

Lake Louise Cottagers' Council Meeting: June 24, 2017

- I. Welcome provided by Council President, John Marshall. Instead of starting the meeting with loon calls, as he did last summer, John asked the group to identify the new Lake Louise bird whose call he was playing. It was the call of the Bald Eagle! An announcement was made that two eagles nests are now at Lake Louise.

- II. Cottagers' Minute provided by Kim Fetting
Kim read the 2nd Psalm, from his favorite book, the Bible. Last line of the Psalm:
Happy are all who take refuge in Him.

- III. Approval of minutes of August 24, 2016 Cottagers' Council Meeting
A motion was made to approve the minutes. It was seconded and passed.

- IV. Items from the President
 - a. Meetings and events for Summer, 2017 – handout provided
 - Dumpsters are available – June 24th-July 8th - Pioneer Trail meadow
 - Potluck & Cottagers' Council Mtg. – June 24th 6:00 p.m. Retreat Center Dining Hall
 - Lake Louise Boat Parade – Sunday, July 2nd 8:00 p.m. In front of County Park
 - Cottagers' Pizza Party – Thursday, July 6th 6:00 p.m. County Park Pavilion
 - Town Hall Meeting – Saturday, July 15th 9:30 a.m. Horner Center
 - Cottagers' Council Mtg. & Ice Cream Social – Wed., August 15th 7:00 p.m. Retreat Center Dining Hall
 - LLCC & Boyne Valley Pantry Community Dinner – Saturday, August 19th 5:30-7:00 p.m. Retreat Center Dining Hall. Money collected from this event is used to provide scholarships to Lake Louise camps as well as to support the Boyne Valley Pantry.

 - b. Reminder – Lake Louise policy - 4th of July fireworks – 8 a.m. to midnight on the 4th & closest Sat. & Sun. This would be for 2017- July 1st, 2nd & 4th. (3rd of July is excluded from fireworks display)

 - c. Explanation of LLCC Board action to reduce cottagers' land tax:
Of the 30 plats of land surrounding Lake Louise, 1 is the County Park, owned by Charlevoix County, and 1 is Camp Lake Louise, owned by the Michigan Baptist Convention. The remaining 28 plats are divided as follows:
 - 1 is leased to the Michigan DNR for the boat launch site. The DNR provides a restroom at the launch site and stocks the lake with fish
 - 2 plats are leased to Camp Kinawind and they pay the land taxes
 - 12 plats are forest and are taxed at the Commercial Forest Act (CFA) rate of \$1.25 per acre
 - 13 plats have direct access to the lake and are the site of the 125 cottages on the lake. These plats are currently taxed as residential property at \$267.00 per acre.

Myke Sherman, LLCC Operations Director, working with the Lake Louise forester has determined that some portions of several residential plats are located away from the lake and its cottages and could be taxed as CFA land at \$1.25 per acre rather than at the residential plat rate of \$267 per acre. Two examples of this are the portion of the Morningside Drive plat that is forest land east of Magee Road and the portion of the Pioneer Trail plat that is forest land south of Thumb Lake Road. Each cottage could see an annual land tax reduction of approximately \$150.00 due to this action by the LLCC Board of Trustees.

- d. LLCC Board action to increase the buy-in fee due to increased market value of property. The purchase of a cottage on Lake Louise includes the price of the cottage and any outbuildings, paid to the cottager, and a fee (the buy-in fee) for access to a 50-year land lease, paid to Lake Louise Christian Community (LLCC). The buy-in fee is set at 10% of the current value of the land. The land value is determined by lake front footage and has been set at \$1,700.00 per front foot, last adjusted in 2011. In the last six years, LLCC land taxes have increased 11.7%. Based on this increase in land value, the buy-in fee will increase to 10% of \$1,900 per front foot, beginning January 1st 2018.
 - o An example would work like this: If a cottager has 100 feet of lake front, a buyer would pay the cottager for the buildings on the leased land and would pay LLCC 10% of the land value of \$190,000 (100 feet x \$1,900.00 per front foot). In this case, the buy-in fee would be \$19,000.
 - o If the cottage is passed down in the family to those who are named on the lease, there is no buy-in fee.
 - e. Two cottages are for sale on the lake.
 - o Petree cottage, #54, on Morningside Drive
 - o Breining cottage, #70, on Delta Plat
 - f. Update on the Vanderbilt Schools levy. A second vote on the levy passed at the November 2016 election. Jim Willford is working to connect with the school superintendent to speak with him regarding possible school field trips and overnights for Vanderbilt school children at the Lake Louise camp. Also, Vanderbilt schools are looking for adult volunteers to assist in the classroom as well as with field trips. If you have any interest, contact the Vanderbilt schools.
 - g. David and Marcia Strong have continued to monitor the invasive plant species, purple loosestrife, around Lake Louise. The 1st year they found 600 plants and last year 80-85 plants were found. This monitoring requires one morning per summer, typically in August. A request is being made for new volunteers to begin taking over this task.
- V. Kathy Gilbert, chairperson of the newly formed Worship Committee, spoke of the restructure of Tennant Chapel worship services. A handout was provided titled *The Gathering at the Tennant*. The committee is hoping to increase cottager involvement, increase attendance and provide fulfilling, meaningful worship services. Speakers are

being asked to limit speaking time to 10-12 minutes, the community outside of Lake Louise is invited to services, children are welcome (crayons and donut holes are provided). Also, any thoughts or suggestions for services would be welcomed. Please bring canned goods and dry food to Tennant Chapel worship services for the Boyne Valley Pantry.

- o Millie Janka, chair of the Garden Committee, has created a sign-up sheet for alter flowers. Millie also spoke of the return of the nearly endangered species, Monarch butterflies. She requested that Milkweed not be pulled so that the Monarchs have food.

VI. John Marshall provided a Lake & Forest update:

-Logging next winter will take place in those forests plots located on the south side of Thumb Lake Rd. across from the Lake Louise camp.

-Handout was provided showing the water level cycle - high in the 1990s then low for several years and now high again, possibly declining next year.

-In April, the DNR stocked the lake with 21,100 splake, average 7.5 inches. Big fish, from previous plantings, are being taken out of the lake this summer. A 37" and several splake in the 20" range have been caught already this summer.

VII. Kirk Halsted reported that the milfoil growth is more difficult to identify this year because the growth is slower in the deeper water and also the pollen floating on the surface has concealed the plants. He reports that two years ago 11 acres were covered in milfoil and, last year, only 4 ½ acres had milfoil coverage. Kirk reports that the goal is to contain the milfoil to 3 acres in this 500-acre lake. Kirk has seen a few healthy appearing strands. This year, Savin Lake Services will apply the first round of chemicals in July. Savin Lake Services has offered a good price due to the unsatisfactory milfoil mapping performed by the company last year. In addition, the boat, now owned by Lake Louise, will be used to monitor milfoil growth throughout the summer. It is equipped with sonar, GPS, and a radial spreader and will be used to treat any additional patches of milfoil located after the initial treatment by Savin. Savin will continue as consultants for various invasive species.

VIII. Treasurers Report handout provided- Dwight Finley reports that the current balance of \$28,323.62 is high but that there are significant expenses that will need to be met over the course of the summer. Upcoming costs include the dumpsters, purchase and maintenance of milfoil equipment and chemicals, as well as any unexpected expenses. Dwight also indicated that \$1,500.00 is being made available to the new Worship Committee to help support the new worship service programs. A reduction of the \$100.00 cottagers' dues is a possibility and will be considered after this season. Also, there was a donation of \$10,000.00 from Charlevoix county to help support milfoil control last year and the donation will continue at \$3,000.00 a year for now.

IX. Additional Announcements or Information

- a. Leslie Helwig has begun a Facebook page just for Lake Louise cottagers. This could be utilized to share helpful information, sell items, post pictures, begin a bridge group and otherwise communicate among cottagers. The page is entitled

Lake Louise Community Sharing and Leslie urged cottagers access the site by typing in "Lake Louise Community Sharing" into the search function on your Facebook page or to contact her if interested and she can assist you.

- b.** Beth Swift from Horner Island shared that the artificial loon nest has ducks and ducklings making use of it.
- c.** A concern was expressed regarding diseased tree tops. A discussion provided information that worms were the culprits and that the trees would recover as they had in 1989.
- d.** Ed Jameson provided information regarding a high-speed internet service from AT&T. He stated it is called AT&T Home Base and offers 250GB at a cost of \$60.00 a month. No phone jack or internet connection is required. Ed wanted other people around the lake that may have difficulty with service to be aware of product. He joked that he gets no kickback from the company.
- e.** John Marshall proposed that we restart the program to recognize volunteers that have been of significant service to the Lake Louise Community. Nomination forms will be provided at the next meeting in July.
- f.** Two Lake Louise cottagers have been elected to the Executive Committee of the LLCC Board of Trustees. Kirk Halsted has been elected the new president of the Board of Trustees and Ron Buck has been elected treasurer. A round of applause followed this announcement.
- g.** Helen Beers invited cottagers to celebrate the 85th birthday of her cottage – Pioneer Cottage - #7 – 10191 Pioneer Trail - on Saturday, July 1st at 4 p.m., please bring a folding chair and snack to share.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Mahan, Cottagers' Council Secretary