



# MISKWABI AREA COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATION

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

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## M.A.C.A. WINTER NEWSLETTER-2008

Winter came upon us early and hard back in the late Fall! Then it left just as abruptly! But..... "It's Baaack!" Lots of activities to do in our little area of Paradise; skiing...downhill and cross-country, snowshoeing, skating, bird watching, walking, dogsledding, snowmobiling, curling, ice fishing and shopping in town. C'mon up and enjoy!

### **REMINDER!**

If you are coming up to the cottage, remember that there is a \$200.00 fine, plus towing, for parking your vehicle on the road and hindering the snow plows from doing their job. Shovel an area off the road or have someone plow it for you. If you're in need of finding someone to do the job, give us a call and we'll recommend someone.

### **HYDRO ONE**

There was a planned power outage on Sunday December 9<sup>th</sup> from 8:00am til noon in order to do maintenance and upgrade work. All went well and the power was back on early. Currently, Hydro crews are working on highway #118 between Trapper's Trail and Haliburton getting the ground ready for new poles. All this work is intended to upgrade lines and move the power grid from remote bush areas to more accessible areas closer to the highways.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

In the Fall Newsletter, we reported to you about the letter sent to Bell Canada regarding our request for high speed internet access. We received a letter back from Jim Neubauer, the GM for Eastern Ontario and Kawartha Region. We weren't expecting a reply but it was certainly nice to get one! He reports that ..... "At the present time there is a tender in place to provide future service, but unfortunately it will not be available for at least another 12 months before development. The local trunk fibre that was installed does not run between Haliburton and Lake Miskwabi. Until the tender is approved we cannot move forward with that plan". We will continue to be in touch with him and we remain ... cautiously optimistic!

### **M.A.C.A. BULLETIN BOARD**

Our bulletin board has been stripped, sanded and stained and placed beside the new mail boxes at the entrance to Trapper's Trail. We hope that this location will be more suitable to all of our members and that there will be greater usage from our members. Please use it to advertise and to inform.

## UNEXPECTED EXPENSE

We were contacted by Revenue Canada and told that because we are "incorporated", we must fill out an income tax form. In fact we had to fill out separate forms for 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006! We didn't owe any money but we did have to pay almost \$500.00 to have the forms filled out! These were complicated forms... the same ones that large corporations use. This was an expense that we had not budgeted for!

The good news is that because of the windfall (\$600.00) that we received from Suzanne James and Andy Mosher of Century 21 in Haliburton, we are still in good shape, financially.

No increase in fees is expected at this time!

## VISIONING EXERCISE

Your President was invited to attend a "Municipal Visioning Exercise" back in December. Along with member, Ken Morrison, we participated in several exercises and small group discussions to help the local Council with setting priorities for the remainder of their current term. These discussions were directed by Erik Lockhart from Queen's University Executive Decision Centre. There were a total of about 75 tax payers in attendance. A report of the findings will be relayed to you at the AGM or future Newsletters.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Karen Harding of Lake Wenona who was still swimming in her lake on the Friday before the Thanksgiving weekend! Karen is also a member of our Roads Committee.

## MEMBER RENEWAL FORM

Along with this Newsletter, please find, and remember to fill out and send back...along with a cheque, your Membership fees for 2008. We are holding still at \$30.00 and need membership in order to continue to do all that we can to preserve our area and make it the place that we still long to come to and to live in.

Just as a reminder.. we monitor the lake quality, report on the condition of the roads, run an Annual Meeting and BBQ as well as Corn Roast and Wine and Cheese, conduct an annual clean-up of our area and maintain our loon nests. We also remain in contact with our local politicians looking out for the best interests of our areas. We need your financial support in order to do this. Additional **congratulations** to member Tim Payment who was the first person to pay his dues for 2008! Maybe it's in the name????

## DONATION

On behalf of our membership, we as an Association, made a \$100.00 donation to the local Haliburton Hospital. If you have used this facility, then you'll know what a great service they are able to provide. If you haven't used the Hospital, congratulations, and rest assured that you are in good hands should you ever need this service.

## **WEB SITE**

Just a reminder that we do have our own web site now, thanks to Director Andy Mosher. We are still in the planning and growing stages so please bear with us. But also, please visit us at ... [futurecottage.com/maca](http://futurecottage.com/maca).

## **SURVEY**

Speaking of our web site, we will be asking you to fill out a survey on the web site or to download and mail in to us. It's been a long time since we have endeavored to conduct a survey of our membership of this magnitude and we thank Vice-President Sandra Bishop for coordinating this effort.

The purpose of the survey is to allow area residents to identify and discuss "anonymously", ecological values of their property/association area and how to enhance, maintain and/or improve these values (as listed by FOCA; ie shorelines, septic/water systems, habitat, pollution, invasive species). More specifically, it's a vehicle for the MACA Executive and volunteers to address these issues and to provide and implement solutions for the betterment of our community.

The survey will be on the web site closer to the end of February and we will be asking for responses to be made before the end of May so that we will be able to tabulate the responses and give feedback at the Annual General Meeting in July.

This survey will be aimed at all MACA members AND all property owners in our area. Should be interesting! Thanks in advance for your time in this matter.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

Here are the year-end cottage sales numbers in 2007, based on the data from Suzanne James and Andy Mosher from Century 21!

In 2007, there were a total of 222 waterfront cottage sales from Century 21 in Haliburton. The average sale price was \$325,221.00 – an increase of just over 5% from the 2006 average of \$309,520.00.

The average sale price of the properties sold was 95.6% of the list price, which is in line with previous years.

Average time on the market for waterfront cottages was 69 days.

## **MACA'S ADDRESS**

The mailing address is listed on the Membership Renewal Form but you can still reach us through the web site or by emailing ... [holdentwo@sympatico.ca](mailto:holdentwo@sympatico.ca). Our Directors may be reached at addresses previously advertised or by calling the President for their addresses (705-457-3125).

## **FUTURE MACA DATES**

Please refer to the Calendar Of Events also included with this Newsletter.

All the best to you and your's in 2008!