



MISKWABI AREA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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

Spring 2015 Newsletter



Large Flowered Trillium Photo: Bill Bunn

Welcome back to the lakes – it was a very cold winter with deep ground frost and as of writing (April 15) ice still on the lakes with some open spots along the shores.

However, there are positive signs: the sun is higher, the days are longer, daily temperatures are trending up, and the scent of spring is in the air. Common and Hooded Mergansers are already patrolling the open leads and diving under the ice.

Soon the loons will be back, warblers will be singing in the trees and the trilliums will be in bloom!

MACA Membership

Thanks to all who have renewed their memberships. If your membership renewal had not been received by time of publication, a form has been included with this newsletter. Mail it to: MACA, 2153 Trapper's Trail Road, Haliburton, KOM 1S0.

Haliburton Events

37th Annual Haliburton Home & Cottage Show

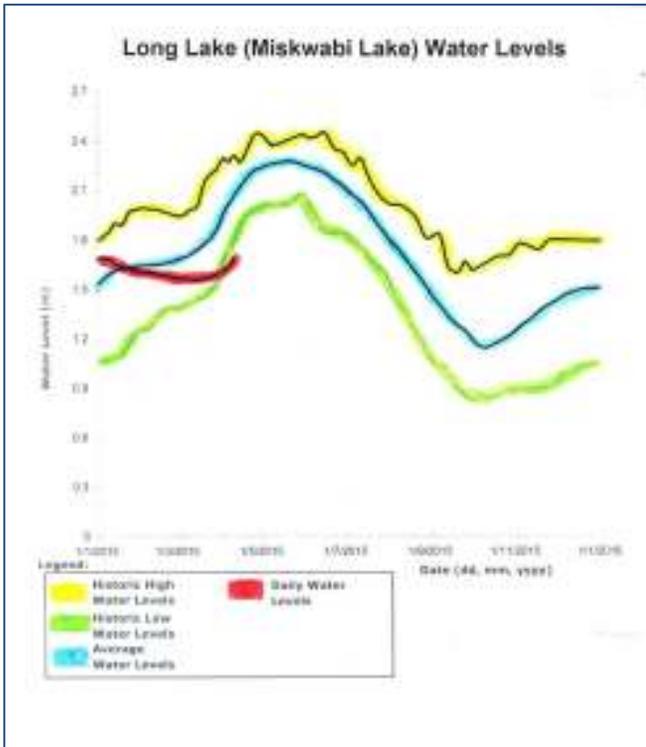
This ever popular event will be held over the weekend of May 29 – 31, 2015 (Fri. 4-9, Sat. 10-5, and Sun. 10-3) at the Haliburton Community Arena and Curling Club. Over 150 exhibits are planned including construction, renovation, docks, boats, and clothing and much more as well as great food and beverages at the Curling Club. Admission \$3.00, children under 12 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: Lend me a Tenor, One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest, Wingfield Lost and Found, Nunsensations! and Ralph & Lina. As the performances are usually sold out, order tickets early by calling 1-855-457-9933 or 705-457-9933, or at their website www.highlandsummerfestival.on.ca.

Lake Water Levels

As can be seen from the graph below, as of mid-April, Long and Miskwabi Lakes are at below average levels.



A recent communication from the Coalition of Equitable Water Flow (CEWF) indicates that all the reservoir lakes are experiencing this condition. The Trent-Severn Waterway (TSW) Authority indicated that this is a result of a very cold winter with little snowmelt and a below normal snowpack. Hopefully, with the current mild weather and rains, the lakes can be brought to normal levels during the spring.

Miskwabi Area Watershed Plan Update

After four years of research and hard work by the 12-member committee, and enormous amount of input from the property owners on the four lakes as well as municipal and other government experts, our Miskwabi Area Watershed Plan is complete. Many folks already have a printed copy of the plan along with its introductory DVD. This spring and summer members of the committee will be going door to door to ensure that everyone gets a copy. Donations, entirely voluntary, toward the cost would be appreciated. The watershed plan committee will now work on the implementation of the action plan recommendations.

MACA 2015 Events

Save Page 6 for a full list of this year's events.

Keeping our Pets Safe at the Cottage



It's been a long winter but now it's finally come time to open up the cottage! Here are some of the hazards our pets face and ways to avoid them.

Household hazards: We often put out mouse bait or traps and antifreeze in our toilets and drains prior to closing up the cottage. Some of the newer generations of bait are very poisonous to our pets. For some dogs and cats, after a long car-ride up north, a drink from the toilet is the first thing on the list of things to do. Antifreeze is sweet tasting and can cause kidney failure in a dog or cat within hours.

Wildlife: These creatures enjoying the warmer weather and longer daylight are most often found in the bushes early in the morning or later at night. Dogs, for some reason, can't resist these potentially dangerous critters. A summer of skunk smell or a face-full of porcupine quills can ruin everyone's vacation plans! Keep dogs on a leash at dawn and dusk. For porcupine quills, it is best to have these pulled as soon as possible under sedation by a vet so a thorough examination can be performed. Sometimes the wildlife can carry diseases such as Distemper, Rabies and Leptospirosis. Even indoor cats can be at risk if a bat flies into the cottage. Ensure your pets are properly vaccinated for the added risk of being in the country.

Ticks: At the cottage we are more likely to be hiking through bush and long grass which is exactly the type of environment these eight-legged spider-like monsters like to live in. Once they bite, they can transmit diseases to both you and your pets, mostly notably Lyme disease. Good to note, disease transmission for most things takes greater than 12 hours. There are products, namely K9 Advantix from Bayer, that are excellent for killing ticks. Good tick prevention is important. As well, it is a very good practice to thoroughly examine your pets daily and remove any ticks immediately since chances are good they haven't yet transmitted disease.

Article provided by CHA and written by Dr. Jenn Morrow of Minden Animal Hospital (modified to fit)

Pan Am and Parapan Am Games Coming to Haliburton Highlands!



The Minden Wild Water Preserve is the canoe/kayak – slalom venue for the 2015 Toronto Pan Am Games. Located on the Gull River, the Preserve has been attracting recreational and elite paddlers since the 1970s. Recent upgrades to the whitewater course will ensure thrilling experiences for both the athletes and spectators. Competitions will be held on July 18 and 19. In this adrenaline-fueled sport, athletes paddle a white-water course of rapids, drops and eddies while negotiating a series of gates in the fastest time possible. Canoe events involve open boats and a single-bladed paddle. Kayak events involve closed cockpit boats and double-bladed paddles.



Leading up to the games, in June, the torch relay will make its way from Huntsville to the venue. For more information or for tickets visit toronto2015.org

Explore Haliburton

The Dahl Forest which straddles 2.7 km of the Burnt River in Haliburton County is a great place for a family hike or for spring birding. The property which has been a model of conservation planning was transferred to the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust by the Dahl family in 2009. The forest is a natural conservation reserve with goals to protect and maintain biodiversity.



Dahl Forest is located at 1307 Geeza Rd., off of Gelert Rd. (County Rd. 1) just south of Gelert, about 20 minutes south of Haliburton Village. The trail system at the forest is signed. For more information visit www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca

ANNUAL ROAD CLEAN-UP

Sunday, May 17 – 11 a.m.

Make it a family event – bring your children or grand children!
Meet at the Miskwabi Boat Launch.
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 roadsides clean please encourage everyone to not pitch bottles, bags, cups and butts.
Leave your guests and renters a “one-time” landfill pass. Too often the cleanup folks find bags of household garbage that were tossed from vehicles on the “going-out” side of the road.

Foiling Canada Geese



Canada Geese over-concentrations are common on many Haliburton lake shorelines these days. For a variety of reasons, Canada Geese love lawns or areas where the vegetation is cut low on shorelines. They are a tundra species that feels at home in open areas with

unobstructed sight lines for safety reasons. They like to take their young up onto lawn-like open places to forage on the high carbohydrate shorter grasses offered up by lawns or lawn-like environments created by humans bringing suburbia to cottage country. This food then turns into up to a pound of feces a day fouling properties and adding E-coli to the lake.

The key to discouraging Canada Geese from congregating on shoreline open spaces is to make sure that they see a wall of plant material 24" high when they look at a shoreline from the water. This strategy has been successfully used in Haliburton at Head Lake Park where there has been a 90% drop in the geese population and a beach that has reopened for swimming.

Canada Geese are an iconic national symbol for most Canadians. Unwittingly, humans have created open spaces that extend a virtual invitation to these birds to congregate in non-traditional areas. Many people now consider the geese as pests but the problem has been caused by us, not them.

Having created the problem, it is now up to us to understand the impact and find ways to eliminate the root cause of problem geese populations.

So help your lake and yourself by planting native plants that grow 24" or higher on your shoreline and Foil Those Fouling Geese!

Article provided by the CHA

H Hydro One Tree Clearing Project along Power Lines

Hydro One Forestry Department has scheduled tree clearing along the hydro lines around Miskwabi, Negaunee and Wenona Lakes and the south shore of Long Lake this summer.

Letters were sent out last year to owners to notify them of the work and currently an assessment of work needed on each property is being completed. Markings will be left on the trees.

Fun on Four Wheels

The Haliburton ATV Association (HATVA) maintains 1,600 kilometers of bush trails in the county. Trails are signed, mapped and insured for HATVA and associated club member riders. They will host a variety of events this year, including Deep Woods Safari May 23 & 24 and Youth Training Day on June 20.

For more info or membership visit haliburtonatv.com



Put Safety First

Always wear a helmet and eye protection.

Tell someone where you plan to go.

Speed can kill. Take it easy and enjoy the scenery!

Don't drink and ride.

Know your limitations and those of your machine.

Respect other trail users and always give way to non-motorized users.

Obey the Highway Traffic Act when riding on municipal roads in Haliburton Highlands:

- Drivers must be 16 and hold a valid G2 or M2 license
- Wear an approved helmet
- Travel at speeds less than posted speed limit: no more than 20km/hr on road with 50km/hr posted speed limit.

Trail ride with minimum impact:

- Riders must be at least 12 years old, unless directly supervised by an adult
- Stay on trails
- Minimize wheel spin
- Avoid roosting corners
- Avoid soft bottom rivers and streams
- Traverse water crossings slowly and at a 90 degree angle
- Stay off private land

Information obtained from HATVA website and Ontario MTO website

Should I Wash My Hair in the Lake? Make the Right Choice



Is it acceptable to bathe and wash our hair in the lake? The inclusion in soaps and shampoos of chemical compounds such as phosphates, which fertilize and accelerate aging of lakes, has largely been abandoned in recent years. To assume, however, that the addition of bath products no longer poses a treat to lakes is wishful thinking. Washing in the lake introduces many undesirable chemicals into the aquatic environment.

Pure water is comprised of molecules consisting of 2 hydrogen atoms bound to 1 atom of oxygen. Every time something else is added to water, it loses some of its purity and instead becomes a dilute solution of those additives. Following is the chemical formula of a popular brand of shampoo: Water, Sodium laureth sulphate, Sodium lauryl sulphate, Cocamidopropyl betaine, Aloe barbadensis extract, Chamomile (*Anthemis nobilis*) extract, Passionflower (*Passiflora incarnate*) extract, Cocamide MEA, Dihydroxypropyl PEG-5 linoleaminum chloride, Fragrance, Citric Acid, Propylene glycol, Sodium chloride, DMDM hydantoin, Iodopropynyl butylcarbamate, FD&C Yellow No.5, D&C Orange No.4, Ext. D&C Violet No.2

Is it desirable to introduce large numbers of foreign substances into the waters of a natural ecosystem? The answer becomes a matter of conscience. It is well to remember that even those natural elements left behind from the biodegradable products are additives that were not previously present in the water.

The addition of scents to soaps and shampoos has implications other than just chemical degradation of pure water. It is generally accepted that perfumes attract insects such as mosquitoes and black flies. Many scents and perfumes contain chemical compounds known as pheromones, which act as sexual attractants. The release of these aromatic compounds in a natural environment may affect the normal behavior patterns of local wildlife in unpredictable ways. While not much is known about the introduction of such compounds to a wild landscape, why tamper with nature.

Washing boats or ATV's in the lake (with or without soap) also introduces foreign compounds to the water: invading animal or plant species, chemical fluids to name just three.

Article from the Algonquin Eco Watch Group

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

No burning (campfire or trash) 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.

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 municipal 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.

An alternative is to give your family or guests a signed photocopy of your current landfill pass.

Haliburton Highlands Camera Club



Photo: Larry Holden

Formed in December 2013, the Haliburton Highlands Camera Club is seeking new members. The club is open to anyone with an interest in digital or film photography. You do not need to be here full-time as the club has a growing presence online, and some members solely participate this way. Individual membership is only \$40.00.

The club's main objective is to assist photographers of all skill levels to develop and improve their proficiency. Monthly meetings are held on the third Wednesday in the evening and alternate between Haliburton and Minden. Visitors are always welcome. Visit their website at www.highlandscameraclub.ca for meeting information and a calendar of events and outings, or just to browse the gallery of amazing images taken by local photographers.

**Miskwabi Area Community Association
Calendar of Events – 2015**

EVENT	DATE	DETAILS
Spring Road Cleanup	Sunday, May 17, 11 a.m.	Many hands make clean roads for the summer! Meet at the Miskwabi Boat Launch. Bring gloves and sunscreen! BBQ for volunteers to follow
Annual General Meeting	Saturday, July 11, 11 a.m. @ the Miskwabi Airstrip	Be informed – meet your neighbours! Bring a chair and sun umbrella MACA updates, guest speakers, elections Fund raising raffle MACA shirts and hats for sale BBQ and social to follow
9 Hole Golf Tournament Best ball format	Saturday, July 18	All golfing levels welcome! Email Moe Welch at loismoe@bell.net for details & registration or check mymaca.net BBQ to follow
Wine and Cheese Party	Saturday, August 29, 2-5 p.m. Hosts are Kay Hubbard and Ulf Neidhardt 2235 Trapper's Trail Miskwabi Lake	Please bring dry goods donations for the Haliburton Food Bank

NATURE NOTES

FROGS

and

a Toad



Both frogs and toads are members of the order Anura (frogs). There are over 400 species of frogs on earth – 11 of which are found in Ontario and 9 in Haliburton. Over 300 species of toads exist on earth – 2 of which are found in Ontario and only 1 in Haliburton. Do you know any of the differences between frogs and toads? Some are listed on the next page. Below are pictures and some points of interest of the frogs and toad you might come across this summer in the Highlands.



Spring Peeper

Size: Small, 3 cm.
Appearance: Light Brown with X-shaped marking on back.

The breeding call of the spring peeper is a single, loud, high-pitched peep repeated over and over. The full chorus is one of the early signs that spring is in the air. Spring peepers are found in a wide range of habitats and breed mostly in small woodland ponds. The female lays between 800 – 1000 eggs. After the mating season they move to forested upland habitats and spend most of the summer in leaf litter. They are a tree frog but are rarely found more than a metre above ground. Although common, it takes patience and a good eye to see one.



Northern Leopard Frog

Size: 5 – 9 cms.
Appearance: Green or brown with random, dark, rounded spots. Two prominent folds on either side of back and a white belly.

The call of the leopard frog is a low snore followed by several low grunts, like a finger pulled on a wet balloon. Northern leopard frogs breed in mid to late spring in permanent water. The eggs hatch in about 3 weeks and the tadpoles transform in mid to late summer. These frogs occupy a large range of habitats and are found considerable distances from open water. They hibernate on the bottom of water bodies and in many cases in different ponds than those in which they breed.



Green Frog

Size: Large: up to 10+ cms.
Appearance: Typically green on upper lip; two prominent folds of skin that run partly down the back; and large, distinct

tympani (eardrum). Dark banding on hind legs. The call of the green frog is a staccato “gunk”, like a loose banjo string, sometimes repeated less vigorously. They breed in mid to late summer and the female lays small clutches of eggs that are draped over permanent vegetation in permanent water. Tadpoles overwinter in water before transforming the following summer. Green frogs can often be found basking along shorelines in summer. They hibernate under water and may travel a kilometer between breeding and over-wintering sites.



Gray Tree Frog

Size: up to 6 cms.
Appearance: Like its Latin name *Hyla versicolor* suggests, the gray tree frog has the chameleon-like ability to change colour. It has green, brown or grey skin with

large darker blotches on the back. There is a white patch under each eye and the under thighs are bright yellow-orange. The call of the gray tree frog is a short flute-like trill. Males call from trees and enter the pond after finding a mate. Eggs hatch within a week and tadpoles metamorphose within 60 days. The gray tree frog is at home in trees and can be found at the top of even the tallest ones. They have the ability to tolerate freezing temperatures and overwinter under leaf litter and snow cover.



Mink Frog

Size: medium up to 7+ cms.
Appearance: Similar to green frog but yellowish belly (not white like green frog) and no dark bands on back legs. Mink frogs have a

pungent, musky odour, like mink.

The call is a rapid series of crooks which sound like the tapping of a metal hammer on wood. Breeding is in late spring to mid summer. Tadpole stage lasts 1 to 2 years and both tadpoles and adults hibernate underwater. The mink frog is highly aquatic and rarely found on land. It inhabits cold lakes and slow-moving rivers with abundant vegetation.



Wood Frog

Size: up to 8 cms.
Appearance: The only Ontario frog to have a dark mark behind and under the eye. Colour is reddish, tan or dark brown with whitish belly.

The wood frog call is a series of sharp quacks, almost like a duck. They have an amazing ability to survive the freezing of 60 to 70% of the water in their bodies and temperatures of -6C. Consequently, wood frogs are the earliest breeders, often beginning to call when ice is still on the ponds. Tadpoles transform after 45 – 85 days. Summers are spent in wooded areas and they hibernate under leaf cover. The wood frog is the most widely distributed amphibian in Canada and is found in every province and territory.



Western Chorus Frog

Size: small, to 4 cms.
Appearance: Smooth skinned with colour from green-grey to brown. A dark stripe runs through the eye, a white stripe along upper lip, as well as 3 dark stripes down the back.

The breeding call resembles the sound of a fingernail running along the teeth of a comb. Chorus frogs breed very early in spring and their chorus can be heard in tandem with spring peepers. Breeding occurs in almost any fishless water body at least 10 cms deep, including ditches and temporarily flooded areas. Tadpoles transform by early summer. Chorus frogs can survive freezing temperatures and overwinter under logs and leaf cover. As with many members of the tree frog family, they are more often heard than seen.



Pickerel Frog

Size: to 9 cms.
Appearance: Smooth, tan skin. Similar to northern leopard frog except it has square spots, usually in rows, whereas the leopards have random, round spots.

The call is a low, nasal snore, somewhat like the mooing of a cow. They breed in mid to late spring; eggs hatching within 20 days and tadpoles transforming in about 80 days. Pickerel frogs inhabit ponds and streams with stable temperatures. They spend most of the summer away from water but in damp conditions and overwinter in the bottom of waterbodies.



American Bullfrog

Size: large, up to 17 cms.
Appearance: Largest frog in North America. Colour is pale green to dark greenish-brown with creamy white belly. The tympani (eardrums) are always larger than the eyes and

lateral skin folds, unlike other frogs, wrap down around the tympani rather than down the back. The call is a deep and resonant “jug-o-rum”. Bullfrogs breed in mid June to late July. Tadpoles grow for up to 3 years before changing into frogs. Bull frogs have voracious, indiscriminate appetites – including insects, birds, frogs and small mammals. They inhabit permanent waterbodies to breed but can spend the summer in smaller ponds, usually around a well-vegetated shoreline. Bull frogs overwinter in deep ponds, lakes and rivers.



American Toad

Size: up to 11 cms.
Appearance: The only toad found in Haliburton. It is squat with brown or olive skin and dark blotches with bumps (warts) of various sizes. People cannot get warts from touching toads.

The call is a monotone trill up to 30 seconds long, preceded by a single, lower introductory note. In a breeding chorus each male calls a different note. They breed from April to early June in shallow ponds, ditches and even puddles. Eggs hatch in a few days and the tadpoles transform in 50 to 65 days. The tadpoles are among the smallest of transforming amphibians. Toads’ thick skin helps prevent dehydration and allows their use of drier summer habitats. They hibernate on land, burrowing beneath the frost line.

Some differences between frogs and toads:

Frog	Toad
Smooth, moist skin	Thick, dry, “warty” skin
Long back legs, webbed feet	Shorter back legs, not webbed
Jump	Crawl
Prefer damper habitat	Drier habitat

If you are interested, the Toronto Zoo has a frog sighting program. Visit www.torontozoo.com/adoptapond/frogwatchontario.asp

Credits: Ontario Nature, Toronto Zoo, Wikipedia