



WCA Committee Reports

WCA Environment Committee Report

March

- Our spring meeting with Ministry of Infrastructure and Transportation (MIT) and Sustainable Development (SD) predicted lower than normal spring lake levels. We expressed concern about the history of flooding and low water levels on Caddy Lake. We recommended that based on a previous review of the situation, MIT needed to conduct a study into the ability to control the lake due to limitations imposed by the railway tunnels and weir at North Cross Lake. A report is expected in 2019.

May

- Our WCA Lake of the Woods Control Board (LWCB) representative reviewed the water level strategy for the Winnipeg River and recommended the LWCB raise the river level between 1.5 and 3.0 feet gradually weather permitting.
- The committee began publishing monthly the lake levels and targets on all lakes where data is available. This information was placed in the Whiteshell Echo and on the WCA website.

June

- The committee actively followed the CN derailment and chemical spill at Nora Lake. We requested confirmation of the cleanup meeting environmental standards. This was finalized in September.

August

- The McKenzie Bay boat house channel was dredged by Sustainable Development (SD) to remove materials washed downstream due to the flooding in the summer of 2016. A letter has been sent to the province as some material that was temporarily restrained at the shore remains floating close to a number of cottages.
- The Ministry of Infrastructure and Transportation (MIT) held an Open House at Falcon Lake to gather opinions on an acceptable lake level pending the design and construction of a new control structure to replace the existing one. The committee received a report from MIT with the survey results in late December. We reviewed the report and responded with a letter recommending the acceptable target level with a slightly larger range than the current one. It was clear from the report that the narrow range was impossible to maintain unless the weather conditions were perfect.

September

- Our fall meeting with MIT and SD included discussion and updates on all activities ongoing or planned for the future. In addition to normal business members from several lakes requested time to make personal presentations regarding issues with lake levels and water quality.
- Falcon Lake boathouse channel at Block 23 was dredged by SD to maintain an acceptable depth for safe boat traffic. We will be monitoring the success of this remedy in future.
- We received reports of infestations of Purple Loosestrife along Highway 307. We have posted a website address on the WCA website where cottagers may report additional sightings. We plan to support the purchase and distribution of insects that only feed on this plant in 2019.

October

- We received a request from Betula Lake cottagers to look into what can be done about the recreational quality of their lake water. We have gathered information from MIT about water inflow rates and lake levels for the past 5 years. A short survey has been sent out to all Betula Lake cottagers. We plan a meeting with MIT and SD to discuss how to improve the situation.
- We confirmed that the Falcon Lake Block 10 boathouse channel is scheduled for dredging by SD in 2019. A date has not yet been selected.
- The normal drawdown of the lakes to winter levels was not required on most of the lakes due to the lower than normal summer rainfall. A letter was sent to MIT to request that Jessica and White Lakes be adjusted as they were above the summer targets in late fall.

WCA ECHO Committee Report

In 2018 we published 5 regular issues of the Whiteshell Echo; two editions were sent to all cottagers in the Whiteshell and the remaining three were sent to WCA members only.

We would like to thank our Editor, James Buchok, for all his hard work. In addition, we would like to thank all the dedicated individuals who have committed their time and effort to writing articles for the Echo. A special thank-you to those who have volunteered to proofread the paper. We are open to articles and pictures from Whiteshell members; if you have any news items, you can pass them on to your lake director or the Editor.

WCA Website Committee Report

The Website Committee aims to keep members informed of news, events, and issues of interest to 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. In the past 3 months, the website has had 3,500 unique visitors.

All WCA members should be receiving occasional emails with the subject line “WCA E-Blast : Current News & Info” If you haven’t received these emails, please contact wca@whiteshellcottagers.com and provide your current email address to make sure that you receive these messages containing news, safety information and important WCA updates.

We also have Instagram and Facebook to keep you up to date.

Our Instagram feed is all about the beauty of the Whiteshell and the people that love it. Search for #whiteshellcottagers within Instagram to find our feed. Make sure to tag us in your Instagram posts and we just might feature your picture!

Follow us on Facebook for great features including news, safety information, ideas, stories, events and great pictures. We have had over 2,700 “likes” and over 2,900 followers on Facebook. There are new posts every day!

If you have news or photos to share, message us on Facebook, tag us @whiteshellcottagers in your Instagram post or email us at webmaster@whiteshellcottagers.com.

WCA Membership Committee Report

While final Membership numbers for 2018 were a touch disappointing at 2,035 (down slightly from 2017) we can’t thank you enough for your membership and continued support.

For 2019 the WCA Membership committee is putting the focus into community involvement and has already had some early 2019 success. WCA volunteers were highly visible and well received at Beaver Days & Falcon Lake Winter Fish Off. WCA will be front & center throughout the Park this summer – be sure to stop by our displays & offer your encouragement. We have also returned to a few things that proved popular in the past. An early bird membership draw for two (2) front row, center ice (right behind the opposition bench) JETS tickets to the March 28th game vs the New York Islanders. was held mid-March with winner being Ron & Leona Klassen of Brereton Lake. Succession planning seminars (free for members) also return (June 15, 2019 & June 19, 2019). Watch for details & registration process.

Thanks to over a dozen WCA volunteers donating their time for this three-day event, our booth at the Cottage Country Lake & Cabin show was by far our most successful.

As of April 1, 2019, the early results are encouraging. Sitting at 1,588 members it puts us at a pace ahead of same time last year.

In January, your WCA announced a raffle for a brand new 2018 Ford Eco Sport SUV! All proceeds will go to raise funds for Camp Quality (summer camp for kids affected by cancer), provide a scholarship for an Environmental Sciences student, and begin a program to eradicate purple loosestrife in the park. (license # LGCA -7606-RF-30554)

Tickets are currently for sale at the following locations:

Betula Lake Resort

Falcon Ridge Ski Slopes

Falcon Trails Resort

Inverness Falls Resort

Nutimik Lodge

White Lake Resort

Whiteshell Cottagers AGM (April 16)

Your WCA Lake Directors

A HUGE thank you to all the above for their support!

Please check the WCA website regularly for additional locations and events where tickets will be sold.

If you haven't already, take out your full WCA membership today for only \$35/year. Consider a multi year membership and save yourself money and time. Please encourage family members to purchase associate memberships - it strengthens your association and cost only \$20/year. Associate members will receive news and exclusive website content including the electronic version of Whiteshell Echo. THEY ALSO QUALIFY FOR THE WCA MEMBER DISCOUNTS from these participating businesses:

Ace Boater, CDC Computers, Plezia Insurance, Star Building Materials, Total Lighting, Robinson Bath Centre, Cabela's, Cottage Life Magazine, The Cottager Magazine, ABC Fire and Safety, Mark's Work Warehouse and our newest addition Oak, Ash, and Thorn Climbing Arborists! One discounted purchase from our lineup of participating retailers can more than pay for a membership fee! Visit the WCA website whiteshellcottagers.com for discount details and updates.

For full membership and associate membership register online at whiteshellcottagers.com or print and mail in the form or use the one found in the Echo.

THERE IS STRENGTH IN NUMBERS FOR ALL THE INITIATIVES YOUR WCA IS PURSUING ON YOUR BEHALF.