

# LAKE LOUISE NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2012

## *From the ED's Window*

As you read this I am in transition to my new position as the Executive Director of the Land Conservancy of West Michigan. It has been an exciting (almost) five years at Lake Louise. My work ethic has always included having fun doing meaningful work – and we have! As you have heard me say more than once, the vitality of our ministry and community is dependent on a healthy mutual relationship. That vitality has grown in the last five years because that relationship has grown. It has been my great, good fortune to labor beside you for a time in this portion of God's vineyard. Thank you.

Our Community at Lake Louise has always been broad and deep - trustees, cottagers, staff, donors, campers (and camper alumni) and retreaters, deans, counselors and volunteers – and what has been done, we have done together because of your commitment to this community and ministry. Camp registrations have been up five summers in a row. (Lake Louise is the only camp of any kind in this state to accomplish that in this economy.) Retreats have been up four years running. We renovated our retreat center, added staff, built two new lodges, made improvements to operations in every area, and we did all of that without debt of any kind. Contributions from generous donors helped us make some of the most visible changes. Most importantly, we have continued to be a place of spiritual renewal, where young people make their first faith commitment, where children sing songs of praise, and where adults are equipped as knowledgeable and responsible disciples in a modern world.

As with all leadership transitions, this is an opportunity for reassessment, course corrections and defining next steps. Last Saturday the Trustees put the finishing touches on a new Ministry Plan for the next 3-5 years based on what we have learned in the last five years and the opportunities that have presented themselves. Take a look at it ([www.lakelouisecommunity.org](http://www.lakelouisecommunity.org)) and dare to dream and get excited about Lake Louise's next five years. I urge your continued generosity in support of this ministry. Support our Trustees, too, as they search for a new Executive Director and plan the next steps you will take together in accomplishing Lake Louise's mission to "offer an environment and provide leadership for opportunities promoting healthy relationships, personal wholeness and spiritual well-being."

David Strong, one of our cottagers, has said that Lake Louise is a place where the "veil is thin," where our present experience gives us a glimpse of what God has in store. I wish you all the best in this sacred place.

-Vaughn Maatman  
Executive Director

## *Leases, Permits and Boundaries—Ask Myke!*

Yes, the new 50-year lease is still available for just \$150. Contact the LLCC office at 231-549-2728 and ask for Myke.

Yes, Lake Louise has building regulations governing additions, decks, garages, and other changes to structures around the lake. Such changes require obtaining a building permit from Hudson Township and Lake Louise. Get a copy of the regulations at the website at [www.lakelouisecommunity.org](http://www.lakelouisecommunity.org) or at the LLCC office. Permits may be requested from Myke Sherman, Operations Director.

Yes, you may have the boundary between your lot and your neighbors' marked with a ground-level concrete monument and rod, and plotted with GPS \$125. If you are involved in a lease transfer or construction, this must be done. Call Myke at 231-549-2728.

## **SUMMER WORSHIP:**

Summer worship at Lake Louise will begin on Sunday, July 1, 2012, 10:30 am. One of our Trustees, Phill Friedrich, pastor of Alma UMC is putting together the schedule. Stay tuned for more information as it become available.

## **HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP OFF:**

Let's protect our environment and make your cottage safer. Got household chemicals, pesticides, oil-based paints or stains (not latex), batteries, and old electronic components you would like to get out of your cottage or garage? Drop off these items at the maintenance garage at the camp on June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, and at the end of the season on September 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Lake Louise staff will collect your poisons and bring them to the Charlevoix County Hazardous Waste Collection. No tires, please.

## Summer 2012 Events for the Cottager Community

Dear Cottagers,

Your Cottagers' Council executive committee recently met with Vaughn Maatman to discuss cottager events and map out the summer of 2012. Cottagers' Council will now take the major role in planning events. With that in mind, we have constructed a tentative calendar for the summer of 2012. Please note that there are some date changes from dates that were announced at our last meeting (*note date changes for the Town Hall meeting and the August Cottagers' Council meeting*).

We hope you like the events we've planned and will be able to join in the fun. You'll hear a lot more about these as summer approaches. Meanwhile....**SAVE THE DATES!!**

Date	Event	Notes
Saturday, June 23 <sup>rd</sup>	6 PM Cottager Potluck 7 PM Cottagers' Council meeting	Since the invasion of milfoil is of great importance, our first program will address milfoil and other LLCC environmental issues.
Saturday, July 7	8 PM Boat Parade	Join an evening cruise on the lake with fellow boaters of all stripes as we celebrate the "stars and stripes"!
Friday, July 13	6 PM Pizza Party at the Public Beach	Don't cook dinner—join your fellow cottager pizza lovers of all ages for some fun at the beach.
Saturday, July 21	10 AM Town Hall Meeting	"State of the Lake" presentation and elect your next slate of Cottagers' Council officers.
Saturday, July 28	12 noon—Lake Louise Golf Scramble	Normally held the first Saturday in August, due to conflicting events with Black Bear, the date has been changed to the last Saturday in July. Tee 'em up!
Sunday, August 5	3 PM—Sailing regatta	Gather by the public beach and sail away. No rain allowed!
Wednesday, August 15	7 PM—Cottagers' Council meeting	Ice cream social

## Forest Stewardship

Last spring the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) made its appearance at Lake Louise. In the course of just three months, the infestation swept across our entire forest. By the fall our consulting forester, Bryce Metcalf, could not find one ash tree greater than 2" in diameter that was not infected. We had a choice; let the EAB kill the ash trees, in which case we would be left with thousands of dead standing trees within two years, or harvest the ash trees while there was yet time. We chose the latter course. Two logging crews are currently at work west of the lake harvesting ash trees before they become worthless fire hazards. The income from the harvest supports the ministry initiatives of LLCC, just as it has for the last 65 years.

In an area on the northwest part of the lake along Stafford Road, the harvest of the ash trees has led to thinning the forest more than otherwise might be the case. It looks very open, and will for two years. Over the next two years, until the maple crowns fill in, we can expect that this area will be taken over by brush and briars until new saplings – primarily maple – grow above 8 feet. Then, as the maples increase in density and crown, the shaded areas will suppress the undergrowth, just as it does in other areas. On the advice of our forester, we contracted for 1000 two-year-old white pine seedlings to help reforest this area and increase its diversity. (Historically, the area around Lake Louise was covered in white pine, which was the predominant species harvested 110 years ago during the logging era in Northern Michigan.) Young white pines grow fast. The work will be done by volunteers. (Contact Myke Sherman, if you would like to help; 231-549-2728) White pine seedlings in fiber pots will also be made available to cottagers (one each) so they might plant a white pine on their lot. Unclaimed trees will be planted in the forest.

Given the adjustments in our stewardship plan required by attention to the ash harvest, Bryce Metcalf, our consulting forester, is redoing our Forest Stewardship Plan. Our long-term goal remains the same; a healthy, mature, sustainable forest free from infestation and disease. Finally, an FYI. More than half of the ash harvest is going to the Redwing Sawmill just 4 miles down the road, where it is sawn into furniture stock and trucked to Grand Rapids for use in the furniture industry. In the service of a healthy sustainable forest and our own ministry, our forest is supportive of local and state industry.

## Cyber Café Ends

Because of our location, the Cyber Café and the operations of LLCC's office depend on satellite service, currently the only reliable service available to us. Because of bandwidth limitations forced on us by our satellite provider, and because of the increase in the many ways business is conducted electronically in the LLCC office, we simply do not have enough bandwidth to offer WI-FI service to the cottager community this summer. We continue to explore other options, the best of which is an extension of the DSL provided by CenturyLink. That line stops about 300 yards west of the camp and office. We hope you will join us in encouraging CenturyLink to extend that line around the lake so that the LLCC office and cottagers are supported by a more reliable electronic infrastructure that allows all of us to conduct our business electronically.

## *Camp Schedule*

It is not too late to sign-up your children or grandchildren for camp. See full camp descriptions at [www.lakelouisecommunity.org](http://www.lakelouisecommunity.org). Register at Lake Louise's website with a credit card, or download the forms and send them in.

### **Holy Ground**

June 24-30  
Senior High Camp  
Grades Completed 8-12

### **Choir Camp**

July 1-7  
Grades Completed 3-12

### **R12:10**

July 8-14  
Senior High Camp  
Completed Grades 8-12

### **Radical Community**

July 29 – Aug. 4  
Senior High Camp  
Completed Grades 8-12

### **L.I.F.E.**

July 22-28  
Senior High Camp  
Completed Grades 8-12

### **H2O Adventure**

July 29 - Aug. 4  
Middle School Camp  
Completed Grades 5-8

### **Elementary Bears**

**Teddy Bear**  
July 15-17 or Aug. 5-7  
Age 4-Completed Grade 1

**Black Bear**  
July 15-18 or Aug. 7-10  
Completed Grades K-3

**Polar Bear**  
August 5-11  
Completed Grades 2-5

### **Clergy Family Camp**

August 19-24  
Family Camp

## **LAKE LOUISE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY**

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### *Louise's Conservation Corps*

The community, camp and retreat center at Lake Louise operate with a host of volunteers – readying the camp, repairing cabins, the camp store, community events, construction projects. Our ministry could not operate without them. Louise's Conservation Corp is the group of cottagers and friends of Lake Louise who make it happen. Give something back and enjoy the camaraderie of others doing something good. Contact Myke Sherman, Lake Louise's Operations Director at 231-549-2728.