



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



Waiting for Spring, Photo by S. Dyce

2022 MACA EVENTS

Spring Cleanup:

May 22nd

AGM:

July 9th

(Followed by BBQ)

Canoe/ Kayak Poker Run

Aug 6th

(NEW Event)

Wine and Cheese:

August 27th

(Revised Date)

(Contingent on meeting all COVID-19 protocols)

President's Message

After two years of living with COVID restrictions, we are hopeful that this summer we will be able to return to more normal activities. At MACA we are planning a suite of outdoor events, hoping to do them safely and to see many of you participate.



I have been working with our Lake Steward and representatives from Woodlands and Waterways EcoWatch (WWEW) and other cottage associations to develop more robust water quality testing protocols. We are planning a water quality testing summit in June where experts will help us identify best practices. We will also participate in a water testing pilot this summer where we will test our lake water much more rigorously. Lake Health is MACA's number one priority. Getting better data and understanding of trends in lake health will help us all discern what actions, if any, we need to take to keep our lakes healthy.

I am pleased to announce that MaryAnn McFeeters has joined the MACA board as the Roads 636 Rep.

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.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter. See you at our Spring Cleanup event.

Be good and stay safe.

Peter Dilworth, MACA President

2022 MACA Events - Hoping to Return to a More Normal Routine

While being careful to follow Provincial COVID/ Health Protocols, we are hoping to return to a more normal schedule of events this year. We are also introducing a new event, a Canoe/Kayak Poker Run.

- **Spring Cleanup:** May 22nd, 11AM at the Jerry Strickland Boat Ramp. Water, juice, coffee and donuts will be available.
- **AGM:** July 9th, 11AM at the Trappers Trail Air Strip across from the boat launch. BBQ to follow. Guest speakers, directors' elections, raffles, and more.
- **Canoe/ Kayak Poker Run:** August 6th, starting at 1PM. There will be card stations at selected docks along our lakes. This is a new event for MACA. More details to follow.
- **Wine and Cheese:** August 27th, starting at 2PM. **We need a volunteer to host this year's event. If interested, email peter.dilworth@sympatico.ca.**



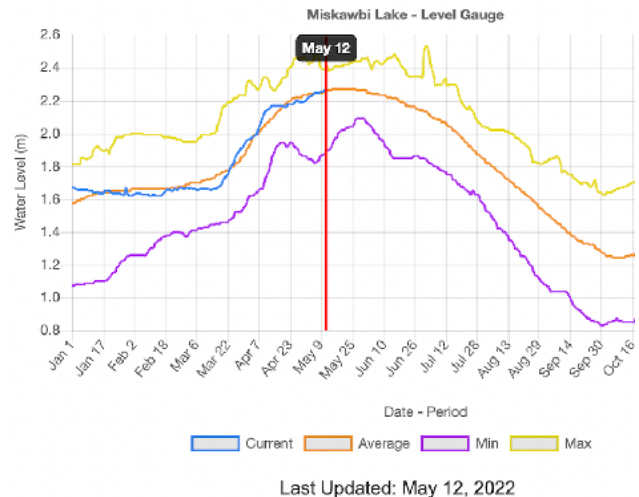
After years of service the old Miskwabi Cottager's Assoc. message board is being decommissioned. There are now more effective ways to communicate with our members, including with our brand new website at <https://www.mymaca.net>.

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 let us know. Please connect with peter.dilworth@sympatico.ca.

Water Levels

Current water levels at the Long Lake Dam are normal for this time of year. For more details go to the Parks Canada site at: <https://www.pc.gc.ca/apps/waterlevels/donnees-data?Id=44&lang=en&siteId=100419>.



Did you know: The Long Lake sill dam was originally constructed in 1895 as part of the Trent Canal system. It was rebuilt in concrete in 1921, and then again in 1939. Until 1950, the head water lakes (e.g., Long and Miskwabi) were indiscriminately drained to help make water levels in the lower part of the system navigable. In the late 1950's, there was a demand for more equitable distribution of water. Various lake associations in the area agreed that the "equal percentage of storage" basis should be adopted. This practice is still used today.



One malfunctioning septic tank can tip the balance of lake phosphorus levels and cause a blue-green algal bloom.

Have your tank pumped, and inspected regularly.
Make repairs as needed.

THE HEALTH OF OUR LAKES IS IN OUR HANDS.

Haliburton County's Climate Change Engagement Survey

Let Your Voice be Heard

The first public engagement for the County's Community Climate Action Plan is now live!

<https://haliburtonclimate.ethelo.net>

Your input will help to determine what issues related to climate change are important to our community, and will set the stage for developing a plan that focuses on local priorities and creates local benefits.

New actions to reduce the impacts of climate change will promote sustainability and increase our ability to cope with a changing climate.

60% of Septic Systems Inspected on Wenona Lake had High or Medium Risk Issues

Last summer the Municipality coordinated the inspection of close to 100 septic systems on Wenona lake. 60% of the inspected systems had either a medium risk (i.e., pump out required, exposed outhouse earth pit privy, trees/vegetation/structures too close to weeping bed) or high risk (i.e., failing tanks or weeping bed, septic violating use permit, and grey-water discharge to ground) issue identified. The Municipality is carefully tracking the resolution of all these issues.

An adequately functioning septic system is extremely important to the health of our lakes. Phosphorus and other nutrients leaching from improperly functioning septic systems is one of the leading causes of Blue Green Algae. If you suspect your septic system is not working properly, MACA encourages you to get it fixed as fast as possible. Go to our website at <https://www.mymaca.net/septic-savvy> to learn more and to find tips on how to make sure your septic system is healthy and functioning properly.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

By Phyllis McCulloch, Membership Director

Thank you to those of you who have already renewed your MACA Membership!

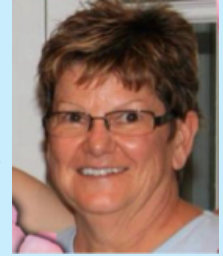
A larger membership makes it much easier to communicate lake information and helps make it possible for us to continue to do our work to keep our lakes and area clean and healthy.

If you have not renewed your membership, I encourage you to do so soon. I am in the process of updating our mailing and e-mail address data base, and you'll want to make sure you are on these lists to continue to receive MACA information.

To renew just go to our website at <https://www.mymaca.net> and click on the Membership icon and enter your lake, home address and credit card information. The on-line renewal process is Secure, Easy and Quick. After submitting your information you will receive a confirmation from Square Space. I receive only your lake and home information and I will confirm with you that I have received it. The other option, obviously not as quick is to send a cheque (\$30.00) to: Miskwabi Area Community Association, 2153 Trapper's Trail Road, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0.

Finally, I hope to be able to send you information soon on purchasing Baseball Hats, Bucket Hats and T-shirts for Adults and Kids made from very comfortable Dry-weave material.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at Phyllis.mcculloch058@sympatico.ca or at 705-457-1901.



Haliburton County News

Shoreline Preservation By-law

County Council will push the approval of the Shoreline Preservation By-law to the next council. However, they did vote to allow the county to move forward with a plan to recruit "a monitoring and bylaw enforcement" team and to write a proposal for a "lake health" program involving local organizations to review other water-related bylaws within the county and release information to the public.

Short-Term Rentals

The County is also reviewing issues associated with short-term rental accommodations. This is one of the fastest growing sectors in the sharing economy. There are many perspectives on home sharing - some are in favour, while others are not.

The County has engaged J.L. Richards & Associates Ltd. to review the literature on short-term rentals, conduct an environmental scan of municipal practices, and consult with residents and stakeholders to understand their perspectives on issues related to short-term rentals. The next step is to provide a report to County Council focused on identifying solutions to address the community's concerns with short-term rental accommodations in the County.

2022 Spring CleanUp Day



Help us pick up litter and debris from our roadways

**Sunday, May 22nd at 11am at the
Jerry Strickland Boat Ramp,
Miskwabi Lake**

Refreshments and donuts 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 to not 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.

Expanded Water Quality Testing

Some members of the MACA executive have been working with Woodlands and Waterways EcoWatch (WWEW) and others to develop a plan for more rigorous lake water quality testing.

In order to develop protocols that meet the needs of local lake associations we have planned a Haliburton Water Quality Summit. It will be held in mid-June. At this summit current water quality testing initiatives and programs that already take place on our lakes will be discussed, and with the help of water quality and limnology experts, we aim to expand testing to better understand trends

in lake health data. This might include testing dissolved oxygen levels as well as studying lake bottom sediment for concentration of total phosphorus and other contaminants.

In addition, the MACA board has approved the additional expenditures required to participate in an expanded water testing pilot this summer along with 10 other Lake Associations. The objective of this pilot is to start developing standard testing protocols and to deliver ongoing water quality testing. As citizen scientists, our goal is to better understand the health of our lakes and thereby devise ways to improve or maintain water quality levels.

New Invasive Species Prevention Signage at our Boat Launches

We are in the process of installing new signs at our boat launches to help protect our lakes from invasive species. These signs are courtesy of FOCA.

Please take care to make sure your boat is CLEAN, DRAINED and DRY before launching into any of our lakes. Once an invasive species is introduced into an environment, it's practically impossible to get rid of it.

Please don't be the one to introduce an invasive species to our lakes.



Lake Steward's Corner



by Tim Hagarty, MACA Lake Steward

The water is open and the season begins. Time to look around your shoreline, perhaps you could add some plants to lessen runoff to the lake. Remember, shoreline plantings keep the geese away as well! We really need all to participate in keeping our lakes healthy, so please think about how you can add to our lakes' health on your piece of paradise.

If you had your septic inspected and remediation is required, please ensure you follow up on the actions noted, our lake's health depends on it and we thank you for all you can do here.

MACA's President has noted the new alliance of 10 Haliburton Lake Associations to improve our water quality testing which bodes well for our lakes future health. We will continue with our present testing, merging it with the new protocol as we progress this summer. We continue to learn more about Blue Green Algae and working with this group, will allow us access to best practices and data sharing.

Have a great summer and have positive thoughts on our lakes health.

Benthic Invertebrate Testing



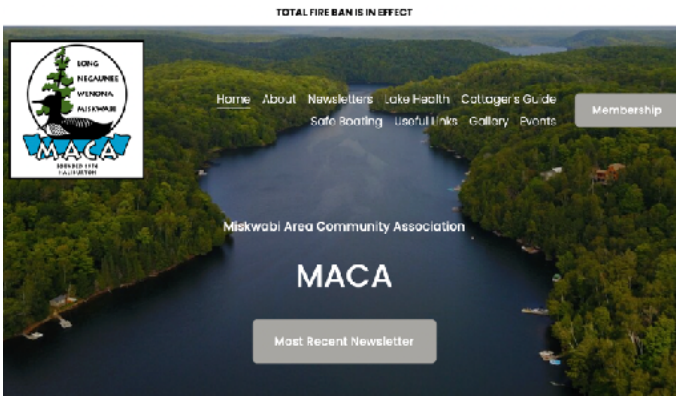
Last fall MACA marked its second year of participation in benthic invertebrate sampling as part of the Woodlands and Waterways EcoWatch Program (WWEWP) under the U-Links Centre for Community Research.

This program aims to establish a baseline of both the variety of species and the quantity of benthic invertebrates (bottom dwelling aquatic larval stage of insects), which can then be tracked over time as a scientifically demonstrated measure of the ongoing health of our lakes. Certain species are more sensitive to water quality measures such as dissolved oxygen, Ph, and other pollutants, so their absence or presence provides useful insight into water quality.

Some good news, these second year results showed an improvement in pollution and diversity measurements, with Miskwabi Lake having the highest diversity, and Wenona Lake having the lowest diversity. Climate, vegetation, sediment, and land use all contribute to the benthic composition of the lake.



Check Out Our New Website at <https://www.mymaca.net>.



Welcome to the virtual home of the MACA community!

Angler's Corner

By Steve Dyce, Fish Community Director

Spring is here and what better way to get out on the water than to go fishing in our beautiful lakes! Fishing provides a great opportunity for young and old to share special moments together enjoying the great outdoors.

This is also a good time to remind our members and their guests that there are fishing regulations that apply in Ontario. For reference, we are in Fishery Management Zone (FMZ) 15. Detailed fishing regulations are available on-line at: <https://www.ontario.ca/document/ontario-fishing-regulations-summary>.

Residents require two documents to legally fish in Ontario - your Outdoors Card and a Fishing Licence - either Conservation (lower catch limits) or Sport (higher catch limits). You can obtain these online or at a Service Ontario location for a small fee.

You do not need an Outdoors Card/ Fishing Licence if you:

- are under 18 or 65 years of age or older;
- have an Ontario issued Accessible parking permit;
- have a CNIB National Identification card; or
- are an active member or veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces.

You have to carry your valid government issued I.D. and one of the above. Conservation Fishing catch

limits apply unless you chose to buy an Outdoors Card/Sport Fishing licence.

4 times a year Ontario offers free fishing without a licence - Conservation limits apply. In 2022 these are:

- Family Fishing weekend (Feb 19-21)
- Mother's Day weekend (May 7/8)
- Father's Day weekend (June 18/19)
- Ontario Family Fishing week (July 2-10)

FMZ 15 open season dates and catch/possession limits (Sport/Conservation) for common fish in our lakes:-

- Largemouth/Smallmouth Bass combined: fourth Saturday in June (25th in 2022) to Nov 30 - Limits: S-6 and C-2
- Lake Trout: January 1 to Sept 30 - Limits: S-2 and C-1
- Northern Pike: January 1 to Mar 31 and third Saturday in May (21st in 2022) to Dec 31 - Limits: S-6 and C-2
- Rainbow Trout: open all year - Limits: S-5 and C-2
- Yellow Perch: open all year - Limits: S-50 and C-25

Finally, an important reminder to everyone who launches a powerboat/kayak/canoe into one of our lakes after having visited elsewhere. We all need to do our part to reduce the risk of invasive species entering our lakes. Please wash your boat, drain bilge and live wells, and let it sit (ideally in the hot dry weather) for a couple of days before re-entering our lakes. And never bring live bait or dump bait buckets into our lakes.

5th Annual MACA Photo Contest

This Year's Theme: "Getting Back Together Again"

- 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 31st, 2022.
- 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.

Cottage Cook's Corner

Favourite Recipes Shared by MACA Members



Nellie's Oatmeal Cookies (Melt in your Mouth cookies)

Contributed by: Connie Lester

Ingredients

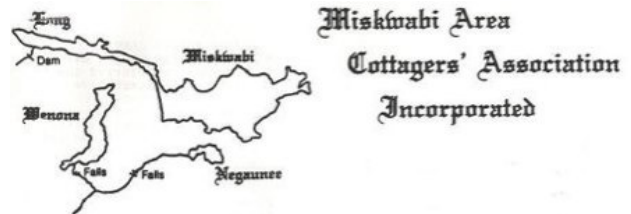
- 1 cup shortening or margarine or butter
- ½ cup packed brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking soda dissolved in 1 teaspoon of boiling water
- 1 cup flour
- 2 cups rolled oats
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup chocolate chips or more as desired (optional)

Directions

- Preheat oven to 350F
- Cream together shortening, sugar and vanilla
- Add soda mixture
- Mix flour, oats, and salt together and add to sugar mixture
- Blend together and roll into small balls
- Place on lightly greased cookie sheet
- Flatten each ball with a fork (use a sugar coated fork if desired)
- Bake 10-12 minutes in a 350F oven
- Enjoy

MACA FLASHBACK! 36 YEARS AGO

Here's what was making news in the MACA Newsletter of Spring 1986



In our Memory Lane piece we'll look at some of the interesting items in the Spring newsletter of 1986. Starting with....

The MNR at the time, was reviewing plans to close Lake Trout fishing on around 25 lakes throughout the Algonquin region over the winter months in an effort to curb over harvesting.

It was also at this time that the MNR proposed a requirement to have anglers obtain a Fishing License commencing in 1987. Anyone 18 and over wanting to fish was required to pay a \$10.00 fee per year and those 65 and older got a break and only paid \$5.00. [We are about to see something similar very shortly with the proposal to enact a 5 year renewal of pleasure craft licensing].

Development of cottage properties continued to be a challenge for developers in and around our lakes and a parcel of land made up of 49 lots changed hands for a 2nd time, in turn resurrecting the entire cycle of approvals and Plan of Subdivisions submissions in turn allowing for additional cottages to be built on Miskwabi.

There was also a piece about the Taxation & Financing of the Elementary and Secondary Education system in Ontario. The proposals and reports were asking the Ontario Government to take into account that cottages should not be taxed at the full mill rate. And unfortunately, we all know where that went! Alas we have a top-notch education system as a result.

And finally, the last item of interest at the time was a number of requests to have a dock installed at the Miskwabi Boat launch. Seems there was lots of discussions with the Municipality, various Insurance companies and with all the complexities, costs, and liabilities involved it turned into a bit of a challenge. It was turned over to the Municipality to determine the action plan going forward and unfortunately it was turned down due to the costs involved.