

MISKWABI AREA COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATION

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

WINTER 2011 NEWSLETTER

As of this writing, we are in the deepest part of Winter and also experiencing the coldest days we've had thus far! But it is beautiful! The white snow, the starry skies and the picturesque landscapes all combine to make our area a favourite place to be! Do you experience your piece of Paradise in the Wintertime?

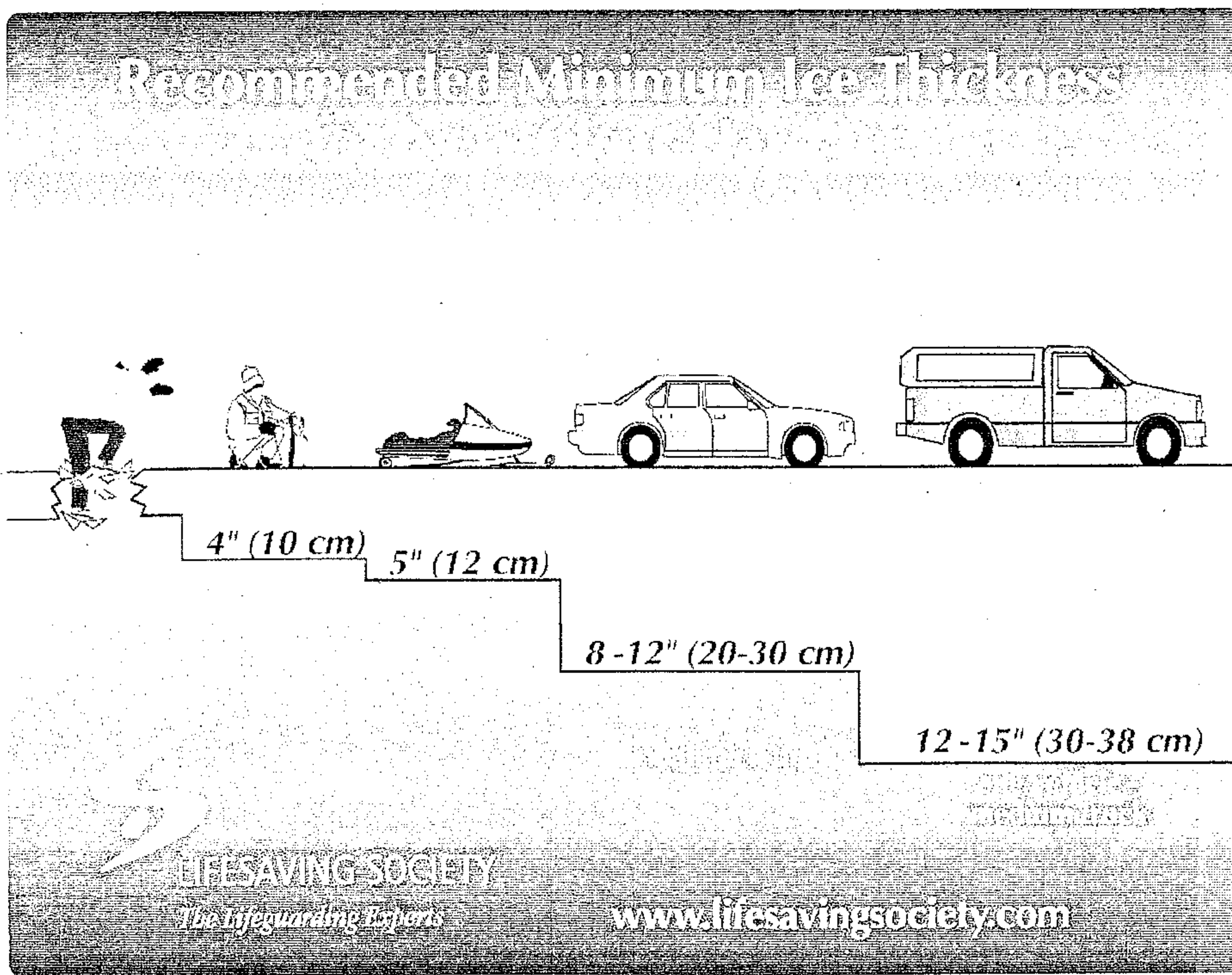
We'll try to bring you up to date on what is going on in the Highlands.

SPEAKING OF COLD!!!!!!

Though the lakes are solidly frozen right now, please keep the following in mind for when you do venture out on them in the future.

Ice Smart Tips From the Lifesaving Society

- * It is critical that the ice quality or type of ice is evaluated before you travel.
- * Clear hard, new ice is the only kind of ice recommended for travel.
- * Avoid!
 - slushy ice
 - ice on or near moving water i.e., rivers, currents
 - ice that has thawed and re-frozen
 - layered or rotten ice caused by sudden temperature changes
- * Other risk factors that weaken or "rot" ice:
 - snow on ice that acts as a blanket to prevent hardening of ice
 - pressure ridges due to wind or current pressure



WENONA LAKE BEAVER DAM UPDATE

The last Newsletter in the Fall expressed concerns about a beaver dam on Lake Wenona. The following correspondence was received which offers some explanations as to the history of the lake and the beaver dam.

“An overview by Phil Harknett & Jim Wyllie

Introduction.

To all it may concern: Jim & I are long time cottagers of Lake Wenona 35 & 23 yrs, respectively.

We have both been active with the lake association - MACA i.e. lake steward, directors, vice president & president.

Our passion is the health, sustainability & safety of Lake Wenona.

To this end we have been involved in water testing & secchi readings, fishery initiatives, construction/maintenance of signage, notice boards & loon nesting platforms.

We also work with the beavers on the dam!

History.

The beaver population has fluctuated over the years.

In the early 90's the lake had half a dozen lodges; beaver activity was high & many cottagers needed to protect their trees (latex paint/sand, chicken wire).

Some resorted to trapping, which is a landowners right.

Consequently the population declined to one active family, which moved to the quiet south bay - home then to lodge & new dam.

Dam general information & efforts.

The dam is built out into the lake in front of the run-off stream which goes under Trappers Trail & into Loon Lake.

The geography of the lake at the run-off stream features a rock shelf that regulated water levels naturally before beaver activity & construction of the dam in the 90's.

This is to say, if there were no dam, water levels would not drop significantly & would not fluctuate.

However the beavers are there & we have been working with them.

So initially we regularly removed a small section from the centre of the dam to alleviate high water levels.

The Township was also requested & complied in dam removal for us.

Through the MNR we obtained plans & built a 'beaver baffle' which is basically a culvert that goes through the dam & allows water to flow, leaving the dam intact.

It worked well but someone, not the beavers, removed & broke it.

Now we are back to regular minor dam removal to alleviate high water levels.

What is wrong with high water levels?

High water levels adversely affect the lake water quality.

This happens by washing soil & organic matter from the high shoreline into the lake.

Made much worse by boaters who do not know how to control their wake.

Thus increasing nutrient load for plant growth & their subsequent decay.

This speeds lake eutrophication & algae bloom.

So this goes hand in hand with not removing lakefront vegetation to prevent soil

enriching the lake.

Response to the Newsletter.

- 1) It is NOT illegal to remove part/all of a beaver dam providing you are not trespassing on private property. There are some restrictions - no explosives! Should not be done in winter. Not if it alters downstream channel (machinery).
- 2) If downstream property is damaged then there is liability. That is why we only remove a small part of the dam. However we are not the only people on the lake to do removal & sometimes it has been excessive.
- 3) Property owner 1086 on Trapper's Trail - their culverts are regularly running at capacity from the flow of Lake Negaunee & the watershed without any flow from Wenona.
- 4) A beaver will take an average of 216 trees/year up to 40cm dia. for food. Their dam on Wenona is a lot of deadfall, rocks & plant material, very little new trees.

For more information visit the MNR website & links or call Phil at 905-884-4891."

Our thanks to Phil and Jim for this helpful information.

SEPTIC REINSPECTION REGULATIONS

The following information comes to us from the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association:

"Effective January 1st, 2011, the Building Code (Ontario Regulation 350/06) will be amended by Ontario Regulation 315/10 to establish and govern mandatory on-site sewage system maintenance inspection programs in certain areas, and also to govern discretionary on-site sewage system maintenance inspection programs.

Regions included in the mandatory programs will largely be dictated by the vulnerable areas and intake protection zones as defined in the Clean Water Act (2006). Other properties to be included in a mandatory program are those within the Lake Simcoe watershed, as part of the implementation of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.

Discretionary on-site sewage maintenance inspection programs are also dictated by the new regulation, to be undertaken at the discretion of the local 'principal authority' (identified as the municipality, health unit and/or conservation authority). Unlike the mandatory programs, details for the discretionary programs, such as the frequency of inspections are not prescribed in the regulation, and the principal authorities will have the flexibility to determine these aspects of the program themselves."

We'll keep an eye on what our local authorities have in mind.

GREETINGS FROM OUR NEW COUNCILLOR (Dennis Casey)

"I would like to wish everyone all the best for 2011. I hope it will be a healthy and prosperous year for all. The fall election is now behind us and I would like to thank you for your support. I look forward to seeing you and meeting you and hopefully being able to address any concerns you might have"

Dennis may be reached at 705-457-9783 or

Thank you, Dennis! We look forward to working with you too.

LAKE PLANNING UPDATE

At the MACA Annual General Meeting in July 2010, there was a presentation on lake planning and a discussion of the process.

As explained in the Lake Planning Handbook for Community Groups, lake planning is a strategic process that provides an opportunity to engage all the people, governments and business operators to develop plans and implement actions to maintain or improve the natural and social qualities of life on Ontario lakes and rivers. Beginning in 1999, the approach to planning shifted to a "bottom up" process from a "top down" one. This gives the communities involved a voice in establishing stewardship actions and government regulations. During the past ten years many Haliburton lakes have developed plans. Some of these are: Eagle Lake, Kennisis Lake, Halls and Hawk Lakes and Mountain Lake.

Below is an outline based on the Planning Handbook of the steps and timelines that would be involved in pursuing a lake plan for our watershed.

THE LAKE PLANNING PROCESS

Phase 1 Getting Organized

- Garner interest
- Obtain initial approval
- Set up steering committee
- Seek funding
- Announce the Lake Plan Project

This phase can take 1 to 2 years. The planning manual recommends going slow initially to set a correct course and avoid serious difficulties.

Target date for completion – July 2011

Phase 2 Collect Background Information

- Determine the scope of the Lake Plan
- Prepare work list of the information to be collected
- Contact non-residential stakeholders
- Prepare, distribute and collate survey information
- Conduct a residents' workshop and prepare summary

Target date for completion – July 2012

Phase 3 Analyze and Summarize Background Information

- Analyze background information and summarize results
- Provide draft observations and recommendations to public
- Review issues, strategies and final draft plan

Target date for completion – July 2013

Phases 4, 5 and 6 Prepare, Review and Obtain Approval of Draft Plan

- Prepare draft plan
- Circulate draft plan for internal review
- Release draft plan for public review
- Conduct open house
- Consider public comments and prepare final Lake Plan
- Provide intent to approve plan
- Approve plan

Target date for completion – July 2014

Phase 7 Action Plan Implementation

- Release Lake Plan
- Implement actions

Target date for completion – Fall 2014

Phase 8 Monitoring and Updating the Lake Plan

- The lake plan should be monitored on an on-going basis and updated at least every five years.

This schedule for developing and implementing the Lake Plan, if the dates are followed, should tie in closely to the 5-year Dysart planning cycle.

Our thanks to Director, Mike Giza, for initiating this project. Should you wish to be a part of this process, please get in touch with Mike at (705) 457-9875 or

MACA's ANNUAL WINE & CHEESE GET TOGETHER

In the last Newsletter, we mentioned that we were looking for someone to host this annual get together ----- well, we still are! The weekend before Labour Day is the date and we will supply you with all the information and the resources that you will need in order to host us. This is an outside event and in the past, we've had approximately 50 – 60 adults show up. It really is a very social event that everyone has a good time at. So, don't be bashful! Give Larry a call at (705) 457-3125 or email him at

. Thanks for your consideration!

SEVEN DIGIT DIALING

Beginning January 15th, 2011, residents of the region served by the 705 area code in Ontario will be required to dial 10 digits – the area code followed by the seven digit phone number ---- for all local calls. The introduction of ten digits calling in the area is the result of a decision by the Canadian Radio-Television and Communications Commission (CRTC) and will pave the way for the addition of a new area code, 249, in March 2011, as the area code reaches capacity.

So, if you have pre-programmed numbers in any of your telecommunications devices now, they must be reprogrammed to show the area code.

2011 MEMBERSHIP TO MACA

At the last Executive Meeting, it was decided to leave the current fee structure as it is at \$30.00 per registered lot. This fee has been in place now for several years and may need to be increased in the future with regards, especially, to the Lake Planning process. As it stands now ----- what a bargain!

Along with this Newsletter, please find a 2011 Membership Form that needs to be filled in and sent back to us before the beginning of April. But don't leave it til April! – do it now so you don't forget! The Spring Newsletter with all the important dates ---- and the location of the Wine & Cheese (!) ----- will only be sent out to those who have renewed their membership.

If you are planning on moving, don't forget to let us know so that we can change our information and still keep you up to date.

As always, we appreciate your support and endeavour to carry out the business of keeping our area as pristine as we possibly can. We can only do this with your continued support. Thanks!

ONTARIO SENIOR WINTER GAMES

The Ontario Government has awarded Haliburton County the Ontario Senior Winter Games for 2011. These games are for seniors who are 55 years or older; they are meant to encourage seniors to remain active throughout their lives. "Winterfest 2011" is being held at various venues across the County and is being held from February 15th to the 17th. The sports included in the games are the following: Alpine Skiing, Badminton, Curling, Duplicate Bridge, Ice Hockey, Nordic Skiing, Prediction Skating, Table Tennis, Ten Pin Bowling and Volleyball. Most are right in the Haliburton/Minden/Wilberforce area. If you are around for these dates, please plan to attend.

COTTAGE SALES: VOLUME AND PRICES UP (Andy & Susanne, Century 21, Haliburton)

It has been a very busy year for cottage sales in Haliburton. There were 245 waterfront cottage sales on Haliburton's MLS™ system in 2010 (cottage/recreational category), a rise of 15% in sales activity over the previous year, and the second consecutive year of significant growth in units sold.

Cottage sale prices also rose in 2010, to an average of just over \$378,000, erasing the nearly nine-percent loss over the previous year. Sale prices averaged 95.5% of list prices, consistent with sale-to-list ratios over the past several years.

The bulk of the cottage sales were concentrated in the under-\$500K range. The under-\$300K "starter" range accounted for 39% of units sold - a significant drop from the previous year, as sales of mid-priced and higher-priced cottages gathered momentum in 2010.

2010 Cottage Sales by Price Range

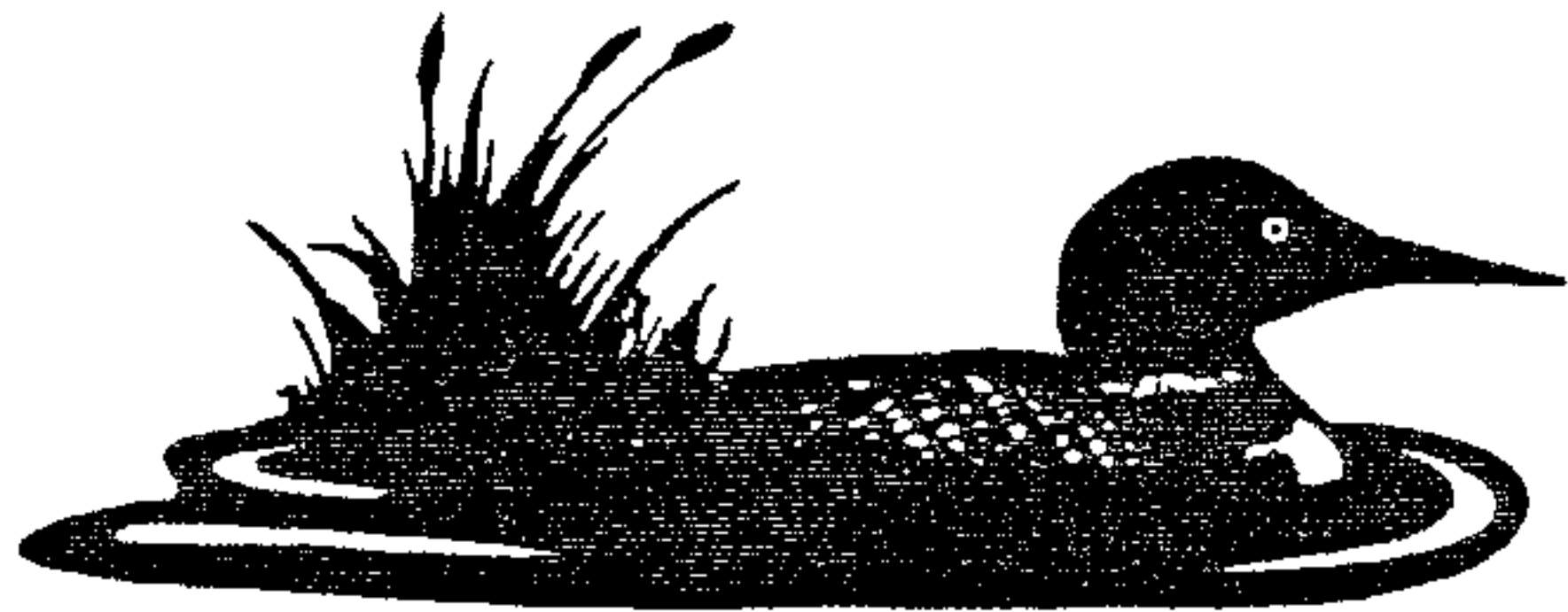
Under \$300K: 39% : \$300K - \$500K: 44% : \$500K - \$700K: 10% : Over \$700K: 6%

DID YOU KNOW?

Haliburton County now has the second oldest population in Canada!

**UNTIL WE ARE ABLE TO BOAT AND SWIM (ahhh!), ENJOY THE WINTER!
SEE YOU AGAIN IN MAY, JULY AND AUGUST!**

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MISKWABI AREA COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATION 2011 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

2011 MEMBERSHIP FEES: \$30.00

MEMBERSHIP TERM: JANUARY – DECEMBER 2011

_____ NEW MEMBER _____ RENEWAL

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

POSTAL CODE: _____ PHONE NO: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

911 LAKE ADDRESS: _____

LAKE PHONE NO: _____

LAKE _____

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUE PAYABLE TO:

MISKWABI AREA COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

AND MAIL TO:

MISKWABI AREA COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATION
2239 TRAPPER'S TRAIL
HALIBURTON, ON
K0M 1S0

I would be willing to help the Association out in an agreed upon capacity:

Yes _____ Not at this time _____