



The Yoho Echo

Newsletter of the Yoho Lake Association

Volume 12, Issue 1

February 2012

The Yoho Echo Returns

February is the perfect month to think of resurrection. As the days grow longer, the strengthening sun warms our winter-weary bones even as the air remains chilly. Squirrels eye each other in the treetops, ready to make babies. Indoor bulbs sprout their first lime-green tips.

What better time to speak of resurrecting the Yoho Lake Association and its newsletter, *The Yoho Echo*.

August 2011 marked a new beginning for the Yoho Lake Association (YLA), which had lain dormant for several years. The Annual General Meeting took place on August 21 at the Scout Reserve lodge. The turnout beat expectations. Yoho residents filled every seat and crammed adjacent hallways.

The crowd elected a new Association executive (see masthead on p. 2). Members also outlined what they wanted the executive to tackle over the coming months. Top of the list: produce a new Yoho Directory and bring back *The Yoho Echo*. Other hot items related to protecting the lake environment and water quality.

Since that meeting, YLA president Bonny Hoyt-Hallett and the Water Committee have worked hard to organize regular monitoring of Yoho Lake water in 2012. For more about that, see **President's Message** (p. 2).

Meanwhile, we've compiled and sent out the new directory (see **Directory Updates**, p. 2). And we've finally revived the newsletter. Here it is: your community voice. We aim to produce at least two issues per year. We'd love to receive your submissions via email or Canada Post, whichever is easiest for you.

We also will inform you of recent YLA happenings through a short, bimonthly electronic bulletin. Until someone comes up with a better name, it will be called, oddly enough, *The Yoho Bulletin*. GM

Upcoming Events Around Yoho Lake

May

What: Adopt-a-Highway cleanup for Yoho area

When: Will announce date in future bulletin

June

What: Yoho Lake Association meeting

When: **Sunday June 24, 2012, at 1 p.m.**

Where: Yoho Scout Reserve at main lodge

Agenda: Information session about alternative septic tanks for small properties

August

What: Annual General Meeting of Yoho Lake Association

When: **Sunday August 19, 2012, at 1 p.m.**

Where: Yoho Scout Reserve at main lodge

Agenda: Will announce agenda in future bulletin



Rosehips at Yoho outlet Michèle Roussel



**Yoho Lake Association
Executive and
Committee Chairs**

President

Bonny Hoyt-Hallett

Vice-President

Glen McGuire

Secretary/Acting Secretary

Doreen Haley/Ann Bridges

Treasurer

Mark Roach

Director-at-Large

Richard Hanson

Scout Camp Representative

Dean Munde

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

The Yoho Echo

Gwen Martin, editor
gwenmart@nbnet.nb.ca
(506) 366-3079

Association & Echo Mail

227 Yoho Lake Road, Box 2
Yoho, New Brunswick
CANADA E6K 3B9

Yoho Lake Website

<http://www.yoho-lake.com>

President's Message

Bonny Hoyt-Hallett

As this is my first president's message, I'd like to introduce myself. More than three decades ago, my husband Jim and I took over a Yoho Lake cottage built by the Hallett family. For years we stayed from July to September, making the occasional winter trip to ski or snowshoe at the lake. We now live at Yoho from June to November with many off-season visits.

In spring 2011 a group of summer and fulltime residents from around the lake met to discuss reviving the Yoho Lake Association (YLA). The idea took hold, and in August 2011 we held an Annual General Meeting of the YLA. During that event, the members elected an executive and I was asked to become president.

The executive's first task was to form committees of local residents interested in helping with activities such as lake-water monitoring, membership/social events, and communications.

We warmly encourage you to join any of the committees. The more participants, the better. See **About the Committees** and **What's a Zone Rep?** (p. 4) for details.

Since August, we've been busy. The **Adopt-a-Highway Committee** held one event in autumn 2011 and will organize another in spring 2012. The zone reps and **Communications Committee** produced the new Yoho Directory in late January.

The **Water Committee** has been especially active. In summer 2011 committee co-chair Warren McLaughlin and others began testing the lake water. In October I attended a workshop on lake stewardship hosted by Eastern Charlotte Waterways (ECW) and met people from

the Harvey, Magaguadavic, George and Davidson lake associations.

In late November the YLA and these four other lakes associations created an informal Group of Five to discuss shared approaches to effective lake stewardship. We will meet again in late February.

The Group of Five also applied recently for a joint NB Environmental Trust Fund grant to help us

- collect solid data on water quality of our lakes using proper equipment
- store that data with the Canadian Rivers Institute (CRI) at University of New Brunswick, and
- spread the word about good lake stewardship practises.

The CRI kindly agreed to store the data. And the New Brunswick Department of Environment helped greatly with technical advice about water monitoring.

In February, we'll meet the Environment folks again to learn more about water standards and testing. We aim to start monitoring Yoho Lake in spring.

As you may know, the water in some New Brunswick lakes (Baker, Chamcook and Utopia) has suffered serious degradation. Deterioration of water quality in a lake can affect our health and property values. The Yoho Lake Association is working with government and other groups such as CRI and ECW to prevent such damage from happening here.

More than ever, we need your help to keep our lake clean and safe. As always, we welcome your thoughts and opinions.

Directory Updates

The new Yoho Directory has been emailed to all Yoho residents who requested the electronic version. For those wanting a paper copy, we'll deliver it by post or hand over the first few weeks of February. Meanwhile, please note the following changes:

Stacey Chessie & Dale Shepherd	366-5595
Kimberly & John Lyons	366-5804
Bonita Greydanus	366-3963
Alan & Sandra Wilson	366-3644

Environmentally Friendly Products for Our Homes

Michèle Roussel

Ever wondered what's in those household cleaning products that you and your family use each day?

It's no secret that many of these products contain harsh chemicals. They can corrode your eyes and skin or make you ill when they're inhaled or swallowed. Just look at the warning labels. Scary stuff!

Gone are the days when all we used to clean our homes was water and good old vinegar. Dozens of products line our modern shopping aisles, all claiming to be 'green' and 'eco-friendly.' So how do we choose items that are effective but safe?

Luckily, it's a simple matter of looking for products with the EcoLogo label. Founded in Canada in 1988, EcoLogo™ (www.ecologo.org) is now recognized worldwide. Products certified with this label meet the strict standards of environmental leadership and are truly 'green' products.

You might think these products are expensive and found only in small specialty stores. Well, think again. Several big-box stores right here in Fredericton carry many certified EcoLogo products.

So next time you walk down the household cleaners aisle, take a minute to check for green EcoLogo labels. They're usually easy to spot!

Another important thing to consider is the use of phosphate-free products, particularly laundry and dishwasher detergents. Phosphates feed the growth of algae and are the number one threat to our lake's water quality.

As more Yoho cottages are converted to year-round homes, our lake is surrounded by more washing machines and more dishwashers ... which produce more and more grey water.

For those of us living by the lake, it's especially crucial to use phosphate-free products. The gesture is small, yet the difference it can make to our lake is HUGE!

Like the EcoLogo products, phosphate-free soaps are widely available in grocery stores and community pharmacies.

A big part of lake stewardship is for every one of us to take small steps and make decisions now, so that our lake can be enjoyed for generations to come.

*In our next issue, we will bring you tips
on how to dress up your waterfront
while still protecting the natural shoreline.*

Giving Back to the Lake: Perhaps It is Time

Gwen Martin

It's funny how seemingly unconnected events can merge in your mind.

A month ago, I sat across the table from Yoho resident Walter Bidlake. He said, "when I was young, the water in Yoho Lake was so clean you could look down thirty feet and see old wagon wheels at the bottom."

We sure can't do that today.

A while later at another table, a Department of Environment biologist told us that "anecdotes about changes in fish, birds and plant life around the lake help us to learn how the lake has altered over time."

Flash forward to last week. While working on the Yoho Directory, I listened to one person after another tell stories. What an eye-opener!

Many residents grew up visiting the lake in summer. They met their spouses here as teenagers and later brought children to visit. Now, they invite grandchildren.

The family ties among Yoho Lakers are phenomenal. Show me a person who has no blood or other connections with a Chessie or a Hanson or a Bidlake or a Reissner or a Haley or a Somerville ... and I'll show you someone who has never heard of Yoho Lake.

Put simply, the lake bonds us. It has bonded us for generations. These bonds are a gift from Yoho Lake to us.

But as you can see from Walter's story about the wagon wheels, our lake is now in trouble.

In the past, people could catch trout at Yoho. Not any more. Once-sandy shorelines have grown slimy with algae. Summer swallows used to skim the lake for insects. The swallow population here last year? Apparently zero.

And so, dear residents, perhaps it is time for us to give back to the lake. We're not a glorified suburb with a large swimming pool. We live beside a breathing (literally), fragile lake that—for better or worse—is vulnerable to human activities. Lakes, like people, can die.

What can we do? First, we can use 100% phosphate-free cleaning products. That will help a lot.

Second, we can attend the June information session on alternative septic systems for small properties (see p. 1) and then follow our conscience.

Third, we can become citizen scientists. Think about changes you've seen in the water, birds, fish and plant life. Then write down your observations. They will help scientists to interpret what is happening at the lake.

You can mail your notes to *The Yoho Echo* (p. 2) or email them to Gwen at gwenmart@nbnet.nb.ca. We'll make sure they reach the right person.

Scouts Corner

Dean Mundee

Nearly 60 years ago, Ashley Colter donated 140 hectares of land at Yoho Lake to Scouts Canada. His gift became the Yoho Scout Reserve, where generations of young people have learned to appreciate the natural world.

Thanks to the Colter family, a second land parcel was added to the Reserve, expanding it to 258 hectares.

This beautiful Reserve at the northern tip of Yoho Lake includes a kilometre of lakefront and is largely undeveloped. Such protection helps, not just the Scouts, but all of us and the lake itself.

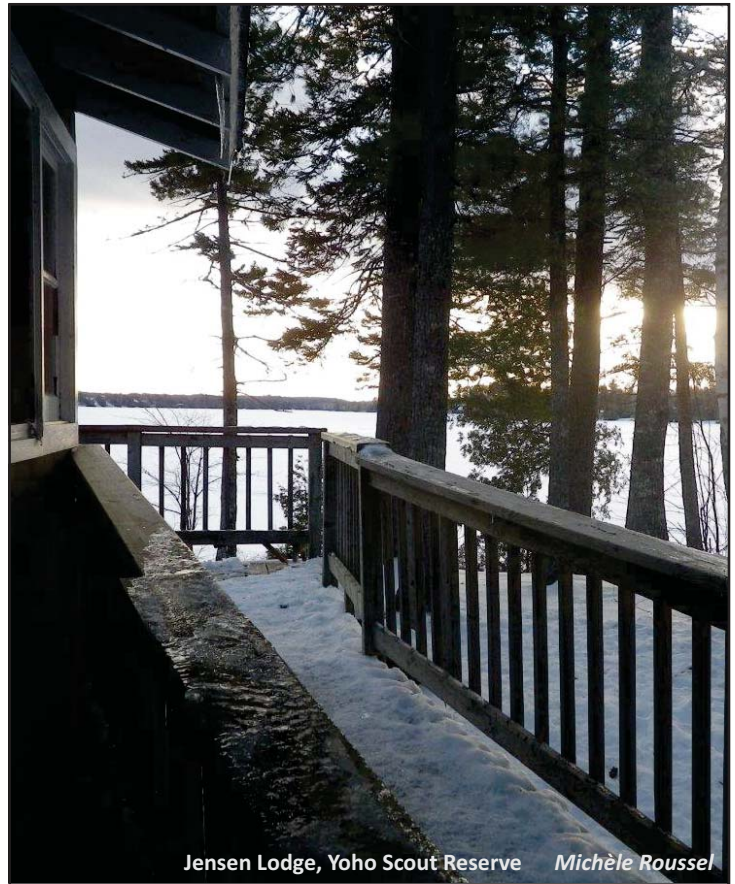
Scouts Canada and local residents share an interest in keeping the community safe and the Yoho Lake environment protected. We have always welcomed area residents on the Reserve. They enjoy our walking trails. They (and others) rent our facilities for events. And they help us to keep an eye on the land, for which we're grateful.

But we must never forget the Reserve's main purpose: to be a safe haven for young people. The Yoho Scout Reserve is a Scouts Canada property with rules to protect the children in our care. These rules apply to anyone on the Reserve. Here are two common-sense examples.

- **Dogs.** Following incidents of dogs biting children on Scout properties, Scouts Canada adopted a no-dogs policy. Our members cannot bring pets to Yoho Scout events. If you're walking your dog on the Reserve when scouting events are underway, please keep your pet on a leash.
- **Recreational vehicles.** Snowmobiles and ATVs are not allowed on the property. They were permitted in the past on parts of the Reserve. But several incidents here and elsewhere caused Scouts Canada to change that policy. The Reserve and the NB Snowmobile Federation are working together to find an arrangement that suits everyone. But until we find a solution, we ask that you take an alternative route around the property.

Please remember: these policies are to protect the safety of children in our care. The rules need to be respected by everyone—Scouts, Scout parents *and* local residents—who uses the property. Thank you for your understanding.

For more information about the Scout Reserve, visit <http://www.yohoscoutreserve.com>



Jensen Lodge, Yoho Scout Reserve Michèle Roussel

What's a Zone Rep?

The roads around Yoho Lake are divided into six zones. The map on the cover of your Yoho Directory shows the roads in each zone.

Every zone has one zone representative. The masthead of this newsletter (p. 2) lists our six 'zone reps.' Each representative is either a fulltime or a seasonal Yoho resident. The chair of the Zone Representatives Committee is the YLA director-at-large, Richard Hanson.

Zone reps have three jobs. First, they get to know residents in their zones to make sure the Yoho Directory remains current. Second, they deliver paper versions of the directory and newsletters to those without email.

And third, they can help people wanting to bring community-related concerns to the attention of the Yoho Lake Association. The Yoho Directory includes the telephone numbers of all zone reps.

About the Committees

The Yoho Lake Association has six committees to help it respond to community concerns. The committees are listed in the newsletter masthead (p. 2). Each committee has specific terms of reference. These are posted on the Yoho Lake website (<http://www.yoho-lake.com>) under **Yoho Lake Association**.