

Cottagers' Newsletter

Compiled and
Edited by
Jane Seaton

April 2011 Issue

The President's Corner

The saying "nothing ever stays the same" seems appropriate for talking about Lake Louise this spring. Indeed, the passing of an unprecedented number of current and former cottagers in the last 1 ½ years, the unusual amount of cottages for sale, and the presence of invasive species in our lake all have given us pause for thought when comparing Lake Louise now with years past. Indeed, Lake Louise is changing. Some may choose to look at change as threatening; I believe, however, that change presents us with opportunity and challenge. As cottage ownership changes, we have the opportunity to welcome new cottagers with open arms and encourage them to embrace our community. Our challenge is to maintain cottager commitment to Lake Louise as a caring community that lives and breathes its mission and values—and not just slowly evolve into another typical lake environment. We've got a special thing going here, and we need to keep it!

With the improved boat launch, we also have an unprecedented number of boats entering our waters as compared to past years. As you well know, boats from outside our lake can bring unwanted species into our waters, oversize boats can churn up our lake bottom, and unwelcome flotsam can appear. In addition, cottager behavior and use of the water can affect the quality of our lake. Protecting our lake environment is of paramount importance. While we are not "in charge" of our lake water (the DNR controls the water and the access to it—LLCC only owns the shoreline and surrounding property), we have the opportunity to monitor its quality and educate ourselves about its care. Obviously, our challenge is to preserve our lake to the best of our ability. While the loss of all cottagers affects us, I would be remiss if I did not mention how much we will miss Don Renton's commitment to our lake environment. Not only did Don freely contribute his expertise to monitoring our lake, but also a little known fact is that at times he paid for its monitoring out of his own pocket.

Last summer your Cottagers' Council executive committee met to redesign its definition and structure to better capture the opportunities that present themselves as well as meet the challenges that we face. We presented our draft at the August Cottagers' Council meeting and received initial input. Part of that redesign includes forming a relationship committee (*promoting living together in harmony with each other*) and an environment committee (*promoting living together in harmony with the environment*) to attend to the challenges discussed in the previous paragraphs. That draft has been posted on the Cottagers' Council website for those who didn't get a chance to see it. At our June meeting we will call for a vote of approval so we can move ahead with forming those committees.

Summer will be here before we know it. Looking forward to seeing all of again for another great Lake Louise summer!

-Kathy Gilbert, Cottagers' Council President

IN MEMORIAM

(Fall/Winter 2010-2011)

Al Gunkler	Horner Island
Margaret Kane	Island Trail
Mary Marshall	Pioneer Trail
Orville McKay	Pioneer Trail
Don Renton	Pioneer Trail
Pauline Rupe	Cove Point
Mary Ryckman	Pioneer Trail
Kayo Sharp	Pioneer Trail



Cottagers' Council News:

FIRST MEETING! This year on **Saturday, June 25**, we will combine the **Cottager Potluck** with our first **Cottagers' Council meeting**. The potluck begins at 5:30, and we will begin the Cottagers' Council meeting around 7 PM. Please come! If you can't make the potluck, please come to the meeting. Our speaker will be Vaughn Maatman, giving a "State of the Lake" presentation. This is your chance to get information as well as your questions answered. The Cottager Potluck is a great opportunity to get to know your cottage neighbors, so I "challenge" you to come and make some new lake friends! Please bring a salad, vegetable, or main course and your place settings. Deb Van Til, LLCC's Chef, will be making dessert for all of us (and can she cook!) that we will serve right before the meeting. If cooking is not your thing or you have a busy schedule, just pick something up at the store to share! **The Lake Louise Store will be open that evening to purchase the latest Lake Louise fashions for summer 2011.

DUMPSTERS will be available in the meadow bordering Pioneer Trail for summer clean-up from **June 25th to July 4th**. Kirk Halsted, Cottagers' Council vice-president, will be handling this project and will be communicating with you regarding what materials are appropriate for putting in the dumpsters.

OTHER COTTAGERS' COUNCIL DATES to save include the **Town Hall meeting** on **Wednesday evening, July 20**, and the **Cottagers' Council final meeting** on **Saturday morning, August 13th**. The August meeting will address an issue that many of you have asked to hear more about: cottage leases and how one passes a cottage lease from one generation to the next. No matter what your age or what your plans are for passing on a lease, this meeting will contain important information for you.

--Kathy Gilbert, Cottagers' Council President



Dog Sled Races at Lake Louise, Feb. 2011

L²+W³=FUN!

**Lake Louise and a Water Wonderland Weekend
add up to FUN!**

Come one, come all to celebrate the lake and each other during the weekend of July 8-10

Note from Chappy Marvin: I would like to thank those volunteers who gave so freely of their time and talents in helping to erect the Halsted Lodge last summer. It was "Yodar Critch" who said, "Many hands make light work." It was never truer than last summer. *Many thanks to Dave Gladstone, Tom Gschwind, Kirk Halsted, Ted Halsted, Larry Isakson, Chappy Marvin, Bob May, Doug McDonald, Liz Sabin, Tom Sabin, Hal Seaton, Tom Sharp, Doug Vogel, Travis Smith, Travis Holborn, Charlie Holborn, Chelsea Ashcraft, Alissa Frederickson, Mason Methodist Work Group, Mary Ann Halsted's Work Camp.* Word has it from "Yodar" that your services will be needed again next summer, so don't put away your tools.

Opening Day for Trout Season—April 30:

Twenty-one thousand splake (7 1/2 inches) were planted in the lake last year. A splake is a hybrid species of trout created by crossing a male brook (speckled) trout with a female lake trout. They grow fast and should be about 14 inches in length by this summer. Splake have been planted in the lake annually since 2001, so there should be some big fish hiding down deep. Dust off your rods and reels and go get them!

--John Marshall, Pioneer Trail

A Lake Louise “fish” story:

My grandson stayed with me for a week in 2010. We had a few rock throwing incidents. While sitting and reading on the beach, I heard a thunk, and without looking up, said “...stop throwing rocks!” His response was, “I didn’t, an eagle dropped a fish on the dock.” Yeah, right. He said, “Grandpa, I’ll show you.” And he did, pointing to a 9” splake in the water next to the dock. An eagle had the fish in its talons, and gulls tried to take it away, so the eagle dropped the fish, to get away – a true fish tale.

[*Yeah—right!* JS]

--Tom Gschwind, Pioneer Trail

Water Monitoring—June/August 2010:

Seven things are checked as a part of the water monitoring: phosphorus content, the water level, water clarity, water temperature, air temperature, milfoil spread, and the algae content of the water from a bi-weekly water sample. All of the data are sent to the Tip of the Mitt Water Shed Council and the coordinator compiles data on Lake Louise and many other small northern Michigan lakes for a report through the University of Michigan. The high mark for lake water levels occurred in 1967, and all water level measurements are compared to that year. Water levels are measured from one of the yellow steel beams on the island bridge. The June 2010 level was 10” below the ‘67 mark, and the Aug. level was 16” below. Imagine where the water would be on your beach if it ever came back up to the ‘67 levels. Algae growth decreases water clarity as summer progresses, and water clarity readings ranged from 29’ to 21’ at the end of last summer. The water temperature in 2010 was actually colder than the air (normal); in 2009 (a cold summer), the water nearly every week was warmer than the air. Water temp. in June was 72, and reached a high of 78 in July before dropping back to 73 by Aug. 27.

Milfoil spread. The Milfoil in the lake is found in 6 patches in the western end of the lake. It probably was brought to the lake on a boat trailer or propeller. The beetles that were planted in the largest patch at the boat launch area seem to be doing their job, as that patch has shrunk in size. As bits of milfoil are broken off by boat propellers, float away, and root elsewhere on the lake the beetles naturally migrate to those other patches. The Aug. sampling by consulting firm (arranged by Don Renton) showed that the beetles are doing their job, and no additional steps, other than monitoring, was recommended at that time. *If anyone would like to ride along on a monitoring trip (about an hr. on Fri./noon), call me at cabin 38 (549-2451). I would be glad for the company and help.* TomGschwind

From the Executive Director's Desk...

Attendance at Lake Louise sponsored camps was up by 6% and retreat revenues grew by 22% in 2010. More than a dozen new retreat groups found a home at Lake Louise and many existing retreat groups increased in size. Lake Louise is positioning itself as the destination for small-to-medium sized groups, as the average retreat size has declined from a generation ago. As retreat groups get smaller, we are also positioning ourselves as the place that can host more than one retreat at a time. While United Methodist church members continue to outnumber all other camp and retreat attendees, Lake Louise has begun to attract a more ecumenical audience from both Protestant and Catholic parishes, as well as a diversity of other groups that appreciate the hospitality we can extend. It is our goal to increase both camp and retreat attendance by 10% in 2011.

Halsted Lodge was opened to its first retreat attendees in February. Halsted was designed to function year-round, as a small group retreat facility September through May, and as a replacement for two of our camper cabins June through August. At its November meeting, Lake Louise Trustees gave the green light to two construction projects for 2011. McKay Lodge, similar to Halsted, will be built across Kresge Green, with construction to begin April 1. Clearing and site preparation has also begun for Maryanna's Place, a playground and fitness area for younger children and their parents. Along with Halsted, both of these projects will help Lake Louise broaden its ministry year-round to younger children and families.



There are currently nine cottages and lease interests for sale around Lake Louise. The banking and lending crisis that triggered the recession the last two years and the subsequent adoption of new banking regulations in the summer of 2010, along with Michigan's high foreclosure rate and poor rating in the mortgages market, have all come together to make financing sales involving a lease interest very challenging in this new regulatory environment. Acceptable financing practices for sales involving lease interests are still being worked out under the new regulations. We are currently in conversation with another lease interest association (BayView) and local banks to address financing challenges.

Friday – Sunday, July 8-10 will be Community Weekend - L² + W³. The weekend will begin with our community social gathering at 6 pm at the Charlevoix County park. On Saturday, July 9, our annual Run n' Walk will start at 9 am from the athletic fields at the camp, followed by a choral concert by the Choir Camp at 10 am in the Horner Center. At noon, there will be a picnic luncheon in the center of camp, along with a tour of the new Halsted Lodge. At 1:30 pm Bryce Metcalf, Lake Louise's consulting forester will give a presentation in the Horner Center on Lake Louise's 10-Year Forest Stewardship Plan and forestry practices on Lake Louise property, followed by a field trip to recent timber harvest sites. Saturday afternoon will close with our annual Boat Parade around the Lake. Sunday morning July 10, worship will be held outdoors at 10:30 am at the Firebowl on the lake's edge, and L² + W³/Community Weekend will conclude Sunday afternoon with our annual Sailing Regatta at 3 pm. Put these dates and times on your calendar. Details will be forthcoming as the summer approaches.

Vaughn Maatman, Executive Director, LLCC, Camp & Retreat Center

Do you live on the wrong side of the lake... meaning you can't get broadband?

More of us have found our lives interwoven with the internet and not having a fast connection causes difficulties. Increasingly, we need to stay in contact with work, or family traveling, or even to keep up hobbies. Most of us on the north side of the lake get no encouragement from CenturyLink about DSL via our phone service any time soon and reception by satellite is still "iffy" and expensive.

So a quick survey. For those of you who have smartphones and are able to get full service (that means data, e-mail, phone) inside your cottage, I would like to know who your carrier is. Let me know your name, location on the lake, and carrier (sprint, att, verizon, etc) and I'll send out the results. Send to wtmate@earthlink.net

Why do you ask, Bill? Because Virgin Mobile (who uses Sprint), and Verizon both have hotspot cells allowing you to have a WiFi wireless network in your cottage for 5 devices. In the case of Virgin Mobile, for example, the cell costs \$150, works with both Windows and OS, and costs \$50 per month for unlimited use. You pre-pay for the months you want to use it. Verizon's costs more and only works with Windows, and ATT only has a 2-year contract for such a device.

Broadband is close, but we need to know if we can get the service and how your smartphone functions at the lake is the quick answer. I look forward to hearing from you.
--Bill Mate, Delta Plat

Regulations for Residential Gas Tanks

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality sets standards and regulations for any residential gas tank on a lake. Residential gas tanks on a lake must be:

- 50 feet from surface water or wetland
- 50 feet from any private water well
- 40 feet from any building or adjacent property line
- 25 feet from a public way (like a LLCC roadway) or source of ignition
- 50 feet from liquid propane gas tanks

Additionally, the tank must be solidly supported by concrete blocks or other type of solid support. If you currently have a gas tank on your property, be sure it meets these specifications. If not, it will need to be moved or removed.

Community Happenings

A note from Jeanne: It's been fun to share our winter experiences these past years. This year has been an incredibly quiet winter with very little exciting or unusual birds, creatures or adventures. The loss of so many of our precious cottagers this past year has left a deep sadness in my soul, but we know they are still a part of our Lake Louise Community. Right now it's in the 30's, snowing lightly and the ice is beginning to moan pitifully. By the time you (all) arrive however, everything will be green and gorgeous!

Email message sent from Dave Gladstone: I have worked to create a distribution list to use for times when the extended Lake Louise community needs to be notified of concerns within our fellowship. I hope you will encourage others to be a part of this communication link. This is one of the ways that we seek to make community a very real experience. Let me know if you wish to be removed for any reason. Contact me at haprock@aol.com.

**Lake Louise Christian Community,
Camp, & Retreat Center**

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«AddressBlock»

Want to be better informed? Join the Cottagers' Council email list! Cottagers' Council currently has over 160 people on its email list. If you are not currently on the Cottagers' Council email list and would like to be, please send an email to cottagerscouncil@lakelouisecommunity.org to request that your name be added. All Cottagers' Council emails are blind copied so that no one else can see your email address. Emails sent from Cottagers' Council give cottagers news of cottager events, information about issues pertaining to the lake, and Board of Trustees reports.



Congratulations to Tom Crowe, LLCC Assistant Director, and Angela Sewell, on their engagement this past winter.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- April 30: Trout season opens
- May 13-16: Boyne City Morel Festival
- June 17: Board of Trustees
- June 25: Cottager Potluck & Council Meeting
- June 25-July 4: Community Dumpster
- July 8-10: Community Weekend - L² + W³
- July 20: Town Hall Meeting
- August 6: LLCC Annual Golf Scramble
- August 12: Board of Trustees
- August 13: Cottager Council Meeting