



MACA NEWS

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

YOUR MACA EXECUTIVE

President: Andy Mosher
Vice President: Mike Giza
Treasurer: Virginia Vranckx
Secretary: Susan Rohricht
Past President: Larry Holden

Directors:
 John Beadle
 Peter Dilworth (*Lake Planning*)
 Dave Ewart
 John Ewing (*Roads*)
 Tim Hagarty (*Lake Stewardship*)
 Haden Heathcock
 Susanne James (*Newsletter*)
 Phyllis McCulloch (*Membership*)
 Tim Payment (*North Shore Roads*)
 Moe Welch (*Events*)

www.mymaca.net

2016 MACA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Spring Cleanup: Sunday, May 22nd

AGM: Saturday, July 9th

Golf Tournament: Saturday, July 16th

Wine and Cheese: Saturday, August 27th

*Details and locations to follow in Spring
Newsletter*



Photo: Miskwabi Lake, Courtesy McFeete Family

President's Message

Greetings to all of our Members! I hope everyone had a good holiday season.

It has been an unseasonably warm winter so far, with some of the strongest *El Nino* conditions in Ontario since 1997. The warm weather caused a very late freeze-over on the lakes, and has caused havoc for ski hills and snowmobile trails. It will be interesting to see what the rest of the winter has in store for us!



We know one thing that the coming year has in store for us, and that is MACA's participation in the **Shoreline Improvement Project**. This project is being spearheaded by the Coalition of Haliburton Property Associations, and aims to educate all waterfront property owners about the importance of preserving natural shorelines.

Natural shorelines are crucial for protecting our water quality. This project is a rare opportunity to assess the health of our lakes, and hopefully prevent some of the disastrous mistakes that have been made in other parts of Ontario's cottage country. For more information, see page 2.

Lastly, the Membership renewal form for 2016 is included. Please take the time to fill it out and return it to us, and thanks for your continued support of MACA!

Andy Mosher, MACA President

Shoreline Improvement Project Coming in 2016

OUR FOUR AREA LAKES TO PARTICIPATE IN CHA'S "LOVE YOUR LAKE" PROGRAM



This summer is going to be an important one for the future of our four MACA area Lakes. The Miskwabi Area has been chosen as one of the participants in the Shoreline Improvement program, co-ordinated by the Coalition of Haliburton Property Associations (CHA) of which MACA is a member.

This program (also known as "Love Your Lake") was developed by Watersheds Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF) to be delivered by local organizations (such as MACA and CHA).

The purpose is to educate waterfront property owners about the importance of keeping shorelines as natural as possible. Natural vegetation along shorelines helps to prevent harmful runoff from septic systems and other sources from reaching the lake, and helps to prevent the scourge of toxic blue-green algae that has seriously damaged lakes in other parts of cottage country including Muskoka. **Failure to protect shorelines can result in lakes that are unsafe to swim in, and declining property values, so it's important that we be proactive in protecting our water!**

So, what does this program entail?

- First, a letter will be sent to all waterfront property owners explaining that shoreline evaluations are going

to be taking place. The evaluations are confidential, and individual property owners can opt out if they do not wish to receive an evaluation.

- The CHA hires university students to conduct a visual evaluation of the shoreline of every property. Volunteers on each lake will take the students by boat along the entire shoreline. The evaluations will all be done from the water; no one will set foot on shore. The entire process should take around 14 days for our four lakes.
- The students will then prepare a report on the overall shoreline health of the lake, as well as a letter mailed to each property owner, with suggestions on how best to improve and maintain the health of their shoreline. Again, **these evaluations and suggestions are confidential** and will not be shared with anyone. The aim of the program is purely educational.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The program is approximately 90% funded by grants, including a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. However in order to make it possible, **we need volunteers!**

- **We need volunteer boat drivers with motorboats on each lake** to take the student evaluators along the shoreline. We need at least two licensed boats with drivers each for Long/Miskwabi and Wenona. On Negaunee, we will need to do the evaluations motor-free.
- **We need volunteers to provide accommodations** for the student evaluators during the approximately 14 days they will be working on our lakes.
- **We need to provide workspace** with internet access for the student evaluators to do their data entry work.

If you can help with any of the above, please contact our Lake Steward, Tim Hagarty, at: jthagarty@bell.net

This program is a rare and important opportunity for us to help protect our lakes for the future. Your participation is key!

For more information about the Love Your Lake/Shoreline Improvement Project, visit www.loveyourlake.ca, and the CHA's Web site at www.cohpoa.org

Severance Application - Wenona Lake

Haliburton County's Land Division Committee has received an application to create three new lots at the southern end of Wenona Lake. The proposed lots would be accessed by a new road off Trapper's Trail.

The application for consent is subject to an Environmental Impact Statement that must satisfy peer review by the County. As of this writing the applicant's Environmental Impact Statement had not met the peer review requirements, but the process is ongoing and may take several months.

MACA is concerned about the creation of new lots on any of our lakes, and the *Miskwabi Area Watershed Plan* specifically recommends "using a Recreational Carrying Capacity Model... when considering new or increased development on/adjacent to lakes". Although there is no universal definition of Recreational Carrying Capacity, according to the model used in the *Watershed Plan*, Wenona is already well over its capacity.

The County has promised to notify MACA we once the Environmental Impact Statement is available for review, and both MACA and individuals will be given an opportunity for input.

Any individual who wishes to make their views on this matter known should contact the Director of Planning for Haliburton County, Charley White, at 705-286-1333 x222.



Photo: Wenona Lake, Courtesy Susan Hay

Treasurer's Year-end Note

Submitted by Virginia Vranckx

At year-end MACA had just shy of \$4000.00 in the bank.

Some events of interest:

Revenues - \$5970.00 came from memberships which continue to be just about 200. Susanne James & Andy Mosher of Century 21 Granite Realty Group donated \$300.00 as they contribute to MACA each time they list and sell a property on our lakes. We also received \$1036.00 from generous folks to offset the expenses to develop and print the watershed plan. Raffle proceeds from the AGM were \$338.00.

Expenses - Our largest expense continues to be insurance, followed by (no surprise) the very well attended Wine and Cheese. MACA made donations in the amount of \$100 to Point in Time and Anderson House, both in memory of deceased family members of directors. We also make a \$50 contribution in excess of membership fees to the CHA (Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners Associations). A gift of \$125.00 was given to Mike Giza in recognition of his five years as president.

Special Note:

We have been working with our bank to enable electronic transfers for membership fees. As our current corporate by-laws demand two signatures on a cheque we are unable to do internet banking at this point. We apologize to anyone who is inconvenienced by this and thank you for your patience as we continue to try to resolve this issue.

As a further note, we have decided not to accept credit card payments as the bank charges involved are too high for the small volume we would do.

Wild Winter Weather

Winter got off to a late and warm start this year, as El Nino conditions made for a "brown" Christmas.

However a blast of freezing rain and snow arrived just after Christmas, creating havoc with roads and covering trees, buildings and cars with ice. Another January thaw and freeze created still more icy conditions.



Please exercise caution: there are still layers of ice hiding under the snow, and that even the main roads are slipperier in spots than they may look. Take your time on the roads and be careful!

Also remember that vehicles found parked on Municipal roads interfering with clearing of snow, sanding and maintenance are subject to a \$200 fine and will be towed.



Lastly, be aware that the lakes are very late freezing over this winter, and as of this writing most snowmobile trails are still closed according to the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs' online Trail Guide. For more information visit www.ofsc.on.ca.

Hydro Clearing Under Lines

You may have noticed a lot of orange marks on trees along various roads in our area lately, as Hydro One workers have been doing a substantial cut of trees and brush under hydro lines.



According to Hydro One, fallen trees and branches account for more than 30 per cent of power outages in Ontario. This preventative work should help reduce the number outages in our area. For more information, Hydro One has a forestry management information page at: <http://www.hydroone.com/OurCommitment/Environment/Pages/Vegetation.aspx>

And here's another useful link: if you're wondering whether the power is out at your cottage, Hydro One has a live interactive map showing both planned and unplanned outages, causes and estimated restoration times at: <http://www.hydroone.com/StormCenter3>

Haliburton Year-end Real Estate Update

There were 308 waterfront Cottage/Recreational sales in Haliburton in 2015 (Ontario Lakelands Real Estate Board MLS data). This is an increase of 28% in the number of sales over 2014.

The average sale price also increased, by 10.57% to \$399,045, a record high for Haliburton. Sale-to-list ratio (average sale price as percentage of list price) was 95.4%, in line with previous years.

As with recent years, the vast majority of cottage sales were in the lower and middle price ranges: 37% of the sales were under \$300,000, and 43% were between \$300,000 and \$500,000.

Susanne James & Andy Mosher, Century 21 Granite Realty Group Ltd.

CEWF UPDATE

Coalition for Equitable Water Flow Forms New Water Management Organization with Haliburton County

The Coalition for Equitable Water Flow has joined with the County of Haliburton to form a single voice to represent the area's reservoir lakes on water management issues.

Unlike other areas that feed into the Trent Basin, Haliburton County does not have a conservation authority. The idea is to form a single organization – yet to be named – that will sit alongside other areas' conservation authorities, Parks Canada and the Ministry of Natural Resources in discussions on water management.

This is the latest attempt to work with governments and Trent Severn Waterways management to better and more fairly control water levels on TSW reservoir and flow-through lakes. Various groups and committees have tried to make progress in the past dating back to the 1960's, with varying success (for a glimpse of part of that history, see the *MACA Flashback* on Page 6).

The CEWF envisions that the new organization's board will include three members from CEWF, four from Haliburton County and one each from the townships of North Kawartha and Trent Lakes, in northern Peterborough County.

A report from the new working group is expected in May. We will continue to keep MACA members informed on future developments. The CEWF represents 31 member lake associations (including MACA) that are part of the Trent Severn Waterway reservoir and flow-through lake systems. For more information, visit the CEWF's Web site at: www.cewf.ca



Photo: Miskwabi Lake - Courtesy Larry Holden

NATURE NOTES: The Ermine



Scientific Name: *Mustela erminea*

Ermines (also known as short-tailed weasels) have a long body, short legs, a long neck and a triangular-shaped head. Males average 27 cm and females measure up at 24 cm with their tail adding another 7.5 cm to their length. Males are larger than females and weigh on average 80 g while females weigh an average of 54 g.

Ermines change the colour of their coats seasonally. In the summer, their backs are brown,

their undersides are white and their tails sport a black tip. In the winter, they are completely white except for their black tipped tail.

They make use of a wide range of habitats including riparian woodlands, marshes, meadows and open pastures near forest or bush. They are efficient climbers and swimmers but spend most of their time on land.



Their average lifespan in the wild is up to two years.

While some ermines re-use the burrows of mice and ground squirrels, others make their own under tree roots, in hollow logs and in unused buildings.

They are carnivores that prey mostly on small mammals such as rabbits, mice, chipmunks,

shrews and ground squirrels. When these food items are scarce, ermines will feed on eggs, birds, fish and frogs.

Sources: *The Canadian Encyclopedia, Canadian Wildlife Federation*

MACA Flashback! 30 Years Ago

Here's what was making news in the MACA Newsletter for February, 1986:



"On Friday, Jan 17/86 members of the Haliburton Highlands Water Levels Committee (H.H.W.L.C.) chaired by County Warden H. Davis, met with senior members of the Ministry of Natural Resources... The purpose of the meeting was to establish a greater Ministry of Natural Resources awareness of and involvement in the various issues/concerns and problems of the Reservoir Lakes Area and the Waterway System... H.H.W.L.C. Committee members distributed a draft of 'An Agreement Respecting the Management and Operation of the Trent-Severn Reservoir Lake Area and Waterway System in the Province of Ontario' which could be used as the basis for a formal agreement... It was the consensus of the group that it was a very useful and productive meeting."

"Further to the Announcement in Sept./85 of M.N.R.'s proposal to close 13 selected lakes (9 in Haliburton County, including Drag, Farquhar, Allen and Fishtail in our vicinity) to winter lake trout fishing, concern was expressed at County Council in Sept./85 and the Municipality of Dysart has taken a strong position against the proposal. The Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations Inc. has passed a resolution against it and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters are also not in favour of it... M.N.R.'s proposal is expected to get a more thorough airing at County Council."

"Three Cheers for Dysart! County in Session Jan. 13/86 have approved a resolution to consider certain road improvements in our area for 1986, particularly plan 511 lots 85-91 together with some other areas they would like to get finished up. The biggest problem seems to be work on plan 511. Drilling and blasting becomes very expensive thereby limiting or reducing the length of roadway that can be undertaken in a given year."



Photo Courtesy Susanne James

Cottage Cook's Corner

Favourite Recipes Shared by MACA Members

Garlic and Red Pepper Potato Cups

Submitted by Virginia Vranckx

12 small size red potatoes, unpeeled
2T olive oil, divided
2 garlic cloves
pinch salt
coarsely ground pepper
½ C jarred roasted red peppers, drained and patted dry
2-3 green onions, finely chopped
¼ pkg. cream cheese, softened

1. Prepare and bake potatoes

Preheat oven to 425F. Cut potatoes in half, crosswise. Cut a thin slice off each bottom so they will stand up. Scoop out a small amount of pulp with melon baller and discard. In a bowl combine half the oil; garlic cloves, pressed; salt and pepper; whisk until combined. Add potatoes and toss. Place potatoes, hollowed side down on baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Bake 25 to 30 minutes. Cool slightly.

2. Prepare filling and finish

Finely chop red peppers. Add to cream cheese and half the green onion; mix well. Season with salt and pepper if desired. Fill the potato cups using a piping bag or small spoon. Garnish with rest of onion.