



MISKWABI AREA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

SERVING RESIDENTS AND COTTAGERS ON LONG, NEGAUNEE, WENONA AND MISKWABI LAKES
www.mymaca.net

Fall 2013 Newsletter



Do you know the name for a newborn wild turkey?
See Nature Notes pages 7 & 8

Happy Thanksgiving Everyone

The summer weather was, at best, mixed with some glorious days, some cold days and some rainy days. One benefit was that lake levels in Miskwabi and Long were maintained at reasonable levels for access and use during the summer.

At the time of writing the fall leaves are in beautiful full colour and the days are glorious.

Haliburton Fall Events

26th Annual Haliburton County Studio Tour
Discover where and how over 30 artists and artisans live in our county. Observe the creative process through demonstrations and

conversation with the artists. See the website for maps at haliburtonstudiotour.ca

Being held: October 5 and 6; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and October 12 and 13; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

An Old-fashioned Halloween

An afternoon of games, tricks and treats with fun for the whole family. Being held at the Haliburton Highlands Museum on Saturday, October 26 between Noon and 4 p.m. Entrance by donation.

Haliburton Santa Claus Parade

This year's parade theme is "Music around the World." Being held in downtown Haliburton on Friday, November 22 from 6 – 8 p.m. Entrance free.

Miskwabi Area Watershed Plan Update

On June 24, 2013, members of the Lake Plan Committee made a presentation to the Dysart et al Council bringing them up to date on the plan. Council members were very complimentary and commented on the “grass roots” approach and the very high participation returns of the stakeholder surveys.



On Saturday, August 31, the Committee hosted a Workshop at the Haliburton Library from 9 a.m. to noon. There was a good turnout with an active discussion based on the survey results and possible stewardship and regulatory recommendation.

Make your views known. Below is a list of possible areas for recommendations:

1. Water quality of each lake
 - a. Capacity definitions by OMNR and MOE
2. Wetlands in the watershed area
 - a. Ontario significant?
 - b. Species at risk
3. Streams
 - a. Name streams
 - b. Designate – warm, cold, intermittent
 - c. Crossing regulations
 - d. Building/development regulations
4. Buffer zones
 - a. Shorelines, causeways
5. Fisheries regulations – esp. lake trout
6. Invading species – aquatic and terrestrial
7. Septic systems

8. Trails: ski/snowmobile/ATV/snowshoe
9. Cottage rentals
10. Future development /Access roads – with lakes at capacity
11. Time share properties/condos
 - a. How much density is too much?
12. Parks – definitions and uses
13. Backlots
14. Logging regulations
15. Waste disposal
16. Aggregate extraction and mines
17. Lake recreational carrying capacity
18. Fireworks
19. Lakes – naturalized shorelines
20. Boating and boat safety
21. Lake water levels
22. Trailer parks

Email your ideas to

miskwabiareawatershedplan@gmail.com

Annual Roads Cleanup



Thank you to the over 20 volunteers from all four lakes who came out on May 19.

It's hard to understand but the discarded trash continues to pile up beside the roads every year.

This year's bounty included:

22 bags of garbage, 16 bags of recycle, a 45-gallon drum, 5 paint cans, deck stairs, ½ sheet plywood, 30 ft. of metal strapping, large flower pot, a tire, boat parts and pieces of metal including a 1950's Pontiac hub-cap!

A well-deserved BBQ for all the hard-working folks followed the cleanup.

MACA Annual General Meeting July 6, 2013

It was a beautiful morning for the first AGM under our new name – Miskwabi Area Community Association. President Mike Giza welcomed the large gathering of over 100 and thanked all for the increasing membership. Highlights of the meeting included:

Guest Speakers

Murray Fearrey, Reeve of Dysart et al

This was Murrays' 39th year as a guest speaker – he has been at every AGM.

Murray emphasized two topics: the spring storms caused much flooding and damage in the Municipality resulting in major, unexpected expenses; and, "It's all about the water." Water quality in our lakes and rivers is essential for the future of Haliburton. Property owners can take two steps to preserve water quality:

1. Have a properly functioning septic system that is pumped every 3-5 years
2. Keep natural shorelines between the septic system and the lake.

Dennis Casey, Ward Councillor

Dennis is Chair of the Environment and Green Energy Committee and reminded everyone of the importance of recycling.

Paul Potter, Ontario Provincial Police

Paul indicated that there were 11 break-ins reported in the spring at cottages on our lakes. Two young people were charged and are before the courts.

Some suggestions from Paul:

1. If you notice a break-in, don't enter, call the OPP
2. Have good deadbolts on doors
3. Motion lights are helpful
4. Monitored alarm systems with an audible feature (e.g. horn) are good
5. Do an inventory of your items – make, model, serial number.
6. Lock outside buildings and trailers
7. Put bars on sliding doors
8. Report the location, make and model of suspicious vehicles to OPP

Directors' Reports

Virginia Vranckx, Treasurer presented the highlights of the annual financial statement which included an information sheet for attendees.

Phyllis McCullough, Membership encouraged all members to talk to their neighbours about the association.

Andy Mosher, Webmaster indicated that the website had seen an increased use and reminded everyone that newsletters are posted there.

Tim Payment, North Shore Roads 636 stated that he was in the process of having the unassumed roads worked on and graded.

Moe Welch, Special Events, reminded the group of three upcoming events – the July Golf Tournament, the August Wine and Cheese and the September Pontoon Boat Flotilla.

Miskwabi Area Watershed Plan – Mike Giza introduced the eight members of the committee in attendance. A handout was given to everyone at the meeting outlining the status of the lake plan.

Election of Directors

With the newly amalgamated association all directors were up for election. In order to prevent having all directors again up for re-election at the same time, the terms were split.

The following people ran for and were elected to 2-year terms:

Haden Heathcock, Phyllis McCullough, Andy Mosher, Tim Payment, Susan Rohricht, and Moe Welch.

The following people ran for and were elected to a 1-year term:

John Beadle, Stuart Buck, John Ewing, Cathy Galati, Mike Giza and Virginia Vranckx.

Raffle

Marlene Tosh won the basket of Nature Clean products valued at over \$100 and Anne Clayton won the pair of Haliburton Highlands Festival tickets to her choice of play.

The raffle raised \$185 and was sent to the Minden Disaster Relief Fund.

Presentations

Sandra Bishop was presented with a gift certificate for her many years of service including seven years as Vice-President.

Tom Pendlebury was presented with a gift for his many years as the AGM chef.

After the AGM, a Directors' meeting was held and the following positions were agreed upon:

John Beadle – Director at Large

Stuart Buck – Director at Large

John Ewing – MACA Roads

Cathy Galati – Director at Large

Mike Giza – President

Larry Holden – Past-president (non-elected ex-officio position)

Haden Heathcock – Water Quality

Andy Mosher – Vice-President & Webmaster

Phyllis McCullough – Membership

Tim Payment – North Shore Roads 636

Susan Rohricht – Secretary

Virginia Vranckx – Treasurer

Moe Welch – Special Events

Annual Golf Tournament

A large roster of golfers teed off July 13 at Haliburton Highlands Golf Club and enjoyed the 9-hole best ball format game. Special thanks to the Shiers who hosted the BBQ that followed.

Wine and Cheese Party

A big thank you to Kim Wilkinson and Mike Harrison who hosted this year's party attended by over 100 members!

The lovely weather, buzzing conversation, fine wines and great cheeses were enjoyed by all.

Mike Giza took the opportunity to present retiring Roads Director Phil Wiseman with a gift of appreciation for the fifteen years he held the position, as he was unable to attend the AGM.

Our annual food drive, when we get to tidy up the pantry before closing the cottage, also went very well – cash donations totaling \$85 and many bags of dry goods were collected and dropped off at the Haliburton Food Bank a few days later.

PIKE

If there was any doubt about the presence of pike in Miskwabi and Long Lakes it has been eliminated this summer. There have been many reports about pike being caught in both lakes but the one below is the biggest we have seen.



Steve Dyce, fishing Long Lake in late June, with a Mepps black fury #4, thought he had a snag until the line started to peel off his reel. It came in at about 33 inches, 9 lbs 14 oz.

According to MNR records Pike are not natural to either lake and only put added stress on the lake trout population. They're great eating on the BBQ or in the pan.

Minden Disaster Relief Fund

As most know, the Minden area was decimated by flood this past spring. MACA sent a \$100 contribution to the relief fund in May and members further contributed \$185 from the raffle at the AGM.

The following is excerpted from a letter received from the Disaster Relief Committee Chair:

"Dear Miskwabi Area Association Members: On behalf of the individuals affected by the flood, the Disaster Relief Committee and the Township of Minden Hills, we would like to thank you very much for your donations.... Thanks to your generosity and that of others, enough money has been raised to pay out the maximum 90% of eligible claims... These donations will help Minden Hills back to its pre-flood condition, allowing people to resume their lives and most importantly, let them know how much the community cares."

Signed, Jeanne Anthon

Lake Reports

Negaunee – submitted by John Beadle

This is my first report from Negaunee Lake. After the Christmas hustle and bustle the lake was very quiet for the remaining permanent residents. Cross country skiers enjoyed sunny days on the frozen oasis and snowmobiles could be heard in the distance. When spring arrived, ducks, loons, herons and many small feathered friends returned. Over the summer there were sightings of a bald eagle, deer, a bear or two and just recently a woodcock on my driveway. Under certain wind conditions, there was more than the usual amount of floating deposits in the lake making swimming less than pleasant. In closing, I would like to wish Sandee and Tom all the best in their new BC home. On behalf of Negaunee Lake, I thank you for all your hard work and service to MACA.

Long - submitted by Susan Rohricht

Talking to our neighbours over the summer we have heard of more and more otter sightings on Long Lake. These cute mammals can be spotted easily as they love to float on their backs. Keep your eyes peeled for them. In the late summer we had a violent storm in the area that took quite a few trees down. As we look forward to the fall colours, we are reminded that Mother Nature is always changing the landscape.

Wenona – submitted by Phyllis McCullough

The weather may not have been bright, sunny and warm all summer but that didn't stop happy times on Wenona Lake this summer. We were lucky to have cottages re-built and new owners on the lake. There was lots of canoeing, fishing and kayaking. We also had a couple of families use the lake as the beautiful background to wedding ceremonies where many others from the lake paddles up or quietly motored by to congratulate the new couples. Congratulations to all!

Miskwabi – submitted by Virginia Vranckx



Hopes were high this past June when two loons hatched on Miskwabi - but a few weeks later one disappeared. The remaining one still patrols the lake until it flies away in November. This wonderful photo of the little ones on one parent's back, and the other parent arriving with food, was taken by Mike Tipping with a telephoto lens from his dock. In addition to our usual summer avian residents, the lake was visited by cormorants and Canada Geese. The abundance of natural shorelines will hopefully keep both from taking up permanent summer residence. Other sightings included bear, deer, moose, fox and even an illusive cougar. Hydro One is going to remove the two pairs of running shoes and the bike tires from their lines crossing Trapper's Trail. They wish to inform everyone that throwing shoes or anything else over the lines, or attaching them to their poles, is considered an illegal use of property and they will fine anyone caught as this can jeopardize the safe delivery of electricity.

Message from Sandee Bishop

"I'd like to extend a huge thank you to all the executive and members for the gift certificate and wine/MACA apron for Tom! It was a pleasure to help with the organization and operation of MACA and the Watershed Plan, and the gifts weren't necessary, but muchly appreciated, and have/will be put to good use. We'll miss everyone dearly but thanks to modern media we can stay in touch at the touch of a few buttons! So please do- and of course, we'd love to see you in BC."

Pontoon Flotilla

On Saturday morning, September 14, the weather co-operated and many MACA executive “test-drove” the first pontoon boat flotilla. The boats made their way from Miskwabi to Long Lakes and on the return tied together off-shore for a light picnic lunch. The event was so enjoyed it will be part of our event line-up for next year!

DID YOU KNOW?

The Canadian Lakes Loon Survey is 33 years old this year and has issued a report for years 1981 to 2012.

- 3200 participants have monitored Common Loons on 4500 lakes
- Miskwabi Lake has been surveyed since 1995
- Canada has about 250,000 breeding pairs – about 95% of the world’s population of Common Loons
- Due to the lingering effects of mercury and acid precipitation loon reproductive success is still declining in Ontario
- Average annual reproductive success of at least 1 young every other year is considered good.
- Based on the above, Long, Miskwabi and Wenona Lakes would be considered successful loon lakes.

RIFLE HUNTING DATES 2013

Moose: October 20 - 25

Deer: November 3 - 16

For other dates visit www.ontario.ca/hunting

Coalition for Equitable Water Flow

The CEWF held its annual meeting for member lake associations (including MACA) on September 14, 2013. The Director of Ontario Waterways, (amalgamation of TSW and the Rideau) participated in a cooperative meeting. The long-term goal of the CEWF is to develop an integrated management model that takes into account individual lakes’ “preferred water levels”.

Believe It or Not!!!

Friday, September 13/13 was a cold day with a high of 10C and dark November-like clouds. Yet, snapping turtles were hatching near the causeway on Miskwabi Lake. Some got a helping hand to get to the water!



Mark your 2014 Calendar

Spring Road Cleanup

May 18

40th Annual General Meeting

July 5

Golf Tournament

July 12

Wine and Cheese Party

August 23

Pontoon Boat Flotilla

September 13

All details will be outlined in the Event Calendar with the 2013 Newsletter.

MACA Membership Renewal 2014

Your membership renewal will be sent with the Winter Newsletter in January 2014.



**2014 marks the 40th
Anniversary of MACA!**

You’ll want to be sure to complete and submit your form and dues as soon as you get the documents. We’ll be offering you an option for a two-year renewal as well as having your name included in a special mystery draw if you respond early. Watch for details in the January newsletter as we get set to celebrate 40 years of community!

NATURE NOTES



Photo: Larry Holden

The Wild Turkey

History

Wild turkey fossils have been found in southern North America dating back more than 5 million years. There are five subspecies of wild turkeys in North America with the Eastern being the most common and ranging through much of the eastern half of North America. However, by 1909 the Eastern wild turkey was extirpated from Ontario by unregulated hunting and clearing of forests for agriculture. By the 1930's, the wild turkey was on the verge of extinction throughout the continent.

Early restoration attempts using pen-raised birds failed. During the 1940's some U.S. states began catching wild birds and transporting them to other areas. In 1984, Ontario began restoration using birds trapped in the wild from the United States. The efforts were so successful that by 1987 Ontario began trapping Ontario turkeys and transferring them to unoccupied areas. As well, wild turkeys continued to expand their range naturally so that no more releases have been made since 2005. The North American population now ranges throughout the lower 48 states and much of southern Canada. The population is estimated at 7 million and Wild Turkeys are considered one of the best-ever wildlife reintroductions.

Behavior

Although they can fly, wild turkeys spend much of their time on the ground. When threatened, females tend to fly while males run – at speeds up to 40 kms. per hour.

Normally at sundown, turkeys fly into the lower limbs of trees and move from limb to limb for a high spot to roost.



Courting males gobble to attract females and warn competing males. They display for females by strutting with tails fanned and wings lowered.

Each sex has an independent pecking order with a stable female hierarchy and a changing male hierarchy.

Turkeys prefer not to, but can swim by tucking their wings in close, spreading their tails and kicking.

The average lifespan of an adult is 2 – 5 years, although they can live past 10 years.

Nesting

In Ontario, wild turkey hens nest in the spring as early as April. The hen scratches a shallow depression in the ground, called a nest bowl, near a tree or bush. The bowl is sometimes lined with grass or leaves. Typically, hens lay 10 to 12 eggs in

their first clutch. If this is destroyed, they may try a second clutch with fewer eggs.



Baby turkeys are called **poults**. They are precocial, meaning they are born down-covered and leave the nest within 24 hours to forage with their mothers. Poults spend the first two weeks of their lives being cared for on the ground before they begin to fly short distances to roost at night in shrubs and trees. This is a very vulnerable time in their lives. As chicks begin to grow, they band into groups comprised of several hens and their broods which at times can be quite large.



Poult

Diet

Poults feed almost exclusively on insects during the first weeks of life. Mature birds eat mainly plant matter mostly on the ground but do feed on fruits on bushes and low trees. In fall, winter and early spring they scratch the forest floor for acorns, beech nuts, ash seeds and other hidden berries and seeds. If snow is deep, they will eat

hemlock buds and evergreen ferns. Turkeys will supplement their plant diet with snails, salamanders, beetles and other insects. As well, they swallow grit to help digest their food.

Predators

Predation is a significant cause of death for wild turkeys. Nest predators include raccoons, skunks, foxes, snakes, birds and rodents. Adult turkeys are hunted by coyotes, bobcats, raccoons and great-horned owls, to name a few.

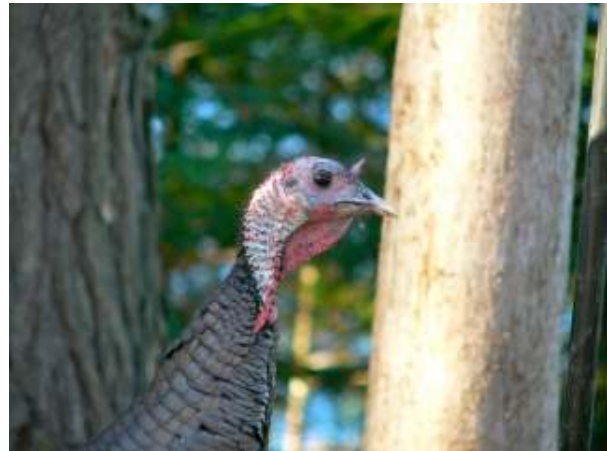


Photo: Bill Bunn

Interesting Wild Turkey Facts

Between 5000 and 6000 feathers cover the body of an adult turkey, although the head and upper neck are featherless.

Wild turkeys see in colour; have excellent daytime vision that is about three times better than that of human eyesight; and vision range of 270 degrees.

The average adult gobbler weighs 20 lbs. whereas an average hen weighs 10.

Reports are that wild turkeys are delicious. Due to their diet, they have a more full-bodied taste than domestic turkeys and the breast meat is darker caused by more exercise.

Credits:

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
Cornell Lab of Ornithology
National Wild Turkey Federation
www.about.com