MISKWABI AREA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
40TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Spring 2014 Newsletter

Hooded Mergansers on Miskwabi Lake Photo Bill Bunn

Welcome back to the lakes – they just opened May 1st. In fact, a loon landed on Miskwabi Lake minutes after the wind pushed the ice sheet out enough for safe landing. The loon is eyeing mergansers who also want to make our lakes home this summer. The trees are alive with early migrant birds and spring peepers are singing in the evenings! Spring is here, finally!

MACA Membership

Thanks to all who have renewed their memberships.
If you have not yet returned your registration form please use the one included in the Winter Newsletter or print one from our website at mymaca.net.
Your annual membership is only $30.00.
Mail it to: MACA, 2153 Trapper's Trail Road, Haliburton, K0M 1S0.

Haliburton Events

36th Annual Haliburton Home & Cottage Show
This ever popular event will be held over the weekend of June 6 - 8, 2014 (Fri. 4-9, Sat. 10-5, and Sun. 10-4) at the Haliburton Community Arena and Curling Club. Over 150 exhibits are planned including construction, renovation, docks, boats, and clothing and much more as well as great food at the Curling Club.
Admission $3.00, children free, free parking.

Highlands Summer Festival
This July the stage is set for another wonderful season of theatre at the Northern Lights Pavilion (located at the Haliburton High School). Productions this year are: Great Expectations, Back in '59, The Last Resort, Billy Bishop Goes to War, and I Hate Hamlet. As the performances are usually sold out, order tickets early by calling 1-855-457-9933 or at their website www.highlandssummerfestival.on.ca.

40th Anniversary of MACA and one of the founders Jerry Strickland

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Miskwabi Area Cottagers' Association. Back in 1974 six cottagers met around a kitchen table and decided to form MACA to represent the environmental, social and regulatory concerns of the recently developed area of Long, Wenona, Negaunee and Miskwabi Lakes. The founding president was Jerry Strickland.
He led the association for numerous years and also went on to be a founding director of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association (FOCA).As former FOCA president Jean Anthon said, "Jerry Strickland came as close as anyone could to being 'Mr. FOCA'.

The federation was his passion, and FOCA blossomed under his management". An award of merit was created in his name and is given by FOCA yearly to a cottage association realizing significant accomplishments and demonstrated innovation in its work with its members and the community.
Jerry passed away in 1995 and his family still cottages on Miskwabi Lake. When roads were renamed for the "911" implementation the original end to Trapper's Trail Road was renamed to Strickland Road.
This July, at our AGM, the Miskwabi boat launch will be officially renamed the *Strickland Memorial Boat Launch*. The new sign will be unveiled to honour the man who cared so much about our lakes.

A Tale from Those Early Days

And the tale was supported by what Pam Cox found in the 50's - this chert arrow head on the shore of Long Lake.

There are no facts to support the Legend, but it is said Miskwabinish, an Algonquin, made his home on what is now called Lake Miskwabi, just south of the entrance to Long Lake.
In 1784, an Algonquin war party, led by Miskwabinish, ambushed a band of Hurons on Balsam Lake in the narrows near Cobiconk, killing all save a young maiden, Wenona, a Huron princess and a beautiful woman. Miskwabinish took her captive, then finding out later that she was of royal Indian blood, married her and they had three children, only one of whom lived, a boy, named Negaunee.
During the period of 1782 to 1786, Miskwabinish became a powerful warrior, leading many successful raiding parties throughout Huronia to Georgian Bay and as far away as the Finger Lakes and Lake Champlain, in Iroquois territory. As a result of his strength and courage, Miskwabinish was revered by the Algonquins and feared by his enemies.
In November 1796, Miskwabinish, Wenona, and Negaunee were known to be preparing to set out by canoe for the trading post at Rosedale, for winter supplies. Their usual route would have been down Long Lake, Loon Lake and the Burnt River but other Algonquins on Long Lake, expecting to accompany them on their way, waited, then searched and found their entire camp gone. It is expected that enemy raiders surprised them, entering Miskwabi by portaging from Lakes Kennebik and Yankton and then the Burnt Creek.
The mystery is complete, as all possessions, teepee, canoe, trapping supplies, food caches and dogs all disappeared and not a trace has been found to this day. Miskwabinish was thought to have a secret cave somewhere in the surrounding hills and it is believed that he was furtively followed to the cave, killed and with Wenona and Negaunee, and all their possessions, sealed therein.
No one knows what happened, but Legend has it the Loon's call turned from a very happy one to very sad when Miskwabinish disappeared. To this day they say the Loon's plaintive call is the spirit of Miskwabinish lamenting his longing for the lakes he misses so much.

Miskwabi Area Watershed Plan Update

The third draft of the watershed plan is almost complete and will shortly be available at the MACA website for your review. Copies will also be sent to various government and ministry bodies for comment.
A workshop is planned for Saturday, June 28,2014 for people to review and comment on this draft.
Following the incorporation of final changes to the plan, the committee plans to publish the watershed plan this summer. A DVD is being created to accompany and introduce the report.
Both will be available on the MACA website and copies for purchase (at a modest amount to help cover printing costs) will be available this fall.

Please note these important dates:

Saturday, June 28 – *Watershed Plan Workshop at the Haliburton Library between 9 and 11:30 a.m. Committee members will be on hand to review the draft plan and recommendations for stewardship, receive your feedback and answer questions.*

Saturday, July 5*- At the MACA AGM the committee will make a short presentation regarding the final draft of the watershed plan and answer any questions.*

MACA Roads Committee

Committee Chair John Ewing is looking for volunteers to join the roads committee. Yearly this committee informs the Dysart Roads Dept. of repairs needed on the publically maintained roads around our lakes. Representatives to report on spring road conditions on roads around Miskwabi, Negaunee and Long lakes are needed. If you could volunteer an hour or two of your time please contact John at john.ewing@bell.net.

Hazardous Waste Days

Haliburton Landfill Site - 222 Industrial Park Road
Saturday, August 2, 2014 - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Acceptable Household Hazardous Waste Classes:
Latex and Oil Paints, Finishing Products e.g. varnish, glues
Used Motor Oil; Auto and Household Batteries;
Propane Tanks and Cylinders, Cleaners,
Aerosol Cans, Solvents e.g. varsol, paint thinners,
Pesticides and Herbicides; Pool and Photographic Chemicals
Florescent Light Tubes
A complete list of acceptable household hazardous waste items can be found on the following website: www.makethedrop.ca/contents

Haliburton County Swimming Pool Initiative

Submitted by Gay Bell, Chair, County Swimming Pool Initiative

The County Swimming Pool Initiative (CPSI) is a committee of citizens who have been advocating since 2009 to have a recreation facility with an indoor swimming pool built in the county. They have just completed a Market Feasibility Study that revealed the best location for the facility would be in the Municipality of Dysart et al, and that between 1600 and 2230 permanent adult residents across the county would be willing to pay $45/month to use the facility.
Although the committee believes cottagers would use the facility, seasonal residents were not included in the study. As well, research indicates that more cottagers will become full-time residents and may eventually move off the lakes and into town as they age. The committee believes that having such a facility would encourage these residents to stay in the county when they relocate.
The proposed facility would include a 4-lane 25 metre pool, a warm therapy pool, walking track, fitness facility and exercise studio.
For more information, or to voice support for the initiative, visit www.ourpool.ca or email ourpool@rogers.com

ANNUAL ROAD CLEAN-UP

Sunday, May 18 – 11 a.m.

Make it a family event – bring your children or grand children!
Meet at the Miskwabi Boat Launch.
Remember to bring a pair of gloves.
Garbage and recycle bags are provided.
The work takes about an hour and a BBQ for volunteers follows.

All year – To help keep our lakes, forests and roadsides clean please encourage everyone to not pitch bottles, bags, cups and butts.
Leave your guests and renters a “one-time” landfill pass. Too often the cleanup folks find bags of household garbage that were tossed from vehicles on the “going-out” side of the road.

WATER QUALITY

The response to the Miskwabi Area Watershed Plan survey question regarding water quality was unanimous: 100% of the 414 respondents said water quality was "Very Important" or "Important". It's all about the water – aesthetically, environmentally, recreationally and economically as regards property values.

Over the years MACA has participated in the Ontario Ministry of Environments' (MOE) Lake Partners' Program. As well, the lakes have been tested by MOE and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). Below is a brief explanation of the most common tests:

Water Clarity – SECCHI Depth

Measures water clarity as a useful tool in tracking the nutrient status of a lake. Oligotrophic lakes are clear, cold and unproductive; Mesotrophic are moderately productive; and Eutrophic are warm and experience algae blooms.

Total Phosphorus (TP)

This test measures the phosphorus in a lake. Increases in TP cause algae growth, decreased water clarity, and in extreme cases, lead to algae blooms.

Dissolved Oxygen

Dissolved Oxygen is critical to life in a lake and adequate dissolved oxygen in deeper areas is essential for lake trout survival.

pH

This measures the acidic levels of the water with 7 being neutral. Most aquatic plants and animals can survive in ranges of 6.5 to 8.

Alkalinity

This test measures the acid-neutralizing (buffering) capacity of a lake.

Calcium (Ca)

In aquatic systems calcium is necessary for growth of crustaceans and in turn the food chain in the system
.

SUMMARY OF TEST RESULTS				
Parameter	**Long**	**Miskwabi**	**Negaunee**	**Wenona**
SECCHI depth(m) >5 oligotrophic 3-5 mesotrophic <3 eutrophic	4.25	8.5	4.82	5.1
Total Phosphorus (ug/L) <10 ug/L oligotrophic 10-20 ug/L mesotrophic >20 ug/L eutrophic	6.95	5.7	10.5	8.85
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L) >6 excellent for lake trout	10 metres – 2.4 20 metres – 0.79	10 metres – 8.7 20 metres 6.9 40 metres – 4.1	10 metres – 1.0	10 metres – 3.4 20 metres – 0.1
pH >6.5 excellent 5.5 – 6.5 good <5.5 poor	7.5	7.3	8.0	7.9
Alkalinity (mg/L) <10 sensitive	33.9	32.6	47.9	37.6
Calcium (mg/L) >1.5 mg/L necessary	13.3	13.9	21.4	13.9

Water Quality Conclusions

With regard to pH, Alkalinity and Calcium, the results for all four lakes are very positive.

Water Clarity (SECCHI depth) and Total Phosphorus tests indicate that Negaunee is tending toward being mesotrophic; whereas Long, Miskwabi and Wenona are oligotrophic.

Concerning Dissolved Oxygen, the figures signify that Long, Negaunee and Wenona are not suitable habitat for lake trout. This is of concern for Long Lake which has traditionally supported a lake trout population.

The Dissolved Oxygen tests for Miskwabi vary substantially from test-to-test years but generally are acceptable above 30 metres. The bottom reading (40m) has been trending downward. Even though the TP tests are good with no negative trends, the lower oxygen levels at depth along with the depleted levels in Long Lake give cause for concern.

Historically, the testing has been inconsistent among the lakes. MACA supports a CHA proposal for shared equipment, consistent testing and a local database to measure results and trends.

The most effective actions property owners can take are to keep nutrients out of the lakes – use phosphorus-free products, no fertilizers, support natural vegetation adjacent to shorelines and maintain septic systems.

Dysart et al Burning Regulations
In Effect April 1 to October 31

No burning between two (2) hours after sunrise and two (2) hours before sunset.
Fires must be attended at all times by a competent person with adequate equipment to extinguish fire (this person is responsible for any damages).
Fires must be away from combustible material by at least three (3) meters and must not exceed two (2) meters in height.

High C's in Highlands

Opera: Not a word most would normally associate with cottage country. But in the Haliburton Highlands, professional opera performances are a regular part of each summer.
The main stage is the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton with additional selected venues elsewhere in the village. As each performance concludes, patrons have a change to meet the singers and talk to them about the music and the production.
Each season offers two Operatic Highlights Concerts and an Alumni Concert in which young professionals reprise some of the world's favourite operatic compositions.
This year the programme includes *Tosca*.
For more information visit
www.highlandsoperastudio.com.
Tickets can be purchased at
www.highlandssummerfestival.on.ca

CONGRATULATIONS!
Lakes Test Clear Again

Results just received from **Invading Species Program** testing completed last summer shows our four lakes continue to be free of Spiny Water Flea and Zebra Mussels.
As our lakes are the headwaters of the Burnt River system they cannot be polluted by upstream sources.
The main way these foreign bodies would enter our lakes is by being carried in or on boats recently in an infected body of water, or in bait buckets .If your boat or a visitor or renter's boat has been in other bodies of water, please take the following steps:
Drain all water from boats on land.
Inspect, wash and dry your boat, trailer & equipment.
Empty bait buckets on land; never release live bait.

Let's all work to continue to keep our lakes clean and free of invading species.

OPP Billing Reform
With information from the County of Haliburton

If you are not currently aware, the County of Haliburton and the Municipality are urging property owners to voice objection to the proposed OPP billing model scheduled to take effect in 2015.
If implemented without changes property taxes in Dysart would increase 33%.
It is felt that the plan is flawed for the following reasons:

1. No other municipal costs, calculations, grants or funding opportunities are based on a per-household model.
2. Using the Province's own calculation of $159,000 per officer means Haliburton County would see 54 officers. Currently we are served by 29 officers and we would not likely see/need 54.
3. The lack of Commercial and Industrial tax base in rural areas puts a burden on residential households.
4. The policing of Provincial Highways doesn't appear to be included in any calculation and yet, in Haliburton, Provincial Highways are the main arteries and are the primary generators of calls. These costs and who bears them needs to be clearly illustrated.
5. Seasonal properties with limited occupancy do not generate year-round calls for service and yet they will ultimately bear the burden of the taxation required to cover increased costs. Haliburton County has 65% seasonal residency.

There is still time to make your opinion known.
Email the Premier at premier@ontario.ca, and the Minister of Rural Affairs at ynaqvi.mpp@liberal.ola.org and your local MPP.
For further information visit www.haliburtoncounty.ca

Municipal Cottage Kit for Garbage Disposal

Don't forget the Dysart et al Cottage kits which can be left for your guests or renters. The kit contains a welcome letter outlining the municipal waste disposal programme; garbage bags of various types and sizes; a map showing the landfill sites, hours of operation; and a one-time pass.
Kits are available at the municipal office in Haliburton for $3.00 or 10 for $25.

MACA Events

Don't miss any of the events planned for this summer as we celebrate MACA's 40th Anniversary.
Cut out the next page and keep it at the lake for handy reference.

.Miskwabi Area Community Association
Calendar of Events – 2014

EVENT	DATE	DETAILS
Spring Road Cleanup	Sunday, May 18, 11 a.m.	Many hands make clean roads for the summer! Meet at the Miskwabi Boat Launch. Bring gloves and sunscreen! BBQ for volunteers to follow at the Giza's 2153 Trapper's Trail
Watershed Plan Workshop	Saturday, June 28, 9 – 11:30 a.m. @Haliburton Library meeting room	Final draft including proposed recommendations available for comment and discussion
Annual General Meeting 40th Anniversary of MACA	Saturday, July 5, 11 a.m. @ the Miskwabi Airport	Be informed – meet your neighbours! Bring a chair and sun umbrella MACA updates, guest speakers, elections Watershed plan update Fund raising raffle MACA shirts and hats for sale BBQ and 40th anniversary social to follow
9 Hole Golf Tournament Best ball format	Saturday, July 12 @ Haliburton Highlands Golf Course	All golfing levels welcome! Email Moe Welch at loismoe@bell.net for details & registration BBQ to follow
Wine and Cheese Party	Saturday, August 23, 2-5 p.m. Location to be announced at the AGM and on the website.	Please bring dry goods donations for the Haliburton Food Bank
Pontoon Cruise and :Lunch	Saturday, September 6, 11 a.m.	Meet at the Miskwabi Boat Launch Email Moe Welch at loismoe@bell.net if you can take passengers from other lakes

NATURE NOTES

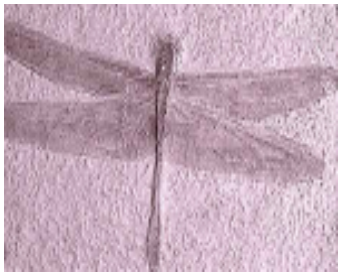
DRAGONFLIES and DAMSELFLIES




How can you tell the difference between a dragonfly and a damselfly?

The biological order Odonata ("toothed ones" in Greek) includes the dragonflies and damselflies – some of the largest flying, most ferocious and yet beautiful insects that ever lived. There are 25 families and over 5000 species. Of all their characteristics, the easiest way to tell a dragonfly or damselfly from other species is by the size of the eyes and shape of the abdomen: eyes very large in proportion to the head and abdomen long and relatively thin.

Ancient Creatures



The Odonata are ancient invertebrates. The earliest known fossils come from sediments in Europe formed 325 million years ago. Some were large – up to 75 cms. (30 ins) wingspan. The prehistoric wings pictured here are a beautiful specimen from limestone in Bavaria, Germany and are 155 million years old.

Lifecycle

Dragonflies and damselflies have a 3-stage life cycle: egg, nymph, and adult. The female deposits the eggs on the water surface or structure just below the surface. Eggs normally hatch in three to ten days, but in some areas of dry climate do not hatch for years. Dragonfly eggs are round with a diameter of .5mm; whereas damselfly eggs are cylindrical and about 1mm long. Once hatched, the dragonfly and damselfly nymphs, depending on the species, will live underwater from a number of months to a number of years. The dragonfly nymphs have robust gills located inside the abdomen.

It expands and contracts its abdomen to move water over its gills, and can squeeze water out rapidly for short bursts of underwater jet propulsion for attacking and escaping.

The larval damselfly, on the other hand, has an abdomen that is longer and narrower with three fin-like gills projecting from the end. It swims with a side-to-side "snake-like" motion.

The nymphs of both dragonflies and damselflies are not as brightly coloured as the adults but are well camouflaged predators that ambush their prey.
They have extendable jaws underneath the head which can shoot out like a harpoon to capture prey which includes other insect larva, leeches, small fish and each other.
During their aquatic stage both groups molt from 6 to 15 times. The final time, the nymph crawls out of the water, usually onto a vertical structure, and emerges from its old skin as an adult with functional wings.
Dragonfly and damselfly adults have large heads with very large compound eyes. Each one is composed of 28,000 individual units (ommatidia) and 80% of their brain is devoted to analyzing visual information. Their jaws continue to have the prehensile labium which can be rapidly extended forward helping to make them efficient hunters. They are feeding generalists - eating what is available – mosquitoes, black flies, mayflies, caddisflies, gnats, deerflies and horseflies. In turn, they are preyed upon by birds, fish, frogs, spiders and in some cases, larger dragonflies.

Do you know the key differences between dragonflies and damselflies? – see the bottom of this page.
The top of Page 7 has pictures of two dragonflies and two damselflies (all males). The following are descriptions and pictures (females) of the same species of dragonflies and damselflies. You are apt to see all four around our lakes.

DRAGONFLIES

The ***Green* Darner** is one of North America's largest and most common dragonflies. It can be up to 98mm long (about 4 ins.) and have a wingspan of 115mm (4.5 ins.).The thorax is solid green and the abdomen is bluish on males and reddish-brown on females.
The Green Darner has a diverse habitat range which includes lakes, ponds, marshes and slow streams. Incredibly, a large proportion of this species are migratory. They emerge late in the summer and fly to the southern U.S., Mexico, Belize and the Caribbean. Their progeny return the next spring.

The ***Dragonhunter*** belongs to the "clubtail" family, being named for its enlarged posterior abdominal segment which is most pronounced on males. The male is long-legged, has green eyes, yellow face, and a boldly yellow and black-striped thorax. Females are similar in colour and pattern to males but have much more yellow on abdominal sides.
This species is well named as it preys on other dragonflies, damselflies and butterflies. A particular favourite is reported to be the Ebony Jewelwing Damselfly.

DAMSELFLIES

The ***Ebony Jewelwing*** belongs to the "broad-winged" family of damselflies – possessing wide, heavily-veined wings which taper gradually at the base. The wings are held closed at the top of their bodies. They are large damselflies at up to 57 mm (over 2 ins) and have black wings and a metallic green body. Females have a white dot at the tip of brownish wings. The Ebony is present from May to September, often by the shaded edges of streams and often deeper in the forest.
They are the only damselfly which, on hot days, will obelisk by holding their abdomen towards the sun.

Lyre-tipped Spreadwing One of the characteristics that distinguish damselflies from dragonflies is that the former normally hold their wings together while wings of the latter are always spread apart. However, as in most natural classifications there are exceptions – the lyre-tipped is one. It belongs to a family of damselflies that possesses stalked, clear wings that are held spread-out and up to 44mm (less than 2ins) long. Males have blue eyes, powdery bluish-white colouration and a lyre-shaped

terminal appendage on their abdomens. The female abdomen is blue and brown. They are widely distributed from British Columbia to Nova Scotia in open, temporary wetlands and ponds.

Some key differences between Dragonflies and Damselflies

- Dragonflies have robust bodies while damselflies are quite slender.
- Dragonflies rest with wings open as they do not have hinges enabling them to fold their wings whereas damselflies, in most cases, rest with wings folded together on their abdomen.
- Dragonfly eyes are huge, dominating the front of the head whereas damselfly eyes are large and are positioned somewhat to the side of the head.
- Dragonflies are very strong fliers moving 100 body-lengths per second forward, backwards at 3 body-lengths per second and capable of hovering in the air for about one minute. On the other hand, damselflies have more of a fluttery flight.

Credits: Ontario Nature; Field Studies Council, British Isles; University of California, Department of Paleontology; University of Michigan Museum of Zoology; Wisconsin's Citizen-based Water Monitoring