



## MISKWABI AREA COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATION

SERVING RESIDENTS AND COTTAGERS ON LONG, NEGAUNEE, WENONA AND MISKWABI LAKES  
www.mymaca.net

### SPRING 2012 NEWSLETTER



Spring Bloomers April 25 ...Can you identify them? (see pg.5)

Spring came early to our lakes – the ice went out about March 28 – the earliest on record that we can determine! Trout lilies and Spring Beauty are starting to bloom and a few hardy cottagers have even put their boats in! Hopefully spring has sprung to stay!

#### Haliburton Events

##### Haliburton County Studio Tour 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition

Exhibition at Rails End Gallery from May 5 – 17, 2012 includes artist demonstrations and a group exhibit by past and current studio tour members.

##### 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Haliburton Home & Cottage Show

This very popular event will be held over the weekend of June 1 -3, 2012 (Fri. 4-9, Sat. 10-5, and Sun. 10-4) at the Haliburton Community Arena and Curling Club. Over 150 exhibits are planned including construction and renovation, docks, boats, clothing and much more as well as great food at the Curling Club.

Admission \$3.00, children free, free parking.

##### Haliburton County Farmer's Market

Held Fridays, June 15 to August 31- 1 to 5 p.m. at the corner of Hwys 35 & 118 (That Place Restaurant)

## **Update on Winter Issue of Nature Notes – For Rock Hounds**

The Haliburton Geological Society is for anyone who is interested in rocks, minerals and gems. Monthly meetings are held at 7:00PM on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre (174 Bobcaygeon Rd.) - visitors and new members are always welcome! Topics cover a wide range of geological interest, presented by internationally renowned guest speakers and local experts. From May to October, regularly scheduled collecting trips take members in search of hidden gems and buried treasure - from your own backyard, to world-class locations throughout the area. For more information email: [hgs@theoccurrence.ca](mailto:hgs@theoccurrence.ca).

## **Hazardous Waste Days**

Haliburton Landfill Site - 222 Industrial Park Road

Saturday, August 4, 2012 - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Harcourt Landfill Site - 1123 Packard Road  
Saturday, August 18, 2012 - 9:00 a.m. to Noon  
Acceptable Household Hazardous Waste Classes:

Latex and Oil Paints, Finishing Products e.g. varnish glues

Used Motor Oil; Auto and Household Batteries; Propane Tanks and Cylinders, Cleaners r, Aerosol Cans, Solvents e.g. varsol, paint thinners,

Pesticides and Herbicides; Pool and Photographic Chemicals

Florescent Light Tubes

A complete list of acceptable household hazardous waste

items can be found on the following website: [www.makethedrop.ca/contents](http://www.makethedrop.ca/contents)

## **A Winter of Wildlife**

It was a great winter for wildlife viewing around our lakes. Below is a photograph of a wolf taken by Bill Bunn on the north side of Miskwabi Lake. A bald eagle was seen soaring around the lakes all winter and some people saw a golden eagle as well. One morning 12 deer were together well off the shore on Miskwabi. And a muskrat family used the loon platform as a winter home!



## **Water Levels Survey – Miskwabi and Long Lakes**

At time of writing, 32 members from Miskwabi Lake and 23 from Long Lake have replied to the Water Level Survey included with the Winter Newsletter.

In summary, over 90% of respondents experience no difficulties with high water levels. The difficulties occur with low water levels at the end of the season: 50% of respondents report difficulty navigating between the two lakes, and 40% have difficulty removing boats from the water, either at the launch or their dock.

Preferred water levels are a preference to maintain 7.5 logs at high water (70%) and at low water to have 5 logs left in the dam (65%), which is 1.5 more than 2011.

When finalized, the survey results will be presented to the Coalition for Equitable Water

Flow for their use in working towards the development of lake-specific preferred water levels in the Trent-Severn Waterway.

## **Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association (FOCA)**

### **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organization dedicated to the interests of Ontario cottagers' associations. Besides being a long-term member, MACA has a special connection to FOCA. Our founder, Jerry Strickland, was a director of FOCA and a prestigious conservation award was created by FOCA in his memory – the Jerry Strickland Award of Merit.

### **Annual Road Clean-up**

Meet at the Miskwabi Boat Launch at 11 a.m. on Sunday, May 20. We will split up the area roads among the volunteers and expect that an hour or so later our roads will be spring cleaned of trash. Remember to bring a pair of gloves. A BBQ for volunteers will follow.

To keep our area clean all summer we encourage you to dissuade anyone from opening the car window and pitching bottles, cups or even cigarette butts!

At the mailbox complex, "No Flyers Please" labels have been left in the MACA box for your use if you do not want flyers left in your mailbox. Since this was started in December much less garbage has been found at the mailbox area.

## **Water Testing 2012 – Results**

In conjunction with the Ministry of Environment's Ontario Lake Partner Program, Haden Heathcock and a small team of volunteers test our lakes for both phosphorus concentrations and water clarity. Phosphorus is measured because it is the element that controls algal growth – generally, more phosphorus means more algal growth. Water clarity, measured by secchi disc, may indicate that changes are occurring in the algal biomass of the lake.

Scientific experts place lakes in three broad categories with respect to nutrient status:

1. Lakes with less than 10 ug/L TP are considered oligotrophic. These lakes rarely experience nuisance algal blooms.
2. Lakes with TP between 10 and 20 ug/L are termed mesotrophic and show a broad range of characteristics and can be clear and unproductive at the bottom end of the scales or susceptible to moderate algal blooms at concentrations near 20 ug/L.
3. Lakes over 20 ug/L are classed as eutrophic and may exhibit persistent, nuisance algal blooms.

Results for the tested lakes show our lakes are oligotrophic. Note Negaunee was not tested.

<b>Lake</b>	<b>Phosphorus</b>	<b>Water Clarity</b>
Wenona	9.0 and 10.0 ug/L - two sites tested	6.1 metres
Miskwabi	6.6 and 5.2 ug/L - two sites tested	8.5 metres
Long	5.8 and 6.8 ug/L - two sites tested	not tested

## **Miskwabi Area Watershed Plan Update**

The committee has met several times over the fall and winter and development of the plan is going well. One of the most important aspects of the watershed plan is that it represent the values and opinions of all stakeholders. A survey to get this input is almost complete and will be mailed shortly to the over 450 property owners in the Miskwabi area watershed. Look for it in your mailbox in early June. In order for the Watershed Plan to include your values and opinions please take the few minutes it will require to complete and return it in the stamped addressed envelope that will be enclosed. The recommendations that will come from your opinions and values will be available for use by various levels of government, government agencies and non-government organizations in their planning for our area. Our recommendations will have credibility and bear weight only if a high percentage of households return the survey. Please let your values be known and encourage your lake neighbours to do the same.

## **Summer Burning Regulations**

No fires allowed between two (2) hours after sunrise and two (2) hours before sunset. Fires must be less than 2 metres high and attended by a competent person at all times. See [www.dysartetal.ca](http://www.dysartetal.ca) for more details.

## **MACA/MLNCA Amalgamation**

Since the motion was passed at our 2008 Annual General Meeting, MACA's Executive has been working on the amalgamation of the two lake associations with the executive of the Miskwabi Lake North Shore Cottagers' Association. We are pleased to announce that we are in the last phase of completing a new set

of association By-Laws to go along with a new association name.

If ratified by a vote at this July's AGM, the Miskwabi Area Community Association (MACA) will formally exist as of January 1, 2013 incorporating the old MACA and MLNCA. Motions will be proposed at the meeting to adopt the name change and By-Law.

The proposed By-laws will be posted at our website ([www.mymaca.net](http://www.mymaca.net)) for your review by early June. They incorporate two significant changes:

1. A new name reflecting not only the inclusion of Miskwabi's north shore development but one that more reflects today's concept of our lakes with its seasonal and permanent residents.
2. The updating of MACA's By-laws to include corporate law changes, provisions for a larger executive, and the inclusion of special Articles governing the unique maintenance situation concerning the unassumed roads on the Miskwabi North Shore's Section 636.

Please visit the website to review the proposed By-laws. [www.mymaca.net](http://www.mymaca.net)

## **Dysart Cottage Kit for Garbage Disposal**

Dysart Township make available for purchase Cottage Kits which you can leave for your guests or renters. Instead of potentially losing your landfill card, leaving a cottage kit for others who use your cottage is convenient, simple and affordable. The kits contain various garbage bag types and sizes, a welcome letter which outlines the Dysart waste management program, a map showing landfill sites, landfill hours, and best of

all – a one-time Landfill Pass. These Cottage Kits are available at the Municipal Office or at the “dump”. Cost is \$3.00 each or 10 for \$25.00.

### **High Speed Internet Service**

As all MACA members are aware, we have been working for years to obtain reliable high-speed Internet service in our area. There appears to be some light at the end of the tunnel.

At the end of January the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN), in a press release, announced that the Eastern Ontario Wardens’ Caucus had awarded a Local Access Contract to provide 24,000 residences and businesses in Haliburton County and a northern part of Peterborough County improved high-speed Internet. The service will be provided through high-quality wired access or satellite at improved pricing for very sparsely populated areas or difficult terrain. At this time we have been told that parts of our lakes will be serviced by fibre optic wiring and parts by satellite. We have asked for a breakout of the services which we expect to receive in the near future.

All in all, good news

*Photo ID’s from front page clockwise from top left:  
Dutchman’s Breeches, Large-flowered Trillium,  
Spring Beauty, Coltsfoot, Trout Lily, Purple Trillium*

### **Invading Species**

Again last fall water samples were taken from two locations on each of our 4 lakes by MACA volunteers. These samples were tested under the Invading Species Program run by the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters and the Ministry of Natural Resources. The results are not yet available but we are hoping that our lakes will continue to be free of Zebra Mussels and Spiny Water Fleas. Other lakes in Haliburton 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 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 and dry your boat, trailer and equipment.

Let’s all work to keep our lakes clean and free of invading species!

### **MACA Calendar of Events**

Don’t miss any of the events planned for this summer, including the new ones – monthly Bike Rides and Pontoon Boat Flotilla! Cut the next page out and keep it at the lake for handy reference

## MACA Calendar of Events - 2012

EVENT	DATE	DETAILS
Bike Rides	1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month @ 10 a.m. May to October	Meet at the Miskwabi airport Wear helmet, and safety vest if you own one
Spring Road Cleanup	Sunday, May 20 @ 11 a.m.	Many hands make clean roads for the summer. Meet at the Miskwabi Boat Launch. BBQ for volunteers to follow.
Miskwabi Lake North Shore Cottagers' Association Annual Golf Tournament	June 14 – Haliburton Highlands Golf	MACA members are invited to join. Contact Elizabeth Cloutier at <a href="mailto:ecloutier@canadaoverseas.com">ecloutier@canadaoverseas.com</a> for registration form and details
Annual General Meeting	Saturday, July 21 @ 11 a.m.	Miskwabi Airport. Bring a chair and sun umbrella MACA updates, guest speaker, elections By-law votes Fund raising raffles BBQ and social to follow
Pontoon Boat Flotilla Day	Saturday, August 11 @ 10 a.m. Email Moe Welch at <a href="mailto:loismoe@sympatico.ca">loismoe@sympatico.ca</a> if you will attend so he can have an idea of how many boats to expect	Motor your boat to the Miskwabi Boat Launch or meet there to board a boat. Tour of the lakes and a “rafting” potluck picnic Family event – no alcohol please
Wine and Cheese Party	Saturday, August 25, 2-5 p.m.	Hosted by Nicki and Tim Hagarty 1018 Snowshoe Road, Wenona Lake Please bring dry goods donations for the Haliburton Food Bank

# NATURE NOTES



## Turtles

It's spring and turtles are starting to emerge from the depths of their overwintering sites. There are 260 species of turtles and tortoises found worldwide, with about 60 found in North America.

Ontario has 8 freshwater species of turtles, 3 of the ones found in Haliburton will be described in this article:

Snapping Turtle (status - special concern)

Midland Painted Turtle (status – not at risk)

Blanding's Turtle (status - threatened).

### Physical Characteristics

The defining physical characteristic of a turtle is its shell. The shell of most turtles is composed of bony plates with modified scales forming an upper (carapace) and lower (plastron) portion. The protective carapace and plastron are joined together on the sides of a turtle's body between the front and hind limbs by a bridge composed of bone and cartilage. In many turtle species, the head, limbs and tail can be withdrawn into the shell for protection. The turtle's backbone and ribs are fused to the underside of its carapace and therefore they are not capable of removing their shells.

Most turtles have shells covered with large horn-like scales called scutes. These are made from a protein called keratin which makes up the foundation of our fingernails. The scutes add strength to the shell and also give each turtle species its unique pattern and colour.

Sizes vary greatly – from the smallest, Musk and Mud Turtles, of about 11.5cm. (4.5 in) to the largest, the Leatherback Sea Turtle, which can attain lengths of 180 cm.(6 ft.) and weigh up to 900 kg. (2000 lbs).

### Behavioral Characteristics

Turtles are ectotherms and control their body temperature using the external environment. Therefore, basking in the sun is vital to warm turtles to temperatures which facilitate proper biological functions and allow them to metabolize food.

Ontario's turtles are at the northern limits of their distribution and their eggs may only hatch in years with average or above temperatures. Nest temperature is important as most of Ontario's species (including the 3 described in this article) have temperature-dependent sex determination. Generally, lower nest temperature (22 – 25C) produce males and higher nest temperatures (>28C) females. At intermediate ranges a mixed male/female clutch is produced.

Overwintering wetlands that retain oxygenated water and do not freeze completely during the coldest temperatures are critical for turtle survival in the wild. During these months turtles extract oxygen from the water by dermal (through the skin), mouth and cloacal (through the rear opening) "breathing".

Turtles you might spot by one of our local wetlands

### Snapping turtle



**ID:** Very long neck and large powerful jaw. Unable to withdraw fully into shell. Long thick tail with dinosaur-like, triangular projections.  
**Size:** to 50 cms. (19 ins). Weight over 30 kg.  
**Diet:** Omnivorous – great scavengers.

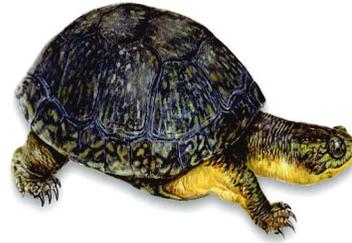
Live to over 90 years and may not reach sexual maturity until 18 years. Spend most of the time in water and are rarely seen basking. Do not bite swimmers, preferring to swim away. Will use jaws and claws for self-defense when threatened on land.

### Midland painted turtle



**ID:** Smooth, olive to brown carapace with orange-red margins. Legs and tail striped with red and yellow.  
**Size:** 11.5 - 14 cm (4.5 - 5.5 ins). Females generally larger than males. Males with very long nails on front feet.  
**Diet:** Omnivorous – aquatic insects, snails, fish, aquatic vegetation.  
Painted turtles are quite common and love basking in the sun by climbing on anything that will support them, including each other.

### Blanding's turtle



**ID:** Yellow chin and throat. Domed carapace shaped like a WWI army helmet with yellow spots. Protruding eyes high on head.  
**Size:** 12.5 – 27 cms. (5 – 10.6 ins)  
**Diet:** Another omnivore.

Blanding's are found sporadically in our area. They prefer slow-moving waters in small wetlands and ponds. They are the first turtles to emerge in the spring.

Blanding's typically have large home ranges – up to 3 square kilometers - and often travel long distances to utilize multiple wetlands over the course of their active season.

Turtle populations around the world are in decline. Of Ontario's 8 native species, 7 are at risk of extinction. Due to their low economic value and shy, secretive behavior, many people may not recognize them as a priority for protection. However, turtles are a living part of natural history and an integral part of wetlands and aquatic environments.

For more information on turtles in Ontario and the Turtle Tally Program visit the Toronto Zoo's website at [www.torontozoo.com/adoptapond](http://www.torontozoo.com/adoptapond)

Credit to: Toronto Zoo; Environment Canada, Habitat Stewardship Program; Gov. of Ontario