



MISKWABI AREA COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATION

SERVING RESIDENTS & COTTAGERS ON WENONA, LONG, MISKWABI & NEGAUNEE LAKES

2010 FALL NEWSLETTER

The Summer of 2010 has come and gone and along with it, the memories of a GREAT Summer! The lakes were warm and stayed that way until early September. The Fall leaves were not as colourful as in past years and perhaps "peaked" a little earlier than normal, but still one of the most beautiful seasons in the Highlands. Let's try to bring you up to date on a few things that have happened since the Spring Newsletter.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION RESULTS

The results from the Haliburton Municipal Election on October 25th are as follows:

Reeve: (acclamation), Murray Fearrey.

Deputy Reeve: Bill Davis (2308), Janis Parker (1990), Jerry Walker (1205), Martin Lacey (242).

Councillor, Ward 1: Dennis Casey (1165), John Smith (333).

Trustee: Gary Brohman (3058), Val Smith (2291).

Did you vote??????????

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES: July 17th (as reported in The County Voice)

The 36th Annual General Meeting of the Miskwabi Area Cottagers' Association was called to order by President, Larry Holden at 11:10 AM at the Airstrip by the Jerry Strickland Boat Launch. There were approximately 60 members in attendance.

Larry thanked the members for attending and for filling out the Survey Form that was on the back of this year's Membership Form, explaining that it helps the Directors to plan future endeavors and to assess what has already been done. The audience was also thanked for getting their renewal forms in before the end of April of this year. As well, Tom Pendlebury was thanked, for once again he was manning the BBQ for those much sought after burgers at the end of the meeting.

Larry asked the members to start thinking about "those tough questions" to ask the Municipal candidates who were to appear later in the Agenda.

MACA's membership in both the Coalition for Equitable Water Flow (CEWF) and the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners Association (COHPOA) was mentioned and explained. Both organizations will grow in importance in the future and it was explained that it was nice to belong to both groups right from the beginning.

Mention of the draws for the Nature Clean Basket of goodies and the draw for two tickets to the Highlands Summer Festival was made. All were wished "good luck" but were told that draws would not be made until the end of the meeting ... so that everyone would stick around!

Larry mentioned that there have been some careless activities seen on the lakes in the recent weeks. For example, a Sea-Doo was observed with only the driver pulling three children behind on a tube! The OPP only have two boats for the whole County and it is unlikely that they will be able to respond to such calls by boat but if they are phoned and a 9-1-1 address is given, an Officer will be dispatched to follow up. Everyone was asked to watch out for others on all of our lakes.

Former President and current Past President, Paul Culver, was thanked for his work with MACA and the group was told that Paul is no longer a member as he has moved out of the area.

Sandra Bishop, Vice-President was then introduced and she explained the voting procedures for a logo for MACA T-Shirts which were also on sale at the meeting. Thanks were extended to Karen Harding, Jake Wagenaar, Jeff Holden, Corbin Cloutier, Michelle and John Rogers for submitting designs for the contest; all will receive a free shirt with the new logo on it. Jake will receive a one year free membership to MACA for his individual efforts in submitting the most entries! T-shirt orders were taken at \$10.00 each.

The Treasurer, Norm Fowler, then gave his last "Sermon On The Amount" as he was not running again for the Executive. A bank balance of \$7 439.44 was presented and acceptance was moved by Phil Wiseman, seconded by Karen Harding. Acceptance was carried. Norm and his wife Louise were then thanked for their accounting skills over the last 15 years and were presented with a gift certificate to "Aniz" restaurant from the membership and the Executive.

Director Mike Giza reported that all four of the lakes have been free of invasive species as of last year's water samples. The membership was reminded that invasive species are brought into the area through bait buckets and bilge water and everyone was reminded to dump bilge water away from any runoff to the lakes.

Director Haden Heathcock reported that water quality testing has been good in all four lakes and phosphorous levels have been below the provincial average. Secchi disc readings have been averaging 8.5m of water clarity.

In Andy Mosher's absence, his wife, Susanne James reminded everyone of the website (mymaca.net) and thanked everyone for sending in their pictures of activities and landscape shots to the website.

Director Phil Wiseman complimented Roads Superintendent, Brian Nicholson, on road repairs in the area. A "Road Report" had already been sent in to the Municipality Office. He also thanked all his committee members and invited other volunteers to join.

Director Mo Welch then stated that more members are needed for the 1st Annual Golf Tournament to be held at Haliburton Highlands Golf Course on July 30th. A minimum of

20 golfers is needed. He also reminded members of the Children's Wildlife Presentation to be held at the Airstrip on August 15th at 11:00 AM.

Elections for Directors were then held and the following were re-elected for a two year term: Sandra Bishop, Haden Heathcock and Mike Giza. Elected for the first time was Virginia Vranckx. The motion was moved by Norm Fowler and seconded by Phyllis McCulloch.

Mike Giza then introduced the concept of developing a "Lake Plan" for the area. It was described as "a strategic process that takes the whole community to be involved in a plan to protect the lake environment ----- property owners, businesses, government and ministries". The Executive believes that this should be done and is hoping that enough volunteers come forward to start a planning process. Anyone interested was asked to get in touch with Mike or any of the Directors. Some members have already offered their names as a result of the Winter survey. More will be reported to the membership through Newsletters and further meetings.

All Directors were thanked by President Holden for their time spent at meetings and time spent carrying out their own particular responsibilities. The audience also thanked them through their applause.

Councillor Derek Knowles was then introduced and he proceeded to talk about the waste management program in Dysart. It is the 2nd largest expense for the Municipality. Used tires and "e-waste" are now being accepted at no cost due to provincial government programs. The new library was then talked about and members were invited to have a look at it if they had not already. Future plans for the Village of Haliburton included the revitalization of York Street, the Cenotaph and the removal of overhead wires on the main street. Derek explained that the "door has been opened a tiny bit" with regard to his possible running again for the position of Councillor!

Ward 2 candidate, Dennis Casey, was then introduced and he stated that he had been a Councillor 10 years ago and now felt that he had the time to run again for the position. He stated that he wants to represent all voters and is not running on any specific issue. He promised that he will work to the best of his ability to work on all issues affecting us and the County.

Reeve Murray Fearrey was welcomed to his 35th appearance at MACA's AGM ! He reminded everyone of Dysart's Hazardous Waste Day on August 7th. He also spoke about the 5 year Review for the Official Plan and stated that there will now be a tree cutting bylaw that will go into effect. High speed for all residents of Ontario has been promised by the Federal Government for 2013! Reeve Fearrey also answered a question stating that Dysart will charge, through building permits, to ensure that roads are still in good shape after construction takes place.

President Holden then thanked all the candidates for coming and wished them well in their campaigns. The amalgamation of the Miskwabi Area Cottagers' Association and the

Miskwabi Lake North Shore Association has hit a roadblock due to a legal opinion. Larry explained that a lawyer had advised them that all members of Plan 636 must belong to an association. The MACA Executive did not want to be in a position to have to "chase" property owners to join and thus all attempts at amalgamating have been put on hold until further clarification can be obtained. The President will seek more legal advice when their lawyer is available again in October. It was still the goal of Holden and the MACA Executive to pursue an amalgamation of the two associations.

Larry Holden then told the membership that high speed for many of the area's property owners is available through Bell Mobility, Rogers and Telus. As far as fibre optic high speed is concerned, it is not going to happen in the near future! Members were asked to speak with him at the end of the meeting for more information.

The draw for the two free Summer Festival Theater tickets was won by Tim Payment and the Nature Clean Basket was won by Marlene Wiseman ... for the second year in a row! A total of \$54.00 was raised through the Nature Clean sale of tickets.

The membership was thanked for their attendance and barbecued hamburgers were offered to all in attendance. The meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM.

THE FOWLERS THANK MACA

As noted in the minutes above, Norm did not put forth his name for re-election this year. The Executive and members thanked him and his and Louise's response follows:

"We would like to thank MACA for the kind and thoughtful gift for dinner at Aniz. We enjoyed the evening out and the food was divine! It was our pleasure to be of service to MACA for so many years and you can count on our continued support"

Once again, THANK YOU Louise and Norm for 15 years of excellent work on our behalf.

MAY LONG WEEKEND CLEAN-UP

Our annual clean-up campaign netted 5 ½ tires, 150 beer bottles (!), 6 bags of recyclables, one screen door and 10 bags full of garbage! (The beer bottles were donated to The Beer Store for their Leukemia Association bottle drive!)

Our sincerest of thanks to the following who donated their time to make our area roads look even better!; Christine & Bill Bunn, Moe Welch, Virginia Vrancx, Mike Giza, Jim Carnie, Sandra Bishop, Mitchell/Rachel/Patricia Devenyi, Tim Payment, Marg & Rick Despard, Sue & Barrie Maxwell, Pamela & John Butt, Emily Roberts, Abby & Andre Sequinot, Shirley & Kelly Mitchell and Jeff/Nancy/Larry Holden.

AND to Virginia and Mike for providing us with hamburgers and pop back at their place after all that bending over!--- our THANKS!

GARBAGE ON TRAPPER'S TRAIL

After many of us spent time back in the Spring picking up the Winter's garbage from our area roads, we noticed in August that someone had left two green garbage bags by the mailboxes. Of course, it didn't take long before the animals got into them and scattered

the household garbage all over the ground. It was quite an eyesight! MACA member, Tim Payment was equally disgusted and cleaned it all up for us! Thank you Tim! Sometimes we blame "workers" for littering our roads as they pass by but this was certainly not the remains from them! We find it hard to believe that it could be anyone owning a cottage in our beautiful area and are left with very few other possibilities. Let's spread the word ----- again! ----- and try to keep the area looking as good as it can be!

SLURRY SEAL

Many people have been enquiring about the "new" section of road on Trapper's Trail. Well, in fact, it's not new, but rather a coating that has been applied over the old roadbed which will prolong the life of the road by 4 to 5 years. When we asked Roads Superintendent Brian Nicholson if we could have the whole of Trapper's Trail slurry sealed, we were told that this type of product is only useful if applied to a "good" area of the road; the rest of Trapper's Trail is too far gone for this treatment. So, we'll have to put up with patching on the rest of our paved roads!

ROADS ----- AGAIN!

We wish to thank member Phyllis McCulloch for volunteering to be the newest member on our Roads Committee. She will join Director Phil Wiseman and his other committee members of Karen Harding, Nigel Hollings and Jack von Roosmalen as they report to the Municipality on the condition of our area roads. Welcome Phyllis!

FIREWORKS ON THE LAKES

One of the questions that was asked of Reeve Murray Fearrey at the AGM was that of people letting off fireworks on a continual basis over the lakes. Reeve Fearrey agreed that it was a problem and one which seems to be happening on other lakes in the County as well. It would be difficult to enforce a bylaw in these regards as there is only one Bylaw Officer at present. Most people who live in, or cottage in our area, like to get away from the noisy, crowded home environments. Cottage country is, or should be, quiet, spacious and clean.

If you, or your neighbours, are prone to letting off fireworks, please consider the peace of others as well as the wildlife that are frightened by such actions. As well, the noxious chemicals that drop into our lakes can only do harm, not good! It's a shame to have our quiet, still evenings interrupted by the loud noises of firecrackers and fireworks.

NEW SPEED SIGNS ON LAKES

Member Karen Harding noticed that the 10 KM per hour signs posted in some areas were either missing or rapidly deteriorating. New signs were asked for and the Municipality is now in the process of putting up new ones of this bylaw. Just as a reminder, it is unlawful to travel at more than 10 KM per hour within 100 feet of the shoreline. The purpose, of course, is to keep the wake from boats at a minimum to protect our shorelines AND our waterfowl. As well, swimmers may not be able to get out of the way of speeding boats.

THANKS KAREN!

ANNUAL WINE & CHEESE

This year, we moved this annual event from September to August as the majority of our members voted in the Spring Survey. We had more members than usual ---- approximately 60 ----- and better weather. So, for the next little while, we'll keep it in August, probably the weekend before Labour Day. The Holden's wish to thank everyone for their attendance and are looking for new hosts for 2011. In the past the Wine & Cheese has been held at the homes/cottages of Executive members but we'd like to spread the cheer around! We have been to all four of our lakes in the past few years but are now seeking a new venue. If you would be willing to host next year's get together on the weekend before Labour Day, we'd love to hear from you at 705-457-3125 or larryholden2@gmail.com. C'mon, don't be bashful! We'll give you a list of what is needed, refund the cost and we'll almost guarantee great weather!

MEMBERSHIP

The total number of paid and signed up members for 2010 is 112. The forms for 2011 will be mailed, along with the Winter Newsletter, in January.

MACA DONATIONS

At our August Executive Meeting, a motion was passed to give a donation in the amount of \$200.00 to the Haliburton Hospital Foundation on behalf of all members.

HUNTING DATES, 2010

If you are "out and about" on our area roads, please keep in mind the following hunting dates for our Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) and wear orange!

Moose: October 18th to 23rd.

Deer: Bows only ----- October 1st to October 31st & November 15th to December 15th.
November 1st to 14th (rifles).

LAKE WENONA BEAVER DAM

A number of times each Summer, property owners on Lake Wenona arrive to find that their water level has dropped significantly. The reason for this is the fact that someone has lowered the level of the beaver dam at the south end of the lake. This act, illegal according to the Ministry of Natural Resources, affects all property owners on the lake, as well as the property owner who owns the trees that the beavers then take down to rebuild the dam! It also means that the property owner at 1086 Trapper's Trail has his/her driveway flooded over each time the dam is damaged. If you know of anyone who is altering the dam, a call to the MNR would be appreciated by them.

MACA WEBSITE (mymaca.net) AND MACA T-SHIRTS

Have you visited the MACA website recently? Have you noticed it has been revamped with a new, much improved Photo Gallery? It also has a new "Lake Planning" page. Check it out!

Some of us are proudly wearing our new MACA T-shirts with the brand new logo on it. If you missed out on yours, there some sizes and colours still available and may be seen on the website as well. Check it out!

ALL THE BEST TO EVERYONE OVER THE L-O-N-G WINTER!