



# 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:** Jeannette Brumell
- 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)



Fall on Long Lake, Photo by Steve Dyce

## President's Message

Greetings everyone!

The nights are getting cooler and we have even seen snow. As they say in Game of Thrones: *Winter is Coming*. I for one, love it at the lake in wintertime - it's beautiful and peaceful.



Despite the pandemic, MACA has moved forward with many important initiatives. We are just about ready to launch our new website - watch for it, it's coming any day now. MACA has stepped up water testing as described in our Lake Steward's report. The board has endorsed a detailed communication/education plan relating to lake health. Pages 2 and 3 of this newsletter are part of that plan, as was the lake health door hanger that was distributed to all water front properties.

On page 5, you'll find the winners of MACA's most recent photo contest.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that MACA has a new board member. MaryAnn McFeeters from Trappers Trail has taken on the role of Director - MACA Roads 636 (i.e., Miskwabi North Shore Roads).

A big thank you to all our board members who volunteer their time freely to help move our agenda forward.

Happy holidays, be good and stay safe.

*Peter Dilworth, MACA President*

## 2022 MACA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### **Spring Cleanup:**

May 22

### **AGM:**

Saturday, July 9th  
(Followed by BBQ)

### **Wine and Cheese:**

August 20th

Blue-green algae is not always toxic. It always has the potential to be though, so if in doubt, stay out!



# WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE A BLUE-GREEN ALGAE BLOOM

- 1) Report it to Spills Action Centre 1-800-268-6060
- 2) Report it to MACA's Lake Steward, Tim Hagarty at: [jthagarty@bell.net](mailto:jthagarty@bell.net) / 705-457-4595

## WHAT IF YOUR PET COMES IN CONTACT WITH A BGA BLOOM?

Pets are susceptible to harmful algae because they tend to swallow more water while swimming. Dogs may ingest algae if they lick their coats after too.

- Don't let them swim or drink when there is algae in the water or scum on the shore.
- If they swam in water that might have algae, rinse them off with fresh water immediately.

Pets can experience symptoms like vomiting, diarrhea, difficulty breathing, and seizures within minutes. In the worst cases, animals have died. If your pet experiences symptoms, contact your vet immediately.

## WHAT IF YOU COME IN CONTACT WITH BGA?

Exposure to blooms when touched, swallowed, or when airborne droplets are inhaled, can cause diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, skin, eye, or throat irritation; and allergic reactions or breathing difficulties. Many scientists also believe that prolonged exposure to blue-green algae is linked to increased incidence of neurodegenerative diseases, like ALS and Alzheimers.

## BLUE-GREEN ALGAE IN DRINKING WATER

Avoid drinking, cooking, and brushing teeth with water contaminated by blue-green algae. Boiling water will not destroy the toxins, and could actually increase toxin levels.



## SIMPLE HOME-TEST FOR BGA

### The Jar-Test

- Use a clear jar and rubber gloves to collect a sample of water just below the surface
- Put the jar in the fridge overnight
- If the green "stuff" settles at the bottom it is likely not BGA
- If the green "stuff" rises to a ring around the top, it is likely BGA

**NOTE:** No home test for blue-green algae is 100% conclusive.

Settles at the bottom = Not BGA



Ring around the top = Likely BGA



# BLUE-GREEN ALGAE

Knowledge is Safety



## WHAT IS BLUE-GREEN ALGAE?

Many species of algae are found in our lakes and rivers. True algae are a vital part of lake systems, but blue-green algae are not true algae. Blue-green algae are photosynthetic bacteria known as cyanobacteria. When environmental conditions are just right - little wind, warm water, sunlight, and plentiful nutrients - especially phosphorus - a toxic blue-green algae (BGA) bloom can occur.



**Stage 1**  
Tiny Green Specks / An Oily Sheen



**Stage 2**  
Patches of Accumulation on Shoreline



**Stage 3**  
Intermittent Streaks



**Stage 4**  
Thick "Paint-like" Sections

## WHERE ARE BLOOMS FOUND?

Blue-green algae blooms are often found in shallow, warm water in bays. They can be "pushed" across a lake by wind though! The downwind end of a lake is more likely to have a bloom.

## HOW TO IDENTIFY BGA

The green stuff you see in the lake might not be blue-green algae!

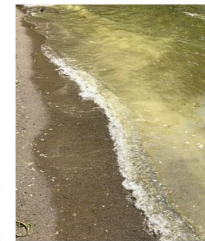
- If you see leaves or roots, it's likely a tiny (and harmless) aquatic plant like duckweed.
- Stringy, silky substances that can be draped over a stick are likely just filamentous algae.
- If it's yellow and almost "dusty" in texture, it's likely tree pollen.

Blue-green algae, depending on the severity, might look like tiny bluish-green dots (no impact to recreational enjoyment) to pea soup (stay out!!).

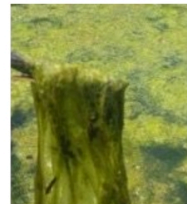
## NOT BGA...



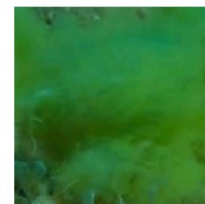
Duckweed



Shoreline Pollen



Stringy Filamentous Algae



Underwater Filamentous Algae

## WHEN DO BLOOMS OCCUR?

Blooms typically happen late summer to mid-fall but can occur other times of the year if conditions are right. **Cyanobacteria can survive under ice and throughout winter conditions.**

## HOW LONG DOES BGA TAKE TO CLEAR UP?

After a bloom, most toxins are degraded within 2 weeks, but can be present at low levels for many months.

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

By **Phyllis McCulloch, Membership Director**

Our Membership numbers for 2021 were great. We grew our membership by 15% this year.

Watch for the information in early 2022 regarding renewing for 2022 and our "Early Bird Draw".

If you have membership questions or suggestions please send me a note at [phyllis.mcculloch058@sympatico.ca](mailto:phyllis.mcculloch058@sympatico.ca)

Thanks for supporting MACA.



## Treasurer's Report

by **Virginia Vranckx, MACA Treasurer**



As MACA ends its fiscal year the association is in great shape to plan and finance many environmental and social activities next year thanks to all who joined.

Going forward Water Tests will be a significant expense item as we continue to gain knowledge and develop a baseline of our lakes' health.

Another new account is Website: created to track the expenses related to the development and ongoing expenses of our new website.

In the spring, with the help of a member with experience in the industry, we plan to research possible alternatives for our insurance policy. Thanks for your support.

## Flashing Green Lights

If you are travelling on roads in Haliburton and a vehicle comes behind or towards you with a flashing green light, that is the indication that the driver of that vehicle is a member of the Fire Department and is on the way to a fire emergency. As with other police and emergency vehicles you see in the city - move carefully to the side of the road and let them pass.



## Snowmobile Enthusiasts

A group of local property owners have organized a Facebook page entitled "Miskwabi Snowmobile Group" at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/macasn snowmobilegroup/>. This is a group that people can join and talk about sledding, meet and greet others, organize group rides, and to share stories/pictures and trail reports.



**Keep Your 911 Sign Clear of Ice and Snow - It might save your life or someone else's**

## 12 Winter Driving Tips

1. Create a 'survival kit' with gloves, booster cables, a shovel, windshield wiper fluid, and first aid kit
2. Carry a bucket of sand
3. Check weather and road conditions often
4. Keep a safe distance behind snow plows
5. If you don't have them, get winter tires
6. Slow down and give yourself extra travel time
7. Clear snow and ice from your vehicle
8. Wear comfortable clothes
9. Keep a full gas tank
10. Keep OPP numbers handy and travel with a fully-charged cellphone
11. Avoid using cruise control on slippery roads
12. Figure out the best way to recover from a skid



[Based on files from CBC News]

## 4th Annual MACA Photo Contest

We are pleased to announce the winning photos from MACA's 2021 Photo Contest. This year's theme was "Life at the Cottage". We had 18 entries in total, including photos of life in the snow, fishing and of some of our furry friends. Judging was completed by the MACA Board members. Here are the winning selections. Congratulations Roman, Greg and Jeff.



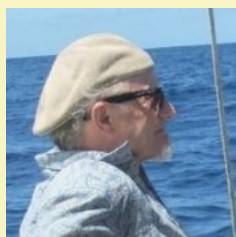
**Tied 2nd**  
Wenona Night Sky,  
Greg Thomas



**1st**  
Barrow of Fun,  
Roman Elinson



**Tied 2nd**  
Dogs on the Dock,  
Jeff Masters



### Lake Steward's Corner

*by Tim Hagarty, MACA Lake Steward*

In order to better understand lake health, we increased phosphorus testing and added additional tests around our lakes. The results were inconclusive as each test showed that phosphorus levels can vary at each section. The good news is that we now have a baseline and we will perform the tests again next year to compare the results.

We have added oxygen testing to better understand our lakes' health and the results were encouraging. The top 10 metres were in the normal range, but there was a little concern about the lower levels as we tested deeper. As this was the first test, we will be conducting more tests next year so we can see if there is a pattern. Coupled with

the phosphorus testing we are hopeful to come to a better understanding of how these two elements interact and then make some educated recommendations.

The water clarity testing continues on all four lakes and this year's results noted a lower level of clarity than in the past. As we were inundated with rain early on in the summer the runoff was the major contributor. This is another reason to have a natural shoreline as it will reduce the runoff.

We were pleased to get another year of benthos invertebrates sampling completed by U-Links this fall. The more data we get, the better we'll understand the health of our lakes. It will be interesting to see the results from this research, which we should receive in the winter.

You can rest assured that we will continue to increase our understanding of our lakes health and work towards keeping them healthy.

**MACA FLASHBACK! 44 YEARS AGO**



Here's what was making news in the MACA Newsletter from 1977

"Who Cares about Cottage Life" was the theme for the year and the topics of interest were around a series of presentations and workshops held in Haliburton Village dedicated to Water Quality, Cottage Pollution, Safe Boating, Lakeshore Capacity, Aquatic Weeds, Insect control, Mercury and other contaminants, along with the introduction of some free self-help programs for the Community.

Septic Tanks were a hot topic then (as they are today), and the good news was around the government passing a new guideline that all tanks sold in Ontario had to conform to a certain size and be CSA certified as well. Findings from a series of inspections that year indicated that quite a few cottages had some "work to do" to come up to the standard required to keep our lakes in good shape. Fortunately, most cottagers knowing this was good for the environment, got to work on the upgrades according to the Haliburton Health centre.

Development Roads were another item that was top of mind with the then lake committee who were holding regular meetings with the town on bringing area roads up to 'standard'. Seems this has been and continues to be a key topic especially with the impact of changing weather patterns.

Property Taxation was another hot topic. Discussions were ongoing with the Ontario government regarding Market Value Assessments, along with School & Municipal tax loads. There were lots of 'suggestions' made by the various cottage associations in the area. Alas, the outcome was that no 'break' would be given to seasonal cottagers on any of the items - and for good reason. According to the government, providing special treatment to individual groups wouldn't make a fair tax treatment for all and only increased the burden on the full-time resident population.

**Cottage Cook's Corner**

Favourite Recipes Shared by MACA Members



**Italian Almond-Orange Cookies**

Contributed by: Connie Lester

**INGREDIENTS:**

- 1/3 cup egg whites (we separated two jumbo eggs and got exactly 1/3 cup of egg whites, but you may need more than two eggs to measure out exactly 1/3 cup)
- 1 ¼ cups granulated sugar
- Zest of one orange
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 2 ½ cups almond flour
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- ½ cup powdered sugar

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. In a medium bowl, mix egg whites, sugar, orange zest and honey with a whisk until smooth.
2. Add the almond flour and baking powder and mix with a wooden spoon or rubber spatula until moist and all of the dry ingredients are absorbed into the wet and combined.
3. Cover and refrigerate for one hour and as long as 24 hours. I made my dough the night before then baked the next morning.
4. When ready to bake, preheat oven to 325 degrees F with two racks in top two positions.
5. Cover two cookie sheets with parchment paper.
6. Place the powdered sugar in a small bowl.
7. Roll the dough on your counter with your hands into a fat log and cut it into two equal pieces.
8. Roll each piece out into logs and cut in half then each piece in half again. Then cut each piece into three. This will give you 24 pieces.
9. Roll each piece into a ball then roll in the powdered sugar then onto the cookie sheets, 12 per tray.
10. Bake both together for 15-17 minutes, rotating the pans half way through.
11. The cookies are done when they start to crackle and flatten out and are slightly browned on the bottom. The centers will be very soft so don't go by the feel of the cookie and don't lift off the cookie sheet yet.
12. As they cool on the cookie sheet, they stiffen up and have a crisp outside and a chewy center.
13. Store at room temperature in an air-tight container

Yield: 2 dozen