

Lake Louise Cottagers' Council
General Updates Plus Summary of Lake Louise Christian Community
Board of Trustees November and February Meetings
Winter, 2019



Photo by Anne Davidhizar on Pioneer Trail

Greetings! This informal newsletter is very late for the summary of the actions of the November Board of Trustees meeting, but close to on time for the February meeting.

First, some general messages and updates:

- Go to the Lake Louise Christian Community website to find answers to any questions you may have about the camp, the Board of Directors and the Cottagers' Council. We can thank Jim Willford and the staff for keeping it up to date and comprehensive. For example, the dates of our [summer events 2019](#) are already posted. Check them out and mark your calendars!
- The Cottagers' Council Year-End balance was \$14,437.
- To review all minutes of our meetings, [click here](#).
- When making purchases from Amazon, remember to use "Smile.Amazon.com" and follow the prompts. A percentage of your purchase will benefit Lake Louise Christian Community.
- If you're a Facebook user, you may already know there have been postings throughout the winter on our own [Lake Louise Community Sharing](#) site. We have some gifted photographers who have reminded us about the beauty of Lake Louise in the winter, not only the popular summer months.
- Good news! Camp Lake Louise, AKA the Baptist Camp, has chosen a new name. It will be called Higher Ground at Lake Louise which is not only an inspirational name, but will relieve much confusion between the two camps.

- Enjoy winter recreation at the lake this winter but play by the rules! Here is a summary of our policy for Off-Road Vehicles (ORVs) as found in our building policy, Appendix 4, Section 1: *The use of off-road vehicles (ORVs) is permitted on all LLCC roads, but is not permitted on any path, trail or woodland area located on LLCC property, including both Commercial Forest (CFA) and Forest Legacy lands. The entrances and exits to LLCC trails may be posted to indicate that ORV access is prohibited.* To review the policy in its entirety, [click here](#).

Summary of the November and February Board of Trustees meetings:

A capital campaign?

You may have heard a little bit about a LLCC capital campaign. The Board is in an early exploratory phase to determine the goal and benefits of such a campaign. More information will be forthcoming as plans develop. If you have specific questions, please contact cottager Ron Buck at rrbuck2@gmail.com.

Summer Camp, 2019

Registration has begun. Jim and staff developed new marketing materials and distributed them to families, various churches and regional events guides. They will follow up with personal visits as appropriate. The recruitment of seasonal staff has begun. Facility maintenance and repair continues through the winter months.

Tree Removal Policy

The Board's Land Committee cleaned up our policy for removing trees from the property around each cottage. The Board passed the following, now stated in the Building Policy and Residential Regulations, Article I, Section 10. Trees: According to the Residential Property Lease, each lessee agrees "to refrain from cutting down or destroying any tree now and hereafter upon said premises, except by consent of the Lessor's agent first obtained." Therefore, permission must be obtained from the LLCC staff before cutting down, removing or destroying any tree, living or dead, located on the Lessee's property. Cottagers will be assessed a fine of \$200 for each tree removed without permission. For complete information, [click here](#).

Commercial Forest Act Lands for LLCC

Jim has placed an additional 120 acres into the CFA, as approved by the Board of Trustees. The original placement of 1600 acres occurred in 1975. One of the most direct benefits of this is the reduction in our land taxes because of the reclassification of land use. If you are interested in a copy of a map showing the additional acres, contact Jim.

Recycling

In response to concerns of cottagers and in keeping with our goal to protect and preserve our environment, the camp will provide us with a recycling bin located on the camp grounds next summer. The Cottagers' Council will share this expense with the camp.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held April 27 at the Retreat Center.

Lake Louise Cottagers' Council
General Updates Plus Summary of the Lake Louise Christian Community
Board of Trustees April Meeting
May, 2019



Photo by Karen Burgess Hamm on Cove Dr.

The loons are back! If you have been lucky enough to be at the lake on these early spring days, you may have seen them and heard them call to each other. I have my fingers crossed, hoping they will nest and produce one or two chicks for us to watch all summer long.

Some general messages and updates:

- Mark your calendars! Our first cottager event will be on Saturday, June 22. The Potluck Dinner will begin at 6:00 followed by our Cottagers' Council meeting at 7:00. You will receive a full print schedule of events plus the listing of Sunday morning chapel gatherings in your doorway in mid-June. To see it online, click on: [lake louse events](#).
- Water Level and Sandbags: If you've been to the lake this spring, you've seen it – the water is higher than it's been in our memory. Many trees along the shoreline are in up to two feet of water. There are very few sandy beaches remaining. Many rafts, docks and boats stored on what was a dry beach in the fall are now at least partially in the water.

The LLCC Office has ordered and the Cottagers' Council has paid for clean sand and sand bags again this summer, at no cost to anyone who wants some. No permit for the placement of sandbags will be required. The piles of sand and the supply of bags will be in the same locations as last year – Pioneer Trail (in the meadow), Morningside Drive (beside the mailboxes), and Birch Circle (near the dumpster location).

Some cottagers have suggested that we pump water out of the lake. The Land Committee studied this proposal and determined it is not feasible. We would have to pump 13.1 million gallons of water to reduce the lake level by one inch. The cost would exceed \$375,000 to pump the water level down by 12 inches. There is nowhere to deposit the pumped water.

- Dumpsters: As usual, we will have dumpsters in the same locations (two in the Pioneer Trail meadow and one at the regular dumpster location on Birch Circle), for a two-week period, June 24 - July 8. This is a great opportunity to clean out your cottage and storage structures, but please, be courteous. All items MUST be put into the dumpsters, NOT left on the ground around them. The waste collection employees will not pick up items left on the ground and no volunteers are scheduled to do this. If you have items you think could be used by someone else, don't leave them by the dumpster; take them to Challenge Mountain or another nonprofit that collects used goods for sale in their store. Or, use our Facebook page, [Lake Louise Community Sharing](#), to let others know your items are available for their use.

The following items may NOT be put in these or any LLCC dumpsters:

Refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, paint (all kinds), tires, batteries from cars, boats, ATVs, etc., and all organic materials (yard & tree debris, plants and weeds).

Summary of the April Board of Trustees meetings:

Executive Director Report:

- Jim Willford is working with the Board's Land Committee to develop a land management plan.
- Nominations for the Service to the Community Award are now on the website. [Click here](#) for the nomination form.
- A Ministry & Marketing Intern has been hired again for this summer for our second year. We are seeing positive impact from the marketing efforts. The position was funded by a donor.
- Additional scholarship donations have been arriving for Camp Beloved.
- Tree removal project on Thumb Lake Road has been cancelled. Charlevoix County not interested in participating and we cannot perform this on our own.
- Recycling will begin this summer. Location for the cages will be determined.

Bylaws: The Board voted to approve revisions and updates to our bylaws. They will be posted on the website as soon as they are finalized.

Capital Campaign: With Board approval LLCC has begun a capital campaign. It is called Changing Lives Capital Campaign. More information and events will be communicated as we all gather at the lake this summer.

Camp Kinawind: Representatives of the Friends of Camp Kinawind appeared before the Board to report that in February, the Michigan Area United Methodist Camping Board decided to close four of the nine Michigan Area Conference camps, including Camp Kinawind. This group of dedicated and talented folks would like to work with the Board of Trustees to keep the Kinawind camping ministry alive and well at Lake Louise. The board has committed to working with this group to explore the concept of integrating the Kinawind camping program with ours with an eye on resumed camping at the west end of the lake in 2020.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held June 21 at the Retreat Center.

**Lake Louise Christian Community
Cottagers' Council
Summary of Board of Trustees Meeting, June 21, 2019**



Kirk Halsted opened the meeting with a reflection of his nine years on the Board of Trustees.

Neil Haney, Director of Camp and Retreat Ministries, reported that this year's summer camp registrations are slightly down this year compared to last year at this date but that by season's end, they are likely to be as high, if not higher. The camp has added one tree to its tree climbing program and more yard games. The geocaching program is popular and growing and the campers are enjoying additional hiking experiences.

Jim Willford, Executive Director, began his report by thanking Myke Sherman for his leadership in developing projects for the Boyne Country Service Project program. Additionally:

- The recycling bin on camp property, new this year, is being well used. Jim encourages cottagers to use this but reminds us to use the dumpsters at their traditional locations for regular trash, not the camp's trash dumpsters;
- The lease with Camp Kinawind has been terminated by action of the Michigan Area United Methodist Camping Board of Directors. Camp staff and volunteers will be responsible for securing and cleaning up the campsite but in return we have been given much valuable camping equipment including kayaks, canoes, rowboats, a climbing wall, a raft, a van, a golf cart and a bus. We received a letter from the Friends of Kinawind thanking us for our cooperation during this change.
- Jim reminded us that Lake Louise policy limits cottagers to having a residence, a garage and a shed on each lot.

I reported that cottagers are faced with the extraordinarily high lake level this year, which, in some areas, calls for extra measures to protect our cottages, boat houses, equipment and beaches. In addition, all cottagers were given a packet which includes cottager courtesies, recycling guidelines, our fireworks policy and a schedule of 2019 events and chapel services.

John Marshall, Land Committee chair, and Mike Sherman will develop a plan for Lake Louise land management.

The Forest Harvest program calls for less logging this year which reduces our revenue at this point. Two large parcels are scheduled to be logged over the next two years.

Sandy Smith reported that the Memorial Garden Committee is grateful for cash donations but cannot accept garden accessories. The cost for inhumation is \$300 and for a tree, \$200.

Kirk Halsted reported that the cold weather and high waters are helping reduce milfoil growth in the lake. These conditions reduce the need for professional mitigation services so our expenses will be down this year.

Ron Buck and our capital campaign consultant, Christie Perdue, reported that the Changing Lives Campaign has already met more than half of its goal. Twelve house parties are scheduled in July and early August so that each cottager can attend one and learn more about the campaign.

Ron Buck also reported that he will continue to send out "Factoids" to all cottagers, explaining in detail our financial status.

Cottager Sandy Smith was elected President of the Board of Trustees and cottager David Baker was elected Vice President. Cottager Bob Korte joined the Board and is the Board's newest member.

The meeting was closed with a big "Thank You!" to Kirk Halsted as he leaves the Board of Trustees after nine years of exceptional service.

Leslie Helwig, President
Lake Louise Cottagers' Council