



Yoho briefs

Free barbecue and AGM

There will be a free barbecue before the annual general meeting of the Yoho Lake Association on August 14, 2014, at the Yoho Scout Lodge.

The barbecue will be at 1 p.m. The AGM starts at 2 p.m.

Everyone is welcome.

Save on septic pump-outs

Yoho Lake residents can save money by signing up for a septic pump-out on July 29. Nicholson's Septic Service will offer a reduced, group rate if more than 10 people take part.

If there is enough interest, there will be a second pump-out on August 29.

Call Bonny Hoyt-Hallett at 366-3515 to sign up.



HELPING THEIR FRIEND: A group of Yoho Lake children raised money for their classmate who needs a certified service dog for autism. Front row, from left, are Maéva Martin, Malik Martin, Julien Perry, Sophie Godin and Madeleine Perry; back row, Geneviève Perry, Emmanuelle Martin and Danica Godin.

Yoho kids help friend

By **JOE O'NEIL**

On Saturday afternoon of Labour Day weekend I shared a touching experience with some kids on a dead end gravel road at Yoho Lake. I turned off the Hanwell Road onto John Chessie Drive. The gravel road leads down through Chessie's field a short distance to Yoho Lake where we have a lot and a small trailer. A hundred feet

from the main highway was a small table tended by seven or eight young children. Lemonade, I thought. Over my fifty years of driving I seldom passed a lemonade stand. I love the way kids smile and light up when you stop, like candles of joy. I love their excitement. I am so glad I stopped Saturday.

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Lemonade stand raised money for Jesse's service dog

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The kids were raising money for Jesse's dog. They ranged in age from eight to thirteen, six girls and one boy. One boy was missing because he had to run to the woods to go to the bathroom "really bad."

The goodies on sale were all made by the kids. The oldest girl made the chocolate chip cookies. They looked delicious, packaged in twos, neatly wrapped in cellophane for a dollar. The tiny doughnuts were made by the youngest girls, with frosting a bit runny and covered with lots of sparkies – lots. Of course they had lemonade and some drinking water that was cold in the morning. On the ground were a dozen plastic grocery bags neatly packed with kindling they split themselves, two dollars each or three for five. The children were excited and happy, and they had a wonderful purpose. They planned this day for a whole month.

The kids were so composed as they told me why Jesse Wedge needs a dog. He is eight and attends their school, École des Batisseurs. He was born with a very rare congenital defect. It usually affects one side of the face, also the head, his bones and Jesse's spinal column. He only has one ear. The right side of Jesse's face is smaller than the left. He is paralyzed on one side of his face and wears a plastic ear to hold up his glasses. His sight is really bad on one side. This is not all. In 2008 Jesse was diagnosed with autism, a brain disorder which makes it difficult for Jesse to communicate and socialize with other kids in school.

"Wow," I said, "Now I understand why you are working so hard to get Jesse his dog." Oh, that is not all, the blond-haired boy blurted out. "Jesse's back is bent about 30 degrees, like on a slant, his rib cage on one side is only 50% of the other and he has fused vertebrae in his neck." Jesse's birthday is March 24 and he was eight in 2013. They obviously care for Jesse very much.

Two of the mothers came in a blue van to

pick up the kids and their leftovers. I recognized Heather Martin from the Talk With Me Program. They have a cottage at Yoho. She explained that Jesse's dog will be a certified service dog for autism. The dog will keep Jesse calm and focused and help him with communication and social skills, and help keep him safe.

The kids have no doubt that the \$30,000 will be raised to buy Jesse's dog. There is already \$10,000 raised. As they loaded the ten bags of wood on my truck, the smallest girl talked of her upcoming birthday party in September. She asked her Mom if, instead of presents for her, each child could bring some money for Jesse's dog. "I don't need presents; Jesse needs a dog."

I am in my seventies now and was very touched by my roadside visit with these young children. I was touched in several ways. I thought how generous of the Yoho families that stopped to support the kids. Then I thought – these seven young children and their parents are a reflection of the younger generation. I am so proud of them. They care and they are doing something to make Jesse's life better, and their own lives too.

Can you imagine the excitement among his classmates the first day Jesse arrives with his dog? Tears of joy will flow freely – from parents, teachers and students, and from all of us who did a bit to help.

The next day I saw the boy who had to rush into the woods. He and two of the girls from the lemonade stand were visiting neighbours across the street in Starlite Village. The kids raised \$165 for Jesse's dog on Saturday. "Sorry I wasn't there when you stopped, Mr. O'Neill, but I just had to go to the bathroom *real bad*."

Jesse's parents must be so encouraged by these wonderful, lively kids. My hopes are with Jesse. He has already made a difference in many lives. Those lemonade stands: I just love them.



Divers find little garbage on Yoho's bottom

By SEAN HALEY

The bottom of Yoho Lake seems to be pretty clean – when divers searched on Sept 8, 2013, they only found three bottles and an old brake drum.

It was windy and rainy when five divers participated in our first Come Check Our Bottom Day. They were under water for two hours. They searched from Hartt's Point along Jerry Chessie Road into the cove near Jerry Chessie Road. They looked at roughly a quarter of the lake.

The divers were very happy with the lake and said that it seemed very clean, with a foot of silt on bottom. They said they want to come out again soon and look at more of the lake. We extended an open invitation for them to come back any time and said we would help in any way we can.

If anyone thinks there are problem areas or areas of the lake that should be looked at, contact Sean Haley at repurch@nb.aibn.com.

The divers enjoyed a barbecue at the Yoho Scout Lodge.



PRETTY CLEAN: When divers inspected part of Yoho Lake, all they found was an old brake drum and three bottles.

Thank you:

- to the divers, who included Patrick Watt, Mike Lavalley, Shannon Driscoll and Matt Towns
- to Patrick Watt, of Fredericton's Surf'N SCUBA, for organizing the divers and the air
- to Dean Munde, for organizing the lodge
- to Shawn Hartt, Rob Haley, Mark Roach and Rick Huntingford for the use of their pontoon boats
- to Walter Bidlake, Larry Somerville, Dean Munde and Shawn Boddy for being copilots and offering support for the divers
- to Sue Jonah for making the potato salad

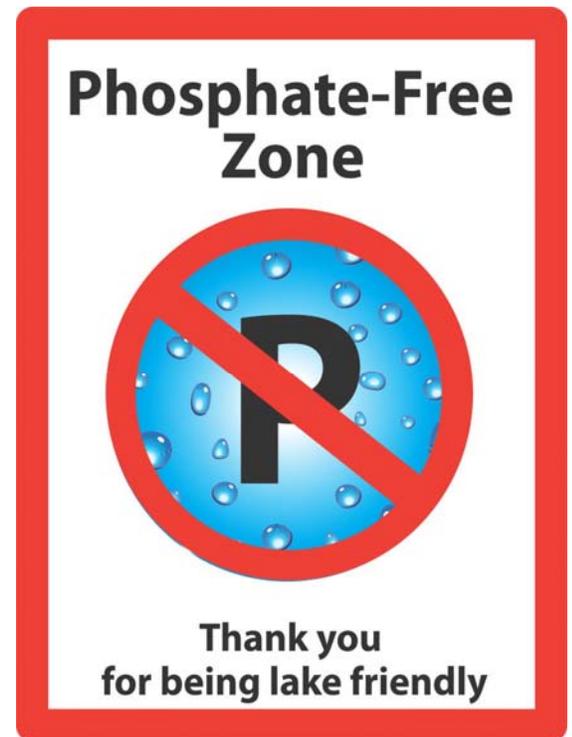
Join the fight against blue-green algae

After blue-green algae blooms cloud the water, no one wants to go swimming in it or even boating on it. It can cause major health risks. It kills all the fish. Property values plummet.

There is strong evidence that phosphates are the main cause of blue-green algae in lakes. One way to cut down on the amount of phosphates going into the lake is to use phosphate-free household products, everything from detergents to shampoos. If there are phosphates in a product, it will often say so on the label. And if it is phosphate free, the label will almost always say it.

Other ways to reduce phosphates are to keep a well-maintained septic system and avoid using fertilizer anyway near the water.

The Yoho Lake Association has been working to decrease phosphates since the annual general meeting in August 2012, when residents voted to make Yoho a phosphate-free zone.



Lake Stewardship 101 series: Less is More

Editor's note: This is the sixth article in the Lake Stewardship 101 series.

By MICHÈLE ROUSSEL

For the past couple of years, the various featured articles of the Lake Stewardship 101 series were aimed at “demystifying” what this fancy term really means for each one of us on a very practical level, whether it is about protecting the lake’s natural shoreline, making sure our holding tanks are functioning properly or sharing the lake safely with its numerous inhabitants. It all boils down to using common sense.

Thus the title selected for this article: Less is more. How? Well, here are a few examples:

- *By using less (none would be even better) phosphates, the more chance the water will be able to fight the negative effects of*

climate changes, such as warmer summers; less vulnerable to blue green algae means more property value!

- *By doing less to the shoreline and leaving it as natural (and useful) as Mother Nature intended it to be, the more success you will have in avoiding surprise (and truly messy) visits from our growing geese population!*
- *By having less development around the lake and maintaining its “cottage country” charm, the more chances your children and grandchildren will also have cherished memories of a hot summer day spent at the lake!*

Less is more...in this ever fast and growing world we live in, there's food for thought!



Yoho Scout Reserve had a busy year

By DEAN MUNDEE

The wharves are now out and the canoes stowed after another very successful summer season at the Yoho Scout Reserve. The youth summer camps were full to overflowing this summer and we would like to thank all of you for exercising caution as you drove along Yoho Lake Road during the camps. The summer also saw a number of weddings and family reunions enjoy the facilities at the lodge. And as you can likely guess, the 2013-14 season is looking just as active.

Recent improvements to the dishwashing area in the kitchen of the main lodge with the installation of a commercial washer and a new counter and wash tubs, will certainly add to the attractiveness of the facility for these types of events.

With the arrival of fall, we began a very active weekend schedule of Scouting adventures at the Reserve. Already, Operation Dusk to Dawn saw 96

scout age youth enjoy an over night challenge comprised of various projects.

Winter is with us and with winter comes snow and snowy fun activities. We very much appreciate snowmobilers and four wheelers respecting our policy of not using the machines on the reserve. This is critical for the safety of our youth and adult leaders. Thank you, we appreciate it.

Spring will be here before we know it, and with spring come the return of Canada geese. This is a very big health issue on the reserve property near the lake and we are formulating a mitigation strategy for their arrival. We are considering using string fences along the waterfront to discourage them from nesting and grazing where children play. If it works, we will have a safer and cleaner environment over the summer for the enjoyment of all.

From our Scouting family to yours, we wish you all the best in 2014.



www.yoho-lake.com

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Communications

Forrest Orser

Community Cleanup

Leon Quick

Zone Representatives

Walter Bidlake

Zone representatives

Zone 1 Rick Huntingford

Zone 2 Victor

Hendricken

Zone 3 Jamie Wheaton

Zone 4 Walter Bidlake

Zone 5 Jack MacDougall

Zone 6 Richard Hanson

The Yoho Echo

Forrest Orser, editor

forrestorser@gmail.com

com

Association and Echo
mail

227 Yoho Lake Road

Box 2, Yoho, NB

E6K 3B9

President: 'Please get involved'

The following president's report for 2012/13 was presented to the Yoho Lake Association annual general meeting by Bonny Hoyt-Hallett on August 18, 2013:

The executive of the Yoho Lake Association has functioned this year under the new constitution approved at the August 2012 AGM. Your executive included: President: Bonny Hoyt-Hallett; Vice-President: Sean Haley; Secretary: Ann Bridges; Treasurer: Mark Roach; Chair of Zone Reps: Walter Bidlake; Communication co-chairs: Gwen Martin and Michel Roussel; Water committee chair; Kim Lipsett; Scout committee liaison: Dean Mundee; Road cleanup: Larry Somerville.

The Environmental Trust Fund application of 2012-2013 for 5 lakes was successfully completed with equipment for water monitoring purchased and monitoring completed. A 2013-14 application for 6 lakes was also submitted and awarded to us. This will see additional equipment purchased so sharing of equipment between the lakes will not be necessary, thus eliminating monitoring on poor weather days. As well cameras will be purchased to allow shoreline monitoring of vegetation. Guidelines for water monitoring were developed and work continues with the Department of Environment on guidelines for shoreline monitoring. The water committee report will contain the details of the monitoring results. I want to thank Kim for coming forward to chair this committee and for all her support, as well as Warren McLaughlin and his team for weekly



Bonny
Hoyt-Hallett

monitoring.

As a result of your decision last year Yoho Lake has gone phosphate free. What does this mean? It means all residents, summer and year round, should be using phosphate-free products for all cleaning. As well, fertilization of lawns,

flowers etc. anywhere near the shoreline should not be occurring. We have posted signs to educate visitors but please caution all visitors or those you might rent to that this is essential to preserve our lake from further degradation. The Scout camp has joined us in this venture and posted signs as well and is ensuring all its tenants observe this requirement.

This year, the executive with the road reps developed and delivered spring welcome packages to all addresses. This was not only to welcome summer residents to the lake but to remind them of our association and our efforts on preserving our lake. Thanks to Walter and his team for ensuring the delivery.

The Adopt-A-Highway program for Yoho Lake has struggled this year with getting volunteers to clean up the roadsides. Larry Somerville has chaired and conducted this cleanup for over 15 years and will be stepping down this year. I want to thank Larry for his dedication. The program is no longer funded by government but the executive feel this is an important activity and will be seeking other means to keep this road-side cleanup

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Yoho Lake Association president says: 'Thank you for your continued support'

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going. BUT WE NEED VOLUNTEERS.

Again this spring we organized a septic clean out day. Ten residents signed up for the July 29th cleanout from all parts of our lake catchment. We have decided to make this a regular date for each year. We are also going to try an August 29 date, if there is enough interest we will utilize this date as a regular date as well. Please contact me at 366-3515 if you wish to have your name on the list.

We have been active with a group of lakes looking at ways to share information and maximize our voice. We will be having a presentation later on the forming of a provincial group of lakes. As water quality becomes more of an issue with increasing density around our lakes and changes in weather patterns, it is essential we have a strong voice to our members and government.

The communications committee has again done a great job with newsletters and bulletins. I want to thank Gwen and Mich for their dedication. Both will be

stepping down from this role but it is an essential role we will need to fill. It is a means to keep you informed and update you on goings on at the lake. Gwen will continue providing us with a directory. Thanks, Gwen.

Above all as president I want to say we are only as effective as our members and we need volunteers. It could be at the barbecue, delivering notices, gathering names of new residents, road side cleanup, water monitoring or other activities that get planned. PLEASE GET INVOLVED to keep your association strong. Do not burn out those that take this on. We know this has happened in the past, and our group became dormant. A special thanks to Joan Caverhill and Judy Somerville who are always there to volunteer, be it registration or road cleanup.

To residents of Yoho Lake a sincere thank you for your continued support and to the executive a thanks for always attending our meetings and continuing the work of the association. Without these dedicated individuals the work we do would never happen.

Adopt-A -Highway successful

By LEON QUICK

The last Adopt-A-Highway event was successful, after having to reschedule to the rain day due to (strangely enough) rain!

On the Sunday, Sept. 15, 2013, we had approximately 12 people volunteer their time and as some people chose to clean up two or more sections of road, this enabled all designated sections of the road to be cleaned.

We were able to clean up Yoho Lake Road, Route 640 from the Yoho Lake Road to Hunter Road, and this year we also cleaned up all of the side roads ensuring a clean environment for all residents of the Yoho Lake community.

The next event that will be scheduled most likely for the weekend after Earth Day, which is April 22, 2014.

Want to join the YLA?

Do you want to join the Yoho Lake Association? Or renew your membership? It's easy – go to the YLA website at <http://www.yoho-lake.com>. The membership form is in Section One, under Some Links of Interest.

Membership dues are \$10 per household per year.

Highlights of Yoho Lake Association AGM

The following are the highlights from the minutes for Yoho Lake Association annual general meeting held August 18, 2013 at the Yoho Lake Scout Lodge.

There were two brief presentations before the AGM was brought to order.

Susan Jonah has been attending meetings on Rural Community Planning since 2007. She gave an overview as to what has been going on and will answer questions. Her contact information is sjonah@nb.sympatico.ca or 366-3724.

Second presentation was on alternative septic systems. Flyers were left with phone number and website. This system has been approved in Maine and company is working with NB Department of Health and is in final stages of approval in NB. Address is: Winkler Aqua-Service Ltd., 16 Carl Ave., Newmarket, N.B. E6K 2W9; [506-363-2111](tel:506-363-2111); www.aqua-winkler.com

Minutes from AGM 2012 were passed out reviewed by residents. Moved by Glen McGuire, seconded by Larry Somerville and passed as correct.

Committee Reports:

Communication: Michèle Roussel and Gwen Martin are stepping down as chair and co-chair. In the last year, the directory had been updated. The Yoho Lake Echo was published twice, sent out winter and summer. There have been four bulletins updating residents as to lake activities. Forrest Orser has agreed to chair this committee.

This year the YLA board put together a welcome package with numerous documents updating residents to YLA activities since last year's AGM. It was hand delivered and was well received. YLA board will continue with welcome package.

Adopt a Highway: Larry Somerville – is stepping down as chair. The Adopt a Highway program has been dropped by the NB Government. The YLA is going to try to continue the program as a local project, with a new name. Details to be published in the future.

The Adopt a Highway program has been held twice a year in our community. The two roads that volunteers pick up garbage on are 5 km of the Hanwell and the Yoho Lake Road. Due to lack of volunteer turnout for the spring pick up, not all sections were completed. Leon Quick has agreed to chair this committee.

Membership: Ann Bridges – as of the AGM there

are 61 paid members.

Treasurer: Mark Roach – as of the AGM there was a balance of \$3,003.51 in YLA account.

Water: Kim Lipsett will continue as chair. The lake monitoring program which started in 2012/2013 will continue 2013/2014. We have dedicated volunteers for this program, who have been collecting data since July 1 2012 continuing to October 6, 2012. This gave Yoho Lake a total of 10 data sets for 2012. The data sets include temperature, dissolved oxygen and water clarity.

The data collection has begun for 2013. This year the Environmental Trust Fund money that was received was \$15,000. This enabled equipment to be bought for the six lakes involved in lake monitoring (LM) program (no more sharing). The LM group would like to buy an underwater camera with remaining funds to monitoring vegetation changes on the shore line.

President's report: See Page 6 of this newsletter.

The YLA executive and committees for 2013/14 are listed on Page 6 of this newsletter.

Presentation: Eastern Charlotte Water Ways – Don Killorn. Don gave an overview of the advantages of forming a provincial lake stewardship organization. The three main goals are: promote volunteer water monitoring, assist in making lake associations and lake education. He feels that as part of the Eastern Charlotte Water Ways the approximately 20 lakes in New Brunswick would have a more effective voice in regards to government regulation.

Residents voted to become a chartered member of the Eastern Charlotte Water Ways; moved by Kathy MacLaggan; seconded by Larry Somerville.

Residents' priority areas for 2013/14:

Impact of geese on lake and how to discourage nesting

Grass cut on Yoho Lake Road

Trees trimmed back on Yoho Lake Road

Lake restoration

Effects of fireworks on lake

Check with Department of Health on why 2000-gallon holding tanks are not permitted