



MISKWABI AREA COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATION

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

2009 SPRING NEWSLETTER

Hopefully, everyone has had a chance to get up to the cottage this Spring and "open up"! If not, the blackflies are awaiting you!

There was less snowfall this year than last; as of the end of February this year we had accumulated a total of 267 cm or 105" (in 2008 we had accumulated 330 cm or 130"). Last February we had no rainstorms while this year we had two, one on the 11th and the other on the 26th, which resulted in lower snow levels. The average low temperature was 6 degrees warmer this February (-6.5C or 20.3F).

But enough of that cold weather talk here's what you need to know thus far in 2009!

2009 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Don't forget our annual AGM, to be held at the Airstrip adjacent to the Boat Landing on Miskwabi, on Saturday July 11th at 11:00 AM (rain date, Sunday July 12th at 11:00 AM). Once again, hot dogs and hamburgers will follow and it's a great opportunity to talk with your fellow MACA members and your Directors. Name tags will be issued this year in an attempt to get to know each other a little better; to put a face to a name!

Our guests this year include Reeve Murray Fearrey, Councillor Derek Knowles and a member of the OPP talking with us about thefts at the cottage.

In recent years we have had elections to the Board of Directors every two years. In order to avoid a complete change of the Board in any one year, we are implementing an election every year with half of the Board being elected each year. According to our Bylaws, Directors are elected to the Board by the membership and then the Board votes on it's President, Secretary, Treasurer etc. This year, those running for another term of office for two years are the following; Larry Holden, Marg Montague, Andy Mosher and Phil Wiseman. There is a vacancy for one more Director as long time Director, Andy Harjula, is not running again. Please give some thought to this position and if there are any questions as to the responsibilities, give Larry a call at 705-457-3125 or email at holdentwo@sympatico.ca. More will be outlined at the AGM. Staying on the Board til next year's elections, at least, are Sandra Bishop, Paul Culver (Past President), Norm Fowler, Mike Giza and Haden Heathcock.

We would publicly like to thank Andy Harjula for his many years of volunteer service to our association. His insight and knowledge will certainly be missed by the Executive. In Andy's words, "It's been a pleasure to be associated with the Association and our family has seen a lot of changes in the area. We began coming here in 1953 when there was no road access; we had to row a boat to the cottage! We normally arrived about midnight on

a Friday. People should be grateful for the roads with potholes because our alternative was ... no roads!"

ANNUAL MAY LONG WEEKEND CLEAN-UP

We gathered on the Sunday to clean up the debris left from the Winter along our roadsides. It was a cold, blustery day (temperature at 5C when we started!) to be out doing this task and there were far fewer volunteers this year than last. The good thing was that everyone was eager and it was cold enough to keep the blackflies away!

A total of 9 full, large garbage bags of refuse and 8 full, large bags of recyclables (cans and bottles mostly) and half of an 18" culvert was collected!

The area looks much better thanks to the following concerned residents: Pam & John Butt, Sue & Barry Maxwell, Marg & Rick Despard, Sandra Bishop and Nancy & Larry Holden. Our thanks as well to Reeve Fearrey for making the arrangements at the landfill site for our "deposit"!

Our "HONESTY AWARD" of the year goes to the Despards and the Maxwells who took back the beer bottles that they found and returned \$8.10 to the Association! THANK YOU!

The only question that left the group in a quandary was ... "Why should this clean-up have to be an annual event?"

MACA MEMBERSHIPS

As of "press time", our membership currently sits at 110. Thank you to everyone who has renewed this year in a timely fashion before the end of April. It's appreciated! We will continue to solicit memberships from those in our area that are not members and hope that you will too! For only \$30.00 a year ... why not?

WATER QUALITY

Phosphorous testing results for 2008 are as follows; at the north end deep spot on Wenona, an average of 8.5; at the east end deep spot on Long, an average of 6.4; at the east bay entrance on Miskwabi, an average of 6.4 and in the center of Miskwabi, an average of 7.6. (We currently have no volunteers to test the quality on Negaunee; interested????) What all this means is that our water quality remains very good! More information will be provided at the AGM in July. Our thanks to Tim Hagarty and John Ewing (Wenona), John Butt and Mick Hansard (Long) and Haden Heathcock (Miskwabi).

WIN A FREE T-SHIRT AND MORE!

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 help to 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.

When? Entries must be received by June 30th, 2009.

How? Send a "pdf" to the MACA website (www.mymaca.net) under "T-SHIRT CONTEST" or mail your hand drawn artwork to MACA, 2239 Trapper's Trail Road, Haliburton, ON, K0M 1S0.

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

Submitted entries will be displayed at the AGM on Saturday July 11th. Voting will take place that day with the winning entry to be printed on T-shirts available for order. If your design wins, your T-shirt is free! Please see the end of this Newsletter for an example of the size of the drawings.

Order forms will be available at the meeting, on the web site or through your Executive. Think "BIG" and think "longevity"; what's a T-shirt today, could be our Newsletter, Website and more, tomorrow!

"GREEN" POKER RUN!

Member Steve Dyce has hit on an idea that seems like a lot of potential fun! He is willing to organize a "poker run" using only canoes and/or kayaks---no power boats allowed! Participants would start at the Jerry Strickland Boat Launch on Miskwabi and travel to various designated docks to randomly pick a playing card from a deck. It would be recorded and off they would go to the next location. The best poker hand wins! There could be different categories; family, mixed couple, male/female only, under 18, single kayak only etc. The idea is to get everyone out for some healthy fun. Registration fees would go towards prizes and to support the local Haliburton Hospital. A barbecue, compliments of the Association would follow the events.

More information, a date and further discussion will be supplied at the AGM. Anyone willing to help Steve in this endeavour is asked to get in touch with Steve at 905-884-7918 (home) or steve.dyce@sympatico.ca (email).

Our thanks to Chris & Bill Bunn, Mary & Ron Sharp and Marg & Rick Despard who have already offered their assistance.

PLEASURE CRAFT OPERATOR'S CARD

"As of September 15th, 2009, proof of competency is required: for all operators of a motorized pleasure craft regardless of their age or the length of the vessel. Presently, proof of competency is required: for anyone born after April 1st, 1983; for anyone operating a motorized pleasure craft less than 4 metres long (approximately 12 ft.). This includes a personal watercraft."

This quote is from Transport Canada and becomes law in only a few months time. To find out how to get your Pleasure Craft Operator Card and for the latest in boating safety information, please visit www.boatingsafety.gc.ca or call the Boating Safety Hotline at 1-800-267-6687.

We are attempting to hold a course for all MACA members who haven't yet got their card. We've been in touch with BOATsmart Canada and have set up a date of Saturday, July 25th for anyone interested in attending the course and/or the exam. The fee for the 4 hour course is \$80.00 (includes a course book valued at \$20.00) and the fee for the exam only is \$20.00. Licenses are required for anyone ages 8 and up and children may take part in this course and/or exam as well. The children's exam is picture oriented. We need a minimum of 5 people for the exam and 20 people for the course itself. Please email (holdentwo@sympatico.ca) or call Larry at 705-457-3125 if you know at this time that

you are interested. The course itself will be cancelled as of the Annual General Meeting if there are not 20 participants enlisted. (Please note that the cost of the course may rise by \$10.00 before July 25th!).

URANIUM MINING

As reported to you in the Fall Newsletter, your Executive passed a motion calling for an immediate moratorium on uranium mining and all associated activities. It was sent to the Premier of Ontario as well as pertinent Ministries, local politicians and our MP and MPP. New legislation just tabled will make staking private lands off-limits in Southern Ontario, meaning no one can come on your land and claim mineral rights under the surface for exploration and mining. The Government did not exempt staking and mining on Crown lands in this region, meaning staking can continue on any land owned by the Government. This means that we could still face the after effects of uranium mining through air pollution and/or water table run-off. We will attempt to follow the situation closely and advise you of any changes.

LOON NESTINGS

It's that time of year again when the loons have returned and will begin nesting. With more than 80% of the world's Common Loon population breeding in our country, Canadians have a critical role to play in conserving this species. Loons need safe nesting and brooding grounds to successfully raise healthy young. They nest between May and July and build their nests very close to the water's edge. Threats such as contaminants, water level fluctuations and nest disturbances are the result of increasing human activity on lakes supporting loons and can affect loon survival. We can help by doing the following; 1. Watch for them along the shorelines; 2. Avoid loon nests and loons when possible; distractions can make eggs and chicks more vulnerable to predators; 3. Keep boat wake to a minimum when near loons or their nests and 4. Keep pets leashed. We currently look after two loon nests on our lakes. If you are interested in making a loon nest for your particular part of Paradise, please go to the following website; www.bsc-eoc.org/download/CLLSloonplatform.pdf. And let us know of your activities. Last year the development of "Bert" and "Ernie" was followed closely on Lake Miskwabi!

TRENT SEVERN WATERWAY

In 2008, Parks Canada was very kind to provide us with their internal water level measurements and forecasts for the TSW. This year, Parks Canada has launched their own web site showing TSW water levels. Go to our own web site (mymaca.net) and click on the "Parks Canada" link. Click on the watershed of interest (Burnt River) and then on the red dot representing your lake of interest. This will show you the predicted water levels two weeks in advance.

9TH ANNUAL LAKELAND CONFERENCE

The date and location of this conference will be Saturday September 19th at the Fleming College in Haliburton. It will be held from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM. The topic for this year

is, "Taking Action For The Health Of Our Lakes: Showcasing The Efforts Of Our Lake Communities". Admission is \$20.00 per person or \$35.00 per couple. Lunch and coffee is included. Please visit the "Events" page at www.greenup.on.ca or call 705-745-3238, extension 207 for further information or to register.

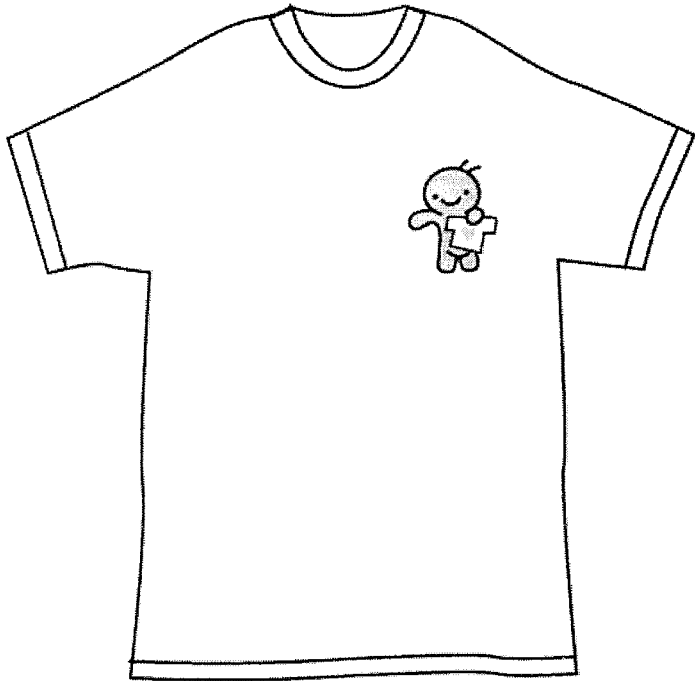
DID YOU KNOW?

Ontario has the highest property taxes in the Western World! (source—WRAFT-- (Waterfront Ratepayers After Fair Taxation)).

HAPPY COTTAGING! SEE YOU AT THE JULY 11TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT THE MISKWABI AIRSTRIP (raindate, the next day @ 11:00)

T-SHIRTS YOUR DESIGN

3.5" x 3.5"



or

10" x 10"

