



## MISKWABI AREA COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATION

SERVING RESIDENTS AND COTTAGERS ON LONG, NEGAUNEE, WENONA AND MISKWABI LAKES  
[www.mymaca.net](http://www.mymaca.net)

### FALL 2012 NEWSLETTER



*Autumn at the Lake*

Few would argue that we didn't have a fabulous summer! except for the lack of evening campfires due to the record-setting length of the fire ban. The lakes are finally getting the rain they need. Happy Family Thanksgiving to all.

### **Haliburton Fall Events**

#### **Haliburton County 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Studio Tour**

Visit local artists studios while enjoying the autumn colours – Sept. 29/30 and Oct. 6/7. For more info visit [haliburtonstudiotour.on.ca](http://haliburtonstudiotour.on.ca)

#### **Haliburton County Farmer's Market**

Closing day October 5, the market features local farm products, bakers and artisans. Rotary Beach Park off of Park St W - Hwy 118 & Park St Haliburton

#### **Rails End Gallery October 6**

Volunteers will lead children's' art activities celebrating autumn.

## Haliburton Streetscape Project on Final Stretch



The streetscape project is in full gear again, revamping Highland from Cedar Avenue to Maple Avenue. Work to be completed by Fowler Construction will include the removal of sidewalk/curb and asphalt from the roadway and installation of new asphalt, curbs and concrete pavers, similar to what was done on York Street. Landscaping work will probably be completed in the spring. Local merchants think the interlocking stones will enhance the look of the main street.

Businesses are open as usual and there is minimal traffic disruption on the weekends.

### Lake Water Levels

With an early ice-out and the driest summer on 11 years, Parks Canada was challenged but most everyone agrees they did a commendable job in keeping the water levels at an acceptable height for most of the summer. On average, Haliburton lakes were drawn down by 47% of the possible drawdown. Long-Miskwabi was right on the average with 3.5 logs removed from a possible 7.5.

For those who have not seen it, the three adjacent photos show the dam:

Fig.1 Long Lake view of the dam

Fig.2 River side view with 4 logs still in the dam

Fig.3 Top of the dam with the removed logs: three 1'logs and a 6" metal log.

At the AGM of the Coalition for Equitable Water Flow (CEWF), of which MACA is a member, emphasis was placed on three objectives: the development of an integrated water

management system for the watershed; use of the “preferred water levels” for reservoir lakes; and the input of capital funding to upgrade the whole system.



**Figure 1**



**Figure 2**



**Figure 3**

## **MACA Events**

### **MACA Annual General Meeting – July 21**

On a hot sunny day 90 members of MACA gathered for the annual meeting and BBQ. President Mike Giza welcomed them and thanked them for attending, as well as joining MACA as membership is up 60% over last year. Highlights of the meeting included:

#### **Guest Speakers**

##### **Murray Fearry, Reeve of Dysart et al and Warden Haliburton County**

Murray congratulated MACA for increased membership at a time when most other associations are losing members. He spoke of the importance of the Tree Preservation By-law which will prevent clear-cutting and putting lawns to the lake. Legislation should be passed by fall. Provincial funding to the county is being cut back which makes it difficult for taxes to be held at current levels. The Haliburton arena needs new pipes and concrete floor; however costs should not impact taxes.

##### **Dennis Casey, Councillor Ward 2**

Dennis indicated that he would speak to Brian Nicholson about the condition of Wenona Lake Road. He reminded everyone that Hazardous Waste Day is August 4 from 9-3 p.m. He supports the association name change as we seem to be a little community and not just cottagers.

BBQ and social followed the meeting.

#### **Director's Reports**

Sandra Bishop, Vice-President gave an update on T-shirts which are still available from her. Virginia Vranckx, Treasurer, presented the financial report. Revenues are up due to increased membership. Questions were fielded regarding large expenses – insurance which is researched each year for cost effectiveness; and mailings, which this year were sent to all area residents. On next year's membership form there will be an area to indicate whether individual members wish to receive newsletters by email or hard copy. A motion was passed to accept the financial

report as given.

Haden Heathcock, Water Quality, reported that secchi dish reading results have been great and that ours compare very favourably with other lakes in Ontario.

Moe Welch, Special Events, said that the three bike rides conducted to that point had not been well attended. A pontoon boat flotilla event was being planned for August 11.

Phil Wiseman, Roads, reported that he had submitted a preliminary report to the municipality. Many spots need patching which is the only option as complete resurfacing is too expensive.

Questions were raised regarding specific roads and the condition of the Wenona boat ramp at low water levels. The latter is in the hands of the MOE to decide whether work can be completed below the high water line.

Phyllis McCullough, Membership, encouraged all to talk to their neighbours about joining MACA. She asked everyone to bring a food donation to this year's Wine and Cheese.

### **Election of Directors**

Mike explained that the association currently has 10 directors – each elected for a 2-year period. Sandra, Mike, Haden, Virginia and Moe were all up for re-election and as there were no other nominations, a motion was made and passed that they be re-elected.

### **Invading Species Watch**

Testing was completed last fall on all four lakes and results show our lakes continue to be free of zebra mussels and spiny water fleas. The signs at the boat launches have been updated to reflect this good news.

### **Coalition for Equitable Waterflow**

Results of the survey sent out in early spring indicate that high water levels seem to be acceptable to waterfront property owners. Low water levels are problematic to many and the survey results indicate the removal of 2.5 logs would be optimal. MACA will present the findings to the CEWF this year.

### **Miskwabi Area Watershed Plan**

Neil Roberts and Larry Holden, on behalf of the committee, encouraged everyone to complete the survey. They indicated a response of over 75% is necessary to have the township's official plan include any of our recommendations.

Next steps to be completed will be to compile the results of the survey and make recommendations. At that point a presentation will be made to the township.

### **MACA/MLNCA Amalgamation Update**

MACA and MLNCA have been working together on new By-laws for a combined association. Two major areas on change include 1) name change to Miskwabi Area Community Association, and 2) a provision in the By-laws to administer the unassumed roads on the north shore of

Miskwabi Lake.

After discussion a motion was made and passed unanimously to adopt the new By-laws beginning with the next fiscal year (Jan. 2013). *See Amalgamation page 5 for more details.*

### **Presentation**

Margaret Montague was presented with flowers and a dinner gift certificate to recognize her years as a director of MACA.

### **Spring Road Cleanup**



Many thanks to the over 20 volunteers who showed up on May 20 to clean up our roads. Lots of trash and recyclables were hauled away to the landfill and the hard-working “pickers” enjoyed each others’ company at a BBQ afterwards.

### **Annual Wine and Cheese**

Many thanks on behalf of all attendees to Nicki and Tim Hagarty for hosting this year’s event. Their Wenona lakefront was the scene for a great afternoon gathering to enjoy a glass (or two) of wine and company of others. After the event the Haliburton Food Bank was gifted of many bags of non-perishable food and a cheque for \$75.00. On-air during his Canoe FM jazz programme, Tim challenged other lake associations to match our gift.

Note: A volunteer to host the 2013 Wine and Cheese is needed – preferably from Long or Negaunee Lakes. If you are interested, email [mfgiza@gmail.com](mailto:mfgiza@gmail.com).

### **Lake Reports**

**Long Lake** – submitted by Susan Rohricht

We welcome new neighbours as building on some of the vacant lots has continued. Some of the fishermen said that the catch this summer wasn’t very good compared to previous years. Wild turkey sightings are up both in frequency and size – someone just counted 20 in the driveway. Just a reminder that if you want to avoid raccoons, don’t put out the bird feed yet! Rumour on the lake is there was a bobcat sighting in the area. Check out this ministry link if you you’d like

to learn more about bobcats and lynx

[http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/FW/2ColumnSubPage/STDPROD\\_086911.html](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/FW/2ColumnSubPage/STDPROD_086911.html)

Thanks to Phil Wiseman, new signs were placed at the Miskwabi/Long Lakes narrows, and also at the Wenona boat launch, to remind boaters of the speed limits near shore.

**Wenona** – submitted by Phyllis McCullough

It was an eventful summer on Wenona – the good and the bad. Beautiful weather, good fishing (lots of catch and release) and more canoes and kayaks paddling around the lake.

Unfortunately, fire destroyed the cottage of the Williams and their family dog. Family members incurred only minor injuries. Fast action of the owners, neighbours and the Dysart et al volunteer fire department saved the fire from spreading further. The Williams are now rebuilding and staying with us on the lake.

Other cottages are being built and we look forward to welcoming the new families next season.

**Miskwabi** – submitted by Virginia Vranckx

Sadly we lost Barry Maxwell, resident on the north shore, after a courageous battle with cancer. The association honoured him with a donation to SIRCH, a local charity his wife Sue is involved with.

Road work has been completed this fall to vastly improve the surface on the hill up from the boat landing. Other patches have been completed along Trapper's Trail.

A large juvenile loon patrols the lake these days – yet unable to fly to meet with the two young born on Long Lake and the two born on Wenona this year.

**Negaunee** – submitted by

*Did You Know?*

Ethel Curry, landscape painter and art teacher, was born in Irondale in 1902. By 1906 her family had moved to Miskwabi Lake where her father worked as a cook in a logging camp. When they left the lake soon after to move on to the tiny village of Haliburton, Ethel's job was to hold on to the family cow's tether with one hand and the small hand of her younger brother with the other for the raft ride across Miskwabi and down Long Lake. Sadly, no photo exists of this trip. The Ethel Curry Gallery in town is named after her.

**Deer** – guns November 5 – 18

**Moose** – October 15 – 20

*N.B. Select dates only.*

*Visit [www.ontario.ca/hunting](http://www.ontario.ca/hunting)*