

# The Wolf Lake Howler

Wolf Lake Cottagers Association Newsletter

Spring 2007

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would greatly reduce traffic at the public landing as only 13 sites are presently open and therefore only that number of permits would be issued. Site specific camping will not be implemented however until the final Park Management Plan is in place. Approximately two years from now. The "Preliminary Management Plan" is expected this summer and then another series of meeting will be held to measure public reaction and then a final plan will be developed.

This management plan will also determine funding for the operation of the park so he is a anxious as we are that it be finalized. Dave informed me that a new Park Operation Manager was being sought. Since then they have hired a young guy named Brent Stewart to fill this position. He will be responsible for the day to day operation of the park and will become our main contact with Park staff. He has agreed to meet me at the public landing as soon as possible this spring to discuss sign changes and the installation of a privy at the landing. Gird Holmes is the person responsible for enforcing the regulation for the park and has been in the area for a long time. We discussed the new MNR TIPS line recently implemented. It we started to allow the public a simply way to report infractions to fishing or hunting regulations. Calls are centrally received and dispatched to the appropriate office for action. PLEASE do not abuse this service! Be sure there is an infraction before you make the call! False calls create extra work as each accepted call requires a full report for the officer.

## THE BERT REPORT

by Bert Needham

## Fall Meeting With Park Staff

In September I had the opportunity to meet with Dave Coulas (Park Superintendent) and Gord Holmes the local MNR Enforcement Officer. Given the heavy rains of the day the planned lake tour was cancelled and we returned to my cottage to discuss issues relative to cottager and Wolf Lake. Dave is a very easy going and sincere individual who recognizes fully the importance of a good relationship with all cottage association within the Park.

I raised issues like the over use of Crab Lake and increase in camper traffic on Wolf and Crab. His response was simple. The control will come when "site specific" camping is implemented. This

## AGM Date Change

In the past the AGM was held on the July long weekend. This was done to give the executive time to address cottagers concerns during that

season instead of the following season. Also the regatta was held on the August weekend. The executive have decided to return to the traditional July Long weekend meeting. We would like to have a social event on the lake and are seeking suggestion and assuming we can confirm an event it would be held on the August long weekend. Think family and think fun and let us know your suggestions.

## Inauguration of “The Founder’s Club”

As part of the executive mandate we have the ability to recognize the support of "long time members" of the association.

Our response to this part of the mandate is to create the W.L.C.A FOUNDERS CLUB. Since the lake opened in 1966 there are several families that have remained as members for over 40 years. They have contributed financially as well as physically to different projects through the years and we feel its time that service was recognized by the association.

The recognition will be made to "The Family" as some of the cottages have been passed to the second generation.

So far we have confirmed that these families have been members for 40 years:

The Faiers Family - Lot 29

The Brown Family - Lot 54&55

The Hunter Family - Lot 44



“Sunset Splash on Wolf Lake” -Photo by Jennifer Craig

The Grabher-Meyer Family - North Shore

The John Needham Family- Lot 41

The Maties-McKinnis Family- Lot 40

These families are the ones we are confident have reached the 40 year mark. There may be others so if you have a neighbor or know of families at the 40 year mark please let us know so we can add them to the list see the appropriately recognized by the association.

## New WLCA Notice Board

Martha Stewart our Road Steward says the old notice board at the end of the road has seen better days. It leaks and is hard to attach notices too so we have agreed to build a new one this year.

Possibly a new location that is more accessible and easier to read may also be appropriate. Watch for it and feel free to use with important information for fellow cottagers.

## The Treasurer’s Report

by Paul St. Germain

**T**he WLCA would like to thank all those who have, and continue to contribute to the maintenance of our road. For the upcoming year, 2007, we are requesting payment at the beginning of the cottage season. If you have any questions or suggestions with respect to our road please contact your President, Bert Needham or Road Steward, Martha Hunter. Thank You.

Please forward cheque payable to W.L.C.A. to:

**W.L.C.A.**

**c/o Paul St. Germain**

**73 Coons Road**

**Richmond Hill, ON L4E 2R3**

**Lots 1 to 53:**

Membership Dues: 25.00  
Road Maintenance Fees: 125.00  
Total Due: \$150.00

**Lots 54 to 60:**

Membership Dues: 25.00  
Total Due: \$ 25.00

**North Shore:**

Membership Dues: 25.00  
Road Insurance Fees: 16.50  
Total Due: \$ 41.50

## Road Lady Martha's Road Report

by Martha Hunter

**W**e are very pleased that the Wolf Lake road has improved over the years with regular maintenance. You can check out how much is spent on the road by looking at the treasurer's report.

Usually, part of the executive meets on a Saturday in May to review the road with Preston McGinn, of McGinn's Haulage and we decide what parts of the road need repair. We usually concentrate on the main road, but we do venture down the larger side road of 58H.

Each year, we have been trying to build up certain parts of the road with recycled asphalt. This material compacts well and helps water run off the road instead of causing rutts. The areas where we have put the recycled asphalt down have needed much less repair later. Areas where we put 5/8" gravel tend to wear down and get pot holes much faster. There are always more spots that need repairing than there are funds, so we try to pick the worst spots and do those.

If there are any side roads that need taking care of, please let us know and we will take these into consideration.

One of the biggest problem areas is the giant hill at 58H. It gets torn up extremely quickly, even after it has been graded for the summer. One of the best suggestions for going up this hill is to start far back and gear down before attempting the hill.

We ask that cottagers stay off the road in the early spring when the road is very soft, as this just causes damage to the road.

Each July, we have Sanford Trotter of Apsley cut the brush and grass/weeds on the sides of the road. We try to have this work coordinated with Looncall Lake so that the machine only makes one trip to our area.

I usually go out when I'm at the cottage and cut back small brush (I don't know how to use a chain saw!) on the main road near my cottage each spring/summer. It would be very helpful if others could do the same near their cottages.

A few years ago, we had Sanford Trotter's son cut the larger branches along the road, but he has given this up. Are there any cottagers out there who are willing and able to help us out with this if necessary? Or does anyone know of a tree service to do this if we need it?

### **Where we get our funding:**

**E**ach south shore cottage is asked to pay \$125 per year for road fees. This helps us pay for the road upkeep and the road insurance. For a couple of years now, we have asked the north shore cottagers to pay a small fee for road insurance, as the insurance policy covers the side roads to their wolf lake cottages as well. Please pay your annual fees promptly. Looncall cottagers that use our road (FR58 D and F) pay Wolf Lake \$60 per cottage each year which also helps pay for the road maintenance. We thank the Looncall cottagers for their assistance!

**Any questions/concerns about the road can be sent to any member of the executive.**

# Editorials and Letters to the Editor

## A Winter Weekend at the Cottage

by Catherine Scott

If you have ever ventured to the cottage during the cold January and February months than you can relate to my story. For those who haven't experience winter in a "non-winterized" cottage, consider this story a manual!

What to expect: the days are cold, but the nights are wickedly cold. In the early months of winter when the ice is not quite safe to cross, we venture outside into the dark cold night and sit around a roaring bon fire to listen to the lake moan and groan. It's a sound like nothing you have ever heard. On cold blistering clear nights you can hear the ice separating and the force of the water splashing up thru the crack. For those who are weary about a frozen lake this a good sign... it's making ice, the strongest ice is the blackest.

The average thickness of winter ice on Wolf Lake takes the entire 38-inch blade of the auger. The winter of 2005 brought out the brave. We witnessed a Jeep driving across the ice! (Not something I would do, nor recommend but it sure brought out an audience!)

Some nights around the fire we have the privilege of being entertained by the eerie chorus of the wolves. That definitely sends chills all over. This past winter, Dean and I were riding the Buckhorn snowmobile trail (runs behind Wolf and Crab Lakes granting access into Cold Lake) when we came across the site where wolves had killed a deer. What an experience that was! We felt quite lucky to have encountered a common act of survival in the wild. It's not often that you come across any tracks or traces of the wolves and realize that they roam so close to where we play.

Friday nights we typically arrive at Anstruther Marina by seven, we hook up the trailer and head back to the landing. We off load

the Ski Doo's and gear up in our Mustang floatation suits, heavy duty boots rated for -40C weather, helmets and gloves, and the must have fleece balaclava to keep the chill off your face. We blast across the lake in the black winter night. There are no lights on in any cottage, as we along with our neighbour, seem to be the only brave souls to venture into Ontario's north in the off season!

Coming across the lake in a snow squall is tricky. It's very easy to get disorientated; when that happens your adrenaline flows... keep calm, and ride the shoreline that will keep you on the right path. I have grown up on Wolf Lake since the age of three, and I never thought I would not know where I was, but it happens to us and it plays on our nerves. We always stick together and we never ride far alone, especially at night.

Once we get into the cottage we start the fire. Dean returns to the truck with the dog sled in tow and loads up our gear and supplies. I stay back to keep the 'fires burning'. The temperature inside is a balmy -12C, a heating blanket goes on the bed to take out the chill. By midnight the inside temperature is in the low 60's, so snuggling up in bed helps!!! Once the fire is burning steady we head down to the lake and drill a hole into the ice for water. It's an adventure to say the least, but when it's a weekly tradition for the family it is definitely worth ever minute.

When we aren't out making trails zipping



Winter fun on Fire Route 58H! - Photo by Catherine Scott.

through the Paudash region, or blasting along the trails north of Bancroft, we enjoy just pattering around the four lakes (Blueberry Mountain on Crab is a favorite spot, you can see for miles). Dean and Aubre's favorite event is tubing down our famous "BIG HILL" on Fire Rte 58H!

Weekends at the cottage in the snowy months are absolutely gorgeous! Sunsets and clear nights are just as beautiful surrounded by the snow as in the heat of the summer nights. We are so grateful to my grandparents, and my parents for giving us the opportunity to enjoy nature during all four seasons, and to have the many adventures that we have made into awesome memories. Cheers and see you on the lake!

## Protecting your Property: *"I shall never see a poem as lovely as a..."*

by Andrew Corbett

With the vicious storms we encountered on the lake last year, you may be seeing the trees on your property as something a little less lovely, and a little more dangerous than a poem. Speaking from the point of view of someone who only narrowly missed getting flattened (cottage and all) by a massive pine four years ago, I can honestly say that I've kept my eyes on the lean on some of our bigger trunks. My brother and sister-in-law's car was flattened only a few years before by a massive hemlock.

Trees on your property can topple and cause severe damage due to a variety of reasons. Although we cannot predict the severity of future storms, or where exactly the next "micro burst" is going to hit, there are certain warning signs that we can look for that may indicate which tree is a real hazard to our property. Primarily these include factors such as stem failure and root failure.

Stem failure is often a result of an inherent

weakness in the tree's trunk. This could be as a result of damage sustained by lightning, human activity, or a fungal infection in the core of the tree. Another factor which may cause stem failure are weak trunks. Trees naturally sway in the wind and this motion is essential in developing strong trunks and root systems. If trees which are located in sheltered areas are suddenly exposed to stronger winds, they may not have developed the structural strength and resilience needed to stay up right in those conditions. As a result, the tree will snap when hit with high winds. Thick, heavy boughs will be more likely to catch the wind as well. Check around your property by the lake to ensure you do not have too many high exposed trees that might be affected by gusts of wind and blown into your cottage. Diseased trees should come down as soon as possible.

Root failure is another major reason why trees may be affected by severe weather, especially on the Canadian Shield. We have all seen the massive root balls at the base of equally massive trees that have been thrown up due to high wind and storms. Trees in our region often out-grow the soil that has been built up to support them and the results are sometimes thunderously awesome. Be sure to check your larger trees to ensure they are anchored in sufficient soil. If you doubt the stability of the overburden, then consider having a professional tree removal service take it out.

All this being said, what ever you do, DO NOT start hacking out all the trees within fifty feet of your cottage. Not all trees are evil and, believe it or not, most are no threat to you at all! Trees are not only a beautiful part of cottage life, but they are also a functional and essential part of our ecosystem. They provide habitat and food for animals, help soil by shedding leaves and pine needles, and prevent the further erosion of overburden caused by exposed soil. Tree roots are essential in helping to maintain healthy and secure shorelines and the branches act as a windbreak and privacy barrier for your cottage. Even dead standing trees provide habitat to a variety of animals. They also help contribute to the over burden and act as an anchor and source of nourishment for nearby trees and because of

their lack of branches and foliage, they are even less likely to be blown over by high winds.

It's important to not over prune or cut back underbrush and sheltering trees, without considering how it will affect the bigger picture. You don't want to unnecessarily take out strong healthy trees exposing weaker ones to storm damage. If you are definitely afraid that a larger tree is in danger of damaging your property, consider replacing it with a sapling after having it cut down. This will help maintain the forest ecosystem as well as ensuring the overburden is developed for future growth.

## *Up the Burleigh Road... beyond the boulders: A Worthwhile Read for Deck or Dock*

by Dan DeLong

This title, of this locally published 2006 book, properly describes our Canadian Shield country side. Huge rock formations, rapid waters and dense forest have long impeded both travel and development beyond Stoney Lake, including our cottage area -- once describe as the "Hidden Lakes". The book is a fascinating 173 pages of history, including many photos and maps, and covering the region from Stoney Lake to Apsley. One chapter, largely contributed to by Ken Brown, features Wolf Lake. The Apsley Library is one source for both borrowing and buying the book.

## Classifieds

### **Wanted: Cottage to Rent**

A cottage to rent on wolf lake for the month of August. Contact: Dick and Sandy Cameron, phone # 742-8208, email:

## **Social Committee**

### **Volunteers Needed!**

Wanted: Wolf Lake Cottage Members interested in organizing a social for the long weekend in August. Executive is open to ideas!

Contact: Martha Hunter, phone # 745-7179 or [davidhunter2@sympatico.ca](mailto:davidhunter2@sympatico.ca)

## D T S Portable Sawmill Services

Dean Scott

705-868-1764

[oscar\\_30@sympatico.ca](mailto:oscar_30@sympatico.ca)

## The Git 'Er Done Awards

Special Thanks to Bert Needham for volunteering to build the new WLCA Bulletin Board. Way to Get 'er done Bert!

## Submissions Wanted!

If you have an opinion, or information by which fellow cottagers could benefit, or maybe you would like to advertize your small business in our newsletter as a service to cottagers, please consider submitting to our newsletter.

We are accepting:

- articles
- classic cottage recipes
- letters to the editor
- short stories
- photographs
- illustrations or cottage related cartoons
- concerns

Keep written entries around the 250 word mark and send via e-mail to our publisher:

[corbett\\_andy@yahoo.com](mailto:corbett_andy@yahoo.com)