



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: Susan Rohricht
Lake Steward: Tim Hagarty

Directors:
Steve Dyce
Dave Ewart
John Ewing (*Roads*)
Stephen Foster
Mike Giza
Susan Hay
Haden Heathcock
Phyllis McCulloch (*Membership*)

www.mymaca.net



Ducks Taking Off on Long Lake, Photo Peter Kukkonen

2020 MACA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Spring Cleanup:

Postponed

AGM:

Postponed

Wine and Cheese:

Canceled

Photo Contest:

Proceeding with Historical Photos

Events Schedule Severely Curtailed due to COVID-19 Restrictions

President's Message

Let me first say that I truly hope everyone is healthy and staying safe.

I want to thank all of you for joining/renewing with our association. As you know we have taken the difficult decision to either postpone or cancel many of our events due to COVID-19 concerns. We are looking at doing the Annual General Meeting later in the summer using a virtual format. We are also trying to move ahead on as many of our other activities as we can do safely, including water testing, the photo contest and advocating on behalf of our members - especially relating to items that impact the environment.

I am really excited about a new partnership MACA has begun with the U-Links Community Benthos Bio-Monitoring program this spring. This program engages Trent University students to conduct benthos testing which is an up and coming water quality valuation technique that will give early detection of any water quality issues - like a "canary in the mine" analogy. Although if we all do our part by ensuring our septic systems are working well and by allowing parts of our shoreline to re-naturalize, water quality will take care of itself.

Finally, I wanted to say how proud I was that our MACA board agreed to make a \$1,000 contribution to the local food bank during this period of crisis.

Enjoy the season, but please do it 6 feet away from everyone else.

Peter Dilworth, MACA President



An Excerpt from the Mayors Message Regarding Seasonal Residents (May 7th)

... the May long weekend is almost here, and while the weather has been unseasonably cold, people still want to come to their properties to do the usual chores and maintenance. The Premier, in consultation with Mayors across cottage country, is now asking people to only come if they feel they need to. This is not the traditional party weekend, known affectionately as the "May 24". You are welcome to come to your cottage, but please bring what you need for the time you are up here. All the other restrictions are still in place and they are there to protect all of us. No gatherings of more than 5 and absolutely NO fires or fireworks.

Everyone should always feel welcome here, as we all add to the vibrancy and culture of Dysart et al. We know the importance that we all collectively make to contribute to this community.

This Spring, we welcome back our seasonal residents with open arms but six feet apart. So, get your gardens raked, clean the windows, put in the docks, repair the little things that always need fixing, and plan for the summer ahead. The warmer weather will be here and while the summer of 2020 won't be the same in the Highlands, it will still be a beautiful, peaceful place where wonderful family memories will be made. We truly are all in this together, so be patient and be kind to each other.

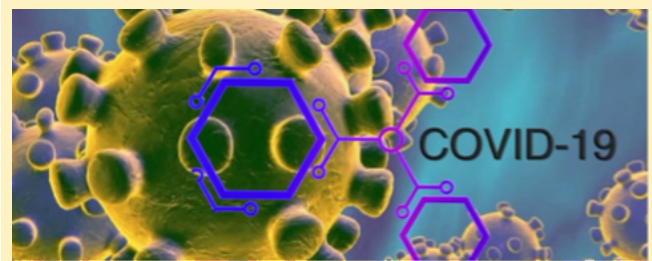
Andrea Roberts, Mayor Municipality of Dysart et al



Deer Parking, Photo Steve Dyce



New Signs at the Boat Launch, Photo Susanne James



Restrictions and Implications

The Premier is asking seasonal residents that must travel to their cottages to "practice the same public health measures as usual, including **no public gatherings, avoiding non-essential travel as much as possible, and continue to practice social distancing**".

All outdoor fires (including fireworks) are prohibited in Haliburton County as the Province has designated the entire legislated fire region of Ontario a Restricted Fire Zone until further notice. For more information: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/outdoor-fire-restrictions>.

2020 Interim tax installment dates have been extended by Dysart et al to June 30, 2020 without penalty or interest.

Boat launches in Dysart will remain open for the time being.

Short-term rentals are not an essential service and therefore not permitted at this time according to the Province.



Spring Around the Corner, Photo: A Dyce

MACA Volunteers Wanted!

If you are interested in volunteering with our association please contact Peter Dilworth at peter.dilworth@sympatico.ca.

MACA Is Going Paperless

Starting with this edition, the Spring and Fall **MACA News** will no longer be printed.



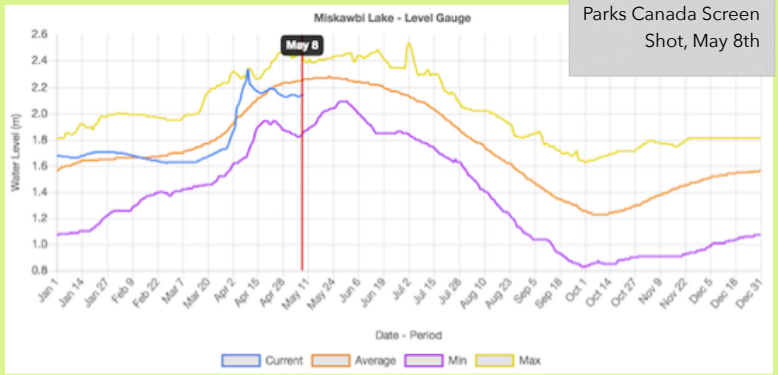
New MACA Board Member from Negaunee Lake

The MACA executive is pleased to announce that **Stephen Foster** has agreed to join our board effective April 25th. The motion before the board (as per article V, section 4 of our by-laws) carried unanimously. Welcome to our team Stephen!

Water Levels

MACA is a member of the **Coalition for Equitable Water Flow (CEWF)**, a coalition of 32 Lake Associations. One of their key objectives is to promote an integrated approach to water management that will improve water conservation throughout the system while recognizing the environmental, public safety, social and socio-economic constraints of managing the water resource. Their next scheduled meeting is in the fall.

An important resource for property owners on Miskwabi and Long Lakes to periodically consult, especially in the fall when water levels are at their lowest, is the **Park Canada Water Management Infonet website** at www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/on/trentsevern/info/infonet/niveau-eau-water-levels. Parks Canada monitor our water levels daily, provide water level updates as well as forecasts late in the season. By consulting the website one can see that as of May 8th the water levels at the Long Lake dam were approx. 11 cm below the average for this time of the year (see the chart below).



Local Government Affairs

Over the course of the winter MACA executive engaged in various local issues all of which had potential impact on our environment.

There was concern that the Municipality was going to degrade the quality of the septic inspection program because they had run into a number of problems that slowed the program significantly. We were pleased that even though council no longer requires residents to perform mandatory pump-outs there will still be a "lids off" inspection. This should allow the program to get back on track.

We participated at the Haliburton County Council meeting on Feb 26th where proposed changes to the Shoreline Tree Preservation By-law were discussed. We were one of 23 lake associations participating. There was also representation from the Home Builders Association. At that meeting council agreed to establish a working committee, plan a series of public meetings and online engagements and conduct a detailed line-by-line review of the bylaw. Although with COVID-19 restrictions in place the consultation

Lake Steward's Corner

by Tim Hagarty, MACA Lake Steward

Well, this has been quite the spring! I hope that you are all keeping safe and somewhat sane in these trying times. COVID-19 has affected our water testing world as well. The water tests we normally conduct in May have been postponed indefinitely and we have sent a letter asking the government to re-consider, but



realistically, I think we will not be testing this year. The results from last year have not been released, even with lobbying from FOCA. We continue to work on that.

However, there are things we can accomplish. I have asked the water testers to continue taking the "Secchi" readings, which we will consolidate in the fall to keep that side of our data intact. Check out the CHA website (cohpoa.org), for further information on what you can do and plan to protect our shorelines and lakes.

To brighten things up, the NEW Loon's nest on Wenona has occupants! We welcome them back!

Septic Care Checklist*

So what can you do to reduce the stress on your septic system and prevent overloading it?

- Never use bleach & minimize antibacterial products
- Never flush wipes of any kind - there is no such thing as a flushable wipe in a septic system.
- Use regular, good old fashioned soap for hand washing. Harsh anti-bacterial soaps are toxic to the microbes in your septic.
- Never do more than one water consuming activity at a time - e.g. doing dishes and laundry together may overload your system.
- Only do laundry when you have a full load and try to do only one load per day
- Take showers of 5 minutes or less instead of having a bath, which uses more water.
- Never use chemical products in your toilet tank, like cleaning pucks that turn the water blue.
- Fix leaky plumbing fixtures especially toilet flappers that can allow hundreds of gallons of extra water to leak into your system.
- If you have not had your septic tank pumped in 5 years, contact a septic service company (they are considered an essential service) and arrange to get it done as soon as possible.

* Based on notes from the CHA

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

By Phyllis McCulloch,
Membership Director



Now more than ever membership with MACA is important. This allows us to share information quickly. We will be updating our lists soon and by renewing you will continue to receive our newsletters and notifications.

You have the option to renew online through FOCA which is safe and secure => Go to mymaca.net; Click on "Membership" and then click on "Join/Renew"; Complete the required fields. Our membership fee is only \$30.00.

If renewal on-line is not an option, you can always send us a cheque with the completed membership form.

In the early summer we hope to get out to install signs for our new members and "2020" stickers for those who have renewed.

As well, we will keep you all posted about the *Early Bird Draw*.

If you have any questions please send me a note: phyllis.mcculloch058@sympatico.ca.

MACA Remembers Louise Fowler

Our prayers go out to Norm Fowler and his family on the recent passing of his wife Louise. Many members will remember them as Norm was a former MACA treasurer for a number of years. Louise always helped Norm behind the scenes to keep track of the members and they hosted the annual wine and cheese at their place on Long Lake several times. Louise loved living in Haliburton and her curious nature resulted in lots of travelling. She will be remembered fondly.



NATURE NOTES: Why are lawns bad for ecological health?

by Susan Hay

Growing grass over your septic tank makes sense. You don't want anything with long roots getting tangled up in your septic bed. However, lawns require regular cutting which releases smelly exhaust, greenhouse gases and unpleasant noise pollution.

Also, mown grass along your shoreline welcomes geese which add unwanted nutrients to the lake. It usually requires fertilizer and even herbicides for those who want a manicured looking landscape. These harmful chemicals will eventually wash into the lake. Mown grass eliminates habitat for almost anything at a time when we are in a biodiversity crisis. Our rain often comes down in heavy deluges which erodes sloping driveways and shorelines. Short grass acts as a hard surface that allows polluted rainwater to flow straight into the lake.

Planting shrubs and deep-rooted plants, especially native ones, absorb water, reduces erosion and provides habitat for native birds and wildlife. Having a variety of vegetation in your yard is good for our ecological health. At a minimum, please consider leaving at least three feet of undisturbed vegetation as a buffer zone along the waterfront to stabilize the shoreline and filter storm water. Native grasses and aquatic vegetation are ideal for this purpose.



3rd Annual MACA Photo Contest

This Year's Theme:

“Good Old Times at the Cottage”

Go to <http://www.mymaca.net> to submit your favourite historical photos. As such, please do not submit photos taken this year.*

2 Categories

1. photos from last century (e.g., from before 2000)
2. photos from this century (e.g., from 2000 and after)

We will accept all jpg or pdf files.

Winners will be announced in the Fall Newsletter.

Prizes for each category: 1st \$30; 2nd \$20; 3rd \$10



* Our attempt to provide a COVID-19 friendly event.

MACA FLASHBACK! 17 YEARS AGO



Here's what was making news in the MACA Newsletter from May, 2003

The process of renaming the roads in Dysart is still underway, with late summer being the anticipated completion date.

Despite what seemed to be non-stop snow this winter, Trent Severn Waterway reports indicate that the county's reservoir lakes were only at 68% capacity as of Monday April 7, down 17% from the same time last year. Apparently the snow that did fall was too dry and frosty to compact as much as it normally does, and combined with the lack of Spring rain, accounted for this shortfall.

West Nile Virus

The Ministry of Health is concerned that West Nile Virus will continue to spread further into Ontario this summer. It is caused by mosquito bites, and the Ministry has issued the following precautionary guidelines:

- *avoid the outdoors around dawn and dusk, when mosquitoes are most active . wear light coloured clothing with long sleeves and pants*
- *remove standing water from your property, as this provides an excellent and favoured breeding ground for mosquitoes.*

Given the water quality deterioration, and the onset of a new cottage season, it seems timely to remind everyone of a few important practices necessary to help keep our lakes clean and healthy:

- *Do not use shampoos or soaps of any kind in the lake*
- *When operating washing machines and dishwashers, use only phosphate-free detergents*
- *Avoid the use of fertilizers on lawns and other vegetation; and very importantly ensure septic systems are properly serviced and maintained.*

Please remember to remind all guests and friends using your cottage about these guidelines as well. And please also be sure to keep your copy of the MACA Cottagers' Code posted in a spot where everyone can see it.

Cottage Cook's Corner

Favourite Recipes Shared by MACA Members



Apple Fritter Loaf

Contributed by: Dave Ewart

INGREDIENTS:

- 1/3 cup brown sugar
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 2/3 cup white sugar
- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 3/4 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 cup milk
- 2 apples, peeled and chopped, mixed with 2 tbsp granulated sugar and 1 tsp cinnamon

Cream Cheese Glaze Ingredients

- 2 oz cream cheese softened
- 2 tbsp butter softened
- 1/2 tsp vanilla
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar

Or

Old Fashioned Cream Glaze

- 1/2 cup of powdered sugar
- 1-3 tbsp milk or cream

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 350F. Use a 9x5 loaf pan and spray with non-stick spray or line with foil and spray with non-stick spray.
2. Mix brown sugar and cinnamon together in a bowl. Set aside.
3. In another medium sized bowl, beat white sugar and butter together using an electric mixer until smooth and creamy.
4. Beat in eggs, 1 at a time, until blended; add vanilla extract.
5. Combine flour and baking powder together in another bowl and add into creamed butter mixture and stir until blended.
6. Mix milk into batter until smooth.
7. Pour half the batter into the prepared loaf pan; add half the apples and half the brown sugar/cinnamon mixture.
8. Lightly pat apple mixture into batter.
9. Pour the remaining batter over apple layer and top with remaining apples and brown sugar/cinnamon mixture.
10. Lightly pat apples into batter; swirl brown sugar mixture through apples using knife or spoon.
11. Bake in the preheated oven until a toothpick inserted in the centre of the loaf comes out clean, approximately 60-75 minutes. Really depends on the dish or pan you use.
12. To make glaze, mix powdered sugar and milk or cream together until well mixed.
13. Let cool for 25-30 minutes before drizzling with glaze.