



MACA NEWS

Serving property owners on Long, Negaunee, Wenona and Miskwabi Lakes

YOUR MACA EXECUTIVE

President: Peter Dilworth
Vice President: Andy Mosher
Treasurer: Virginia Vranckx
Secretary: Susan Rohricht
Lake Steward: Tim Hagarty

Directors:
Steve Dyce (Fish Community)
Dave Ewart
John Ewing (Roads)
Stephen Foster
Haden Heathcock
Bill Lester
Phyllis McCulloch (Membership)

www.mymaca.net

2021 MACA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Spring Cleanup:
Cancelled*

AGM:
Saturday, July 10th
(Virtual ZOOM Meeting)

Wine and Cheese:
Cancelled*

Photo Contest:
Theme: "Life at the Cottage"

* Due to COVID-19 safety protocols



Photo: Sunset on Miskwabi, by P Byrnes

President's Message

Greetings everyone!

With another year of COVID-19 lockdowns, comes another year of having to cancel some of our events. Our board has decided to cancel the Spring Cleanup and Wine & Cheese events to conform with safety protocols. Hopefully when the stay-at-home orders are lifted, we can get back to the cottage to enjoy these beautiful lakes.

Your MACA executive have had a busy winter. We have created two new committees: a Safe Boating Committee and an Environment Committee. The Boating Committee is recommending that we beef up No Wake signage and has prepared a new Boating Code, a draft of which is being sent with this newsletter.

The Environment Committee is focused on addressing the real threat of blue green algae. With the unprecedented number of algae blooms in our region this past year, we now know that our lakes are extremely fragile. Collectively we must find ways to stop phosphorous from entering our lakes.

In light of this, I am pleased to report that the MACA board has agreed to make a \$1,000 contribution to the local BeShore initiative focused on shoreline naturalization.

Be good and stay healthy.

Peter Dilworth, MACA President





A NATURAL SHORELINE IS A LAKE'S BEST DEFENCE AGAINST TOXIC BLOOMS

Picture by Nicole Avagliano (Pexels)

We experienced significant blue-green algae blooms on several Haliburton County lakes last November. Algae blooms can be toxic and can destroy the value of our lakes if unchecked. It isn't too late to make changes that will help prevent future blooms.

Creating a vegetative buffer bordering the water helps filter pollutants brought from storm water and septic effluent. A grass lawn (AKA "green concrete") doesn't cut it as it has short roots and negligible filtering capacity. Native shrubs, plants, and trees have strong roots and are the filters needed.

Adding any amount of natural buffer along your shoreline will help protect our drinking water, ecosystems, recreational enjoyment and the value of our properties.

Could your shoreline be more natural?

Some native plant sources...

Country Rose Floral Shop & Garden Centre

Perennial & annual plants, shrubs & trees.
13513 Hwy 118
Haliburton.
705-457-3774
countryroseflowers.ca

Grow Wild Native Plant Nurseries

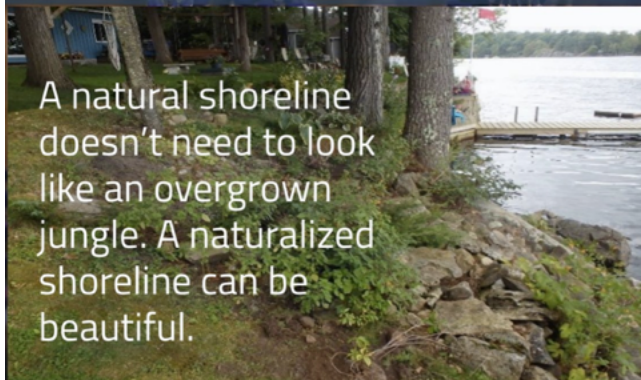
Native plants, trees, landscaping
3784 ON-7,
Omemee.
416-735-7490
grow-wild.com

Ground Covers Unlimited

Wholesale nursery cultivated and native plants useful as groundcovers.
1045 Porter Rd, Bethany.
705-277-3005
groundcoversunlimited.ca

Botanigals

Native plant nursery and installation services.
Algonquin Highlands
botanigals.ca



A natural shoreline doesn't need to look like an overgrown jungle. A naturalized shoreline can be beautiful.

Common Signs of an Unhealthy Shoreline

- Area(s) cleared of all or most vegetation
- Lawn that extends to the water's edge
- Shoreline erosion and poor water quality
- Algae blooms

For more information on shoreline preservation, including a 5-step guide to planting and maintaining a natural shoreline, go to the BeShore Haliburton website at www.beshore.ca.



Call of the Loon

by Virginia Vranckx

Since 1981 the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey (CLLS), a programme of Birds Canada, has compiled data on Common Loons from more than 4600 lakes. Our own area has been surveyed since at least 1994. The data generated by this study shows, unfortunately, that Common Loon breeding success is lower now than it was in the 1980's. In those years the average number of young per pair per year was just over 0.8. Now it is 0.6.

In the spring of 2020, Dr. Kristin Bianchini initiated a new research project supported by the Birds Canada Long Point Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Program among others. In concert with other academics she studied the CLLS data of 38 years from 1577 Ontario lakes including ours. Her findings to date suggest that numerous factors are contributing to the overall decline in breeding success, but that lake acidity is perhaps the most important. Acidity and resulting mercury contamination can impair fish growth and reproduction which causes acidic lakes to have fewer fish or less food for loon chicks. Adult loons that have high mercury levels become lethargic and spend less time defending their territory, incubating eggs and feeding chicks. (Read more at www.birdscanada.org)

Extreme water level changes (including boat wakes) during nesting can cause loons to abandon nests. Disturbances from humans or predators (e.g., snapping turtles or eagles) can also cause the adults to abandon the eggs.

How are our Loons faring?

Our lakes are ideal for loon reproduction and growth due to the makeup of our geology, which has made them less susceptible to the effects of acid rain. Water levels in both Long and Miskwabi Lakes have not been lowered drastically before mid July by which time loons have finished nesting. MACA's involvement with the

Coalition for Equitable Waterflow (CEWF) has in part aided this. Loons also use manmade platforms on both Wenona and Miskwabi Lakes.

Loon pairs attempt nesting on Long, Wenona, and Miskwabi Lakes. Because of our suitable habitat, our results over time tend to be above the provincial numbers. In fact, last summer one large adult was reported in late fall on each of Long, Wenona and Miskwabi Lakes! We are not always that fortunate as in the past we have had reports of loons abandoning their nests due to excessive boat traffic. Although young are never reported there, adult loons fly daily to Negaunee to feed and socialize all season.

What else can we do?

Let shorelines go native. Native plants along the shores help keep our lakes clean and provide food and shelter for fish that in turn feed small chicks.

Properly dispose of fishing line to prevent loon entanglement and injuries.

Avoid loon parents while they are incubating eggs on the nest. This month long process is shared by both parents. During this time the adults can abandon the nest if they feel threatened or if boat wakes washes out the nest.

Loons leave the nests with the newborns and find sheltered shorelines places to feed and protect their young. Again, human interference and boat traffic can be disastrous. Baby chicks are little "corks" and cannot dive until they are at least six weeks old.

By the way, loons are protected by the Migratory Bird Convention Act, 1994 (Canada) which makes it illegal to "disturb, destroy or take" a loon's nest or its eggs. Let's do everything we can to protect the loon families and hopefully we will see more large young on our lakes this summer!

With information from Birdwatch Canada article by Dr. Kristin Bianchini, reprinted with permission. Photo by Steve Dyce.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

By Phyllis McCulloch, Membership Director



Thank you to everyone who has renewed their MACA membership. If you haven't renewed, you still can. Renewal is done online through FOCA which is safe and secure => Go to mymaca.net; Click on "Membership" and then click on "Join/Renew" and then complete the required fields. Our membership fee is \$30.00.

If you renewed your membership before March 31st, your name has been included in our "Early Bird Draw" which will be held at our Annual General Meeting.

We hope to be around soon to get the 2021 Stickers on the signs for everyone that has renewed and we will be putting up new signs for our new members. Welcome to all our new members!

As a member you will receive our newsletter and we will be able to reach you if there is urgent information that needs to be communicated quickly.

If you have any membership questions, do not hesitate to contact me at phyllis.mcculloch058@sympatico.ca.

Treasurer's Report

by Virginia Vranckx, MACA Treasurer



MACA's financial picture continues to be very solid.

Revenues so far this year are in excess of \$7400.00 showing the results of strong growth in our membership numbers.

Encouraged by these COVID times, most members have renewed online so the fees associated with processing on line memberships represent just over \$250.00. MACA has renewed its membership for the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Associations (CHA) \$250.00 and the Coalition for Equitable Waterflow (CEWF) \$100.00. As noted elsewhere we have made a donation toward the Beshore initiative regarding the Haliburton County Shoreline Preservation ByLaw of \$1000.00.

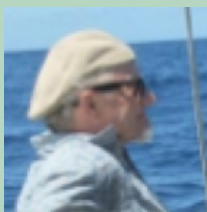
Currently we have just over \$10,000.00 in the bank.

There are still a few typical expenses to come in, such as our insurance and FOCA membership fees. While we will see savings from the fact that we have had to cancel a number of our face-to-face initiatives due to COVID-19 protocols, we are planning some communications initiatives that will use up some of our excess cash reserves.

Thanks for your support.

Lake Steward's Corner

by Tim Hagarty, Lake Steward



The ice has now gone and it's really nice to see clear water on all of our four lakes. In light of the significant number of blue green algae (BGA) outbreaks across the highlands last fall, we will be employing a more comprehensive water testing protocol this year. The first step is more phosphorus testing. We will test in many more areas on our lakes this year with the goal of finding any high phosphorous pockets that may relate to land-based activity. We will also be looking at testing for Oxygen, Nitrogen (nitrates) and bottom sediment sampling.

Our normal Lake Partners annual spring water testing on all the lakes will be completed this month. We are hoping to receive last years results (taken last fall) later this month. Unfortunately COVID-19 has held up the results. I can say that the water clarity in Wenona is 6.5 metres which is the norm for this time of the year.

We will also be conducting a communications campaign on BGA awareness, starting on Wenona Lake. We are hoping to move those who need to do work on naturalizing their shorelines to finally get motivated to do so. For the health of our lakes and as highlighted from the Love Your Lake program it is extremely important that we increase the amount of natural shoreline we have by 50%. That might be a tall order, but it has been scientifically proven to be the best way to avoid any future outbreaks of blue green algae. Please keep an eye on your lake and let me know if you find any suspicious looking algae or other foreign matter.

Also, two new invasive species have been noted in Haliburton lakes: The Chinese Mystery Snail and the Banded Mystery Snail. More info to come later, but if you are seeing an abundance of snails in your waters, please take a picture of the snail and send to me at jthagarty@bell.net.

Angler's Corner

By Steve Dyce, Fish Community Director

FMZ15 Regulation Update

Our lakes fall within Fishing Management Zone 15 (FMZ 15) (see <https://www.ontario.ca/page/fisheries-management-zone-15-fmz-15#section-0>). In 2016, the MNRF undertook a Fisheries Management planning process in coordination with a FMZ 15 Advisory Council to review regulations for all major fish species. MACA is represented on the Advisory Council through the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners Association. The goal of the MNRF is to have a draft Plan completed in 2021, and then hold a broader public consultation process. Stay tuned for more details later this year, but under consideration is whether 'slot size' might be appropriate for some lake trout lakes. A slot size restricts the size of fish you can keep - either limiting catch to a certain number range OR limiting to a specified size range.

Pike in our Lake

Pike have been in Long/Miskwabi lakes for more than 10 years now. I caught my first large pike (10 lb / 33 inches) in 2009. Pike are not a native species in this lake chain, and likely arrived through human action - e.g., a bait bucket dumped containing pike 'minnows'.

According to the MNRF, Pike occupy the same habitat as Lake Trout throughout the year. Pike will eat Lake Trout as they are almost exclusively piscivorous (eat fish), although they have been known to eat small aquatic animals and birds. The MNRF advise that

although our Lake Trout aren't at risk of extirpation, it's reasonable to expect a reduced Lake Trout biomass due to the Pike.

What can we do? Your MACA board considered holding a Pike tournament to encourage a Pike harvest, but that has been put on hold due to COVID-19. In the meantime, you can keep any Pike

you catch - there is no size limit. Although there are possession limits - 6 pike on a sport fishing licence and 2 pike on a conservation licence. And please don't toss the pike on shore as it is illegal to abandon fish to spoil if suitable for human consumption.

Except for the annoying Y bones that are difficult to remove during filleting, pike can yield some tasty flesh.

While everyone has their favourite lures for Pike, casting success can be had using the classic red/white Daredevil or Five of Diamonds spoons, Mepps Black Fury, and large bladed spinner baits - look for deep

structure or the edge of deeper weed beds. Surface lures can also yield success in shallow bays nears logs and weeds. Use care when landing large pike as their teeth can leave some nasty cuts - a long pair of forceps can help with hook removal.

Share Your Fishing Success - We'd like to hear what's being caught!

Please send me a note about your fishing experience this past winter, including lake, species, length/weight. We'd also like to hear about your fishing success over the summer, so drop me a line and include lake, species, size and if you care to share - lure used and whether catch and release or kept. Pictures are also welcome. Send info to me at macafishcorner@gmail.com.



U-Links Blue Green Algae Mitigation Strategies - Keep Phosphorous from Entering our Lakes



Photo by T Hagarty

MACA engaged the U-links program to research blue green algae (BGA) mitigation strategies. The research focused on two main objectives: i) to identify the various reasons why blue-green algae blooms occur and their impact; and ii) to provide strategies to mitigate blooms. Both areas were addressed through extensive literature review. There is significant evidence that climate change is exacerbating the situation. The research also concluded that there is no easy way to get rid of nasty blooms once they appear. The best strategy is to keep them from happening. And the scientific literature is clear - by far the best way to avoid future blue green algae blooms is to keep phosphorous and other undesirable nutrients out of our lakes.

In the end, it seems MACA is on the right track. The science highlights an important need for testing and education led by cottage associations. The research embraced MACA's three-legged approach i) robust septic inspections, ii) natural shorelines, iii) expanded lake testing.

4th Annual MACA Photo Contest

- This Year's Theme:

"Life at the Cottage"

- Complete the application form, including a short description of the picture or a title, your name and local property address. To conform with this year's theme we are looking for photos that show activities at the cottage.
- Email your entry with the attached JPEG to MACAPhotoContest@outlook.com by Aug 14th, 2021.
- We will accept all jpg or pdf files
- Winners will be announced in the Fall Newsletter
- Prizes for each category: 1st \$30; 2nd \$20; 3rd \$10

* By submitting a photo you give us permission to use it in MACA's newsletters or website.



Water Levels

After a relatively dry spring, Parks Canada is now holding water levels at the Long Lake dam at historic average levels. For more details go to the Parks Canada site at: <https://www.pc.gc.ca/apps/waterlevels/donnees-data?Id=44&lang=en&siteId=100419>.

Did you know: The Trent River basin encompasses some 218 lakes in the Highlands, 37 of which are directly controlled by Waterway dams (like the Long Lake dam). Water from our lakes flows south down the Burnt River and into the Kawartha Lakes. The Kawarthas drain down the Otonabee River into Rice Lake and on to Lake Ontario via the Trent River.

New Landfill Hours

The Haliburton landfill in town will be closed Monday and Tuesday, open from 8 AM to 5 PM Wednesday through Saturday and open from 11 AM to 7 PM on Sunday.

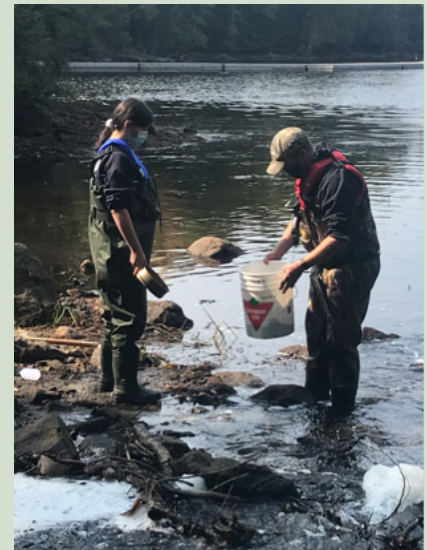
The West Guilford location will be open 8 AM to 5 PM Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, closed Wednesday and Thursday, but open Sunday 11AM to 7PM.

U-Links Benthos Invertebrates Health Assessment - *MACA Lakes showing Signs of Stress*

In September the U-Links Coordinator and a Trent University student took benthic invertebrates samples at a variety of locations on our 4 lakes. Those samples were analyzed over the winter and we received a report in March outlining findings from this first year of testing.

While the researchers highlight that one should be careful about concluding anything definitive from only one set of observations, the research seems to suggest that there are some areas of concern about the water quality in our lakes. Here are a couple of key observations from the report:

- The % EPT Index displays the composition of mayflies, stoneflies, and caddisflies. These species can be used to define the ecological condition of the sites sampled, based on the premise that water bodies in high quality sites will have the greatest species richness. In our lakes the benthic macroinvertebrates appeared in relatively low abundances, implying the sites where the sampling occurred may be in poor condition.
- The Simpson's Diversity Index measures the amount of diversity of the number of species present along with the relative abundance of each species. Simpson's Diversity Index revealed only "modest" diversity at almost all our sites.
- The modified Hilsenhoff Biotic Index (mHBI) is used to determine the level of organic pollutions based on the presence of certain groups of macroinvertebrates. It revealed that the MACA lakes may be undergoing some sort of stress or disturbance.



The report recommended MACA and property owners should continue to be vigilant about trying to protect water quality. Poor results may indicate that forms of organic pollution such as phosphorus or nitrogen may be present in the water. High levels of phosphorus are also associated with excess blue-green algae in lakes. These pollutants can leak from septic systems, so septic system inspections and compliance with wastewater system regulations can help mitigate the risk of lake contamination. Additionally, since natural shorelines are key to maintaining water quality and a lake's ability to remain healthy, natural shorelines should remain intact.

MACA will participate in the program again next year.

MACA NEWSLETTER FLASHBACK



Excerpt from MACA Newsletter -
Spring, 2007

Loons' Nests

When we are again boating for the first few times this year, please remember our beautiful lake loons are raising their family (families?). Please keep a safe distance away from them and their nests and reduce the speed of all watercraft. Did you know that Loons are an indicator of a healthy lake? Lets keep our loon population "up" and our waters enjoyable for us all.

Removal of Former Numbering System Signage

Prior to the implementation of 9-1-1 we used our lot number signs to indicate to friends and to ambulances etc. where we were located. Many of these number signs remain in place, possibly causing confusion to Emergency Services personnelthe County is requesting that all former signage placed at your driveway or private road be removed immediately.

Good News!

Trapper's Trail, from Highway #118 to just past Wenona Lake Road, will be hard topped again! ...In the interim, this stretch of road is in pretty bad shape, so please drive carefully on it! There are a lot of potholes and it is very "washboardy"!

Invaders In Our Waters *

Aquatic invading species are a major and increasing threat to the health of Ontario's lakes, rivers and wetlands. Invaders such as the zebra mussel, spiny water flea and the round goby have had devastating effects on the ecology of lake ecosystems and had detrimental effects on recreational activities such as swimming, boating and angling. The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources have produced a DVD entitled Invaders In Our Waters. This educational DVD contains a series of short videos outlining the invasive species threat and methods of prevention ...

"Get the Lead Out!"

Lead tackle lost in waterways can threaten the health of our wildlife. Loons, swans, ducks and other wildlife are being poisoned by accidentally ingesting lead tackle during feeding, mistaking it for food or grit, or eating "the fish that got away" with lead tackle still attached to it ... Look for tackle labelled as "non-toxic", "environmentally-friendly" or "lead-free".

Cottage Cook's Corner

Favourite Recipes Shared by MACA Members

Ridiculously Easy Focaccia Bread

Contributed by: Connie Lester

Ingredients

- 4 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 2¼ teaspoons instant yeast (1 packet)
- 2 cups warm tap water
- 1 teaspoon butter for greasing pan
- 4 tablespoons olive oil divided
- Italian seasoning or finely chopped fresh herbs
- flaky sea salt (I like Maldon)

Instructions

Prepare the dough:

1. In a medium-large bowl, combine flour, salt, and instant yeast. Stir well. Add the warm water. Using a Danish Whisk, sturdy wooden spoon or a rubber spatula, mix until all of the flour is incorporated. Cover the bowl with a plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 8 hours and up to 24 hours.
2. Lightly butter two 9-inch cake pans. Line pans with parchment paper. Pour one tablespoon of olive oil into the center of each pan. Divide dough in half with a large spoon or rubber spatula and place one piece of dough in each pan, turning to coat with oil. Tuck edges of dough underneath to form a rough ball. Cover each pan tightly with plastic wrap and allow the dough balls to rest for 2 hours depending. The dough should cover most of the pan.

Bake:

1. Preheat oven to 450°F with a rack positioned in the center of the oven.
2. Drizzle another tablespoon of oil over each round of dough. With oiled fingers, using both hands, press straight down and create deep dimples that go all the way through the dough (in other words, you'll actually be making deep holes.) If necessary, gently stretch the dough as you dimple to allow the dough to fill the pan.
3. Sprinkle tops with Italian seasoning (or fresh herbs) and flaky sea salt.
4. Transfer the pans to the oven and immediately reduce the temperature to 425°F. Bake for 22 to 28 minutes, until the tops are golden and the undersides are crisp. Remove pans from the oven. With a metal spatula remove bread rounds from the pans and transfer to a cooling rack.
5. Serve warm or allow to cool completely then store in a zippered bag.

Freeze:

To freeze, allow bread to cool completely, then transfer to a ziplock bag and freeze. Thaw and enjoy at room temperature or warm for 10 minutes in a 350°F oven.

