

Whiteshell Echo



VOLUME 38 NUMBER 2 PUBLISHED BY THE WHITESHELL COTTAGERS ASSOCIATION INC. WWW.WHITESHELLCOTTAGERS.COM APRIL 2019



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- Whiteshell Cottagers Association AGM (April 16)
- Your WCA Lake Directors

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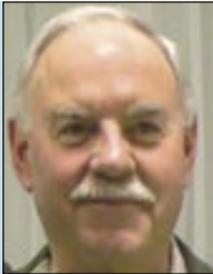


Whiteshell Echo

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President's Report

By Alan Roberts, WCA President



Winter has passed and suddenly spring is here. We had good snowfall in the Whiteshell this winter, so there should be plenty of water to bring the lakes back to summer level – perhaps even more than we want. The flow in the Whiteshell River should be brisk giving many of the lakes the flushing action they missed out on last year, and better water quality for at least the first half of the summer.

My report this month may seem a little disjointed, but it is a collection of mini status reports on a number of issues of significance to the WCA and our members. Hopefully the transition from paragraph to paragraph is not too disorienting.

Whiteshell Cottagers Association Membership Renewal and Car Raffle

Spring is the time for renewal, and it's no different within our Association. Membership renewal takes place early in the year so if you haven't done so already, now is the time. Our Membership Committee is sponsoring a new car raffle this year to bring your attention to membership renewal. It is also a fund raiser for three causes: 1. To support Camp Quality at Brereton Lake, a camp for children and youth living with cancer. 2. To create a bursary for an environmental studies student and 3. To purchase beetles to battle purple loosestrife infestations in a multi-year control program that we have developed for several lakes in both the North and South Whiteshell. There are only 5,000 tickets for the car raffle so act quickly.



GET YOUR TICKET — BEA-VER IT'S TOO LATE!

Big beaver gets ready to hightail it in the Ford Ecosport SUV being given away by the Whiteshell Cottagers Association in support of some great causes right here in the Whiteshell. There are only 5,000 tickets available at locations throughout the Whiteshell, (see page 1) or from your WCA director, (see page 10). Our beaver friend was caught admiring the Ecosport at the 45th Annual Beaver Days Winter Carnival, Feb. 8-10 at the Whiteshell Community Centre.

Annual General Meeting

April is also the month for the WCA's Annual General Meeting. It's being held on April 16 at My Church (the former Emanuel Pentecostal Church) at 955 Wilkes Ave. off the Sterling Lyon Parkway.

Continued on page 5



MESSAGE FROM MANITOBA'S MINISTER OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ROCHELLE SQUIRES

Greetings, Whiteshell Cottagers! I hope you had an enjoyable winter season and are ready for spring and more of that amazing Manitoba sunshine. This past winter, I was fortunate to spend some time in the Whiteshell and am excited to return soon for some hiking and camping with my family. I am also pleased to tell you that my department has been busy preparing for the upcoming summer season and focusing on initiatives that will enhance the parks experience for cottagers, campers and day trippers alike.

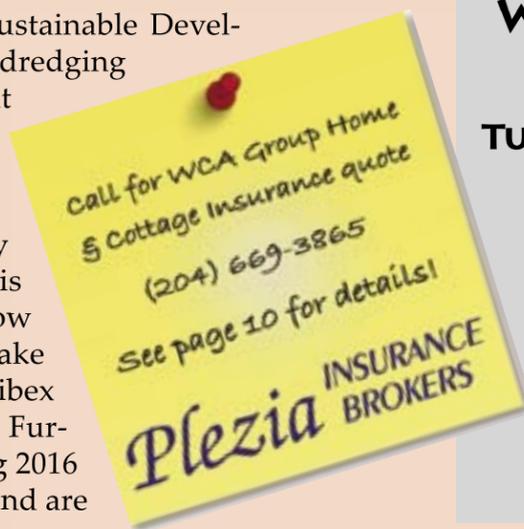
As many of you will know, Sustainable Development completed the planned dredging of the east boat house channel at Falcon Lake last year with ongoing plans to conduct dredging of the west boat house channel this coming fall. Please stay tuned for further updates on this project. I also want you to know that the damage to the Caddy Lake boat launch from recent amphibex use will be repaired this spring. Further, the final projects addressing 2016 flooding impacts are underway and are

slated for completion this summer. This work includes the repair and stabilization of one of the damaged Falcon Lake sewage lagoon berms as well as remaining repairs at McGillivray Falls Hiking Trail, including a new bridge structure, minor trail rerouting, a new kiosk that illustrates hiking and biking trail routes and a parking area at the junction of the Caddy Lake Road and Highway 44.

Our government continues to recognize the importance of making significant investments in Manitoba's provincial parks, and will continue to invest in many infrastructure projects.

Capital investment projects include a number of new and ongoing initiatives.

Continued on page 6



WHITESHELL COTTAGERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2019 LOCATION: MY CHURCH
FORMERLY IMMANUEL PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
955 WILKES AVE., WINNIPEG**

**MEETING BEGINS AT 7 P.M.
WHITESHELL MERCHANTS
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CALL FOR DIRECTORS FOR WHITESHELL COTTAGERS ASSOCIATION

*By Ronald S. Smith
Past President
Whiteshell Cottagers
Association*

The Whiteshell Cottagers Association (WCA) Annual General Meeting on April 16 presents an important opportunity for cottage owners in Whiteshell Provincial Park to volunteer to become a Director on the 2019 WCA Board of Directors.

The Whiteshell Cottagers Association Board of Directors has increasingly priori-

tized the establishment of collaborative partnerships with the Department of Parks and Protected Spaces, other park stakeholders and Cottage Owner Associations in other Manitoba Provincial Parks. The WCA has undertaken many key initiatives on its own, and together with the above groups, to improve the lake experiences of Manitoba cottage owners. I encourage you to surf the outstanding WCA website (www.whiteshellcottagers.com) to obtain more details.

What is Expected of a WCA Director?

- Have FUN and enjoy yourself as a volunteer.
- Be positive, energetic, enthusiastic, motivated, flexible, professional, patient, open-minded, creative and team-focused.
- Interface regularly with

your fellow lake cottage owners and other Whiteshell park stakeholders so you can represent their interests/concerns on an informed basis.

- Join a committee for which you feel you have the interest and skills to actively contribute.

- Attend and contribute at board meetings.

The term for a director is one year at which time he/she can decide to extend for a further year.

The most critical characteristic of any progressive and successful organization is the need to recruit new board members with fresh ideas/perspectives along with the energy to pursue successful results in a collaborative, team-building, FUN and supportive environment. Regular turnover of Board members is both healthy and essential!

Directors who have long served lake cottage owners well with their time and talents should be able to step away knowing that their lake will be well represented with a new director.

Please don't hesitate to become part of our awesome team!

To work together on behalf of your lake community is an honour!

I can be reached at 204-269-5873 or email ronaldsmith@hotmail.com to provide any further information that may be required.

You can also submit your name and a short summary of your skills and background to Lee Hurton, WCA Administrative Coordinator at email: wca@whiteshellcottagers.com or 204-487-0556.

The Whiteshell Echo
is published by the Whiteshell
Cottagers Association Incorporated

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Articles in the Echo are not
official statements of the WCA
unless indicated.

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and mailed in the first week of

February, April, June,
August and October.

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MANITOBA PROVINCIAL PARKS CABIN OWNERS ASSOCIATION UPDATE

*By Dean Amundson,
Chairman, Hecla Historic Village Association
Chairman, Manitoba Provincial Parks
Cabin Owners Association*



Discussions between MPPCOA and Parks and Protected Spaces regarding park access fees and service fees have evolved around two questions: What do we want this to look like, and how do we get there? It appears that there is a solution that is satisfactory to both sides, MPPCOA and our government. Discussions that took place five years ago were confrontational, with very little common ground. This is no longer the case. The process has been a solid co-operative effort, and of a positive nature.

The process has been supported by all the MPPCOA association members, who represent over 80 per cent of the cabin owners in provincial parks in Manitoba. This number is expanding as our membership committee, chaired by Ron Smith, brings more cottage owners associations into our organization.

The MPPCOA Advisory Com-

mittee met with Parks and Protected Spaces in March to clarify a few of the details contained in our discussion paper submitted in January. In the next few weeks this document will be sent to Parks senior management for executive review and approval of our initial direction in principle. Response to our paper from higher levels of government will allow us to proceed with more detailed discussions.

MPPCOA

Annual General Meeting

The MPPCOA Executive is planning our Annual General Meeting for early June. This year it will be hosted by Nopiming Cottage Owners Association. Last year's AGM was hosted by the Whiteshell Cottage Owners Association, for which, again, I thank you. It has been the policy of the MPPCOA to have each member association host an annual general meeting. There is no cost to the MPPCOA to hold these meetings.

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
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Long Lake Cottagers Owners
Association
Moose Lake Cottagers Owners
Association

PRESIDENT'S REPORT, CONTINUED FROM P. 3

It starts at 7 p. m. The Minister of Sustainable Development, Rochelle Squires, has been invited to speak and the association will present summaries of some of the year's most significant achievements. It has been a very productive year for our association, so it should be an interesting meeting.

Call For Representatives For The Board of Directors

The AGM is also the time we call for volunteers to serve as Lake Representatives on our Board of Directors. Given the Association's current bylaws, the Board of Directors is a rather large and diverse group of people, with many different reasons for being there. Usually it is out of a sense of duty to be of service to the community. What we need are people who are willing to work within the committees and/or alongside the association in a leadership role within their lake community or within a grouping of a community of nearby lakes. They would act as a liaison with, and an agent of the WCA, to implement programs, and to assist our committees to be even more effective. We need people who bring their training, their life experience, and their initiative,

The AGM is the time we call for volunteers to serve as Lake Representatives on our Board of Directors

to the service of their community, individually and in group efforts. They will be expected to get involved in volunteer work on programs at their own or other lakes; participate with their cohorts in committee work; and communicate responsively with the Administrative Coordinator and the rest of the board.

If you are interested in working with us, please send a letter of interest -identifying your lake, and give us a short outline (one page) describing the skills and experience that you would bring to the WCA. Please send it to Lee Hurton at WCA@whiteshellcottagers.com

Lease and Service Fees

Discussions between Manitoba Provincial Parks Cabin Own-

ers Association and Parks and Protected Spaces regarding the basis for Lease and Service Fees continue to move forward with meetings being scheduled on a monthly basis. The recent Provincial Budget seems to have commanded the attention of senior government personnel with the most recent meeting (March 14) having been postponed indefinitely to provide more preparation time. Hopefully we will hear more of this from others more closely involved than I am, on the status of these discussions, at the AGM on April 16.

We continue to enjoy an open door policy with regard to communications with Parks and Protected Spaces. This continues to allow us greater opportunity to better represent the interests of our members in matters of both operations and infrastructure.

Betula Lake Water Level Survey

We have a survey underway with regard to the preferred operating water level at Betula Lake. This initiative was turned down flat some 20 years ago when a group of local cottagers advocated for a change to the control weir which allows the rapid release of more water than many

cottagers desire. All cottagers on the lake will be given an opportunity to voice their opinion.

Garbage and Recycling

Though we have not been given an opportunity to provide input as yet, Parks continues to advance the planning for cost reducing changes to the systems for garbage and recycling collection and disposal/transfer. The proposed system appears geared toward greater efficiency in handling and transport, however, there is still a need to measure the additional costs and convenience to the cottagers most affected prior to it being carried out. We look forward to an opportunity to work with Parks more closely in this matter prior to implementation.

Though I wasn't able to attend myself, I'm told that there were over 1000 people gathered in the sun on the ice at Falcon Lake March 16 to enjoy the Falcon Lake Fish Off. For those who haven't attended one of these, they are a major fundraising event for St. Amant in Winnipeg and others organizations. It was very well organized, and very well attended.



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MINISTER'S MESSAGE CONT'D FROM P. 1

Work continues with the installation of non-modern washrooms in the north and south Whiteshell, with planned completion by early summer. A new, modern playground structure is to be installed at the Dorothy Lake wayside area as an added recreational amenity for park users at this site, and the Barren Lake boat launch and parking area will be enhanced. Two projects planned in the Big Whiteshell area this coming year are the continued construction of a new wash-room/shower building and the development of a new water treatment facility at the Big Whiteshell Campground. Our continued partnerships with commercial operators and trail groups in the park will see the completion of two key projects including the Falcon Lake entrance kiosk and rest stop and the Penniac Bay boardwalk on West Hawk Lake.

In 2018 our government extended the moratorium, or freeze, on provincial park cottager lease and service fees through to 2020, meaning your lease and service fees continue to remain frozen at 2015 rates.

Fisheries staff will continue with the collection of walleye spawn this spring at Falcon Creek with stocking efforts planned to focus on Barren, Betula, Brereton, Caddy, Falcon, Jessica, and Red Rock Lakes. Trout stocking will also be conducted and is planned for Hunt, Lyons, McHugh and Camp Lakes, and Dorothy Pond. Two ongoing fisheries projects for this year include the Lake Sturgeon catch-and-release study at Pointe du Bois, with proposed sampling dates from mid-May

to June and mid to late August, as well as a black crappie study at Jessica, Big Whiteshell, Betula, Caddy and South and North Cross Lakes. These ongoing initiatives involve collaboration with the University of Manitoba.

Forestry staff will continue to conduct forest health surveys in the Whiteshell and Whiteshell Provincial Forest to monitor both disease and insect infestation.

In 2018 our government extended the moratorium, or

freeze, on provincial park cottager lease and service fees through to 2020, meaning your lease and service fees continue to remain frozen at 2015 rates. Our ongoing discussions with the Manitoba Provincial Parks Cabin Owners Association (MPPCOA) on future concepts and models for cottager lease and service fees remain to be positive, focussed and productive and are a priority for our government. We will continue to engage to arrive at a fair approach going forward.

Again, I thank you for this opportunity to contribute to the *Whiteshell Echo* and I look forward to writing to you again in the future. I wish you and your family all the best in the months to come and I hope to see you this coming summer. If ever I can be of service to you, please don't hesitate to get in touch with my office at minsdev@leg.gov.mb.ca.



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Fireworks are strictly prohibited in Whiteshell Provincial Park and all of Manitoba's Parks

EARLY BIRD WCA MEMBERSHIP WINS FRONT ROW JETS TICKETS



Just as easy as that, Ron and Leona Klassen of Brereton Lake are the winners of the Whiteshell Cottagers Association Early Bird Membership Draw for two front row, centre ice tickets to see the Winnipeg Jets vs the New York Islanders, March 28. Thanks for your early membership Leona and Ron. There are many more advantages to being a member of the Whiteshell Cottagers Association. See page 14 for full details.

**CATCH A FISH WIN SOME CASH
 BUY A TICKET WIN A NEW CAR!**



Whiteshell Cottagers Association Directors Cheryl Bryant, Stacey Erlendson and Angela Hogan are selling the dream of winning a new Ford Ecosport SUV at the Whiteshell Cottagers Association table at The Falcon Fish Off March 16. See raffle details on page 1. Above right, the new car YOU COULD WIN. Below right, the winning \$10,000 Jack Fish weighing over 14 pounds.



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1. FOUR CATEGORIES: SCENIC/ACTION/NATURE/YOUTH (16 AND UNDER)
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4. COTTAGER'S RESIDENCE INFORMATION AND CATEGORY BEING ENTERED MUST APPEAR ON THE BACK OF EACH PHOTO ENTERED.
5. PHOTOS MUST BE 4X6 OR 5X7 INCHES, COLOUR OR BLACK AND WHITE.
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9. EACH PHOTO CAN BE ENTERED ONLY ONCE.
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WCA MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Deborah Seguin
WCA Membership Chair

AND THE WINNER IS — Ron and Leona Klassen of Brereton Lake are

the winners of the Early Bird Membership Draw for two front row, centre ice Jets tickets, March 28 vs the New York Islanders. Thanks for your early membership Leona and Ron and we hope you enjoy the game. (See picture page 8).

Get Your WCA Membership Today!

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 costs only \$20/year. Associate members will receive news and exclusive website content including the electronic version of the *Whiteshell Echo*. THEY ALSO QUALIFY FOR THE WCA MEMBER DISCOUNTS listed at left. One discounted purchase from our lineup of participating retailers can more than pay for a membership fee!

For full membership and associate membership register online at whiteshellcottagers.com or print and mail in the form, or use the form below. THERE IS STRENGTH IN NUMBERS FOR ALL THE INITIATIVES YOUR WCA IS PURSUING ON YOUR BEHALF.

Win a Ford Eco Sport SUV!

In January, your WCA announced a raffle for a brand new 2018 Ford Eco Sport SUV! Proceeds go to three great causes: 1. Camp Quality at Brereton Lake, a summer camp for children and youth affected by cancer; 2. To provide a scholarship for an Environmental Sciences student, and; 3. To start a program to eradicate purple loosestrife in the park.

Buy your tickets to win a Ford SUV at:

- Betula Resort**
- Falcon Ridge Ski Slopes**
- Falcon Trails Resort**
- Inverness Falls Resort**
- Nutimik Lodge**
- White Lake Resort**
- Whiteshell Cottagers Association AGM, April 16.**

From your WCA Lake Directors (See page 10).

A HUGE thank you to the above resorts for their support! See a map of ticket seller locations on next page.

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

Continued next page

WCA MEMBERS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR DISCOUNTS AT AN INCREASING NUMBER OF MERCHANTS

You may need to show your WCA Membership Card



ABC FIRE & SAFETY
Receive 20% discount.

ACE BOATER
50% off boater licenses.



BOATSMART
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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COTTAGE LIFE MAGAZINE
Receive a subscription discount.

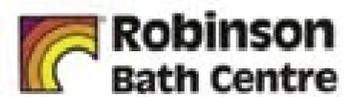


MARK'S WORK WEARHOUSE

Discount cards will be mailed with your WCA membership card.



PLEZIA INSURANCE BROKERS (see p.10)



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Discounts vary on lumber or hardware.



TOTAL LIGHTING

Receive contractor pricing.



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 Joining as a new member

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Province/State _____

Postal Code / Zip Code _____

Email Address (required) _____

Home phone _____ Lake phone _____

Send Whiteshell Echo by (check one): Mail Electronically (I prefer to read it online)

Fill in below what accurately reflects your cottage location

Name of Lake _____ Block _____ Lot _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Type of Membership requested

<input type="checkbox"/> Standard 1-Year (2019) \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> Associate 1-Year (2019)* \$20
<input type="checkbox"/> Standard 2-Year (2019-2020) \$70	<input type="checkbox"/> Associate 2-Year (2019-2020)* \$40
<input type="checkbox"/> Standard 3-Year (2019-2021) \$100 (save \$5)	<input type="checkbox"/> Associate 3-Year (2019-2021)* \$60
<input type="checkbox"/> Standard 4-Year (2019-2022) \$130 (save \$10)	<input type="checkbox"/> Associate 4-Year (2019-2022)* \$80
<input type="checkbox"/> Standard 5-Year (2019-2023) \$160 (save \$15)	<input type="checkbox"/> Associate 5-Year (2019-2023)* \$100

Please make cheque payable to:
Whiteshell Cottagers Association Inc.
2D - 1975 Corydon Avenue, Winnipeg MB R3P 0R1

*You qualify to become an associate member if:
• You are a family member of a cottage owner and the registered owner of your cottage is a paid up member of the WCA with a full \$35 membership.
• You were a previous member and have sold your cottage but want to keep in touch with the WCA.
• You are a Whiteshell Provincial Park user (i.e. Seasonal Camper) and would like to make the voice of the Whiteshell stronger and support the work being done by the WCA.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT CONTINUED

WCA Annual Meeting

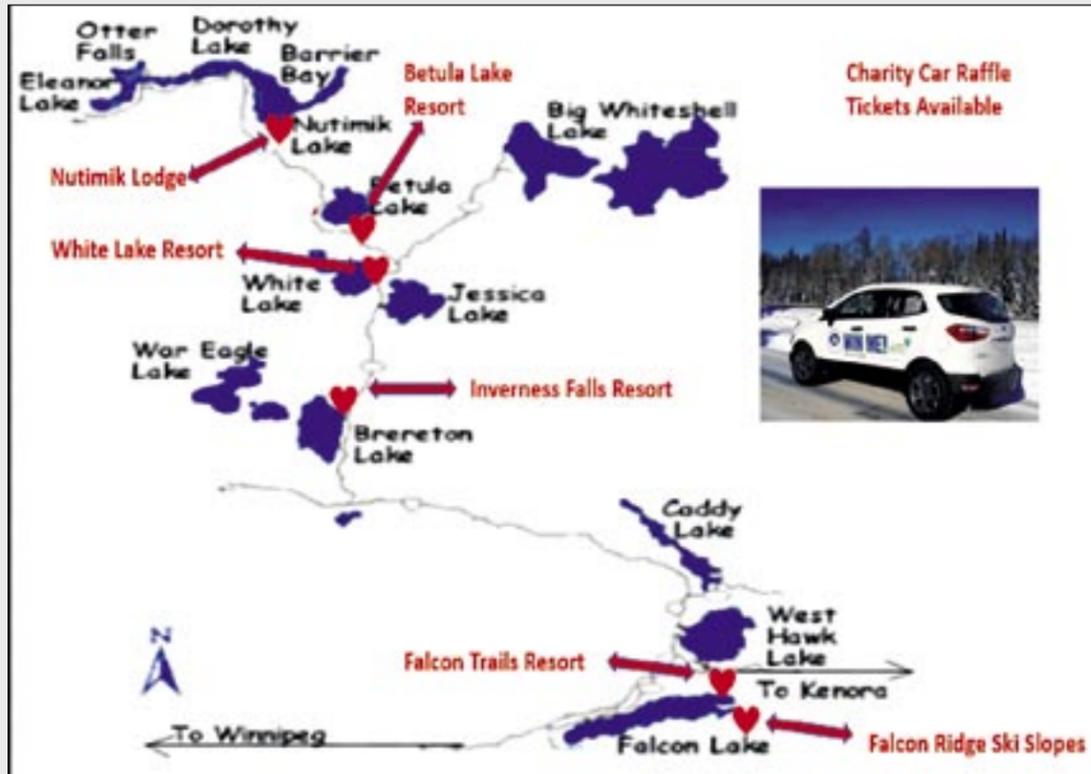
The WCA Annual General Meeting is April 16, at 7 p.m. at My Church (formerly Immanuel Pentecostal Church) 955 Wilkes Ave, Winnipeg.

Cottage Succession Planning Seminars

Back by popular demand are Cottage Succession Planning Seminars hosted by Treena Nault of Investors Group. These seminars, for WCA members only (and at no charge!), have filled up quickly in the past. If you would like to attend a session, be sure to have your membership up to date and stay tuned for schedule announcements.

Happy Spring everyone!

WHERE YOU CAN BUY THE WINNING TICKET FOR A NEW SUV!



- Betula Resort
- Falcon Ridge Ski Slopes
- Falcon Trails Resort
- Inverness Falls Resort
- Nutimik Lodge
- White Lake Resort

•Whiteshell Cottagers Association AGM, April 16

From your WCA Lake Directors (See page 10).

WCA WEBSITE ... AND ON INSTAGRAM AND FACEBOOK

*By Angela Hogan
WCA Website Chair*

The Website Committee aims to keep Whiteshell Cottagers Association 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,

*All WCA members should be receiving occasional emails with the subject line:
WCA E-Blast : Current News & Info*

information about membership benefits, special events, etc. In the past three months, the website has had 3,000 unique visitors.

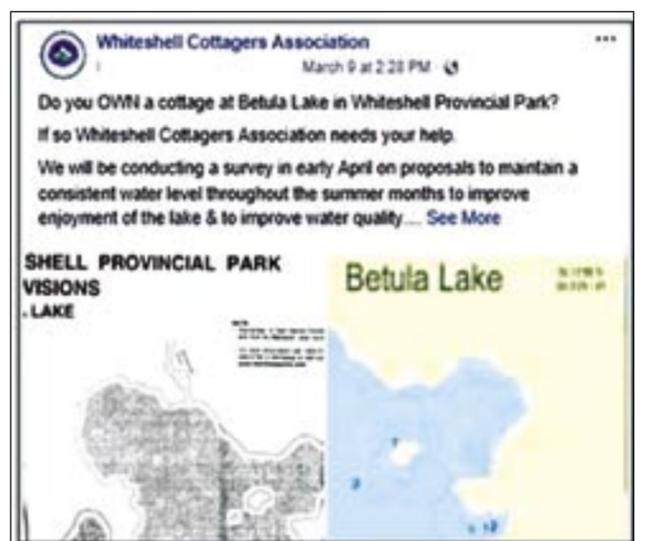
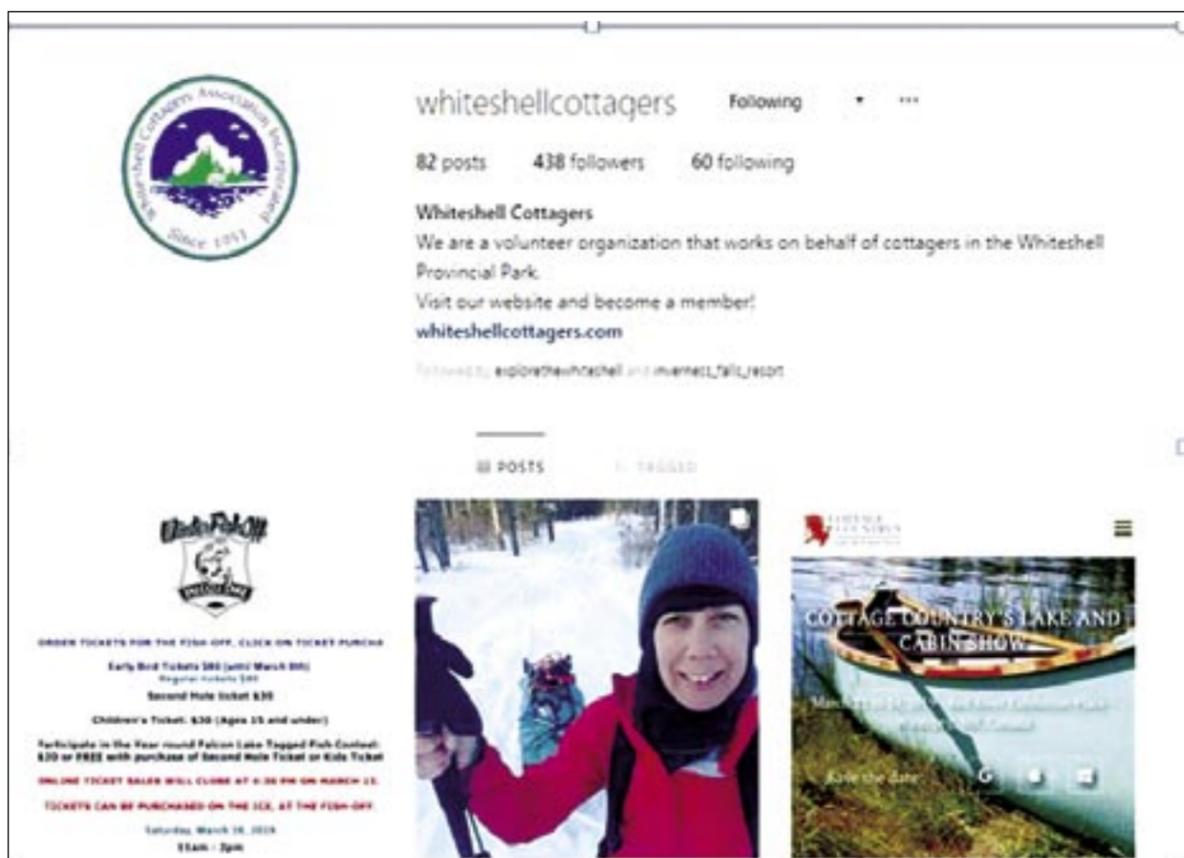
All WCA members should be receiving occasional emails

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 the WCA on Facebook for news, events and great pictures. We have over 2,200 "likes" and over 2,400 followers on Facebook.





BETULA LAKE

By Dave Bell

January and February were unseasonably cold this winter with few breaks. None the less the ski trails got some good use and we thank the Parks folks for their excellent grooming of the Forester's Footsteps trails for both classic skiing, hiking and snow shoeing.

Brave Adventurer

Speaking of trails, the Betula section of the Great Trail (formerly the Trans Canada Trail) witnessed the arrival of the very brave adventure hiker Melinda Vogel. Lucille Fontaine of our Betula Lake Resort welcomed Melinda in from the cold as she made her way along the TCT on her trek across Canada. Melinda left Cape Spear, Newfoundland, in June of 2017 and her goal is to reach the Arctic before ending her 15,000 km adventure in B.C. in 2020. She is originally from Germany and has been bravely hiking and tenting her way along Canada's Great Trail. You can follow Melinda's adventure by Googling her name and finding her blog. Best of luck to Melinda!

Betula Ski Bees

Last year I wrote an article recalling many of the water ski exploits of the 1970s Betula Lake Ski Bees. I promised at that time to recognize the significant achievements of the resurgent Ski Bees of the 1990s, often referred to as Ski Bees 2.0. No one was more involved than Block 7's Kurt Proctor so I asked Kurt if he could write up an article on those years. What follows is Kurt's recollection of The Ski Bees 2.0.

Ski Bees 2.0

Michele Grant, along with Kurt and Mitzie Proctor, decided to revive the Betula Lake Waterski Club known as the Ski Bees. While growing up at Betula Lake watching generations of families enjoy three event skiing, it became apparent to Tom and Kurt



Melinda Vogel made a rest stop at Betula Lake while on her multi-year journey on the Trans Canada Trail.

that this family-oriented summer pastime should be organized once again by reviving the club. Too many boaters were pulling tubes in circles on the lake and young kids were not learning how to ski. Water Ski Manitoba provided the much-needed assistance in forming a club and securing fundraising bingos and the proper club insurance. The club was up and running; providing learn-to-ski clinics, acquiring a jump from White Lake and a permit from the Parks Branch to operate a ski site with a slalom course and dock on an area of the lake away from cabins. Soon the membership expanded to 50-plus skiers. The 1998 Pan Am Championships were hosted at Lake Shirley and the Ski Bee members volunteered at the event allowing them to meet the top water skiers in the world. This set the stage for the Pan Am Games the next year which brought attention to the sport and the top Canadian water skiers showing their talent. This much needed attention to water skiing as a sport attracted many new families to learn to ski with the Ski Bees. As the club expanded to over 100 members so did the activities that it hosted, from recreational ski tournaments to provincial junior devel-

opment camps, ski shows, wakeboard contests, and pig roasts and poker derbies. During its growth the club also attracted members from nearby Nutimik Lake.

Several Ski Bee skiers (the Grants, Proctors, Vielhabers, Gowryluks and Desjardins) competed in tournaments provincially and inter-provincially at the Western Canadian Wa-

ter Ski Championships and National Water Ski Championships. Parents and family members were also involved with volunteering as tournament officials, boat drivers, announcers and cheerleaders.

Tom and Michele Grant along with their children Cole and Taryn, continued with training and competing at the National and International level. Tom and Michele are international level officials with Cole and Taryn representing Canada at several international competitions. Cole and Taryn both attended university in Louisiana on scholarships and skied in four U.S. collegiate championships. Taryn is currently on the Canadian Elite Team and Cole is the Canadian Junior National Coach and one of the National Elite coaching staff. He is also on staff at Matt Rini's Water Ski School in Orlando, Florida. It's hard to believe how the ripples of a small recreational club can affect waves of skiers for years to come, all in search of that calm water!

See more Betula pictures next page



From left, Taryn, Haley and Ashley.

BETULA LAKE CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE



Cole Grant's first competition.



Leanne, Taryn and Haley.



Neil Brien coaching Jordan



The Betula Ski Bees at the 1998 Pan Am Championships at Lake Shirley.

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By Blair Mineault

I don't think I've ever been as excited to see spring as much as I was this year. It was a long cold winter! I work and live in Winnipeg like many cabin owners around Falcon. Considering I'm an early riser, I wasn't particularly excited this winter about walking outside each morning to grab a bus for work. The extra cold days sure didn't make for fun times waiting for the bus. The cold also made it a little more challenging to warm up the cabin on the weekends that I was able to venture out to the lake to enjoy some of my favourite activities. It took a while for the snow to come but it was great to see that when it did, it kept on coming throughout the winter to turn the area into a winter paradise for adventurers like trail lovers, skiers, and boarders.

Riding the Zubec

After a twenty-some-odd year hiatus from being out on a snowmobile, I finally scored my opportunity this past winter. Thanks to Glenn McConnell of Block Three for making this happen. It started when Glenn noticed that my cabin lights were on from across the lake. This was the one time it paid to leave the lights on. I just happened to be out on the Louis Riel Day holiday and taking a few extra days off during the week to enjoy the cabin. This led to an invite to an amazing afternoon of trail riding. Glenn graciously took the risk of lending me one of their family sleds. Thank you for trusting me, by the way. I hit the jackpot this day as the trail conditions were perfect, and I was fortunate enough



Seventeen riders from surrounding lakes met up for lunch at the Zubek shelter.

to hang out with some great people that came out from Falcon, West Hawk, Star and Brereton lakes. I even had a delicious lunch inside the Zubek shelter that was put together by all the fine people on the ride. What a great way to spend an afternoon.

Spring Trail News

Speaking of great things on the trails, the cross-country skis and snowmobiles have been put away and it's time to pull out the hiking boots, mountain bikes



The boys preparing part of the lunch enjoyed by the participating riders.



Half of the terrain park at Falcon Ridge challenges boarders and skiers of all ages.

and whatever else gets you moving in the spring. After last summer's record-breaking visits on the trails, I'm hoping that people will be out in good num-

bers again to enjoy this amazing part of the Canadian Shield. There are many ways you can help to ensure the trails are sustainable for the enjoyment of fu-

ture generations. You can purchase lumber from Lumber One and donate it to the South Whiteshell Trail Association for construction of bridges, or help out on

Trail Days, or you can even adopt a portion of the trail. More information at www.swtatrails.com

The Ridge

I stopped by for lunch a few times this winter at Falcon Ridge. It's such a great recreational area to enjoy during the winter. The area sure has changed a great deal over the years. I especially took notice of how amazing the terrain park looks now. Well done! Unfortunately, the day that I was able to ski, the hill was closed due to the frigid temperatures.

Considering all the great things you can do at Falcon Ridge, I still find it hard to believe that many people still don't know this winter utopia exists. The Floppet Loppet event, now in its second year, was again quite successful thanks to local volunteers and sponsors. (See page 29 for coverage of the 2019 Floppet.)

Beaver Days

Beaver Days carried on this winter as usual with special thanks going out to the volunteers that made it all happen. From the poker derby, radar runs, evening entertainment, cookie contest, the amazing silent auction, and displays by Sustainable Development and the Whiteshell Fur Council, and so much more, it was another great success.

Community Club News

Volunteers at the club have put together some creative fundraising initiatives this year to help out with special projects like the Corn Broom Initiative, including; 50/50 draws, Chase the Ace, and even a Wine Raffle. Let's keep the momentum going to support these initiatives, folks!

Continued Next Page

FALCON LAKE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18)

Farmers Market

The 2019 Farmers Market will take place every Tuesday from June 25 to Sept. 3, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the curling rink inside the club. Vendors that wish to participate can get an application by visiting the club's website at www.whiteshellcommunityclub.ca

Park Interpretive Education

The Whiteshell Provincial Park is a great place that allows us to venture out and enjoy some peace and quiet while sharing the land and waterways with an abundance of different types of wildlife species small and large. Park interpreter Adam Collicutt had a display setup at Beaver Days designed to educate and promote interpretive services in the park. One of the most intriguing items that caught on-lookers attention was the little container of fresh water jellies. These tiny critters have been appearing more often in lakes like Star, Caddy and West Hawk over the last 10 years. I didn't even know they existed. I have never heard of any sightings in Falcon. These jellyfish creatures are somewhat transparent and about the size of a dime. Known as *Craspedacustasowerbyi*, the only threat they bring is a sting to their tiny pray like plankton and small fish.

Another thing that I came to realize after speaking with Adam, was that my kids have never experienced seeing, holding or eating the native crayfish in Falcon. They have, however, spent endless summer days catching the newer invasive species known as the Rusty Cray Fish.

Adam was also excited to talk about popu-

lar interpretive events like the Wolf Howl and offered opportunities to all to get involved and volunteer.

Golf News

"Spring is almost here, and we are all getting excited to get back out golfing after what has felt like a long winter," said Susan Stanley. The Falcon Ladies League had a successful 2018 season that included great weather, a record number of new members and a successful charity tournament that started the season. If you're interested in



A snowmobile poker derby participant checks his hand with volunteers at Beaver Days.

joining a wonderful and fun group of ladies, contact Evelyn Proceviat at the Falcon Lake Golf Club pro shop or visit the league website at www.falconladies-league.com. The ladies golf every Tuesday morning starting the first week in June. The opening charity tournament, with lots of great silent auction items, and a 50/50 draw, takes place on Sat. June 1, with a 1 p.m. shotgun start.

Fishing News

The Falcon Lake Annual Bass Classic will take place May 11 this year. Entry forms can be found at manitobabassanglers.ca. A month



Senior Park Interpreter Adam Collicutt provides some insight into some of the areas invasive species to Kyle McConnell of Blk 3, and Emily Mineault and Austin Chabidon of Blk 11.



The Whiteshell Fur Council at Beaver Days.



Pam Dubourg and Janet Harbottle volunteering at Beaver Days.

later the Walleye Masters Cup will take place. Find more info by emailing falconlakewalleyemasters@gmail.com. Be safe out on the lake and enjoy the

fishing season!

That's all I have for you this issue. Email me by May 1 for the June issue if you have stories or pictures to share from

your adventures around the lake. Contact me at bamineault@gmail.com

SOUTH WHITESHELL TRAIL ASSOCIATION PENNIAC PERIL PUNTED INTO PAST

*By Nick Martin
Retired Free Press reporter
and one of the
newest members of
the SWTA Board*

PENNIAC BAY —The thrill of defying death to cross the bay is gone — rejoice.

Hikers and cyclists have been long dreaming of a more go-all-Robert-Frost way to commune with nature, or be totally Group-of-7-at-one-with-the-universe, than to have a ginormous motorhome pulling a monster boat squeezing by a centimetre away from your hip.

That short stretch of Penniac Bay along Highway 44 — no, don't look, keep your eyes on the road — has long been the most dangerous place for anyone idyllically walking the trail system in the south Whiteshell.

The highway is narrow, the shoulder non-existent, the water perilously close, the vehicles even more perilously closer still.

Until now.

Since January, hikers and cyclists have been able to avoid vehicular traffic by using a new trail built by the efforts of the South Whiteshell Trail Association that extends the trail along the shoreline of Penniac and is separated from both the highway and West Hawk Lake.

Neat, eh?

It's a stunning achievement that extends a safe woodland and shoreline trail system from deep into the south shore of Falcon Lake to well north



Whether it's winter, spring, summer or fall, the South Whiteshell Trail at Penniac Bay is now safer and more pleasant for all with the completion of a new section of trail that separates walkers, hikers and cyclists from highway traffic. An official opening and celebration is planned for August.

of McGillivray Falls, with lengthy side jaunts from West Hawk to the Ontario border and a direct link to the Manitoba Trail. Takes your breath away just thinking about it.

SWTA president Gary Turnbull is ecstatic that the long-cherished project is done.

"When I retired and let my name stand to be president of SWTA I wanted to do something significant that would give back to the community I cherish," Turnbull said. "I am proud of the team effort it has taken."

"This has been our most persistent and dangerous gap in our South Whiteshell trail system," said Turnbull of the long-time vision that went intensely real 18 months ago.

"The West Hawk community and SWTA have looked at many options to close this gap. As our trails get more recreational use every year, it became very apparent that walking or riding a bicycle on the highway in this narrow section is very dangerous," Turnbull pointed out.

"Even though this has been a challenge to complete financially and to obtain all environmental and regulatory approvals, it has always been the first choice for the majority of the community," he said.

"We are confident it will be very well used and sustainable into the future," an ebullient Turnbull declared.

The Klatt family is already celebrating using the new trail link.

"We are thrilled to have the gap in the trail complete!" said Danielle Klatt.

"We live on the north side of Penniac Bay down Pixieland Road. Our year-round home

is a three-minute walk from the new trail section." Klatt said.

"Myself, my husband Kevin, daughter Lily and our dog Kona use the South Whiteshell Trail year round to cross-country ski, mountain bike, fat bike, walk and run," she said.

"Before the new section of trail existed, we either had to walk down Highway 44 to connect to the trail on the opposite side of Penniac Bay or cross the highway and go down backroads to connect," said Klatt. "This took a long time and involved a dangerous highway crossing. This new trail section is going to make it so easy for us to walk or bike into town and is much safer for our family! Thank you to everyone involved in making this trail happen!" Klatt exclaimed.

Penniac Bay community member Rick Hearn pointed out that the project fits neatly and significantly into the core plans of a national trail system. "We are all extremely pleased at the effort and energy the South Whiteshell Trail Association has endured. They have created the safest traverse and made the Penniac Bay trail possible for everyone to enjoy," said Hearn, thanking the SWTA on behalf of his group at Penniac Bay.

The project took several layers of tonnes of large granite stone and gravel separated by geotextile cloth, all achieved in bitter cold.

"The land sections to the north and south shore of Penniac Bay were built the previous winter by JKW construction. The shoreline section was built by Sigfusson Northern Limited in January," Turnbull said.

"In the spring, Sigfusson Northern will return to take out the silt curtain in the lake, repair any possible depressions during spring melt, touch up and pack the trail surface," said the SWTA president.

"They will also add boulders to the ditch area where a temporary access was built for

Echo Classifieds

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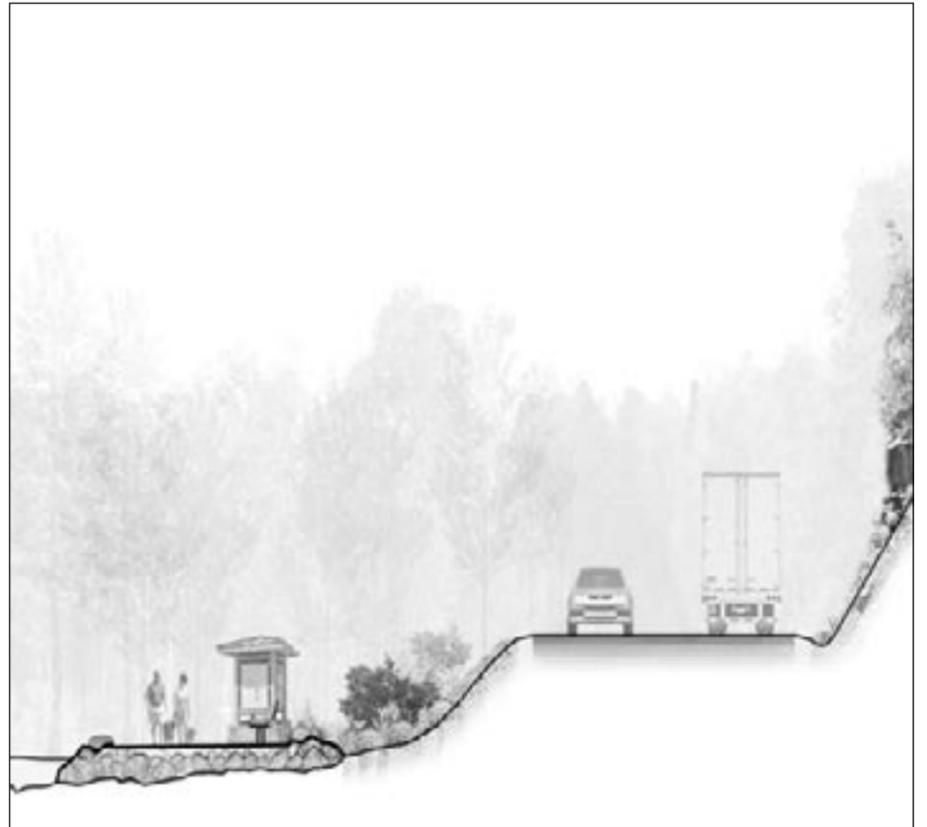
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echo@whiteshellcottagers.com

Continued Next Page

SOUTH WHITESHELL TRAIL ASSOCIATION CONTINUED FROM P. 20



The Klatts' dog Kona checks out the new section of trail.



Project drawing depicts how, at left, walkers, hikers and cyclists are now safely separated from highway traffic.

trucks and excavators to access the trail during construction. These boulders are intended to restrict walking access directly to, or from, the highway at this point," he said.

The ability to walk or cycle such enormous distances safely is nothing short of incredible.

OK, so it doesn't mean you'll never meet a bear, and Turnbull and his crew of volunteers have done nothing about mosquitoes — but an uninterrupted trail throughout the South Whiteshell puts Manitoba in the big leagues of forest day hiking.

Let Turnbull tell it: "Closing this gap connects to 18.6 kilometres of uninterrupted gravel trail and 12 kilometres of hiking/mountain bike trails to the north; encompassing Caddy Lake, the north shore of West Hawk Lake, the Manitario hiking trailhead, the start of the Centennial Hiking Trail system, and Mountain Bike trail heads at Caddy Lake and McGillivray Falls."

"Closing this gap also connects to 39.3 kilometres of uninterrupted gravel trail and seven kilometres of hiking/mountain biking trails to the south; encompassing the Manitoba Information Centre at the Ontario border, the north and south shore of Falcon Lake, High Lake and the Mountain Bike trail head at the Falcon Lake Ski Chalet," Turnbull said.

"We hope to have an offi-

cial opening and celebration of the trail construction on the August long weekend if trail finishing and signage are complete," he said.

A trail connection that's crucial, albeit ultimately not as long as the Blue Bombers' football field, has profound benefits, but doesn't come cheap.

While the SWTA relies on a horde of volunteers to physically build and maintain the trails, with professional help from the Manitoba Department of Sustainable Development for significant heavy maintenance, Penniac Bay was a professional job that cost serious coin.

"We have raised \$360,000 to date and require another

\$35,000 to complete the project," Turnbull said.

The money comes from government grants, community funds, business donors, and ordinary people who love to walk in the woods.

Now for the pitch — about that \$35K.

"We plan to initiate our final fundraising campaign in early spring. We think when people see the trail as the snow melts and recognize the value to the community, they will want to be part of the accomplishment and have their name appear on the permanent donor recognition monument that will be located at the centre of the shoreline trail," Turnbull said.

(See further details below about how to make a tax-deductible

contribution to this project.)

It's time to take a breath and enjoy the new Penniac link, but that doesn't mean the work stops for the SWTA.

"This summer we want to focus on improving the gravel and mountain bike trails we currently have and add more signage to our trails north of Penniac Bay," Turnbull said.

"We will also continue to develop our mountain bike trail systems near McGillivray Falls and Falcon Trails Resort," he said.

But, said Turnbull, "We need to take a break before we tackle another really big project like the Penniac Bay Shoreline Trail."

Would you like to donate to SWTA?

**1. Make cheques payable to:
Manitoba Recreational Trails Association Inc.
3-303 Portage Avenue,
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 2B4 or**

**2. Donate on-line:
www.swtatrails.com or www.trailsmanitoba.ca/donate**

**Make sure to note which SWTA project your donation is for:
Penniac Bay Waterside Route — Mountain Bike Trail Project
— Trail Improvements Project.**

**Tax receipts will be issued for donations over \$20.
Contact the SWTA at swtainfo@gmail.com for more information
or to get involved.**

Check out our new website www.swtatrails.com.

WHAT'S COOKING?

Barbecued Sirloin Tip Kebabs

Prep: 20 minutes + 2 hours in marinade | Cook: 20 minutes | Servings: 4-6

Ingredients

1 lb sirloin tip, cut into 1" cubes
 4 tbsp oil
 2 tbsp red wine vinegar
 2 cloves garlic, minced
 2 tsp fresh rosemary, chopped (1/2 tsp dried)
 1/2 tsp dried oregano
 1 tsp mustard powder
 1/2 tsp salt
 1/2 tsp pepper
 1 medium red onion
 1 medium red bell pepper
 1 medium yellow bell pepper
 20 cherry tomatoes
 Bamboo or metal skewers



Directions

1. Prepare the skewers by soaking them in water. This prevents them from burning once you put them on the grill.
2. Combine the marinade ingredients in a measuring cup and set aside.
3. Cut the meat into cubes that are approximately 1". Place in medium sized bowl and set aside.
4. Combine the marinade with the meat. Cover and let it sit in the fridge for approximately 2 hours. When you are ready to cook, take the meat out of the fridge to bring it to room temperature.
5. While the meat is coming to room temperature, wash, peel and prep your vegetables. Cut the vegetables approximately the same size as the meat – about 1" across.
6. Drain your skewers and start layering them. You don't want to squish too many things on one skewer.
7. Heat the BBQ (gas grill) to med-high (about 400F – 450F). Place them on direct heat and turn twice throughout cooking – about 12-15 minutes.
8. To cook on a grill pan: Heat over medium heat. Once it's hot, grill the kebabs and turn every 4-5 minutes.

Grilled Portabella & Goat Cheese Burger

Prep: 10 minutes | Cook: 8 minutes | Servings: 4

Ingredients

1/4 cup (50 mL) canola oil
 2 cloves garlic, minced
 1 tsp (5 mL) fresh thyme or 1/2 tsp (2 mL) dried thyme
 Salt & freshly ground pepper
 4 portabella mushrooms, stemmed and cleaned
 1/2 cup (125 mL) chèvre (goat cheese)
 1/4 cup (50 mL) chopped red onion
 1 Tbsp (15 mL) lemon juice
 2 tsp (10 mL) chopped fresh thyme or 1 tsp (5 ml) dried thyme
 Salt and freshly ground pepper
 4 whole wheat hamburger rolls, split, toasted
 4 cups arugula, divided

Directions

1. In small bowl, combine oil, garlic, thyme, salt and pepper. Set aside for basting during cooking.
2. Lightly score the mushrooms on the smooth, non-gill side, in a cross hatch pattern to help release moisture during cooking.
3. Grill mushrooms over medium-high heat, 3-4 minutes per side or until tender. Baste generously with oil and garlic mixture while cooking.
4. Remove mushrooms from grill. Cover. Let rest.
5. In medium bowl, combine chèvre, red onion, lemon juice, thyme, salt and pepper. Mix well.
6. Spread 1/4 of chèvre mixture onto bottom half of each bun. Top with grilled Portabella mushroom and arugula. Serve warm.

Bruschetta Chicken

Prep: 10 minutes | Cook: 20 minutes | Servings: 4

Ingredients

4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
 1 tsp (5 mL) dried basil
 1/2 tsp (2 mL) cracked black pepper
 1/2 cup (125 mL) Italian cheese blend
 1/4 cup (60 mL) grated Parmesan cheese
 1 cup (250 mL) prepared bruschetta topping

Directions

1. Pound chicken breasts with a meat mallet or small sauce pan, to a 1/2 inch even thickness. Sprinkle with the dried basil and the black pepper.
2. Lightly spray a large oven proof skillet (e.g. cast iron) with non-stick spray and heat on medium. Cook chicken breasts until lightly browned on both sides and the internal temperature is 165F (about 10-15 minutes).
3. Turn on broiler and position a rack about 4-6 inches from the heat.
4. Top chicken with cheeses. Spoon bruschetta topping over cheese.
5. Broil for 5-6 minutes until cheese is melted and bubbly.
6. Serve with whole wheat spaghetti or rice.

Steak Cobb Salad

Prep: 15 minutes | Cook: 10 minutes | Servings: 4 servings

Ingredients

2 lb strip loin grilling steaks approximately 1 inch thick
 Generous sprinkle of steak spice on both sides
 4 eggs, hardboiled
 8 cups green leaf lettuce
 1/2 cup (125 mL) canned corn
 1/2 cup (125 mL) cherry tomatoes, halved
 1/2 cup (125 mL) fresh strawberries, chopped (or any seasonal berry)
 8 strips bacon, cooked until crisp and chopped
 1/2 cup (125 mL) cucumbers, diced
 1/2 cup (125 mL) crumbled feta or blue cheese
 1 avocado, sliced (optional)
 Ranch salad dressing
 Salt & pepper to taste

Directions

1. Start seasoning the steaks, allow them to rest in the fridge to absorb salt and retain moisture. This will ensure a juicy flavour.
2. Fry or bake bacon and render off fat, cool and chop into bite sized pieces.
3. During that time prepare hardboiled eggs, peel and slice.
4. Assemble salad ingredients on a large platter or individual bowls.
5. Preheat barbecue or indoor grill to medium-high heat.
6. Grill strip loin grilling steaks only flipping once. 1 inch steaks require 10-12 minute to reach medium-rare doneness at 145 F (63 c).



**SEND US
 YOUR FAVOURITE
 COTTAGE RECIPES.
 EMAIL**

ECHO@WHITESHELLCOTTAGERS.COM

WHAT'S COOKING?

Brussels Sprouts, Coleslaw and Kale Salad

Prep: 10 minutes | Cook: N/A | Servings: 6 to 8

Salad

1/2 package (14 oz/397g) coleslaw mix (1/2)
1/2 lb Brussels sprouts, very finely sliced (250 g)
3 oz chopped baby kale (85 g)
1/2 cup golden raisins (125 mL)
1/2 cup dried cranberries (125 mL)

Dressing

1/3 cup canola oil (75 mL)
2 Tbsp white wine vinegar (30 mL)
1 tsp whole grain mustard (5 mL)
1 Tbsp maple syrup (15 mL)

Directions

1. Combine salad ingredients in a large bowl.
 2. In a small bowl or glass jar, combine dressing ingredients and mix well.
 3. Drizzle dressing over top and toss well. Serve immediately.
- OPTIONAL: Top the salad with a hardboiled egg to make it a complete meal



Green Split Pea Salad with Rice & Cranberries

Prep: 5 minutes | Cook: 40 minutes | Servings: 4-6

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).

Marinated Mushroom and Bean Medley Salad

Prep: 15 minutes | Cook: 0 minutes | Servings: 6-8

Dressing

3 Tbsp (15 mL) canola oil
2 Tbsp (30 mL) balsamic vinegar
1 tsp (5 mL) oregano
1 clove garlic, minced
salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

Salad

2 cups (500 mL) sliced fresh mushrooms, 1 cup each white and crimini
1 can (19 oz/540 mL) Bean Medley, drained, rinsed
1 red bell pepper, seeded, cut into chunks
2 cups (500 mL) broccoli florets (blanched 1 minute)
2 Tbsp (30 mL) chopped fresh parsley
1/2 cup (125 mL) crumbled feta cheese

Directions

1. In small bowl whisk together all dressing ingredients (make ahead: refrigerate in an airtight container for up to 2 days).
2. In large bowl, place mushrooms, beans, red pepper, broccoli, parsley and feta cheese.
3. Pour dressing over. Toss lightly to coat.
4. Let stand 10 minutes before serving.
5. Top with additional feta cheese just before serving, if desired.

DESSERT

Dairy Best Cobbler

Prep: 30 minutes | Cook: 45-50 minutes | Servings: 9

Ingredients

6-8 cups mixed berries (blueberries, raspberries, blackberries and sliced strawberries – fresh or frozen (thawed and drained))
1/3 cup (75 mL) granulated sugar
3 Tbsp (45 mL) cornstarch
1/2 tsp (2 mL) finely grated lemon zest
2 Tbsp (30 mL) lemon juice
1 Tbsp (15 mL) cold butter, cut into cubes

Topping

2 cups (500 mL) all-purpose flour
1/4 cup (60 mL) granulated sugar
2 Tbsp (30 mL) baking powder
1/2 tsp (2 mL) salt
1/2 cup (125 mL) cold unsalted butter, cubed
1 cup (250 mL) milk
1 tsp (5 mL) vanilla

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 375°F (190°C). Grease a 9 x 13" baking dish. Toss together berries, sugar, cornstarch, lemon zest, lemon juice and butter. Scrape into prepared pan.
 2. Topping: stir together flour, sugar, baking powder and salt; using a pastry blender or fingertips, cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs with a few larger pieces. Whisk milk with vanilla; gently stir into flour mixture using a fork to make ragged dough. Drop heaping tablespoonfuls randomly over filling. Brush tops lightly with additional milk.
 3. Bake for 45 to 50 minutes or until filling is bubbling and biscuits are golden brown and cooked through.
 4. Serve with ice cream.
- Tip: To add variety and colour to your cobbler, use a large can (3 cups/750 mL) of sliced peaches and 3 cups (750 mL) of berries.



WEST HAWK LAKE

By John Bell

Hello everyone. Welcome to this West Hawk Lake section of the *Whiteshell Echo* newspaper, April, 2019 edition.

This was the first winter I have spent here at home in 26 years and it was cold and snowy! At any rate I enjoyed being here in Kenora, West Hawk Lake and sometimes in Winnipeg. The lake this year froze at a lower than normal level but it could not be helped as there was no autumn rain. The dam at McDougall's Landing had been closed for some time. The only water leaving the lake was used by the fish hatchery.

Viva Cold Vegas

My son Paul went to Las Vegas in February with three employees on a business trip to attend a large builders convention. They were expecting some nice warm weather but upon arrival discovered the city cold and snowy, so we here at home were not the only ones getting cold weather.

Plenty of Snow

I was at my cabin in February and the snow was over two feet deep. The road was nicely plowed but was strictly one-way traffic with all the snow. Snowmobile trails were good. I checked in with some people in town and I was told that the Beaver Days was a great success.

Residents also reported the

fall was quiet and everything was in good shape.

I visited Bob Fetterly who had returned early from Phoenix due to health problems. He is fine now but won't be going south again until the fall. Cheryl should be back in late March.

Celebration of Life

About a week later I went to Winnipeg to attend a Celebration of Life for Esther Mackie. She and Ray resided at Penniac Bay. My condolences to you, Ray. I have known Ray and Esther since the 1950s. The event at the Deer Lodge Curling Rink was well attended by well over 150 friends and family. My nephew (a curler) was there and I talked to Julie Boutilier who was among many West Hawk attendants.

Looking for Pete

While at the Celebration of Life for Esther Mackie I talked to their son Brent. He is very interested in taking his metal detector along with me to look for old Pete's grave. He was buried on a point on the north shore of West Hawk about 100 years ago (from the book *Wasa-Wasa: A Tale of Trails and Treasure in the Far North* which I mentioned last issue). The reason for the metal detector is to hopefully find the grave since Pete's rifle was buried with him. My friend Peter Spratt and I looked for the grave a few years ago but after 100 years no evidence



Impressive ice sculptures on the lake at Penniac Bay, next to the new section of the Trans Canada Trail.

was left of the grave or the cabin but there may still be some metal pieces of the gun. I have my fingers crossed.

Fish Hatchery News

I talked to Kevin Dyck at the hatchery and he indicated that things were fine there even with all the snow. Open pools (see pictures next page) containing large fish were at about one degree centigrade despite the snow and cold, which is normal, and he stated that the heavy snowfall this year will tend to bring the lake level back to normal.

They are nurturing about 700,000 brown, rainbow, brook and tiger trout for distribution this spring and are planning for about 7,000,000 walleye eggs this year. Normally, survival rates run at about 80 per cent. The 27,000 arctic char being raised will be seeded in the Duck Mountain Lakes in one year and will be about eight to nine inches.

The West Hawk fish population is good. In the fall, whitefish and crappie can be

caught. The crappie is good eating. Lake trout population is normal and their favorite food, the cisco minnow, is plentiful. The cisco or tulabee do grow to 16 to 18 inches.

Transfer Station Changes

It seems that there may be some changes in the operation of the Transfer Station at Falcon Lake. Perhaps charges will be introduced for using the facility. No other information is available to me at present. The Transfer Station will be open during April on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and on Saturdays 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

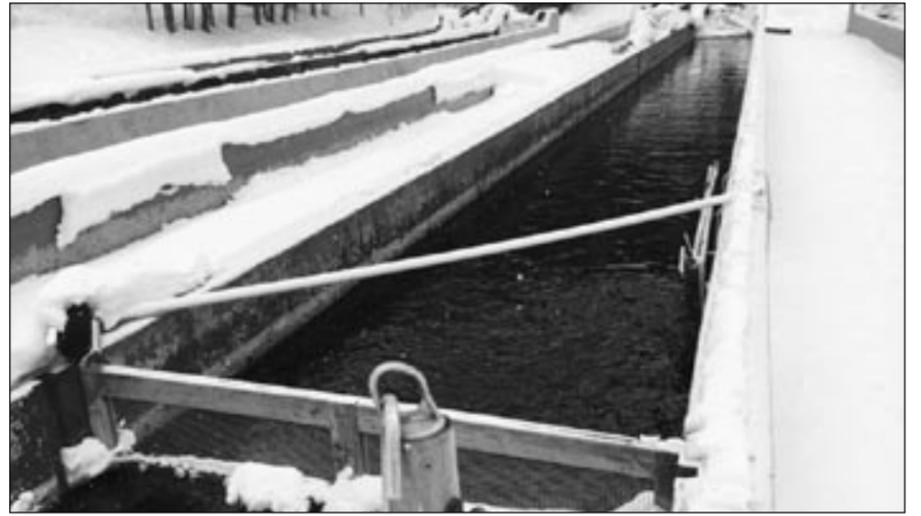
Falcon School News

Jennifer at Falcon School reports grade nine students will be participating in sports in Cranberry Portage April 10-13. On May 1-4, grades four and up will be at the Duck Bay Music Jamboree.

Continued next page

THE WHITESHELL ECHO
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WEST HAWK LAKE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24



At the fish hatchery, at left, open pools containing large fish were at about one degree centigrade despite the snow and cold. At right, loaded fish wiers.

An artist will be visiting the school May 6-10 for art instruction for all students.

Neighbour News

Had a short chat with John Biglow, a former neighbour here at West Hawk. He is doing well and on dialysis in Whitby, Ont. His two sons, John and Ted also live in Whitby so he has family around.

Condolences

On a sad note I was informed that Judge Gordon McTavish from Star Lake passed away Feb. 21. Our condolences to the family. The judge was an ardent curler and a great neighbour to all.

Navy Divers at West Hawk

While talking to Sean Harbottle he informed me that about 40 navy divers came to West Hawk in early March to conduct diving training. They set up two tents on the ice and cut a hole six by six feet

through two feet of ice. The Winnipeg Police Service was to conduct the same kind of exercise soon after, followed by the RCMP.

Hydro Pole Replacement

Hydro has been in town to replace old (mostly cedar) wooden power poles. About 200 will be replaced with treated wood poles (see pictures on page 26). Refer to

the last *Echo* edition, (Feb., 2019, page 6), for areas affected.

Falcon Fishing Derby

Sean also noted that the Falcon Lake Big Fishing Derby will be held this month. They will be drilling about 3,500 holes for the event. This work will be hampered somewhat by the slush on the lake under the ice.

Church Times

Betty Ann informs me that West Hawk Church services will commence on Sun., May 19, that's the May long weekend, with Catholic services at 9 a.m. and Presbyterian at 11 a.m. No Sunday school scheduled yet. Also note that May 12 is Mothers Day!

Continued on page 26



St. Gabriel & St. Marcien Chapel
 Falcon Lake, Whiteshell Provincial Park
 Roman Catholic Summer Chapel
 Bilingual Masses Sundays at 10:30 A.M.
 May Long Wknd. to Sept. Long Wknd.
 Come Join Us-All welcome

WEST HAWK LAKE ROMAN CATHOLIC SUMMER CHAPEL



SUNDAY MASSES 9:00 A.M.
MAY 20TH THROUGH TO
SEPTEMBER 30TH

Masses are celebrated in the United Church building located on the access road from Hwy 1 to Hwy 44.

Join us to enjoy summer fellowship.

Our Lady of the Whiteshell Chapel
 BARRIER BAY WHITESHELL PROVINCIAL PARK

ROMAN CATHOLIC SUMMER CHAPEL
MASSES EVERY SUNDAY AT 11:00 A.M.

MAY LONG WEEKEND TO
SEPTEMBER LONG WEEKEND

COME JOIN US - EVERYONE IS WELCOME

WEST HAWK UNITED CHURCH
 (Highway 44 near TransCanada Exit)

Regular Sunday Worship
 from the May Long Weekend
 to Thanksgiving 11:00 am

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.

WEST HAWK LAKE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

Penniac Bay Trail Section

I drove by Penniac Bay to the new Trans Canada Trail section across the end of the bay. It is a fabulous walkway, about 10 feet wide of black asphalt, which is about three feet above the water. It offers a great view and will be a safe walkway next to Highway 44.

Penniac Bay Ice Sculpture

There was an ice sculpture on the lake on the north side of the walkway which was spectacular, made of clear ice! (See picture on page 24).

Mark Your Lot For Safety

Cheryl Mason advises that all cottagers should ensure they have signs with block and lot number placed at the back of your lot and at the front. This provides services such as the fire department, Hydro and other emergency responders with directions to provide help. Also, if you have a small pond by your garden, or elsewhere, be certain to cover it to prevent accidents.

Curling Club Fundraising

Cheryl mentioned that there are many activities

ongoing to raise money for repair of the curling club ice machine. These include Chase the Ace, cash draws, a Corn Broom Social Aug. 24, and more. Also, Greg at Lumber One will match up to \$5,000 of cash raised. It is beginning to look like we may have curling back next winter!

No Fires to Report

Deputy Fire Chief Grant Fisette reports there have been no fires these last few months but they did attend a snowmobile and car accident on the new road to Band 59. There was one person injured.

In Closing

In closing, I would like to present in my future columns the history of the Trans Canada Inn. I am asking those of you who have information to please contact me or email it to ve4ol@yahoo.ca. Note that the o and l following ve4 are lower case letters. I would also appreciate any other pertinent information readers may have for the *Echo*.

John Bell,
204-349-2994
807-464-0512



Above and below, Manitoba Hydro removes trees on Hwy 312 to allow for replacement of older wooden hydro poles. The project has been ongoing in the Falcon Lake, Caddy Lake, West Hawk Lake, Star Lake and Brereton Lake areas.



ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

*Compiled by
Neil McMillan, Chair
Environment Committee*

Lake Levels

Until after the spring break-up there will be no lake level data available for publication.

Falcon Lake

The WCA Environment Committee recommendation for the operating levels of the lake, once the dredging of the south shore boathouse channel is complete, was sent to Sustainable Development (SD) and Ministry of Infrastructure and Transportation (MIT) – Hydro-

logic Forecasting, on February 21. The committee reviewed all the available information from the MIT survey, meetings with concerned cottagers and emails sent to the association regarding this topic and recommended that the lake level should range between 1065 and 1066 feet above sea level with the target level to be 1065.50. We agree with MIT that the old range of only six inches was not possible to maintain with the current structure. This target is within two of the three range options provided in the MIT survey as well as the actual levels experienced in 2018 and is also within the range recom-

mendation of MIT for the lake level based on the survey.

The committee is preparing a WCA position paper, to submit to MIT and SD, on the consulting engineers recommendation for the replacement of the current Falcon Lake control structure on the south shore. We have concerns about ensuring sufficient capacity in the control method to enable the operators to lower the lake quickly when faced with significant precipitation. We are also recommending evaluation of some automation options that respond to the types of weather events we have experienced in the last number of

years.

Betula Lake

Our committee has been working with the WCA Communications Committee to find the best way to carry out a survey about water issues on Betula Lake. There will be an email sent to all those who have an email address on file with us. The remainder will be contacted by regular mail. We will be providing historical information about the lake conditions over the last five years as a point of reference to assist in answering the survey. Our plan is to have the survey in cottagers' hands in early April.

FALCON YACHT CLUB

By Cynthia Grant

We will soon be soaking up the summer sunshine within our beautiful Whiteshell Provincial Park. The members of the Falcon Yacht Club (FYC) are once again excited to host Learn To Sail and Introduction to Sailing programs for all ages in July, 2019. Sailing on our pristine lakes is a perfect way to play outdoors for great exercise and without any electronic devices to interrupt Mother Nature.

If you already know how to sail you should consider joining our casual sailing club to race every Saturday and Sunday afternoon. All type of rigs and crew are welcome. Membership is very reasonable as we are a not for profit club.

Sail Manitoba

FYC is associated with Sail Manitoba. The Sail Manitoba mobile school provides certified instructors to promote all levels of sailing throughout Manitoba, from introduction to sailing to olympic coaching. Sail Manitoba courses count towards the National CAN-sail certification program. You might see the Manitoba sail teams practicing at our Faloma Beach location next door to the Faloma Marina.

If you have ever thought you might want to learn to sail a boat, now is your opportunity, at any age. Yes, seniors and kids too. You will be introduced to racing a sail boat as well. That's when the fun really starts.

Some FAQs:

What are the Learn to Sail/ Introduction to Sail program dates for 2019?

Youth: Mon., July 15 to Fri. July 19, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Adult Women: Mon., July 15 to Fri. July 19, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Adults: Sat., July 13 to Sun., July 14, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

What Is The Cost?

Adult Weekend Introduction to Sailing: \$250 per person (maximum enrollment four.)

Youth: 5 days \$175

Women: 5 days \$225

Family Membership

The annual family FYC membership is \$250 which includes use of club boats, Sail Manitoba membership (for insurance), weekend races, social events



An adult with children on a single sail dinghy.

and more. Program participants do not have to become members. However there is an optional \$100 membership for new sailors who wish to join in on the four weekly fun sail races after the women's introduction to sail program. There is no membership fee for crewing on another member's boat.

What are prerequisites to Learn to Sail?

Water comfort: You must be able to swim. You are taught to capsize and recover your boat in your first lesson.

General Fitness: Not recommended for adults with compromised hips, knees or shoulders

Personal Flotation Device: Snug fitting type.

Other: Water shoes, hat, sunscreen, water bottle.

What Kind of Sailboat Will Be Used?

Youth and women learn on small sailboats called Optimists, designed especially for beginners. This type of boat works well for its size, stability and simple rig. Go online and check out Optimist Sail Boats. Grandma and grandkids can learn on and sail the same boat!

Men use a larger single sail boat provided by Sail Manitoba.

FYC Weekly Racing

The club runs races every Saturday and Sunday starting at 1 p.m. As we are a small

club, we race all sailboat types and sizes together, with winners determined on a handicap

system. The club's fleet of dinghy sailboats can also be used by members to participate in the fun.

We now have a small fleet of keel boat sailboats, the kind with a small cabin and a motor to maneuver to and from the dock or shore. Several keel boat races will be held during the summer. This provides a great opportunity to get a large number of participants out on the water as each boat can carry three or four people.

Our vision is to have a youth and a women's league one day so separate class racing can be facilitated during the week.

Check Our Website

Check out our website for more information and program registration at www.falconyachtclub.ca Follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

Come join in and have some fun!

WEST HAWK YACHT CLUB



West Hawk Lake Yacht Club 2019 Sailing Program

- July 13-21** Sail Manitoba Race Development Camp & Regatta (open to all ages and boat classes)
2 full days of advanced sailing instruction, 1 day of racing, 1 day of regatta, 1 day of social, 1 day of regatta, 1 day of social. This is an amazing experience for any sailor!
Cost \$80
- July 22-26** Learn to Sail (Juniors, age 7-16) – CAN SAIL Levels 1-2
A repeat of our highly successful youth Learn to Sail program.
 4 weeks of lessons, 10-15 hours of instruction, 1 day of racing, 1 day of regatta, 1 day of social.
 * Morning sessions – younger than sailors, sailboats provided
 * Afternoon sessions – older experienced sailors, sailboats provided
 These 2 LTR classes fill up quickly, so please register early!
Cost \$160
- July 22-26** Learn to Sail (Adults, age 18+) – CAN SAIL Levels 1-3
4 weeks of lessons, 10-15 hours of instruction, 1 day of racing, 1 day of regatta, 1 day of social.
 * Afternoon sessions only, sailboats provided
Cost \$175
- July 22-26** Intermediate Sail Training (Juniors, age 8-16)
 CAN SAIL Levels 2-3
4 weeks of lessons, 10-15 hours of instruction, 1 day of racing, 1 day of regatta, 1 day of social.
 * Intermediate 1/2 day morning class only, sailboats provided
Cost \$175
- July 22-26** Advanced Sail Training (Juniors, or Adults 13+)
 CAN SAIL Levels 3-4
4 weeks of lessons, 10-15 hours of instruction, 1 day of racing, 1 day of regatta, 1 day of social.
 * Advanced extensive all day course, sailboats provided
Cost \$195
- Aug 1-4** BOOT Camp (Basic Optimist Olympic Sailing Camp)
 (Juniors, age 8-16) Black Sturgeon Sailing Club
2 full days of advanced Optimist training with provincial team coaches followed by 2 full days of racing including the Manitoba Provincial Optimist Championships (10 & Under, 12 & Under, and 15 & Under).
 Sailors are billed by sailing families at \$550 if needed, all meals are included, evening activities are planned for each night and are a ton of fun! This is an amazing experience for any young sailor!
 * This is an extensive all day course, sailboats provided by WHLYC.
Cost \$195

Saturday, July 27 & August 10 - West Hawk Lake Yacht Club Annual Race Series
 Fun races at different locations across the lake start at 1 pm, open to all dinghy classes & sailors - beginner & veteran on West Hawk Lake. Registration starts at 12 pm, race 1-2:30 pm. Arrive at the club after, please call us for more information.
 July 27 - Big Island Landing, August 10 - Main Beach

For those that need help getting their sailboat ready for the summer season please contact us!

For more information please contact: Tom Saunders (204-345-3100 (R&R)) or Paul Krestanowich (204-479-7100 cell or 204-345-2072 lake)
 Email us at info@whlyc.ca

Check out our online registration & club website at www.whlyc.ca



NUTIMIK LAKE

By Kerri Pleskach

Spring is almost here — I can feel it (although at the time of writing this, the forecast is calling for a snow storm). We took a trip to Disney World in February, so for us that was a tease of warm weather and now all we can think about is basking in the sun on the beach. I have a feeling that all the snowbirds who have returned to Manitoba are feeling the same way.

Welcome Emily Scarlett

Amanda and Tyler Coad welcomed Emily Scarlett into the world on Feb. 20 at 5:27 a.m. weighing seven lbs., 11 oz. Big sister Kenzie will be able to show Emily the playground, bridge and beaches of Nutimik this summer. Proud grandparents are John and Wendy Vanzwol of Block 1. Proud Great Grandparents are Tony and Hilda Vanzwol, who also have a cabin in Block 1. Welcome to the Nutimik family, Emily.

Congratulations

There is more exciting news for John and Wendy Vanzwol. Their son Kyle was recently engaged to Carra Munch. Kyle and Carra were engaged in Riviera Maya, Mexico, in January. An April social is being planned followed by a September wedding. Congratulations!

Nutimik Lodge

As we are preparing for the warm weather, so is Nutimik lodge. They have been open on weekends since New Year's and are planning on opening May 3 for the season. The lodge will be open during spring from Sunday to Thursday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Check out their



Emily with big sister Kenzie.



Kyle Vanzwol and Carra Munch.

website to find out when longer summer hours begin, www.nutimik.mb.ca

A Message From Your Whiteshell Cottagers Association Directors

Thank you to those cottagers who have renewed their Whiteshell Cottagers Association membership for 2019!

The Whiteshell Cottagers Association is excited to kick off their 2019 Membership Campaign with a raffle of a brand new 2018 Ford Ecosport SUV (MSRP \$24,509.00). Proceeds will go to three good causes:

1. Camp Quality at Brereton Lake, (a summer camp for children and youth living with cancer)
2. To provide a scholarship for an Environmental Sciences student, and
3. To start a program to eradicate purple loosestrife in the park. Buy your tickets at:

- Nutimik Lodge
- Betula Lake Resort
- Falcon Trails Resort
- Falcon Ridge
- White Lake Resort
- Inverness Falls Resort

- Whiteshell Cottagers Association AGM April 16

See page one for full contest details or go to the website at www.whiteshellcottagers.com

Speaking of the Whiteshell Cottagers Association Annual General Meeting, it will be held on Tues., April 16, 2019 at My Church (formerly Immanuel Pentecostal Church), 955 Wilkes Ave., in Winnipeg. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. Whiteshell merchants will exhibit products and services starting at 5 p.m.

The WCA is also organizing another presentation on Cottage Succession Planning which have proved very popular in the past. Most cottage owners are totally unaware of the rules and regulations around passing down their cottage. Dates will be announced soon so watch the WCA website, Facebook and *Echo* for details.

If you have any questions or concerns with what's happening around your cottage, please feel free to contact your Nutimik Lake Directors:

- Angela Kelsch, 204-799-1683 (akelsch@shaw.ca)
- Sandra Kline 204-479-2025 (sandrakl@mymts.net)

- Brenda Trach 204-510-3911 (btrachl@shaw.ca)

A list of all Whiteshell Cottagers Association directors appears on page 10.

Ice Fishing Melts Away

As winter is coming to a close, so is the ice fishing. We are hoping to get out to the lake one more time to catch the big one (or a little one, I am not that picky, as long as I am catching).

I hope your winter was full of fun and that many great memories were made whether you stayed here in Manitoba and braved the cold, or you flew away for the cold months to a hot, sunny destination. Hopefully Mother Nature is on our side this year and we have a warm spring and hot summer.

Send Me Your News

If you have any information, news, events or pictures that you would like me to share in my future articles, please email me at kerrilaw@mymts.net My next article is due the beginning of May.

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The ladies at last year's St. Patty's Day Ice Fishing Party.

2019 FLOPPET: FALCON LAKE LOPPET SKI RACE

By Caleigh Christie

The 2019 Floppet: Falcon Lake Loppet ski race was another smashing success! Despite the unseasonably minus 19C degrees temperatures, the race sold out at 150 participants with only a small handful of folks not making it to the start line. With the cold temperatures the snow was like sandpaper making race times an average of 20 minutes slower than the year previous. Feedback from the racers was that the course was groomed to perfection and everyone had an awesome day.

The event started out with a wonderful feast and concert in the Falcon Ridge ski chalet on Saturday night. Racers and volunteers were serenaded by the angelic voice of Kenzie Jane backed up by a full band with her dad on bass guitar! A scrumptious taco feast (carnitas, beans, corn tortillas or chips, and multitudinous toppings), served out of the brand-new Yurt facilities and catered by the legendary Pam Peters-Pries, was enjoyed by all.

On Sunday, there were three race distances that participants could choose from: the 35 km Northern Pike, the 17.5 km Walleye or the 7 km Minnow. This year we also added the 10 and Under 1.7 km Tadpole Race. Racers also had the option of choosing either the skate ski or classic techniques. The course is famous for its hills and scenic vistas through the boreal forest on High Lake and Falcon Lake. Near the start of the course, racers in the Walleye and Northern Pike categories have to make their way up The Wall, a dreaded 270 metre climb up a 10 per cent graded slope. The race ran from 9:45 a.m, until 2 p.m. and almost everyone was able to finish their course before the cut-off time.

Floppet Village

Once finished, racers got to enjoy the festivities in the Flop-



Winners of the 17.5 km Walleye Female Classic category. From left to right, Kristin Isaak in third place with a time of 1:46:07, Marlene Boersch in first place with a time of 1:32:49 and Denae Penner in second place with a time of 1:44:56. Podium finishers will have their names engraved on the taxidermy trophy which will sit proudly on the walls of the Falcon Ridge ski chalet.

pet Village which was set up just outside of the ski chalet. We had Lake of the Woods Brewing Company serving the victory beer, Northern Meats provided the ingredients to feed enough chili to all racers and volunteers, the North Face (Prairie Summit Shop) provided The North Face-stamped grilled cheeses, the Falcon Sports Club had a Candy Tent set up for the kids, the Whiteshell Trapper's Association was out to talk trapping and show people some amazing Whiteshell furs, and there were all sorts of 'lawn' games to be played in the snow.

A huge thank you goes out to the 50 volunteers and organizers who put in the time to make this fantastic event a reality, we couldn't have done it without

you! Another big thank you goes to the amazing sponsors that stepped up to show their sup-

port for the race. The North Face (Prairie Summit Shop) donated many amazing prizes as well as race bibs, racer kits, and North Face Stamped grilled cheese sandwiches for every racer! Lake of the Woods Brewing Company was our official beer sponsor for the event allowing every racer to enjoy a cold one after the race. Lumber One Building Supplies donated the grand prize draw kayak, open to all racers who completed the course. Olympia Cycle and Ski on Portage Avenue in Winnipeg donated some amazing prizes for the racers to take home with them. The Falcon Beach Ranch staff, that makes up half the organizing committee, were instrumental in setting up the Floppet Village as well as donating some great prizes. Falcon Ridge Ski Slopes and Falcon Trails Resort sponsored the majority of the grooming, course set-up and venue hosting.

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WHITESHELL SUMMER CAMPS — SUMMER IS COMING!

*By Wayne Eisbrenner
Executive Director
Camp Nutimik*

Did you know that in February, 2019, 'weather' was the ninth most searched word on Google with some 52,340,000 searches? I'm not sure why that surprised me since I think probably most every conversation I've had in the past few months inevitably came down to discussing the weather! It seems that we are obsessed with our weather, something that not one of us can do a thing about!

Take this article for example — why am I talking about the weather?

My thinking was that perhaps by talking about the weather, you would want to know more and this would give me an opportunity to hook you into learning about Camp Nutimik. (Yes, there is a method to my madness, but bear with me and you will see where I'm going with this.)

Today, as I wrote this, the temperature began to somewhat moderate. In fact, I was able to go outside without seven layers of clothing. And the longer days also made me smile because in a few short months, it will be SUMMER!

So, what are you doing this summer? What are your



'Every camp has hidden treasures of history and traditions that give it a unique character, identity and flavour, and we are blessed in the Whiteshell to have a number of summer camps.'

plans? Will you go away on a family vacation? Will you spend time out at your cottage in the Whiteshell? What about your children and/or grandchildren? What plans do you have for them?

I invite you to consider a week of camp this summer for your children.

'Why?', you ask.

There is something magical about a summer camp experience and each and every camp in the world is unique and different — not just because of geographical location or because of the programs that are offered. Every camp has hidden treasures of history and traditions that give it a unique character, identity and flavour. We are blessed in the Whiteshell to have a number of summer camps. Some

of these camps are faith based and others are not. Regardless of which brand of camp you choose, there is within each camp a common mission, to give children and youth a fun summer experience that allows them to learn from one another, to make new friends and to grow interpersonally!

Every staff member, alumni camper and volunteer has memories associated with their time at their favourite camp, memories that stay with them throughout their lifetime, memories of counselors, cabins, camp food, firesides and special friends that they experienced during a summer camp.

In a society where so many young people are bubble-wrapped, camp becomes that place where one's character

and life can be shaped. Camp is a controlled, safe environment where children and youth learn independence, where they interact with people face-to-face and at the same time learn about themselves. Camp is a place where kids learn from a full range of emotions and human experiences including friendship, disagreements, team work, homesickness, frustrations, amazing successes and more.

Camp Nutimik is just one of many camps in the Whiteshell and we've been doing summer camp for 65 years! We invite you to check us out as one of the camp options in the Whiteshell.

Camp has been a part of my own life since I was nine years old which was a very long time ago. But I am more convinced than ever that if there was a time when the world needed a generation of future leaders who understand the realities of living in a community, of being able to have meaningful interpersonal relationships and of being open to new and challenging experiences — that time is now.

Yes, there may still be a little snow in the ditches and in the woods, but summer is coming! Why not make summer camp part of your summer plans?

SOUTH EAST WHITESHELL FIRE DEPARTMENT

By Gordon Greaves

The Fire Department is always ready to meet the needs of the community at a moment's notice, and its services are invaluable to the people in need.

I was reminded of this because of an incident in early February this year. A severely injured person was trapped in a vehicle for more than two hours and the Jaws of Life were required to extract the person safely. The injuries sustained were traumatic and the services of the STARS air ambulance were required to promptly transport the person to emergency care. The Firefighters teamwork with STARS was vital in helping this person. The

professionalism of the firefighters in performing a safe extraction was recognized by STARS as essential in getting the person to hospital for timely treatment, and the Fire Department received a heartfelt and warm thank you from STARS for the assistance provided!

It is always very satisfying to know that your efforts are appreciated. Thank you STARS for the recognition and thank you for all of your vital services to Manitobans.

I also received a copy of an article from May 2000, in the Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario Cottager, as a follow up to some comments in my January article. The article explained the need to make sure all people in the cottage, and all people watching the cottage,

know the numbers to call to get help right away (911). They also need to be able to tell the dispatcher exactly where the emergency is. Your lot number and fire road information is vital. I was reminded that this information always needs to be kept up to date and close at hand. It is only needed when you least expect it.

Annual General Meeting

As I write this article, the Fire Department is preparing for its Annual Meeting on March 18. I would like to thank Drew McIvor and the CPA firm of Craig & Ross for their assistance in again reviewing the reports of the Fire Department. It is vital to the department that our donors are assured that their funds are being recorded and spent properly. You can always

review our complete financial reports online at www.canada.ca/taxes/charities and giving.

Call for Members

Once again if you would like to join the executive or participate on one of our committees, your services would be greatly appreciated. You can always contact us at info@sewfire.ca. If you would like to find out more about how you can help, please contact any of the Executive Members listed on our website at www.sewfire.ca.

The winter was harsh but the snowmobiling was great!

We wish you all the best for the coming spring and summer season of 2019 and we thank you all for your support.



DOROTHY LAKE

By Inge Scholte

This was more than an old-fashioned winter. The cold spell was longer than our memories reached.

And Henk and I were convinced that it would break before Nanneke and Gerbrand, friends from overseas, would fly in from Amsterdam. But the mercury had already dropped below minus 25 when one frigid night in early February I was let off at the Winnipeg airport arrivals area, clutching an orange banner under my arm. Several planes were disgorging their passengers, but despite the crowds, the Holland banner worked. Smiles, hugs, kisses and pictures followed, and luggage was opened to retrieve some heavy duty clothing. Now ready for anything, we found Henk curbside and headed north, slowly leaving city traffic and bright lights behind.

If you wonder about the

timing of our friends' visit, they came to have a winter experience. They enjoyed being here fifteen years ago, and seem to get less of the white stuff overseas. They were delighted with our winter wonderland, the snow clearing, walks on the lake and in the woods. Much fun came from them being able, with some gra-

cious help from Camp Nutimik, to go out on our local cross-country ski trails. We had the usual falls and laughed a lot.

Many days we covered our faces with only our eyes visible. And some days we might have been reluctant to even venture out. But together we got the most out of those two weeks. Many

days were full of sun, and they showed the beauty of our province in all its splendor.

It is special to see your familiar surroundings through the eyes of friends. They say it is now our turn to come their way, but we believe we'll see them back again in our neck of the woods.



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Memories are made at the cottage

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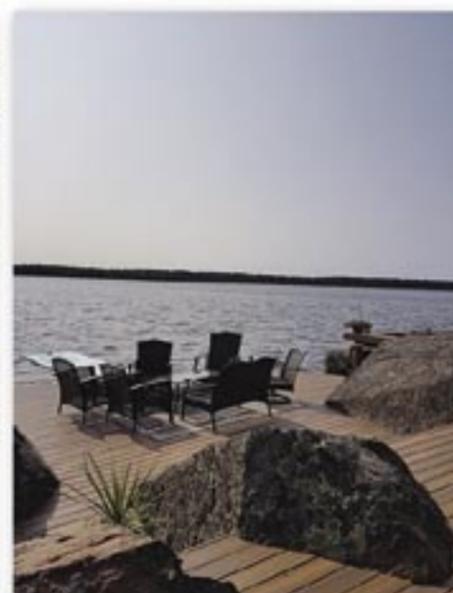
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