



MACA NEWS

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

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www.mymaca.net

2024 MACA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Spring Cleanup Day:

May 19th

50th AGM and Celebration:

Saturday, July 6th
(Followed by Pizza Lunch)

Canoe/Kayak Poker Run:

Aug 10th

Wine and Cheese:

Aug 17th



Herd of Deer on Wenona, Photo by Linda Flower

President's Message

Greetings Fellow MACA Members!

MACA is excited to be celebrating our 50th Anniversary this year. We'll recognize this special milestone at our AGM and at some of our other events. We plan to publish a special edition MACA newsletter reflecting back on these 50 years and we'll have 50th Anniversary T-shirts and hats available for you to order on-line.



In the spring MACA will be conducting a members survey. This will help make sure we are focused on priorities that are important to our members. Watch your emails for the MACA survey in a few months.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter. Please note MACA's schedule of events for 2024 (to the left).

Be good and stay healthy.

Peter Dilworth, MACA President

2023 Septic Inspection Results - Still 107 Unresolved Issues on our Lakes



At the January Dysart et al Regular Council meeting, the Building Department presented its Septic Maintenance Inspection Program Year End Report. See [2023 Dysart et al Septic Inspection Report](#) .

See pages 11 and 12 for the results for Long, Miskwabi and Negaunee Lakes. [You may recall MACA had negotiated to get the inspections on Wenona Lake completed in 2022.]

267 inspections were completed on the three lakes noted above. Only 95 of these tested systems were without issue (and they are characterized as being low risk). 84 systems on these 3 lakes were classified as being in a high risk category. It is noteworthy that there are still 107 issues outstanding, with 61 of them being characterized as high risk issues. High risk concerns include failing systems, septic systems not operated in accordance with their approved use permits, greywater discharging to ground, etc. The municipality carefully tracks the resolution of these issues.

A properly 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 correctly, we implore you to get it fixed as fast as possible.

General information about septic systems can be found at [Understanding Your Septic](#).

Lake Steward's Corner

by Tim Hagarty, MACA Lake Steward



Hot off the press, we just received the water quality testing results from all the extra testing we did last year. We are pleased to see that none of these test results are showing anything alarming. Although we would note that the total phosphorus levels for Wenona Lake continue to be slightly higher than what we're seeing in the other three lakes. As we know, total phosphorus is one of the leading causes of blue-green algae.

We are still working on amalgamating the extensive water testing results from the last two years and will have completed this work by spring. The results will be entered into the web site for all to see. The goal here is to see if we have any directional results indicating problems. We will couple this with the septic inspection results, again to see if we are headed in a good direction.

Speaking of septic inspection results, if you require action on the results, please ensure that you follow up and complete them. After all our septic inspection issues are resolved we're actually hoping to see total phosphorus levels improve on all lakes.

I know that I say this every newsletter, and some may be tired of hearing this, but, please take a look at your shoreline and try to naturalize it as much as possible. There are plenty of ideas on our web site. If we all pitch in together we can ensure our lakes are healthy.

Volunteers Needed
**If you would be interested in
talking to someone about
volunteering on MACA's Board
of Directors, please email us at
[miskwabiareacommunityassoc
@gmail.com](mailto:miskwabiareacommunityassoc@gmail.com)**

TREASURER's Report

by Virginia Vranckx, MACA Treasurer



Welcome to 2024!

MACA continues to enjoy the support of so many property owners which helped deliver membership revenues of \$8,220.00 for 2023.

In the November update we overestimated water testing expense. It ended up being \$300 less, at \$1,827. Thus total expenses for the year were just over \$10,000. Our year end (November 6) cash balance was \$4,286.

Since year end we have renewed our website expenses and had several folks donate their photo contest winnings back to MACA. Along with healthy membership renewals. We have just over \$6,000 to start off the new year.

Full financials, being a formal income statement and balance sheet will be distributed in the spring for your review in advance of the July Annual General Meeting.

Many thanks to all as we begin the 50th Anniversary celebrations of MACA.

Enjoying a Family Day Weekend Walk Along the 2.2km Finno Bay Ice Road



MEMBERSHIP Update

By Phyllis McCulloch, Membership Director

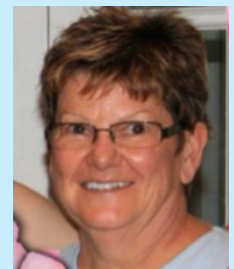
Happy New Year! By now you should have received our "2024 Membership Renewal" information email. We have had great response so far, but if you haven't renewed for 2024 yet, you still have time to renew and be included in our "Early Bird Draw". To be included in the draw, you'll have to renew by February 29th.

You can easily complete your renewal by going to our web-site - www.mymaca.net. On the home page click on "Membership". Fill in your cottage and home information, add your credit card information (our site is secure), and hit "SUBMIT". You will receive an electronic notice that your information was received. I will also receive a notice with your home and cottage information so I can make sure our records are up to date. There is a second option for renewing. You can complete the membership form on line and mail it along with your cheque (please do not send cash through the mail), to the address on the form.

In the Spring, when roads aren't all spongy and wet, we'll be around to put the 2024 stickers on your sign. If by chance you notice your sign was damaged over the Winter, send me a quick note to phyllismcculloch2@gmail.com and we'll get it replaced.

I know you've heard 2024 is our 50th Anniversary. We are having new T-shirts and Hats available for you to order on-line. We will let you know the cost and how and when you can order items.

If at any time your information changes, please send me a note. We want to make sure that you receive all our notices and Newsletters.



Local Government Updates

Short Term Rentals

In November Haliburton County councillors signed off on the draft short-term rental (STR) bylaw. While we understand there is still tweaking required on the by-laws, the next next step in the process of getting it implemented involves local municipal CAOs and the County's CAO meeting to build an implementation strategy for licensing and regulating STRs.

Based on a quick review of the bylaw (see [Draft STR ByLaw](#)), it appears to address all the areas of concern expressed about STRs. This includes provisions for addressing noise, overcrowding/septic capacity, parking, as well as licensing, enforcement, penalties/fines etc. It is our understanding that, unlike the Shoreline Preservation bylaw, our Council is eager to adopt this bylaw here at Dysart.

Shoreline Structures

Dysart et al Council will review options for permitting shoreline structures (e.g., sheds, gazebos, etc.) at its February 27th Regular Council meeting. It is our understanding that such an initiative would constitute a significant change to the Official Plan and that public consultation would be required before any specific changes could be implemented.

One of the concerns about permitting structures at water's edge is that by the time a building is erected, plus allowances for a buffer around it, a significant portion of a property's natural shoreline could be destroyed. And we all know that natural shorelines are one of our best defences for keeping nutrients from entering our lakes

New Deer Feeding By-Law for the Village of Haliburton

This By-Law states that:

1. No person shall intentionally feed deer.
2. No person shall leave food or attractants on private or public property.
3. No person shall place or allow any device or material outdoors on private or public property so that it may attract or be accessible by deer.
4. Every person shall immediately remove any food, attractant, device or other material placed outdoors in a way that is attractive or accessible by deer on private or public property, which is ever so important to help buffer nutrients from entering our waterways.

Happy 50th, MACA

This year marks the **50th Anniversary** of the founding of MACA. Started in 1974 by Gerry Strickland and a small group of cottagers, the association has continuously represented the four lakes in our region to address environmental issues, local concerns, and organize social events for our members.



By the way on Groundhog Day, Warton Willy predicted an early spring for 2024.



Playing in the Snow

Angler's Corner



By Steve Dyce

Fishing license and Outdoors Card

To fish in Ontario, residents who are between 18 and 65 years of age must have both a valid Outdoors Card and a Sport (normal catch limits) or Conservation (reduced catch limits) fishing license. Those under 18 or over 65 do not need a license or Outdoors card, but must have a government issued ID – Conservation limits apply. Fishing licenses and Outdoors Cards are available on-line or through Service Ontario locations. (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/fishing-licence-canadian-residents>)

Fishing Open Dates and limits for 2024

We are part of Fisheries Management Zone 15 (FMZ15). Please be sure to review and understand the fishing regulations that apply to our lakes (<https://>

www.ontario.ca/document/ontario-fishing-regulations-summary/fisheries-management-zone-15)

For 2024, here are the season open dates, and catch limits (S-Sport and C-Conservation licenses):

Northern Pike: January 1st to March 31st and third Saturday in May (18th) to December 31st;
Limits: S-6 and C-2

Lake Trout: January 1 to September 30th;
Limits: S-2 and C-1

Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass combined: fourth Saturday in June (22nd) to November 30th;
Limits: S-6 and C-2

Rainbow Trout: open all year; Limits: S-5 and C-2

Perch and Sunfish: open all year; Limits: S-50 and C-25

Check the regulations when fishing in other lakes as some have different seasons and catch limits.

Remember to take all necessary steps to prevent invasive species being transferred to our lakes. If you fish or boat on other lakes, please be sure to thoroughly clean and dry your boat between lakes. Drain live-well and bilge away from the lake, and check the hull, trailer and all gear including motors for foreign substances. Familiarize yourself with the Invasive Species Act and steps for boaters and anglers here <https://www.ontario.ca/page/invasive-species-action-plans/>

Happy Fishing!

Haliburton Real Estate Update

The Haliburton County real estate market stayed in balanced territory over the past year, with average sale prices remaining stable.

For waterfront cottage/residential properties in Haliburton, the average sale price in 2023 was \$974,038. Year-over-year, this is down 6.5% from 2022.

However the 2022 data includes sales from the first Quarter of 2022 -- which was the peak of the over-heated COVID market. For a more accurate picture, if we compare the last 3 Quarters of 2023 with the last 3 Quarters of 2022, the average sale price was almost identical – \$994,052 (2023) versus \$995,871 (2022).

Average time on market in 2023 for waterfront cottage/residential was 34 days, and the average sale-to-list price ratio was 97.4%. The total number of sales was 210 in 2023, down from 254 the previous year.

For off-water residential homes, the story was similar: average sale price for 2023 was just over \$506,308 – down 8.15% from 2022. However once again, if we disregard Q1, the average sale price was almost exactly even – \$523,024 (2023) versus \$523,199 (2022).

Wishing all our neighbours and clients a great year ahead!

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

MLS™ data from Ontario Lakelands Association of REALTORS® real estate board – Haliburton district

Cottage Cook's Corner



Favourite Recipes Shared by MACA Members

Stove Top Stuffing Meatloaf

Contributed by: Connie Lester

INGREDIENTS

- 1 6-ounce box Stove Top stuffing (any flavor)
- ½ cup milk
- 1 small yellow onion, grated (using large holes on cheese grater)
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- ¼ cup ketchup
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- 2 pounds ground beef

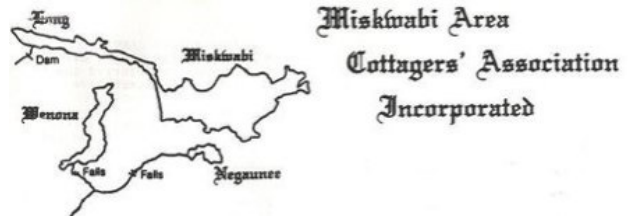
SWEET TOMATO GLAZE

- ½ cup ketchup
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1 ½ tablespoons apple cider vinegar

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F. Grease or line a 9x5 inch loaf pan or baking sheet. Set aside.
2. In a large bowl, mix together the stuffing, milk, and onion. Let sit for 5 minutes. Then blend with potato masher or pastry cutter to mash up the mixture.
3. In the meantime, mix together the sweet tomato glaze ingredients. Set aside.
4. To the bowl with the stuffing, mix in the eggs, Worcestershire, ketchup, salt and pepper, then mix in the beef until just combined. Press into the loaf pan or shape into a loaf on the baking sheet.
5. Evenly spread half of the sweet tomato glaze over the meatloaf, and bake uncovered for 45 minutes.
6. Remove from the oven and top with the remaining sweet tomato glaze. Bake another 15 minutes, or until the internal temperature reaches 160°F.
7. Let the meatloaf rest for 10 minutes, then slice and serve!

MACA FLASHBACK! 37 YEARS AGO



Our look back at the Spring 1987 newsletter ...

North Shore development was back in the news, with a conceptual plan of 49 lots up for review. It seems the M.O.E and M.N.R hadn't had a chance to review and respond just yet so the subdivision plan was on hold yet again.

Fishing Licenses became a requirement this year for anyone 18 to 64 years old. Cost for an entire season \$10.00, 4 days was \$5.00. Not a bad deal really!

Preparation for the MACA Annual Meeting was getting underway with a request to the Parks Canada/Trent Severen Waterways to have a representative come to discuss their plans for that year. It seems that a good portion of the reservoir lakes never filled up the previous year and the drawdown was pretty significant.

MACA was presented with a plaque from the Honorable James Bradley - Minister of the Environment, recognizing 10 years of participation in the water quality sampling program.

The first Lake Wenona Rock Bass Derby was scheduled for Sunday July 26th for children 16 and under. They were only allowed to catch Rock Bass. There was various prizes for, largest, heaviest, most caught, etc. The objective being to reduce the rock bass population in the lake and give the game fish a better chance of survival. A bbq followed later in the day where the bounty was weighed and counted and prizes awarded. A fun day for all who participated.

A reminder to pay membership fees was also included in the newsletter, with a cost of \$10.00 at that time. Note this was well before the internet and dues were still collected manually using cheques... the world certainly has changed.

Another big item of interest was the Dysart official plan amendment which was to allow condominium development in the area. The MACA representative body provided input to the proposal. Dysart Planning Committee agreed that it would be unwise to provide a blanket approval of all types of condo or condo 'like' uses without further study.

The Ontario Cottage Magazine (now Cottage Life) came out with a special edition with a newly minted version that was larger, glossier and with more color photos. The entire Miskwabi Association mailing list was submitted for a copy of the new magazine. It may be a collectors item by now.