



MISKWABI AREA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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

Spring 2013 Newsletter

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Can you name these spring migrants? See Nature Notes on page 7 for their identities and stories

Welcome back to the lakes – they just opened. This year the ice went out in late April which is much closer to the long-term “normals” than last year when the ice went out the earliest ever recorded - in late March. The winter started out as a lamb but morphed into a lion at the end of January and did not want to move out in April. All taken into account, our lakes were very fortunate in late April with virtually no flooding and only minor access issues.

Welcome back.

MACA Membership

Thanks to all who have renewed their memberships to date.

If you have not yet returned your registration form please use the one included in the Winter Newsletter or print one from our website at mymaca.net.

Your annual membership is only \$30.00. Mail it to MACA, 2153 Trapper's Trail Rd., Haliburton KOM 1S0.

Haliburton Events

35th Annual Haliburton Home & Cottage Show

This very popular event will be held over the weekend of May 30 – June 2, 2013 (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, renovation, docks, boats, clothing and much more as well as great food at the Curling Club. Admission \$3.00, children free, free parking.

Highlands Summer Festival

This July the stage is set for another wonderful season of theatre at the Northern Lights Pavilion (located at the Haliburton High School). Productions this year are: Nonsense, our Town, The Sunshine Boys, Bohemians in Brooklin and Wingfield's Inferno.

As the performances are usually sold out, order tickets early by calling 705-457-9933 or at their website www.highlandsummerfestival.on.ca/tickets

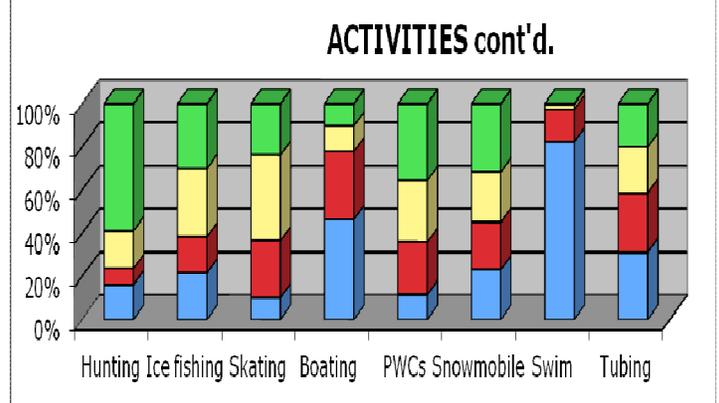
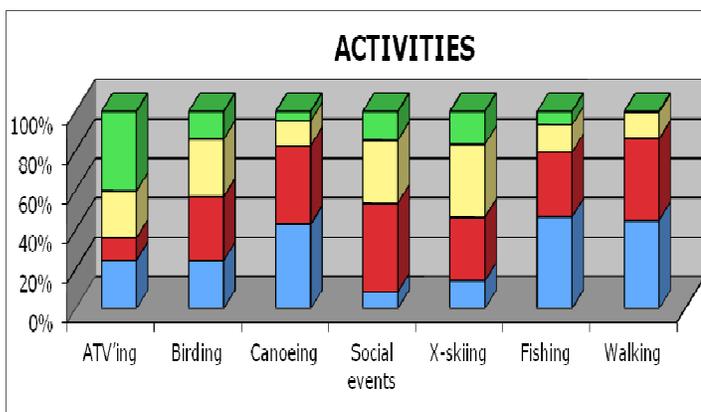
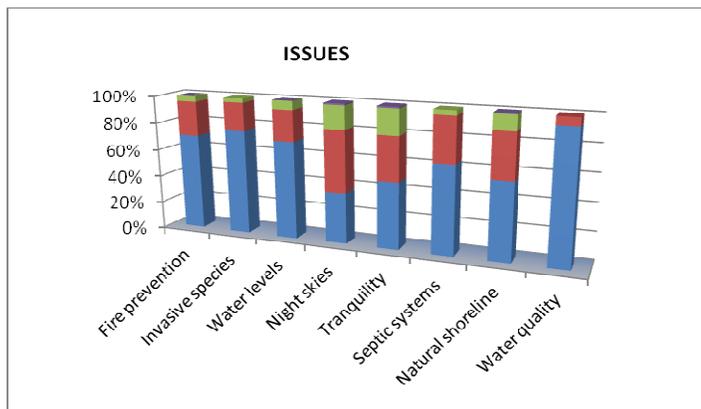
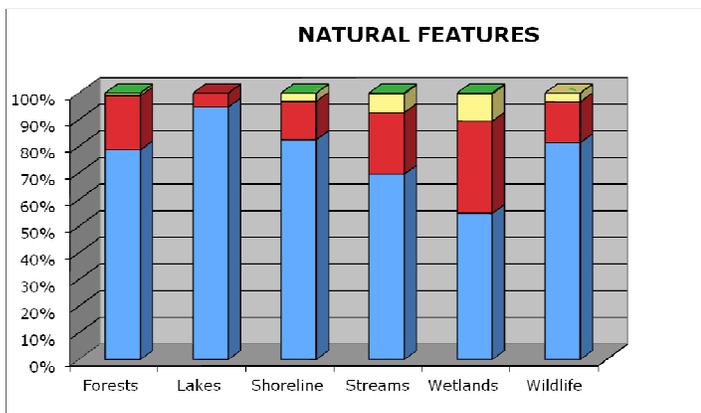
Miskwabi Area Watershed Plan Update

In basic terms, a lake plan is intended to help preserve the natural beauty, water quality, recreational opportunities and economic value of a lake community.

As Jerry Strickland, one of the founders of MACA in 1974 said, "After all, who knows your lake better than you?" A key component in doing this is first determining the values, interests, concerns and opinions of the property owners by way of a survey.

For our lakes, the survey was distributed last summer, tabulated during the winter and the results are outlined below.

Property owners were asked to rank items as: very important (blue), important (red), less important (yellow) or not important (green).



There are many observations that can be made about the charts but one stands out – 100% of respondents indicated that the lakes and water quality are important or very important. "It's all about the water".

As well, in the survey questions were asked about ownership and use of the properties. Here are some noteworthy statistics from the results:

Average length of ownership	19.1 years
Longest ownership	84 years
Seasonal resident	79%
Full-time resident	21%
Future full-time resident	38%
Winter Use	54%
Properties Rented	8%

Survey participation was outstanding when compared to the participation rate for most other lake plan surveys.

There are about 595 properties on our four lakes and 413 replies were received – 69.4 %.

Of the lakefront properties, 76.9% were received and for the backlots 50%.

On June 24, the Watershed Plan Committee will present its progress to date to the Dysart et al Municipal Council.

Please note these important dates:

Saturday, July 6 - At the MACA AGM the committee will hold open discussion on what the survey results indicate for the direction of the watershed plan.

Saturday, August 31, from 9 a.m. to Noon, the watershed plan committee will host an open house at the library in Haliburton. This will be an opportunity for all stakeholders to review the progress to date, discuss ideas and help set recommendations.

Please plan to attend.

Haliburton Highlands Museum

Telling the Story of *All* of Us!

submitted by Kate Butler, Director



The first European settlers in the Haliburton area were lured here in 1860's by the promise of fertile agricultural land. They soon discovered the terrain was rocky and difficult to farm, but with an abundance of game for hunting and trapping, and vast forests for logging. With the arrival of the railway in 1878, the area became a destination for those who wanted to "get away from it all" – as it remains today!

Just over a hundred years after the first settlers came, the decision was made to establish a museum in Haliburton village and historic Reid House (built in 1882) became the museum's first home. By the late 1970's, the collection had outgrown the modest house and construction of a new museum building began in Glebe Park. Today, that building houses a variety of ever-changing exhibits, while Reid House has been restored to a circa 1900 home. Also featured are a number of log buildings, including a working blacksmith's shop.

The Haliburton Highlands Museum's mission is to tell everyone's story, from the earliest inhabitants of the area to the newest cottagers, so we hope you'll come and visit with us this summer! Learn about local history, take part in exciting events and share your stories with us!

We're located at 66 Museum Road in Haliburton and we're open Tuesday to Saturday (and also Sunday in the summer months) from 10:00am – 5:00pm.

For more information, you can contact us at 705-457-2760 or info@haliburtonhighlandsmuseum.com.

We look forward to welcoming you!

ORDER NOW

Thanks to all who ordered MACA hats, T-shirts, and sweatshirts with their membership renewal forms. However, we are still VERY short of making the minimum quantities necessary to order either style of sweatshirt. Please email Sandra Bishop at sbishop@rogers.com before May 29 if you wish to place an order. Items will then be available at the July 6 AGM along with T-shirts and caps. The following T-shirts are still available from Sandra for \$10: Ladies large yellow; Youth small and medium chocolate and small sand.

ANNUAL ROAD CLEAN-UP

Make it a family event – bring your children or grand children!

Meet at the Miskwabi Boat Launch at 11 a.m. on Sunday, May 19. Remember to bring a pair of gloves. Garbage and recycle bags are provided.

The work takes about an hour and a BBQ for volunteers follows.

All year – To help keep our lakes, forests and roads clean please encourage everyone to not pitch bottles, bags, cups and butts.

At the mailbox "No Flyers Please" stickers are available for your use should you not want this type of unsolicited mail left in your box.

Dysart et al Burning Regulations In Effect April 1 to October 31

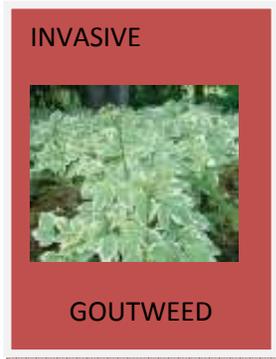
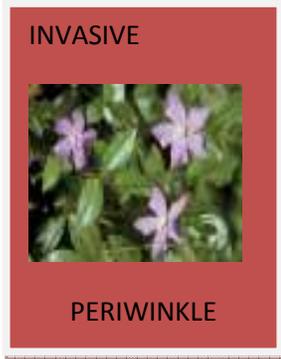
No burning between two (2) hours after sunrise and two (2) hours before sunset

Fires must be attended at all times by a competent person with adequate equipment to extinguish fire (this person is responsible for any damages)

Fires must be away from combustible material by at least three (3) meters and must not exceed two (2) meters in height.

Weeding out Invasive Plants at the Cottage

The Ontario Invasive Plant Council created the Grow Me Instead Campaign to inform gardening enthusiasts about some of the popular invasive plants that can cause problems in the landscape. It highlights a variety of native and non-native plant alternatives found to be non-invasive in Ontario.



Cottage country is susceptible to plants such as goutweed and periwinkle that can be brought from suburban areas. Here, they compete with native species, including tree seedlings, for light, nutrients and water. Goutweed is native to Eurasia but can now be found in gardens throughout North America. It is highly shade-tolerant and competitive once established, reproducing by seed and spreading underground. Its vigorous nature can choke out native groundcovers. Another plant to avoid is Periwinkle, popular due to its ability to grow in dry shade. It has few pests or diseases outside its native range of Europe which contributes to its persistence.

So what to plant instead? The Ontario Plant Council suggests the following as good groundcovers:



Wild Ginger (*Asarum canadense*) is a useful native groundcover for shady areas. Growing 15-20 cm. tall, it has soft green heart-shaped leaves and is clump-forming. Spreading slowly by roots, it is drought tolerant once established and best of all is deer-resistant.

Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*) is a good choice in a woodland garden for use as a groundcover. One of the first wildflowers to emerge in spring, it forms colonies producing a single white flower under the leaves in spring and its fruit is edible when ripe (yellow and soft) in late summer.



Some other alternatives are **wild strawberry** for sunny gardens, **wintergreen** (medicinal teas made from fruit and leaves), **wild geranium** (nectar source for hummingbirds), **foamflower** (small white star-like flowers in spring and early summer), **bearberry** and **bunchberry** for woodland gardens.

More choices and information about native and non-invasive plants can be found at www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca or by consulting with Kim at Country Rose Garden Centre on County Rd.21 in Haliburton.

Hot Topic

To gauge the opinions of MACA members a fireworks survey was attached to the 2013 Membership Form. Almost 100 people filled out the survey with the following results:

<u>Question</u>	YES	NO
Should the public be restricted in the use of fireworks?	86%	14%
If yes,		
1. Should they be banned completely?	14%	86%
2. Should they be used only at municipal and county events?	38%	62%
3. Should the public be allowed to use fireworks on limited occasions?		
Victoria Day to 11 p.m.	68%	32%
Canada Day to 11 p.m.	72%	28%
New Year's Eve to 1 a.m.	59%	41%

DID YOU KNOW?

BEECH BARK DISEASE

The beech trees that provide beechnuts for deer, bears and birds as well as habitat for cavity-nesting birds are quickly being decimated in Ontario, including the stands in Haliburton County. The attacker is a European insect, the beech scale, first introduced to North America in the 1890s.

The insect lives in the tree eating its bark, which then allows the tree to be attacked by a second assailant, a canker fungus. Winds blow the insects from tree to tree and the disease spreads rapidly.



bark of an infected tree

There is no effective way to prevent the disease. On the East coast, where the disease was introduced earlier, no healthy trees remain. The insect-fungus is making a rapid sweep of Ontario and it is expected that in 10 years almost all the beech trees in Haliburton County will be dead or dying.

Not good news for the foraging animals and nesting birds. The two best alternate food-producing trees – black cherry and red oak do not inhabit the same areas. Beech prefers deep soil and tolerates shade whereas black cherry and red oak prefer rockier sites and sun.

Credit: Haliburton County Echo

Municipal Cottage Kit for Garbage Disposal

Don't forget the Dysart et al Cottage kits which can be left for your guests or renters. The kit contains a welcome letter outlining the waste disposal programme; garbage bags of various types and sizes; a map showing the landfill sites, hours of operation; and a one-time pass.

Kits are available at the municipal office in Haliburton for \$3.00 or 10 for \$25.

Hazardous Waste Days

Haliburton Landfill Site - 222 Industrial Park Road
Saturday, August 3, 2013 - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Harcourt Landfill Site - 1123 Packard Road
Saturday, August 17, 2013- 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,
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

Zebra Mussels – Spiny Water Fleas

It's that time of year again. The lakes are opening up for boats. The above two invading species mainly enter lakes on boats or in fishing bait buckets. If you're putting your boat in for the first time, or have a visitor using their boat on one of the lakes, please take the following steps:

On land, drain all water from boats.

Empty bait buckets on land; never release live bait.

Inspect, wash and dry your boat, trailer and equipment.

All four lakes are still free of these invaders – let's keep it that way!

The lakes will be tested again this summer.

MACA Events

Don't miss any of the events planned for this summer. Cut out the next page and keep it at the lake for handy reference.

**Miskwabi Area Community Association
Calendar of Events – 2013**

EVENT	DATE	DETAILS
Spring Road Cleanup	Sunday, May 19, 11 a.m.	Many hands make clean roads for the summer! Meet at the Miskwabi Boat Launch. Gloves and sunscreen! BBQ for volunteers to follow at the Giza's 2153 Trapper's Trail
9 Hole Golf Tournament Best ball format	Saturday, July 13, @ Haliburton Highlands Golf Course	All golfing levels welcome! Email Moe Welch at loismoe@bell.net for details & registration BBQ to follow
Annual General Meeting	Saturday, July6, 11 a.m. @ the Miskwabi Airport	Be informed – meet your neighbours! Bring a chair and sun umbrella MACA updates, guest speakers, elections Watershed plan presentation Fund raising raffles BBQ and social to follow
Wine and Cheese Party	Saturday, August 24, 2-5 p.m.	Hosted by Kim and Mike Harrison 1039 Strickland Rd on Miskwabi Lake (off Trapper's Trail) Please bring dry goods donations for the Haliburton Food Bank
Watershed Plan Workshop	Saturday, August 31, 9a.m. Noon @ the Haliburton Library	Review the survey results; give input for the development of recommendations for stewardship and regulation.

NATURE NOTES

Spring Migrants

*Somewhere over the rainbow
Bluebirds fly,
Birds fly over the rainbow
Why then, oh why can't I?
The Wizard of Oz*

Every spring millions of birds migrate to Ontario from the south, some over great distances, to take advantage of the summer breeding range and food sources. The six species, males of which are shown on the front page, and females below, all nest in the Haliburton Highlands.

The best time to spot the new arrivals in the local forests is May – the forests leaves and cover are not yet dense, the males are in full breeding plumage, and many birds are broadcasting their presence with very beautiful and distinctive territorial songs.

Take binoculars and good luck!



1. Rose Breasted Grosbeak

SIZE —18-21cm. – almost the size of a robin

APPEARANCE:

Male – striking appearance: black head, black & white body, large triangle of rose-red on breast, thick, pale bill

Female – like large sparrow; with thick bill, broad white wing bars & white eyebrow stripe

SONG – resembles a robin's but given with more “feeling” as if a robin has taken voice lessons

HABITAT –deciduous woods, thickets, orchards

DIET – insects, larva, seeds, fruit, buds

WINTER RANGE – West Indies, Mexico and NW South America



2. Yellow-Rumped Warbler

One of the most common and widespread warblers. As well, one of the earliest to arrive and latest to leave.

SIZE – 13-15 cm. - size of a Black-capped Chickadee

APPEARANCE:

Male – blue-gray above, yellow rump, yellow patch on crown and below each wing, black breast patches

Female – brownish colour above, similar pattern to male but duller

SONG – a thin buzzy warble, very vocal during breeding season

HABITAT – conifer and mixed forests up through boreal forests of Northern Ontario

DIET – opportunistic insect feeder, some berries & seeds

WINTER RANGE – US, West Indies, Mexico, Central America to Panama



3. Wood Thrush

Thoreau wrote of the Wood Thrush song: “Whenever a man hears it he is young, and Nature is in her spring; whenever he hears it, it is a new world and a free country, and the gates of heaven are not shut against him.”

Wood thrush continued

SIZE –20 cm. – a bit smaller than a robin

APPEARANCE:

Male/Female – similar appearance: orange crest about head, tawny back and tail, dark round spots on light chest

SONG –a series of rich, melodious, flute-like phrases. Many believe the most beautiful song of any North American bird.

HABITAT – deciduous woodlands

DIET – invertebrates in ground leaves and litter, e.g. beetles, spiders, millipedes, flies, ants and some berries. Spends much time on the forest floor.

WINTER RANGE - Mexico to Central America



4. Black- throated Blue Warbler

These warblers are one of the tamest and may be approached to within a few feet. They have an affinity for higher elevations – like the Haliburton Highlands.

SIZE – 13-14 cm. about the size of a Black-capped Chickadee

APPEARANCE:

Male – clean-cut appearance: upper head and back blue, throat and sides black, belly white

Female – back olive-brown, light line over eye, small white wing spot

SONG – buzzy, rising zwee-zwee-zwee. At times rendered as please-SQUEEZE-me. Very vocal in advertising territory

HABITAT – understory of deciduous and mixed woodlands of the Canadian Shield.

DIET –mostly insects in the canopy: moths, caterpillars, aphids, beetles, and flies. Some berries and seeds.

WINTER RANGE –mainly in the West Indies

Sources:

Peterson Field Guide

Birds Studies Canada

Smithsonian

Cornell University Lab of Ornithology

5. Scarlet Tanager

SIZE – 18 cm.

APPEARANCE:

Male – flaming scarlet with jet-black wings and tail

Female – olive to grayish olive above, dingy, mustard yellow below

SONG – robin-like but hoarse, like robin with sore throat

HABITAT– deciduous trees, especially oaks; usually high and out of sight

DIET – insects, ants, grasshoppers, dragonflies, beetles, as well as snails, worms, spiders. Some fruit and seeds.

WINTER RANGE – Columbia to west Amazonia in S.A.



6. Wood Duck

Canada's only perching duck and tree cavity nester.

SIZE – 43 – 51 cm. medium-size, smaller than a Mallard

APPEARANCE:

Male – highly coloured - the unusual face pattern, swept back crest and rainbow iridescence are unique

Female – same facial and crest patterns but dull colours

HABITAT – wooded swamps, beaver ponds, rivers

DIET – diet is about 80% plant matter including seeds and nuts, also some invertebrates and fish

WINTER RANGE – US, Cuba to Mexico