



## What We *Can* Do Something About

**W**e've had an extraordinary summer of steaming hot days and spectacular thunderstorms. The lake level is low — alarmingly so — the lakewater temperature is balmy, and the forests are tinder dry.

At least, they're dry until it rains. And what torrential rains! The lightning show on the evening of August 3 put our store-bought fireworks to shame: more than an hour of relentless flares, jagged flashes and eerily illuminated skies.

We're not alone in our weather extremes. Huge swaths of North America and Europe are suffering record precipitation or drought. Greenland's ice cap is dwindling by the day. Here in Canada, ice climbers report glaciers literally crumbling under their crampons.

The jury's still out on how much we can stop climate change. Perhaps we've gone too far down the rocky road of global warming. Or perhaps not.

But there's something a lot closer to home that we CAN control. It's as mundane as mud and as jarring as potholes on the Hanwell Road: it is called 'litter.'

During the 1960s, litter lined the highways. Then came the 1970s, a decade of growing environmental awareness. The Adopt-a Highway program began in the 1980s, and within a decade the folks who made money gathering bottles beside the road started to look elsewhere.

When I moved to Yoho in 1987, roadside litter was commonplace. That changed in the 1990s, and by the early 2000s the roads of Yoho were fairly litter-free.

Not so in 2012. Barely two days after this May's spring clean-up, another ugly cluster of fast food containers and beer cans erupted along the Yoho Lake Road.

What's changed? I don't know. Maybe the scale of global destruction has weakened our hearts. Maybe we feel that one more Budweiser can or Tim Hortons cup tossed from the car won't matter. Understandable, but totally uncool. Let's fight apathy. Let's not litter. It's something we CAN do something about — right here, right close to home. GM

## Upcoming Events Around Yoho Lake

### August

#### What

Annual General Meeting of the Yoho Lake Association (YLA)

#### When

**Sunday August 19, 2012**

1 p.m.: Barbeque

2 p.m.: Meeting

#### Where

Main Lodge, Yoho Scout Reserve, Yoho Lake

#### Why

Catch up with neighbours, renew YLA memberships, and learn what's been happening around the lake (and with the Association) since last year's AGM.

#### Agenda

(highlights)

- Welcoming remarks
- Reports by YLA committees
- Review and adoption of YLA constitution
- Feedback and suggestions from Yoho residents on where to go from here re. Association activities and objectives
- Nomination and election of 2012–2013 executive
- Guest speaker





**Yoho Lake Association  
Executive and  
Committee Chairs**

**President**

Bonny Hoyt-Hallett

**Vice-President**

Glen McGuire

**Secretary**

Ann Bridges

**Treasurer**

Mark Roach

**Director-at-Large**

Richard Hanson

**Scout Camp Representative**

Dean Mundee

**Water Committee**

Warren McLaughlin, Kim Lipsett

**Adopt-a-Highway Committee**

Larry Somerville

**Communications Committee**

Gwen Martin, Michèle Roussel

**Membership Committee**

Glen McGuire

**Zone Representatives Committee**

Richard Hanson

**Constitution Committee**

Executive

**Zone Representatives**

Zone 1 Sean Haley

Zone 2 Victor Hendricksen

Zone 3 Walter Bidlake

Zone 4 Mark Roach

Zone 5 Jack MacDougall

Zone 6 Richard Hanson

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## President's Message

Bonny Hoyt-Hallett

It is hard to believe that a year has passed since we rejuvenated our Yoho Lake Association. Over the last twelve months, the YLA executive has held eleven meetings, during which we set the following objectives for 2011–2012.

These objectives evolved directly from suggestions made by you, the residents of Yoho, at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in August 2011.

- Prepare a Yoho Lake directory by January 31, 2012.
- Complete a membership renewal mail-out by spring/summer of 2012.
- Communicate with members four times per year, with the first bulletin to be e-mailed in January, placed on the Yoho website, and inserted in the Harvey Lions News.
- Obtain information on incorporating the YLA.
- Secure a post office box for the YLA.
- Organize spring and fall clean-ups in designated areas around Yoho Lake, according to guidelines of the New Brunswick Adopt-a-Highway program.
- Apply for an Environment Trust Fund (ETF) grant to obtain water monitoring equipment.
- Revise the constitution to present at the AGM in August 2012.
- Obtain and review the existing water quality baseline data and related information about water quality within the Yoho Lake community.
- Produce a monthly chart to show specific water readings during the months of highest water activity (June to September).

Meeting these objectives required months of hard work by the YLA executive, as you'll hear when the committees present their reports at the 2012 AGM. Here are some activity highlights:

1. We held three meetings with the Department of Environment and Local Government to discuss water monitoring

on the lake, and we obtained much valuable information and archival data from the Departmental staff.

2. We applied for and received an ETF grant for Yoho Lake to partner with four other local lakes in water monitoring. (See article on p. 3 by Warren McLaughlin.)

3. We developed a regional lake collaborative consisting of Yoho Lake, the same four lakes mentioned above, and three other lakes that joined recently. This lake group meets quarterly to share ideas, concerns, and topics for joint action. The organization allows the YLA to learn from others. It also gives us a stronger voice, should we need to approach others.

4. We attended several meetings with Eastern Charlotte Waterways, which is exploring the possibility of establishing a province-wide New Brunswick lake association. More on that at the AGM.

5. We held our annual spring road clean-up, thanks to the dedication of Larry Somerville (Chair of the Adopt-a-Highway Committee) and several volunteers. However, litter appeared along the road almost immediately after clean-up. This is disheartening. Larry has erected *Do Not Litter* signs along the road, and we hope this might remind people to avoid tossing trash from their cars.

6. We developed Terms of Reference for the several YLA committees and incorporated them as an appendix to our revised Constitution. The constitution was revised in part to reflect the input of residents at the 2011 AGM. The revisions clarify various details that affect how the Association functions, and how residents vote. You will be asked to vote on the new constitution at the AGM.

7. We held a well-attended education session on alternative septic systems and hope you will give us ideas about topics you'd like covered at future such sessions.

Thanks to all who volunteered their time and ideas this past year. We have a wonderful resource of people around our lake. I have enjoyed my year and thank you for this opportunity.

## Lakewater Monitoring Program

Warren McLaughlin, Co-Chair, Water Committee

In the late fall of 2011, the Yoho Lake Association submitted an application to the Environmental Trust Fund.

The application was to obtain funds that would help us launch a collaborative program to monitor the lakewater quality at the following five local lakes: Magaguadavic Lake, Davidson Lake, Harvey Lake, Lake George and Yoho Lake.

The application was accepted, and we secured a total of \$8,500.00. Most of the funding was designated to buy specialized water monitoring equipment that would be shared among the five lakes.

The Water Committee of the Yoho Lake Association organized a training session on how to use the equipment. The session took place on Sunday June 17, 2012, at the Main Lodge of the Yoho Scout Reserve.

Two representatives from the Department of Environment and Local Government — John O'Keefe and Jason Hallett — led the training session. It included an oral presentation as well as hands-on training in boats across Yoho Lake. The weather cooperated fully, and the volunteer monitors enjoyed a productive day on the water.

All five lakes involved in this project were well represented. Representatives from both Oromocto Lake and Skiff Lake also attended, as they too wanted to gain further knowledge on lake monitoring.

Special thanks to Sean Haley and Darren Chamberlain, who generously offered the use of their boats while taking part in the training session.

The Water Committee's Terms of Reference states that annual water monitoring and data collection are to start in June and end in October. A slight delay in obtaining all the required equipment (exceptional for this first year) necessitated that the water monitoring begin on July 1, 2012.

Participating lakes will collect data to use in future comparative studies. Arrangements are being made to have all of the data stored centrally for future reference.

A dedicated group of trained volunteers will monitor the water quality at Yoho Lake on a weekly basis. This will allow the Water Committee to notice any significant changes. Such changes will be reported promptly to the Department of the Environment and Local Government for appropriate action.

The interest in the project has been growing and hopefully will have positive results in protecting the health of our lake and its inhabitants. The YLA Water Committee extends special thanks to the many volunteers at all five lakes who are involved in this important collaborative water monitoring project.



Water Committee co-chair Warren McLaughlin and Jim Hallett monitoring the water quality of Yoho Lake, July 2012. *Michèle Rousset.*

## Getting the Hot ... Scoop on Septic Systems

Walter Bidlake

On June 24, 2012, the Yoho Lake Association sponsored a Septic Expo at the Main Lodge of the Yoho Scout Reserve. The session of seven presenters focused on innovative systems that could offer alternative solutions to handling septic waste on small lots beside lakes.

The first presentation was made by Kevin Gould from the Department of Health. He set out the role played by the provincial government in permitting septic systems. He also explained changes to existing regulations that could affect the installation of alternative septic systems.

The session then moved on to presentations by septic system designers and/or installers, including Lawrence Dunham of Enviro-Septic Systems, Pat Desmond of Fusion Systems, and Joerg and Gunter Winkler of Winkler Aqua-Service Ltd. Theirs were not your run-of-the-mill systems but instead were technically advanced systems that can be installed in limited spaces and that produce (*cont'd on p. 4*)

(Getting the Hot...Scoop: continued from p. 3)

effluent to match the waste material in municipal sewerage lagoons.

The afternoon concluded with presentations by environmental engineer Jochen Schroer of NATECH, and by a representative from the New Brunswick Association of Onsite Water Professionals. The Expo also featured booths set up by Patricia Holland, Department of Environment and Local Government; and Alden Faulker of Shaw Precast Solutions (Nova Scotia), eastern Canada's distributor of the Premier Tech Aqua Ecoflo septic system that uses peat technology.

About 35 people from five local lakes attended the highly informative expo, which lasted nearly three hours. The audience asked some very knowledgeable questions of the presenters and received equally knowledgeable answers. The questions ranged from how a permit is obtained, to the types of materials used in a system, the cost, how long a system would last, and how much maintenance is required to keep a system functional. The presenters provided hand-outs showing their various systems as well as brochures that described composting septic systems.

In all, it was a very informative and entertaining afternoon with lots of coffee and Tim Bits for everyone. More information is available from the Yoho Lake Association executive.



Note: All photos in this issue are by Michèle Roussel. The *Yoho Echo* banner photo is by Karen Watson. We'd love to include your photos or articles in the next newsletter. Please send them to [gwenmart@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:gwenmart@nbnet.nb.ca)



## Preserving and/or Restoring Your Shoreline Michèle Roussel

One of the challenges of owning a lakefront property is finding the right balance between the trendy desire to 'embellish' our surroundings, and limiting our impact on Mother Nature's own landscaping talents.

When you consider the critical role shorelines play in protecting the water's integrity as well as safeguarding its inhabitants' wellness, it's easy to understand why many eco-friendly experts recommend you leave the shoreline as untouched as possible.

Here at Yoho Lake, with the exception of some sections of the Yoho Scout Reserve and a few select properties, many of the properties surrounding the lake have been, let's say, 'enhanced.'

When landscaping near a lakeshore or any body of water for that matter, let the expression "less is more" be your guide. The closer you remain true to the design Mother Nature intended, the less of an impact your footprint will have on the lake and the wildlife who rely on it for their long-term survival.

Ontario has produced an excellent information booklet: *The Shore Primer*. It is a valuable source of practical information compiled to increase public awareness on what each one of us can do to help protect our lakes. The publication is available online at [www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/regions/central/pub/shore-rivages-on/index-eng.htm](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/regions/central/pub/shore-rivages-on/index-eng.htm)

To learn even more about how you can make a difference in restoring or preserving your lakefront property, go to this website: [www.mnr.gov.on.ca](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca)

You may recall that the first article in this lake stewardship series was on phosphates and the potential risks they pose to lakewater integrity. By trying to do our share in reducing the quantity of phosphates that end up in the lake and by enjoying the shoreline more as nature intended, we can all make a difference in protecting our lake.

In preparation for the winter 2013 newsletter, please feel free to suggest a topic of interest you would like to see featured in this lake stewardship series.

[Ed.'s note: this article is the second in our Lake Stewardship 101 series.]