

## History of MACO

After the Weir Commission examined and reported on municipal taxation in 1982, a small group of cottage owners were particularly concerned that recreational property owners were assigned an unfair tax load.

These cottagers recognized that owners and lessees (leases) of recreational properties in Manitoba had no unified means of voicing their concerns to government – especially on the subject of taxation.

Without organized representation, there was little chance to voice any strong objections.

In late 1991, an initial meeting of 15 cottage associations was organized representing about 2,300 cottage properties.

Of major concern was the height annual cost of school taxes. Children of seasonal residents were unable to attend school in the division where the cottage was located, and there is no provision for a voice through a vote for trustee or representation on school boards.

Consensus was reached: an association was needed to promote the best interests of all recreational property owners, and so MACO was born!

MACO has grown and is working for many cottage associations representing as many as 5,000 cottage properties as well as the many recreational property owners in currently unorganized cottage areas.

## Affiliates

FBCCOA – British Columbia

ASVA – Alberta

PARCS – Saskatchewan

FOCA – Ontario

CPEI - Prince Edward Island

- The Coalition for Safer Waters
- Living by Water Project

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# MACO

## Manitoba

## Association of

## Cottage

## Owners



“MACO is to promote and advance the common interests of cottage owners in areas throughout Manitoba”

## What is MACO?

...*The Manitoba Association of Cottage Owners* is an umbrella association of cottage, beach and ratepayers' groups in Manitoba. It is an incorporated, non-profit association run entirely by volunteers.

## What is MACO's Goal?

To promote and advance the common interests of ratepayers in cottaging areas throughout Manitoba, through lobbying government to change unfair or discriminatory policies.

## How does MACO function?

Our Annual General meeting is held each October with guests who speak on topics of current interest.

- The membership provides input and direction
- Member associations elect a Board of Directors who work to achieve the members' goals and objectives
  - Reports on activities and progress are distributed regularly through newsletters and [www.macoman.com](http://www.macoman.com)
  - Member associations pay a nominal annual fee to cover operating costs.

## Current Issues

*Need for increasing public awareness of MACO*

*Membership Building*

*Seeking general revenue funding of education*

*Seeking Disaster Financial Assistance for recreational property owners*

*Working to improve safety and security – encouraging Cottage Watch and other public alert programs*

*Developing accountability in the use and appreciation of the environment*

*Availability of low cost liability insurance for MACO members*

*Lobbying to improve the quality of waterways*

*Lobbying to improve the quality of drinking water*

*Protection and preservation of sensitive aquifers*

*Water levels in Lake Manitoba and Lake Winnipeg*

## MACO's Objectives

**To establish a strong, unified voice for ratepayers in cottage areas:**

- by organizing forums where important issues can be discussed
- by determining and documenting concerns and solution options
- by encouraging organization and consensus building

**To raise government and public awareness of our joint interests:**

- by establishing and maintaining working relationships with government and private agencies
- by communicating important issues and concerns
- by identifying the economic input and support we provide in rural Manitoba
- To assist members association find solutions for local issues by providing support and resources.