The Love Your Lake program MACA sponsored back in 2018 highlighted that the MACA lakes have insufficient natural shorelines to provide the protection needed to avoid algae blooms and other undesirable consequences from contaminants entering our lakes. We need more natural vegetation along our shorelines.

Watersheds Canada at <https://watersheds.ca/> can help. Check out their Guide to Preparing a Shoreline Naturalization Planting Plan. This step-by-step guide can help you plan, assess and buy plants to maintain a natural buffer. The Watersheds Canada website also covers such topics as mitigating impacts of climate change, learning about your shore's zones, and protecting wetlands.

Haliburton Master Gardeners at <https://www.haliburtonmastergardener.ca/> is an excellent source of information about plants for our area and where to buy them.

Another great resource is Abbey Gardens at <https://abbeygardens.ca/shoreline/>. They have programs and garden kits to help get you started developing your natural shoreline.





Lake Steward's Corner

by **Tim Hagarty, MACA Lake Steward**

Spring is here and I am excited to tell you that we will continue our extensive water quality

testing starting this month and another round in the Fall. Once completed, we will have two years worth of expanded data (including winter testing results) which will be a great start to building a data base to monitor our lakes' health. To date, the only thing of serious note, is the Wenona Lake phosphorous levels, which we have seen spike to well above normal levels. We will be following this very closely this year.

MACA is dedicated to ensuring the quality of the water in our lakes, but, we need everybody pitching in to ensure that WE are ALL part of the solution, not part of the problem. Although we have seen some remediation work on shorelines there is still more work to be accomplished. Have a look at your shoreline and perhaps you could "let it grow wild"! For those on Wenona, we know that all septic systems have been inspected, so if remediation work is required, please have the work done. It is our understanding that the Municipality will be seriously following up on all outstanding remediations this summer. Poor septic systems are the main cause of phosphorous loading and a main cause of algae blooms. Note also that septic inspections will be conducted on our other lakes this summer.

We are looking for a volunteer to host MACA's Wine and Cheese event scheduled for August 19th. If interested please email peter.dilworth@sympatico.ca



Help us pick up litter and debris from our roadways

Sunday, May 21st 11AM

Jerry Strickland Boat Ramp, Miskwabi Lake

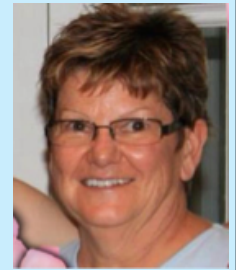
Refreshments and munchies will be available.

Don't forget your sunscreen, bug spray and gloves.

All year - To help keep our lakes, forests and roadsides clean, please encourage everyone not to pitch bottles, bags, cups and butts. Too often we find bags of household trash tossed from vehicles on the "going-out" side of the road. We all need to use the landfill.

MEMBERSHIP Update

By **Phyllis McCulloch, Membership Director**



Thanks to all of you who have renewed your 2023 Annual Membership. I'm sure you will agree that doing the on-line renewal makes things so much easier for everyone!

It will be exciting to see who wins the "EARLY BIRD" draw prizes at the AGM in July.

With so many things happening these days that we need to be aware "Now" and not later, it makes sense to join our association so we can get information out quickly.

We are hoping to get the "Member Stickers" on our signs soon. If by chance your sign was damaged, please let me know so that we can put a new one up at the same time we are out with the stickers.

I look forward to seeing you and meeting NEW Members at one of our events.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me. You can send a note to me at phyllismcculloch2@gmail.com or call and leave a message for me at our cottage 705-457-1901.

Treasurer's Report

by Virginia Vranckx, MACA Treasurer



Thanks to the many folks who have renewed or recently joined MACA. Our association's financials are in great shape to tackle our project list for 2023 and to enjoy planned social events.

As our fiscal year starts in November we opened the year with \$6759 in the bank. Add \$6090 to that for membership fees received to date and deduct \$834 for current expenses. So far we have paid our 2023 membership for the Coalition of Haliburton Cottagers' Associations (\$70), sent prize money for the 2022 Photo Contest (\$50), renewed our Squarespace fee which is the way most folks pay their memberships (\$495), and bank and credit card fees (\$219). The Squarespace fee is an annual one so as more members join the percentage of expense to the total revenue will go down.

As I write this on April 25, MACA has \$12,015 in the bank.

Looking forward to seeing everyone this summer!

Angler's Corner

By Steve Dyce, Fish Community Director



As the 2023 fishing season gets underway, I wanted to share some tips and reminders for those of you who enjoy fishing in our lakes.

1) Lead Fishing Tackle: Most commonly in the form of sinkers and jig heads, lead can be harmful to anglers, our waters, and wildlife including loons. According to Environment Canada, more than 500 tonnes of lead tackle is purchased each year in Canada, and more than 50 tonnes is lost while fishing, where it can be mistakenly consumed by waterfowl or other aquatic animals.

Consumption of lead sinkers/jigs is considered the single most important cause of death for adult Common Loons in eastern Canada and US. That in itself should be a wake-up call. You can help by trying to reduce snags, retrieve snags, use heavier test line when fishing with sinkers/jigs, and consider using non-lead sinkers and jigs. Tungsten is most common alternative. Most tackle shops have a small selection. And your old lead tackle is considered hazardous waste, so dispose of it accordingly.

2) Baitfish and Invasive Species: In 2022, Ontario implemented new baitfish regulations that prohibit importing of baitfish across newly developed Bait Management Zones (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontarios-sustainable-bait-management-strategy-2020>). In our case we are in the central zone which coincides with our Fishery Management Zone 15, so it's pretty easy. Buy baitfish locally, which is good for the local economy, and please do not bring any baitfish from the GTA or other areas outside our zone. And never dump your unused bait into a lake or river. Dispose in garbage and drain containers and bilges at least 30m from shore. Unfortunately this is the most likely way pike were introduced to Long and Miskwabi Lakes 20 years ago.

3) Catch and Release: Practise good techniques so that released fish have a high chance of survival. Minimal handling of fish before releasing back gently into the water will maximize the chance of continued survival.

4) Proposed Changes to FMZ 15: Nothing has been finalized as the MNRF are still considering the overwhelming feedback received. Look for any changes to come into effect in 2024 - or later.

Let's all enjoy the 2023 season - and don't forget to renew your licence/outdoors card if needed!



6th Annual MACA Photo Contest

Submit your Favourite Photo from the Cottage

- To enter go to <https://www.mymaca.net/events>, complete the application form, including a short description of the picture or a title, your name and local property address.
- Email your entry with the attached JPEG to MACAPhotoContest@outlook.com by Aug 12th.
- We will accept all jpg or pdf files
- Winners will be announced in the Fall Newsletter
- Prizes for each category: 1st \$30; 2nd \$20; 3rd \$10

♦ By submitting a photo you give us permission to use it in MACA's newsletters and/or website.

Donate to the Head Lake Park Playground



The Head Lake Park Fundraising Committee is still looking for contributions to the Playground. Their vision is to curate a destination playground that is inclusive and accessible. The play ground will include a jungle gym, log climbing structure, 100-foot zip line, and other play areas such as seesaws, a merry-go-round. There will also be an accessible area. To donate, visit gofund.me/1261a383.

2023 Septic Inspection Program comes to Long, Negaunee & Miskwabi



The program will run from May 15th, 2023 through to September 1st, 2023 on a Monday to Friday Schedule. All inspections, whether completed by Municipal Inspectors, or by Third Party Inspectors are to be completed by September 1st, 2023. Property owners in the affected area have all been notified of their inspection date, preparation details, etc. via letter mail. Owners will be invoiced an inspection fee of \$197/inspection. More information can also be found on Dysart’s website at www.dysartetal.ca/septicinspection.

Haliburton & Dysart et al News

Shoreline Preservation By-law

The Municipality is not going to implement the County’s Shoreline Preservation By-law, but instead do something on its own. This is disappointing, because the County’s by-law introduced protections not just for trees but also for other types of vegetation in the critical buffer zone surrounding our lakes. The Municipality’s current approach will focus on a new Site Alteration By-law and strengthening enforcement of existing bylaws, like the Shoreline Tree Preservation By-law. MACA representatives attended a consultation meeting held by the Building Department in West Guilford . There were approximately 30 participants at that meeting, mostly landscapers and contractors. The plan would be to introduce the new by-law as well as stronger enforcement measures by the fall.

Regulating Short-Term Rentals

The County continues to examine options to regulate short-term rental accommodations. The structure that is currently being considered consists of two bylaws: a registration bylaw and a licensing bylaw. In February staff were asked to seek a legal opinion on the functionality of these two proposed by-laws.

Minden ER is Closing

Effective June 1st, 2023 the Minden Emergency Department will be closing.

Springtime on the Water

Boating in spring can be dangerous. Watch for floating logs.

When waters are high, please watch your wake - a normally harmless boat wake may cause havoc in high-water conditions.

If you find your dock has floated away this spring, let MACA know as we can help you locate it.

Also it is against the law to set an old dock adrift or to leave it on a vacant shoreline or at a boat launch.

Cancer is a Solitary Journey That We Cannot Do Alone: *The Abbey Retreat Centre*

"On this journey of cancer, you meet people who have such a huge impact on your life. Abbey Retreat Centre gave me the tools and knowledge to help me navigate this experience I am in. Most importantly, I was blessed to be surrounded by people who made me feel like I matter." Program Participant

Located in the Haliburton Highlands, Abbey Retreat Centre is a cancer-support centre that creates healing spaces and a safe and loving community for individuals with cancer and their loved ones. Our unique and innovative programs care for the body, mind and spirit of a person wherever they may be in a cancer experience. Offered at no cost to participants, programming is made available through the expertise and generosity of a community of passionate facilitators, volunteers, staff and donors.

In-person retreats and online programs are led by a caring and highly skilled team of practitioners, many of whom have or continue to live with cancer themselves. Our programs create a loving community experience where people can find kinship and a safe space to 'be real' in the midst of living with cancer. We also introduce a variety of evidence-informed tools and practices that tend some of the anxiety, stress, and trauma that can accompany a cancer diagnosis and treatment. These practices include large and small group conversation, gentle and restorative yoga, expressive practices and art-making, nature connection, visualization and meditation, massage, music, healthy and delicious food, rest and laughter. There are opportunities to share your story and witness the stories of others without need to fix, save or give advice. It is healing to be deeply listened to and to listen deeply to others.

A new volunteer quilting initiative called A Warm Hug from the Highlands provides cozy, flannel-backed quilts to permanent and seasonal residents living with cancer. (these quilts feel just like a warm hug!) Within 7 months, this community has created and gifted over 40 quilts in our community. Volunteers are loving our quilting days and many are learning new skills - piecing, sewing and binding.

This winter we are piloting a new in-person retreat for those facing the end of life due to advanced cancer, called Death: Charting Unknown Territory Together.

As need for cancer-support and wellness programming increases in Canada, we invite your support as we continue to grow and strengthen the transformative and healing community that we are building together through the Abbey Retreat Centre.

To apply for a cancer-support program, explore volunteer opportunities or donate, please call 705-754-2966 or check out our website <https://abbeyretreatcentre.ca/>

Article provided by



Lake Health Tips

Facts about Septic Systems

- Septic Systems are the # 1 polluter of our lakes.
- It is critical to have healthy microbial populations in our septic system as they are responsible for nutrient removal from wastewater.
- Even a system that has passed inspection does NOT ensure it is removing adequate nutrients from the wastewater.

Here are some ways to reduce the pollution:

Skip the Fabric Softener!

- Fabric softener should not be used in a septic system. It coats the surface of fabric with chemical compounds that are electrically charged. Added to the rinse cycle these products add many unfriendly chemicals to the septic tank including beef fat, corn oil etc.

Keep paint out of the drain

- Working on a home or cottage project? Let extra paint dry in the can, or if you have quite a bit leftover donate or share with a friend.

Fall Septic System Pump Out, Yes, or No?

- It is not recommended to pump out a seasonal-use cottage septic system in the fall unless absolutely necessary and if so, please ensure your septic tank is full of water or wastewater prior to spring thaw. If your place has year-round use, then by all means have your septic system serviced if and whenever due or needed. Note that an empty septic tank can act like a boat, particularly in the spring! If the ground water table is high in the spring, and your septic tank is empty it may pop out of the ground. Now that's an unwelcome surprise!

Article provided by



Who's acting on the Environment in the Highlands?

Great organizations you should check out



Environment Haliburton! (EH!) is a volunteer organization that encourages initiatives

that protect the natural environment, including its physical, biological, and climate aspects. To advance our work, we sponsor educational webinars, write editorials, participate in radio interviews, send delegations to County and Township meetings and more. Help us protect what we love about Haliburton:

www.environmenthaliburton.org



With support from our community, our volunteers and our members, the

Haliburton Highlands Land Trust is focused on conservation and protection of the natural heritage of Haliburton County. We currently own, manage and protect 5 properties, totalling 1,200 acres of forest, wetlands and open areas with a further 100 acres under a conservation easement agreement. <https://www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca/> and www.highlandscorridor.ca



The Haliburton Highlands Green Burial Society (HHGBS) aims to increase options for those who wish to have human remains returned to the earth in a way that will enhance the health and natural beauty of the surrounding environment.

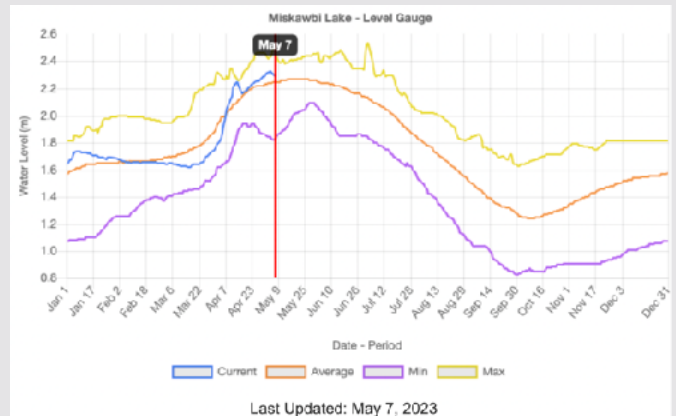
Our Mission is to provide green burial educational opportunities and supportive resource material to the broader Haliburton County community, as well as supporting municipalities, other cemetery operators, and end-of-life service providers moving toward greener burial options across Haliburton County. <https://www.haliburtongreenburial.ca/>

Check them out!

Article provided by



Water Levels



On May 7th the water levels on Long and Miskwabi Lakes were 4 cm above historical norms.

The water levels on Wenona Lake were also high, partly due to the activities of overzealous beavers.

WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT EXTREME WATER LEVELS?

MACA is a member of the Coalition for Equitable Water Flow (CEWF), a local volunteer organization that works closely with the Trent Severn Waterway (TSW) in representing property owners on the reservoir system like Miskwabi and Long.

CEWF has completed two videos and a worksheet geared to help you better understand how the reservoir system works, and better prepare for extreme water levels.

The first video explains the operation of the TSW and the second discusses what you can do to help protect your waterfront. This second video is accompanied by a Worksheet with additional information/links.

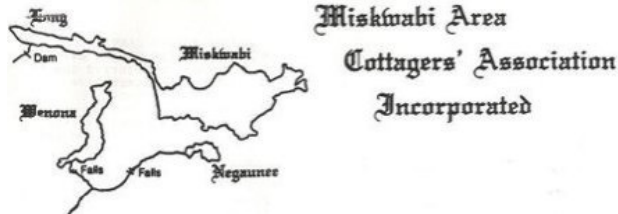
To access the videos go to EXTREME WATER LEVELS on the CEWF website https://cewf.typepad.com/coalition_for_equitable_w/.

Haliburton Home and Cottage Show, June 2 - 4th

Pick up your Better Fishing Tip Sheets at the C.H.A. booth - Booth #201

The show brings together over 130 vendors at the A.J. LaRue Arena & Haliburton Curling Club. See <https://www.haliburtonhomeandcottageshow.com/>

MACA FLASHBACK! 40 YEARS AGO



Our look back on the goings on is from the May 1983 newsletter

The Municipality, MACA and various other groups were busy determining the best approach to the expansion of cottage lots on our lakes. Many people took an interest in this, and we can thank our association among those who petitioned to get the setbacks increased where possible in hopes of preserving the quality of our lakes for future generations.

Of interest to folks at the time as well, were the increasing number of roadside signs 'going up all over the place'. After reaching out to the Ministry of Transportation for comment, they replied that for the most part these signs were allowed (with size and location stipulations) in part to ensure local businesses, and the Tourist industry could thrive as a result.

MACA also got involved with the local government to look at the Voters List. Through the course of the winter, MACA found numerous issues with the list. Seems that prior to the 'electronic' world we now live in, records were 'spotty', but with help from lake associations, Haliburton county's voters list was given a decent update.

If you're shocked at today's real estate prices, here's a tidbit that might raise an eyebrow or two.... an ad placed in our newsletter back 1983 offered the following: "Sacrifice: Wenona Lakefront lot for sale, 101' X 450', wooded, very private, hydro, telephone, driveway in, cleared building site-ready to go.... \$6,900 Cash". Oh, the good ole days eh...

The MNR stocked Miskwabi with over 2000 trout yearlings that spring. I bet a lot of those ended up on someone's dinner table a few years later.

The acidity of the northern lakes was in the news around this time. What also came to light were studies that showed a lot of groundwater (well water) was also showing signs of acidity. People were being advised to run their taps for a minute in order to wash out the copper, lead and zinc that accumulated over night.

And lastly, based on a reminder from FOCA, the newsletter included a Safe Boating update, which was to ensure that the coming summer was a safe and enjoyable experience for all. In the interest of keeping this front and centre, don't forget to have approved and accessible life jackets for everyone on board, including our furry friends.

Cottage Cook's Corner

Favourite Recipes Shared by MACA Members

Contributed by: Manny Lawson



Coconut-Date-Cashew Balls

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup chopped cashews
- 1 cup shredded coconut (unsweetened or sweetened)
- 1 cup dates
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 3 tbsp almond or cashew butter (peanut butter can be used but less healthy)
- 2 tbsp soft butter
- 1/3 cup chia seeds

INSTRUCTIONS

Mix all ingredients together making sure to cut dates into small pieces. Chia seeds may be replaced by hemp seeds. Use cookie scoop or the tbsp to make balls and refrigerate. It's that simple and the kids will love it.

Volunteers

If you are interested in volunteering with MACA as either a board member or to help out with one of our events or perhaps some of our advocacy work, please send us an email to peter.dilworth@sympatico.ca.