



Miskwabi Area Community Association (MACA)

*Input to Official Plan Review and Update
Monday, Nov. 21, 2016*

1. Restriction of Shoreline Development

MACA is pleased to note that our two “trout lakes” (Miskwabi and Long Lakes) continue to be characterized as being “at capacity”.

We are encouraged to see language in the draft Official Plan regarding Surface Capacity for Recreation (Section 5.2.3). We note that the OP should refer to *1 lot to 4 acres (or 1.6 hectares) of surface area (not 0.4 hectares)*.

- We would like to see the language in section 5.2.3 strengthened to read along the following lines:

No new lot creation shall be permitted where the lot to lake surface area ratio exceeds one lot for each 1.6 hectares net lake surface area.

Further, if Council determines that an application for development 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.

2. Protection of Streams and Wetlands

We continue to ask for greater protection for streams, rivers and most importantly, wetlands. Recognizing the importance of these elements in the OP may allow zoning and other by-laws to evolve to better protect these important resources.

- We recommend that site alterations not be allowed on wetlands or on lands adjacent to wetlands and that access road and waterway crossings be mandated to use Ministry of Natural Resources environmental guidelines.

3. Septic Re-Inspection Program

We are pleased to note that the draft OP makes reference to a quality assurance program for private waste disposal systems in Section 4.10 (Substandard System Improvements). We support the initiatives of the Coalition of Haliburton Associations (CHA) in this regard. We also recognize that this process is in its early stages.

- We would encourage any future inspection program to include a physical “lids off” inspection of septic tanks.
- We would encourage a septic inspection program that focuses on high-risk systems first. This will allow a phased approach to limit the amount of sewage that may need to be processed.
- MACA will continue to educate our membership about the importance of septic re-inspections.

4. Headwaters

We believe there is value to formally recognizing that our Municipality contains the headwaters of the Burnt and Gull River Watersheds. With this comes a greater responsibility to make sure there are robust environmental protections and to make sound planning decisions wherever water quality may be affected.

- We would suggest adding a sentence in section 5.1.1 (Water Resources) declaring:

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 well as communities downstream in southern Ontario.

5. Peace and Tranquility

The noise, pollution, and dangers associated with fireworks is consistently one of the top issues raised by our members.

- We advocate language in the OP to recognize the importance of tranquility of our night skies, so that by-laws can be enforced to limit the use of fireworks.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Andy Mosher, President
Peter Dilworth, Vice President and Watershed Planning Director
Tim Hagarty, Lake Steward

Miskwabi Area Community Association (MACA)