



MACA NEWS

Serving property owners on Long, Negaunee, Wenona and Miskwabi Lakes

YOUR MACA EXECUTIVE

President: Andy Mosher
Vice President: Peter Dilworth
Treasurer: Virginia Vranckx
Secretary: Susan Rohricht
Past President: Mike Giza
Lake Steward: Tim Hagarty

Directors:
 Dave Ewart
 John Ewing (*Roads*)
 Susan Hay
 Haden Heathcock
 Kay Hubbard
 Susanne James (*Newsletter*)
 Janine Lacoste
 Phyllis McCulloch (*Membership*)
 Todd Tiffin (*North Shore Roads*)

www.mymaca.net

2018 MACA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Spring Cleanup:
 Sunday, May 20th

AGM:
 Saturday, July 7th

Wine and Cheese:
 Saturday, August 25th



Miskwabi Boat Launch - Photo: Susanne James

President's Message

I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays, and wish all our members a Happy New Year ahead.

We have had some crazy weather so far this winter – from a sub-minus-30 cold snap, all the way up to a fast January thaw – and then back again.

An exciting new change for 2018: you can now join MACA – or renew your membership online, using your credit card. It only takes a minute; just visit www.mymaca.net and click the "Membership" link. If you have neighbours who aren't yet members, spread the word – it's never been easier to join MACA!

Enjoy our winter wonderland, stay warm, and be safe out there!

Andy Mosher, MACA President



DYSART ADOPTS NEW OFFICIAL PLAN

Includes new formula for Lake Capacity limits at MACA's request



On November 20th, the Municipality of Dysart et al voted to adopt a new Official Plan (OP). This concludes a thorough three-year review process which MACA participated in extensively.

The Official Plan is the policy document that guides all decisions on land use within the Municipality. Under the Provincial Planning Act, the Official Plan must be periodically reviewed and updated.

Over the past three years, Members of the MACA Executive — including President Andy Mosher, past President Mike Giza, V.P and Planning Director Peter Dilworth, and Lake Steward Tim Hagarty — met with Council members and Dysart's Director of Planning, Pat Martin, made written submissions to Council, and attended public meetings to give input to the new Plan.

MACA raised several issues during the Official Plan review, and we are pleased to report that many of them have been addressed in the new Plan. MACA has been credited by Dysart with several changes, including:

- **New Policy on Lake Capacity:** *"No new lots shall be permitted where the lot to lake surface area ration exceeds 1 lot for each 1.6 hectares net lake surface area. Further if Council determines that an application of shorelands that involves the creation of a new lot, new residential units or new non-residential development could unduly add to existing aquatic recreational stresses, conflicts and hazards, it may require that the applicant submit a boating capacity study as described in Section 17.5.4"* Under this

formula Long, Miskwabi, and Wenona Lakes are now considered to be over capacity.

- **Headwaters:** MACA also suggested language that has been included in the Plan, to recognize that *"the lakes and rivers in the Municipality include the headwaters of the Burnt and Gull River Watersheds, which are key components of the Trent-Severn Waterway and provide fresh water for the Haliburton Highlands as communities downstream in Southern Ontario."*
- **Septic re-inspections:** The new Plan also calls for the development of a long-term septic re-inspection program, which is critical for protecting our lakes.

The MACA executive commended Dysart on the openness and transparency of the Official Plan review process, and we are pleased with Dysart's willingness to include our suggestions in the Plan — particularly the new policy on Lake Capacity, which should help to protect not only our MACA area lakes but also lakes throughout the nine Townships of Dysart et al.

There is more information, including the full text of the new Plan, a summary of changes, and a list of comments from MACA and other participants, on Dysart's web site at:

<http://www.dysartetal.ca/planning/dysart-et-al-official-plan-5-year-review-and-update/>

Dysart's Chief Planner Pat Martin Retires

The completion of the Official Plan review marks the end of an era at Dysart et al.

The Municipality's long-time Director of Planning and Development, Patricia Martin is retiring, after 25 years.

During her tenure, Pat oversaw the implementation of policies that have helped to protect our shorelines and lakes, including larger lot sizes and stricter building setbacks — as well as the protections in the new Official Plan.

MACA enjoyed an excellent working relationship with Pat. She was extremely helpful in answering our numerous policy and planning questions, and was always willing to make time to meet with members of the MACA executive over the years.

We thank Pat for her hard work and we wish her the best in the future.

Dysart's former Planning Assistant, Jeff Iles, is taking over Pat's position. Jeff has also been very helpful to MACA in the past, and we look forward to working with him.

Septage Study Update

As we reported in the fall MACA Newsletter, Dysart et al is studying options for disposal of septage – the waste that is pumped from septic systems.

Currently, when you have your septic system pumped out, most of the waste is either taken outside of Haliburton for disposal, or it is spread on rural agricultural land – a practice that the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) may soon re-regulate or ban outright.

The Municipality asked ASI Water, the company that operates the sewage treatment system for Haliburton village, to study options and recommend a long-term solution. On December 5th, a second public meeting was held at Dysart Council Chambers, to give an update on the study.

ASI is recommending that Dysart build a new facility to treat septic waste. At a previous public information meeting in August, this recommendation was criticized



as being premature, given that the MOECC’s policy on septage disposal is not yet clear.

Some attendees at the December 5th meeting suggested that land the Municipality recently purchased near West Guilford may already be earmarked for a treatment facility. However Dysart Reeve Murray Fearrey stressed that no decisions have been made.

If Dysart Council does choose to build a new treatment facility, there will be further public meetings to discuss possible locations.

Miskwabi North Shore Rep Needed!

Director Todd Tiffin has informed us that he will be stepping down from his role as Miskwabi North Shore roads representative. We want to thank Todd for volunteering over the past 2 years.

With Todd stepping down, we require a new representative from the North Shore to take his place. This person will report annually on the condition of the 3 private roads serving the North Shore (Major Tr., Sagamore Tr. and the private extension of Trappers Trail) and make recommendations on necessary maintenance to the MACA board.

For those of you on the Miskwabi North shore, these are your roads – so it’s important that your voice is heard! If you are interested in helping out, please contact Todd at tstiffin@gmail.com or Andy at andy_mosher@sympatico.ca

WINTER DRIVING SAFETY

Now that winter is upon us, here are a few friendly reminders to help stay safe on the roads:

- Keep an eye on weather forecasts
- Drive according to conditions
- Watch out for wildlife
- Snow tires can make winter driving safer and easier
- Remember that drinking and driving is illegal for snowmobilers as well as car drivers. The OPP conduct RIDE programs on snowmobile trails too!
- Also, please do not leave vehicles where they will interfere with winter road maintenance. By-Law 2010-42 states: “No person shall park or stand a vehicle in such a manner as to interfere with the movement of traffic, the clearing of snow, or the sanding and maintenance of a highway.” You may face a fine and your vehicle may be towed!



Financial Update

by Virginia Vranckx, MACA Treasurer



Happy New Year!

As members of MACA we were able to accomplish many goals and projects this past year, funded by your memberships and donations. I'll leave it to the other directors to detail but here are the contributing financial details:

- Membership revenues \$5850.00
- Raffle proceeds \$173.00
- Project monies received from FOCA \$200.00
- Donations from Century 21 (Susanne & Andy) \$500.00

On the expense side we spent a total of \$5300.00 and only Bank Charges went up more than usual (as we now accept MasterCard and VISA for memberships). As well, this coming year we will be paying FOCA a comparable fee to collect MACA memberships thru a link on our website. (Note: Our bylaws do not allow for Internet banking so we cannot accept Debit memberships).

The only other extraordinary expense was \$840.00 to post the new laminated Cottagers/Renters Guide.

The year end bank balance is a healthy \$5850.00.

Thank you for your support and help in making my position as Treasurer easier.

Annual Haliburton Real Estate Update

Low Cottage Inventory Pushes Prices to Record High

There were 303 waterfront cottage/recreational sales in Haliburton in 2017 (Ontario Lakelands Real Estate board MLS data). That was down almost 17% from the number of sales in 2016, owing to an unusually low number of listings on the market.

The low inventory helped to push the average waterfront cottage sale price up to \$523,942. That's an increase of 20.8% over the previous year, and marks the first time the average sale price has broken through the \$500,000 mark in Haliburton.

There was also a notable shift toward high-end cottage sales: 20% of the sales were above \$700,000, compared to just 10% in 2016.

Courtesy: Susanne James, Sales Representative & Andy Mosher, Broker, Century 21 Granite Realty Group Ltd. Brokerage

NATIVE PLANT SALE - Don't Miss It!

Once again this year, the charity Friends of Ecological and Environmental Learning (FEEL) is holding its annual native plant sale, featuring locally grown bare-root tree and shrub seedlings, wildflowers, ferns, and grasses.

The sale helps to support FEEL, and it's a great way to get hardy, native plants to renaturalize your property and shoreline! You can reserve your plants online between now and April, and pick them up locally in May.

For more information visit: www.ecoenvirolearn.org or contact ecoenvirolearn@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

By Phyllis McCulloch, Membership Director



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It's that time of year, time to renew your MACA Membership for 2018. Our fee still remains at **\$30.00**.

Last year you had 3 options for renewing your membership: 1) with cash, 2) by cheque and 3) by sending your credit card information. The 3rd option proved to be very successful with our membership – and now, thanks to our Treasurer, Virginia Vranckx we now have an even better, easier "Option #4"!

You can now go to the MACA website (www.mymaca.net), click on "Membership" and click on "Join/Renew". This will take you to a FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottage Associations) secure site. All you have to do is complete standard information, i.e. Name, Lake, Lake Address etc. and enter your credit card information.

Once you submit your information you will receive an e-mail confirmation, the payment will be deposited directly to the MACA bank account and we will be notified that your renewal fee has been received.

All of our members who have provided us with their e-mail address will receive an individual note with the exact directions to the web-site. Each note will include the information and a renewal form if you wish to use one of the other options of sending a cheque or paying cash (reminder - please do not send cash through the mail). For those who still prefer to receive their information by mail, a form will be included with the Newsletter.

Again this year, renewing your Membership by **February 28th, 2018** will make you eligible for the "Early Bird Draw" which will be held at our Annual Meeting on July 7th.

The funds we receive are used to cover the costs of the BBQ that is held after our Road Clean-Up in May, our BBQ after the AGM and the Wine & Cheese at the end of August. As well, this money helps defray costs incurred from regular association business, printing materials and signage.

We do hope that you will renew your membership and that we will see you at one of our events.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at Phyllis.mcculloch058@sympatico.ca.

We're sure it's going to be a great cottage season in Haliburton this year!

Lake Steward's Corner

by Tim Hagarty, MACA Lake Steward



I am pleased to report that one cottager on Wenona who wanted to do some shoreline alterations with regard to erosion and the Love Your Lake results, contacted Phyllis and I for ideas and then went the proper route to the MNR to get approval – and they did! Please remember, that as much as we encourage shoreline revitalization, if it goes beyond planting trees and shrubs, to get the proper approval.

The ice went out on Wenona Lake on April 20th and came in on December 11th. I ask that anyone who has similar data, including past years, for their lakes to please forward it to me so we can have one central database. This data is also sent to the Ministry program for their database.

For those antsy to see how our waters tested, we must wait for March. We are first in line for the Invasive Species results, which will be announced as soon as they are received.

We are working with Dysart et al on new signage at the boat launches. Dysart is working on a program for all boat launches to have the same wording and size. We have had many meetings with them and as a result of our input and co-operation we will be the first Association to have a sign. There will be a sign underneath the main sign for Association information. MACA was instrumental in that idea, and we will have this part funded by Dysart due to our initiative. The plan is to have the signs in place this spring.

Wenona Lake was without baby Loons this year, and we deduced that the Loon's nest was past its prime. Kudos to Brian Williams and Mike Piazza for taking on the challenge of building a new one, to be launched in the spring.

Would those presently doing the water testing, please let me know your intentions for this year? I need to have the info so that I can alert the Ministry, if there are any changes as to where to send the kits. Also confirm for me that you have received the kits, which is usually sometime in April.

NATURE NOTES: "Canada's Worst Invasive Plant"

by Susan Hay

Phragmites australis is spreading across Ontario and needs to be stopped. It has been called "Canada's worst invasive plant" and it is threatening Ontario's biodiversity.

At heights of five metres or more, this reed-like plant forms large, dense stands in wetlands, waterways and drainage systems, choking out animal habitats and native species.



Phragmites is already found across the province and throughout Eastern Canada as well as three locations on Eagle and Moose Lakes, according to a local study. In total, there have been 19 reported cases of *phragmites* in Haliburton County.

Kate Powell, a spokesperson for the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters' Invading Species Awareness Program, says *phragmites* is dangerous to ecosystems and lake health because it decreases biodiversity.

Phragmites spreads at an alarming rate, sending shoots in all directions. The plant also releases toxins from their roots, cutting

off other plants access to nutrients and water. *Phragmites* is also easily transported on vehicles and equipment.

The really disturbing news on *phragmites* is there are very few effective control options. Mechanical control by cutting or burning will work on specific sites. Herbicides are the most effective option but can't be used around water, where the invasive grass is often growing. There are registered herbicides in the US to control *Phragmites*, but they are not currently registered in Canada.

"Learning how to identify *phragmites* is the most important thing... because you can report it and early detection and rapid response can take place" says Powell.

Removing *phragmites* is no easy task. The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters Invading Species Awareness Program can advise on removal methods if called, which can range from mowing to compressing to controlled burns. One of the more common forms of removal, according to Powell, is cutting below the water surface as close to the sediment as possible. While it can be effective, even this process normally takes a few of years of repeating and managing before the *phragmites* are removed.

Phragmites spreads through its seeds - which can be transported by wind, animals and human introduction - and by rhizomes, which can spread underground. *Phragmites* grows commonly in disturbed wetland areas, from roadsides to swamps to streams, ponds and lakes.

Powell says that a disturbed shoreline can provide an empty nest for *phragmites* to grow, so maintaining a natural shoreline can reduce the risk of the plant growing along property owners' waterfronts.

If you see a case of what you believe to be *phragmites*, you can report it to the Ontario Invasive Species Hotline at 1-800-563-7711 or at www.invadingspecies.com.

Sources: *Haliburton Echo*, August 22, 2017 and Ontario Federation of Agriculture: <https://ofa.on.ca/media/news/ofa-wants-to-rid-ontario-of-canada-s-most-invasive-plant>.

MACA FLASHBACK! 40 YEARS AGO



Miskwabi Area
Cottagers' Association
Incorporated

Here's what was making news in
MACA Newsletter #16 from 1978:

"We have been advised by the Ontario Municipal Board that the hearing on the plan for 94 water-access lots on the remaining shores of Lake Miskwabi and the northeast shore of Long Lake will be held June 19, 1978 in the Municipal Offices, Haliburton, for 3 days... We understand that the inclusion of the Miskwabi area into the Dysart Official Plan will be heard also."

"68 unsold lots from the existing plans of subdivision on Long Lake, Miskwabi, Wenona and Negaunee have been sold from Hasley Developments to Tri-Sound. We have been advised by the Municipality that the responsibility for road upgrading remains with Hasley and work is to start this year to bring all roads to Municipal standards. All lots must have Health Unit certification immediately prior to issuance of building permits. Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw specifies cottage to be the first building on the lot constructed to Ontario Building Code standards."

"True to their word the Trent Canal authorities have kept the reservoir lakes filled to capacity and are replacing 1' wooden logs with 6" steel logs throughout the reservoir system. The Haliburton Highlands Water Levels Committee meets continuously with Federal and Provincial groups and representatives to attain a permanent solution."

"Ministry of Natural Resources advise that the mercury in Miskwabi bass last year was within acceptable limits for unrestricted consumption. 'It seems reasonable at this time to assume that the mercury in the lake system came from the surrounding bed rock over a protracted period of time...' The lake was stocked with 10,000 yearling lake trout (in) 1977 and is scheduled for the same amount in the spring of 1979. Three cheers for M.N.R."

Cottage Cook's Corner

Favourite Recipes Shared by MACA Members



Roasted Garlic Soup

Contributed by: Jim Clark

Ingredients:

- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- 2 garlic bulbs, roasted
- 1 cup dry white wine
- 4 cups chicken or vegetable stock
- 1 cup 35% cream
- 5 garlic cloves, peeled and sliced in half
- 4 slices rye bread, toasted
- 1 lb Oka (or Swiss) cheese, grated
- 4 Tbsp. sherry
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 4 oven-proof soup bowls

Directions:

In a large soup pot, heat oil on medium low and add crushed roasted garlic. Cook 1 minute. Pour in white wine and bring to a boil. Let volume reduce by half. Add stock and simmer for 15 minutes. Remove from heat; let cool 5 minutes. Puree in blender with 1 of the peeled garlic cloves (or 2 if you really want more garlic flavour) until smooth. Return to pot. Pour in cream. Heat on medium low and stir. Season with salt and pepper.

Rub garlic halves on toasted bread and insides of the soup bowls. Place 1/8th of the cheese into each bowl.

Pre-heat oven to broil.

Ladle the soup into each bowl. Pour 1 Tbsp sherry into each bowl and cover with a slice of bread. Sprinkle remaining cheese over the 4 bowls. Broil until cheese is bubbling and slightly browned.