



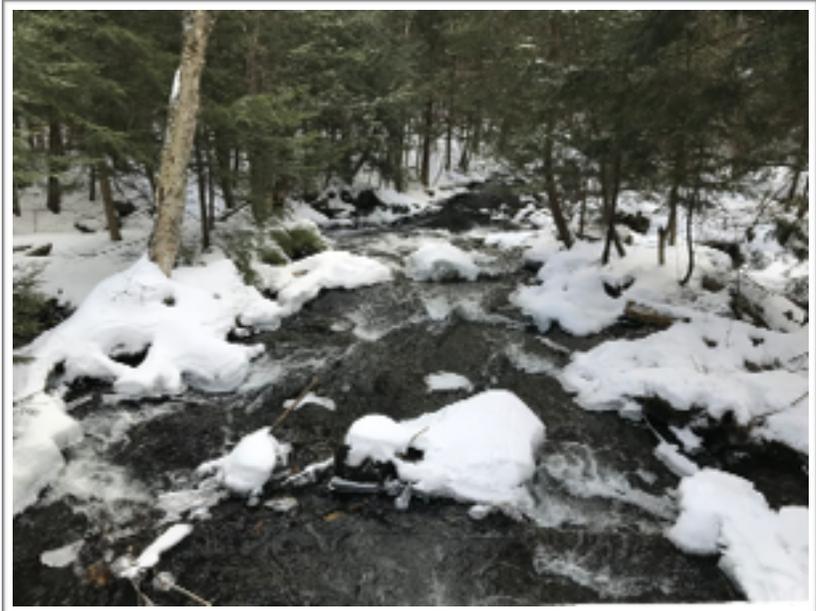
# MACA NEWS

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

## YOUR MACA EXECUTIVE

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

**Directors:**  
 Elizabeth Cloutier (*North Shore Roads*)  
 Steve Dyce  
 Dave Ewart  
 John Ewing (*Roads*)  
 Mike Giza  
 Susan Hay  
 Haden Heathcock  
 Phyllis McCulloch (*Membership*)



Below the Dam - Photo: K Hunsberger

## 2020 MACA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**Spring Cleanup:**  
 Sunday, May 17th

**AGM:**  
 Saturday, July 11th

**Wine and Cheese:**  
 Saturday, August 29th

**If you are interested in hosting the Wine and Cheese, please contact us at**  
[miskwabiareacommunityassoc@gmail.com](mailto:miskwabiareacommunityassoc@gmail.com)

## President's Message

I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays. It is certainly a beautiful time of year up here at the lake.

We have had a busy fall. Mike Giza and I sponsored a project with Fleming College to conduct research in one of the wetlands that flow into Miskwabi Lake (described in detail in the pages to come).

With the goal of protecting water quality, we engaged with the Municipality to add our voice to the concerns regarding the use of the toxic chemical Garlon to eradicate vegetation along the Hydro rights of way. We also provided council with suggestions on ways to improve the Fireworks By-Law.

This is the time of year to renew your MACA membership - you can renew online; just visit [www.mymaca.net](http://www.mymaca.net) and click the "Membership" link.

Finally, we are always looking for things MACA could or should be involved in. If you have a suggestion (e.g., an event, a project, etc), please feel free to reach out to me at [peter.dilworth@sympatico.ca](mailto:peter.dilworth@sympatico.ca).

Enjoy the rest of winter; stay warm and safe!

*Peter Dilworth, MACA President*



# MISKWABI NORTH WETLAND EVALUATION

## *Another Project with Fleming College*



MACA partnered again with Fleming College through its Credit for Product program, this time to conduct research and develop a better understanding of the Miskwabi North Wetland (i.e., the wetland that flows into Miskwabi Lake off Trapper’s Trail just passed Strickland). This program is part of Fleming’s School of Environmental & Natural Resource Sciences and provides students opportunities to apply their ecosystem and project management skills while working in the field and supporting the community.

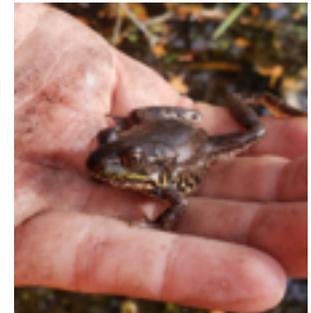
As a host organization, our role was to prepare a project proposal, support a group of students by providing guidance and access to information, periodically meeting with the students, billet them while working in the field (thanks Mike and Virginia) and delivering feedback.

The purpose of the project was to start the environmental evaluation of this important wetland and to provide educational resources for MACA. The work was completed by Samantha Clapperton, Ashley Smith, Samantha Sommer, and Michaela Ward, all third-year students in the Ecosystem Management Technology program at Fleming College. By all measures the students were terrific – enthusiastic, knowledgeable and professional to work with.



Mike Giza, Ashley Smith, Samantha Clapperton, Samantha Sommer, and Michaela Ward and Peter Dilworth

The project involved undertaking a literature review and collecting all available data they could find about this wetland. The students spent 3 days researching in the field. They focused on the social, biological, and special features components of the evaluation. They walked the perimeter of the wetland in waders and took UTM (Universal Transverse Mercator) coordinates along the way and especially when they saw potential species at risk habitat or special features. They “ground truthed” the wetland boundary using the 50/50 rule (i.e., delineation occurs when 50% of the vegetation is wetland and 50% is uplands vegetation). The students determined that the Miskwabi North Wetland is 30 ha in area, with a 4km external boundary. They also paddled into the heart of the wetland. The wetland is in immaculate shape. It consists of both marsh and swamp wetland types, all surrounded by mixed forest. It attracts a multitude of plant and animal species, as well as several fungi and lichens. The group observed 86 species of flora and fauna, including lungwort, a



lichen that indicates pristine air quality. This is an impressive count, especially since the field work was conducted in late September. Culturally, the area has a significant indigenous history, as it was once part of a substantial portage route. The Miskwabi North Wetland holds a large diversity of habitats, supports critical functions and provides a place of tranquility.

The project team provided us with a robust report of their findings and an educational video we have posted our website. The findings demonstrate the rich diversity within the Miskwabi North Wetland and the importance of wetland conservation. It was a rewarding experience for all, and we look forward to continuing to work with Fleming College in the future.

### NATIVE PLANT SALE - 2020

Once again this year, the charity Friends of Ecological and Environmental Learning (FEEL) is holding its annual native plant sale, featuring locally grown bare-root tree and shrub seedlings, wildflowers, ferns, and grasses.

This is a great way to get hardy, native plants to renaturalize your property and shoreline! You can reserve your plants online between February to April, and pick them up locally in May.

For more information visit: [www.ecoenvirolearn.org](http://www.ecoenvirolearn.org) or contact [ecoenvirolearn@gmail.com](mailto:ecoenvirolearn@gmail.com)

## Watch the Wake

Boats moving through the water create waves, known as wake. The larger the wake, the greater the potential side effects.

- Loons, and other birds that nest along the shore, choose locations that are protected from waves generated by the prevailing winds. However, boat or personal water craft wakes, which can come from any direction and be much higher, can and do drown the nests and the young.
- Swimmers and canoers/kayakers/paddle boarders can be toppled by the size and energy of large boat wakes.
- Boat wake & prop wash can churn up sediments in shallow water which releases dormant nutrients that promote weed growth & algal blooms.
- Boat wakes cause shoreline erosion.
- Boat wakes can cause docks to rock severely and damage dock hardware.

Wave height is one of the most important factors in shoreline erosion. A wave's energy is proportional to

the square of its height. Observations made by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources have shown that:

- a wave that is 12.5 cm high (5 inches) does not cause significant shoreline damage. Waves this high are created by boats operating at speeds under 10 km/hr – a speed that is generally considered reasonable when operating close to shore.
- a wave that is 25 cm high (10 inches) is four times more destructive than a 12.5 cm wave.
- however a 62.5 cm high wave (2 feet or what wakeboard boats can generate) is 25 times more destructive.
- of course your wake is the highest (most damaging) when your boat is in transition just before and after planing speed.

The Small Vessel Regulations stipulate that the legal speed limit for all motor boats is 10 km/hr within 30 metres (100 ft) of any shore. Waterski & Wakeboard Canada as well as Dysart et al's current Council strongly recommend that wakeboard boats stay a minimum of 50 metres from any shore and in a minimum of 2 metres depth of water to reduce the effect of shoreline degradation & turbidity.



## Lost Canoes - Wenona Lake

In late October/November, two canoes were found floating at the south end of the Wenona Lake. A couple of notices were sent out looking for the owners, although unfortunately we did not hear from anyone. They are out of the water and an eye is being kept on them. One canoe is orange and the other is red. We hope the owners will see this notice. If you think one of these canoes might be yours, please contact Phyllis at [phyllis.mcculloch058@sympatico.ca](mailto:phyllis.mcculloch058@sympatico.ca).

## Fireworks By-Law Reminder

The new By-Law relating to the use of fireworks prohibit the use of fireworks, except on **New Year's Eve**, and the weekends of **Victoria Day, Canada Day** and the **August Civic Holiday**.

To report unauthorized discharge of fireworks or flying lanterns you must file a By-Law Complaint to the By-Law Department in writing. **DO NOT CALL THE FIRE DEPARTMENT** or the OPP.



## Lake Steward's Corner



by *Tim Hagarty, MACA Lake Steward*

Now that we are all nestled in for winter here are a few thoughts to keep you going till spring.

When you last looked at your shoreline, did you smile because it was in or going back to it's natural state? If your answer was not really ... try visiting the CHA (Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners) web site [cohpoa.org](http://cohpoa.org) and take a look around. Great sections on Shoreline, Septic and Lake health. We must ensure that our shorelines are protected to keep our lakes healthy and sustainable. We are fortunate to have "inherited" these beautiful lakes, let's pass them on with pride.



We were pleased to see a number of property owners starting to allow the vegetation at their shorelines to grow. One such owner on Long Lake, commented that they were "surprised by how many Black-Eyed Susan's and other nature flowers appeared and very happy not to have geese wondering on the lawn this past summer." Keep up the good work.

Safe boating is something we will be looking at as spring approaches. There have been numerous complaints and far too many examples of dangerous boating taking place on our lakes. Please send me your suggestions about how to best deal with this problem ([jthagarty@bell.net](mailto:jthagarty@bell.net)). In the mean time should you see anyone operating a boat dangerously you can call the OPP's Non-Emergency number at 1-888-310-1122, as they will investigate the incident.

We have good news on the Invasive Species scene. Nothing to report...all clear, our testing from last year came back negative on all our lakes. This was a great report to receive because in 2016 we found the presence of Zebra Mussel larvae on Miskwabi. As there are invasive species in lakes near us, if you use your boat/canoe/kayak/floaty or swim in any other lake, please make sure that you have cleaned and dried before re-entering our water.

Have a wonderful and safe winter.

## NATURE NOTES: "To Spray or to Swat"

by *Susan Hay*

Nobody enjoys mosquitoes! But if you are tempted to have your property sprayed to rid it of annoying insects, you need to know that the active ingredient in many sprays is toxic to aquatic life, birds and small animals.

Pyrethrin, the main ingredient in many mosquito sprays, is taken from the chrysanthemum flower. You'd think that a chemical derived from nature would be safe for the ecosystem, but not so. Pyrethrins, natural or synthetic, are neurotoxins (i.e., toxic to the central nervous system) which is how they kill insects. If ingested, small children and pets may be harmed.

Pyrethrins are extremely toxic to fish and other aquatic life, bees, waterfowl and insectivorous birds. Because pyrethroids are toxic to all insects, beneficial insects, such as the Praying Mantis are also affected by pyrethroid applications. In some cases, predator insects may be susceptible to a lower dose than the pest, disrupting the predator-prey relationship.

To be sure that you're not harming our ecosystem, please don't spray for insects outside, especially in close proximity to our lakes. Other than swatting mosquitoes around you there are lots of other things you can do to control mosquitoes. For example, ensuring that there is no standing water in things like bird baths or old tires will help prevent mosquitoes from breeding.



Source: <https://www.beyondpesticides.org/assets/media/documents/mosquito/documents/SyntheticPyrethroids.pdf>

## 2019 Year End Financial Update

by Virginia Vranckx, MACA Treasurer



Thanks to all who continue to join and support MACA.

Memberships income this year totalled \$7000.00, plus a \$200.00 donation from Susanne & Andy, Century 21 increased total revenues to \$7200.00

Our expenses this year were \$9310.00, a bit higher than normal, but a lot was accomplished this year which you will read about in other reports. Large expenses, like insurance, had no increase this year. We had a few new projects: the MACA membership sign project cost \$2741.00, the wetlands evaluation project cost \$467.00 and credit card charges to FOCA were \$273.00. As well, we now have to pay for the invasive species water tests which cost \$339.00 this year.

At year end we have a healthy \$4685.00 in the bank.

I do encourage you join MACA by cheque or credit card, whichever is most convenient for you. The link works well and makes banking duties easier when I am away.

Best wishes for a great 2020 cottaging season to all.

## Annual Haliburton Real Estate Update

### Prices Up Slightly

Prices for waterfront property in Haliburton remained steady in 2019. The average sale price for waterfront homes/cottages in Haliburton was \$548,910 – an increase of 1.78% from the previous year.

The total number of sales was 370 – up approximately 9% over 2018 (source: Ontario Lakelands Real Estate Board MLS data - Haliburton County).

The majority of sales (55%) were in the under-\$500K range. 23% of sales were between \$500K and \$700K; 15% were between \$700K and \$1 million; and there were 24 sales over \$1 million, accounting for 6% of units sold.

In eastern Haliburton, both inventory and turnover remained relatively low – of the 370 sales in Haliburton County, just 21 were in Dudley Township, which includes the Miskwabi area, along with most of Drag and Loon lakes.

**Courtesy: Susanne James, Sales Representative & Andy Mosher, Broker, Century 21 Granite Realty Group Ltd. Brokerage**

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

by Phyllis McCulloch, Membership Director



### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It's that time of year to renew your MACA Membership for 2020. Our fee still remains at \$30.00.

You have 3 ways to renew: 1) on line; 2) by sending a cheque; or 3) with cash

**To renew online:** go to the MACA web site ([www.mymaca.net](http://www.mymaca.net)), click on "Membership", and "Join/Renew". Enter the required personal information (name, address, etc.) and credit card information. You will receive an e-mail confirmation that your membership fee has been received. [Note: your bank statement will show that the money was paid to FOCA.]

**To renew cheque:** the cheque should be made payable to MACA and mailed to: 2153 Trapper's Trail Road, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0.

**To renew with cash:** Please DO NOT SEND CASH THROUGH THE MAIL. Cash payments can be made at any of our events, but unfortunately with the timing of events, you will not be eligible for the "Early Bird Draw".

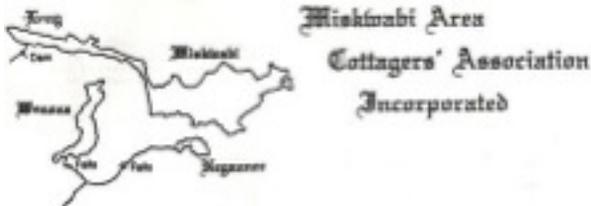
Again this year, completing the Membership Renewal process by February 29th, 2019 (it's a "leap year" you've got one extra day!) will make you eligible for the "Early Bird Draw" which will be held at our Annual Meeting in July.

In May and June we will be getting around and installing the "2020 Sticker" on your MACA Road sign, for those of you who have renewed your membership. If you become a new member, I will be sure to contact you about the installation of your sign.

We do hope that you will renew your membership and that we will see you at our events. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at [Phyllis.mcculloch058@sympatico.ca](mailto:Phyllis.mcculloch058@sympatico.ca).

Looking forward to another great cottage season in Haliburton 2020!

**MACA NEWSLETTER FLASHBACK**



Here's an excerpt from the MACA Spring 2001 Newsletter:

**Keeping It Healthy, Safe and Clean for All**

With the new season starting, it's always a good time to remind everyone of a few important things we all need to do to keep our lakes clean and healthy, such as:

- not using shampoo or soaps of any kind in the lake
- if operating a washing machine or dishwasher, using only phosphate-free detergents
- avoiding the use of fertilizers on lawns and other vegetation.

Additionally, when using public boat launches and other areas, please remember to take away any garbage you may create. In addition to the obvious (it's unsightly, it stinks, and what's the first thing you think when you see a bag of garbage someone has left on the side of the road for the rest of us to deal with?), garbage left behind attracts raccoons and bears, which can become a serious problem.

Also, please remember to be cautious around the loon nests. We are privileged to watch the annual hatching and growth of our young loons - please keep a safe distance away, and reduce the speed of motorboats to avoid any disturbance.

Finally, a copy of the cottagers' code adopted by MACA last year is attached for new members or anyone who may have misplaced theirs. This code serves as a guideline for maintaining and protecting both our ecological and social environment.

**Cottage Cook's Corner**

*Favourite Recipes Shared by MACA Members*



**Easy Apple Cake**

*Contributed by: Kathryn Hunsberger*

**Ingredients:**

Topping

1/3 cup	sugar	75 ml
1 1/2 tsp	cinnamon	7 ml

Cake

2 cups	sugar	500 ml
1 cup	vegetable oil	250 ml
4	eggs	
1/2 cup	orange or apple juice	125 ml
1 tbsp	vanilla	15 ml
3 cups	all-purpose flour	750 ml
1 tbsp	baking powder	15 ml
1/2 tsp	salt	2 ml
5 medium apples (peeled, cored and chopped)		

Use tart apples such as Granny Smiths for best flavour

**Directions:**

Moist and delicious, with a hint of spice. This is an ideal cottage cake – it makes a large pan, needs no icing, and keeps well. It's versatile too: serve as a dessert, with tea or coffee or at breakfast.

1. Combine sugar and cinnamon for topping; set aside.
2. Beat first 5 cake ingredients in large bowl.
3. Combine flour, baking powder, and salt. Stir into egg mixture, mixing until smooth. Spread half of batter in greased 9" x 13" (23 cm x 33 cm) cake pan. Arrange apples over top. Sprinkle half of topping mixture over apples. Spread remaining batter over top. Sprinkle with remaining topping.
4. Bake at 350 degrees F (180 degrees C) for 50-60 mins, or until cake springs back when lightly touched. Serve warm or cool.

Makes about 16 servings.

Source: Cottage Life's Summer Weekend Cookbook, by J Rodmell