



MISKWABI AREA COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATION

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

WINTER 2012 NEWSLETTER



Early Winter Snowfall Negaunee Lake

An early December snowfall melted and snow finally stayed only after Christmas. The lakes are now frozen and even the trees are laden with the white fluffy stuff. Winter has arrived in Haliburton!

Paul Culver

In October, MACA and neighbours on Broken Paddle Road on Miskwabi Lake lost a long-time cottager and friend to cancer. Paul Culver was a director of MACA for many years and served as its president for a term. He was a great outdoors guy who loved to spend time on the lake with his grandchildren in his distinctive orange boat.

A donation was sent to the Palliative Care Unit of the Haliburton Hospital and a letter of condolence was sent to his wife.

Haliburton Winter Events

If you are planning weekends up at the cottage, the Municipality of Dysart is hosting the Frost Festival on Saturday, February 18, 2012 in the village and at Head Lake Park.

Check out Facebook for updates.

www.facebook.com/pages/Dysart-et-al/255404524497764

During March break week there are many opportunities for indoor arts and crafts at Rail Ends Gallery in Haliburton. Visit www.railsendgallery.com for details.

Lake Reports

Long – submitted by Susan Rohricht

We have some lots on the lake prepped for building in the spring and with the late freeze of the lake it's easy to be thinking about spring. For those people that are still coming up to enjoy the beauty of the Highlands there's a lot to enjoy. Although we haven't been able to skate on the lake yet both the rinks in Haliburton and Wilberforce offer public skating. Many of you will notice the new home that Dan and Lisa built this summer at the T. They are enjoying their first winter in the Highlands. We encourage everyone to take in the natural beauty of this special part of Ontario. Follow this link for events information in Haliburton:

<http://www.haliburtonholidays.com/Winter/events.asp>

Miskwabi – submitted by Virginia Vranckx

The loon chick was last seen at the end of November – gliding alone, but fit looking, on the cold waters. Then he headed off to warmer temps!

Early winter on Miskwabi – had the first hint in the first week of December when we received about 15cms. of lake effect snow over a couple of days. Mild weather melted it all by December 15. But the snow came back for good over Christmas.

The lake froze over during the night of December 28.

The new cautionary sign has been installed on Trapper's Trail Rd. It indicates that traffic exiting Trapper's Trail toward the highway has the right of way over traffic turning from Trapper's Trail onto Miskwabi Lake Road.

Wildlife sightings include few deer but a bald eagle hanging around the island at the entrance to the back bay.

Negaunee -

As can be seen in the photo on the front page we had much snow in early December but no ice on the lake.

Now the snow is back – also the ice is thick enough to support two deer on the lake in mid-January.

Wenona -

Road signs were installed by the Dysart Roads Department at the corner of Wenona Lake Road and Argillite Road indicating the rights of way. As well, the Roads Dept. will look at the Wenona boat launch area in the spring with the view in mind of removing obstructions and improving access.

Many thanks to Nicki and Tim Hagarty for offering to host this year's Wine and Cheese Party.

Ice Warning

Although the four lakes are frozen the ice set only on December 28 just before a heavy snowfall. The daytime temperatures have fluctuated greatly and the ice is still thin at writing. Ensure caution when venturing out. Although not on our lakes, there are several reports of snowmobiles going through the ice on neighbouring lakes.

Real Estate 2011 –

submitted by Andy Mosher Century XXI

In 2011, 221 waterfront cottages sold in Haliburton, down slightly from 245 units sold in 2010 (Muskoka-Haliburton real estate board, Haliburton MLS sales, waterfront cottage/recreational category). The average sale price was \$345,452, which is down approximately 8.6% from 2010.

Inventory of cottages on the market continued to grow, with a peak of 257 waterfront cottages listed in Haliburton in August, an increase of 9.7% over the previous year's peak. Average time on market for cottages sold was 75 days. More details, including annual charts and quarterly summaries for 2011, are available on our Web site at www.futurecottage.com

MACA/MLNCA Amalgamation Update

The objective of the amalgamation is to create one association which will provide stronger support and interactions to the whole Miskwabi area community, its lakes and waterways, roads and residents, both permanent and seasonal. On November 5, 2011 members of the Executive of MLNCA and MACA had a very productive meeting regarding the amalgamation. Understandings were reached on all outstanding issues and a full review was completed of the combined by-laws. The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 21, 2012 to finalize the by-laws and consider time lines and procedures for the amalgamation. The amalgamation will require the members of each of MLNCA and MACA to approve these new by-laws. We will keep you informed of our progress.

Lake Plan Update

The lake planning committee had its first meeting in early June 2011 and subsequent meetings in the summer, fall and early 2012. The committee has the following 12 members representing all four lakes: Stuart Buck (Miskwabi), Rick Despard (Miskwabi), Peter Dilworth (Long), Mike Giza (Miskwabi), Haden Heathcock (Miskwabi), Larry Holden (Miskwabi), Susanne James (Long/Miskwabi), Phyllis McCulloch (Wenona), Tim Payment (Miskwabi), Tom Pendlebury (Negaunee), Neil Roberts (Long), Jack van Roosmalen (Long).

Currently we are working on Phase 2 of the plan which is targeted to be completed by the end of 2012. This involves the collection of background information under the following topics:

1. Geography of the Lakes
2. Natural Heritage – Water Quality
3. Natural Heritage – Wetlands, Streams and Vegetation
4. Natural Heritage – Fish and Wildlife

5. Physical Elements
6. Land Use
7. History
8. Social Elements
9. Values, Interests and Concerns of Stakeholders

Committee members, individually or in groups, are working on all the above subjects. Two areas of importance for completion this summer are the water quality tests for each lake and the comprehensive survey of all stakeholders to obtain their views on the key topics.

We will keep you informed on our progress through the Newsletter and at the AGM.

Did You Know???

Algal Blooms

What is an algal bloom?

A “bloom” is the excessive growth of one or more species of algae. Blooms are less likely to occur in deep lakes with lower total phosphorous (TP) levels. Conversely, blooms are most likely to occur in shallow lakes or bays that have moderate to high TP.

Blooms may:

- Affect the appearance of water
- Result in unpleasant tastes and odours
- Reduce water clarity
- Colour the lake a vivid green, brown, yellow or red
- Deplete oxygen levels
- Produce toxins that are dangerous to humans and animals

When do algal blooms occur?

A combination of factors is required to result in the formation of a blue-green algal bloom, including:

- calm weather
- strong sunlight
- high air and water temperatures
- relatively shallow water
- sufficient high levels of nutrients (in the water or sediments).

Winter Parking

Just a reminder that overnight parking is not permitted on any road to facilitate snow removal. Owners of vehicles may be fined \$200.00 and risk removal of the vehicle.

Coalition for Equitable Water Flow

As outlined in last fall's newsletter, CEWF currently has two priority areas:

1. The need for an integrated approach to water management at the watershed level.
2. The development of lake-specific "preferred water levels during the navigation season."

The second point above, if implemented, could be beneficial to the Haliburton reservoir lakes including Long and Miskwabi.

In order to determine a "preferred water level" on each lake, the CEWF has asked each lake association to consult with the owners on their lakes and complete an information sheet that will be given to the Trent Severn Waterway (TSW). If you are on Long or Miskwabi Lakes please complete the survey on the back side of the Membership Form. This will allow us to give the correct information to the CEWF.

MACA Events for 2012

Spring Road Cleanup May 20

Meet at the Miskwabi Boat Launch at 11 a.m. BBQ to follow.

Annual General Meeting July 21

Pontoon Boat Flotilla August 11

Wine & Cheese Party August 25

Monthly Bike Rides 1st Saturday May to Oct. Meet at the airport at 10 a.m.

MLNCA Golf Tournament –

MACA members are invited to put a foursome together for the Miskwabi Lake North Shore Cottagers' Assoc.'s best ball golf tournament being held July 14, 2012 at Haliburton Highlands.

Email Elizabeth Cloutier for registration form and full details at

ecloutier@canadaoverseas.com

2012 Membership to Miskwabi Area Cottagers' Association (MACA)

It's that time of year for membership renewals and new members. This newsletter was sent to most property owners on Long, Negaunee, Wenona and Miskwabi Lakes. Please consider joining MACA if you are not now a member. Since 1974, MACA has been very active in promoting the common interests of all property owners. Currently, we have a committee working on a watershed plan and are actively involved with the Coalition for Equitable Water Flow to achieve "preferred water levels" on Long and Miskwabi Lakes.

As well, we have a number of social activities each year, including a Wine and Cheese Party, which in itself is worth the membership fee.

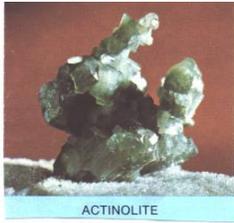
A calendar of events is issued with the Spring Newsletter.

Membership is only \$30.00.

The membership form is the last page of the newsletter. Please fill it out and return it today.

Thanks for your support!

NATURE NOTES



ACTINOLITE

Treasure Hunting in the Highlands

Most everyone, but especially children, love to go searching for buried treasure. The opportunity to find a mineral formed billions of years ago, and buried ever since, is alluring.

The Haliburton Highlands are located in the centre of the Grenville Geological Province. This part of the Canadian Shield is a complex mixture of metamorphosed sedimentary and igneous rock which has been subjected to intense folding and faulting, and to long periods of erosion. Within this mix are minerals usually occurring in veins. Minerals are solid substances composed of atoms having an orderly, regular arrangement in a crystalline state. Eons in the past, high-in-temperature fluids deposited these minerals in cracks and fissures.

Four Close-by Sites for Treasure

1. Bear Lake Diggings:

From Trapper's Trail left on #118 to Tory Hill. Right on #503 for 8.4kms. and turn right on Glamour Lake Rd. Drive 4.2kms. and turn right on Madill Rd. Follow Madill Rd. until it becomes a single lane and continue to a parking area past a house on the left and logging road on the right. Look for "Bear Lake Diggings" sign. The collecting site is on the south side (right-hand side), directly behind the parking area. This site is owned by the Bancroft & District Chamber of Commerce and a small fee is charged to offset the cost of keeping the site open. This fee must be paid in



Diopside

advance by calling 613-332-1513 as the site is unmanned.

The season is open May 1 to October 31.

Most common minerals found: apatite, biotite, feldspar, calcite, hornblende, **titanite**, monazite, quartz, pyrite.

2. Essonville Roadcut:

From Trapper's Trail left on #118 for about 4kms. and left on Essonville Rd. #4.

Continue about 5kms. to Sunset Cottage Rd. on left. Park near the intersection. The outcrop is located on the south side of the Essonville Rd., just west of the Sunset Cottage Rd.

Most common minerals found: fluorrichterite, phlogopite, **diopside**, calcite.

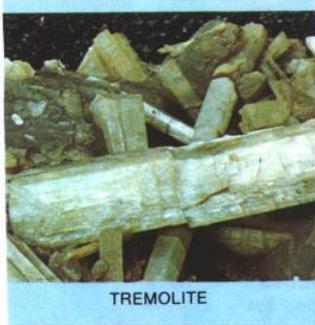
3. Desmond Mine:

From Trapper's Trail left on #118 for about 4 kms. and turn left on Essonville Rd. #4.

Continue about 8 kms. to Cedar Lake Rd. Turn left and go 700 metres to a single lane road on the right. Park off to the side of Cedar Lake Road or along the lane, leaving room for other vehicles to pass. Follow the lane for 100 metres to a fork, with the mine road on the right, leading uphill.

Approximately 375 metres along the trail, take the right fork. This leads to the main cut.

Most common minerals found: amphibole, ancyllite, apatite, chondrodite, garnet, molybdenite, monazite, pyrite, quartz, scapolite, serpentine, stillwellite, **titanite**, tourmaline, uranothorite.



4. Grace Lake Roadcut:

From Trapper's Trail turn left on #118 for about 4 kms. and left on Essonville Rd. #4 to Wilberforce. Turn left on #648, continue 1.4kms and turn left on Burleigh Rd. After 400 metres the road forks to the left. After another 800 metres the road will pass very close to Clement Lake. At 600 metres beyond this point, on the right, is the Grace Lake Roadcut. Look for the spots where people have dug into the hillside. Most common minerals found: **actinolite**, **diopside**, phlogopite, calcite, hornblende, molybdenite, quartz, pyrite, **tremolite**. Some of the actinolite and diopside at this location come close to gem quality due to the clarity and bright green colour.

Sources of Information

Haliburton Geological Society
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Haliburton-Geological-Society/102429873168329>

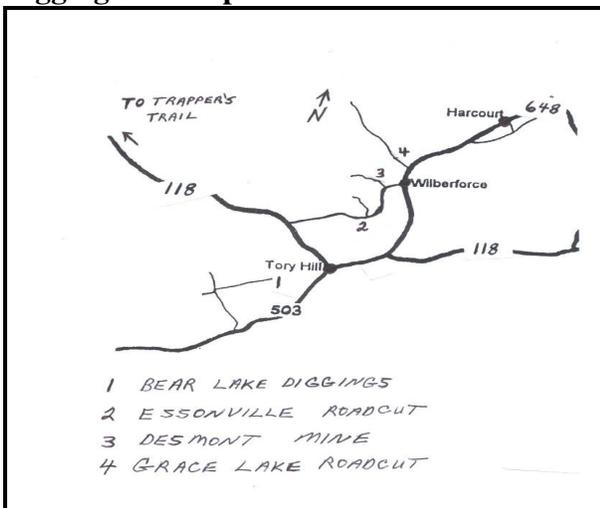
Bancroft & District Chamber of Commerce
 Tel: 616-332-1513
 Fax: 613-332-2119
www.bancroftdistrict.com
 Mineral booklets & maps

The Rockhound Gemboree
 Bancroft
 The four days preceding August Civic Holiday Monday



Titanite

Digging Site Map



HAVE FUN – BE SAFE

Wear safety glasses and good boots
 Practical outdoor clothes
 Rock hammer, chisel and digging spade
 Make sure no one is working directly above or below you on a hillside or rock cut.
 Do not litter. Many landowners use this as a primary reason for closing sites.
 Take a bag or two to take home the treasures.

PREFERRED WATER LEVELS SURVEY FOR LONG & MISKWABI LAKES

Water levels in Long and Miskwabi Lakes are controlled by a dam near the west end of Long. At the high water level, there are normally 7.5 logs in the dam (2.29 metres about 7.5 ft). Each log is 1 foot high. ½ log is 6 inches. The logs are removed, as required, during the summer using a formula to equalize the removal from all reservoir lakes. By late last summer (2011), at the low water level, 3.5 logs had been removed from the dam, lowering the water level by 1.07 metres (42 inches) vertical. Based on this information and your lake experience last year, please answer the following: (if you need more space, add a page)

Address on Long or Miskwabi _____

Did you experience any difficulties with

1. High Water Levels:

Flooding	Yes	No
Shoreline erosion	Yes	No
Flooded wetlands	Yes	No
Other (please explain) _____		

2. Low Water Levels:

Inability to navigate between the two lakes	Yes	No
Inability to remove boats from your dock	Yes	No
Inability to trailer boats at the launch	Yes	No
Water intake line problems due to low levels	Yes	No
Water navigational hazards exposed	Yes	No
If yes, where? _____		
Wetlands dried out	Yes	No
If yes, where _____		
Other (please explain) _____		

3. Preferred Water Levels

Keeping in mind that Long and Miskwabi are reservoir lakes and will be filled and drawn down, from the perspective of your location on the lakes, what would be the “preferred water levels”?

High Water: 7.5 logs in dam (2.29 metres or 7.5 ft. high)

Is this acceptable or would you prefer a lower level?

Acceptable Lower
If lower, by how many logs? _____

Low Water: During last summer 3.5 logs were removed, leaving 4 logs in the dam.

This lowered the lakes by 1.07 metres (3.5 ft.)

Is this acceptable, or would you prefer a different level?

Acceptable Higher Lower
If a different level, how many logs would you prefer be left in the dam? _____

Questions: Give me a call: Mike 705-457-9875 or mfgiza@gmail.com

**MISKWABI AREA COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATION
2012 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

2012 Membership Fees: \$30.00

Membership Term: January to December 2012

_____ **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
2153 Trapper's Trail Rd.,
HALIBURTON, ON
K0M 1S0**

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

Yes _____ Not at this time _____