



# 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 (Fish Community)  
 Dave Ewart  
 John Ewing (Roads)  
 Stephen Foster  
 Haden Heathcock  
 Bill Lester  
 Phyllis McCulloch (Membership)

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

## 2021 MACA TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**Spring Cleanup:**  
 Sunday, May 23th

**AGM:**  
 Saturday, July 10th

**Wine and Cheese:**  
 Saturday, August 28th

(Contingent on meeting all COVID-19 protocols)



*Sun Setting on the Ice at Long Lake*

## President's Message

Greetings everyone!

As the winter cold continues to engulf us, we are at the peak of cabin fever. We've lived with Covid-19 for almost a year now and eagerly await the vaccine.

In many ways the pandemic has shifted the role of our cottages from a place of leisure to a lifeboat providing a refuge for our bodies and minds. Fresh air, walks in the woods, bonfires, streaming your favourite movies curled up with flannel PJs are but a few of the simple pleasures of cottage life which for many have kept us happy and healthy as we enter yet another year of pandemic disruption.

Your MACA executive has been busy this winter. We have created two special committees of the board. A 'Safe Boating' committee with the goal of promoting safe and respectful boating on our lakes. We've also created an 'Environment' committee to focus on initiatives designed to help protect our lakes given we have now seen an unprecedented outbreak of blue-green algae on many lakes in Haliburton.

Please remember this is the time of year to renew your MACA membership – you can renew online by visiting [www.mymaca.net](http://www.mymaca.net) and clicking on the "Membership" link.

Be good and stay healthy.

*Peter Dilworth, MACA President*



## Alarming Increase in Blue-Green Algae Blooms



This past fall residents on a large number of lakes in the Haliburton Highlands awoke to the disturbing presence of blue-green algae (BGA) blooms. One such lake is in our catchment area. Haliburton was not alone in seeing a surge in BGA as Ontario overall saw a 68% increase in cases over the previous high recorded 3 years ago.

### Harmful to Our Ecosystem and Destroys Water Quality

Blue-green algae (Cyanobacteria) are microscopic bacteria that occur naturally in fresh water lakes and ponds in late summer and early fall. With the right nutrients (phosphorous and nitrogen) and weather conditions (warm and low winds), these microscopic bacteria can form a large mass called a bloom. **These blooms can make the water appear bluish-green and may contain toxins (microcystins) that can be dangerous to our health and the health of our pets.** It can lead to taste, odour and toxicity problems in drinking water and can cause serious issues for recreational use of the water. Ongoing and significant occurrences of BGA can also reduce market values of homes and cottages.

### Phosphorus is the Biggest Cause of BGA

**According to the Ministry of the Environment the most significant factor contributing to the growth of blue-green algae is the amount of available phosphorus in the lake.** There is strong evidence that the gradual increase in the concentration of phosphorus and other nutrients in our lakes (in a process called eutrophication) coupled with climate change is creating a catalyst for BGA growth. All the parameters on how much

phosphorus could result in a bloom have evolved with climate change – even a modest amount of phosphorus may now lead to growth in blue-green algae. The blooms that occurred this past November, some on lakes that have never registered high phosphorus readings, followed a few days of rain, abnormally hot weather and occurred in the fall when the lakes “turn over” allowing nutrients trapped at the bottom to surface.

### What Can We Do?

To avoid BGA blooms from being commonplace with the disastrous impact on water quality and the value of our properties, we all need to step up. **The key is to reduce the amount of phosphorus and other nutrients entering our lakes.** We need to do this more than ever before – status quo is not good enough. The two most likely means of phosphorous reaching a lake is from improperly operating septic systems and from water runoff, especially when it is not buffered by a natural shoreline. Here are four things we should all do:

- I. **ensure your septic systems is operating properly**
- II. **maintain a natural shoreline**
- III. **use phosphate-free detergents, personal care and cleaning products**
- IV. **avoid using fertilizers**

### What is MACA Doing?

- ◆ MACA has formally requested that the Municipality evolve the mandatory septic re-inspection program so that lakes that experienced blue-green algae blooms last fall will be inspected this coming summer.
- ◆ MACA is fervently supporting the proposed shoreline preservation by-law and is pushing for it to be approved without being watered-down in the least (see the article on the Shoreline Preservation By-Law, page 4).
- ◆ MACA is developing an awareness program for all property owners to encourage them to take steps to minimize the amount of phosphorus entering our lakes.
- ◆ MACA will step up water testing. We will test more often and more widely with the goal of identifying troubled areas.

**Collectively We Must Reduce the Amount of Phosphorous Entering our Lakes!**

## WE HAD NO IDEA!!

"We bought a cottage in the Haliburton Highlands the summer of 2019. Having always lived in cities, we had no idea that the products we were using, and the way we were living, could impact our lake's water quality. We are now doing everything we can to ensure we are part of the solution, and not part of the problem." - Jeannette



### What we "were" doing



Used soaps, shampoos, conditioners, and detergents that were not phosphate-free



Ran our water freely as we washed dishes, did laundry, and took showers and baths



Left our dogs' feces on our property (Dog poops are full of phosphorus!)



Used a bit of plant fertilizer in our gardens (Fertilizer is a big cause of blue green algae!)



Removed water-lilies from our shoreline to create a clearer path for swimming

### What we do "now"



Use phosphate-free products only! (Use Eco-ethic Septic Treatment monthly)



Conserve water and spread water-use activities out (laundry once a day max., no washing dishes during a shower etc.)



Pick up our dog waste and take it to the dump (so rains don't bring it to the lake)



Plan to grow native plants that grow in our soil without fertilizer



Plan to add more native plants/shrubbery near the shoreline to help filter rain run-off

## Septic Re-Inspection Program

The Municipality of Dysart et al has completed the Area 1 Septic Re-Inspection Program and issued a summary report of the results at its Jan 26, 2021 Council meeting. The report highlights that:

- ★ 893 systems were inspected in the Kennisis Lakes area
- ★ 229 septic systems or 26% failed the inspection
  - ★ Of the failures 158 systems or 18% of all systems inspected had a "Major Issue Failure".
  - ★ Over 80% of the major failures were due to under capacity septic systems, suggesting that there have been a significant number of properties with additions or bunkies added without permits.

The full report can be found at <https://dysartetal.civicweb.net/document/385122/2020%20Septic%20Re-Inspection%20Report.pdf?handle=701B0AF50D6A4643BEE26DDB643775A0>.

Moving forward the Municipality has approved WSP Inc. as the new Septic Re-Inspection contractor. WSP is a large Montreal based professional services firm that provides engineering and design services. Under the new arrangement the mandatory pump-out has been eliminated. Although tanks that have visible defects, no records, low levels of effluent, etc. may still require pumping. The proposed fee is \$228.00 plus HST per property.

The remaining areas are proposed to be completed by the end of 2025. Each area would take 1 year to complete with the exception of Area 4, which would be completed in 2 years. Note that MACA's catchment area is in Area 4. When they get to our lakes, WSP proposes to send letters to affected property owners in the spring of that year identifying their date and time frame for doing the inspection and the consequences of not attending the inspection. Inspections will take place between May and October.

Under the new arrangement with WSP, people can choose to engage private contractors to complete their inspections, although the exact details on how this will work and the associated fees are still to be worked out by the Municipality.

Finally, MACA has formally requested that the Municipality adjust the timing of the septic re-inspection program so that septic systems on lakes that experienced blue-green algae blooms this past fall will be inspected this summer.

**In case you missed it ... Ontario's Warton Willie predicted an early spring for 2021 on Groundhog Day!**

## Shoreline Preservation By-Law: An Update

Approval of the proposed shoreline preservation by-law is stalled for now. On Jan 27th County Council voted to engage a consultant to review the related science, environmental scan and public consultation.

The proposed by-law is designed to protect our natural shorelines and provide an environmentally responsible approach to removal of natural vegetation from the land 30 meters from the high-water mark.

The science is clear, healthy lakes need healthy shorelines. MACA has advocated to our County Councillors requesting that they endorse a strong by-law to protect the 51% of natural shoreline we have left on our 4 lakes (which by the way is woefully short of the 75% required to ensure a healthy lake). Shoreline vegetation filters polluted and contaminated runoff before it flows into lakes and the network of roots along the shoreline helps protect against erosion from waves.

There has been a tremendous amount of information circulating on social media about the proposed by-law - some of it true and some of it not true. To help their members understand the facts, the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Association has developed a fact sheet, provided herein.

If you wish to engage in the shoreline preservation by-law consultation process please go to <https://wadein.haliburtoncounty.ca/>.

What You Are Hearing	The Facts
<b>Why are they initiating a new 30 metre setback</b>	<b>Fact - 30 Metres has been the required setback for buildings for many years</b>
<b>I won't be able to put in a floating dock if this by law goes in</b>	<b>Fact - The proposed by law will have no impact on in water docks and other in water work. (the area below the high-water mark) That area has been, and will continue, to be under the MNRF</b>
<b>I will have to tear down or move my shed or my cottage</b>	<b>Fact- Existing Buildings are grandfathered</b>
<b>The cost to administer this by law will be \$750,000. per year</b>	<b>Fact -The budget for administering this by law is based on one full time person and should be approx. \$100,000 per year</b>
<b>A permit will be required for everything. The permit process will be cumbersome.</b>	<b>Fact - Most work <u>will not</u> require a permit. The permit process will be as simple as possible and involve very few staff.</b>
<b>I will have to hire professional to create a permit application</b>	<b>Fact- Most people will be able to create and submit their own permit application. Hand drawn drawings will be acceptable</b>
<b>Even a Path to the lake will require a permit</b>	<b>Fact -No permit is required if all you want to do is put in a 5-metre-wide path to the lake</b>
<b>The permit will cost \$ thousands</b>	<b>Fact- The permit fee proposed is zero. No member of County staff or council have suggested any higher fee</b>
<b>The County will never enforce this by law</b>	<b>Fact - Hiring dedicated full-time staff will allow for proper enforcement</b>
<b>We should focus on Septic Systems and forget about shoreline preservation</b>	<b>Fact – even a well performing septic system allows approximately 30% of the phosphorous to exit the system. Natural shorelines take up this Phosphorous before it can enter the lake</b>
<b>Pesticides and fertilizers are not dealt with in the by law</b>	<b>Fact - A Natural Shoreline does not need pesticides or fertilizers. If used Natural Shorelines can filter these out before they pollute our lakes</b>



### WINTER DRIVING SAFETY

Now that we are in the heart of winter, here are a few reminders to help stay safe on the roads:

- Keep an eye on weather forecasts
- Drive according to conditions
- Watch out for wildlife, especially deer
- Snow tires can make a big difference
- Remember that impaired driving is illegal for snowmobilers as well as car drivers. The OPP conduct RIDE programs on snowmobile trails too!
- Do not leave vehicles where they will interfere with winter road maintenance. You may face a fine and your vehicle may be towed!

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

By *Phyllis McCulloch, Membership Director*



It is Membership Renewal time.

There are two options to renew your membership:

1. Renew On-Line – go to mymaca.net and then click on “Membership”. Once there, click on the “Join/Renew” button which will take you directly to the FOCA secure location. You will be asked to enter your lake and home information along with your credit card information. It’s Quick - It’s Secure!
2. Complete the “Renewal Form” and send it along with a cheque to the address noted on the form.

I will send confirmation of receipt from your FOCA document or when your form/cheque is received.

We will be holding our annual “Early Bird Draw”. If you complete your renewal before March 31st, 2021 your name will be entered in the draw.

We hope to be out in early June to get your 2021 Member Sticker on your 911 sign or if you are a “NEW” member, get your MACA sign installed.

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

Membership helps you stay connected with things that are happening on the lakes, in Haliburton or things you need to be quickly aware of.

## Treasurer’s Report

by *Virginia Vranckx, MACA Treasurer*



Our 2020 financial year was certainly unusual. The only thing normal was the amount of support shown by our membership with the majority choosing to renew online. Events and meetings were either cancelled or held virtually changing the way money was spent (or not).

Membership revenue grossed \$7,640.00.

Total expenses were \$6,088.00. Notable items included:

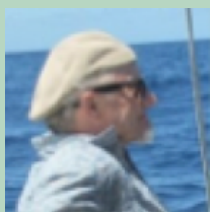
- Bank & Credit card processing \$296.00, higher due to Covid-19
- Insurance \$1223.00, same as last year
- Memberships in FOCA, CHA, CEWF \$1,175.00, no change from last year
- AGM \$254.00, held via Zoom
- Newsletters \$975, including one mailed to over five hundred property owners on our lakes
- Donation to Haliburton Food Bank \$1,000.00
- Membership signs and stickers \$464.00

At year end we had \$5,800 in the bank to go forward with our events and planned initiatives this year (hopefully).

Wishing you good health and thank you for your support!

## Lake Steward’s Corner

by *Tim Hagarty, Lake Steward*

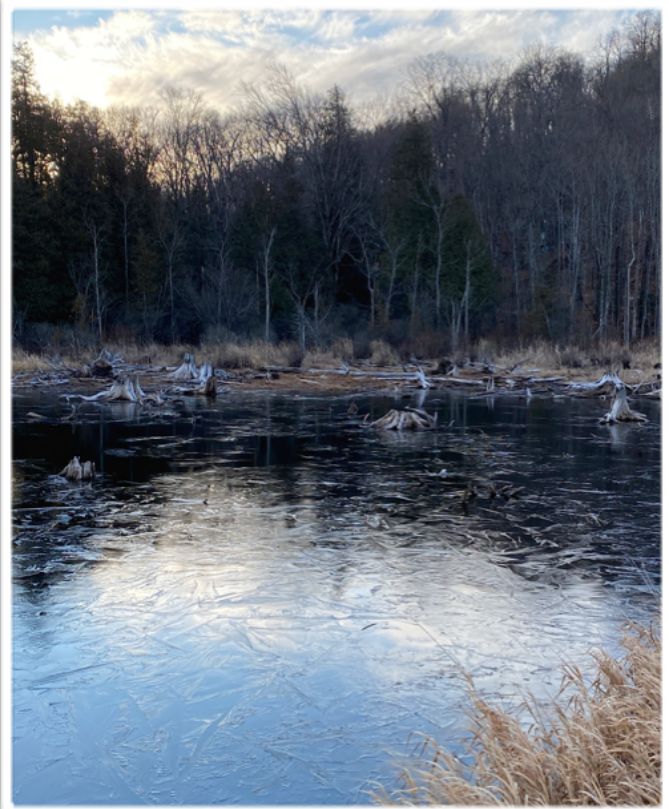


A lot of work has been done on the Blue Green Algae (BGA) concerns as noted in this issue. We now have an

Environment committee dedicated to “protecting” our lakes from BGA. We will keep all informed on the results and actions of this committee.

Spring water testing will continue as usual on all lakes. We will also begin conducting broader phosphorous testing, starting with Wenona after the ice is out.

Chinese Mystery Snails (CMS) have become a problem on some Haliburton lakes. In the spring I will be taking training on safe and legal processes for reducing CMS populations in the event we ever have an outbreak.



Freeze Up on Miskwabi Pond, Photo: Susanne James

## Fishing Community Update

by Steve Dyce

We all see people out there - from bass boats, to pontoon boats, to canoes and kayaks - casting quietly along the shore, fishing from the docks, or trolling the deeper waters. Fishing can be relaxing and a fun activity with family and friends - especially with children and grandchildren.



In Ontario, anyone age 18 or over and under age 65 requires a valid Outdoors Card (3 year expiry) and a valid Fishing Licence (1 or 3 year) and either Conservation (reduced catch limits) or Sport Fishing (regular catch limits) - both available on-line through Service Ontario. It's a good time to renew or order yours early so you have it for the season opening.

In addition, all persons fishing in Ontario must follow the Ontario Fishing Regulations which define season open and close dates, catch and possession limits and sometimes size restrictions or gear restrictions by zones. We are Zone 15 in the current regulations. Copies of the 2021 regulations are available on-line at <https://www.ontario.ca/document/ontario-fishing-regulations-summary>. Here are some opening dates for our lakes:

- Pike – Jan 1 - Mar 31, and 3rd Sat in May to Dec 31
- Lake Trout – Jan 1 to Sept 30
- Rainbow Trout – All year
- Largemouth/Smallmouth Bass – 4th Sat in June to Nov 30.

Please be sure to adhere to the regulations (penalties can be significant), and to minimize your impact on our lakes while fishing. Please don't dump your old lines or bait buckets into the lake, and be sure to retrieve snagged lures from docks or mooring lines - hooks are sharp!

We plan to start collecting data on fishing success in each of the 4 lakes this year, including species, size, and dates - stay tuned for more information.

In the meantime, if you are out there ice fishing this winter -- be safe, have fun and hopefully have success!

## Annual Haliburton Real Estate Update

2020 was an unprecedented year for the Haliburton real estate market, with an extraordinary surge in demand for rural properties due to COVID-19. The extreme demand pushed sale prices to record levels.

The average sale price for waterfront recreational cottages increased by approx. 19% to \$651,505 (Ontario Lakelands Real Estate Board MLS data - Haliburton County).

The average sale price for non-waterfront residential houses also increased by approx. 19% to \$343,254.

While real estate is deemed to be an essential service during COVID-19, the provincial industry regulator, the Real Estate Council of Ontario, is asking consumers and real estate professionals to conduct business virtually, whenever possible. Open houses are prohibited. As of this writing, recreational short-term rentals are also currently prohibited. For more information, visit:

[www.reco.on.ca](http://www.reco.on.ca)

*Courtesy of Susanne James, Sales Representative & Andy Mosher, Broker, Century 21 Granite Realty Group Ltd*

Friends of Ecological and Environmental Learning

## Native Plant Sale

Order Online Now @  
[ecoenvirolearn.org](http://ecoenvirolearn.org)

Online Plant Sale Ending:  
March 31, 2021

Don't forget to pre-order your rain barrel!

Pick-up: SATURDAY MAY 15, 2021  
10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

Location: Haliburton Highlands Brewery  
1067 Garden Gate Dr. ON-118  
Haliburton, Ontario

@feel\_education\_outdoors

Friends of Ecological and Environmental Learning

FEELHaliburton

ecoenvirolearn@gmail.com  
705-854-0284 Stephanie



## Did you Know

When you are paddling on Long or Miskwabi Lakes, you are paddling along part of an ancient canoe route from Balsam Lake to the Ottawa Valley via the Burnt River used by the First Peoples of Canada. The map above was prepared by cartographer Peter MacNaughton in 1819 (sourced from the Library and Archives of Canada). After the War of 1812 the British started looking for alternative routes to the Ottawa River and Lower Canada in part to avoid American pirates operating in Lake Ontario. In 1819, Lieutenant J.P. Cathy of the Royal Engineers led an exploration to the Ottawa River from Lake Simcoe. They had a First Nations Guide lead them along this important indigenous transportation corridor. On the map you can see Miskwabi Lake (on the far left called Owl Lake at that time) and the route through the Miskwabi North Wetland (amazingly unchanged in the last 200 years), after the wetland a 3/4 mile portage to an unnamed lake (Yankton Lake now). The route then continues through two more lakes (Grace and Farquhar), a long portage to Elephant Lake (far right) and then finally to the York, Madawaska and the Ottawa Rivers.

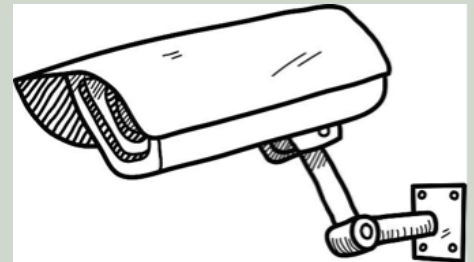
## What's Happening At Your Vacation Home When You Are Not There?

### Compliments of Steve Dyce

A 24 hour 3rd-party monitoring service with 2-way voice communication, access to police and monthly fees may provide the ultimate in remote security. It may also reduce your insurance rates. However, there are less costly alternatives.

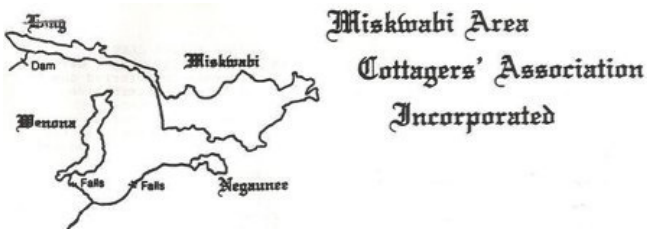
Options range from a simple trail/game camera hidden in a tree to high definition multi-camera systems with a remote monitoring app on your smartphone that records video and enables communication with any uninvited visitor.

- ◆ The simplest option is to have a couple of trail cameras mounted out of reach, aimed at your main and water-side entrance. These capture and store high quality pictures for later retrieval. Some brands such as SpyPoint can now transmit images over the 3G/4G cell network to your phone, assuming you have a good cell signal. You will need to replace batteries every 2-4 months, although solar powered options are available.
- ◆ If you have WiFi at your cottage, there are a variety of cameras available for remote monitoring of your property over the network. Triggered by motion/noise or offering a live view, these record video clips or still images and send these to an app on your smartphone. Some offer remote 2-way communication and the ability to trigger a siren and/or security lights. There are no monthly fees and installation is easy – only requiring electric outlets for each camera you install. Companies such as Lorex offer a variety of cameras at a reasonable price, while some more expensive cameras such as the Google Nest Cam easily integrate with a Google Home system.
- ◆ The most comprehensive systems involve multiple high-quality cameras and continuous recording to a digital video recorder (DVR). These systems often require directly wiring each camera to the DVR, so installation is complex, although some cameras are now battery operated. Some offer the ability to access the DVR remotely.



Before deciding which option is right for you, consider the purpose, cost, ease of installation, and whether you live monitoring. Remote monitoring provides peace-of-mind when you are not there, and you may even capture some interesting animal visitors to your property. Ensure any required electrical work is done in accordance with regulations, and be sure to deactivate cameras for privacy reasons when you, family or friends are at the cottage.

## MACA NEWSLETTER FLASHBACK



Excerpt from MACA Newsletter - May, 1980

### MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES NEWS

Last year acid susceptibility surveys were carried out on both Long and Miskwabi Lakes. The results indicated that neither lake were acidic or susceptible to acid precipitation in the near future.

This spring the District is planning to stock 7,000 lake trout fingerlings in Miskwabi Lake.

A fish contaminant survey will be carried out on Wenona Lake this coming spring.

### TELEPHONES

We are advised a phone booth is going in in the Long Lake West Area in early June.



## Cottage Cook's Corner

*Favourite Recipes Shared by MACA Members*

### Grilled Corn & Pepper Chowder

Contributed by: Connie Lester

Grilling the corn and the peppers adds a depth of flavour to this simple chowder. If fresh corn on the cob is not available, substitute 6 cups (1.5 L) frozen corn, thawed and drained. Toss with oil and place in a single layer on foil-lined baking sheet. Broil for about 8 minutes, stirring often, or until browned. You can broil the peppers, too, if that's more convenient. If you can't find poblano peppers, substitute 2 cubanelle peppers and 1 jalapeño pepper. To dress this soup up a little more, garnish each bowl with sautéed shrimp seasoned with fresh lime juice.



- 12 cobs of corn, shucked
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) vegetable oil
- 2 sweet red peppers
- 2 poblano peppers
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) butter
- 2 onions, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 6 medium Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled and diced
- 6 cups (1.5 L) homemade or low-sodium vegetable stock
- 2 cups (500 mL) 35% or 18% cream
- Salt and freshly ground pepper
- ¼ cup (60 mL) chopped fresh basil

1. Preheat barbecue to medium.
2. Brush corn with oil and grill, turning often, for about 8 minutes or until tender and brown. Set aside.
3. Increase barbecue to medium-high. Grill red peppers and poblano peppers, turning often, for 10 to 15 minutes or until charred on all sides and tender. Place in a bowl, cover and set aside until cool enough to handle.
4. Melt butter over medium heat in a large pot. Sauté onions for about 5 minutes or until tender and just starting to turn golden. Add garlic and sauté for 2 minutes or until onions are golden. Add potatoes and stock and bring to a boil over high heat. Cover, leaving lid slightly ajar, reduce heat and boil gently for 10 to 15 minutes or until potatoes are soft.
5. Meanwhile, cut corn kernels off the cob with a serrated knife into a bowl. Peel peppers and discard skins, seeds, core and juices. Finely chop peppers; set aside.
6. Use an immersion blender in the pot to purée for 5 to 10 seconds or until about one-quarter of the vegetables are smooth (or transfer about one-quarter of the vegetables and some of the liquid to a blender purée, then add back to pot). Stir in corn and peppers and bring to a simmer over medium heat. Reduce heat and simmer, stirring occasionally, for about 10 minutes or until flavours are blended.
7. Just before serving, stir in cream and heat, stirring often, until steaming (do not let boil). Season to taste with salt and pepper, and stir in basil.

Serves 8 to 10