



MACA NEWS

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

YOUR MACA EXECUTIVE

President: Andy Mosher
Vice President: Peter Dilworth
Treasurer: Virginia Vranckx
Secretary: Susan Rohricht
Past President: Mike Giza
Lake Steward: Tim Hagarty

Directors:
 Dave Ewart
 John Ewing (*Roads*)
 Susan Hay
 Haden Heathcock
 Kay Hubbard
 Susanne James (*Newsletter*)
 Phyllis McCulloch (*Membership*)
 Todd Tiffin (*North Shore Roads*)
 Moe Welch (*Events*)

www.mymaca.net

2017 MACA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Spring Cleanup: Sunday, May 21st

AGM: Saturday, July 8th

Golf Tournament: Saturday, July 15th

Wine and Cheese: Saturday, August 26th

Details to follow in Spring Newsletter



Miskwabi Lake, Photo by Susanne James

Happy New Year!

On behalf of MACA I would like to extend best wishes to our members for a happy and healthy New Year.

2017 promises to be another important year for the health of our lakes, as we all receive the results from last summer's *Love your Lake* shoreline evaluation project. The results will include recommendations on how each of us can best keep our shorelines natural and healthy. This is one of the most important things we can do to protect the water quality in our lakes – so stay tuned!



2017 will also be a year of celebrations: you are probably aware that we will mark the 150th anniversary of Canadian Confederation this year – but did you know that our own Municipality is also turning 150? (see page 4 for details)

Lastly, I would like to remind everyone that we have had another few weeks of temperatures hovering above and below zero, with freezing rain and ice, so please be extra careful on the roads.

Enjoy the winter, and if you haven't already done so, please don't forget to renew your MACA membership for 2017!

Andy Mosher, MACA President

Wenona Lake Severance Update

ZONING ON AGENDA FOR FEB 6TH PUBLIC MEETING



Photo: Susanne James

As we reported in the Fall Newsletter, Haliburton County's Land Division committee voted to allow the creation of three new lots at the south end of Wenona Lake, despite extensive objections from MACA and Wenona Lake property owners.

Now Dysart et al, the lower-tier Municipality, must consider an application to assign zonings for the new properties.

The zoning application will be discussed at a public meeting at Dysart on February 6th. MACA plans to make a submission at the meeting, along with a committee on behalf of Wenona Lake property owners.

MACA remains concerned about the impact of development on the fragile, shallow wetland environment at the south end of the lake, which is home to a loon nest, beaver dam and countless other species.

Additionally, MACA would like to see Dysart undertake a boating capacity study, given that there is evidence published in the *Miskwabi Area Watershed Plan* showing that Wenona Lake is already as much as 30% over its optimum boating capacity.

Anyone who is interested is encouraged to attend the public meeting at the Dysart Municipal office on February 6th at 5pm.

WINTER ROADS REMINDER

Now that winter is truly upon us, please remember to keep an eye on weather updates, and always drive according to conditions.

Also, please remember not to leave vehicles where they will interfere with winter road maintenance. By-Law 2010-42 states: "No person shall park or stand a vehicle in such a manner as to interfere with the movement of traffic, the clearing of snow, or the sanding and maintenance of a highway." You may face a fine of up to \$200 and your vehicle may be towed!



Photo: Susan Hay

OPP OFFERS ONLINE REPORTING

The Haliburton Highlands OPP would like to remind people that their online reporting system is now available.

Citizen Self Reporting allows the public to report specific crimes such as lost property, stolen license plates, theft from vehicles, driving complaints, and property damage without an officer having to be dispatched to the scene, provided there are no suspects, no injuries, and the incident is not an emergency.

The use of the new system is completely optional. Police will still attend a call for service if desired. To learn more, and to access Citizen Self Reporting online, go to www.opp.ca

LAKE PLANNING CORNER



By Peter Dilworth, MACA V.P. and Lake Planning Director

MACA continues to be actively involved in Dysart et al's 5-year Official Plan Review and Update process. The Official Plan is the policy document that guides municipal decisions on land use within the Municipality.

In November, MACA's President Andy Mosher, Lake Steward Tim Hagarty and myself met with Dysart et al's Reeve, Deputy Reeve, and Director of Planning, to discuss the inputs that we have provided for the next revision of the Official Plan.

MACA's primary focus is to push for the introduction of Lake Surface Capacity limits to help control any new development on our lakes; to include language that will pave the way for a septic re-inspection program; to officially recognize the significance of the Headwaters of the Burnt and Gull River watersheds, which are within the boundaries of the Municipality; and to acknowledge the importance of tranquility of night skies, so that by-laws can be developed and enforced to limit the use of fireworks.

We are pleased to report that our submissions have been well received on all accounts and we are confident that the updated Plan will contain language associated with all of these suggestions. The Municipality is expecting to hold another public open house for input to the Official Plan in the spring, which we are eager to participate in.

A group of board members under the leadership of Phyllis McCulloch have updated the Cottager's Guide and a laminated copy of it will be circulating to property owners in the spring.

The purpose of this Guide is to suggest ways to help preserve our lakes' serenity and protect our forests, shorelines and waters so that there is enjoyment for all. We are also encouraging property owners that rent/loan their cottage to post this guide for visitors to follow.

Year-end Notes from the Treasurer

Submitted by Virginia Vranckx, MACA Treasurer

At year end MACA had just over \$5000.00 in the bank. Some items of interest:



Revenues - \$5970.00 came from memberships which continue to be just about 200. Susanne and Andy of Century 21 Realty donated \$400.00 as they contribute to MACA for each of their listings they sell on our lakes. We also received \$146.00 to offset the expenses to develop and print the watershed plan. Raffle proceeds from the AGM were \$328.00.

Expenses - Our largest expense continues to be insurance, although this year we did pay the per lot fee for the Love Your Lake Project which amounted to \$1767.00. MACA made donations in the amount of \$100 to Haliburton Hospital Foundation and \$100.00 to SIRCH. We also made a \$130 contribution in excess of membership fees to the CHA (Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners Associations) and an extra \$50 to CEWF (Coalition for Equitable Water Flow).

The Executive made the decision to work with our bank to accept memberships paid by MasterCard or Visa, as well as by cheque. Starting this year, you will receive an updated membership form and you can elect the payment choice that best suits you.

As a board member I wish you all happy cottaging this coming year and thank you for your support in making my role of Treasurer easier.



LAKE STEWARD'S UPDATE

By Tim Hagarty, MACA Lake Steward

We are all awaiting the results from the Love Your Lake Shoreline Analysis that was completed last summer. These will be in your individual hands this spring and I urge all to review their results and implement the suggested changes, if indeed there are some for your location. The importance of healthy shorelines and our lakes' health cannot be overestimated, so please do your part in keeping our lakes healthy.

The lake testing kits, (water testing and clarity tests) will be delivered to the Lake monitors in April. Lake monitors, please let me know that you have received kits so I can rest easy!

MACA, FOCA and the CHA

DID YOU KNOW? MACA is a member of two umbrella organizations representing Lake Associations: the Coalition of Haliburton Associations (CHA) and the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA).

At the fall MACA board meeting, the board decided to increase our annual contribution to the Coalition of Haliburton Associations. The CHA is an umbrella organization representing approximately 50 Lake associations, comprising 120 waterbodies in Haliburton.



The CHA strives to protect water quality in Haliburton by focusing on two major issues: maintaining natural shorelines, and septic health. In particular the CHA spearheaded the recent *Love Your Lake* shoreline evaluation project, which MACA's four lakes took part in this past year.

In recognition of the excellent work the CHA does, we increased our contribution to reflect the \$50 minimum membership fee, plus \$1 for each MACA member, for a total contribution of \$230 in 2016. For more information on the CHA, visit: <http://www.cohpoa.org>

MACA also continues to support FOCA, the province-wide organization



representing more than 500 lake associations across Ontario. FOCA was incorporated in 1974 (the same year MACA was founded) and its first Executive Director was MACA's founder, Jerry Strickland.

This past year FOCA was instrumental in persuading the provincial government to re-think its recent, confusing new regulatory requirements for docks. A bill easing some of those requirements has now passed second reading in the Ontario Legislature, in part thanks to FOCA's efforts.

FOCA is also currently actively lobbying Hydro One for fairness in hydro billing for rural and seasonal customers. As well, FOCA has a long track record of lobbying for fairness in property taxation for cottage owners and rural residents.

For more information, visit: <https://foca.on.ca>

Dysart Celebrates 150 Years!

It's not only Canada celebrating a Sesquicentennial in 2017. The Municipality of Dysart et al was incorporated January 7, 1867. This summer, Dysart will celebrate both anniversaries with a number of events on the weekend of July 7th - 9th.

Among the planned activities:

Friday, July 7th:

- Parade along Highland St.
- BBQ and Beverages in the park
- Campfire Singalong at Head Lake Band Shell.

Saturday, July 8:

- Family picnic at Head Lake Park with Picnic games
- Farmer's market
- Saturday evening free concert

Sunday, July 9th:

- Paddling on Head Lake
- Beach volleyball tournament

More events are being added. For details, visit Dysart's Web site at: <http://www.dysartetal.ca>

FUN FACT: At 61 letters (or 68 non-space characters) our Municipality has the longest place name in Canada!

Dysart's full official name is: **The Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart, Dudley, Harcourt, Guilford, Harburn, Bruton, Havelock, Eyre and Clyde.** It is usually shortened to "Municipality of Dysart et al", meaning Municipality of Dysart and others.

Annual Real Estate Update

There were 364 waterfront cottage/recreational sales in Haliburton in 2016 (Ontario Lakelands Real Estate Board MLS data). This is an increase of 18% over the number of sales in 2015.

Average sale prices increased by 8.9% to \$434,483, the second consecutive record high year for Haliburton. Sale-to-list price ratio (actual sale prices compared to list prices) remained at 95.6%, in line with previous years.

Once again the lower and middle price ranges dominated the market: 30% of the sales were under \$300,000, and 43% of the sales were between \$300,000 and \$500,000.

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

MNRF FISHERY RESEARCH UPDATE



MACA's Lake Steward Tim Hagarty looks on as MNRF team conducts hydroacoustics research on Miskwabi Lake

In the fall MACA Newsletter we reported on scientific research being done by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's Inland Lakes research team. The MNRF is testing new technology that uses sound waves (hydroacoustics) to assess fisheries. They chose Miskwabi Lake as a test site because of its well-documented fishery.

We asked researcher Victoria Kopf how their work was progressing, and she provided us with the following update:

"In early September 2016, the Inland Lakes Research team from Aquatic Research and Monitoring Section of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources set out on a pilot study on Miskwabi Lake comparing a set of standard netting practices to parallel hydroacoustic transect surveys. Hydroacoustics are exactly as the derivation of this word "water" and "sound" implies; like a typical fish finder, a transducer is a unit that is placed in the water and emits pings of sound into the water. The same unit hears the echoes from objects in

the water and returns an echogram as seen in Figure 1. The benefit of developing standard methodologies with such technologies would be to augment traditional netting programs, potentially resulting in the ability to obtain large amounts of data without setting more nets. In this pilot study, only three nets were set overnight and monitored regularly during the set with passes of hydroacoustic surveys. Though only three Lake Trout were caught, sampled and released, much acoustic data were collected. The processing of these data is a large undertaking and is targeted for this winter/spring. This pilot study will provide the Inland Lakes team with valuable information on the future implementation of a more rigorous netting vs. hydroacoustics comparative study".

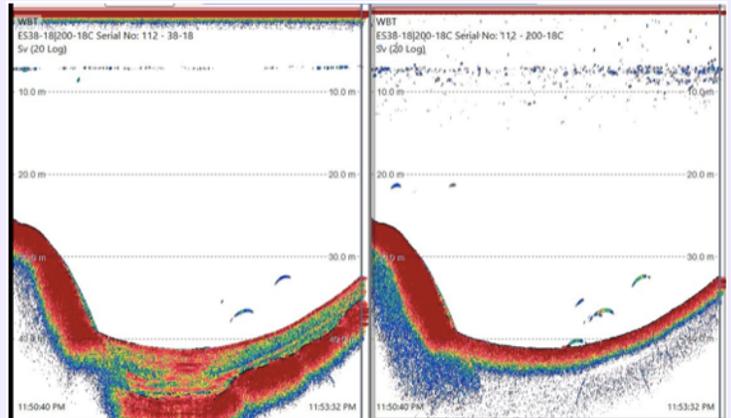


Figure 1. Echograms retrieved from Miskwabi Lake while conducting a parallel netting survey. The left image is what is 'seen' with a 38 kHz transducer, and on the right is the parallel image on a 200 kHz transducer. The larger targets seen as arcs near the bottom of the lake below 30 meters are likely lake trout. Those seen by both the 38 kHz and 200 kHz are the largest fish.

Victoria and her MNRF team have promised to keep us posted as they continue to process their data. Watch this space for future updates!

NATURE NOTES

by Susan Hay

I have seen two wolves already this winter; once while walking my dog on the road and on another occasion, right outside my home. The first wolf I saw at the corner of Trapper's Trail and Wenona Lake Rd. from a distance of several hundred feet. It appeared to be an Eastern wolf due to its slight reddish colour.

The Eastern Wolf was listed as "special concern" when the Endangered Species Act took effect in 2008, and was renamed Algonquin Wolf and re-classified as "threatened" in 2016. Algonquin park has a protected population of under 500 Eastern wolves, and wolves are protected in the Townships surrounding Algonquin Park and other areas (for more information see <https://www.ontario.ca/page/algonquin-wolf#section-6>).



Prior to European settlement, Ontario was home to grey wolves in the north and eastern wolves in the south. Due to heavy persecution and habitat loss, eastern wolves struggled to survive. Western coyotes, a species that fared much better in the disturbed landscape and consequently migrated eastward across Canada, bred with what remained of the Eastern wolf population in southern Ontario and Quebec. Eastern coyotes, being a mixture of Western coyotes, wolves and even dogs are difficult to distinguish and often referred to as "coywolves".

Hunting and trapping of adult wolves limits wolf pup's learning of hunting skills, increasing the likelihood they will prey on livestock due to hunger.

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NATURE NOTES

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Wolves are very social animals. Their breeding and hunting habits are done very cooperatively. Both grey and eastern wolves live in packs. There is usually only one breeding pair within the pack, often termed the alpha pair. The rest of the wolf pack is made up of related family members. The breeding pair are usually not related to each other. Only one litter of pups per year is usually born to each pack unless there is an unusual abundance of prey.

Family is important in the life of wolves. The breeding pair is usually monogamous. The breeding pair spends a lot of time in courtship leading up to their mating, which generally occurs in February depending on where the wolves live. Gestation is 63 days and pups are born deaf and blind, however their senses are fully developed by 5 weeks of age. Non breeding females in the pack are known to lactate and help nurse the pups and babysit!

Hunting is also done very cooperatively. Deer and moose are the usual prey and it usually takes more than one wolf to take an

animal down. Research shows that wolves prey on old, sick and injured animals likely because they pose fewer dangers to the wolves and are easier to take down. This helps regulate prey populations.

Although wolves whimper, bark, growl and yip, howling is perhaps their best-known method of communication. Wolves howl for many reasons: to tell other pack members where they are; to encourage "team spirit" before or after a hunt; and to warn other packs of their presence. Although wolves seldom attack humans, you should not howl to imitate wolves as you may attract them to you. Also, never discard meat products outside your home as this may attract and habituate wolves which might make them more likely to attack. Wolves will attack dogs, so keeping your dog under control and picking up its feces may help to prevent wolf attacks.

We are encouraged to report sightings of wolves. I reported my sighting to biologist Martina Furrer at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (martina.furrer@ontario.ca) and she was interested to know about other sightings.

MACA FLASHBACK! 30 YEARS AGO

Here's what was making news in the MACA Newsletter for Winter 1987:



MISKWABI PRESIDENT APPOINTED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FOCA - Your President, Jerry Strickland, has been appointed executive director of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations Incorporated effective Nov. 9/86. Bert Shingler, the former Executive Director... has retired to devote more time to the Ontario Cottager Magazine as Advertising Manager. The Cottagers of Ontario owe Burt a sincere vote of thanks and a debt of gratitude for his ceaseless efforts on their behalf.

HIGHWAY 121 AND TRAPPERS TRAIL FINGER SIGN - Two weeks after going to the head honcho, the sign was in! All we wanted was a finger sign, we got one suitable for the 401. Oh, well, Enjoy. Anyone who gets lost now, deserves to.

M.N.R.'s SELECTIVE CLOSING OF LAKE TROUT LAKES TO WINTER FISHING PROGRAM - We have been informed that this program will be either deferred for 1 year or drastically cut back in 1987 to allow more time for further input and alternative evaluation. A wise decision.

Cottage Cook's Corner

Favourite Recipes Shared by MACA Members

EMPANADAS

Pastry:

- 1 cup flour
- ½ cup cold butter
- 4 oz. cream cheese

Filling:

- 1 cup grated cheddar cheese
- 1/3 cup black olives, finely chopped
- 1 - 2 tbsp. jalapeño peppers
- 1 tsp. chilli powder
- 1 tsp. oregano
- 3 green onions, finely chopped
- Salt and pepper to taste

Submitted by:

Phyllis McCulloch

Prepare pastry by cutting butter into flour, then cutting in the cream cheese until the dough comes into a ball. Divide in half and refrigerate at least ½ hour or overnight. Roll pastry out into two thin circles and cut into rounds using a 2 inch cutter. You may make them larger. Combine filling ingredients - the mixture should be slightly pasty. Put a little bit of filling on half of each circle of the pastry and fold the other half over. Pinch the edges together well. Arrange on a greased cookie sheet. If you refrigerate ½ hour before baking, the pastry will be flakier. Pre-heat oven to 375 degrees. Brush empanadas with egg wash. Bake 20 minutes or until golden. Serve with sour cream dip.

Note: Rather than making the pastry you can put the filling on Triscuit crackers and warm in the oven.