



MISKWABI AREA COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATION

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

2010 SPRING NEWSLETTER

Spring arrived early in the Highlands about 3 weeks early! The ice left the lakes on April 2nd, earlier than anyone can remember. Now, of course, the blackflies are out and biting! So, if you haven't been up to your place yet, hurry up! We need help feeding them!

MEMBERSHIPS

If you have received this Newsletter, it means that you have renewed your membership in MACA. We are truly thankful! We will attempt to keep you up to date and inform you of upcoming social events and activities.

"AND THE SURVEY SAYS"

In the Winter Newsletter we asked you to fill out the survey on the back of the Membership Form and the majority of you did. Thank you! The results of your opinions are as follows: (not everyone completed every question)

1. Why Belong to MACA? The top 4 responses: to be kept up-to-date on current issues/events; social aspect; lobbying power and lake stewardship. (45 responses)
2. Items of Importance? 1. lake water quality; 2. (tied) road maintenance and property taxes; 4. shoreline ecology; 5. (tied) newsletter and environmental rehabilitation; 7. lobbying on local issues; 8. annual meeting; 9. social events (45 respondents)
3. High Speed Internet? 47% indicated a high interest (51 respondents)
4. Golf? 34% (59 respondents) said they were interested in a MACA golf tournament (20 people); 63% (12) showed interest in golfing 9 holes and 68% (13) preferred golfing on a weekday.
5. Wildlife Presentation? 51% (28 responses) indicated they would attend a presentation with their children/grandchildren.
6. Green Poker Run? 62% replied "no" (55 respondents; 21 replied "yes")
7. Lake Planning Committee? 67% said "no" while 18 people said "yes".
8. Membership Fee? 91% felt the fee was "just right" (57 respondents)
9. Seasonal/Permanent Resident? 80% of members are seasonal (60 respondents); 54% use their place in the Winter and 24% plan on retiring to the "cottage" (42 respondents)
10. Rent? 14% of members rent their place ((57 respondents)
11. AGM in Town? 67% would travel to town (52 respondents)
12. Wine & Cheese in August? 81% favoured moving from September to August (44 respondents)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: SATURDAY JULY 17; MISKWABI AIRSTRIP

Last year's meeting was almost rained out! We'll keep our fingers crossed for better weather this year. This is a Municipal election year and we plan to invite the candidates for both the Ward and the Reeve positions to come out and give their platforms.

The local Councils that will be elected on October 25th will wrestle with some very important issues that will directly affect all property owners in all 4 Municipalities in the County. Increased financial pressures could mean higher property taxes; new development pressures are increasing around our lakes. Lake area property owners pay the majority of taxes and have the most invested ... protect your \$\$\$\$... VOTE!

Since 2000, all property owners are mailed a ballot to the address indicated on the tax roll. Here is what to do: after July 31st, check with the Municipal Office to ensure that you and your spouse are on the Voter's List (Dysart et al .. 705-457-1740). Make sure your ballot arrives by mail; they are to be mailed the week of September 27th. When your ballot arrives, fill it in as per the directions and mail it back by October 16th. During the last election in 2006, only 40% of eligible voters cast ballots!

HIGHLANDS SUMMER FESTIVAL

A Summer full of live theatre, concerts and opera! A total of 7 presentations will be available! Want to win two free tickets to your choice of performance? All you have to do is show up at the Annual General Meeting! A draw will be held at the conclusion. No charge! No fee! Just attend! WOW! (A bribe? Okay!)

MACA LAKE PLANNING

At a recent Executive Meeting, your Directors were unanimous in recommending that a Lake Planning Committee be struck to pursue this important issue. This committee should be separate from the Executive and should be representative of ALL property owners in the area. At the AGM we will be asking for volunteers to form this committee aside from those who showed interest from our recent survey.

INVADING SPECIES (from Director Mike Giza)

Again last Fall, water samples were taken from two locations on each of our four lakes by MACA volunteers. These samples were tested under the Invading Species Program run by the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) and the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). We are happy to report that all 4 of our lakes were found to be clear of Zebra Mussels and Spiny Water Fleas. Other lakes in Haliburton County are not as fortunate! Miskwabi, Long, Negaunee and Wenona are at the headwaters of the Burnt River system and therefore cannot be polluted by upstream sources. The main way these foreign species can enter our lakes is by being carried in or on

boats and in bait buckets. If your boat or a visitor's boat has been in other bodies of water, please take the following steps:

- ❖ Drain all water from boats on land.
- ❖ Empty bait buckets on land; never release live bait.
- ❖ Inspect, wash & dry your boat, trailer and equipment.

Let's continue to keep our lakes clean and free of invading species!

MACA T-SHIRT CONTEST (from Vice-President, Sandra Bishop)

The long awaited T-shirts are almost here! Thank you again to Jack & Michelle Rogers, Jake Wagenaar, Corbin Cloutier, Karen Harding and Jeff Holden ---- your submissions were outstanding and it was a tough job narrowing the field of choice. The Executive will present the logos for membership voting at the July 17th AGM; order forms will be available at that time. In order for us to get the T-shirts by August, we'll need your orders ASAP (that day preferably) ----- so don't forget your cheque book or cash! A very reasonable \$10.00 each! T-shirt samples will be on display to help facilitate colour choices and correct sizing.

Can't make it to the AGM? Then we'll allow a sneak peek at the logo choices! Visit our web site (mymaca.net) prior to July 17th and email us your choice. You may also send in your order form and cheque through the site. Any questions? Contact Sandra at smbishop@rogers.com

MACA GOLF TOURNAMENT (from Director, Moe Welch)

The first annual MACA Golf Tournament is scheduled for Friday July 30th, 10:00 AM at the Haliburton Highlands Golf Club. The cost for 9 holes of golf (best ball format) and cart is \$32.00 per person; cost without the golf cart is \$22.00 per person. Lunch of hamburgers/cheeseburgers/chickenburgers will be available for \$6.19 plus HST per person. In order to adhere to these prices, we must have a minimum of 20 players. If you are interested in playing, please email Moe Welch at loismoe@sympatico.ca or call Moe at 705-457-9371 and indicate if you will be staying for lunch after the golf.

What a great way to get to know your fellow MACA cottagers and have some fun, especially when you know that they aren't any better golfers than you are! (ha, ha!). Guests of members are also most welcome to attend as well.

MACA WILDLIFE PRESENTATION

As a result of our Survey and as a way of trying to involve our young ones a little more, MACA Director, Moe Welch is looking into the possibility of hosting an outdoor wildlife presentation. Negotiations are underway and more information will be available at the AGM in July. This presentation for children and grandchildren will be "no charge"!

FLASHING GREEN ----- WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

In Ontario, and in all of Haliburton County, a flashing green light on a vehicle means that a volunteer firefighter is responding to an emergency in their

personal vehicle. While the majority of firefighters will respond to the firehall to get "the big red truck" or other appropriate fire department vehicles, some may go directly to an emergency scene depending on the nature of the call. The Highway Traffic Act allows the use of green flashing lights, and only firefighters may use them. The Office of the Fire Marshall has a comprehensive statement on the use of flashing green lights as part of its Public Fire Safety Guidelines, available at www.gov.on.ca. Keep an eye out for those flashing green lights and when you see them, pull over first and ask questions later.

THE 2010 G8 SUMMIT

Throughout the week of June 21st to 28th, a number of Internationally Protected Persons (IPP) and accompanying Very Important Persons (VIP) will travel to the Huntsville area with a significant number of support staff to attend the G8 Summit. It's not known what impact the Summit will/may have in our area, but it's always better to be prepared for more traffic and possible security operations. There may be an increased Police presence. For more information, contact the Community Relations Group at 1-888-446-4047 or email G8.ISU.CommunityRelations@ontario.ca.

MACA'S ANNUAL ROAD CLEAN-UP

The Sunday of the May l-o-n-g weekend is always the annual clean-up of our area roads. Much litter and garbage builds up over the Winter when it can't be seen because of all the snow. Each year a dedicated number of MACA members give up an hour of their time to make our area more environmentally pleasing. Are you available on Sunday, May 23rd at 11:00 AM? Meet us at the Strickland Boat Launch on Lake Miskwabi and we'll divide up the areas and "git'r'dun"!

Mike and Virginia have invited all participants to come back to their place (2153 Trapper's Trail) after the clean-up for some burgers and pop!

COTTAGE INSURANCE REDUCTION?

We've had two property owners in our area who have recently joined MACA specifically because their insurance policy states that if they are a member of a cottage association, they will receive a reduced rate on their insurance. Does yours? It's worth checking into!

LOON NESTS

What is more typical of "cottage country" than that late night call of the loon? That plaintive call that breaks the stillness of an evening. Well, the loons are back and will once again soon, be nesting in our waters. Last year, loons were successful in raising their little ones (loonettes?) on Long, Miskwabi and Wenona. When you are out and about in your boat, please be mindful of large wakes and to stay away from both loons and their nesting areas. The little ones have enough natural enemies without adding us to their list.

LONG LAKE DAM

Conversations with Parks Canada regarding the Long Lake dam have revealed that new stop logs will be forthcoming. The only dam in our area that will be upgraded and mechanized will be the Elliott Falls Dam in Norland. At the beginning of May, water levels were down by about 12 cm (5 inches) from normal and it won't be until after the May l-o-n-g weekend that any water will be let out. With such a dry Spring and lower snow accumulation this Winter, it will be interesting to see how our lake levels will be affected this Summer!

HIGH SPEED INTERNET SERVICE

As all MACA members know, we have been trying to obtain high speed internet service to our area for about three years now! We've written letters, members have sent emails and we've attended meetings – all to no avail! The latest rumour is that we will not be receiving high speed through cables (fibre optic or whatever!). So, we've changed gears somewhat! Listed below is what we have been able to obtain for MACA members from Bell Mobility and from Rogers. Some residents/cottagers have received excellent wireless results while others are still struggling to receive a strong enough signal.

Bell Mobility

Bell Mobility has increased the signal strength from their towers and now we can receive high speed at the rate of 7.2 Mbps. The Novatel Wireless U950 USB modem simply plugs into your USB port and is completely mobile allowing you high speed access anytime and anywhere. Their "plan" is a flexible plan where the price increases as you increase the number of MB's you download and upload. For \$35.00 per month, you are allowed 500MB; for 1 GB per month, the cost increase to \$45.00 and so on. It is a two year agreement.

More information on the Bell Turbo Stick may be seen at the following site; [http://www.bell.ca/shopping/en CA ON.Novatel-Wireless-U950/69061.details](http://www.bell.ca/shopping/en_CA/ON/Novatel-Wireless-U950/69061.details) By mentioning that you are a member of MACA, the connection fee OR unlimited data on your turbo stick – for two months – will be given. BUT, you must call Manny Grewal at 905-282-4499, X 5500 or email him at Many.grewal@bell.ca. This offer is valid from May 1st until June 30th, 2010.

Rogers Mobile Internet

Rogers has two options that they are offering MACA members. Their signal strength is also received at 7.2 Mbps.

The Rocket Stick, single user mobile device, is ideal for laptop users that are travelling a lot and require access to the internet/email on an intermittent basis. There is a zero purchase price and \$35.00 per month charge for up to 500 MB. It also is a flexible plan and going over the 500 MB would increase the monthly charge to \$40.00 per month and so on. It also plugs into the USB port on the computer or laptop. It is a two year agreement.

The Rocket Hub holds up to 10 simultaneous wireless connections plus 4 Cat-5 ethernet connections and 1 regular land line for telephone service. The initial outlay is \$149.00 on a 2 year agreement but this also gives you up to 3 GB on a fee of \$35.00 per month.

All MACA members can get the activation fee waived as a special promotion by mentioning MACA and by contacting Jason Giff directly at 1-866-327-1224, Ext. 2657 or by emailing him at Jason.giff@rci.rogers.com.

Both Manny at Bell Mobility and Jason at Rogers are quite willing to explain their wireless connections in layman terms. They have been VERY patient!!! So, if you want high speed access, now might be a good time to investigate these offers! If you would like an unbiased opinion, please give Larry a call at 705-457-3125. Good Luck!

AVOIDING ANIMAL COLLISIONS

According to the Ontario Ministry of Transportation, a motor vehicle and a wild animal collide every 38 minutes in Ontario and 89% of collisions are on two-lane roads just outside of urban areas, with 84% happening in good weather! To reduce wildlife collisions, the OMT offers these four tips:

Scan the road ahead from shoulder to shoulder; watch for wildlife warning signs and use high beams whenever possible.

Steer: Slowing down gives you an extra second to respond; never swerve suddenly, which can cause your vehicle to go out of control.

Brake firmly if an animal is standing on, or crossing, the road. Never assume the animal will move out of the way.

Stop as safely as possible if a wild animal is crossing the road. Understand that when one animal crosses the road, others may follow.

REMEMBER

Annual MACA Clean-UpSunday May 23rd, 11:00 AM
Annual General MeetingSaturday July 17th, 11:00 AM
Annual Wine & Cheese (2239 Trapper's Trail) ...Saturday August 28th, 2:00 PM

DID YOU KNOW?

By 2015, the baby boomer population of people more than 65 years old will outnumber the people aged 15 and younger, in Ontario for the first time. In fact, seniors will comprise over 50% of Haliburton County's population. Even today, 24% of the population in the County is over the age of 65 --- compared with the provincial average of 13%.

ENJOY YOURSELF!

HAPPY COTTAGING!

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE ABOVE LISTED EVENTS!