



MISKWABI AREA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

SERVING RESIDENTS AND COTTAGERS ON LONG, NEGAUNEE, WENONA AND MISKWABI LAKES
www.mymaca.net

WINTER 2013 NEWSLETTER



December 27, 2012, the evening Miskwabi Lake froze

Best wishes to everyone on our lakes for a wonderful 2013!

A special welcome to the folks on the north shore of Miskwabi Lake as they join MACA. It involved a number of years' work by many dedicated members of both associations to complete the details of the amalgamation. This is a case of win-win for both associations and all members. Again a warm welcome!

As of January 1, 2013 our new name – Miskwabi Area Community Association – is official. The new name recognizes the fact that we are now a diverse community of people who cottage, work or are retired in Haliburton.

Winter Haliburton Events

Haliburton Highlands Dogsled Derby

Jan. 19 & 20 at Pinestone Resort – 11th Annual Derby attracts up to 80 mushers and their teams. Races run all day Saturday and 9-3 on Sunday. Admission is free. www.haliburtondogsledderby.com

Canadian Pond Hockey Championships

Taking place at Head Lake and Pinestone Resort and attracting hundreds of teams from Canada and the U.S. on Jan.25-27 and February 1-3.

Go to www.canadapondhockey.ca for details.

Haliburton Frost Festival

February 16 at Haliburton's Head Lake Park. Enjoy a day of activities to celebrate Family Day Weekend.

Wildlife

Rumours that the deer have all disappeared seem to be exaggerated. Below is a fall photo taken by Bill Bunn of an 8-point buck he spotted swimming across the east end of Miskwabi. Others have confirmed multiple deer sightings.



One creature there appears to be no shortage of, based on sightings and tracks in the snow is the Wild Turkey – what a comeback!

Ice Safety

The lakes froze late this year and with fluctuating temperatures it is important to be cautious around any lake.

Ice safety tips from the Lifesaving Society:

Minimum: 10 cm. (4 in.) for walking on ice
12 cm. (5 in) for snowmobiling

Avoid: Slushy ice
Ice on or near moving water, currents
Layered or rotten ice caused by sudden temperature changes
Pressure ridges due to wind or current can weaken ice

Note that ice thickness on lakes can vary due to factors like currents, depth, and snow cover.

Miskwabi Area Watershed Plan

Committee members spent the summer and early fall collecting the property owners surveys. We are pleased to say that over 75% of lakefront surveys were returned and close to 70% overall. As far as we can determine our return rate, when compared to other lake plans, is close to the very top, if not the top. We thank all those who participated by completing and returning their survey.

The data is currently being catalogued and tabulated.

The results will be made available when completed and will be key to the development of the Lake Plan.

Fire Safety

Over the years on our lakes a number of cottages have been destroyed by fire. Unfortunately, last summer on Wenona Lake a fire caused the loss of the William's cottage and their family dog. There were only minor injuries to family members and they recovered nicely. Thankfully, the fast actions of the owners, neighbours and the Dysart et al Volunteer Fire Department kept the fire from spreading. We are happy to say that the Williams have rebuilt.

Some safety reminders:

- Obey posted burning regulations and times
- Never leave a burning fire unattended
- Store flammable materials safely
- Always have working smoke detectors
- Keep fire extinguishers handy as well as other equipment to combat fires (water buckets, shovels, etc.)
- Remove flammable debris from around your cottage
- Keep your BBQ a safe distance from buildings

Do your children and grandchildren know what to do in the event of a fire? Develop and practice a fire exit drill. Many of our property buildings are dry and can burn rapidly. If a fire occurs, there is no time to delay!

For their actions in last summer's fire, the Williams' grandchildren, Hailey and Jaxson Mills, received the Young Heroes Award from the Niagara Region Children's Safety Village where they had participated in a Fire Safety programme. They called 911 when the fire broke out and with their grandparents escaped to the predetermined safe place.

Congratulations to these heroes!!

MACA Events for 2013

Spring Road Cleanup	Sunday, May 19
MACA AGM	Saturday, July 6
Golf Tournament	Saturday, July 13
Wine & Cheese Party	Saturday, August 24

A full calendar of events page will be included in the Spring Newsletter.

Note: We are still looking for a volunteer to host the Wine & Cheese party. Please email mfgiza@gmail.com or call Mike at 705-457-9875 if you are interested in hosting.

Municipal Cottage Kit for Garbage Disposal

Again in 2013, Dysart et al has available for purchase cottage kits which you can leave for your guests or renters. Instead of possible losing your landfill card, leaving a cottage kit for others is simple, convenient and affordable. The kit contains various types and sizes of garbage bags; a welcome letter outlining the Dysart waste management programme; a map showing landfill sites, hours of operation; and a one-time landfill pass.

The Cottage Kits are available at the municipal office or at the dump. Cost is \$3.00 each or 10 for \$25.00.

Winter Parking

The annual reminder that overnight parking is not permitted on any road to facilitate snow removal. Owners of vehicles may be fined \$200 and risk removal of the vehicle.

DID YOU KNOW?

Daphnia

Daphnia are planktonic crustaceans that are an important part of the food chain in Haliburton lakes. They feed on algae and in turn are fed upon by small fish. Daphnia are in severe decline in many lakes due to low calcium levels – an element they require in building their protective shells. During the worst years of acid rain, calcium was heavily leached from soils into lakes and levels peaked. As the calcium was carried down through the watershed a dearth of the element was left in lakes. Natural replenishment is very slow and many lakes have dangerously low levels.

Once a lake level reaches 1.4 milligrams per litre, Daphnia will die. A reading of tests in some Haliburton lakes shows the threat is real: e.g. Koshlong 1.9, Redstone 2.1, and Kennisis 1.7.

Our lakes are among a small number that are naturally resilient due to surrounding areas of uplifted metamorphic rock including slate, shale, and sandstone with naturally occurring calcium, e.g. Long 13.3, Miskwabi 13.9, Negaunee 21.4, and Wenona 13.9.

Figure 1: actual size .2 - 3 mm



Haliburton Real Estate Update

2012 was another busy year for cottage real estate in Haliburton.

As of December 1 there were 220 waterfront cottage sales in the Haliburton district. This is in line with last year, when there were 216 sales in the same period. Average sale price was \$393,000, up 8.6% from the previous year, attributed mostly to growth in high-end sales. Average list to sale ratio was 95.4%.

At the same time, the number of cottages on the market remains very high, up for the 4th year in a row. As a result, average time on the market was 76 days, up slightly from 2011.

For more detailed info, visit www.futurecottage.com.

2013 Membership to Miskwabi Area Community Association (MACA)

It's that time of year for membership renewals and new members. This newsletter was sent to current members and most property owners on Long, Negaunee, Wenona and Miskwabi Lakes.

Please consider joining MACA if you are not currently 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 & Cheese Party, which in itself is worth the membership fee.

Membership is only \$30.00.

The membership form is on Page 5.

Please cut it out, complete it and return it today.

Thanks for your support!

MACA T-Shirts, Hats, Sweatshirts

You love your MACA T-shirt, so now you can be even more MACA proud and order an embroidered logo'd sweatshirt, a hat or two. Oh, and you can even order another T-shirt in a different colour if you wish! Those who saw the samples at the Wine & Cheese party last August can attest to the high quality of the sweatshirts and hats which are the same brand as Cottage Life sells.

The order form is on the back of the MACA membership form (Page 6).

Shoreline Tree Preservation



Late last summer the County of Haliburton passed a tree preservation by-law in order to minimize the destruction of trees within 30 metres of a watercourse. The goal is to protect trees that are essential for healthy water resources and a natural environment. The by-law governs the removal or injuring of all trees with a diameter of 10 cms. or more, measured 1.37 metres from the ground.

Some exceptions that are allowed under the by-law:

- Hazard tree removal
- Removal of dead, dangerous, diseased or severely injured trees or stumps
- Removal of a tree within 5 metres of a dwelling or septic system
- Emergency work removal

The by-law will be enforced by designated officers appointed by the County. These officers are responsible for performing inspections, issuing orders, and laying charges as required.

Full details of By-Law 3505 can be obtained at the County offices in Minden (Ph) 705-286-1333 or www.haliburtoncounty.ca

Fireworks

The question of the use of fireworks in Haliburton has become a hot topic in the past few years. As a community association we need to know the opinions of our members. Please complete the brief survey on the back of the Membership Form (Page 6)

Lost and Found

Two dock pads (10X12 and 10X14) were drifting on the north side of Miskwabi and are now frozen in ice. If they are yours please call Rick at 705-457-4638.

High Speed Internet Service

As an update, Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) was developed by the Eastern Ontario Warden's Caucus to improve high-speed Internet access across the region.

Two types of service are being made available:

1. Satellite – available from Xplornet.
2. Terrestrial -

a. DSL Internet Access (digital subscriber line): This is high-speed Internet using fibre-optic cables and existing copper telephone lines to your property. It uses a frequency that does not interrupt voice conversations.

b. Wireless Internet Access: This option uses a radio frequency to transmit a broadband Internet signal from a wireless tower.

Recently, Bell Canada has put up notices indicating that they have completed installing fibre cables to transfer stations on Trapper's Trail Road. This means that DSL Internet Access (2a above) is now available to most property owners on Trapper's Trail Rd., Wenona Lake Road and their adjacent side roads.

Full service details can be obtained by contacting Bell Canada at 1-888-682-9299, referring to technician # B52195.

According to the EORN Service Locator (www.eorn.ca) all property owners on our lakes will have service available by this summer.

2012 MACA Giving and Receiving

Donations:

Haliburton Hospital Foundation	\$200
Haliburton Food Bank	\$75
SIRCH (in memory of B. Maxwell)	\$75

Receipts:

Century XXI (A. Mosher/S. James)	\$300
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MISKWABI AREA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

2013 Membership Fees: \$30.00
Membership Term: January to December 2013

NEW MEMBER **RENEWAL**

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

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

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

LAKE PHONE NO: _____

At our July 2012 Annual Meeting some members indicated that they would like the opportunity to receive newsletters and notices electronically. Please indicate how you would like to receive your newsletter:

- We would like to receive newsletters and notices electronically.
- Please send newsletters and notices to us by mail but keep our e-mail address on record.

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

(We will send you a quick e-mail in April/May as we set up our distribution list.)

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

Yes Not at this time

To assist with "Event Planning" please indicate the following information:

Number of Children at this location: Ages 1 – 12 _____ Ages 13 and up _____

Do you have a business, skill or talent that may be of use to MACA members? Please indicate below. Sometimes we need advice or are looking for new "things" to offer our membership. (Remember, MACA does not advertise or support any solicitation of business.)

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUE PAYABLE TO: MISKWABI AREA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC. (MACA)
and mail with this page (and survey & order form on reverse) to:

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

Please keep us informed of any changes to your information.
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.

FIREWORKS SURVEY

Should the public be restricted in the use of fireworks? YES NO

If yes, answer the following questions:

- | | | |
|---|-----|----|
| 1. Should fireworks be banned completely? | YES | NO |
| 2. Should fireworks be used only at Municipal or County sponsored events? | YES | NO |
| 3. Should the public be allowed to use fireworks on limited occasions: | | |
| Victoria Day to 11 p.m. | YES | NO |
| Canada Day to 11 p.m. | YES | NO |
| New Year’s Eve to 1 a.m. Jan. 1 | YES | NO |
| Other, specify the occasion _____ | | |

Comments: _____

T-SHIRT, HAT AND SWEATSHIRT ORDER FORM

Please Circle. If ordering more than one indicate quantity below size.

T-Shirts: \$10.00 ea. Screen printed MACA logo

Men’s Unisex

Red Chocolate Sand S M L XL 2X 3X Quantity: _____

Women’s

Red Chocolate Yellow S M L XL 2X 3X Quantity: _____

Youth

Red Chocolate Sand XS S M L XL Quantity: _____

Hooded Sweatshirt: \$35.00 ea. Embroidered MACA logo Unisex (sizes are men’s)

Red Brown Navy Charcoal XS S M L XL 2X 3X Navy only
 Quantity: _____

¼ Zip Polo Sweatshirt: \$33.00 ea Embroidered MACA logo Unisex (sizes are men’s)

Red Navy Charcoal XS S M L XL 2X
 Quantity: _____

Baseball hat: one size fits most \$10.00 Note logo might just be the MACA banner on bottom of logo – no loon

Red Chocolate Stone Quantity: _____

Total Cheque amount _____ **(no tax required)** **Make payable to MACA.**

NATURE NOTES

WINTER NIGHT SKY

The universe is a fascinating spectacle with its estimated billions of galaxies and trillions of stars. On a clear night about two thousand stars are visible to the naked eye. During the winter months the viewing is particularly good as the low humidity results in greater sky clarity. The following is a brief introduction to the winter sky in the Northern Hemisphere. Enjoy the Haliburton winter nights. If you have a pair of binoculars, all the better.

Constellations

When held above your head, this chart represents the northern winter sky. The stars on the chart are grouped into constellations. Some names were given to groups of stars as early as 4000BC by people inhabiting the Euphrates Valley and later expanded in ancient Greece. During the 2nd Century A.D. the astronomer Ptolemy cataloged about 1022 stars in 48 constellations.



Orion's Belt

In orientating oneself in the winter sky the best constellation is Orion, the hunter from Greek mythology, with more bright stars than any other. Orion's three belt stars are very prominent and point northwest to reddish Aldebaran in the constellation of Taurus, the bull; and southwest to Sirius (the brightest star in the sky) in Canis Major, the large dog.

The Big Dipper is the best known celestial landmark in the Northern Hemisphere. During the winter it appears far in the northern sky with the Little Dipper. Both of these are asterisms and not constellations: the Big Dipper is a clipped version of Ursa Major (the Big Bear) and the Little Dipper is a part of Ursa Minor (the Little Bear).

As well as their prominence and beauty, they are significant because of the star Polaris at the end of the handle of the Little Dipper. It is unique in that it is almost directly over the Earth's North Pole and does not change position in the night sky. Historically, over the centuries Polaris has been an important navigational tool.



Other Winter Night Sky Wonders

The Milky Way Galaxy is where our sun is located. It is disk-shaped and Earth is about halfway down one side. This is why as we look through the plane of the galaxy we see so much dust and gas – thus the name the Milky Way. In the winter sky it runs in a band from southeast to northwest.

The Andromeda Galaxy (M31)



This galaxy is located in the constellation of the same name. It is our closest galactic neighbor and is a spiral galaxy as well. Even though our neighbor, it is about the furthest object from the Earth that can be seen with the naked eye, a distance of 2.5 million light years.

A light year is the distance light travels in a year at the rate of 300,000 km./sec.; so a light year is nearly 10,000,000,000 km. On the sky chart, M31 is located near Mirach in the Andromeda constellation.

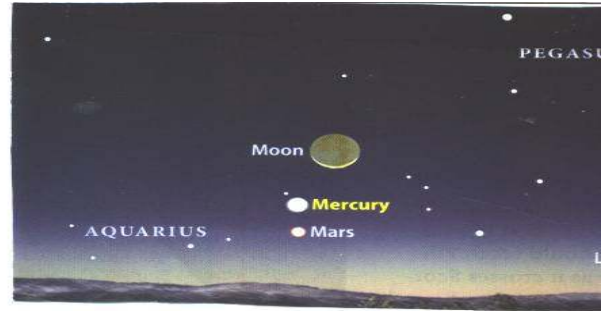


Pleiades is called an open cluster of stars that are relatively close together. At only about 100 million years old, they are considered young on a cosmic scale, especially if you consider that the Canadian Shield in Haliburton is over 1 billion years old. In Greek mythology the brightest of the cluster stars are known as the Seven Sisters and are pursued by Orion. In Japan, Pleiades is called Subaru (meaning unite) and is portrayed by 6 stars as in the Subaru car symbol. The Sisters are located about 10° (outstretched fist) west of Aldebaran beside the constellation of Taurus. With binoculars Pleiades can be seen in some detail.

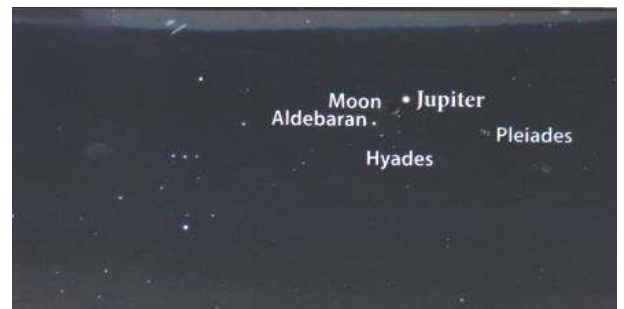
International Space Station (ISS) makes a number of passes through the winter sky. If we have read the chart properly, two of the best times to view it are:
January 31 from 7:23 – 7:25 p.m.: starting in the southwest horizon at the west end of the Eridanus constellation and moving to the northeast part of the west side of Taurus.
March 2 from 7:06 – 7:09 p.m.: starting just above the northwest horizon on Andromeda and moving southwest just above the horizon below Eridanus.
The current space station crew is scheduled to be in orbit until May 2013. There are six astronauts on board: 2 Americans; 3 Russians; and 1 Canadian, Chris Hatfield, who becomes ISS Commander in March.

Conjunctions of the Moon and Planets

On February 11, just after sunset the Moon, Mercury and Mars will line up low in the western sky



On March 16, after sunset, above the western horizon, Jupiter appears just above the waning Moon between Aldebaran and the Seven Sisters (Pleiades).



Brightness – Colour – Distance

Brightness of an object is related to its distance from Earth, size and energy output. For example, Sirius in Canis Major (the brightest star of all) is only 8.6 light years away while Rigel, in Orion, 1500 times more powerful than Sirius, appears dimmer in the sky because it is 773 light years away.

Colour is a good indication of the heat of a star. A hotter star emits the largest portion of its energy at shorter wavelengths. In the visible spectrum this can be represented as follows:

HOTTEST → → → → → → → → → → COOLEST

Blue – White – Yellow – Orange – Red
Pleiades Capella Aldebaran

Stars tend to twinkle as they release energy whereas planets glow as they reflect the light of our Sun.

Distance in the known universe stretches far beyond the imagination: light travels at 300,000 km/sec.

The Sun is 150 million kms. away from Earth on average. For light, 8.3 minutes.

Our galaxy, the Milky Way, is about 150 light years wide, i.e. 9,460,800,000 kms.

The nearest galaxy, Andromeda, is 2.5 million light years from us, i.e. 1,576,800,000,000 kms.

There are billion of galaxies in the Universe which are currently observable to about 16 billion light years. The kilometres won't fit on the page!

Here's to cloudless skies on viewing nights!

Credit to: Royal Astronomical Society of Canada; Sky News Magazine; Astronomy Magazine; Peterson Guide to the Stars and Planets; Firefly Planisphere