



## **MISKWABI AREA COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATION**

SERVING RESIDENTS & COTTAGERS ON WENONA, LONG, MISKWABI & NEGAUNEE LAKES

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### 2008 FALL NEWSLETTER

The Summer that never was? With so much rain and so little sun, it's almost like we missed out on it. It's a good thing that up in our area we don't totally depend on the weather to have a good time and relax! We still made lots of memories and have lots of pictures to look back on during the upcoming "you know what"! At least we've had a great start to the Fall!

#### **ANNUAL MAY CLEAN-UP**

Our annual roadside clean-up took place as usual on the Sunday of the long May weekend with a record number of 23 MACA members pitching in. We collected 10 garbage bags of recyclables (bottles and cans), 14 bags of garbage, 2 tires and assorted metal (stove pipe, water pump)! Why must people throw "stuff" onto the roads?

We owe our thanks for making our area much cleaner to the following: Lynne Carnie, Virginia Vranckx, Mike Giza, Pam & John Butt, Katie & Mick Hansard, Kelly & Shirley Mitchell, Lynn & Mara McCullough, Sandra Bishop, Tom Pendlebury, Rick & Marg Despard, Barrie & Sue Maxwell, John May, Lisa Levy, Hazel Watson, Andrew Fraser, Nancy & Larry Holden.

#### **ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

The complete minutes from the July 12<sup>th</sup> AGM may be found on MACA's web site at [mymaca.net](http://mymaca.net).

The financial statement was presented by Norm Fowler and was accepted by the membership. The bank balance as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007 was \$4147.59. Susanne James and Andy Mosher (Century 21), residents in our area, were thanked for their donation of \$600.00 to MACA as a result of properties sold in the area.

Andy Mosher encouraged members to send photos of their lake and their activities to him as there is now a photo collage of each lake that will be updated regularly with member's contributions.

In anticipation of the Miskwabi Lake North Shore Cottager's Association amalgamating with MACA, the following motion was passed unanimously: "The Executive of MACA be increased by one Director should the Miskwabi Lake Cottager's 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." (The MLNCA did unanimously vote to amalgamate..more when finalized.)

Sandra Bishop reported that there was a very poor response to the MACA survey. The Executive will attempt a different approach. Sandra also mentioned there will be a contest to come up with a MACA logo for Association shirts.

The corn roast was cancelled due to the few number of people attending.

If you haven't already requested Bell high speed internet, you are encouraged to do so by emailing Jim Neubauer at [jim.neubauer@bell.ca](mailto:jim.neubauer@bell.ca) and letting him know you are interested.

Membership Renewal Forms will be sent out with the January Newsletter. Since we are now operating on a calendar year basis, we are requesting that memberships be returned by the end of April each year. This will allow us to keep members on file and up-to-date.

The Cottage Watch Program was discussed and 5 members volunteered to further investigate the program. Many thanks to Roy Pilkington, Tim Payment, Mo Welch, Gillian & Nigel Hollings.

Councillor Derek Knowles addressed the group and discussed ATV's, the upcoming MPAC assessments and the fact that the landfills are now accepting only clear garbage bags. (In regards to MPAC assessments please visit [www.captr.org](http://www.captr.org) for more information. You might want to consider signing the petition there!)

Septic Specialist Mike Rahme addressed the members and gave a very informative, humorous talk on a "delicate" subject. He also offered a reduction on septic inspections for MACA members.

#### **COTTAGE WATCH**

MACA member, Roy Pilkington, former Police Unit Commander in Toronto, offered to Chair this committee. After he consulted with Sgt. Mark McMaster of the Minden OPP, he was advised that taking all things into consideration, it would not be in our best interests to activate this program. The reasons being: (1) people tend to be "gung-ho" at the onset of such a program but the novelty and commitment soon drop off and this is a program where 100% commitment is needed from all members and (2) a concern that "Cottage Watch" contemplated "community patrols" by members of the Association ... hence a liability issue. Instead, Roy suggested having Sgt. McMaster or another Community Officer, attend our AGM and make a presentation. He also suggested the purchasing of two engravers that the membership could borrow to mark their property for identification purposes. All of us should be aware of our surroundings, know who is in the area and report anomalies (keeping personal notes of dates, times and what was observed) to the OPP. If we do this, we can accomplish everything that a full-blown "Cottage Watch" program can. Sgt. McMaster was in full agreement with this plan and it was ratified unanimously at a recent Executive meeting. Our thanks to Roy for his involvement and advice.

#### **HALIBURTON HOSPITAL HEALTH SERVICES**

Your Executive approved donating \$100.00 to the Hospital Foundation at it's last meeting.

#### **THANKS!**

Many thanks to member, Elizabeth Cloutier, who offered her help at the AGM in filing our Annual Return for 2007. Elizabeth has done it already and it has been sent in! Excellent!

#### **URANIUM MINING**

Your Executive also passed the following motion on it's members' behalf: "The Province of

Ontario initiate an immediate moratorium on uranium mining and associated activity until all environmental and property related issues associated with it are resolved.” This motion was in response to the possible mining that could take place in our County. This motion will be passed on to the Premier, the MP, the MPP and local politicians.

### **PASSWORD for NEWSLETTERS?**

At the AGM in July, one member inquired as to whether we should have a password for viewing the Newsletter on our web site. The reason being that by having free access to the latest news via the internet, might be a deterrent to someone from joining the Association. After discussion at an Executive meeting, it was found not to be necessary or needed at this time.

### **2009 DATES**

Here’s your advance notice for your calendars! Annual Clean-up.... Sunday May 17<sup>th</sup>;  
Annual General Meeting/BBQ ... Saturday July 11<sup>th</sup>; Annual Wine & Cheese ... Saturday  
September 12<sup>th</sup>. No excuses now!

### **HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS WANTED!**

The following comes to us from Jim Wilson, Chair of the Haliburton Highlands Health Professionals Recruitment Committee, and a Haliburton cottager.

“We are currently recruiting healthcare professionals for our community. There is an immediate need for full-time Family and Emergency Physicians and part-time Registered Nurses. In addition, to ensure the ability to provide healthcare to the influx of cottagers and tourists to the area during the summer, Physicians are needed for locums and contract or casual positions are available for Rns, RPNs and MRTs. If you, your family members, friends or neighbours are interested in “practising where you play”, more information is available by calling (705) 457-1212, X 300 or at [www.haliburtonhighlandshealthcare.ca](http://www.haliburtonhighlandshealthcare.ca).”

### **PROPERTY TAXES**

The Provincial freeze on property assessments comes to an end this Fall and a coalition of waterfront property owners is asking for support in its quest to limit the burden of taxation on waterfront properties. Lakeshore owners are asked to sign the online petition at [www.wraft.com](http://www.wraft.com). Have you received your assessment yet???????

### **WATER LEVELS**

If you haven’t visited our web site lately, then you won’t know about the latest feature! Officials at the Trent-Severn Waterway have been sending data on our lakes’ water levels and where the levels will be in two week’s time. Plan on taking your dock out? Check to see what the levels will be like! Click on “MACA NEWS” on [mymaca.net](http://mymaca.net).

### **BE BEAR WISE!**

There have been several sightings of bears in our area over the Summer. Please consider the following when leaving the cottage.

Garbage continues to be the number one reason why bears are drawn onto properties, followed closely by bird seed, suet and nectar. Whether you are closing the cottage for the season, or just between stays, you can take a few simple precautions to avoid problems with bears and other animals too. Remove your garbage. Take it home or drop it off at the landfill on your way out.

Use a disinfectant to eliminate all odours from garbage and recycling containers and lids. Never discard cooking grease outside. Store your BBQ in a secure shed making sure it is clean. If you are away for an extended period of time, have a neighbour or someone in the area occasionally do a walk-around to look for signs of a bear, visitor or a break-in. Let the person know where and how to contact you. In an immediate emergency, call 911. To report bear problems, call 1-866-514-2327. For more information, visit [www.ontario.ca/bearwise](http://www.ontario.ca/bearwise).

### **FOR SALE!**

Members are reminded that they may advertise for free in the MACA Newsletter. Simply let us know through the web site.... [mymaca.net](http://mymaca.net).

1. Pine double bed, box spring and mattress from Crate Design- like new: \$250.00 or best offer. Purchaser to move. Located at 2235 Trapper's Trail. Phone 416-298-5195 (days) or 905-831-5418 (evenings) for more information).

### **LONG LAKE DAM**

Director Phil Wiseman noted that the safety barrier around the dam on Long Lake isn't there any more! A call to Parks Canada confirmed that they were aware of it and hope to replace the safety wires in the Spring. Apparently, the wires were attached to an old stump in the water which became dislodged after many, many years. We're told that because the water is low, there are rocks that are preventing them from getting in there! In the interim, stay clear!

### **FEDERAL ELECTION**

One of the primary reasons that we all like to live and visit in our beautiful area, is the water. It's clear, it's refreshing and it's relaxing to just look at. We want and need to keep it that way. The Coalition for Equitable Water Flow (CEWF) has been working on our behalf to ensure that this happens as well as trying to control, a little better, our lake levels. Several presentations to the Trent-Severn Waterway Panel were made and close involvement with the recommendations that came out of this report are currently being monitored. What does this have to do with the Federal Election? Even if you live in another part of the Province, your MP should be aware of this report

and should be questioned regarding it. The investigation into the Waterway was an all-party agreement. To find out what to ask the candidates in your riding, visit [mymaca.net](http://mymaca.net) and click on "Links". Then go to the "CEWF" site for some questions that you may ask. Make your vote a meaningful one. But most importantly, make sure you vote! Your vote, even in another riding, will reflect your quality of life in Haliburton.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Member Steve Dyce caught a 2 pound, 18 inch PIKE (!) in Long Lake recently! Never heard of this before and it will be reported to the MNR. We'll keep you in touch! P.S. It was not released!

On behalf of all of your Executive, many thanks for your continued support over the past year. Let us be the first; **Happy Thanksgiving! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**