



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)



Photo: Sun Shining on South Shore of Long Lake, by K. Hunsberger

President's Message

Greetings everyone!

As far as I know, this is only the second time we've produced a summer newsletter. Although given we've had to cancel a number of our events, we thought this would be a good way to report what MACA has been working on.

You will see, starting on page 3, a summary of the MACA AGM. We are happy to welcome Jeannette Brumell and Kat Bassan to our board. I can also report that your MACA board has endorsed a plan to move forward to update the MACA website. We're hoping to have the new website ready by late fall.

The environment committee has continued to meet throughout the summer. As noted at the AGM, protecting lake health is our number one priority. This group is in the process of distributing a communications piece to all waterfront properties highlighting ways to protect our lakes from toxic blue green algae blooms. When you receive this small door hanger please take the time to read it carefully. Protecting against toxic blooms requires support and buy-in from everyone.

We have extended the deadline for the photo contest till the end of the month. Please get your photos in.

Be good and stay healthy.

Peter Dilworth, MACA President



2021 MACA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Spring Cleanup:

Cancelled*

AGM:

Saturday, July 10th
See Summary notes at Pg3

Wine and Cheese:

Cancelled*

Photo Contest:

Theme: "Life at the Cottage"

* Due to COVID-19 safety protocols

GRASS CLIPPINGS - AN UNEXPECTED CULPRIT

You may be aware that fertilizer contains phosphorus, a nutrient that causes toxic algal blooms. But did you know that grass clippings contain a high concentration of phosphorus too? If you mow your lawn down to the lake, the rainwater will run easily over it picking up your grass clippings and taking them into the water. That phosphorus from your grass clippings could be enough to tip the balance of nutrients, and create a blue-green algae bloom.



Our lovely corner of the world has been hit hard by numerous blue-green algal blooms over the past year. It might be time to ask whether we would rather have manicured lawns, or swimmable lakes. Please don't cut your lawn all the way down to the waterfront. To replace the lawn, consider adding rain-absorbing, and filtering, plants, shrubs, and trees at your shoreline to stop grass clippings and other nutrient pollutants from changing our lakes forever.



Loon Rescued on Trappers Trail

On July 9th cottagers from Miskwabi Lake noticed a loon on Trappers Trail, bleeding and showing signs of distress. They gathered up the loon in a box and quickly escorted it to the Woodland Wildlife Sanctuary in Minden. At the sanctuary they stitched up a badly cut artery on its leg and after a brief stay at the sanctuary it was released back onto Miskwabi Lake. The loon is doing fine.

We are blessed to have so many loons in our area. The haunting sounds of the loon call reminds us how fortunate we are to share these lakes with these wonderful creatures. Thank you Kristin Naus for saving this loon!

Woodland Wildlife Sanctuary is a non-profit, volunteer-based charity - please consider donating to them by going to <https://woodlandwildlifesanctuary.ca>.

HIGHLIGHTS from MACA's AGM

Saturday, July 10, 2021 11:00 a.m. EDT, Zoom virtual meeting

MACA President Peter Dilworth welcomed everyone to the 47th MACA AGM. Peter confirmed quorum. He recited a land acknowledgement and then introduced the board members.

Election of Directors

Virginia Vranckx, John Ewing, Phyllis McCulloch, Steve Foster and Bill Lester were all (re)elected in 2020.

Susan Rohricht is retiring after 12 years on the board. Andy Mosher, Tim Hagarty, Steve Dyce, Haden Heathcock and Peter Dilworth will all stand for another two year term. Jeannette Brumell and Katarina Bassan will also stand for nomination.

MOTION (Lester/Ewing): The MACA membership appoint Andy Mosher, Tim Hagarty, Steve Dyce, Haden Heathcock, Jeannette Brumell, Katarina Bassan and Peter Dilworth to the MACA Board for two-year terms. Motion carried.

This gives 13 board members. The bylaws allow 15, although the allocation for the Roads 636 Rep sits empty.

MACA member Bob Chemij mentioned that he would like to work with Steve Dyce on fishing ideas.

Larry Clarke, Councillor, Ward 2

Councillor Clarke highlighted that there is a new asset management plan (roads and bridges) that is helping Dysart to prioritize projects. The new website is now live. The current plan is for the 2022 municipal election to be electronic. The new Head Lake Park Information Centre is open. Funding is being allocated for a student residence at the college.

He noted that there have been an increasing number of people moving up to the area which is causing service implications. Increased construction traffic has been beating up our roads. There is a shortage of service trades.

Fireworks - last year was the start of the new by-law. Fireworks on certain dates are allowed. There is a complaint process.

Short term rentals - Larry has been looking at this for two years. First step is to license them. Could restrict the number of days owners can rent their property as well as linking the number of occupants to septic design.

Shoreline restoration - More full-time residents. More boats. County has consultants working on this topic. Shoreline tree by-laws in place. The restoration piece will take another year.

MACA priorities

MACA's priority is to focus on initiatives to help avoid future blue green algae (BGA) outbreaks. Last year the Haliburton area saw 11 lakes with BGA outbreaks. BGA is ugly. It can be toxic. Persistent BGA can cause property values to plummet. Climate change is a factor, but the principal cause is contaminants (e.g., phosphorous) in the water.

To support lake health, MACA is focused on three areas.

Water Testing: MACA will do more and different testing.

Septic System Testing: Wenona Lake will see inspections this summer. Other lakes will be tested starting in 2023. A poorly working septic system can be a major source of phosphorus.

Shoreline Naturalization: The Love Your Lake program indicated shorelines of our lakes are 50% natural. We need 75%. Water flowing into the lake needs to flow through a naturalized buffer. Please no fertilizer or spraying for mosquitoes.

Membership Update - Phyllis McCulloch

As of July 10th, we have 271 members. Numbers are steadily increasing. This year alone we have 30 new members. Almost all the membership signs and stickers have been put up.

The early bird draw has 223 entries in it.

If your contact information changes, please let Phyllis know.

Financial Report - Virginia Vranckx

Financial Report for 2020 - income tax has been filed and accepted. Started the year with \$4400 in cash. Great membership numbers. At end of November 2020, we had approx. \$5800 in cash.

Financial report 2021 - at the end of June 2021 MACA was sitting on \$7700. It was noted that insurance coverage was recently increased to \$5 million liability. Water testing is going to be a new ongoing expense.

In response to a query, it was agreed that MACA would look at the insurance rates as a follow up.

MOTION (Rohricht/McCulloch): The MACA membership accept the financials. Motion carried.

Continued on next page ...

HIGHLIGHTS from MACA's AGM **(Cont'd)**

Lake Steward's Update - Tim Hagarty

Last year's Lake Partners water test results showed no significant change from previous year. Phosphorus numbers: Long 8; Miskwabi 5; Negaunee 7; and Wenona 10.

On November 8, 2020 we had a BGA bloom on one of the MACA Lakes. MACA created an Environmental Committee. This committee created a door hanger highlighting what property owners should be doing to avoid future BGA blooms.

Independent water testing done on Wenona showed some high phosphorous results. Testing on Long and Miskwabi came back okay. Testing of oxygen levels will be done later this year. There is a correlation to lack of oxygen levels and phosphorus levels.

Tim is training to deal with invasive species like the Chinese Snail.

Roads - John Ewing

The intersection of Trapper's Trail and HWY 118 is difficult to identify at night. John is arranging a site visit from the MTO.

Near 1101 Precipice Rd soil and stone flow into the ditch because of the slope of the road. John says the Municipality will dig out the ditch and repair the culvert. Larry Clarke will investigate and update John.

Deep ruts at the Wenona Lake boat launch have been filled in. At the 2020 AGM it was reported that the gravel on Kennaway Road was too large. Peter says it has been resolved.

There was a question from a member about when Trapper's Trail beyond the causeway would be repaired. [Note: after the meeting Councillor Clarke confirmed that road repairs on Trappers Trail from Kensington to Strickland is on the list for significant work this year.]

After a question about Wenona Lake Rd, John indicated that apparently grading is scheduled for the full road.

There was a question about signage at Wenona Road west and Hasley Pass as it is hard to find that intersection. John will follow-up on that.

Fish Community - Steve Dyce

The Spring newsletter outlined topics for discussion. Steve is hoping people will share fishing stories. He reminded people they need an Outdoors card and an

up to date fishing license.

Steve is proposing catch and release for the Bass population. He reminded the group that there are limits when fishing. Pike is still an issue in our lakes. Keep pike when caught, within the allowed regulations.

Steve reminded everyone that if you move your boats to other lakes, clean them and let them dry before going back into the water. We want to avoid invasive species. Never dump live bait in our waterways.

Safe Boating Committee - Steve Dyce

MACA created a Boating Committee. A boater's guide was created. The goal is to encourage safe, respectful, considerate boating on our lakes. Some of the bad habits we see on the lakes are actually criminal offences. Additional NO WAKE signs will also be posted.

U-Links Project - Peter Dilworth

MACA has established a new relationship with U-Links. U-Links is a not-for-profit organization that does community science with the help of Trent and Fleming students. This past year we did two projects.

The first project was to look at the science of blue green algae. Objectives were to identify why blooms occur and examine mitigation strategies. The research showed that climate change is exacerbating the situation. There is no magical way to get rid of BGA blooms. The best strategy is to avoid outbreaks in the first place by eliminating the factors that cause them (e.g., reduce phosphorus in our lakes).

The second project was the benthos invertebrate's health assessment. Students pulled invertebrates samples from six different locations on our lakes. Understanding the health of those populations provides an indicator of lake health. Early findings are suggesting that there are signs of stress on our lakes. MACA will continue with the Benthos testing. These are "win-win-win" projects ... students win, your association wins and the environment wins.

Website project - Dave Ewart

Our current website is dated, and needs be updated. A team has been created to work on this. They are currently investigating tools for the upgrade, while keeping costs down. More details to come in the Fall.

Photo contest - Peter Dilworth

The theme this year is "Life at the cottage". We will take all JPEG or PDF files. The contest closes August 14th. We will announce the winners in the fall newsletter.

Continued on next page ...

HIGHLIGHTS from MACA’s AGM

(Cont’d)

Other Information

OPP non-emergency: 1-888-310-1122

Municipal By-law enforcement: 705-457-1740 extension 634 (confidential system)

Dysart roads department after hours/weekends:
1-855-574-5264

Parks Canada water levels: <https://www.pc.gc.ca/apps/waterlevels>

The Beshore Haliburton - Preserving Shorelines: <https://www.beshore.ca/faqs/>

Household Hazardous Waste Days: Saturday, July 10 Haliburton; Saturday, August 14, Harcourt; Saturday, September 18, West Guilford

Special Presentation

Peter made a presentation to Susan Rohricht who is leaving the board after 12 years. Peter thanked Susan for her service and shared a gift of a framed photo from a previous photo contest.

Early bird draw winners



There are two prizes this year. Virginia pulled the winning names from a jar of entries. Cathy Renda on Long Lake and also from Long Lake, Albert Kim and Donal Cummins.

Meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm EDT.

PLEASE Slow Down, this is Cottage Country

We have had a number of reports of speeding and aggressive drivers on our cottage roads. Please slow down. The pedestrian you might hit may very well be your neighbour.



MACA Environment Committee - An Update

The committee agreed to expand the blue green algae (BGA) mitigation communications program to all MACA lakes. As such, the door hanger, which highlights ways to limit phosphorous from entering our lakes and other ways to reduce the risk of algae blooms, will be distributed to all waterfront properties by the end of August.

After a rocky start, the Municipality's septic system inspection program is now in full swing for Wenona Lake. Septic inspections on the other lakes will be conducted starting in 2023.

Upcoming water testing:

- Additional phosphorus tests will be conducted on Wenona Lake in late August and in November.
- Oxygen level tests will be conducted this fall with support from the Dorset Science Centre.

MACA will consider undertaking a 2022 project to research rain run-off impacts.

MACA will develop a comprehensive BGA education/awareness campaign.

MACA will write another letter to the County advocating for a strong Shoreline Preservation Bylaw. The new by-law must be every bit as strong as the current one. It must include shoreline alteration and grass cutting restrictions and provide some clarity around grandfathering.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

**By Phyllis McCulloch,
Membership Director**



Congratulations to Cathy Renda and to Albert Kim & Donal Cummins, our Membership Early Bird Draw winners!

Watch for details in the Winter Newsletter on how you can be included in the 2022 Membership Early Bird Draw.

We hope to have information on how to order MACA Hats & T-shirts in the Fall or Winter Newsletter as well.

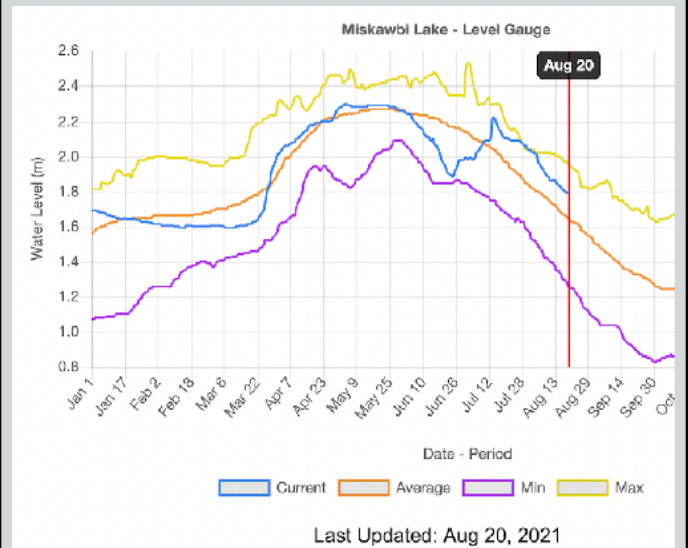
JUST A REMINDER - make sure your 911 sign is visible! We have noticed many 911 signs that are hidden by vegetation and aren't visible from the road. You want to make sure Emergency Services can find you quickly!

Do you have membership questions or suggestions/ideas for MACA? Send me a note - phyllis.mcculloch058@sympatico.ca

Thanks for supporting MACA with your membership.

WATER Levels

Even though the water levels on Long and Miskwabi Lakes have fallen considerably, they remain about 14 cm above average for this time of year.



Boater Safety

There have been many incidents in the past month of boats towing a skier/wakeboarder with only the driver on board. A reminder to all those enjoying water-sports on our lakes - you are required by law to have a lookout on board when towing anyone behind your boat or PWC. Having a second person onboard your boat enables the driver to concentrate on driving, and reduces the risk of injury to the towed person at start-up. If you have ever experienced an accidental rope tangle around a hand or foot when being towed, you will know how important it is to have someone who can alert the driver to stop quickly. And if there is an injury to a towed person, the lookout can assist - it is very difficult to get an injured person onboard without help. For everyone's safety - please follow the rules and let's have a safe summer!



4th Annual MACA Photo Contest

- This Year's Theme:

"Life at the Cottage"

- Complete the application form, including a short description of the picture or a title, your name and local property address. To conform with this year's theme, we are looking for photos that show activities at the cottage.
- Email your entry with the attached JPEG to MACAPhotoContest@outlook.com by Aug 31st, 2021.
NOTE: we've extended the date till the end of the month.
- 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



- By submitting a photo you give us permission to use it in MACA's newsletters or website.



Haliburton Highlands Arts Centre is Getting Traction

The Haliburton Highlands Arts Centre Foundation (HHACF) was excited to announce the Media

Sponsorship and the \$15,000 donation by Canoe FM last month. This will help promote the Arts Centre and to publicize the fund-raising campaign for the initial Feasibility Study to build a Performing Arts Centre right here in Haliburton. A location for local talent and big-name performers alike, a space to offer rehearsal and storage, to have a stage big enough for orchestras and allow opportunities for food and beverages to be served. A centre that offers all these components under one roof.

The commitment from Canoe FM will create community awareness, and help raise the necessary funding to undertake a Feasibility Study in 2021.

Donations can be made online at www.hhartscentrefoundation.ca/donate.

Cheques can be made out to HHACF and mailed to: 1855 Blairhampton Rd. Minden, ON, K0M 2K0.

A charitable tax receipt will be mailed to you for your donation amount.

TICK Alert



Climate change is making cottage country a more popular home for ticks and several have now been spotted in our region. Tick bites are usually painless but they may cause you to contract Lyme disease, a serious infection caused by the bacteria *Borrelia Burgdorferi*. If this disease is left untreated, it may require months of antibiotics to get rid of it.

It is advisable to learn what ticks look like. In their nymph stage they can be as small as a pepper flake, but when they reach adulthood they look like small, thin beetles that are brown and black in colour. They are constantly looking for a host to attach onto.

Do a full-body check when you come in from outdoors. Ticks generally like warm areas, such as your groin, armpits, and behind your ears, but they can be found almost anywhere.

If you do spot a tick on your body, the sooner you get it off, the better. Grasp the tick close to the skin with tweezers and pull straight out. Clean the bite area with soap and water, antiseptic, or alcohol. Keep the tick, in a sealed container, so your doctor can identify it and potentially have it tested for Lyme disease.

Lyme disease symptoms can appear any time from three days to one month after being bitten. Symptoms are easily confused with those of the flu: joint pain, fever, headache, and fatigue. A rash that appears like a bull's eye at the site of the bite is an obvious symptom to be aware of. If you've been bitten or are showing symptoms of Lyme disease, get medical advice as soon as possible.

Angler's Corner

By Steve Dyce, Fish Community Director

I hope you have had a great fishing experience so far this year - we see lots of anglers out early in the morning and near dusk which usually means you are having some success! Love to hear about it, so please send us an email to macafishcorner@gmail.com.

A reminder to all anglers - please ensure that you take any old fishing line, cut-off tangles, snags etc. with you. There have been several stories in the local news and other lake associations of loons or other birds becoming entangled in discarded fishing line. In some cases, they are unable to feed properly with the line around their bills. Keep it in the boat and either discard or recycle the used line - thanks!

At the virtual AGM, we briefly discussed MACA's support of catch and release - particularly for large and small mouth bass - so that our breeding population remains healthy and natural reproduction ensures the future of our bass



sport fishery. Strategies to support successful catch and release include: retrieving caught fish quickly to reduce fatigue; reducing handling time and ensuring hands are wet; returning the fish to the water quickly (less than 30 seconds is ideal) ; and, holding the fish with both hands - not by the jaw - for any picture. You can consider barbless hooks which reduce damage to the fish, and set the hook at first strike to minimize the risk of the hook being swallowed deep in the fish's mouth. By all means, keep a few fish now and then, but if we all harvest our daily possession limit the future bass fishery will be at risk.

Stay Safe

Be Respectful of Your Neighbours

Be Happy!