



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*)

www.mymaca.net

2019 MACA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Spring Cleanup:
 Sunday, May 19th

AGM:
 Saturday, July 6th

Wine and Cheese:
 Saturday, August 24th



Plowing Trappers Trail Rd. - Photo: Susanne James

President's Message

Andy Mosher, MACA President

Change is in the air. It's a new year, and we begin it with a new Mayor and Council in Dysart et al.

As we welcome Mayor Andrea Roberts and local Ward 2 Councillor Larry Clarke, I want to personally thank the outgoing Mayor Murray Fearrey, and Ward 2 Councillor Dennis Casey, for their support and co-operation with MACA over the years.

During his remarkable run as Reeve and Mayor, Murray Fearrey attended just about every MACA AGM since our organization was founded in the 1970s. Dennis Casey has served our Ward 2 during several stints dating back to the 1990s.

It is all too easy and common these days to be cynical about politics and politicians. Instead, we should thank these people – past and present – who put their names forward for election, and give a huge amount of their time, energy and lives, to serve the public.



New Faces on Dysart Council

On December 3rd, Dysart inaugurated a new Council, the result of voting in the fall Municipal election.

Dysart welcomes a new Mayor, Andrea Roberts. Roberts won the Mayoral race with approximately 57 per cent of the vote. She has served on Council for the past 12 years, most recently serving a term as Deputy Mayor. Roberts replaces outgoing Mayor Murray Fearrey, who had served on Council for 47 years.



New Mayor Andrea Roberts

Our local Ward 2 (the Ward that includes our four area lakes) also has a new councillor: Larry Clarke. Clarke took approximately 37% of the vote, defeating rival candidates David McKay and Mike Stinson.



New Ward 2 Councillor Larry Clarke

Clarke will replace outgoing Ward 2 councillor Dennis Casey, who made an unsuccessful bid for the Deputy Mayor position. Casey had served as Ward 2 councillor in the 1990's, and most recently returned to Council in 2016, when Derek Knowles resigned his seat.

Clarke says he is looking forward to working with MACA on issues of interest to our members. As always, MACA will be inviting the Mayor and Ward 2 Councillor to speak at our annual AGM in July – so make sure you attend, and bring your questions!

Also newly elected to council were Deputy Mayor Pat Kennedy, and Councillor John Smith. Incumbents Tammy Donaldson, Nancy Wood-Roberts and Walt McKechnie were re-elected to Council.

MACA wishes to thank outgoing Mayor Murray Fearrey and Ward 2 Councillor Dennis Casey for their continuous support over the years.

Bancroft Stewardship Group Tree and Shrub Program

Planning to plant trees or re-naturalize your shoreline this season? You may want to look into the 2019 Tree and Shrub program provided by the **Bancroft Area Stewardship Council** (BASC). The program offers low-cost tree and shrub species suitable for reforestation of open areas, naturalizing shorelines and/or creating wildlife habitat.

White pine, red pine, white birch, cedar and spruce are available, as well as shoreline bundles. Orders will be available for pick-up in Bancroft during the first weekend in May (weather dependent).

For more information on the Tree and Shrub program, visit the BASC web site at www.bancroftstewardship.ca

Ontario Judge Rules Canoes are Subject to Impaired Driving Laws



Canoes, Kayaks, Rafts Now Qualify as "Vessels" Under Law

An Ontario judge has made a landmark ruling on operation of canoes, kayaks and other non-motorized watercraft while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

The judge ruled that canoes are "vessels" under the Criminal Code of Canada, making them subject to the country's impaired driving laws. Previously, the Code had only applied these laws to motorized road vehicles. The Code also had no clear definition for the term "vessel."

The case involved the death of a child after a canoe capsized on the Muskoka river in 2017. A Toronto-area man was charged with dangerous operation of a vessel causing death, operation of a vessel over .80 causing death, and impaired operation of a vessel causing death.

It's apparently the only case in Canadian history where an individual has been charged and tried in court with impaired operation of a vessel, while operating a non-motorized craft.

The OPP had laid similar charges in the past, but the Crown had always withdrawn them, thinking there was no reasonable likelihood of conviction.

MACA Helps Students Study Local Wetland



By Peter Dilworth, MACA V.P. and Lake Planning Director

During the fall of 2018, MACA partnered with Fleming College through its Credit for Product program to undertake research on the large wetland located south of Negaunee Lake and east of Trappers Trail.

This program is an important element of Fleming’s School of Environmental & Natural Resource Sciences. It is designed to provide students with opportunities to apply their ecosystem management talents, develop project management, teamwork, and professionalism skills while working in the field and supporting the community. Students benefit from the work experience, and organizations benefit from the students’ efforts – a true “win-win” situation.

As a host organization, MACA’s role was to prepare a detailed project proposal, support a group of students by providing guidance and access to information, periodically meeting with the students, billeting them while working in the field, and delivering feedback.

The objective of the South Negaunee Wetland Evaluations project was to initiate the evaluation of this important wetland based on the criteria set out in the Ontario Wetland Evaluation System (OWES) Northern Manual (<http://www.ontla.on.ca/library/repository/mon/28002/325786.pdf>) and to provide an opinion as to whether it may have potential to be rated as a “provincially significant” wetland. Four enthusiastic Ecosystem



Fleming College students Matt Perry, Jenna Payne, Danielle Chiasson, Amanda Porter, and Professor Barb Elliott. Photo: Susanne James

Management Technology students agreed to take on our project, and worked diligently on it for over 10 weeks.

The students (Danielle Chiasson, Jenna Payne, Matthew Perry, and Amanda Porter) undertook a literature review and collected all publicly available data they could find about the wetland.

They conducted primary research over a 3-day period, by foot in the wetland. They mapped a portion of the boundary of the wetland using a GPS, iPad and an ArcGIS

Collector application. 44 plant and 17 animal species were documented.



The students noted that the wetland provides several special features, including being the home of Blanding’s Turtles, which are currently listed as a ‘Threatened’ species. They determined that the wetland offers several social benefits for human use. From their preliminary study, the students concluded that the South Negaunee Lake Wetland could potentially be considered provincially significant – however much more research would be required.

The students also created a South Negaunee Lake Wetland Fact Sheet which can be found on MACA’s website at www.mymaca.net.

It was a rewarding experience for all, and we look forward to continuing to work with Fleming College in the future.



Financial Year-End Report

By Virginia Vranckx, MACA Treasurer

Happy New Year to all! Thanks to your membership, MACA was able to fund another season of projects, environmental work and some social fun too!

Total revenues added up to \$7182.00, mostly memberships but including \$346.00 donation from Susanne & Andy of Century 21.

Expenses were \$6669.00, most of which were in line with years previous. Insurance continues to be our largest expense at \$1193.00. The Wine and Cheese party was well attended but cost only \$900.00. Signage including No Wake and new event signs cost \$488.00. The Wetlands study project cost \$348.00.

The other expense of note was bank fees and credit card charge, amounting to \$314.00. We have now cancelled our agreement with Global Payments as it was not used nearly enough to merit the expense. Going forward we will continue to accept VISA and MasterCard for payment of memberships on the MACA website. Our new agreement costs only slightly over \$1.00 per membership so we encourage you to pay your membership this way if it is more convenient for you. Cheques are also welcome. To repeat an earlier message, MACA does not do online banking so E transfers cannot be accepted (our bylaws currently require two signatures for financial transactions). We will continue to explore this with the bank.

Our carryover was \$513.00 which gives us just over \$6500.00 in the bank to start next year.

Thank you for your membership and support!

Annual Haliburton Real Estate Update

Low Cottage Inventory Continues to Drive Prices Higher

There were 333 waterfront cottage/recreational sales in Haliburton in 2018 (Ontario Lakelands Real Estate board MLS data). That's up 10% from the previous year.

The average waterfront cottage sale price reached a new high at just over \$541,000 – an increase of 3.3% over 2017 (the previous record high).

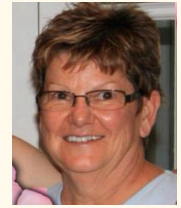
The below-\$500K price range remained the busiest, accounting for 181 of those sales (54%) despite a relatively low inventory of cottages in that price range. The next-highest category was the \$500-\$700K range, with 83 sales (25%). The high-end of the market, above \$700K, accounted for the balance of sales (approximately 20%), with 22 sales above the \$1 million mark.

Of the 333 sales, just 22 were in Dudley Township (which includes the Miskwabi area, along with most of Drag and Loon lakes), due to the relatively low number of cottages for sale in the area.

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

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

By Phyllis McCulloch, Membership Director



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL!

It's time to renew your MACA Membership for 2019. The Membership fee remains at \$30.00.

There are 3 easy options for renewing your membership:

- **On-line:** Go to the MACA web site (www.mymaca.net), and click on "Membership", and "Join/Renew". Then all you'll 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, and we will be notified that your renewal fee has been received.
- **Pay by cheque:** complete the "Membership Form" (also available on the MACA web site Membership page) and send the form and cheque to the address on the form.
- **Pay with cash** at one of our events. (REMINDER - do not send cash through the mail!)

All of our members who have provided us with their e-mail address will receive an individual note with the exact directions and the web-site address. Each note will include a renewal form and other pertinent information.

Completing the Membership Renewal process by February 28th, 2019 will make you eligible for the "Early Bird Draw" which will be held at our Annual Meeting in July.

The funds we receive are used to cover the costs of environmental projects, 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 looking forward to another great cottage season in Haliburton this year!

NATURE NOTES: Emerald Ash Borers found nearby



Emerald ash borers have been found in Muskoka and the City of Kawartha Lakes, and foresters say it's only a matter of time before the invasive beetles are found here in Haliburton.

The emerald ash borer is a small beetle with a metallic green back and emerald green underside. It is native to Asia, and is now spreading across Ontario. It attacks and kills all species of ash and has killed millions of trees in North America.

They have recently been found in Fenelon Falls, and were confirmed this past fall to be in Bracebridge and Gravenhurst.

Although the beetles are small and hard to see, they can be detected by the S-shaped lines formed underneath ash tree bark by the larva.

To prevent the spread of emerald ash borer, conservation officers are reminding people: please do not move firewood; use only firewood local to where you are. Moving firewood from place to place helps the invasive beetles spread. It's also always a good practice to wash off boats, ATV's and mountain bikes when travelling to different areas.

5 Easy Ways to be Kind to Nature this Winter

1. If you feed the birds, be sure to clean your bird feeders regularly to minimize disease.
2. Minimize your salt use on walkways or driveways. Salt ends up in the lake and negatively impacts the native plankton which filter the water in the lake.
3. Avoid single-use plastic wherever possible.
4. Carpool to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
5. Consider eating less meat. It's the most impactful thing we can do to fight climate change.

-Susan Hay

REINDEER GAMES!

Finno Bay Holds 2nd Annual New Year's Eve Event

Who needs warmth and glitter to celebrate New Year's Eve? Not the group on Finno Bay (north shore of Long Lake in the east bay). Last year, it was snowshoeing in the woods. This year, participants enjoyed skating on a 500 foot figure-eight skating rink built on more than 8 inches of ice – followed by a roaring bonfire.



MACA FLASHBACK! 35 YEARS AGO



Miskwabi Area
Cottagers' Association
Incorporated

Here's what was making news in the MACA Newsletter from Winter, 1984

"On Jan. 31/84 the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and housing approved the inclusion of the Miskwabi Area into the Dysart Official Plan. Any development proposals must now conform to the Official Plan. In the Planning Act, an Official Plan means a document approved by the Minister containing objectives and policies established primarily to provide guidance for the physical development of a Municipality while having regard to relevant social, economic and environmental matters. The Dysart Official Plan is a good one, contains all the right clauses and is updated every 5 years. The inclusions of the Miskwabi Area is the culmination of 9 years of effort by your Association and the Municipality with the Ministry and others, and was accomplished at virtually no cost and without resorting to an Ontario Municipal Board hearing. Three cheers for everybody!"

"We are advised there is lots of snow in cottage country this year. If you have not already done so, get your cottage checked and if necessary have the roof shovelled. The Municipality has received a number of requests for additional snow plowing in the area this winter."

"A sub-committee of the Haliburton Highlands Water Levels Committee has been commissioned to compile a comprehensive Situation Appraisal Report on the Trent-Severn Reservoir Lakes and Waterway System. The report will contain an inventory of existing concerns/constraints in the watershed area and system, a review of the operating criteria for the existing watershed system, and an identification of measures that will improve and provide effective management of the watershed area. The Committee feels that since its inception in the fall of 1977, it has amassed considerable information which can be put to good use in compiling a comprehensive report."

Cottage Cook's Corner

Favourite Recipes Shared by MACA Members



Winter S'mores
(AKA Rocky Roads)

Contributed by: Virginia Vranckx

It may not be the time of year when you think of outdoor campfires – but you can still enjoy the famous tradition of S'mores. Here's an easy indoor alternative for winter.

1. Line an 8 inch square pan with whole graham wafers.
2. Over low heat, combine:
 - a. 6z. (170 gr) pkg chocolate chips
 - b. ½ cup butter or margarine
 - c. 1 egg
 - d. 1 cup icing sugar
3. Let mixture cool. Stir in up to 3 cups mini marshmallows.
4. Spread over the graham wafers and when cooled a bit, sprinkle with coconut flakes.
5. Refrigerate and cut into bars.