

FALL, 2007 NEWSLETTER

Wow! Where did the Summer go? It always seems to fly by so quickly! We had our wet month and our dry month ... but at least there were no major storms this year! We hope that your summer was a good one and that you have plenty of memories to carry you through the Winter.

WEB SITE

Let s start off this Newsletter with the best news of all! As of a couple of months ago, we now have our own web site! Many, many thanks to Director Andy Mosher for setting this up for us. We are still in our infancy stage but we hope to be utilizing the site in many different ways in order to keep our members up to date. We will be soliciting your views and advice on how best to not only use this site but also on how best to meet your needs. Please mark as one of your favourites, our new site address; www.futurecottage.com/macac.

ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

This year s AGM was held on July 7th with approximately 75 members in attendance. Paul Culver was thanked for his previous 3 year term as President.

Director and previous Interim President, Brett Kahler, was thanked for his 14 years of service to the Association.

Gerry Taylor was thanked for the use of his land for the Meeting.

Jim Sanford, Nu County Property Maintenance & Landscaping, was also thanked for his free clean-up of the area. (Jim; 457-1508 or jimsanford13@hotmail.com)

The following members were voted in for the next two year term as your Executive:

Larry Holden, President (Miskwabi, 457-3125), Paul Culver, Past President (Miskwabi, 457-9590), Sandra Bishop, Vice-President (Negaunee, 457-3803, 416-232-0416), Norm Fowler, Treasurer (Long, 457-3581), Marg Montague, Secretary (Wenona, 457-1277), Mike Giza, Director (Miskwabi, 457-9875, 905-665-1057), Andy Harjula, Director (Long, 705-277-1825), Haden Heathcock, Director (Miskwabi, 457-9012, 905-844-3094), Andy Mosher, Director (Miskwabi, 457-1576), Phil Wiseman, Director (Long, 457-9557, 905-333-1033).

Andy Mosher and Susanne James of Century 21 in Haliburton were thanked for their generous donation of \$600.00 to the Association for properties they sold in our area.

The financial statement was presented and passed. (Presently; 113 members; \$5000.00)

A Water Report was presented by Haden Heathcock which revealed that our water clarity was good and phosphate levels were low. Tim Hagarty and Deb Slingerland offered to help out on Lake Wenona while John Butt and Mick Hansard volunteered for Long Lake. Sandra Bishop brought the group up to date on FOCA s Docktalk Program, some of which will be brought back to the membership at next year s AGM for implementation.

Larry Holden announced that new Canada Post Mail Boxes have been approved and will be operational soon. Mention was made of the new Wind Turbine Bylaw, the Miskwabi North Lake Cottagers Association, a letter to Hydro One re clarification of power outages and restorations for our area and the Trent-Severn Waterway Study Group. The Cottage Watch Program will be examined more closely for possible presentation to the membership. Members were also asked to be very aware of candidates for their home and cottage locations in the upcoming Provincial election. Tough environmental questions should be asked of them before votes are cast.

Councillor Derek Knowles spoke of the progress being made with waste management, compactors at the Haliburton landfill site and the decision not to use clear plastic garbage bags due to high costs. He also informed the group that taxes have risen by 10.6% this year.

Reeve Murray Fearrey reminded property owners that they are responsible for maintenance of their 911 signs. Caution was also expressed re the upcoming election; Ontarians are being taxed \$285.00 more per capita than any other Province because of downloading of health and welfare costs.

TRENT-SEVERN WATERWAY STUDY PANEL

After over 100 years of operation, a study of the waterway was undertaken this Spring and Summer. Our interest in this study is because our four lakes are reservoir lakes for the Trent system, thus the reason for our water level fluctuations every Summer. Our Association was asked to join an Association of other cottage groups to monitor and report to this study group. Your Executive felt that at a cost of \$5.00 per member, it was too expensive for our budget. We did, however, do the following; sent a cheque for \$100.00 to the group to show our support; attended the Minden meeting where reports were presented and wrote our own letter to the Panel conducting the review. We hope to have this letter on our web site in the near future.

ADVANCE NOTICE

For those who want to be super organized for next year's events, here are the dates; Annual Clean-Up...Sunday May 18; Annual Meeting...Saturday July 12; Corn Roast...Saturday August 16; Wine & Cheese...Saturday September 13. There! Now, no excuses for not being able to attend!!!!

THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL CLEAN-UP

Our area looked so much better back in May and June because we collected 9 bags of garbage from area roadways, as well as 10 bags of cans and bottles for recycling, 12 tires, bed springs and a few other odds and ends. It was a cool but pleasant day; no rain..no snow...just bugs! Our sincere thanks to the following who gave up at least an hour of their time for the benefit of all of us; Marg & Rick Despars, Mike Giza, Lynn & Mara McCulloch, Pam & John Butt, Sandra Bishop, Tom Pendlebury Kale Pendlebury, Mitchell Devenyi, Rachel Devenyi, Nancy & Larry Holden.

ROADS COMMITTEE

Director Phil Wiseman reports that this year's Road Report was shorter than normal because of the improvements made to Trapper's Trail and Wenona Lake Roads. We are looking for additional help on this committee! It involves inspecting the portion of the roads assigned to you, attending one committee meeting a year (with excellent coffee and muffins!) usually in August or September and submitting your report for inclusion in the master report that goes to the Municipality. If you are interested in joining a great group of volunteers, please contact Phil at 905-333-1033 or 705-457-9557. Our thanks to him and committee members Karen Harding, Nigel Hollings and Wally Quigg for staying on top of things !

CORN ROAST

This year's corn roast was attended by only 18 people! But the corn was excellent and freely provided by Andy Mosher and Susanne James. Our thanks to Marg Montague for organizing the event and also to Marie and John Butt for coming to the rescue when it was discovered that our propane tank had a faulty valve! On a survey, which will be designed over the course of the Winter, the future of the corn roast will be discussed.

WINE & CHEESE

This year's social event of the year was attended by about 35 members on a very cool day in September! It was so cool that a bonfire was in operation to keep the hands warm enough to hold the much sought after nectar! A raffle of a Nature Clean basket of goodies was held and was won by Gillian Hollings. A total of \$101.00 was raised for the Association! (Maybe a little vino opens up the purse strings a little more???) Our thanks to Sandra Bishop and Tom Pendlebury for opening up their cottage to us all.

DUMPING AT THE AIR STRIP

It seems to be happening a little more often! Garbage is being left at the air strip where we hold our AGM..In the past year, an old abandoned boat and portions of a paddle boat have been left for others to discard. If you observe any dumping going on there..or anywhere.. please jot down a license plate number and call it in to the OPP. Thanks!

BEARS

There appears to be more bear sightings all around the County of Haliburton and certainly in our areas. Reeve Fearrey has been trying to get something done, provincially. If you have, or had, bear sightings, please write a letter to the Reeve detailing your experience. He is sending all these letters on to Queen's Park. There have been instances this Summer of bears actually breaking in to cottages in search of food and of bears literally chasing Municipal workers at landfill sites. If you are confronted by a bear, don't run, simply make loud noises. In most instances, this will deter the bear from any advances. Call the MNR or OPP to report. Murray Fearrey may be reached at, Municipality of Dysart et al, 135 Maple Ave., Box 389, Haliburton, ON, K0M 1S0.

AQUATIC LIFE!

After many observations and many questions directed to him, Director Haden Heathcock called Bev Clark at the MNR in Dorset for an explanation as to why there seems to be an increase in weed growth in our lakes this year. You may remember Bev Clark as he was a guest speaker at our AGM a few years back. Apparently this weed growth is being felt all across Ontario and is a direct result of our recent weather...the growing season has lengthened and the ice season has shortened. The nutrients in our lakes are going down; the phosphorous levels are down quite a bit compared to the acid rain years. A green suspension or algo-bloom is present and clear lakes are seeing more weed growth; aquatic life holds the upper hand in these instances. There are many things that come into account for increased weed growth but weather is the single most important factor. Thanks to Haden for looking into this for us.

LETTERS, LETTERS, LETTERS!

Letters on our behalf have recently been written to the following; Trent-Severn Waterway Study Group, the OPP re recent break-ins in the Wenona area, J. Neubauer, Bell Canada, re high speed internet access, Reeve Fearrey and Councillor Knowles re preference for Bell Canada as the provider for high speed internet in our area, CAO Wilson, Haliburton County re the inclusion of our area in future high speed internet development.

MACA S ADDRESS

With the use of our new Canada Post Mail Boxes, your Association no longer has it s own mailing address. This is because we do not have a civic address! But, not to worry! You can still reach us the following ways; any Director at the previously written phone numbers OR through our new web site OR emailing holdentwo@sympatico.ca OR by writing MACA, 2239 Trapper s Trail, RR#2, Haliburton ON, K0M 1S0. Whichever way...we d love to hear from you!

DID YOU KNOW?

September of this year marks the 12th anniversary of our own trout spawning bed in Lake Miskwabi. This was accomplished through the work of Mark Foley, Wally Quigg, Paul and Mont Culver and the MNR They transported 24 yards of washed round rocks from Wally s boat launch to the west shore of Miskwabi. An MNR diver verified that the work was successful and the trout were using this new area! Next time you catch a trout, remember where it came from!

We hope that you are using your little piece of Paradise all year long, but if you re not, then we hope that you have a great Fall and Winter before coming back up to the Highlands. The next Newsletter will come your way in January. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

