



# 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](http://www.mymaca.net)



*Learning Curve, Photo S Lukacic*

## President's Message

I hope everyone is staying healthy and keeping safe. We are all excited to have baby loonlets on 3 of our lakes. There is nothing better than the wonders of nature to help lift our spirits during these difficult times. Your MACA executive have decided to issue this special edition newsletter because it has been difficult to connect with all our members this year given we have had to cancel many of our events.



However, we are moving ahead with the Annual General Meeting which is scheduled for Saturday August 29th at 11AM using the Zoom virtual format. We are extremely fortunate to have a member of our association step forward to help us out on this. The last 2 pages of this newsletter contain the agenda for the meeting and associated materials. If you have questions you wish us to address at the meeting please email them in advance.

Another theme you will notice in this newsletter is that we are asking members to respect their fellow neighbours during this difficult time. I, for one, appreciate the need to let off a little steam once and a while, but please watch your wake when you are boating, the volume of your music, etc., because they impact others.

You will also notice that our 2019 water testing results showed a sharp increase in phosphorous levels in Long Lake. While this might be an anomalous result, we urge you to continue shoreline naturalization efforts and if there is any concern that your septic might not be working properly, please have it tested.

Talk to you all on the 29th.

*Peter Dilworth, MACA President*

## 2020 MACA ACTIVITIES

### MACA Annual General Meeting:

SATURDAY AUGUST 29, 2020,  
11:00AM

Join Zoom Meeting at <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/800799727>

Meeting ID: 800 799 727  
(see pages 5 and 6)

### Photo Contest:

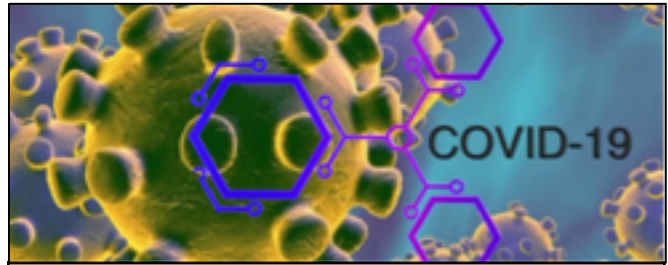
Proceeding with Historical Photos  
Deadline for entries Aug 31st  
(see page 5)

## Please Respect Your Neighbours

Over the last number of weeks, your MACA executive have received an unprecedented number of complaints. Most of these relate to people not being very respectful to others in our immediate community. While MACA has no authority to deal with most of these complaints and does not get involved in policing, we would ask that everyone act just a little more respectfully toward their neighbours, especially during this stressful time as we all deal with the COVID-19 crisis. As such please:

- watch the size of your wake, especially close to shore
- don't trespass
- don't play your music loud
- drive carefully on our cottage roads, particularly near pedestrians
- don't litter and please pick up after your pet

Note that you can report dangerous boating, excessively loud music, etc., to the OPP using their non-emergency confidential number at 1-888-310-1122.



## Update

As of July 17, the Haliburton region has moved into stage 3 of the province's reopening plan.

The Health Unit is directing that non-medical masks or face coverings must be used within indoor public spaces, including most commercial establishments/services.

It is suggested that you exercise continued diligence in preventing the spread of COVID-19 by regular hand washing, wearing a mask if you're able, respecting established social circles and maintaining physical distancing as required.

If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or if you are concerned that you have been exposed to COVID-19, please call the Haliburton Family Medical Centre at 705-457-1212 and press 6 to book an appointment in the Haliburton County COVID-19 Assessment Centre.

Cash transactions at landfills are still prohibited.

## Local Government Affairs

The municipality has made changes to its **fireworks bylaw**. Earlier this summer Council passed a resolution to allow them on the weekend preceding and including Labour Day, to align with similar bylaws in Highlands East and Minden.

Council also updated the rules for Canada Day fireworks to address confusion. Under the new rules fireworks are allowed on the holiday itself and on the weekend closest to it. However, when Canada Day falls on a Wednesday fireworks are allowed on both the preceding and following weekends.



As of Friday, July 17, the county wide **fire ban has been lifted**. Local regulations still apply, and no burning will be permitted between 7 am and 7 pm.

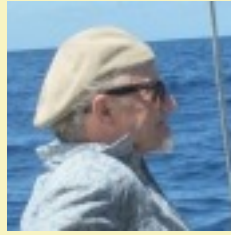
## Keeping your 911 Sign Visible

Please make sure that your 911 number is visible from both directions of travel. This could save your life or someone else's.



## Lake Steward's Corner

by *Tim Hagarty, MACA Lake Steward*



I hope that this unusual summer has been kind to all, as it has been challenging!

COVID-19 has not only affected our lives, but our lakes as well. Our phosphorous and calcium water tests have been cancelled this year by the Provincial Gov't. However, we are testing our lakes for water clarity. In May we were surprised to see a large increase in clarity of about 2 to 3 metres above norms for all the lakes. Further testing in June/July continued to show clarity of 1 to 3 metres above norms, depending on the lake. Is this good or bad news? We checked with the CHA Science Advisor and the answer is that it isn't clear until we understand why.

The boats on our lakes are bigger and more powerful than ever. The wakes from these large boats are massive (white caps in some cases) and are creating havoc with our shorelines. These waves are also an issue with the safety of residents (e.g., small children playing in the shallows have been knocked over by these waves). Please be aware of your wake and its effect.

Eurasian Watermilfoil has been identified in a lake just to the north of us. Chinese Mystery Snails are also on the march and these invasive species are working their way toward our lakes. Always inspect, wash and dry your boat and trailer before launching in a new water body and never empty bait buckets near the water. Please see <https://www.cohpoa.org/lake-health-3/invasive-species/> for more information about invasive species.

There have been two reported cases of large Blue Green Algae blooms in Muskoka. Blue-green algae, technically known as cyanobacteria, are microscopic organisms that are naturally present in lakes and streams. They are usually present in low numbers but can rapidly increase in warm, shallow, undisturbed surface water that gets a lot of sun and especially when coupled with increasing phosphorous levels. When this happens, they can form large blooms that discolour the water or produce floating scum on the surface of the water. Blooms often make the water look blue-green or olive-green, or like green pea soup or turquoise paint. Blue Green Algae can be toxic and extremely difficult to get rid of. If you spot a bloom, report it to the Spills Action Centre at 1-800-268-6060. Please let me know as well.

The Phosphorous results from 2019 were normal for all lakes except for Long Lake, which showed a marked increase on phosphorus levels. It could be a one-time occurrence, but please be aware that most phosphorus comes from your septic systems. If you suspect you have a problem, please have it checked. This is another reason to ensure that you have a natural shoreline. Check out the CHA's website, [cohpoa.org](http://cohpoa.org), under Shoreline and Septic health.

I had the pleasure of being interviewed by Ryerson University regarding the Lake Partner Water Testing Program. The interview involved discussion on citizen science, the importance of volunteer monitoring, and the question of whether there is a general decline in public trust in science and how lake monitoring might relate to the concept of public trust in science. I certainly gave it a positive spin.

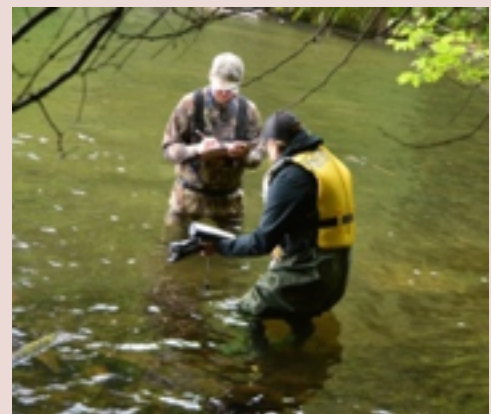
Do not get down, we are in good shape, and we are in the Highlands!

## U-Links Benthos Bio-Monitoring

MACA has established a new partnership with the U-Links Centre for Community Based Research. This program engages Trent University students to conduct benthos water testing that will give early detection of any water quality issues.

In July members from U-Links were on site to identify potential locations to do the testing. They spent almost 6 hours with us all outside (while socially distancing and wearing masks for much of the day). They identified a number of ideal sites for collecting samples, including sites on all 4 lakes. The testing is conducted in about 3 feet of water in mucky organic lake beds.

The next step is that students from Trent University will arrive in the fall with one of the U-Links managers to collect benthos samples, study the health of organisms and prepare a detailed report for us. Given the volatility with some of the recent water quality test results, this is a very timely exercise that should help us better understand the health of our lakes.





## Boating Safety

by Steve Dyce

Safe boating appears to be a concern on our lakes. With more and more boats on the lakes, please help us all enjoy our lakes safely.

- **Be aware of your wake.** Most boats produce maximum wake height just before reaching plane. Please slow right down near shore. Large wakes cause shoreline erosion, create unsafe conditions for nearby kayaks/canoes and cause damage to dock systems. Remember the law - 10km/hour maximum within 30 m/100 ft of shore.
- **Water on the water, Beer on the pier.**
- **Please refrain from loud and offensive music.** Others want to enjoy the water too. Sound travels on water, so please lower the volume.
- **Any boat towing a skier/wakeboarder/tuber is required by law to have an observer** in addition to the driver and must also have a seat for each person on board AND for each person being towed. As such, a PWC towing someone must have at least 3 seats (driver/observer/person being towed). Failure to have an observer is not only against the law, it puts others on the water at risk as well as the person being towed. Waterski and Wakeboard Canada provides the following info on their website regarding rules and safe practices for towing (<https://wswc.ca/towing-rules-and-regulations-keep-safe-on-the-water/>)
- During the COVID-19 crisis, **only boat with those that are in your immediate family (or bubble).**

Again, if you are witness to "unsafe boating" please contact the OPP.

Let's all enjoy the summer safely!



## Did You Know

MACA is a member of the **The Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Associations (CHA)**. The CHA draws from the strength of its member associations to share best practices, study common issues, develop common solutions, recommend county-wide policies and influence outcomes. Member associations remain autonomous. The CHA priorities relate to Septic System Health and Natural Shorelines.

MACA is a member of the **Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA)**. FOCA advocates for healthy lakes and rivers, and is the voice for Ontario's 250,000+ waterfront property owners.

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.

## Water Levels

Following the recent significant rainfall over the entire Trent River Basin, the Trent-Severn Waterway has been able to slow the rate of drawdown on the reservoir lakes.

The most recent two-week water level forecast can be found at <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/on/trentsevern/info/infonet/rabattement-drawdown-forecast>.

Note that as of Aug 12th the water levels at the Long Lake dam were approx. 12cm above the average for this time of year (see <https://www.pc.gc.ca/apps/waterlevels/donnees-data?Id=44&lang=en&siteId=100419>)

## 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY AUGUST 29, 2020, 11:00AM

Join Zoom Meeting at <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/800799727>

Meeting ID: 800 799 727

### AGENDA

1. Welcome, Opening Remarks and Introductions
2. Election of Directors
3. Fish Community Update (Adam Challice, Management Biologist MNRF)
4. Directors' Reports - Including:
  - Financial Report (Virginia)
  - Lake Steward's Update (Tim)
  - Membership Update (Phyllis)
  - Roads (John)
5. Other Updates (e.g., Fireworks By-Law, Photo Contest, U-Links Project, etc)
6. Q & A
7. Meeting Adjourned



## Election of Directors

At the 2019 AGM, Andy Mosher, Peter Dilworth, Haden Heathcock, Dave Ewart, Tim Hagarty, Susan Rohricht, Steven Dyce and Elizabeth Cloutier were all appointed as directors for two years.

In March Elizabeth resigned from the board.

The MACA board appointed Stephen Foster to the board for a two year term (as per article V, section 4 of our by- laws).

Directors Mike Giza and Susan Hay have both indicated that they will not be running again.

Virginia Vranckx, John Ewing and Phyllis McCulloch are all up for renewals. In addition, Bill Lester, a long time cottager from Long Lake will stand for nomination to our board.

That will give us 12 board members. Our by-laws state that we can have as many as 15 board members.

## 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. We are extending the deadline for entries to August 31st.

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:  
1<sup>st</sup> \$30; 2<sup>nd</sup> \$20; 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10



## Questions Please

If you have questions you wished addressed at the AGM, please send them in advance to

[miskwabiareacommunityassoc@gmail.com](mailto:miskwabiareacommunityassoc@gmail.com)

## Financial Update for the AGM

### 2019 Financials

<b>Cash on Hand Year End 2018</b>	<b>\$6,537.96</b>
<b>Revenues 2019</b>	
Memberships	\$6997.25
Raffle Proceeds	2.00
Donations Century XXI	200.00
	<b>\$7199.25</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Bank Charges	49.20
FOCA Processing Fee	285.30
Insurance	1225.60
CHA	250.00
CEWF	100.00
FOCA	825.00
Membership Drive/Newsletters	1220.45
Gifts	203.20
Lake Plan	(9.40)
Love Your Lake	45.20
Spring Cleanup	189.42
AGM	369.49
Photo Contest	35.21
Wine and Cheese	721.11
Water Tests	339.00
Wetlands Evaluation (Fleming)	467.29
Signage	2741.86
General Admin	264.63
	<b>\$9322.56</b>
<b>Cash on Hand November 2019</b>	<b>\$4,414.44</b>

### Nov 2019 to July 2020 Financials

<b>Cash on Hand November 2019</b>	<b>\$4,414.44</b>
<b>Revenues 2020</b>	
Memberships to July	7100.00
	<b>11,1514.44</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Bank Fees	69.98
FOCA Processing Fees	207.90
CHA	250.00
CEWF	100.00
FOCA	825.00
Winter Newsletter/Drive	833.05
Insurance	1223.60
Donation to Food Bank	1000.00
Lake Plan	(20.00)
Wetlands Evaluation (Fleming)	16.90
Photo Contest 2019	100.00
Signage 2020 Stickers	28.35
Website Renewal	101.00
Administrative	134.00
Subtotal	4,869.85
<b>Cash on Hand July 2020</b>	<b>\$6,671.59</b>

*MACA is currently in a very healthy financial situation*

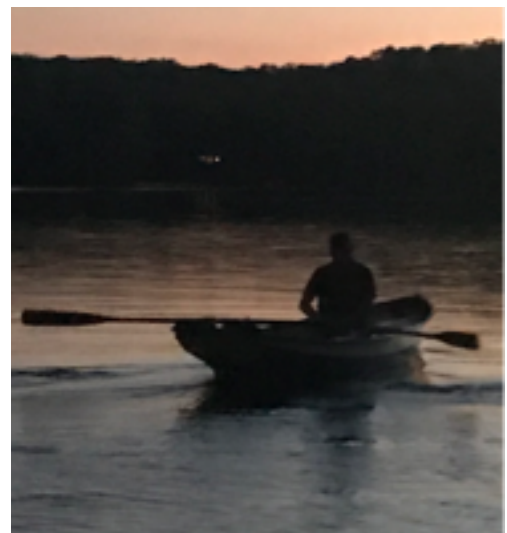
## Draft Motions for Approval at the AGM:

Motion on Board Appointments:

The MACA membership appoint Virginia Vranckx, John Ewing, Phyllis McCulloch and Bill Lester to the MACA Board for two year terms.

Motion on Financials:

The MACA membership receives the financial report for the year ending Nov 30, 2019 and the July YTD results.



*Rowing Home, Photo K. Hunsberger*