



MISKWABI AREA COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATION

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

FALL, 2009 NEWSLETTER

Being one of the wettest Summers in a l-o-n-g time, it was difficult to enjoy the Summer as we would normally do. Luckily for us, there are still all kinds of activities to participate in, in the Highlands of Haliburton! And there's always something to fix or renovate in the cottage. Now that the Summer is over, we're still asking ourselves, "Where did it go"? Bring that camera with you on the Thanksgiving Weekend as the colours this year are supposed to be spectacular due to the amount of rain we had!

ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The AGM was "touch and go" because of the weather. At 10:30 AM, it was decided to take a chance and go ahead with it. We lucked out! The following are some of the issues/topics discussed;

- ❖ There were approximately 50 members in attendance
- ❖ All Directors were introduced and Elections were held: Larry Holden, Marg Montague, Andy Mosher and Phil Wiseman were elected again for another two year term. Moe Welch was welcomed as a new Director. At a brief Director's Meeting right after the AGM, Director's responsibilities were decided; President, Larry Holden (457-3125): Past President, Paul Culver (457-9590): Vice-President, Sandra Bishop (457-3803): Treasurer, Norm Fowler (457-3581): Secretary, Marg Montague (457-1277): Mike Giza (Annual Clean-Up, Loon Nests, Newsletter Mailings, Invasive Species—457-9875): Haden Heathcock (Water Quality Testing—457-9012): Andy Mosher (Web Site—457-1576): Moe Welch (Special Projects—455-9371): Phil Wiseman (Roads—457-9557).
- ❖ VP Sandra Bishop outlined the modified t-shirt logo contest to include the 30th anniversary of MACA's incorporation. More entries were invited and the latest info is posted on the MACA web site (mymaca.net) and further on in this Newsletter. Final voting to be held early next year.
- ❖ Treasurer Norm Fowler's "sermon on the amount" revealed a "healthy" balance of approximately \$8 500.00. Suggestions were submitted for possible donations.
- ❖ Haden Heathcock reported that water quality in our lakes continued to be very good and water testing is ongoing.
- ❖ Jamie Parks, Broadband Coordinator for Haliburton County, told us that high speed internet service for our area will not be provided in the near future. Some of our members have had success with the Bell Turbo and Rogers Thunder Sticks but most are in areas where hills and rock formations prevent signals getting through. We will continue to pursue this much wanted service. Xitell may also be a possibility if we can get enough members to commit.
- ❖ Reeve Murray Fearrey spoke about increases in assessments and work the Municipality had done in keeping the rate increase to 2.5%. He also spoke about the liability issue with ATV's and that there may be some changes in Council's

position on ATV's in the future. He also cautioned members on the use of water on our sites; in particular, how much we put into our septic tanks and if we rent, relaying this importance to our renters.

- ❖ Councillor Derek Knowles told us that from January to April of this year, recycling deposits have increased considerably. In particular, cardboard was up 14 tonnes. Portable garages are not permitted in Dysart as they do not meet the Building Code.
- ❖ Constable Mark McMaster from the OPP gave some suggestions that we could all do to prevent thefts at the cottage; motion lights, dead bolts, alarm systems and hunter's cameras were some of those. Most important --- is that we all look out for each other! Watch for unusual traffic and suspicious goings on and report this to the OPP or call 911. Contact Larry if you wish to borrow the engraving pen.
- ❖ The amalgamation of MACA and the Miskwabi Lake North Cottagers' Association has been held up due to some legal complications that are currently trying to be worked out.

UPDATE ON HIGH SPEED

Recent conversations with both Bell Aliant and Xitell have shown that our area is not being considered for high speed internet service in the near future. Bell informs us that, at this point in time, to bring in high speed is too costly; it would have to be done in stages. There may be a possibility from Bell in a few years time. Xitell has stated that a tower near the dam on Long Lake is necessary so that signals from other towers may be picked up. This would not have a far reaching effect. At this point in time, there is no plan to do this either. As frustrating as this is, we will continue to be vigilant in these regards and will follow up any leads that we can.

PLEASURE CRAFT OPERATOR'S CARD

We were unable to conduct this Course on behalf of our membership as we did not get the minimum number of registrants. However, that doesn't change the fact that as of September 15th, all boat operators MUST have their Operator's License to drive a boat.

HUNTING SEASON! WEAR ORANGE!

When you are out walking and enjoying our beautiful Fall colours, please remember that the hunting season will get underway shortly.

DEER ----- October 1st to November 1st; November 16th to December 15th (bow)
November 2nd to 15th (rifle)

MOOSE – October 19th to 24th.

FEDERATION OF ONTARIO COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATIONS (FOCA)

FOCA is advocating a reform of the present assessment methodology which has placed a burden on waterfront landowners. Only 651 members, out of a total of 50 000, have signed the petition on their website. If you would like to see changes in waterfront assessments and/or to express your opinion, please visit their website at www.foca.on.ca.

OUR THANKS!

We send our “thank yous” to two of our members who have been volunteering their time for us: Jack van Roosmalen has joined the Roads Committee, working to keep our roads pothole free and safe for all of us.

Elizabeth Cloutier has once again, completed the MACA tax return for us. This is the third time that she has done this task for us. We have sent her a “goodie basket” to show her our appreciation.

TESTING OF DRINKING WATER

We should all be taking our drinking water in to the local Health Unit in Haliburton on a regular basis. If you haven’t been doing this, the Health Unit is located at 1 York Street, above Century 21. There is no charge for this testing and results are mailed back to you in a few days. Basically, this is a test for bacteria.

Because Haliburton County is an area rich in naturally occurring uranium, which may have adverse health effects, it may be advisable to have your drinking water tested for uranium and other heavy metals, especially if you draw it from a well or a spring. You may do this through SGS Mineral Services in Lakefield, ON, near Peterborough. For more information, and for the cost, contact Kim at Kim.didsbury@sgs.com.

MACA DONATIONS

On behalf of our membership, donations in the amounts of \$200.00 are being made to the Haliburton Hospital and to Cottage Dreams. Cottage Dreams is a local organization that provides a cottage to recovering cancer families for a week’s rental.

WILDLIFE PRESENTATION

Your Executive is looking into the possibility of hosting a wildlife presentation for children and grandchildren of members next Summer. Most of the Association’s activities are adult centered and we thought it might be a good idea to educate our youngsters about some of our local animals. We would anticipate a live animal discussion and a “hands on” presentation. Your input into this will be solicited in the new year.

NEW MACA POLICY

Each new property owner to our area this year has been extended a one year free membership in our Association. Hopefully, this will carry over to a paid membership in the future.

AND THE SURVEY SAID.....

On the back of the Membership Form which will be mailed out in January, there will be a survey. This survey will be short, concise and easily completed. Help us help you by filling it out and sending it back with your renewal.

2010 DATES

- Annual Clean-Up.....Sunday May 23rd
- Annual General Meeting.....Saturday July 17th
- Wine & Cheese.....Saturday August 28th

Although this year's weather was not indicative, we will be holding the Wine & Cheese in August next year in an attempt for better weather. Also, it will, hopefully, allow more members to attend, as it does not follow the Labour Day weekend. It will also help to replace the August corn roast that had to be cancelled. This decision will be reviewed again next Fall and your input will be sought in the survey.

WATER LEVELS

Heavy and constant rainfalls this Summer kept our lake levels high. You may have noticed that water levels dropped off quite suddenly towards the end of August this year. Logs were taken from the dams to prepare for the Fall and Winter accumulations.

MACA T-SHIRT LOGO CONTEST

In 2010, MACA will be celebrating its 30th Anniversary as an incorporated association, and what better way to commemorate this event but with our own branded t-shirts. If you have submitted designs to date – thank you (and why don't you update and send us revised or new designs?) – and if you haven't, get those creative cells working and dream up the perfect logo for our 30th Anniversary.

WIN A FREE T-SHIRT!

MACA is having an identity crisis! We're not one lake! We're four! We're not just about loons or boating, ice fishing or snowmobiling; we're a unique community! Can you give us an identity to call our own? We need a symbol, a brand, a logo.

Get the whole family involved – drawing ability not necessary – if you have an idea, we can bring it to life.

Send your submission (pdf or jpg) to the MACA website (www.mymaca.net) under "T-Shirt Contest" or mail your handdrawn artwork to MACA, 2239 Trapper's Trail, Haliburton, ON, K0M 1S0.

Be sure to include your name and contact information.

Artwork must be for use in solid colour, 1 or 2 colours allowed. It will need to fit either a pocket area (3.5" square) or full front (10" square). Design can be adult and/or youth oriented for T-shirt/sweater/hat etc (final "wear" to be confirmed).

Submitted entries will be reviewed by the Executive and may be "jigged" to become printable art and posted to our website for voting in the Spring.

If your design wins, your T-Shirt is free (and maybe more!)

Think BIG and think LONGEVITY – what is a T-Shirt today, may be our Newsletter, website and more, tomorrow!

DID YOU KNOW?

In Canada, from 1996 to 2000, 85% of those who died boating were not wearing personal flotation devices and alcohol was involved in 38% of fatalities.

Boating accounts for 1/3 of water related deaths in Canada; 33% of victims were power boating, 27% were sport fishing and 13% were canoeing.

More than 90% of boating victims are male and 50% are 18 to 34 years old.

(source: <http://boating.ncf.ca/stats.html>)

HAPPY THANKSGIVING! GOBBLE! GOBBLE! GOBBLE!