



MISKWABI AREA COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATION

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

2008 SPRING NEWSLETTER

The snow that fell in November just left! According to a local weather statistician, we received a total of 422.5 cm of snow this Winter! Or, to put it another way, 13.3 feet of the white stuff! With the warm temperatures lately, it has all disappeared. It went quickly, as did the ice in the lakes. Coincidentally, the ice went out on the exact same day as last year ... April 23rd! The birds are singing, the flowers are poking through and the cottage is calling! Let's go!!!

MACA SURVEY

As mentioned in the Winter Newsletter, we are conducting a survey to better meet the needs of our Community. To date, the responses have been disappointing. Very few people, both members and non-members, have filled out the questionnaire. Soooo, let's try again! The survey may be found on our website at www.futurecottage.com/maca. It can be printed off and mailed in or filled out right online. Names are not asked for. Your Executive is attempting to find out what is important to property owners, what areas need addressing and what areas are doing well (water quality, shorelines, septic systems, habitats, pollution etc.). Please, take a few minutes to give us your views and help preserve the beautiful area that we love. Thanks.

HIGH SPEED INTERNET

Those members that listed an email address on their Renewal Form should have received an email from MACA requesting a note to Bell Canada. Jim Neubauer, GM of Eastern Ontario at Bell, would like to know what interest there is in the area east of Haliburton for high speed internet. Many of our members are frustrated at the slow dial-up service now available. Many want to work from the cottage and are unable to do so. Many full-time residents are extremely anxious for this to happen! If you have not already done so and would be in agreement to sending an email or a letter to Jim Neubauer, it would be much appreciated. This is not a commitment on your part but an indication to him that should high speed come to our area, then you would be willing to consider it. He may be reached at jim.neubauer@bell.ca or at Bell Aliant Regional Communications, 39 Apple Street, Floor 2 Brockville, ON, K6V 4X7.

WATER LEVELS ON LONG & MISKWABI

Some members have been inquiring about low water levels (Lynn, Mike!) which seems contradictory after such heavy snow cover. According to Parks Canada, the lake levels are down 26 cm (10") over last year's levels! This is because workers were unable to get in to the dam to put more logs in! On April 25th, we were at 87.4% capacity as

compared to last year when we were at 101% capacity. We were informed that lake levels should be at 100% by mid-May. Two and a half more logs were added on April 24th bringing the total to 7 ½ logs.

MACA MEMBERSHIP

MACA's "year end" used to be the end of July. A number of years ago it was changed to reflect the calendar year. A large number of members used to renew memberships at the Annual Meeting in July... and this made sense. But now it makes it difficult for planning purposes and for Newsletter distribution not knowing exactly how many members are currently paid up and how many have yet to renew. In the last few years, we have been "carrying" members who have not renewed memberships for two years! This doesn't seem fair to those who have renewed. Membership Renewal Forms are sent out in January with the hope that renewals will be made by the end of April so that members will still receive the Spring Newsletter in May. Your Directors launched a phone campaign this year to encourage renewals and the response has been very encouraging. This Newsletter is being sent out to the 115 members who have renewed for this year. Any future members will be sent the Newsletter after renewals are received. We thank you for your promptness and your understanding. We send along our congratulations to Celly & John Hall who joined our Association. Now that is not news in itself, but what is unusual is that they joined from Hong Kong, where they have lived for the past 8 years! Great to see the interest from so far away. We're guessing that they don't commute every weekend!

ANNUAL MAY CLEAN-UP

The Sunday of the I-o-n-g weekend in May is the date for the annual clean-up of our area roads by your Association. A lot of litter collects over the Winter under the cover of snow. Now that the snow is gone, it's visible! Can you spare one hour over the weekend to help us make the area look presentable again? We meet at the Strickland Boat Launch on Miskwabi at 11:00 am and divide up the area roads amongst those that are there. A pair of gloves is always a good idea. Hope to see you there!

WATER QUALITY

Water testing will be done on all four lakes this year thanks to additional volunteers. Director Haden Heathcock reports that water temperatures in June of last year were 22C. The clarity of the water was good to a depth of 10.2 m in June; in July, 7.5 m and in September, 10.6 m. Our waters remain excellent!

FIRE HOSE PUMP

One member wondered whether having a fire hose pump in the area would reduce the cost of home/cottage insurance. Haliburton Fire Chief, Miles Maughan, reports that many cottage associations have done away with their pumps due to liability reasons. As well, it costs approximately \$3000.00 to get set up and ongoing maintenance to the pump has been a problem. It is also up to each individual insurance company as to whether they would give discounts for this feature. For these reasons, MACA will not be pursuing this idea.

CORN ROAST

Opinions will be solicited from members at the Annual General Meeting on July 12th as to whether to continue with the corn roast. Numbers have been decreasing in recent years and last year, only 18 people attended. Please give some thought to this before the meeting.

ROADS COMMITTEE

Director Phil Wiseman welcomes Lorne Hodgson to his committee. Our thanks to him and to members, Karen Harding, Wally Quigg and Nigel Hollings for gathering data on our roads.

ANOTHER DONATION!

Again, we thank Susanne James and Andy Mosher for their donation of \$100.00 to our Association. This Century 21 couple, and MACA member/Director and resident, has donated \$100.00 every time they sell a property in our development. Over the past year, \$700.00 has found it's way into our coffers! Thinking of selling? Give Susanne and Andy a call at 457-2128.

BYLAW RESOLUTION

We are anticipating that in the near future, the Miskwabi Lake North Cottagers' Association will amalgamate with us. When the "North Shore" was first developed, one of the conditions of purchase was that they form their own Association to look after their unique needs. As most of those needs have now been dealt with, it now makes sense for all of us to become one. According to our Bylaws, a resolution, passed by at least 2/3 of the Executive, is needed to add another Director. At a recent Executive Meeting, a resolution was passed to allow for one more Director to be added to the MACA Executive, from the MLNCA, should amalgamation take place. This resolution will need to be ratified by the membership in July.

FROM THE REEVE

Reeve, Murray Fearrey, would like to remind everyone that the Landfill Site in Haliburton now is requiring the use of clear, plastic bags. This bylaw went into effect on January 1st and the township has been using a "flexible, educational approach" thus far. Also, we are delighted to learn that the tax rate has been set for the year and it comes in at 1.84%.

FROM THE ROADS DEPARTMENT

Roads Superintendent, Brian Nicholson, reports that 2 vehicles received a ticket this Winter for parking on roads in our area. According to Bylaw 2006-26, "no person shall park or stand a vehicle in such a manner as to interfere with the movement of traffic, the clearing of snow or the sanding or maintenance of a highway". Fines are \$200.00 and vehicles may be towed at the owner's expense. He would also "like to acknowledge the support of the Miskwabi Area Cottagers Association for their support over the Winter season".

LAKE PLANNING

Director Mike Giza and your President attended a meeting at the Fish Hatchery in Haliburton recently that had to do with lake planning. The meeting was sponsored by the Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association. FOCA is developing a planning tool to help Associations make plans to keep their lakes in pristine conditions. The template should be available in the next year and we will certainly be taking a close look at it. Another reason to fill out that survey on our website!

COTTAGE WATCH PROGRAM

This program is similar in nature to the Neighbourhood Watch program that many of us are familiar with. It is a program that involves the commitment of every member, the OPP and local businesses. The signage that is needed would have to be paid for by MACA. This item will be discussed at the Annual Meeting and volunteers will be asked for to help run the program.

HAZARDOUS WASTE DAYS

This year's dates are as follows; Saturday August 11th, 9:00 to 3:00 and Saturday September 29th, 9:00 to noon at the Haliburton Landfill site. The following items would be appropriate; latex oil paints, finishing products (varnish, glue etc); used motor oil; auto and household batteries; propane tanks and cylinders; cleaners (bleach, oven etc); aerosol cans; solvents (varsol, paint thinners); pesticides and herbicides; pool and photographic chemicals. I.D. cards necessary.

BURNING REGULATIONS

As of April 1st, we can only burn leaves and brush for 2 hours after sunrise and for 2 hours before sunset.

30TH ANNUAL HALIBURTON HOME & COTTAGE SHOW

Located at the Haliburton Arena and Curling Club, the dates for this year's show are as follows; Friday May 30th, 4 p.m to 9 p.m.; Saturday May 31st, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday June 1st, 10 a.m to 4 p.m. There will be over 120 exhibitors. \$2.00 admission and free parking.

KAWARTHA LAKE STEWARDS ASSOCIATION

This group is attempting to find out what methods of aquatic weed control work and how these methods affect the lake environment. The "end product will be a comprehensive, easy to read aquatic weed control manual for shoreline residents". MACA has made a \$50.00 contribution to their efforts and will receive copies of the final product.

INVADING SPECIES

In the fall of 2007 water samples taken from all four lakes by MACA volunteers were tested under the Invading Species program run by OFAH and MNR. We are happy to say that all four lakes were found to be clear of Zebra Mussels and Spiny Water Fleas. Let's keep the invading species out of our lakes:

- Inspect your boat, trailer and equipment - remove all plants, animals and mud. Dispose of them on dry land or in the garbage.
- Drain water from motor, live well, bilge and transom wells while on land.
- Never release live bait. Empty bait buckets on dry land.

HYDRO ONE

Bill Smeaton, from Hydro One in Minden, tells us that the work being done on Highway #118 between Haliburton and Loon Lake is the third year of a four year plan. They are bringing hydro lines from out of the bush to the highway in order to be able to service them more quickly in the event of a problem. At present, when a pole that is in the bush needs to be replaced, a helicopter is necessary! At the same time, they are upgrading the rural circuits. He also tells us that the new poles that are being put up will be able to easily handle the fibre optic cables that would be needed to bring high speed internet to our area. Fingers crossed!

DID YOU KNOW? IGA is now Foodland!

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE MAY LONG WEEKEND CLEAN-UP!

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE AGM, JULY 12TH @ 11:00AM. (Miskwabi Air Strip)

HAPPY COTTAGING !