



MISKWABI AREA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

40TH ANNIVERSARY

SERVING RESIDENTS AND COTTAGERS ON
LONG, NEGAUNEE, WENONA AND MISKWABI LAKES SINCE 1974

www.mvmaca.net

WINTER 2014 NEWSLETTER



Photo Bill Bunn

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

Best Wishes to everyone on our lakes for a wonderful 2014.

If you did not make it up to the cottage over the holidays we are having a mini ice-age here. Since Christmas we have received approximately 50 cms of snow and have had many nights with temperatures at or below minus 25C. The trees are laden with snow and unplowed driveways are unrecognizable. The weather has not stopped hardy folks from enjoying the season. Over the holidays rinks were shoveled on the ice, ice huts put out for fishing and snowshoe, ski tracks and snowmobile tracks mark the snow. Be sure to check out the Haliburton activities on page 3 if you will be up over the next few months.

40th Anniversary of MACA

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of MACA. Started in 1974 by Gerry Strickland and a small team, the association has continuously represented the four lakes to address environmental issues, local concerns, development regulations, and organize social events for the members. Please don't forget to renew your membership – the form is on page 6 or is available at our website. A full slate of events is outlined on page 5. Plan to attend the AGM July 5 as we celebrate after the meeting with BBQ and cake. As well, that day the Miskwabi Boat Launch will be officially renamed "Gerry Strickland Memorial Boat Launch" with a new sign.

ROAD SIGNS FOR MACA's 40th YEAR

In spring new MACA area road signs will be erected. The sites approved by Dysart Roads Department are (1) the intersection of Long Lake Road and Kennaway Road and (2) the intersection of Trapper's Trail Road and Wenona Lake Road. The signs will be 4 X 8 feet in size, constructed of metal with marine plywood backing and installed on the municipal road allowance. Changeable event and information signs will slide in on the right side. Below is a first rendition of the design of the signs.



DID YOU KNOW?

Native vs. Non-Native Grasses and Shrubs

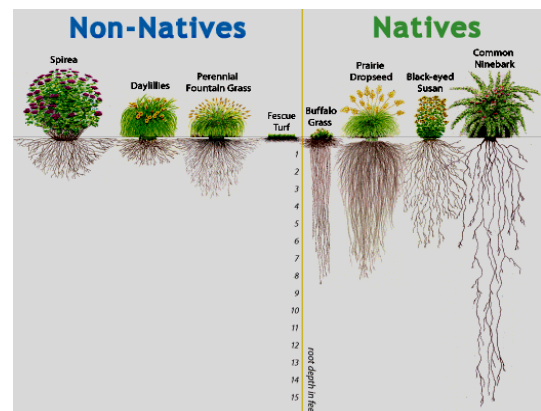
We all love grass. It looks nice, is great underfoot, super to play on and most of us have fond memories of doing some of our favourite things on grass. So why do the lake health experts tell us not to use it around the lakes in the Highlands?

Here's the scoop... Commonly used grass varieties are not native to the area. Compared to native plants they require more inputs: 1. Water – something experts say we might soon be short of; 2. Fertilizer – pollutes our water; and 3. Cutting – adds nutrients to runoff.

Also, grass does not provide habitat for the species we all love such as frogs, toads, butterflies, hummingbirds, etc.

Perhaps the biggest downside to grass is that it does not contribute to, and in fact harms, the health of our precious lakes. It does not do a good job of intercepting and absorbing nutrients (such as phosphorus) before they get to our lakes thus increasing algae and weed growth and decreasing the oxygen that fish need to survive.

While grass roots extend mere inches into the soil, native species roots can extend many feet into the soil, searching for and absorbing nutrients such as phosphorus before they reach the lakes. These long roots also do a better job of preventing erosion. This picture shows why native plants absorb far more nutrients than non-natives such as grass.



So why not take an area and plant it with natives to help protect our lakes! Every little area will help your lake and be a place where you, your kids and grandkids can make new memories.

Author P. MacInnes is Chair of the Coalition of Haliburton Associations and member of Haliburton Highlands Stewardship Council.

MISKWABI AREA WATERSHED PLAN UPDATE

The committee is currently working on the completion of the lake plan draft. Once completed in the spring the draft will be made available for review by all stakeholders including the Municipality, County and Ministry of Natural Resources.

As well, a workshop will be scheduled and a discussion held at the MACA AGM.

Continue to make your views known by emailing miskwabiareawatershedplan@gmail.com

STAY SAFE ON YOUR SNOWMOBILE

The OPP is asking snowmobilers to always exercise caution and to travel at speeds that take into consideration both the ability of the operator and the condition of the trail. With the fluctuation in temperatures this year, some trails have become very icy and difficult to navigate.

The following safety tips are strongly recommended by the OPP:

Always wear a helmet.

Travel only on trails which are posted as “open”.

When travelling on frozen water surfaces ensure the ice is strong enough to support you and your snowmobile.

Watch out for open water around docks and shorelines.

Be aware that lower water levels have caused normally submerged hazards such as rocks to now be exposed.

Be aware that docks may be covered in areas where there has been blowing and drifting snow.

Travel only at posted speed limits – don’t speed.

Only operate snowmobiles you are familiar with.

Practice Zero Alcohol: Alcohol is involved in over 70% of snowmobiling fatalities. Even small amounts can impair your perception, slow reaction time and limit your ability to control your sled at critical moments. Operating your sled under the influence is punishable under the Criminal Code and if convicted can result in loss of all driving privileges including your car or truck.

Night Riding: Nine of Ten fatalities occur after dark.

Don’t overdrive your headlights. Wear outer clothing with reflective trim on the arms, back and helmet.

Never ride alone at night.

ICE SAFETY

15 cm (6 in) Individual

20 cm (8 in) Group

25 cm (10 in) Snowmobile

HALIBURTON WINTER EVENTS

Haliburton Highlands 12th Annual Dogsled Derby

The event attracts up to 80 mushers and their teams. Races run all day at Pinestone Resort and are free, as is parking. Go to www.haliburtondogsledderby.com.

Canadian Pond Hockey Championships Repeat of last year’s successful event being held Jan.24 to 26, and masters Jan.31 to Feb.2 at Haliburton’s Head Lake. Contact www.canadapondhockey.ca

Sixth Annual Scotty Morrison Charity Hockey Tournament

Jan.31 to Feb.2 at the Haliburton A.J. LaRue Arena. Besides hockey, enjoy Friday night cocktail party, Saturday all-day silent auction, HHSS Hockey Alumni exhibition game Saturday night, DJ Ron Murphy 8 p.m. to midnight.

All proceeds support services for persons with disabilities in Haliburton County.

Haliburton Frost Festival Feb. 15 at Head Lake Park featuring day-long free activities for the whole family including dog sled rides, horse drawn wagon rides, snow games, ice fishing, Art Attack, ice fishing and more. Hearty pancake breakfast at the Legion and BBQ at the park sponsored by the Lions Club.

Rails End Snow Carving at Frost Fest

Feb.15 watch machete-wielding artists carve up some fun on the Rails End Gallery patio!

Maple Fest March 11 to 16 at the Haliburton Highlands Museum. Taste spring as they prepare maple syrup the old-fashioned way. Arts and crafts for the kids and live entertainment on Saturday.

Go to info@haliburtonhighlandsmuseum.com

See the Haliburton Highlands Winter Guide for a full listing of events

OWNERS, RENTERS & VISITORS GUIDE

The following page is a draft of a guide to environmentally friendly and neighbourly lake practices. Please review and make suggestions by emailing miskwabiareacommunityassoc@gmail.com. Once finalized, the guide will be made available for all owners, renters and visitors to use.



DRAFT

OWNERS, RENTERS AND VISITORS GUIDE

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Owners, Renters & Visitors Guide is to encourage respect and consideration as well as to suggest ways to help preserve our lakes' serenity and protect the physical beauty of the forests, shorelines and waters so that there is enjoyment for all on Long Lake, Miskwabi Lake, Negaunee Lake and Wenona Lake. If you rent your home/cottage or lend it to family or friends, please ensure your guests follow these guidelines, and respect your neighbours and the environment.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Extensive changes to the shorelines and wilderness character should be avoided and the bylaws for Dysart et al, regarding these areas must be observed by everyone. Urbanization of the shoreline environment is discouraged.

By ensuring that septic systems are functioning correctly; avoiding the use of fertilizers that may enter the waters with run-off; not using soaps and shampoos of any kind in the lakes we will help preserve the waters in a clean, clear state.

Complying with guidelines for boats entering our lakes from other locations will help keep them protected from "invading species". Ensure your boat is cleaned and dried, preferably away from the entry site of one of our lakes, before launching. Do not empty boat bilges or bait buckets in the lakes.

Limit the risk of forest fires by using extreme care and be in complete compliance with burning rules as directed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Dysart et al. Fire Bans include fireworks.

Every effort will be made to preserve the diversity and maintain the habitats of the wildlife with which we share our lakes and forest environments.

To preserve the fishery for future generations a "catch and release" policy, and "lead-free" fishing is encouraged.

AESTHETICS AND TRANQUILITY:

All property owners have the fundamental right to the quiet enjoyment of their surroundings. Intrusive noise likely to disturb neighbours (like loud music) is discouraged. Preserving a quiet environment requires special consideration during the evening and especially at night, when sounds carry across the water.

Watercraft should be operated as far away from the shoreline as required by boating regulations and with as few trips along the same route.

Fireworks can be exciting, however effort should be made to ensure the safety of all environs; human, water, forest and wildlife. Frequent use of fireworks disturbs wildlife, property owners and the environment and is discouraged.

To protect the lakes from lighting pollution, property owners should keep illumination to a minimum, try not to place spotlights where they may shine over the lake or be highly visible from other properties.

AND FINALLY:

Using this guide, will help all of us preserve and protect the beauty and tranquility of Long, Miskwabi, Negaunee and Wenona Lakes, so that they may remain as places, for future generations, of striking natural beauty where the mind is nourished, the spirit calmed.

DYSART NEW RECREATION PROGRAM

Dysart is promoting healthier living through its two-year recreation pilot program. The new co-ordinator, Andrea Mueller, is excited about offering the public free recreational programming courtesy of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sports Grant. There will be after-school programming, a library loan program and an intergenerational walking club. The library loan program will offer people temporary use of sports equipment. Those without a library card can exchange the loan with a piece of ID. To help make the programs sustainable and to provide a variety of opportunities the municipality is encouraging people to donate used sports/recreational equipment. Donations can be dropped off to Andrea Mueller at the Dysart et al offices (235 Maple). Types of equipment being looked for include: snowshoes, basketballs, tennis racquets, cross country skis, broomball equipment. For further info contact Andrea at amueller@dysartetal.ca

HALIBURTON REAL ESTATE UPDATE

The real estate season got off to a later-than-usual start in 2012, but then rallied to finish strongly in the late summer and fall, with the final number of cottage sales growing from the previous year and prices remaining relatively steady.

There were 242 waterfront cottage sales in Haliburton in 2013; up just over 7% from 2012. The average sale price was \$380,117, down 2.5% from 2012. Cottage sales prices have been essentially level for the past four years.

Average time on the market was 75 days, in line with 2012 and average sale-to-list ratio (average sale price as a percentage of average list price) dropped slightly to 94.9%.

Information provided by Susanne James & Andy Mosher, Century 21 and Ontario Lakelands Real Estate Board

COTTAGE KIT FOR GARBAGE DISPOSAL

Dysart is continuing its program of selling cottage kits which you can leave for guests and renters. Instead of possibly losing your landfill pass, leaving a kit for others is simple, convenient and affordable.

The kit contains a one-time landfill pass, a welcome letter from Dysart outlining its waste management program, a map showing the sites, hours of landfill operation and various types and sizes of waste bags. New to the kit are information sheets from the CHA regarding septic system use and health.

SHORELINE INVENTORY PROGRAM

Monitoring and renaturalizing our lake shorelines is one of the two most important actions we can take to protect our lakes (the other being septic system health). Natural shorelines not only are critical to supporting 80 – 90% of all life in our lakes but also act to filter out nutrients such as phosphorus before they enter our lakes and cause oxygen depletion, weed growth, algae blooms, and lower fish populations. During 2014-15 lake associations are being offered the opportunity to participate, at very little cost, in a shoreline inventory program sponsored by the Coalition of Haliburton Associations, ULinks, Trent University and Fleming College.

Trained students from Environmental Sciences and Geography, using GIS mapping, will study each lake. Based on a Wisconsin model and a categorized rating system developed for Kennisis Lake all the shorelines will be analyzed.

More to follow in the next newsletter.

MACA 40TH ANNIVERSARY 2014 EVENTS

Mark these dates in your calendar!

Spring Road Cleanup	May 18
40th Annual General Meeting & Celebration	July 5
Golf Tournament	July 12
Wine and Cheese Party	August 23
<i>Host needed – Interested?</i>	
<i>Email Moe Welch at loismoe@bell.net</i>	
Pontoon Boat Flotilla	to be decided

RENEW YOUR MACA MEMBERSHIP

Take time today to complete and return the membership form on the next page, along with either a 1 or 2 year renewal. Early return by Feb. 28 gets you entered in a special draw to be held at the AGM. The form is also available at www.mymaca.net.

MISKWABI AREA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

40th Anniversary 1974 – 2014

You can renew your membership for 1 or 2 years
All membership renewals received by Feb. 28 will be eligible for a special draw to be held at the AGM.

Renew our Membership for 2014 (\$30.00)

Renew our Membership for 2014 & 2015 (\$60.00)

If there have been no changes to your personal information, simply print your name on this form and return it with your cheque to the address indicated below.

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

POSTAL CODE: _____ **PHONE NO:** _____

911 LAKE ADDRESS: _____ **LAKE:** _____

LAKE PHONE NO: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Postal rates are soon to increase dramatically. To help with the budget please indicate if you wish to receive your newsletter/notices electronically.

Please email our newsletter

Would you be willing to help the Association in an agreed upon capacity:

Yes Not at this time

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUE PAYABLE TO: MISKWABI AREA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (MACA)

and mail to:
MISKWABI AREA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (MACA)
2153 Trapper's Trail Rd
HALIBURTON, ON
K0M 1S0

Keep us informed of changes to your information emailing miskwabiareacommunityassoc@gmail.com or sending a note to the address above.

Bookmark our website mymaca.net to check for event information.

All information provided to MACA's Executive Board, in response to this form will be strictly CONFIDENTIAL and will not be disseminated, communicated or otherwise disclosed to anyone without prior written consent of the information provider.

NATURE NOTES

Tracks in the Snow

Snow cover gives a great opportunity to be aware of animal activity that might not be noticed at other times of the year.

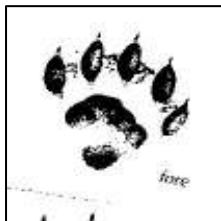


Can you identify the above mammal tracks? Answer at end of Nature Notes

River Otter



Length with tail: 91 – 130 cms (3 – 4.3 ft)
Weight: 4.5 – 11 kg (10 – 25 lbs), larger in northern areas



Foreprint
Length: 6.4-8.9 cm (2.5 -3.5 in)
Width: 5.1 – 7.6 cm (2 – 3 in)
Note: feet are webbed
tail often marks snow

No animal appears to have more fun than the River Otter. And curious – ever been canoeing and have a family of otters accompany you for an hour?

The diet of river otters is mainly fish, shellfish, crayfish, amphibians and reptiles. This requires that they have access to waterways during the winter. Otters have streamlined bodies, short legs, and a strong, tapered tail which makes them well adapted for their mobility in water. Home range for an otter family is about 150 sq. kms.

Like other weasels, the otter has a 12 month gestation period involving delayed implantation. Following spring breeding, fertilized eggs exist in a free-floating state until the winter when they implant with kits being born in March or April. Look for otters' tell-tale "slides" in the snow near river & lake openings.

Fisher



Length: with tail: 80 – 112 cm (32 – 43 in)
Weight: 1.4 – 5.9kg (3 – 13 lbs)



Foreprint
Length: 5.3 – 9.9 cm (2.1 – 3.9 in)
Width: 5.3 – 8.4 cm (2.1 – 3.3 in)
Note: feet are non-webbed
no tail markings

Fishers are mid-sized carnivores of the weasel family. They are agile hunters comfortable both on the ground and in trees where they target birds, squirrels and even porcupines. Contrary to popular belief, fishers do not hunt fish. Mainly nocturnal hunters, they are usually seen in the early morning or evening. The normal home range for an adult male is about 20 sq. km. Fishers mate in the spring and have a one year gestation period, giving birth to an average of three kits in March or April.

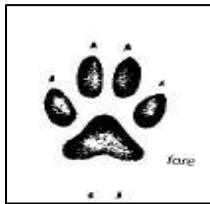
The fisher has been prized for its quality pelt. By the 1950's fishers were extirpated from southern Ontario due to over-harvest, predator control and habitat fragmentation. Their only major sanctuary was Algonquin Park. With a trapping ban and habitat regeneration, the fisher has made a remarkable recovery. A study done at

Trent University indicated that the population has expanded throughout central Ontario from the base in Algonquin Park, three other small isolated populations and across the St. Lawrence River from Adirondack Park.

Eastern Wolf



Height: 60 – 75 cm (24 – 30 in)
Weight: 25 – 35 kg (55 – 77 lb)



Foreprint
Length: 8-11 cm (3.2-4.4in)
Width: 5.2-9.5 cm (2.1-3.8 in)
Note: shows all four claws
usually straight track

The wolf of central Ontario and western Quebec has been recognized as a distinct subspecies of the Grey Wolf (Timber). There are probably fewer than 500 Eastern Wolves in Canada with the highest population found in Algonquin Park. Prior to European contact the Eastern Wolf and the Red Wolf (of eastern US) were likely the same species. Owing to habitat fragmentation, hybridization with the Coyote and Grey Wolf, and genetic drift the Eastern Wolf and Red Wolf now exhibit clear genetic differences.

Unlike coyotes, wolves do not coexist with people or fare well near human settlements. Wolf packs require relatively large unbroken forests with home ranges as large as 500 sq. km. Each pack has an elaborate hierarchy. It often consists of a single breeding pair, a lower group of non-breeding adults (each with a ranking), and a group of juveniles. Wolves do not mature for about two years.

The Eastern Wolf is listed as a species of Special Concern under Ontario's Endangered Species Act.

Cougar



Length with tail: to 2 metres (6.6 ft)
Weight: to 60 K (130 lbs)



Foreprint
Length: 7.5 – 10 cm (3 – 4 in)
Width: 6.75 – 10.8 cm (2.7 – 4.3 in)
Note: 3 lobes on back pad
many times tail marks on either side of tracks

The range of the cougar extends from southern Argentina and Chile to the edge of the Yukon. It is the most widespread large land mammal in the Western Hemisphere and yet, being shy and nocturnal, among the least seen. Cougars once inhabited most of the continent but by the early 20th Century they were mainly confined to the Rockies and the west coast. With conservation efforts during the past 40 years they have moved eastward. The first wayfarers are typically young, dispersing males. One killed on a highway in Connecticut in 2011 was, according to genetic testing results, from the Black Hills of South Dakota, a distance of over 3000K. In Ontario, the Ministry of Natural Resources believes cougars inhabit remote areas of northern Ontario. Are they extending their range into central and southern Ontario in pockets of undisturbed forest and a healthy deer population? Over the last five years we have been told of a number of sightings around our lakes. In Ontario the cougar is protected under the Endanger Species Act. Keep an eye on the tracks in the snow.

Tracks left to right: Wolf, Cougar, Otter, Fisher
Credits: Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources,
National Geographic, Animal Tracks of Ontario Field Guide
Missouri Department of Conservation
Wolfeteria