



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)



Wenona Snowshoe, Photo by Kerri Salata

2022 MACA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Spring Cleanup:
 May 22

AGM:
 Saturday, July 9th
 (Followed by BBQ)

Wine and Cheese:
 August 20th

(COVID-19 protocols permitting:
 visit www.mymaca.net for updates)

President's Message



Greetings everyone!

As world events, COVID-19 and war, shatter our usual life norms, it's fortunate to have property on these beautiful lakes to escape to for a time.

I hope you have all been able to stay safe and we look forward to potentially having some face-to-face events this summer.

If you haven't already done so I encourage you to take a peek at our new website. You can find that at <https://www.mymaca.net>.

Please remember this is the time of year to renew your MACA membership – you can renew online by visiting our website and clicking on the "Membership" link.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter. There's lots of updates on things we've been working on.

Be good and stay healthy.

Peter Dilworth, MACA President

5 EASY WAYS to a healthy shoreline

1 Do less work

If you're lucky enough to have a natural shore, unaltered by manicuring, clear-cutting, or concrete barriers, love it and leave it alone. Instead of using your precious cottage time to "tidy up" the water's edge, enjoy the blessings that come from being hands-off. That strip of native plants, shrubs, and trees with their extensive root systems forms a "green wall" of protection buffering erosive waves and wakes coming from the lake, and prevents runoff from carrying nutrients and sediments into the water that may cause blue-green algal blooms.

2 Minimize Your Mowing

Lawns can be a touchy topic with both fans and foes of cottage turf. While clean-looking (to some) and great for sports, close-cropped, shallow-rooted grass is essentially ornamental and a hard surface that gives contaminants such as fertilizers an easy ride into the water. Happily, there is a compromise for those who want to keep some lawn and reduce runoff: create a "no-mow zone" at the shore, says Watersheds Canada's Heather Murphy, which "allows grass to get taller and native seeds to take root." Your NMZ can be as big or as small as you like, although the farther back it extends from the shore, the more effective its absorbency (it can include a path to access the water).

3 Recreate a "Living" Shore

Perhaps you have a cottage that came with an altered shoreline, or maybe you did the altering without realizing the repercussions. In many cases, all you have to do is stop clearing vegetation and removing deadfall from the shallows for a shoreline to slowly repair itself. But you can lend a hand by planting a buffer of native species along the water's edge. Where do you get native plants? Each spring 'FEEL' (Friends of Ecological and Environmental Learning) holds a 'native shrub' sale. Order your spring plants online before the deadline of March 31st at: <https://www.ecoenvirolearn.org/native-plants.html> (The website may also be accessed by just doing a search for 'Feel Haliburton'.)

4 Don't Sacrifice Your Trees for Sightlines

The green giants on the upper slope of your cottage shoreline aren't there to muck up your view. They are the heavy lifters when it comes to absorbing runoff, taking water from the ground and transpiring it through their leaves into the air. A mature oak tree can transpire 150,000 litres of water in the growing season. If you let your trees play their role, you can still see the lake by giving them what is sometimes called a "vista prune." Just trim the lower branches and leave the higher ones.

5 Don't Be a Cowboy Boater

Big wakes are bad news for your frontage. As well as harming shorelines, megawakes are like tsunamis to loons and other birds that nest in the shallows or at the water's edge. Don't joyride in sheltered bays, and, as the law dictates, limit speeds to 10 km/h when boating within 30 metres of the shore. Are we saying you can't wakeboard? Of course not: just watch to see if your wake is hitting the shore, and, if so, move farther out.

SOURCES

<https://www.ecoenvirolearn.org/native-plants.html>

<https://cottage.life.com/outdoors/9-easy-ways-to-get-a-beautiful-shoreline-and-a-healthy-lake/>

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

By **Phyllis McCulloch, Membership Director**



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We have received many Member Renewals. A majority of them have been done "ON-LINE" on our new website.

The process is Quick, Easy and Secure! Simply go to our website <https://www.mymaca.net>. Click on the MEMBERSHIP tab and enter your lake, home and banking information. You will receive an e-mail from "SquareSpace" that your information has been received.

Our Membership Fee is \$30.00 and if you renew by March 31st, 2022 you will be entered in our "Early Bird Draw" that takes place at our Annual General Meeting in July.

For those wishing to renew by cheque, the form can be found on the Membership Page. Complete the form and mail it, along with your cheque to the address on the form. You too will be entered in the Early Bird Draw if your cheque is received by March 31st, 2022.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at Phyllis.mcculloch058@sympatico.ca

MACA APPAREL

I have had requests to purchase MACA Hats and T-shirts.

We hope to have new Hats & T-shirts available in new material and great colours available to order soon.

Treasurer's Report

by **Virginia Vranckx, MACA Treasurer**



Our financials are in great shape. At the beginning of the year there was just over \$6000 in the account to fund projects, and hopefully, in-person events in 2022.

Last year total revenues from memberships were \$8700 and expenses \$8400. Substantial disbursements included our memberships in Coalition for Equitable Waterflow, Coalition of Haliburton Cottagers' Association and Federation of Ontario Cottagers (\$1350), insurance (\$1450), and water testing (\$1031). The new website cost just under \$800 to both develop, set up the membership payment system, and prepay website hosting fees.

As every treasurer knows, it is not an accepted accounting principle to record "non-monetary" expenses. As our treasurer, I would like to acknowledge the "unpaid" labour expenses of 2021, which are the countless hours spent by both executive and committee members not only overseeing the day-to-day running of the association, but some of its most time consuming projects: the Environment Committee, water testing and the development of our new MACA website.

I wish everyone on our four lakes Happy Cottaging in 2022.

Haliburton Real Estate Update

From **Andy Mosher, Broker & Susanne James, Sales Representative – Century 21 Granite Realty Group Inc. Brokerage.**

Real estate prices in Haliburton (like most other areas) have seen a remarkable surge over the past two years.

The trend continued in 2021. The average sale price for waterfront cottages in 2021 in Haliburton was just over \$843,000 – an increase of 29.45% over the previous year (data: Ontario Lakelands Association of REALTORS® real estate board – waterfront residential/recreational, Haliburton district).

Combined with an 18.6% increase in 2020, that represents an almost 50% rise in prices over a two-year period.

Average time on market was 23 days, and average sale-to-list price ratio was 105% – reflecting a large number of properties that sold for over the list price. (In typical years, this figure would be in the range of 95-98%).

Off-water residential homes also saw similar gains with an average sale price of \$486,617 – up 41.7% over the previous year.

New Law Aims to Reduce Spread of Invasive Species

New provincial boating regulations focusing on “**Clean, Drain, Dry**” practices aiming to reduce the spread of environmentally damaging invasive species came into effect on Jan. 1, 2022. That is, the *Precautions are now law.*

Boaters - including canoe and kayak users - now must take extra precautions when moving watercraft over land. They cannot move their boat unless drain plugs and other devices used to control drainage of water and equipment have been opened and removed. “Reasonable measures” must be taken to remove any aquatic plants, animals or, algae from the watercraft, and any vehicle or trailer used to transport the watercraft or watercraft equipment overland.

Prior to reaching a launch site for a body of water, boaters must also ensure watercraft, watercraft equipment, and any vehicle or trailer used to transport it does not have an aquatic plant, animal or algae attached to it. You can’t launch if it does.

See <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-3465#:~:text=Prohibited%20Invasive%20Species,Marbled%20crayfish%20Procambarus%20virginilis> for more information.

Ecological and Environmental Learning (F.E.E.L) Annual Native Plant Sale Fundraiser



Friends of Ecological and Environmental Learning

Pre-order online now @ ecoenvirolearn.org

Native Plant Sale

TREES, SHRUBS, PERENNIALS, AND BUNDLES

Fundraiser for the Haliburton-Muskoka-Kawartha Children's Water Festival

Pre-order online sale ending: March 31, 2022

ONE DAY PICK-UP EVENT: SATURDAY MAY 14, 2022

Location:

Haliburton Highlands Brewing Co.
1067 Garden Gate Drive ON-118
Haliburton, Ontario

For more information:
ecoenvirolearn@gmail.com
(705) 921-1191

FEELHaliburton

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Lake Steward's Corner

by Tim Hagarty, MACA Lake Steward

Some day the ice will be gone and we want you to know that we are continuing our efforts to keep our lakes healthy. To that end, we are working with some sister lakes to band together for more extensive testing of our lakes. We may require more resources for this project, money and personnel, and will keep you informed as this comes closer to fruition.

We were fortunate that the Chinese Mystery or the Banded snail did not show up in our lakes. Last year

over 500,000 snails were removed from lakes in the Haliburton region! Nevertheless, we must continue to be vigilant and to that end **I am asking for volunteers from all lakes to take the training this year.** As snails are considered fish you must have a licence to harvest them. See below for details from the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters.

EVERY volunteer is require to fill out a google form https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdUb_d3noqKNSg5EKyKt1MTh1auf0XTNdHgKEhORydPRst5w/viewform?usp=sf_link.

Once you're registered, you will receive all the information you will need for the webinar on May 7th. Thank you in advance.

Crafts for Critters!



The Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary has received a boost from a group of local craftspeople, led by MACA member Susanne James.

When Susanne heard that the Sanctuary was in need of specialized items to help rehabilitate injured animals, she stepped up to help.

The Sanctuary needed soft pads for incubators, padded rings for injured birds to sit on, and "nests" for abandoned baby squirrels and other small mammals.

These are all items that can be knitted or sewn, so Susanne (a former president of the Rails End Gallery in Haliburton) organized a group of local craftspeople to help make them. Since January, the group has made and delivered dozens of these items to the Sanctuary – just in time for their upcoming busy spring season.

The Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary is a non-profit wildlife rehabilitation centre, run by volunteers near Minden. MACA News readers may recall that the Sanctuary treated an injured loon from Miskwabi Lake last summer. For more information visit: <https://woodlandswildlifesanctuary.ca>



left to right: Volunteers Norma Bingham, Pat Bradley, Renée Woltz, Vicki Sisson, Susanne James, and Pat Moffat.



Squirrel nests and Incubator pads

Benthic Invertebrate Testing - An Update

By Steve Dyce

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.



On a wonderfully sunny day in early October, I acted as guide/boat transport to Trent student Caitlin Barber, WWEWP rep Amanda Porter and community volunteer Wendy Lewis as we returned to six sampling sites used last year on our 4 lakes. Sampling involves wading out in chest waders a measured distance from shore – usually waist to chest deep – then slowly walking backwards stamping feet in the mucky bottom, sweeping a large D-net back and forth to collect the benthic invertebrates dislodged from the muck, while trying to avoid tripping over rocks and hidden logs. It's physically demanding to complete each sample line. After a long day of collecting samples, Caitlin returned to Trent and spent many fall hours in the lab sorting, identifying and counting the specimens, and will share her findings with us shortly.

This ongoing annual project will add useful information to the water testing MACA already does annually on each of the lakes and helps us monitor lake quality. This is important to all of us in our continued enjoyment of our lakes, but this is just a monitoring process – we all need to continue to look for ways to reduce our environmental impact on our waterways and keep excess phosphates and other pollutants out of our lakes. This includes maintaining properly functioning septic systems, eliminating use of fertilizers, and maintaining a shoreline buffer to reduce harmful surface runoff into our waters.

Cottage Cook's Corner

Favourite Recipes Shared by MACA Members



Slow Cooker Crack Chicken

Contributed by: Connie Lester

Ingredients:

- 3 lbs boneless chicken breasts
- 2 (8 oz) blocks cream cheese
- 2 (1 oz) packets dry Ranch seasoning
- 8 oz bacon, cooked crisply and crumbled

Instructions:

1. In a slow cooker combine place chicken, cream cheese, and Ranch seasoning.
2. Cook on low for 6-8 hours or on high for 4 hours, until chicken shreds easily.
3. Once chicken shreds stir with a large fork or spoon, so the chicken shreds and all the ingredients combine.
4. Add in crumbled bacon and stir to incorporate.
5. Serve warm.

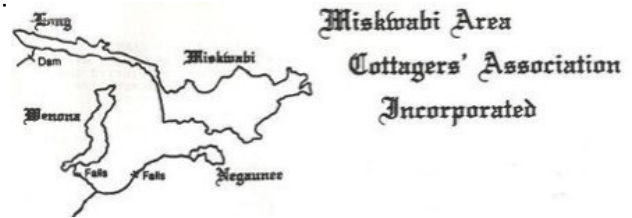
Notes: Store airtight in the refrigerator for up to 3 days

VARIATION if not using Ranch dressing

- 2 lb Chicken breast
- 2 tbsp Dried parsley
- 1 tbsp Dried dill
- 1 tbsp Dried chives
- 1 tsp Garlic powder
- 1 tsp Onion powder
- 1/2 tsp Black pepper
- 16 oz Cream cheese (cut into pieces)
- 1 cup Cheddar cheese (shredded)
- 1/2 cup Bacon bits (cooked)
- 1/3 cup Green onions (chopped)

Place chicken breasts into the slow cooker in a single layer. Sprinkle the chicken with all the herbs and spices. Arrange pieces of cream cheese evenly over the chicken. Cook the chicken for 3-4 hours on high or 6-8 hours on low, until the chicken is easy to shred. Shred the chicken and stir to mix with the cream cheese. Stir in the shredded cheddar, bacon bits, and green onions.

MACA FLASHBACK! 38 YEARS AGO



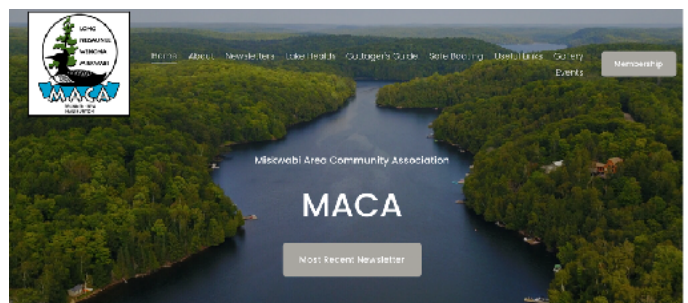
Here's what was making news in the MACA Newsletter Feb/Mar of 1984

Turns out Snow was a big hitter in 1984 as well, so much so, that cottagers were reminded to check in on their places to ensure that their roofs were cleared to prevent cave in's. The Lake Association also approached the township requesting on behalf of the cottagers that they increase the number of roads being plowed, which unfortunately was turned down as the municipality only had a small budget to work with and didn't include expansion plans at the time. On a positive note, they did increase the number of plowed roads the following year.

Membership in MACA also increased that year, turns out more and more cottagers felt the need to be part of the planning, raising awareness of, and participation in fun activities for families throughout the year.

Water Levels were an ongoing discussion point with the Ministry as well. Suffice to say, Trent/Severen waterways was receptive to engaging in discussions with all the associations that were part of the reservoir lakes. Our Association of the time put a lot of effort into a comprehensive situational report to get the ball rolling with the the Provincial and Federal ministers on a dialogue about water usage, draw down and subsequent effective management of the complete Trent/Severen watershed.

Check out our new website at <https://www.mymaca.net>



Welcome to the virtual home of the MACA community!