

## Lake Louise Cottagers' Council

June 28, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Kathy Gilbert with a giant gavel. Karen Simons opened with some "food for thought" about John Wesley and his influence and benefit to Lake Louise.

There was the Roll Call of the Plats with all being represented except Sunset View and Horner Island. The 2010 directories are ready to be picked up and passed out.

The agenda was approved with no additions. The new cottagers to Lake Louise (Dana & Mike Eckert, Theresa & Tom Freeman, Lori & Mike Murphy, Kimberly & Mike Zydeck, Ken & Pat Mahan) were welcomed.

The minutes of the August 17, 2009 were accepted by acclamation without corrections.

The following dates for meetings in 2010 were announced:

Town Hall – Important Issues Vote /Ice Cream Social ,Wednesday, July 21, 7:30 p.m.- Retreat Center

Cottagers' Council - **SATURDAY, August 14, 9:00 a.m. – Horner Center** (program appropriate for families...fire pump demo!)

Kathy Gilbert shared several updates from the last meeting:

- 1) Increased communication – A letter discussing economics and dues assessment was mailed to all cottagers. 161 have been added to our email list for updates and information. Board of Trustees meeting reports are available on the website link for Lake Louise and the newsletter was sent out (Thank you Barb Renton!).
- 2) Building Relationships- With increased communication and commitment comes more fun ☺ July 10-12 at Lake Louise with special programs for everyone.
- 3) Sheriff's Department- in response to our inquiry about the parking safety on McGee Rd. and on C-48 near the boat launch, the department stated that they have checked several times and no one has been in violation of any laws but they will continue to monitor the situation for safety.
- 4) Water Pump – It is here and in operation. We will be billed only \$800 because a DNR grant was received to help defray cost. It was reported it only takes 4 minutes to fill the tank !
- 5) Redefine Cottage Council – the officers will be working on better defining the duties of the council as well as working on the structure.
- 6) Assessment – Cottagers have received information concerning the increased rate of assessment over the next several years. This assessment will be voted on at the Town Hall Meeting on July 21. There is one vote per cottage site. A letter with proxy information will be coming in the mail for those unable to attend.

Doug Vogel, Treasurer, reported a balance of \$7872.92 in the Cottagers' Council account. He explained that the Board of Trustees had transferred all dues collected for the Cottage Council by the Board into the appropriate account. That means that we as a group have complete control over all the money in the account. The \$1250 for the Community Clean Up has already been paid and the \$800 bill for the water pump will be coming in September. No other major expenses are anticipated at this time as the Sheriff Patrol on the lake was suspended for this year. That decision will be reevaluated at the end of the summer. Doug also reminded all willing workers that volunteers are needed to help build the new log cabin at the camp. Call Chappy Marvin to sign up.

### **REPORTS**

**COMMUNITY CLEAN UP** – Kirk Halsted, V.P. The dumpsters are available June 25- July 5 on Pearson Lane as in the past. Please dispose of your waste according to the rules posted.

**LAKE ECOLOGY**- Don Renton

Eurasian milfoil is in pretty good control at the boat launch but continues to be a problem in 4 other areas around the lake (Horner Island, Bob May's to bridge, south side of channel- opposite Marvin's, Ward's). We need to continue to monitor the lake for new developing sites. Please physically remove, put into a bag, dry, wrap in plastic and throw out any and all of these plants observed anywhere in the lake. If you take a boat into an infected area, it could spread to other parts of the lake so try to avoid these areas. Markers are not a good idea because it has been found that they attract fishermen. However, it was suggested that a map with the infected areas marked on it be made available to all cottagers so that we all could be knowledgeable about the problem. There will be follow up with an email and copies for the Town Hall meeting.

**PROGRAM**

Vaughn Maatman, Executive Director, LLCC gave a "*State of the Lake*" program that highlighted several areas.

**Camp Activity**

- The Western themed "Holy Ground" Camp this week saw an increase from 59 to 85 campers
- The goal to increase retreat use in 2009 was exceeded . It came in at 11%
- Improvements to the roads, parking lot and adjoining fences
- Requested any donations of dock poles with pads at the bottom in order to redo the dock system at the waterfront. Need 8-10 more if you have any not in use

**Lease Updates**

- New lease , June 2009. Restarts 50 year clock. Approximately 1/3 of our community moved to the new lease last year
- Community Buy-In Fee - based on lake frontage , paid by the buyer when a cottage changes
- New lease application, June 2010
- All of the above are on the LLCC website : [www.lakelouisecommunity.org](http://www.lakelouisecommunity.org)
- The Board will not approve a Limited Liability Corporation (LLC) as a leaseholder
- The current fee for lease transactions is \$500 + the Community's attorney's fees

A good starting place for all lease transaction business is the Executive Director.

**Lake Louise Forest Legacy Application**

- Federal program that provides \$\$ to states(DNR) to purchase conservation easement that prohibits most kinds of development
- The Board of Trustees agreed to the conservation easement, thus application begun with the DNR and Little Traverse Conservancy
- Our application was 1 of 3 in Michigan and one of 64 from 34 states

- From an awarded point system our application was 24<sup>th</sup> in the nation
- However, dropped to # 34 when all parameters were adjusted but still within group to be funded
- Our application was partially funded, so it was recommended by the DNR and Little Traverse Conservancy to divided the (approximately 2800 acres ) total Lake Louise property into a Phase I and Phase II. We will use Phase I for this first year's application and reapply for Phase II next year.
- Still in the Washington process and we are seeking to identify a “champion” to carry the project forward.
- If fully awarded for both phases, it could mean 2.2 million dollars for LLCC which could benefit the community in two ways :1) Protects the lake and land 2) Csh value added to the capital program to build ministry
- It was suggested that an endowment fund be set up for the money
- It was also highlighted that because of the Conservation Forest Act , there could be no new roads.

### **Capital Campaign**

- \$216,300 has been collected to date of the \$1,100,00 needed to complete Phase I
- We have a two year commitment for a Program Development Specialist who will start Aug. 1
- One new 2000 sq. ft. log lodge is under construction right now

### **Lake Louise Story Corps**

Kirk Halsted informed the cottagers about this verbal story project and we listened to some of the stories that had already been shared. He encouraged others to come forward to increase the broad range of stories to enrich the history of Lake Louise

### **Good and Welfare**

- Green reflector signs must be put up at every cottage
- Black Bear has special rates for Lake Louise residents
- Be sure to check for the fun 76<sup>th</sup> Summer Events
- Cottage Choir is back and a final concert is available for everyone at the conclusion of choir camp
- Concern was raised as to the decrease in songbird population and it was suggested that an acre or two be clear cut to encourage the habitat for songbirds and small animals.
- The Memorial Garden Committee reminded us that they are still looking for biographical pages for those interred in the Memorial Garden for the book that is being prepared. Please send to Ruth Jameson or call her with questions
- The shelter for picnic tables at the public park is ready to be built.
- Motion to adjourn at 9:25p.m. Store open!!



## Lake Louise Christian Community

### Town Hall Meeting

July 21, 2010

President of the Cottagers' Council Kathy Gilbert called the meeting to order at 7:30p.m. Tom Gschwind shared "21 ways to pray" for the "Food for Thought" and an opening prayer. The Roll Call of the Plats indicated all plats were represented except Sunset and Horner Island. The agenda was approved with no additions. The minutes of the July 22, 2009 Town Hall meeting were approved with no corrections but with the addition of the acknowledgement of Jack Cotton's immense contribution to the Lake Louise community and the world around him.

The Treasurer, Doug Vogel, reported a balance of \$8067.92 with two outstanding bills yet to be paid: 1) fire pump and 2) 2010 printing & mailing expenses.

A motion was made and seconded to decrease the annual cottager dues for 2011 to \$15.00. The motion was approved with a voice vote.

Kathy Gilbert proposed the tentative dates for the 2011 Cottage Council meetings:

- Saturday, June 25 – Combination Cottager Potluck and Cottagers' Council
- Wednesday, July 20 – Town Hall Meeting
- Saturday, August 13 or Wednesday, August 17-Cottagers' Council

She also reminded cottagers about the upcoming dates for the rest of 2010:

- Sailing regatta - July 24, 10 am, public beach
- Lake Louise golf scramble and dinner – August 7...everyone welcome
- Next Cottagers' Council Meeting- Saturday, Aug. 14, 9am, Horner Center to feature a speaker who is an expert on loons and a demonstration of the new fire pump- family friendly ☺
- Walk around the lake-Saturday, September 4, 9 am, public beach

Sandy Smith recommended that the chapel benevolence donation to the Manna Food Project be continued through 2011. Final approval vote will be at the August meeting.

The Lake Louise Annual Assessment fact sheet was reviewed with no questions raised. Doug Vogel made a motion to vote on the proposed 5 year assessment increase as printed on the ballot. Seconded by Hal Seaton. The following points were raised during the discussion period:

- A breakdown of the assessment fees according to what part goes to support the camp ministry and what goes to maintenance for cottagers would be helpful for tax purposes. The Trustees agreed to put that on their next agenda to look into
- We all need to think about how we want things to be in the future
- The question was asked "What is changing to explain the increase from \$300 to \$800?" This assessment cap must be established every 5 years for the future. It has been underfunded in the past and it needs to reflect and secure our support and the financial viability of Lake Louise for long term.
- There has been a noticeable increase in services to the cottagers i.e. snow plowing, road maintenance and general help to cottagers.

- The assessment is less than 5% of the budget right now , can you predict what it will be?? Not really. This is no attempt by the Board of Trustees to cover expenses with cottager assessments. It is just a way to bring it up to a more reasonable level
- Other things that contribute to the operating budget are fees for campers, retreat groups, capital campaign and possibly the forest legacy that has been applied for
- In the past there was a limitation to the %..is there any documentation to support this?? None known
- The ministry plan to grow the number of campers and retreats is working! Retreats increased last year by 11% and the campers for 2010 so far are up 16%.
- Call for vote. Written ballots were collected and counted along with the proxy votes. One vote per cabin. Motion passed.  
Yes-55  
No-8  
Abstain-2

A survey to help the Cottagers' Council officers define the role of the Cottagers' Council was passed out with encouragement to return it as soon as possible.

### Announcement

Tom Gschwind gave a report on lake water conditions

- Water temperature is 78. A year ago it was 68
- The water level is measured from the 1967 level when monitoring was started. It is now 13" below that level . A year ago it was 9" below . At the end of Aug. last year, it was down 12". The level is dropping about an inch per week
- The clarity was 23.5'..about the same as last year
- Eurasian milfoil is growing invasively. The warm weather and water traffic are helping the spread. DO NOT PULL IT. YOU WILL ONLY SPREAD IT. Report new patches to Don Renton

Terry Gladstone was announced as the new Program Development Specialist.

Picture of Eurasian milfoil is available from Jane Seaton

New cottagers Ken and Pat Mahan were introduced

The meeting was adjourned to the Dedication of the Halsted Lodge and Ice Cream Social. A special event for everyone!

## Lake Louise Cottagers' Council

Saturday, August 14, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. by President Kathy Gilbert at the Horner Center. Kirk Halsted opened with the reading of the lyrics from the hymn "For the Beauty of the Earth".

Roll call of the plats indicated all represented except Sunset View and Forest Glenn.

The agenda was approved with the addition of the Benevolence Fund final approval .The minutes of the June 28<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved by acclamation with no additions or corrections. The Treasurer, Doug Vogel, reported a balance of \$8057.92 with two outstanding bills yet to be paid: 1) Fire pump 2) 2010 printing and postage.

It was moved and seconded that the Manna Food Project be the recipient of the 2011 Chapel Benevolence Donation. Motion passed.

The following dates for meetings in 2011 were suggested with no discussion or objection:

Cottage Council Mtg/Cottager Potluck – Sat., June 25

Town Hall – Wednesday, July 20

Cottage Council – Sat. Aug. 13 or Wed., Aug 17

Kathy Gilbert thanked everyone for support of this year's events. The golf scramble was another huge success. She also reminded all to walk around the lake on Saturday, Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>. She shared with the cottagers present the first draft of the Cottagers' Council Definition and Structure that was proposed by the executive committee for their review and comment. It was suggested that another courtesy that might be added to the list was to be aware of light pollution.

**MEMORIAL GARDEN** – Royal Synwolt is retiring after 9 years on this committee. Ruth Jameson is taking over the biographical book for the garden. Please submit any information to her. Our thanks to Royal and Shirley Benson for all their marvelous work on this committee.

**LAKE ECOLOGY**– Don Renton met with the DNR to look at the Eurasian Milfoil problem around the lake. Good news!! There is evidence that the beetles are doing their job and we don't need any additional beetles added right now. However, this is a problem that needs continuous monitoring to keep track of all the invasive species . It was suggested that we ask the DNR to put a sign at the boat launch to alert the public about the invasive species problem. We will send a letter to ask.

Chappy Marvin reminded everyone that a newer version of the cottages' history was available. If you have any other additions or corrections you can send them to him. We appreciate all your amazing work Chappy...THANKS.

The business meeting was adjourned and Kathy Gilbert introduced the program speaker, Jeff Lange. He shared a beautiful and informative DVD about the seasonal journey of a loon family in northern Michigan, titled "The Uncommon Loon". Then we gathered outside to see a demonstration of the new water pump by the Hudson Township Fire Department. Activities enjoyed by all ☺