



CHRISTIE LAKE ASSOCIATION INC.
WINTER NEWSLETTER 2010/2011
www.christielakeassociation.com

Greetings from the President: Gordon Hill

The Theory of Relativity confirms that time is neither uniform nor absolute. Those of us who are fortunate enough to spend summers at Christie Lake know that instinctively. Though the calendar may tell us that summer is the longest of the four seasons (tied for longest with spring, actually) and that winter is the shortest, it is clearly evident that summers at “The Lake” are shorter than winters in the city. Christie Lake features prominently in some of the lesser known corollaries to the Theory of Relativity. For example: Corollary No 43 “Relatives love to spend time at Christie Lake.” Corollary No 26: “Time spent with children and grandchildren at Christie Lake is far too short.”

In cosmic terms, few of us would argue with the proposition that “Christie Lake is the centre of our universe”. Some of us are bold enough to claim that “Christie Lake is the centre of The Universe” Perception is reality, or so it seems.

The summer began with water levels near historic lows, causing headaches and hardship for some. Yet, the fall left us with unusually high water. Was Mother Nature to blame for this anomaly? There was little snow last winter, little spring runoff, and almost no spring rain. Or should we lay blame at the feet of Parks Canada once again, the usual culprit that seems to care little for our plight?

In early August, Christie Lake residents reacted swiftly when some old railway ties next to the CP tracks, a mile or so west of Patterson Road, caught fire. Our thanks to Steve Day (who provided a pump and hose), Randy Sherman, Austin and Rachel Sweezey, Ray Patterson, Jim Ayotte, Steve Walsh, Jason Bell, Bruce McIntyre, Rachel and Rebecca Brooks, Jason Publow, Ellen Day and her friend Elora, each of whom played a part in putting out a fire which had potential to do extensive damage. My apologies to those whose names I may have omitted. Your efforts demonstrate the commitment to Christie Lake and its residents that make our community special.



The Ministry of Natural Resources (“MNR”) conducted netting operations as part of its broad-scale fisheries monitoring program. Crews of technicians and biologists collected and recorded a variety of information from the fish caught during the netting surveys, including fish species, gender, age, length, weight, and general health. The information will be used to determine sport fish abundance, life history characteristics of key species, and the diversity of the fish community. Some fish will also be sampled to assess contaminant levels. MNR has promised to provide a summary of results “this winter”. We plan to include that report in a subsequent newsletter. Water testing and monitoring continues as does the monitoring of invasive species. We continue to encourage shoreline planting and provide plants, information and expertise. We are monitoring progress of amendments to the Mining Act and are awaiting publication of the

regulations which will provide specific instruction and direction as to what is permitted and what is prohibited. Marker buoys were put out in early spring and collected after Thanksgiving, no doubt saving a propeller or two from damage during periods of low water. The June Wine and Cheese party opened the summer social season, and Labour Day Weekend Dance closed it. By all reports, each was considered a great success.

As always, there is more to be done. Some new projects to be undertaken, some existing ones to be improved or expanded. If you have a particular interest in one or more of our committee activities or would like promote a new one, we encourage you to let us know and to get involved. We can certainly use your time and talents.

Wishing each of you a happy holiday season, a mild winter, an early spring and, most importantly, good health throughout the year ahead.

Sailing Committee Report: by Gordon Hill

Five race days were scheduled throughout the summer. Race fever was strong on Race Day 1 (July 3). Up to five lasers participated in five races in moderate to strong winds. Unfortunately, all races scheduled on the next three Race Days were cancelled, two because of no wind and one because of too much wind. The Final Race Day (Sep 5) saw three boats compete in four Races.

Craig Hill won the shortened summer race series. He participated in every race and finished either first or second in each. Brooke Briggs, who participated in all but two races and claimed a victory on Race Day 1, finished second overall. Mark Hord, who raced only on Race Day 1 (but was one of two skippers who was ready to sail in the races that were cancelled because of too much wind) finished third overall. Pierre Sirois finished fourth, but may well have finished higher if he had been able to participate in more races. Ian Bandeen and daughters Grace and Spencer won the only race they entered (they also braved the heavy weather day on which races were cancelled) but finished well back in the overall standings because they missed too many races. Many thanks to John McAlpine who served as Race Committee for every race. More of the same is planned for next year. Your participation is encouraged.

Marker Buoys: George James

As a public service, all usual buoys were installed by May 1st and removed in late fall with the much welcome assistance of John McAlpine. With this spring's near record breaking low water levels, John took it upon himself to create lighted markers and place them in the channel near the former Don McAlpine's place. Our thanks John for this invaluable service!



With winter upon us we don't have to contend with our boats hitting unmarked shoals BUT we do have to all be aware of what is becoming a popular device: "Dock Bubblers or De-Icers". These are devices that some residents place out at their dock areas to keep them clear of ice. It is ***imperative*** that if you are ice-fishing, walking, skating, skiing or using some other method of travelling on the lake, that you be cautious around/near these apparatus as the ice near them will be unstable.

It is also **IMPERATIVE** that residents who use these “Bubblers or De-Icers” have proper and appropriate warning signs out alerting the public to them.

Membership and Directory News: by Apryle Patterson

A decision was made by the Directors to hold the membership drive every second year so there was no formal membership drive this summer. As a result there was a 33% decrease in memberships sold from 2009 to 2010; 101 in 2009 compared to 68 in 2010. There are approximately 250 cottages on the lake and to organize a door to door membership drive requires a lot of work, and a number of volunteers to help out. As a committee we are looking at other ways of recruiting members, such as posting the membership form on the website or offering incentives for purchasing a membership. This year’s winner of a \$50.00 gift certificate to the Stone Cellar Restaurant in Perth was Mark and Laurie Walters, congratulations you two! The purchase price of memberships to support the Christie Lake Association has been reduced. Starting in 2011, the membership cost per cottage will be \$30.00. By reducing the annual fee, we are hoping to increase the membership base and align our fee with the other lake associations in the area.

Work has already started on updating the Christie Lake Directory to be released in 2012. Again, this will require a lot of work. We will be capturing some of the updates for the directory through our 2011 summer membership drive but it would be really great if we could get one or two volunteers from each road to help the committee collect the changes.

(You can also email changes/additions you’d like to see in the new directory “directly” to Donna Walsh at dw.boomer@hotmail.com)

If you would like to help the membership committee or volunteer in some other capacity, please email Apryle Patterson at:

aprylep@sympatico.ca

Social Committee: by Donna Walsh

We had a successful social calendar this summer starting in June with our now annual *Welcome Back Wine and Cheese*.

This was followed by children’s Halloween’en in July. The weather was perfect and those who participated had a “hoot” of a good time!



Our Kid’s Fishing Derby was once again well attended and all the fishing enthusiasts were rewarded with a prize of their choice for their hard efforts. The derby prize giving was followed by a hot dog/corn roast for all!

Just some of the happy fishing participants!



Bob Vergette and Jim Ayotte tending the corn!





A VERY SPECIAL THANKS...

To Al Jordan who once again let us host the Derby and Corn Roast at Jordan's. Not only did he set up the fire, get the firewood, set up the special cooker BUT he also helped cook and serve the corn and hot dogs! Way to go Al!

End of Summer Family Dance: by Apryle Patterson



Well, it was another great party. This year's dance was a success and I would like to thank everyone who volunteered their time to make the evening so much fun.



Next year we are hoping to expand the fun by holding a teen dance and get all the kids on the lake together for a fun filled evening. The Christie Lake Kids camp has generously offered the arts and crafts building as a venue. We have a very talented DJ lined up who we hear is just awesome. More details to follow in the Spring Newsletter!



Here's hoping to seeing ALL of you there next year!

In Closing....have a safe winter and we'll be seeing you on the lake soon!



Fishing Huts on the Lake

