

34th Annual General Meeting of the

MISKWABI AREA COTTAGER S ASSOCIATION

MINUTES; Saturday July 12th, 2008

1. **WELCOME**; Larry Holden opened the Meeting at 11:02 am welcoming the 90 members in attendance. He also explained that Reeve Murray Fearrey was unable to attend due to the 20th Anniversary of the Highland Games currently going on (he was one of the founders of the Games and was asked to speak).

2. **INTRODUCTION of DIRECTORS**; The following Directors were introduced and thanked for their work on all our behalfs; Sandra Bishop (Vice-President), Norm Fowler (Treasurer), Marg Montague (Secretary), Paul Culver (Past President), Mike Giza (Newsletter distribution, loon nests), Andy Mosher (web site), Haden Heathcock (water testing), Andy Harjula (special projects), Phil Wiseman (roads). It was pointed out that two loon babies had just been born on Miskwabi! Members were asked to steer clear of them. They have been namedBert & Ernie!

3. **TREASURER S REPORT**; (The Report was printed on the reverse side of the Agenda) Norm Fowler presented the Report and walked everyone through it. Susanne James/Andy Mosher were thanked again for their \$600.00 donations last year to our Association. The expenditure of \$100.00 to CEWF was explained and is more fully documented under the President s Report. When the \$477.00 Tax Preparation was explained, member Elizabeth Cloutier offered her assistance next year. Balance as of Dec. 31st, 2007 was \$4 147.59. Moved by Phil Wiseman, seconded by Virginia Vranckx, the Report was accepted.

4. **WEB SITE**; Andy Mosher told the members that MACA now has it s own domain for it s web site...www.mymaca.net. Members were encouraged to submit photos of their lake and activities as there is now a photo collage of each lake that will be updated regularly by members contributions. (Photos may be emailed to Andy). Members were also reminded to fill out the Survey located on the Web Site.

5. **SURVEY, SEPTICS & SHIRTS**; Sandra Bishop again encouraged everyone to fill out the Survey as the Association needs the information to plan for future activities. To date, the response has been poor. Sandra also outlined a contest to come up with a MACA logo for Association shirts. More info will be forthcoming in the Fall Newsletter. She also explained that as part of our Lake Planning strategies, a current emphasis will be on septic systems and to that end, the speaker today will start things off in that direction.

6. **PRESIDENT S REPORT**; Members of Haden Heathcock s Water Testing Committee were thanked for their time and efforts; Tim Hagarty, John Butt and Mick Hansard. Members of Phil Wiseman s Roads Committee were thanked for their volunteer efforts as well; Karen Harx ding, Nigel Hollings and Wally Quigg. Members were encouraged to be in touch with any of these Directors or members if there are any concerns. Mike Giza was thanked for coordinating this year s Road Clean-Up Campaign. A record of 23 people attended and helped pick up garbage left

on our roadsides.

MLNCA; The Miskwabi Lake North Cottager s Association was formed 9 years ago as part of the Purchase of Agreement of each lot sold on the North Shore of Lake Miskwabi. Kevin Barrett, current President of that association, was introduced and welcomed to the meeting. The reason for the separate Association was due to the lack of hydro and telephone and the ongoing construction of area roads. Currently, the only issue still outstanding are the roads; there are three unassumed roads in the development... the last part of Trapper s Trail, Sagamore and Major Trail. Larry explained that meetings with the MLNCA Executive and Kevin Barrett have resulted in the likely possibility of amalgamation between the two associations. According to our Bylaws, in order to have an additional Director added to our Executive, a motion, passed by 2/3 of the Executive and passed by a majority of our members needed to be accomplished. The following motion was passed unanimously by the Executive; The Executive of MACA be increased by one Director should the Miskwabi Lake North Cottage Association agree to join the Miskwabi Area Cottager s Association and that a member of that Association be chosen to be on MACA s Executive . This motion was moved by Wally Quigg and seconded by Nancy Jackson. It was also passed unanimously.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS; Larry explained that past practices have seen the Association carrying members for as long as two years without payments. Being a relatively small Association, non-profit, and not having a large treasury, it seemed only fair to paid up members that this practice was discriminatory. Therefore the decision was made that only members who had made their renewal payment by the end of April, 2008 would continue to be members and receive the Newsletters. In the future, all memberships are being asked to be renewed by the end of April each year. In the past, the fiscal year ran from August to July and many members renewed at the AGM in July. Our fiscal year has since changed to one that runs from January to December. Thanks to the Executive, all past members who had not renewed by the beginning of April were phoned and encouraged to do so. Any member who did renew after the Spring Newsletter went out was mailed a copy of that Newsletter along with a note thanking them (one as recent as yesterday and renewals made at today s AGM). This was also mentioned in the Spring Newsletter and will again be mentioned in future Newsletters. Questions re the emailing, and the possibility of a password for the Newsletters will be further discussed at the Fall Executive Meeting.

HIGH SPEED INTERNET; Many of our members have expressed frustration at the lack of Bell high speed internet. Many live in the area and many wish to continue their work while up in the area . Local Council has thrown their support behind Bell and in fact, Bell has introduced high speed to some areas around Haliburton County. On April 7th, all members who had provided an email address were emailed with a request to let Bell know of their interest in obtaining high speed in the future. Requests are to be sent to jim.neubauer@bell.ca. Larry met with Jim on July 11th and was told that (a) bringing high speed to our area will be more costly than other areas; (b) responses to him from our area has been very good and (c) Bell is on a 4 year plan and though it is unlikely that we will be included in this year s planning, he is hopeful that year two will see us included. When asked what we can do to further promote our interest, Jim replied that he still needs more respondents and that if property owners indicate that they are interested in other Bell services such as Bell ExpressVu it might carry more weight as well. Members are highly encouraged to express their interest to him, if not for their own sake, then for other members.

CORN ROAST; Numbers of attendees at the annual corn roast have been dwindling over the

years. The Executive decided to leave it to the membership as to whether to continue with this activity or not. Last year there were only 18 members who attended. After asking how many might attend this year's roast and seeing only a handful of members interested, it was put to a vote. The majority of those present voted against continuing with the corn roast. The Executive will continue to listen to members regarding this and will monitor future activities.

COTTAGE WATCH; This is a program designed by the OPP to help deter break and enters, theft and extensive damages in cottage areas. It incorporates property identification, community patrols and OPP investigations. It is a community/police partnership which relies on individual cottagers/residents, local businesses and the Ontario Provincial Police. Larry stated that if this was something that the membership wanted to adopt then we need people to step forward and volunteer. He said that he would coordinate the first meeting where a chairperson would be selected to oversee the efforts. Members were asked to see Larry at the end of the meeting. (Five members volunteered for this and a meeting will be convened. Additional members will be solicited in the Fall Newsletter).

HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY; Larry apologized for the wrong dates published in the Spring Newsletter. The correct date for the Hazardous Waste Day at the Haliburton Landfill Site is Saturday August 9th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

HYDRO ONE; Member Ken Morrison and Larry met with Operations Manager Bill Smeaton at the Minden Hydro Office a few months back. The meeting was asked for because of the power outage in 2006 due to the hurricanes that passed through our area. Bill explained that Hydro learned a great deal as a result of that catastrophe. In the future, Smart Meters will alert Hydro as to which property owners are without power something that Hydro only knows now if they are contacted by the owner! As well, the new meters will tell owners if their power usage is being used at peak times or non-peak times (peak time charges are more!). They will also not need meter readers any longer when they come into full effect in 2010. At present, Bill advises all owners to report power outages by calling 1-800-434-1235. It would be helpful to also report whether neighbour's power is also off and whether a transformer has been tripped. Also, he warned that as silly as it seems, don't touch any wire lying on the ground!

TRENT SEVERN WATERWAY; MACA responded to the TSW Review Committee with suggestions for improvement, ie, water level fluctuations on our lakes and dam infrastructure. The final report, released in the Winter, was very favourable to what a lot of respondents were asking for. A Committee with local MPP, Barry Devolin and local MP, Laurie Scott has been formed. It is known as, All About The Water. A total of \$19M has been allocated to the Haliburton Sector. More info can be obtained through Larry and hopefully, our web site. The Coalition for Equitable Water Flow (CEWF) has been doing an excellent job on behalf of Haliburton area waterfront owners. MACA has made a \$100.00 donation to their efforts.

HALIBURTON PROPERTY ASSOCIATIONS; In Larry's absence, Sandra Bishop attended the inaugural meeting of this group of all Cottage Associations in Haliburton County. In the past, Cottage Associations have remained relatively small and isolated. It is hoped that by combining all area associations, more can be accomplished, discussed and shared. Future meetings are planned.

LAKE PLANNING; Director Mike Giza and Larry attended a meeting sponsored by the Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association at the Fish Hatchery in April. The purpose of the meeting was to find better ways to assist waterfront property owners in making important decisions about their lakes. A Lake Plan is a plan of action for a lake which then becomes a

part of the Official Plan for Dysart et al. FOCA is currently developing a template for Cottage Associations to use to develop their own lake plans. We will wait for the template before making any decisions on our own lake plans. We may need a separate lake plan for each of our four lakes.

7. COUNCILLOR DEREK KNOWLES; Councillor Knowles was introduced and he began speaking about County roads and the repairs being made due to the heavy rains this year. He acknowledged the problem with ATVs on area roads and encouraged members to call the OPP with license numbers to report them. The NO ATV SIGN that was placed at Trapper's Trail and Highway #118 has been stolen and will not be replaced; we are not the only area where this has happened! He also encouraged reporting speeders on our local area roads. The more that is reported, the more attention it will receive. He also reported that the MPAC property freeze will be lifted this year and that waterfront property owners will be hit with an increase in taxes. Larry reported that this increase has been reported as high as 47.6%! Larry also pointed out the handout attached to the Agenda which asked waterfront owners to contact their local MPP and MP to voice their concerns. (Additional information may be found by going to the Waterfront Ratepayers After Fair Taxation (WRAFT) web site at www.captr.org. Click on news and sign the petition). Councillor Knowles also reminded everyone that the landfill sites now require clear garbage bags. He also reported that the amount of recyclable material has doubled over the past two years; this brought a round of applause from the members.

8. MIKE RAHME, SEPTIC SPECIALIST; Sandra Bishop introduced Mike who gave a most interesting talk on the care of septic tanks. Tanks installed before 1972 are metal and probably need to be replaced. Plastic or fibreglass will last the longest while concrete is next. It is important to have the baffles checked so that effluent does not get into the filter beds. Keep the bed clear of tree growth and don't let any heavy machinery travel across it as this compacts the earth and does not allow for any breathing. It is not necessary to use any kind of septic booster as the system functions better without it. Member Elizabeth Cloutier added that they are in the process of putting in a BioFilter System which is not that much more expensive than a regular bed system (\$1600.00 as compared to \$12 000.00). This BioFilter System is highly regarded in the industry. Mike offered a group inspection rate for septic systems of \$125.00 (normally \$140.00) if enough people expressed interest. Mike gave a very informative, humorous talk on a delicate subject and he was thanked for his expertise.

Tom Pendlebury was thanked by Larry for his BBQing expertise and time involved.

9. ADJOURNMENT; at 12:40 pm, moved by Kay Hubbard, seconded by Tim Payment, the meeting was adjourned. Members then enjoyed the barbecued hamburgers, hot dogs and soft drinks.

A total of \$158.00 was realized as a result of the selling of Raffle Tickets for the Nature Clean Basket.

