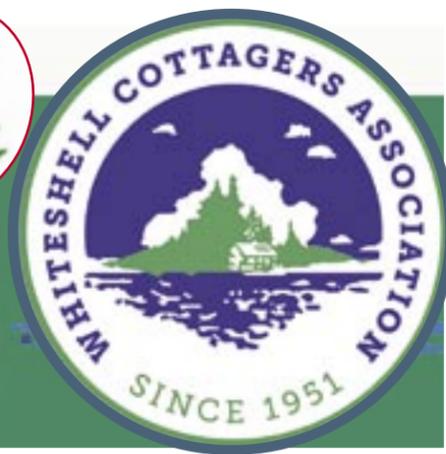


Whiteshell Echo



VOLUME 37 NUMBER 5 PUBLISHED BY THE WHITESHELL COTTAGERS ASSOCIATION INC. WWW.WHITESHELLCOTTAGERS.COM DECEMBER 2018

President's Report

By Alan Roberts, WCA President



It is December again – the cottage is closed up for the year. The whirlwind that was the fall season has come and flown by; and now we're getting ready for Christmas. At least we might get to enjoy a few hours in front of the fireplace after snowmobiling or cross country skiing during the holidays.

This is also the time for an effective liaison with the senior Parks Staff and their Department Heads. We have agreed to re-establish regular (quarterly) meetings between our Executive and the senior administrative heads within Parks and Protected Spaces. This will allow both parties to gain a better understanding of each others' priorities and objectives, and to discuss issues that are particularly forefront in the cottagers' minds. It is a tangible shift in the administration's willingness to discuss concerns over policy or practices that warrant review.

Continued on page 3

MESSAGE FROM MANITOBA'S MINISTER OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ROCHELLE SQUIRES



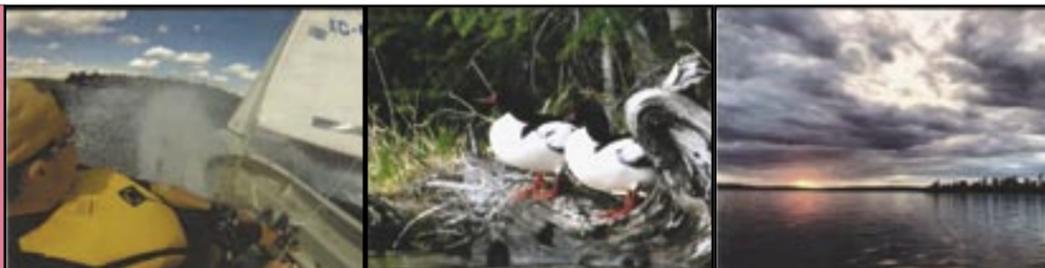
Happy Holidays!
It's a pleasure to once again contribute to the *Whiteshell Echo*. I want to extend my thanks to the Whiteshell Cottagers Association for the effort they put into assembling this great publication. The *Echo* is an important tool to make sure that cottagers are informed of goings on in the park and to foster continued conversation around this special place.

I want to take the opportunity to update you on some of the work that our government has completed in the Whiteshell since I last wrote in the *Echo*.

I'm happy to report that work has been completed on all outstanding road repairs in the south Whiteshell as a result of the 2016 flooding.

Continued on page 4

2018 WHITESHELL COTTAGERS ASSOCIATION PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS PAGES 12-15



WHITESHELL COTTAGERS ASSOCIATION IS WORKING ON EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES TO KICK OFF OUR 2019 MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

We still have some I's to dot and T's to cross before we can roll everything out, but stay tuned for what will hopefully be an official announcement sometime in December.



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

We believe it will enhance the appreciation of both parties for the issues affecting the other and be of benefit to both. Our inaugural meeting is scheduled for Dec. 13. Credit for this shift belongs to the Director of Parks and Protected Spaces and we will continue to do our best to justify the "open door."

Busy Time For WCA

The fall (and winter) are busy times for the WCA. Monthly meetings of the Executive and the Board of Directors providing direction and third party review of the work done by internal committees, keeps everyone focused on a common set of goals and working within a tight time frame between closing up the cottage and the AGM or spring break-up. Given that these committees are all constituted by volunteers, makes it a challenge for the chairs to attract and manage active members and sustain a focused and coherent effort that supports the other committees at the same time. The committees include:

- **Marketing Committee:** This is a newly formed committee that has been developed to raise the presence of our association in the Whiteshell community. Those of you who are members, have a fairly good idea (we believe) of what we do and how we operate. However, there are too many others, who haven't heard of the WCA and have no idea of what we do, who we are, nor why they should become a member. This committee's job will also include providing leadership and support to our other committees, helping them to reach these cottagers and encourage them to participate in the WCA.

This will be done through a combination of signage, public participation at lake events, and enhancing our communications with the distribution of news announcements (such as the news summary that was distributed by email October 30) and advertising of lake events, etc. The range of tools available to this committee is very broad and it is being headed up by a sage marketing professional, Stacey Erlendson from Falcon Lake.

- **Membership Committee:** Is led by Deborah Seguin from White Lake. She runs a very proactive program and has been very effective in raising our membership numbers. She works closely with our Communications Committee which is an assembly of very devoted and hard-working individuals who manage our communications via the *Whiteshell Echo* managed by Sharon Philp of Brereton Lake; our website, managed by Angela Hogan of Nora Lake; and our Facebook and Instagram presence, managed by Kerry Davies of Betula Lake. This group is a particularly creative bunch who, together with our Marketing group, have a series of noteworthy changes in style and content that they are implementing over the coming months.

The fall (and winter) are busy times for the WCA. Monthly meetings of the Executive and the Board of Directors providing direction and third party review of the work done by internal committees, keeps everyone focused on a common set of goals and working within a tight time frame between closing up the cottage, and the AGM or spring break-up.

- **Environment Committee:** Is led by Neil McMillan of Jessica Lake, is focused primarily on the water levels issues throughout the park. Priorities for the coming year include improvement to the level regulation facilities at both Betula and Falcon Lake. Fine tuning of the desired operating level ranges and target levels is an ongoing effort. The operating

level range of West Hawk is under examination and the management of the control structures regulating the level in both Jessica and White Lakes is being examined to correct the high water levels they experienced this past summer. Flood mitigation at Caddy Lake is also being worked on (though this effort is expected to be a protracted one).

Bob Harrison of Falcon Lake, provides a liaison between the WCA and the Lake of the Woods Control Board (LWCB) which manages the flow rate in the Winnipeg River (and therefore the water levels in the lakes from Pointe du Bois to Eleanor Lake). The drought this year in the Winnipeg River drainage basin resulted in lower than normal lake levels through the summer. Fall rains have returned them to slightly above normal levels which should abate before freeze-up.

With the help of Ian Baragar of Florence Lake, the Environment group is expanding its focus this year in two significant areas:

Continued on page 4

LETTER OF THANKS TO THE MINISTER OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Letter to the Minister of Sustainable Development

November 12, 2018

Dear Minister Squires:

We wish to convey our sincere gratitude and appreciation to you and your Department, and specifically to the Parks and Protected Spaces Division for having recognized the need for dredging the boat access channel in Block #10 at Falcon Lake and acting upon it this past summer. This work had become progressively more critical over the last 25 years. Some 65 cottagers rely upon this channel to access their docks and boathouses and had become dependent upon the lake water level being maintained very near flood level in order to be able to use it. This created a very dangerous situation for the other 600 cottagers on the lake, who lived in fear of a heavy rainstorm and the inevitable flooding it produces.

As you are aware, we have one more channel (Block 12/23) planned for dredging in 2019, and we are expecting that Manitoba Infrastructure will develop a new level control structure (for managing the lake level) next summer as well. The dredging program your department is funding, will permit the lake to be operated at a lower level which dramatically reduces the risk of flooding. As a result, the dredging of these channels will foster selection of a type of control structure which is capable of maintaining a lower lake level than the gravity drain options are capable of sustaining. We have suffered with a gravity drain since 1990 when the precipitation rates began to increase beyond what this type of drain could handle. Because of the dredging of these two channels, we have an opportunity to select a more effective type of control structure that brings the ability to reduce the risk of flooding of Falcon Lake.

You are to be commended for taking this step towards restoring water access for these 65 cottagers, and for providing a window of opportunity to regain control over the Falcon lake water level. This is a sincere **Thank You** - to you and your administration.

Alan C. Roberts – President

Whiteshell Cottagers Association

PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

a) **Invasive species management** to monitor and help constrain the spread of invasive plant species in the park – specifically Purple Loosestrife, and Caragana. (Read more about Purple Loosestrife on page 27).

b) **Monitoring of water quality issues in the park**, with particular attention to the impact of low precipitation levels and/or poorly designed level control structures permitting excessive drawdown rates, specifically Betula and Caddy Lakes.

Internal Function Committees

Internal function com-

mittees include **Special Events**. Coordinator Cheryl Bryant of Falcon Lake has been particularly effective in facilitating and coordinating these events.

Lorna Spencer of Brereton Lake has very effectively managed the **Photo Contest** for a number of years now.

This very talented group of hardworking individuals, forms the core of our association. They work under the general direction of the Executive Committee and our Board of Lake Directors. (See page 10 for Lake Directors' contact information). You can also reach them through Lee Hurton, our Administrative Coordinator, at wca.whiteshellcottagers.com.

We hope you are able to make use of your cottage over the Christmas season – and do try to enjoy the outdoors this winter. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The Manitoba Provincial Parks Cabin Owners Association Guiding Principle

The Manitoba Provincial Park Cabin Owners Association (Cabin Owners) and Manitoba Parks and Protected Spaces Branch (Parks Branch) have established a working relationship based on trust, respect and transparency and are to work positively and collaboratively in defining an approach to managing the administration of matters affecting cottagers within provincial parks, including the collection of service fees and Crown land rent from provincial park cottagers, in a way that is fair and sustainable for all Manitobans and provincial park stakeholders.

Manitoba Provincial Parks Cabin Owners Association Members:

- Whiteshell Cottagers Association
- Booster Lake Cottagers Owners Association
- Duck Mountain Cottagers Owners Association
- Grindstone Cottagers Owners Association
- Hecla North Shore Cottagers Owners Association
- Hecla Historic Village Cottagers Owners Association
- Long Lake Cottagers Owners Association
- Moose Lake Cottagers Owners Association

The next meeting between Parks and the MPPCOA is scheduled for Dec. 6, 2019.

The Whiteshell Echo

is published by the Whiteshell Cottagers Association Incorporated

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(To be designated)

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Articles in the Echo are not official statements of the WCA unless indicated. The Echo is published five times a year and mailed in the first week of February, April, June, August, and October.

Next Issue
February 2019
Deadline: Jan. 7, 2019

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Publication Agreement
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MINISTER OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, CONTINUED FROM P. 1

We have also completed dredging work in the McKenzie Bay boathouse channel on West Hawk Lake, removing gravel that had washed into the channel during the flood. The dredging of the east boat house channel on Falcon Lake was successfully completed in September, with the dredging of the west boat house channel planned to occur in 2019.

McGillivray Falls Trail Bridge

Many of us appreciate the Whiteshell for the beautiful hiking and cycling that it has to offer and we are taking steps to enhance that further. You will be pleased to know that construction of a new McGillivray Falls Trail bridge is currently underway and planned for completion in time for the 2019 summer season. Replacement trailhead signage and information kiosks are being developed for both the McGillivray Falls Trail and the Manitoba Trail south access point, with installation planned for the early summer of 2019.

The SWTA (South Whiteshell Trail Association) has initiated the construction of the Penniac Bay boardwalk at West Hawk Lake and plans to complete this work by May of 2019. I want to thank the SWTA for

their efforts to enhance the recreational offerings in the Whiteshell – your partnership is greatly appreciated. I personally am looking forward to getting back out to the Whiteshell next summer to try out the new trail.

New Non-Modern Washrooms

We are also working to install new non-modern washrooms at public access locations and trailheads throughout the Whiteshell. Completed installations have occurred at the Rennie River bridge; Big Whiteshell Lake campground and the West Hawk Lake town site. In the near future there will

be installations at the Hunt Lake Trail trailhead; the new Falcon Lake entrance Rest-Stop Area, the Falcon Creek Trail trailhead the Bannock Point Petroforms parking lot; Big Whiteshell Lake campground, and the Falcon Trails ski hill.

Thank you for taking the time to read my report. I look forward to continuing to work with the Whiteshell Cottagers Association and hope to meet you in person soon. If ever I can be of service to you, please don't hesitate to get in touch with my office at mindsdev@leg.gov.mb.ca.

You can write for the Whiteshell Echo

We welcome contributors from across

Whiteshell Park, students to seniors.

Contact the editor at

echo@whiteshellcottagers.com



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SOUTH EAST WHITESHELL FIRE DEPARTMENT

By Gordon Greaves

As 2018 draws to a close and as the lake summer season comes to a close, we, at the Fire Department, are pleased to reflect on the good things that have happened this year.

Our new truck, received in February 2018, is a very significant advancement in the capabilities of the Fire Department. We have been fortunate enough to purchase this asset without incurring any debt, thanks to the generosity of our many and significant donors. As at our year end of October 31, more than 107 Builders have contributed to our success in 2018. And our thanks also extends to the great number of our cottager donors who have responded to our needs.

Thank you again to all who organized and attended our very successful Firefighter's Ball in June. Mark your calendars and reserve the date for June 2020 for our next Ball.

The August Open House clothing sales will support the fire department operations over the

coming winter. Thanks to all who attended our annual event. It is still not too late to get your t-shirt or sweatshirt as a gift for the coming holiday season. Please contact a firefighter to arrange a purchase.



Purchase of a Paddle Necklace supports the fire department.

Many people have also contributed to the Fire Department by purchasing the special Paddle necklaces from Hilary Druxman. A portion of each sale is generously contributed by the retailer to the Fire Department. To date, over \$3,000 has been raised through the sale of these necklaces. Please check with the Mason Jar, Caddy Lake Resort, and the Falcon Trails or with Hilary Druxman directly to get yours for the holidays. I would like to extend a special thanks on be-

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\$50 ___ \$100 ___ \$500 ___ (Builder) Other ___

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Email: _____ Signature: _____

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South East Whiteshell Fire Dept.

Box 88 Whiteshell P.O.
West Hawk Lake, Manitoba R0E 2H0

Lake / block / lot: _____

half of the Fire Department to Hilary Druxman.

The Fire Department would like to remind cottagers to ensure they have signs on their properties indicating the Lot and Block, to assist responders in all emergencies to find their location. We would also ask that you review and update all your lists of key holders and phone numbers who can be contacted in an emergency, particularly when you are not at the lake.

These are always important

issues during the winter season and at cottage opening times.

Finally, our Fire Chief, Bruce Morrison and his wife Sharon, were able to visit the 911 memorial to all First Responders in New York City this fall. It is a moving and memorable place to visit. Thank you to all First Responders for your efforts everywhere.

We wish you all the very best in the coming Holiday Season and for the New Year.

Thank you all for your support.

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS SAVED OUR COTTAGE AND MANY OTHERS

By Joan Stephens

On Thurs., May 5, 2016, CBC reported that a serious forest fire was brewing in the West Hawk/Caddy/Ingolf area of the Whiteshell. The news hit close to home; my family has had a cottage on the north end of West Hawk for more than 60 years and this sounded just a little too close for comfort.

Built by our parents on a shoestring in 1954, the cottage has always been central to our family life. We knew growing up that living in the middle of a centuries-old boreal forest meant a fire of some sort was always a possibility. Because our end of the lake is classified as 'isolated' (no road access), we had 20 years earlier joined fellow cottagers to proactively fundraise for a portable fire pump, meant to act as a stopgap until the fire department could arrive. The South East Whiteshell Fire Department (SEWFD) advised on the purchase and trained us in its use. It was utilized a few times, perhaps most notably on

Big Bertha. We all knew that, in the face of a catastrophic forest fire, it would provide only a drop in the proverbial bucket. And, with no road, how could anyone – even the dedicated volunteers of the SEWFD – be able to save a multitude of cottages?

So, on a sunny Friday morning my brother Hugh and I headed to the lake, figuring that if the cottage's time had finally come we would at least retrieve our family photo albums. As soon as we arrived, Hugh started hosing down and soaking the area around the cottage, having learned from our volunteer firefighters that raising the humidity was a key way to protect an area.

On Saturday, with smoke billowing two short kilometers to the east and water bombers making seven-minute runs, we did what we could while praying for rain and hoping the wind would (or wouldn't) change. Hugh continued soaking the area as I moved our immense stack of firewood as far away from the cottage as possible (all the while feeling that

we were simply rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic). After supper we actually started to relax a bit when two SEWFD volunteer firefighters arrived at our dock to tell us we had two hours to evacuate.

We were fortunate to be able to stay across the bay with our friends Georgia and Danny Klass and, on Sunday morning, we all awoke to the sight of our volunteer firefighters setting up fire suppression systems on dozens of cottages along the northeast side of the lake. They were also doing the same thing for some cottages at Caddy Lake. It was a massive undertaking and these folks – who had already been fighting the fire for more than 72 hours – were accomplishing it with military precision. The system had saved one cottage on Macara and they were determined to do everything they could to ensure that all cottages would be protected.

It's no spoiler to say that, ultimately, the fire of May, 2016 had a happy ending. Thanks to the

heroic efforts of the SEWFD the fire was contained, no cottages were lost and, most importantly, no one was injured.

But the threat remains. We all know it takes very little to start a devastating forest fire. A train speeding down a track, a lightning strike, a tree on a power line, a stray spark during an innocent evening spent round a crackling fire pit. Anything can, quite literally, make our cottages, and this beautiful boreal forest, go up in smoke. So, we must all remain vigilant. And continue supporting the South East Whiteshell Fire Department.

This experience completely transformed my understanding of what volunteer firefighters – most particularly, the extraordinary volunteers of the SEWFD – are capable. They truly are the embodiment of Margaret Mead's maxim: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

PROPOSED NORTH WHITESHELL FIRE DEPARTMENT RECRUITMENT SURVEY

**COMPLETE AND MAIL THIS SURVEY TO THE ADDRESS BELOW.
THIS SURVEY CAN ALSO BE DOWNLOADED FOR PRINTING FROM THE WCA WEBSITE
WWW.WHITESHELLCOTTAGERS.COM**

The next step in the process of creating the North Whiteshell Fire Dept. is determining the availability, current qualifications and potential level of participation of volunteer firefighters, officers and advisory board members. To achieve this, the interim board is reaching out to you for information.

To those of you who have already responded, we thank you. Once we have completed this process it is our intention to convene a meeting of all the volunteers in the spring of 2019. Look for updates in the Whiteshell Echo, on the Whiteshell Cottagers website and on Facebook.

Please complete the following questionnaire (or forward it to potential volunteers for completion) and return it to the attention of Gary Kennedy at address below:

1. What is your desired Fire Department role? (check more than one if desired)

- Administration
 - Board Member
- Operational
 - Firefighter
 - Chief Officer
 - Station Officer
- Support Services
 - Mechanical
 - Maintenance
- Instructor
 - Instructor

2. What is your availability? (Note: Volunteer FF's are dispatched by pager and confirm or decline dispatch accordingly)

- Seasonal Availability
 - Summer months only
 - Spring, Summer, Fall
 - Full year
- Weekly Availability
 - Full-time
 - Weekends
 - Random
- General
 - Full Time resident
 - Employed in the area

3. Driver's licence
- Class 4 or higher (as required for driving emergency response vehicles)
 - Class 5
 - Air brake endorsement

4. Training (check more than one)
- None
 - Fire Officer
 - Firefighter
 - Level I
 - Level II
 - Medical
 - First Aid/CPR
 - First Responder
 - Paramedic

The next step in creating the North Whiteshell Fire Dept. is determining the availability, current qualifications and potential level of participation of volunteer firefighters, officers and advisory board members. To achieve this, the interim board is reaching out to you for information. Those interested are asked to complete and return this survey.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Please send completed survey to: Gary Kennedy
33-495 Island Shore Blvd,
Winnipeg, MB R3X 0A1
or email: garykennedy@mts.net

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

*Compiled by
Neil McMillan, Chair,
Environment Committee*

- The Falcon Lake boat house channel at Block 10 is scheduled to be dredged next year.

- The Manitoba Infrastructure report summarizing the results of the Falcon Lake Open House held Aug. 26 was expected to be released to the WCA in late November.

- Minutes of a fall meeting with Manitoba Infrastructure, Department of Sustainable Development and the Whiteshell Cottagers Association are under revision to add additional comments by the Environment Committee regarding recommended lake levels following completion of the dredging. Minutes will be posted on the website once the report from Manitoba Infrastructure is available.

2018 Lake Levels in feet above sea level (except as noted)

LAKE	JUNE 10	JULY 04	AUG 27	SEPT 13	SEPT 26	NOV 2	TARGET LEVEL	
							Summer	Winter
Betula	Unknown	987.80	987.30	987.25	987.30*	987.35**	988.20	
Big Whiteshell	1018.50	1018.65	1017.90	1017.90	1017.65	1017.90	2017 average 1018.00	
Brereton	1037.10	1037.10	1036.55	1036.55	1036.45	1036.70	1037.00	1036.50
Caddy	1045.80	1044.45	1043.75	1043.90	1044.05	1044.30	1046.00	1044.00
Falcon	1065.95	1065.85	1065.20	1065.10	1065.10	1065.10	Min. 1065.75 max. 1066.25 1065.00	
Jessica	1018.15	1017.65	1017.40	1017.40	1017.50	1017.55	1017.50	1017.00
Lone Island	1018.05	1018.00	1017.55	1017.55	1017.20	1017.45	2017 average 1017.50	
Nutimik	274.27 m	274.31 m	274.14m	274.16m	274.30*	274.69	2017 average 274.70 m	
Star	1114.95	1114.95	1114.55	1114.50	1114.50	1114.70	1115.00	
West Hawk	1091.20	1091.10	1090.60	1090.50	1090.50	1090.30	Min. 1090.65 max. 1092.25 1090.25	
White	1004.15	1003.75	1003.60	1003.60	1003.65	1003.80	1003.40 max. 1003.10 Min. 1002.70	
Winnipeg River - Lac du Bonnet	254.95 m	254.93 m	254.82m	254.88m	254.90*	254.88	2017 average 254.86 m	

* Reading as of September 19

**Reading as of October 10

*Reading as of October 16

- Most lakes are already close to the winter drawdown levels as a result of the dry summer. Manitoba Infrastructure has been advised that Jessica Lake and White Lake remain at the summer level and they

have confirmed they will be investigating the reason.

- The Environment Committee is working with Manitoba Infrastructure to gather data and formulate a survey to be sent by email in January to

Betula Lake cottagers regarding an acceptable lake level.

- A website tracking locations of Purple Loosetrife will be linked to the Whiteshell Cottagers Association website. (See related story page 27).



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EASTMAN SECURITY

(204) 340-6407

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Eastman security is a locally owned company that was created in hopes of preventing some of the crime that our communities have encountered over the years. I am an ex Police officer that used to patrol this area and I know the difficulties that are encountered with residents including remoteness and lack of resources patrolling their area.

Criminals target cottages that seem unattended which is where our company can help! Take a look at our website and let's do as much as we can to prevent crime in our area. I look forward to hearing from you.

— Craig Webb

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THE WHITESHELL ECHO ACCEPTS OBITUARIES AND IN MEMORIAMs

RATES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

CONTACT THE EDITOR BY EMAIL AT ECHO@WHITESHELLCOTTAGERS.COM OR CALL (204) 5583437



WHITESHELL COTTAGERS ASSOCIATION 2018 PHOTO CONTEST



Judged by Jeff de Booy, former Photo Editor with the Winnipeg Free Press, former Photojournalist with the Winnipeg Free Press and the Winnipeg Tribune.

“First of all, I wish to thank everyone for their entries. There were a lot this year. I enjoyed each and every one of them and I thank you for your effort in participating.” — *Jeff de Booy*

SCENIC CATEGORY



1st Place \$75
Joylene Preun, Florence Lake

Judge’s comments:

The beauty of this photo, Joylene, is that whoever views it, would want to be there at that exact moment. And, thank goodness, you were.



2nd Place \$50
Allan Baker, Falcon Lake

Judge’s comments:

I’ll bet your heart rate increased when you came upon this vista, Allan! Glad you had your camera on hand.



3rd Place \$35
Darlene Karp, White Lake

Judge’s comments:

Awesome sunrise/sunset Darlene! Almost makes one want to start a new religion.



4th Place \$25
Kathy de Rocquigny, High Rock Beach Rd.

Judge’s comments:

Awww, look at the doggie! There, I said it. A beautiful summer at the lake moment, Kathy. Good capture.

WHITESHELL COTTAGERS ASSOCIATION 2018 PHOTO CONTEST

NATURE CATEGORY



1st Place \$75
Kathy Doerksen, Hunt Lake

Judge's comments:
Congratulations, Kathy! This capture of two common mergansers resting on a twisted tree root works so well because of the low angle you achieved. Great composition.



2nd Place \$50
Lorne Bellan
Caddy Lake

Judge's comments:
Now, this is a moment rare to capture. But Lorne, you did it! Impressive, wouldn't you say?



3rd Place \$35
Rebecca Smith, Barrier Bay

Judge's comments:
Beautiful image of a recently morphed dragonfly drying its wings in the sun, Rebecca! The shallow depth-of-field gives much dimension.



4th Place \$25
Stephanie Wood
Jessica Lake

Judge's comments:
I love this composition of a hummingbird drinking nectar, Stephanie! Even with a fast shutter speed, it is almost impossible to freeze its wings in flight.



WHITESHELL COTTAGERS ASSOCIATION 2018 PHOTO CONTEST



ACTION CATEGORY



1st Place \$75
Derek Hayden, West Hawk Lake

Judge's comments:
Well done, Derek! One could almost feel the spray coming off the bow, the wind at your back.



3rd Place \$35
Kim Zacharias, Jessica Lake

Judge's comments:
Nice shot, Kim! Smoke from the east and west this year gave you opportunity to create this beautiful image.



2nd Place \$50
Blair Mahaffy, West Hawk Lake

Judge's comments:
A good capture, Blair! With the sun slightly behind the boarder, you were able to highlight his spray against the dark background.

4th Place \$25
Edna Simons
Big Whiteshell Lake

Judge's comments:
With it raining bubbles, these youngsters are truly enjoying the experience. Your title 'Double Bubbles' suits this action photo. Good on you, Edna!



WHITESHELL COTTAGERS ASSOCIATION 2018 PHOTO CONTEST

YOUTH CATEGORY — FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS 16 AND UNDER (TWO ENTRIES SUBMITTED)



1st Place \$75
Julia Armstrong
Florence Lake

Judge's comments:
Congratulations, Julia! Your artistic licence created this harmonic association between us and nature. Well done.

2nd Place \$50
Avalon Unger
Barrier Bay

Judge's comments:
Very thoughtful, Avalon, to capture a sunset using foliage in the foreground to give the image some dimension. Good for you.



Honourable Mention
Angela Kelsch, Nutimik Lake



A note from the Echo editor:
This entry was labeled "Nature, Scenic or Youth, please pick." However it is up to the entrant to indicate which category the picture is to be judged in. In any case we couldn't resist this leprechaun at the end of the rainbow.

THE WHITESHELL COTTAGERS ASSOCIATION PHOTO CONTEST RETURNS IN 2019. LOOK FOR DETAILS IN THE FEBRUARY ISSUE.

WCA MEMBERSHIP REPORT

WCA MEMBER DISCOUNTS

WCA MEMBERS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR DISCOUNTS AT AN INCREASING NUMBER OF MERCHANTS
 You may need to show your WCA Membership Card



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 Receive 20% discount.

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 50% off boater licenses.



CABELAS
 \$20 off on a purchase of \$150 or more.
 Coupon will be mailed with your WCA membership card.



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 Receive V.I.P. Pricing up to 20% off.



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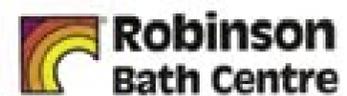


MARK'S WORK WEAR-HOUSE

Discount cards will be mailed with your WCA membership card.



PLEZIA INSURANCE BROKERS (see p. 10)



ROBINSON BATH CENTRE

Receive contractor pricing.



STAR BUILDING MATERIALS LTD.
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 Discounts vary on lumber or hardware.



TOTAL LIGHTING
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By Deborah Seguin
 WCA Membership Chair

Your WCA is busy planning for the year ahead with retail discounts, exclusive events and fantastic draws for members only. We are presently working on a couple of new and exciting opportunities only available to members, that you won't want to miss! STAY TUNED FOR AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN DECEMBER.

Membership in the WCA is at 2,043 members. Have a look at the chart at right for your lake data. Help us grow. Please reach out to your lake neighbours and ask them to join the association and encourage family members to purchase associate memberships. Associate memberships cost only \$20 per year. Associate members receive news and exclusive website content including the electronic version of the *Whiteshell Echo*. THEY ALSO QUALIFY FOR WCA MEMBER DISCOUNTS listed at left. One discounted purchase from our participating retailers can more than pay for a membership fee!

For a full membership or associate mem-

bership, register online at whiteshellcottagers.com or print and mail in the form or use the one below.

And remember, there is STRENGTH IN NUMBERS FOR ALL THE INITIATIVES YOUR WCA IS PURSUING ON YOUR BEHALF.

	Total Cottagers	Percentage of WCA Members
Barren Lake	22	36%
Barrier Lake	54	70%
Bear Lake	2	0%
Betula Lake	169	47%
Big Whiteshell Lake	188	73%
Brereton Lake	359	63%
Caddy Lake	153	67%
Dorothy Lake	103	56%
Elenaor Lake	57	70%
Falcon Lake	820	50%
Florence Lake	31	65%
George Lake	10	20%
Green Lake	4	75%
Hunt Lake	8	63%
Jessica Lake	103	71%
Nason Lake	2	50%
Nora Lake	22	36%
Nutimik Lake	190	65%
Otter Lake	80	60%
Point du Bois Lake	133	28%
Red Rock Lake	132	61%
Star Lake	132	60%
Westhawk Lake	507	55%
White Lake	84	89%



Whiteshell Cottagers Association Incorporated

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I support the goals of the Whiteshell Cottagers Association and I wish to become a member in order to help assure that those goals are achieved.

Please check one of the following: Renewing ___ or Joining as a new member ___

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province/State: _____

Postal Code/Zip Code: _____

**** E-mail address: _____ (VERY IMPORTANT!!)

Send Whiteshell Echo by Mail ___ or I prefer to read Online ___ (check one)

Home phone number: _____ Lake phone number: _____

Fill in below what accurately reflects your cottage location:

Name of Lake: _____ Block: _____ Lot: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please make cheque payable to the Whiteshell Cottagers Association Inc.
 Mail to:

2D - 1975 Corydon Avenue, Winnipeg MB R3P 0R1

Type of Membership requested:

- _____ Standard 1-Year Membership (2018) \$35
- _____ Standard 2-Year Membership (2018-2019) \$70
- _____ Standard 3-Year Membership (2018-2020) \$100 (save \$5)
- _____ Standard 4-Year Membership (2018-2021) \$130 (save \$10)
- _____ Standard 5-Year Membership (2018-2022) \$160 (save \$15)

- _____ *Associate 1-Year Membership (2018) \$20
- _____ *Associate 2-Year Membership (2018-2019) \$40
- _____ *Associate 3-Year Membership (2018-2020) \$60
- _____ *Associate 4-Year Membership (2018-2021) \$80
- _____ *Associate 5-Year Membership (2018-2022) \$100

WCA WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE

*By Angela Hogan
WCA Website Chair*

The Whiteshell Cottagers Association Website Committee aims to keep members informed of news, events, issues and to share ideas affecting cottagers in the Whiteshell. Through the website at www.whiteshellcottagers.com members have access to a wide variety of information including meeting minutes, electronic copies of the *Echo*, committee news, safety alerts, information about membership benefits, special events, etc. The

website activity continues to increase. We had a record of over 26,800 site visitors over the past 12 months.

We are continuing to use email blasts to communicate information to members. If you haven't received emails like the one pictured from the WCA, please contact wca@whiteshellcottagers.com and provide your current email address for future important correspondence.

Our new Instagram feed is all about the people that love the Whiteshell. Pictures of the beautiful landscape, the animals that live here and the people that enjoy it will

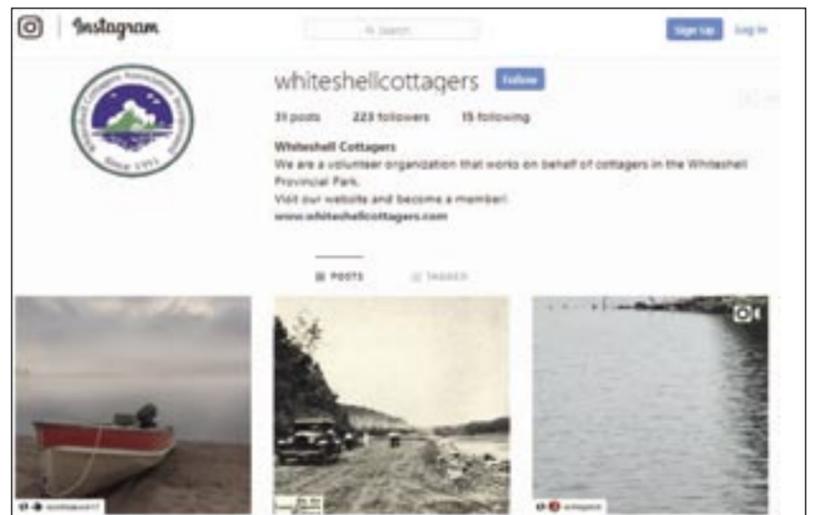
fill this feed.

Search for #whiteshellcottagers within Instagram to find our feed. Please follow the account.

Make sure to tag us in your Instagram posts and we just might feature your picture! We already have over 300 followers.

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/WhiteshellCottagers/> for great features including news, ideas, stories events and great pictures.

We have had over 2,300 "likes" and over 2,500 followers on Facebook



Our Instagram feed is all about the people that love the Whiteshell. Pictures of the beautiful landscape, the animals that live here, and the people that enjoy it, will fill this feed.



Don't forget to follow us on Facebook for great features including news, ideas, stories events and great pictures. We have had over 2,300 "likes" and over 2,500 followers on Facebook.

If you haven't received emails from the WCA like the one above, please contact wca@whiteshellcottagers.com and provide your current email address for future important correspondence.

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**Contact Sean Amos
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FALCON LAKE



By Blair Mineault

In the first paragraph of my report in the December 2017 issue of the Whiteshell Echo I wrote. "I'm already missing the above normal temperatures we had this fall." Quite the opposite this year for sure. It has been a cool one, and the temperatures continue to drop as we settle in for another winter. Best that we grasp this wonderful season and take advantage of all the great things it has to offer.

Before I get into what's happening around the lake this winter. Here are a few things of mention.

Road to Shoal Lake 40

Shoal Lake 40 First Nation is very close to having a year-round land link that they've been fighting to get for over four decades. For cottagers heading east on the Trans Canada highway the reality of this venture came clear this summer as the road emerged from the forest just east of Falcon at pipeline road. Construction is reportedly still slated for completion by June, 2019. However, officials say that they anticipate access down the road should come earlier, depending on weather and progress of construction.

Once the road is open, keep in mind for your safety and others to expect merging traffic in and out of the new road. The province will be responsible for maintaining the road up to the First Nation's boundary. Shoal Lake 40 First Nation will be responsible for maintenance on reserve land. Enforcement will be the responsibility of the RCMP and OPP depending upon which province you are in.

Channel Dredging

I was out for the final boat ride on the lake on the Thanksgiving long weekend. I took the opportunity to check out the newly dredged channel in Block 23. Besides all the mud, it looked pretty good. Won't take long next year for the greenery to grow back, I'm sure. Block 10 channel is slated for dredging in the the fall of 2019.



Troy Milne from Lorette entertains at The Whiteshell Busk Stop. Photo by Corley Sweeting.

Busking at the Lake

The Whiteshell Busk Stop was in its final stages of completion this fall. The shopping mall in town is already a great hangout for all ages to eat, shop, meet new people and now it has become a great place to listen and watch some great live entertainment. The new attraction was gaining momentum over the summer as more talent took to the stage. Troy Milne from Lorette is one to be mentioned. He took the stage this summer to entertain listeners with songs that ranged from the 50s to rock and roll, country and Top 40 hits. Hope to see plenty more talent next summer.

Swamp Donkey

From an appearance by the Swamp Nest Monster and team names like Pain Train, Prairie Fire Combat Birds, and RU Lost, there is no wonder this event is not just a challenge, but a whole lotta fun! Team Vicglorious Secret is no exception and is one of the many teams that show up on racing day in costumes to complement their mandatory race gear. The event started in front of the Falcon Lake Mall and was another huge success on a warm sunny day. Next year's race is already set for September 14. Registration opens January 1.

Fishing News

Fishing doesn't just happen in the summer. Many lakes in the Whiteshell offer great opportunities all winter long to catch your favorite species. If you have a tag from the Winter Fish Contest, it's still good for 2018. Last tag caught was in August and netted \$1,000 for the angler. Don't forget that March brings the annual Winter Fish Off ice fishing derby on Falcon lake. Follow @winterfishoff on Facebook for details and the date for 2019. Last year's

Continued Next Page



A new road connects Shoal Lake Forty First Nation with the Trans Canada Highway. Completion is expected by June, 2019.

FALCON LAKE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18)

event drew over 1,000 participants and raised money for charity.

Trails

This was a banner year for the South Whiteshell Trail Association with trail use at its highest ever. We Whiteshellers must be getting in really good shape! Trail use was not the only positive thing. Trail maintenance and construction made for the best trails ever as well. So many dedicated volunteers contributed to the success of the trail system this year with one that needs special mention. Cris Labossiere works tirelessly on trail maintenance with other volunteers to keep the trails safe, fun and challenging for all users. His hard work paid off this year when he became the recipient of the Volunteer of the Year award at the 20th annual Travel Manitoba Tourism Awards event.

Cross Country Skiing Trails

Ski some of the best trails Manitoba has to offer. Falcon Ridge area has 25 km of groomed trails for all levels of ability. And when you've conquered that you're ready to hit another 40 km in the park. Grab a map at your local Parks office or visit the Cross-Country Ski Association of Manitoba website. You can also follow Ryan the Groomer on Instagram for trail conditions.

Snowmobile Trails

December brings nervous anticipation and hope for enough snow to get trails up and running as early as possible. With the expense of operating a sled including insurance, gas, trail fees, etc. let's hope that this winter will drop plenty of snow on the trails for smooth riding all winter long. Be safe out there, respect other riders, and stick to the trails if you don't know the lake — especially at night. Be respectful of warm-up shelters and leave no trace as you enjoy the warmth of each one. Volunteers spend a great deal of time and energy to build and maintain them for your enjoyment.

Fat Bike Races

The Manitoba Fatbike series includes four races throughout the year in southern Man-



Competing teams prepare for the start of the 2018 Swamp Donkey Adventure Race. Photo by Corley Sweeting.

itoba. One of those races will be on Sun., Jan. 13, 2019 at Falcon Ridge Ski Area. This year marks the fourth annual event. Register on their website at 2WheelRevolution.ca

Community Club News

"Membership is up slightly from last year," says Natalie Rogers, the club's Communications Clerk. Let's hope this trend continues into 2019. On the other side, volunteer numbers are down. The club urgently needs volunteers. Starting with someone to step up as club President, Vice President and Kitchen/Bar Director. The club's biggest challenge is getting younger people involved. Most of the volunteer base right now have put in their time and the torches need to be passed off to new faces. If you can, help. Get on the clubs list. You're needed in the bar, the kitchen and other numerous roles including help with Beaver Days Feb. 8, 9 and 10, 2019.

The committee in charge of raising funds for the new ice plant has done a great job in raising \$14,000 so far. However, that is not enough to get the curling program up and running for the 2018/2019 season. The club really needs help with this. Repairs to the ice plant will cost at least \$30,000. Spread the word. Let's not lose this great winter activity that has been so important to the club.

The outdoor rink is available anytime and open to all unless there is a league game scheduled by the 4 on 4 Whiteshell Hockey League. Enjoy the



The completed dredging of the Block 23 channel.



Enjoy a variety of workout options at the Whiteshell Community Club's Fitness Centre, including the new treadmill and elliptical machine.

rink by keeping the warm-up shack clean, and shovel when necessary. There is no regular maintenance person to do so. News and events can always be found on the club's website at www.whiteshellcommunityclub.ca

Follow @Whiteshell Cottagers and @FalconWest-

hawkLakes on Facebook for updates on current events and news during the winter.

Have a great winter! Please send me news, stories and pictures of all the great things you and your family do around the lake this winter. Send them to me at bamineault@gmail.com



CAMP NUTIMIK: TIMELESS MEMORIES



*By Wayne Eisbrenner
Camp Nutimik*

This time of year seems to be a season of remembrance. A short time ago we remembered and commemorated those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for the price of freedom during the World Wars of the 20th century. We honoured their memory and we took time to remember.

As we gather together for family events for our Christmas celebrations there will be many stories of Christmas celebrations of the past and we remember the fun times, the challenges and victories, as well as reflect on the lives of those who are no longer with us.

A few short days later, many of us will look back on the year that was, and perhaps remember the resolutions that we made – some that we kept – and then many of us will pause to make new promises of resolutions to keep as we enter 2019.

I have taken this oppor-



In 2019 Camp Nutimik will celebrate its 65th year of being a camp in the Whiteshell.

tunity as I write to pause for a moment to remember and reflect on this past year, realizing that memories are not measured in days and weeks, but in moments in time.

Moments of joy as Camp Nutimik became a bee-hive of activity with summer staff and campers. I can still hear the noise, the laughter and the singing of young voices just enjoying being in creation.

There were moments of bitter sweetness when we said farewell to friends

who had become a second family as they moved on to new adventures in their lives. It's amazing how close we become in a short period of time in our camp setting.

In recent weeks we actually had moments of silence when the activities around camp became less hectic and it gave time to fix and rebuild and hopefully relax for just a bit.

This coming year will be a time when we will have many moments of remembering as we celebrate our 65th year

of being a camp in the Whiteshell!

From a meagre start in 1954, when a morning dip in Lake Nutimik was the camper's shower, to a fully modern facility, Camp Nutimik has stood as a bastion in providing physical, emotional, relational and spiritual discovery opportunities for children, youth and families.

Times have changed, but the desire that was born as a vision by forwardthinking individuals back in 1954 is 'Timeless'

(our theme for summer 2019). In fact, recent studies have shown that children born since 1996 (Generation Z) have less in-person social time than previous generations; that they are on the front-line of mental health issues and that this is reaching crisis proportions as rates of anxiety, teen depression and suicide have skyrocketed since 2011. Camp Nutimik stands as a partner with families in providing safe out-door adventures, an immersive social environment and authentic caring relationships for children and youth.

So, while we remember, we also look ahead to new and exciting times in 2019 as we continue to serve the purpose for which we were established! We look forward to serving the Whiteshell and area for many years to come and take this opportunity as well to wish you and yours the very best Christmas celebration ever!



CALL OUT FOR INTEREST IN MOBILE SAILING SCHOOL



By Susie Strachan

If you've ever wondered why sailboats go back-and-forth across the water, or want to dust off the old sailboat at your cottage, here's a chance to get some answers and get onto the water.

There is an opportunity to bring in Sail Manitoba's mobile sailing school for a weekend on Red Rock Lake in the summer of 2019, to teach the basics of sailing in dinghies.

The mobile sailing school is aimed at those ages five and older, and provides instruction for both beginners and those looking to further



The mobile sailing school is aimed at kids aged five and older, and provides instruction for both beginners and those looking to further their sailing skills. Photos provided by RS Sailing.

their sailing skills. Sail Manitoba provides two instructors and a number of sailboats.

Young students be-

tween the ages of five and seven would sail in prams, which are small dinghies with a single sail. An Optimist or Mir-

ror dinghy is an example of this type of sailboat. The young children take introductory sailing sessions focusing on water

safety along with fun and games.

Students ages eight

Continued next page



CITIZENS ON PARK PATROL ENTERS 20TH YEAR



by *David G. Willison*
Chairperson

Well, here we are starting our 20th continuous year of service to the North Whiteshell Cottage Community. For 19 of those years, Jack McRobie was the chairperson. This past April at our final formal meeting of the year, Jack announced he was resigning his position as chairperson, as someone had approached him and his wife Jan and asked if they had considered selling their cottage. After some rather serious discussions they agreed it was time to sell and move into Winnipeg. Elections were called, which are done annually, which resulted in myself, David G. Willison being nominated as the next chairperson, along with a new assistant, Tom Cardey.

As a COPP group we would like to take this opportunity to say a special thank-you to Jack McRobie for giving 19 years of his life to this fantastic program, which he was responsible for creating. All of us benefit from the services this program provides. All the very best to you, Jack and Jan in your new Winnipeg retirement home.

Business As Usual

For the most part, everything stays the same. We work closely with the RCMP and the Park Conservation Officers. Our main purpose is to make ourselves visible as we go about our patrolling. We act as the eyes and ears of those organizations when they are not in the park. Our Citizens on Patrol members patrol from Oct. 1 to April 30.

In the past, and up until this present time, our COPP program has been involved in the arrest and prosecution of over a dozen individuals, directly or indirectly.

North Whiteshell Citizens on Patrol



**Please support
your local
COPP**

**PO Box 157 Seven Sisters Falls
Man. R0E 1Y0**

Parks have two young members assigned to the Cottage Watch Program, which runs from part of September to early December. The Cottage Watch Program is funded by all cottagers, paying a fee on their lease bill. The Citizens on Patrol Program is run independently and relies strictly on donations from cottagers such as YOU, to help pay for operating costs.

The two groups operate differently, Cottage Watch patrols the entire Whiteshell area both north and south, five times a week on a random patrol schedule. Citizens on Patrol Program patrols four times a week on a day or night random patrol from Eleanor Lake to Betula Lake.

Over the past number of years the COPP patrols have travelled countless numbers of kilometres and put in an endless amount of hours to this worthwhile program, in order to keep crime at bay.

There are organizations and individuals we want to thank: Manitoba Conservation Enforcement NRO, Andrew Prokopchuk; RCMP Lac du Bonnet and Whitemouth detachments; Whiteshell Cottagers Association and the *Echo* for publishing our annual article. Also a special thank you to those individual cottagers and companies, that have donated to our program. Last but not least, a special thank you to team members who do the patrolling, day and night.

Over the years, there have been cottagers who make a donation every year to the COPP program, and others who donate from time to time. All these donations, however big or small, are a great assistance to the operation of the COPP program, keeping it alive and well, thank you ever so much.

At one time we would list the names of our donors, but no longer do, due to privacy issues. Again we take this opportunity to thank you for your donation, we both know who you are and it is appreciated.

We do provide a short over view of donor numbers by Lake: Eleanor, 7; Otter Falls, 13; Golden Acres, 4; Dorothy Lake, 10; Barrier Bay, 12; Nutimik Lake, 18; Nutimik Private Lands, 3; Betula Lake, 21.

If you feel that the COPP patrol serves a worthwhile purpose, in its off season patrolling, and I'm sure you do, and you choose to make a donation or become a member, please contact us at:

**North Whiteshell
Citizens on Patrol
300 Group. P.O. Box 157
Seven Sisters Falls
Manitoba R0E 1Y0**

Remember we are here every winter even if you are not. Do have a great winter and have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

MOBILE SAILING SCHOOL, CONT'D FROM P. 20

and older sail in RS Zest sailboats, which are crewed by two people. There is also the opportunity to bring your own sailboat for the lessons. Older students learn the basics of sailing through dryland and on-water lessons. Students are introduced to basic sailing skills such as safety, rigging, terminology, seamanship and boat handling skills. No sailing experience is necessary.

Younger students are taught the Wet Feet Certification program, while older students learn from the CANSail one and two programs. CANSail programming means lots of time on the water in a safe, fun and active learning environment, with relatively less time spent in a class on-shore. Sailors learn the skills and enter into fun and chal-

lenging experiences suited to their age and stage of development.

The cost of bringing in the mobile sailing school is \$800 for the weekend. To make this work, a minimum of 20 students would have to sign up for the lessons, at a cost of \$40 per person. The school would be able to accommodate up to 25 people in total, which would bring the cost per person down.

At a minimum, the school can accommodate 12 to 15 children and eight to ten adults. Every student would receive a morning and afternoon training session, split over the two-day period.

Details of the location of the school and the particular weekend the mobile pro-

gram would be at Red Rock Lake will be determined upon reaching enough interest in the lessons.

If you are interested in signing up children or yourself for this opportunity for learning the basics of sailing, please contact me at sstracha@mymts.net.

Read more at the Sail Manitoba website, www.sailmanitoba.com.

Follow the Whiteshell Sailing Club on Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/374979482573341/

Susie Strachan sails a Weta trimaran on Red Rock Lake, and is a member of the Whiteshell sailing club, which includes sailors on Jessica, White, Brereton, Big Whiteshell and Red Rock Lakes.



WHAT'S COOKING FOR THE HOLIDAYS?



Whole Roasted Turkey with Traditional Pan Gravy

Makes 8 Servings. Preparation 10 minutes. Cooking time varies based on bird size. Servings varies based on bird size: 1 person/lb or 2 people/kg allows for lots of leftovers.

Ingredients

1 Seasoned Whole Turkey

Wet Rub

1/4 cup (65 mL) olive oil

2 Tbsp (30 mL) garlic, coarsely chopped

2 Tbsp (30 mL) paprika

1/2 cup (125 mL) Italian parsley, coarsely chopped

1/2 tsp (2.5 mL) cracked black pepper

Gravy

1/4 cup (65 mL) red wine

5 cups (1.2 litres) turkey or chicken stock, homemade or low sodium

5 tbsp (75 mL) butter

1/2 cup (125 mL) flour

salt & pepper, to taste

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350°F (175°C) for convection roast or 375°F (190°C) in a regular oven.
2. Remove neck and giblets.
3. Combine all wet rub ingredients and mix into a paste with a hand blender or small food processor.
4. Rub seasoning all over the bird, spreading it around as much as possible. Put any extra inside the cavity of the turkey.
5. Place turkey on a wire rack inside the roasting pan.
6. Cover the top of the bird loosely with foil. Place in oven. Remove foil after 1-2 hours depending on the size of the bird. A meat thermometer should read 170°F (77°C) when the bird is done.
7. Once your turkey is fully cooked, tilt it so the juices drain into roasting pan, then transfer turkey to a platter, reserving the juices in the roasting pan. Let the turkey rest in a warm place loosely covered for 30 minutes.
8. Strain the juices into a container then skim and discard fat. If using a fat separator, strain the juices into the separator and let stand until fat rises to top. Pour the juices from separator into a container.
9. Place the roasting pan on a burner over medium high heat, add wine and deglaze, stirring and scraping up brown bits. Strain into container with other juices.
10. Melt butter in a sauce pan and add flour. Cook over medium high heat, stirring constantly for about 3-4 minutes. Add deglazed juices and stock, and bring to a simmer while whisking continuously. Season with salt and pepper.
11. Carve turkey and serve with warm gravy.



Classic French Chateaubriand

Makes 2-3 Servings. Preparation 10 minutes. Cooking time 35 minutes.

Ingredients

1 pound beef tenderloin (center cut)

2 tablespoons butter

2 tablespoons olive oil

Salt (to taste)

Black pepper (to taste)

1 shallot (finely chopped)

1/2 cup red wine (dry)

1/2 cup demi-glace

1 tablespoon butter (softened)

1 tablespoon fresh tarragon (or 2 teaspoons dried)



Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 375 F.
2. Melt the butter and olive oil together in a large skillet set over medium-high heat until the mixture turns a bit cloudy and bubbly.
3. Season the beef with salt and pepper to taste.
4. Place the meat in the pan and do not move it at all for at least 3 minutes. Using tongs, carefully turn the tenderloin on its side and brown it for 3 minutes. Repeat the same browning process on all exposed surfaces of the meat.
5. Place the tenderloin on a rack in a roasting pan in the oven. Roast the beef 15 minutes for medium-rare, 20 minutes for medium, and 23 minutes for medium-well.
6. Transfer the chateaubriand to a warmed serving platter, lightly tent it with a single layer of foil, and allow it to rest, untouched, for 15 minutes.
7. While the tenderloin is resting, make the wine sauce. Sauté the chopped shallots in the leftover pan juices in the skillet until softened and translucent.
8. Pour the wine into the skillet and bring the sauce to a boil, scraping up all the browned bits on the bottom of the pan.
9. Continue boiling the sauce until it reduces by half.
10. Add the demi-glace to the sauce and continue boiling the mixture until it becomes slightly thickened.
11. Remove the sauce from the heat and stir in the tarragon and softened butter.
12. Serve the chateaubriand, sliced on the diagonal, with the wine sauce and chateau potatoes or truffle fries.

Roasted Chateau Potatoes

**Makes 4-6 Servings
Preparation 15 minutes. Cooking time 25 minutes.**

Ingredients

8 tablespoons butter (1 stick)

2 pounds potatoes (peeled and cut into small ovals)

Optional: 1 tablespoon parsley (chopped fresh)

3/4 teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 400 F.
 2. Melt the butter in a large oven-proof skillet over medium-high heat. Sauté the potatoes in the butter for 5 minutes.
 3. Place the skillet into the oven and roast the potatoes, stirring often, for 20 minutes.
 4. Remove the skillet from the oven and sprinkle the browned potatoes with the chopped parsley, salt, and pepper. Serve the chateau potatoes immediately.
- Variations:** To save time, you can use smaller new potatoes or fingerlings, and keep them whole. For the same texture and flavour, still peel the potatoes before cooking. Pat them with a towel after peeling to absorb moisture. The potatoes will crisp up better if dry. For an extra flavor, add garlic, peel but keep the cloves whole, and place in the pan with the potatoes and butter. Discard garlic after removing pan from oven for a delicious garlic butter to spoon over the potatoes.

**SEND US YOUR FAVOURITE COTTAGE RECIPES.
EMAIL ECHO@WHITESHELLCOTTAGERS.COM**





WHAT'S COOKING FOR THE HOLIDAYS?



Green Split Pea Salad with Rice & Cranberries

Makes 4-6 Servings. Cooking time 45 minutes.

Ingredients

- 1 cup (250 mL) cooked green split peas
- 1 cup (250 mL) cooked brown rice
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) Red onion, minced
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) dried cranberries
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) chopped walnuts (optional)

Dressing

- 1 Tbsp (15 mL) canola oil
- 1 tsp (5 mL) sesame oil
- 2 Tbsp (30 mL) white wine vinegar
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) Dijon mustard
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) dried tarragon
- Cracked black pepper to taste
- Romaine or leafy lettuce greens (optional)

Directions

1. Cook rice and green split peas according to package directions, drain and rinse.
2. Place the rice in a large bowl. Add green split peas, minced onion, cranberries and walnuts (optional).
3. Make the salad dressing and pour over the salad. Could be served on a bed of lettuce (optional).

‘They would feast on
Who-pudding,
and rare Who-roast beast.’
— Dr. Seuss

Oven-Roasted Asparagus

Makes 6 Servings. Cooking time 20 minutes.

Ingredients

- 2 pounds fresh asparagus, trimmed
- 1/4 cup butter, melted
- 2 to 4 green onions, chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon salt



Directions

1. Preheat oven to 425°. Place asparagus in a 15x10x1-in. pan. Toss with melted butter and green onions; spread evenly. Sprinkle with salt.
2. Roast until crisp-tender, 10-15 minutes.

Corn and Broccoli in Cheese Sauce

Makes 8 Servings. Preparation time 10 minutes. Cooking time 3 hours.

Ingredients

- 1 package (16 ounces) frozen corn, thawed
- 1 package (16 ounces) frozen broccoli florets, thawed
- 4 ounces reduced-fat process cheese (Velveeta), cubed
- 1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 can (10-1/4 ounces) reduced-fat reduced-sodium condensed cream of chicken soup, undiluted
- 1/4 cup fat-free milk

Directions

1. In a 4-qt. slow cooker, combine the corn, broccoli and cheeses. In a small bowl, combine soup and milk; pour over vegetable mixture.
2. Cover and cook on low for 3-4 hours or until heated through. Stir before serving.

HOLIDAY BAKING

Light-As-Air Whipped Shortbread Cookies

Makes 36 Servings. Preparation time 15 minutes. Baking time 20 hours.

Ingredients

- 1 cup (250 mL) unsalted butter, softened
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) icing sugar, sifted
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) cornstarch
- 1 tsp (5 mL) vanilla extract
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) salt
- 1 1/2 cup (375 mL) all-purpose flour
- coloured sprinkles (optional)

Directions

1. In large bowl with electric beaters, beat butter, sugar, cornstarch, vanilla and salt until fluffy; mix in flour just until combined. Cover bowl and refrigerate just until firm, about 20 minutes.
2. Roll by tablespoonfuls into balls; place on parchment paper-lined baking sheets. Using lightly floured tines of fork, press tops of cookies until flattened to 1/2-inch (1 cm). Top with sprinkles, if using.
3. Bake in preheated 300°F (150°C) oven until pale golden and just set, 14 to 16 minutes. Let cool on pans on racks for 10 minutes; transfer cookies to racks and let cool completely (store in airtight container for up to 2 weeks).



Classic Sugar Cookies

Makes 36 dozen cookies. Preparation time: 15 minutes. Bake Time: 7 to 11 minutes.

Ingredients

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 3/4 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 Tbsp milk
- Powdered sugar, for rolling out dough



Directions

1. Sift together flour, baking powder, and salt. Set aside. Place butter and sugar in large bowl of electric stand mixer and beat until light in color. Add egg and milk and beat to combine. Put mixer on low speed, gradually add flour, and beat until mixture pulls away from the side of the bowl. Divide the dough in half, wrap in waxed paper, and refrigerate for 2 hours.
2. Preheat oven to 375 °F.
3. Sprinkle surface where you will roll out dough with powdered sugar. Remove 1 wrapped pack of dough from refrigerator at a time, sprinkle rolling pin with powdered sugar, and roll out dough to 1/4-inch thick. Move the dough around and check underneath frequently to make sure it is not sticking. If dough has warmed during rolling, place cold cookie sheet on top for 10 minutes to chill. Cut into desired shape, place at least 1-inch apart on greased baking sheet, parchment, or silicone baking mat, and bake for 7 to 9 minutes or until cookies are just beginning to turn brown around the edges, rotating cookie sheet halfway through baking time. Let sit on baking sheet for 2 minutes after removal from oven and then move to complete cooling on wire rack. Serve as is or ice as desired. Store in airtight container for up to 1 week.



WEST HAWK LAKE



By John Bell

Autumn greetings everyone. We have certainly missed the sun lately, more like a B.C. autumn, however, we did need the rain. West Hawk Lake water level is on the low side, even for the fall. My neighbours, Alan and Peggy, would usually have a regular quick dip in the lake up until early November but this year they stopped about the middle of October.

Snow Birds

Ray and Bev Newman are now in Mesa, Arizona, as are Bob and Cheryl Fitelovitch. Many others have also left for warmer climates. I will be leaving for Mesa Dec. 12 but returning Jan. 13, thus I will be able to enjoy (???) a month or so of cold weather in Kenora after my trip.

Just received an email from Ray to state that he is a great grandfather. His granddaughter Paige had a son, Beckam Asher, 9 lbs, 1 oz. on Oct. 29 at Grace Hospital. Congratulations Paige and Ray!

Visitors

On Oct. 25 my son John and partner Tim from Vancouver visited me at West Hawk for a delightful four days.

Thanksgiving

The Coma family enjoyed a very nice Thanksgiving in their home in West Hawk town. I attended an excellent Thanksgiving dinner at my neighbours, Alan and Peggy's, at their cottage. I hope everyone enjoyed Thanksgiving whether at home or the cottage.

Summer's End

Summer seemed to end abruptly in early September and few boats appeared in our bay, probably due to the end of the long stretch of very hot weather we experienced. During July and August it was a joy to see all the sailboats out on the lake and the skiers and children being towed in all sorts of contraptions. This reminds me of a day in 1983 when there was a sailboard poker derby here. Please see the pictures of many West Hawk sailors on Toshack's dock as seen from my dock. I imagine some people in the pictures are now residents here and towed their children around this summer!

Curling Cancelled?

I understand that there will not be any curling at Falcon again

this year. Not enough money has been raised to date to afford the \$35,000 in repairs to the ice machine. Curlers and others, please consider donations for the repairs. Volunteers are needed to aid in fund raising events such as dinners and game nights, etc.

A Little History

(Continued From Last Issue)

On a Christmas eve about 1871 Harry MacFie and Sam Kilburn were relaxing in their log cabin on Star Lake with a warm fire burning in the fireplace. It was very cold and Sam went outside to check the dogs. There was no wind and in the crisp air you could hear the cracking of ice and trees. Suddenly Sam heard a rifle shot from the direction of West Hawk. He re-entered the cabin wondering what transpired. Neither he nor Harry could explain the shot, especially since it was dark outside. The next morning they decided to investigate so they hitched up the dogs, travelled to the falls going to West Hawk, went down the frozen creek to Penniac Bay and started east along the shore of West Hawk Lake. About half way to the Long Pine portage they discovered tracks in the snow coming from across the lake and going up to old Pete's deserted cabin on a prominent point. Up there they found a stranger, dead and frozen sitting against the shack with a rifle by his side. Apparently he had trouble in the cold and dragged himself to Pete's deserted cabin hoping to find help. Finding it deserted and with frozen feet he must have shot himself. Sam and Harry never did find out what led to this situation and buried him with his rifle, by the cabin.

— From the book *Wasa Wasa* by Harry MacFie.

About 1980 my friend Peter Spratt and I read about this happening and decided to investigate since the high point where Pete's cabin was located must be the point just west of my friend's cabin. It is the only high point in the area. We managed to hike our way to the point and began searching. We did not expect to find any remains of the cabin but parts of the rifle may have survived along with other metal objects. The stranger was buried in hard frozen ground so any metal remains, etc would be near the surface. We did not find any



Above and below, the Sailboard Poker Derby of 1983. The view is of Toshack's dock as seen from my dock.



thing and didn't have a metal detector. We also surmised that in the 110 years since the incident Mother Nature could provide considerable overburden making discovery difficult. My friend Peter has since passed away but I often wonder if anything could be found with a metal detector. Also I would like to ask readers if anyone knows of the location of Sam and Harry's cabin on Star Lake.

Fish Hatchery News

Kevin Dyck was not available at the Hatchery when I called but Bill Sorenson gave me the following news. They have about 350,000 Brook Trout eggs hatching and about 175,000 Tiger Trout eggs hatching. The Tiger Trout are hybrid fish, said Bill, and only about 10 per cent will survive which is the normal rate. Eggs will be hatching in December. The hatchery is expecting

to receive about 20,000 Arctic Char eggs for distribution in the spring as fry. All fall stocking has been done. In outside tanks they have 70,000 rainbow trout about eight inches in size, two tanks of brown trout and a brood stock of about 400 adult trout in a tank by the river. Outside tanks are not heated and fish survive with water from West Hawk which is 35 to 40F. They also hold, in the building, about 1,500 brood trout. Thank you for the information Bill.

Winter Activities

Winter activities coming up include Beaver Days which will be February 8, 9 and 10, 2019. Volunteers are needed even for as little as four hours at a time. There will be 4 on 4 Hockey in the new skating rink, pickleball

Continued next page

WEST HAWK LAKE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

and other events. Keep in mind the Whiteshell Community Club Fitness Centre has several new machines available. The community hall is available for rent for dances, weddings, dinners, socials and special events. Join the Whiteshell Community Club to take advantage of the facilities.

Solar Power Paying Off

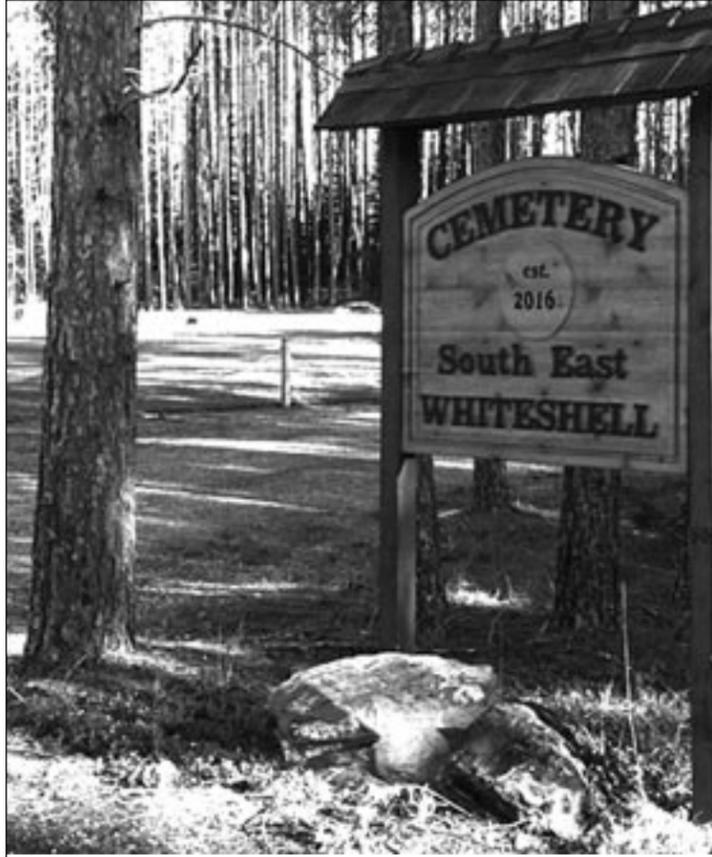
Sean Harbottle informed me that he has not paid an electrical bill for his business since July due to output credits from his solar energy farm. He said this occurred even though there was almost no sunlight the last few months. I expect many others will be considering use of solar energy.

Cemetery Plots Available

Sandy Fissette informs me that there is space available in the Southeast Whiteshell Cemetery. Twenty-five per cent of the plots have been sold and 57 per cent of space in the columbarium is sold. The cemetery is located just east of Faloma Beach near Falcon Lake. I drove by there last week and took the accompanying pictures.

Trail and Channel Work

Also it looks like the Trans Canada Trail across Penniac Bay will be started this winter, per-



At left, the Southeast Whiteshell Cemetery entrance and at right the cemetery's columbarium.

haps even completed. In addition, dredging of the McKenzie Bay Boathouse channel has been completed.

Transfer Station Winter Hours

Note that Transfer Station hours are now Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday until March 31.

Falcon Lake School Events

Julienne at Falcon Lake School

informed me that there was a Remembrance Day meeting held at the school Nov. 9 and on Nov. 30 there was a Frontier Fiddle Concert in the gym. This included many players from other schools. A Christmas Concert will be held Thursday, Dec. 20 at 7 p.m. in the gym.

Most everyone I contacted

had little news but did state that things were going well which is good news. If you have information for the *Echo* please send it to me at ve4ol@yahoo.ca (the o and l are lower case letters) I may also be contacted at 204-349-2994 or 807-464-0512.

Merry Christmas!! John Bell.

WEST HAWK UNITED CHURCH

(Highway 44 near TransCanada Exit)

**Christmas Eve Service
Monday, Dec., 24, 2018
7:00 P.M**

Everyone Welcome

WHUC also hosts special events, study groups, and services throughout the year.

Call Betty Ann at 204-349-8022 or 431-335-6998

for more information on events and services or to inquire about hall rental.

Regular Sunday Worship is from May Long Weekend to Thanksgiving 11 a.m.

Trails Manitoba Seeks Volunteers

Trails Manitoba is actively recruiting volunteers to join the trail group in the North Whiteshell. D.J. Seales from Barrier Bay Resort has stepped forward to chair the trail group in the North Whiteshell. There are various ways to volunteer for the group, if you have any questions or would like to become a volunteer please contact either DJ Seales directly at dj.seales@gmail.com or through Trails Manitoba's office at tadmin@trailsmanitoba.ca identifying North Whiteshell as the group.

Echo Classifieds

Got a snowmobile for sale? Skis, skates, water toys, bikes, or furniture?

Buy this space for \$19.99 and get cash fast, *and* clear space in the boathouse.

Echo Classifieds

Email your ad to the editor at echo@whiteshellcottagers.com

Buy this space for \$19.99. Email your ad to echo@whiteshellcottagers.com

RULES FOR WASTE DISPOSAL IN THE WHITESHELL



Garbage Cages: Only household waste. No leaves or grass clippings are to be put into or outside of the cages.

Recycle Bins: Glass (lids removed and separated), tin cans (you can leave the labels on), milk/juice cartons, all plastics (remove the lids on drink bottles), aluminum foil/cans, paper, cardboard (flattened boxes). Place sharps in glass container and label sharps. Recycling should be placed in clear bags.



Fish Remains: Take to fish cleaning stations at Brereton Campground, Jessica Boat Launch, White Lake Campground, Lena Island Boat Launch, North Shore Big Whiteshell, South Shore Big Whiteshell, Betula Lake, New Nutimik Campground, Old Nutimik Campground, Opapiskaw Campground and Otter Falls Campground.

Human Waste: Public waste dumping stations are located at Otter Falls, Nutimik, Big Whiteshell, and Brereton. Lagoons accessible to the public are located at Dorothy, Big Whiteshell, Brereton, West Hawk and Falcon Lakes.

Transfer Stations: Separate your items before coming to the site. All vehicles must report to the onsite staff to document required information. There are separate disposal areas for appliances, brush, concrete, fish remains, glass, household garbage, plastic, rubber, scrap metal, shingles, building materials, yard/garden waste, paint and aerosol cans.

Demolition Materials: Please separate clean materials from contaminated when hauling materials. Materials from structures larger than three metres by three metres and concrete larger than 1.5 metres by 1.5 metres must be hauled to the Whitemouth-Reynolds North Whiteshell Facility.



White Goods: (Refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners): These are accepted at the transfer stations without being decommissioned. Please see the attendant when dropping off these items.

Brush: All brush should be taken to the transfer station as soon as possible and should not be stored on your lot or on public reserve. Brush piles are a fire hazard and can attract nuisance wildlife such as raccoons and skunks to your property.



North Whiteshell Transfer Stations

Jessica Transfer Station

May 1 - Sept. 30 Thursday - Monday 10 am to 6 pm
 Oct. 1 - Oct. 31 Friday - Sunday 10 am - 4:30 pm
 Nov. 1 - Mar 31 Sat. 10 am to 4:30 pm
 JUNE 1 - JUNE 30 Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Nutimik Transfer Station

May 1 - Sept. 30 Thursday-Monday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 Oct. 1 - Oct. 31 Friday - Sunday 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 Nov. 1 - Mar. 31 Sunday 10 a.m - 4:30 p.m.
 JUNE 1 - JUNE 30 Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Whitemouth –Reynolds-North Whiteshell Waste Management Facility

May 1 to September 30
 Mon, Tues 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
 Wednesday 11:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.
 Thurs, Fri, Sat 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
 DECEMBER 1 to JUNE 30
 Tues, Thursday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
 Wednesday 11:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.
 Fri, Sat 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

For more information contact 204-348-2125.

SOUTH WHITESHELL TRANSFER STATION

Revised March 9, 2018

APRIL 1ST TO APRIL 30TH

OPEN: MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
 SATURDAY 11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

MAY 1ST TO JUNE 7TH

OPEN: THURSDAY TO MONDAY 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

CLOSED TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY

JUNE 8TH TO SEPTEMBER 3RD

OPEN: MONDAY TO THURSDAY 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
 FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 4TH TO NOVEMBER 9TH

OPEN: THURSDAY TO MONDAY 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

CLOSED TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY

NOVEMBER 10TH TO MARCH 31ST

OPEN: TUESDAY, THURSDAY & SATURDAY 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Please Note: From June to September – Transfer Station Open Statutory Holidays

HOURS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

GPS Long & Lat of Transfer Station: 49 40 27
 95 23 30



DOROTHY LAKE



By Inge Scholte

Several brief local snowfalls hinted at the coming changes but the leaves stayed put for quite a while. It took snow that stayed on the trees in low overnight temperatures to bring them down. Suddenly roads and yards were covered with a colorful carpet of mostly poplar leaves. The heavy foliage of the ironwood tree gave way, leaving a tangled web of branches, like a straggly beard. Tamaracks, their needles still golden or turning a rusty brown, now could be clearly spotted everywhere they had been hiding behind their leafy taller neighbours. The landscape grows duller after they drop their needles and we begin to look forward to the brightness of snow.

Geese in family groups have been gathering for weeks for the big trek. It seems that the locals leave first. Then every day new travellers arrive from farther north. I don't remember seeing so many large flocks coming together at different locales of Dorothy Lake day after day. It's still dark when we are having breakfast and see bird shapes flying by the window,



Geese gather on Dorothy Beach.

heading for a landing. Opening the door we hear them honking as they descend, welcomed by those already there. As the day becomes lighter more birds fly in and on the lake there is an endless parade of twos and threes swimming by heading in the same direction. Their target is the rocks along the shore and jutting out into the narrows. They must have flown overnight as they now rest,

flank to flank, motionless in the early morning. The next morning they have gone.

The scene repeats itself. Some arrive by day or in the late afternoon. Those that arrive vocalize and seem to be welcomed by those already there. Some select Dorothy beach which fills up almost from west to east, some in rows two or three thick, the front ones standing in water or swimming in the lake.

This group shows more activity, preening, dabbling or pecking in the sand. This group is well watched by the 'guards' who announce any visitors. Then there is a slow heading for the water but still a rapid retreat from intruders.

The Goose Story

By An Unknown Author

"By flying in a 'V' formation the whole flock adds at least a 70 per cent greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own. As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. People who share a common purpose and sense of community can reach their goal more quickly and easily when they benefit from the thrust of one another.

When a bird falls out of formation it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of going it alone and quickly gets back

into line to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front. If we have as much sense as a goose we will stay in formation with those heading in the same direction as we are.

When a lead goose gets tired, it rotates back in the wing and another goose flies point. It is sensible to take turns doing demanding jobs.

Geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed. What do we say when we honk from behind?

Finally, when a goose gets sick or wounded by gunshot and falls out of formation, two other geese fall out with that goose and follow it down to help and protect. They stay with the fallen goose until it is able to fly or dies. Only then do they launch out on their own or with another formation to catch up with their group. If we have the sense of a goose, we will stand by each other like that."

I thought this was a nice story to share with our readers over the holiday season, as we reflect on where we have been and where we are going in the New Year. Henk and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful 2019!

PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE A GROWING CONCERN

In late August a cottager contacted the Whiteshell Cottagers Association by email regarding Purple Loosestrife. The cottager wrote:

"There is a severe outbreak of purple loosestrife at Red Rock lake. It is in the ditch between ER 66 and 67, from the lake to the highway area. These are large plants that produce a million seeds each. There are also plants at the narrows on the east side and at the south end where the snowmobile trail is. I have removed the plants on the island and in the north bay. But these other areas are too much for one person. The plants have spread to the pond by the Jessica Lake transfer station along the road.

I have been trying to remove these plants for 20 years. The province used beetles for a couple of years and the plants were under control. But they have been left for a couple of years and are out of control.

The plants need to have the tops re-



Purple Loosestrife

moved so the seeds don't spread. Or they must be completely removed, which is impossible because you can't get all the roots. The only effective way is with chemicals apparently. I'm not going there without consultation from the province and an approval.

I contacted the Parks office. They didn't

know what purple loose strife was. But passed it on to the province who said they don't have any money for it."

Alan Roberts, President of the Whiteshell Cottagers Association, forwarded the concerns in an email to the Ministry of Sustainable Development.

On Aug. 24, President Roberts wrote::

"Purple loose strife is one of the worst Invasive Species in Manitoba. The plant is tough as nails, drought resistant and very difficult to kill. It spreads rapidly in aquatic (swampy) environments – both by seed, and by rhizomes. The Province brought in insects from somewhere a number of years ago, that were quite effective in controlling it, however, the insects are not native here, and do not survive our winters. It can be killed with herbicides – though these can be dangerous in wetlands as well.

Continued on Page 28

NUTIMIK LAKE



By Kerri Pleskach

It seems that time is flying by. Not sure how we are already in November, but to be honest, I love the fall and winter at the lake. Time seems to slow. There is no rush to pack up and get to the beach, the bustle of people is gone and it is so much easier to pack our bags for the winter (only warm clothes are needed). Don't get me wrong, I do love the heat and company in the summer but there is something to be said when you can drink your coffee, in the quiet of nature and watch the neighborhood fox walk by.

Thanksgiving

This year was a quiet Thanksgiving at the lake. Usually all of the seasonal campers get together for a potluck and year end party. This year the majority of the campers were moved out before the Saturday gathering; it could

have been Mother Nature that scared off most. The few that were left, kept the tradition going and had the annual potluck, fire and gathering.

Pickleball

Pickleball wrapped up for another year. There were plans to have a year-end tournament but again, Mother Nature was not on our side and it rained the day it was supposed to happen. It was a fun season of meeting new people and keeping in touch with all the regulars. It is a fun game and if you are interested in coming out to try, put it on your calendar for spring; there are always many players willing to teach you how to play.

Rorie's Joke of The Day

Why is Cinderella bad at basketball? (See answer at the end of the article).

Snowbirds

I hope all of the snowbirds have safe travels to their destinations and closed their cabins with ease.



The annual Thanksgiving potluck and bonfire.

If you are looking for me this winter, I will be in my shack ice fishing, (hopefully) catching the big one.

Happy Holidays

Have a safe and happy holiday season making memories with your loved ones and friends.

Send Me Your News

If you would like to share any information in this article, please send a short write up, picture or the details of what you would like to share to kerrilaw@mymts.net.

Answer: Because she ran away from the ball.



Our neighbourhood fox.

PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE CONT'D FROM PAGE 27

If left alone, it will continue to spread – and very quickly. Please contact (the cottager at Red Rock) and assign responsibility for clean-up of this problem to someone who is tenacious. Like Canada Thistle, the fall is one of the best times of year to kill it."

The response from the Ministry of Sustainable Development is they do not have budget to deal with Invasive Species.

The WCA is working on introducing a means of biological control for Purple Loosestrife, which hopefully, will be introduced in 2019. Other invasive species of concern include: Caragana (introduced to the Park by the Province about 1960) and Canada Thistle, both of which tend to crowd out other plant species becoming the predominant or only species in an area.

The Manitoba Purple Loosestrife Project warns that wetlands face a serious threat caused by purple loosestrife. It invades habitat along rivers, streams, lakes, ditches and wetlands. It creates a dense purple landscape that competes with native plants and deters wildlife. It is a non-native species introduced from Europe to North America, however, it was not introduced along with its natural predators.

To help stop this noxious weed, you are encouraged to remove and destroy existing plants. You can report an infestation at www.purpleloosestrife.org or phone, 204-232-6021. Also contact your MLA and the Ministry of Sustainable Development, phone 204-945-6784, or 1-800-214-6497.

**NEXT ECHO
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FOR THE
FEBRUARY,
2019 ISSUE**

**CONTACT EDITOR
JAMES BUCHOK AT
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COME RIDE WITH US! SNOMAN INVITES YOU TO EXPLORE THE TRAILS



*By Yvonne Rideout
Executive Director
Snoman Inc*

It's almost that time of year when fresh snow crunches under our feet and we encourage everyone to enjoy the great outdoors. Snowmobiling occurs when a blanket of snow protects the ground, thereby minimizing its impact on plants and earth and after the snow melts, nature once again flourishes.

Snoman (Snowmobilers of Manitoba) Inc., which was established in 1975 as a not-for-profit organization, promotes healthy living through recreation. Snoman and its fifty-two clubs are responsible for approximately 12,000 kms of snowmobile trails and over 150 warm-up shelters on the trail system throughout the province.

Snoman has a reputation for promoting snowmobile safety by offering online courses and workshops and also assists with protecting the environment. Our clubs care about the environment and are active players in sustainability. Snowmobilers embrace ecologically friendly policies from recycling to the adoption of new technologies. We encourage outdoor enthusiasts to join us this season and explore parts of our province that are only accessible by snowmobile trails which are signed, well-groomed and the safest option for riders.

Designated snowmobile trails help reduce trespassing on private property and increase dollars to rural businesses reliant on winter tourism.

The Snopass system, your license to ride the trails, was created to provide a user pay system. It ensures that riders who use the trail system are helping to fund its on-going operational costs by paying into it. It provides Snoman Inc. and its clubs with a more stabilized funding base to help finance the operations and administration associated with snowmobile trail maintenance as well as upkeep of the shelters. The organization encourages everyone who uses the trails to purchase a Snopass. The fine for not having a Snopass is in excess of \$480.

By promoting the snowmobile trail system it helps sustain the recreational activity for enjoyment by all. While it is a seasonal activity, avid snowmobilers are very passionate about it and take pride in the designated trail system in Manitoba. We enjoy the excitement of being on the trails, meeting up with old friends and making new ones at the many shelters while engaging in planned events or a casual ride. We promote our shelters as alcohol-free family zones as they are public places, since anyone who purchases a Snopass has access to them. The fine for an individual consuming alcohol in a public place is in excess of \$670 and smoking in a public place carries a fine of almost \$240.

From February 16 to 18, 2019 Snoman will welcome riders to the trails for the Sled without Borders (free ride weekend). This is an opportunity for riders



without a Snopass to get a weekend pass and try out the trails.

For more information please visit our website www.snoman.mb.

From Feb. 16 to 18, 2019 Snoman welcomes riders to the trails for the Sled without Borders free ride weekend. In photos below, riders and machines line up for the Radar Run at Falcon Lake Beaver Days, back in 2009.





BETULA LAKE



By *Dave Bell*

It seems each summer goes by quicker than the last and 2018 was no exception. My wife and I left for a European holiday in the heat of August and returned to single digit temperatures heading towards Thanksgiving weekend. Consequently I missed some of the annual events including the Highway Cleanup Aug. 25, hosted by the Davies family and the longstanding Corn and Wiener Roast on the September Long Weekend hosted by the Cutts family. Special thanks to the Davies and the Cutts families and all those who took part and helped make these events possible. I believe the Corn Roast Event goes back to the 1960s and always draws a good crowd.

Snowplow Fund

As you read this I imagine the snow will be drifting and winter will have arrived. Tom Cutts informs me that 112 out of 168 cabins have contributed to the block snowplow funds. That's an impressive 66 per cent. Thanks to all our block collectors and to all contributors. I can remember back to the days when a trip to the cabin in winter meant parking on the highway and pulling in supplies by toboggan. So much nicer today! Thanks again!

Classic Ski Trails

We are hoping to establish some classic cross-country ski trails this winter. I will be contacting the parks people with regard to the Foresters Footsteps Trail to see if they can groom it for both skiers and walkers. Also, it is the plan of a few of us regular skiers to establish more trails in and around the sand pits. We have secured the use of a classic ski tracker and hope to establish more groomed trail as snow fall permits. More info on our work will be available at the store this winter. We are hoping snowmobile riders will respect our work and try not to squash the tracks we make! Thanks in advance!

Water Levels

More information on the Park's efforts to control water levels will be forthcoming in the first *Echo* issues of 2019



Highway clean-up crew, Ryan and Rhonda Galloway, Jim McWilliams, and Heather Bradley.

but I should mention that the levels at Betula this past year were quite low and the appropriate Park and WCA people are aware of the issue and its causes. Canadian Parks and Wilderness (CPAWS) (Manitoba) has an informative article on Manitoba's lakes and our water quality stewardship and I encourage all interested to check it out.

Baby Ski Bees

And finally a big welcome goes out to the newest future SKI BEES born this summer, including: Easton Jack, born to Devin and Kim Gowryluk



More highway cleaners Jim McWilliams, Heather Bradley, JoAnne Vielhaber, Darcy Davies, Gaeline Delmarque, Gladys Jones.

Continued on Page 31



The Cutts Family, hosts of the Labour Day Weekend Corn and Wiener Roast.

**BETULA LAKE CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 30**



The picture is a bit blurry but here are some ducklings hitching a ride on the back of a decoy in Block 6 around May of this year.

of Block 6; Theodore (Teddy) Morley, born to Ian and Steph McArton of Block 2; and Weston Ryan, born to Leanne Woods and Ryan Pollock of Block 7. I am sure the old Junior skis are out of the shed rafters and are currently being polished up and enjoying a re-varnish.

Thanks to all friends and neighbours on a wonderful summer and hope to see many of you on the ski trails this winter.

Watch for hazards on the trail. Stay alert.

Guy wires attached to hydro poles usually have bright covers but they can be hard to see when buried by snow. When snowmobiling, beware of thin ice near hydro dams. hydro.mb.ca

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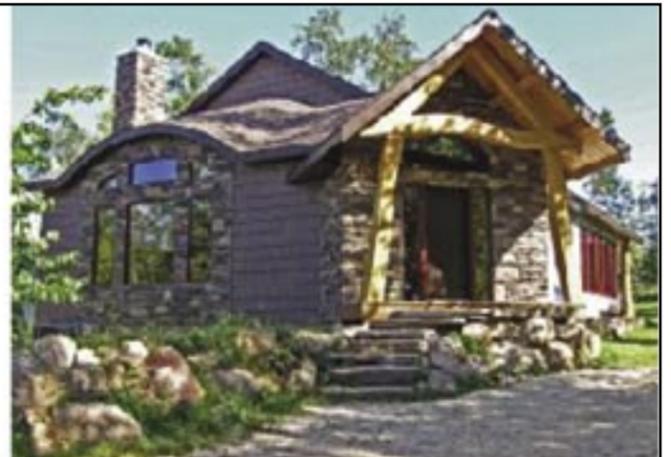
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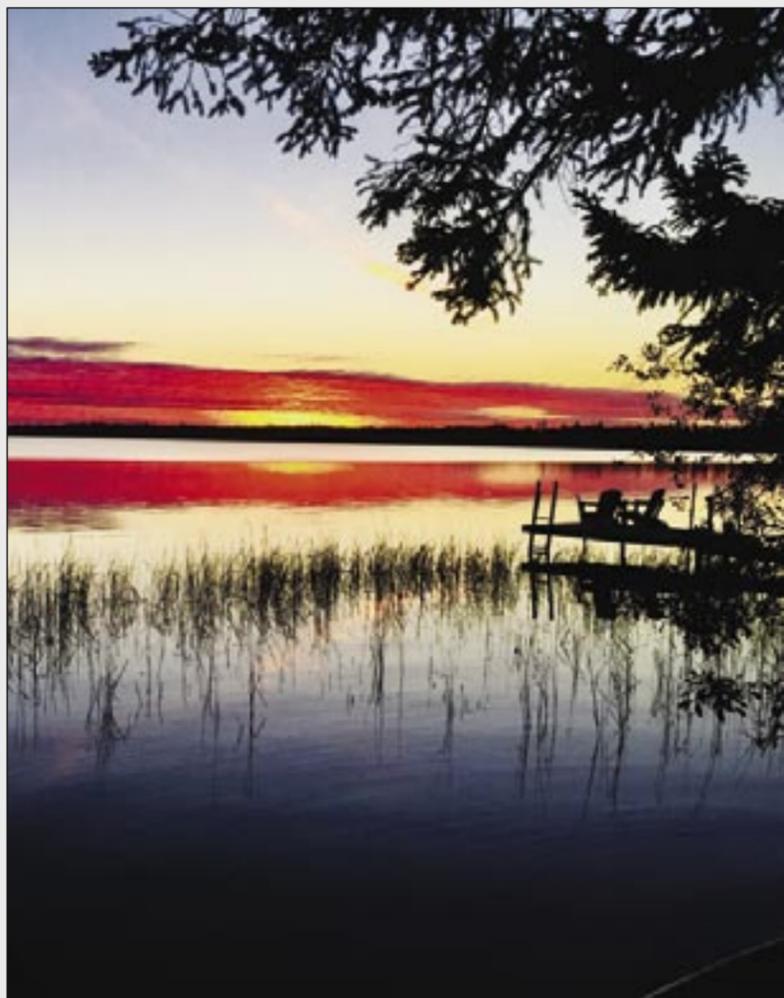
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SUNRISE OVER BETULA

Photo above, depicting an early October morning sky over Betula Lake, was provided by our Betula Lake writer Dave Bell and would be a worthy entry in the Whiteshell Cottagers Association 2019 Photo Contest with more than \$700 in cash prizes. The winners of this year's photo contest appear on pages 12 to 15.

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