



Winter 2014

Dock Talk is a publication of the Healey Lake

Welcome to the Winter Dock Talk!

For those of you snuggled at home staying out of the cold, there's a community of Healey Lakers lapping up the snow and sunshine at the lake this time of year.

In honour of these hardy folks, this issue is dedicated to wintering at the cottage. If you've never considered it, it's hard to imagine what life is like on the lake in winter. For those who have done it and have embraced the snow, there's a very active community at the lake —some say it's even MORE fun than summer....though this might be stretching it just a bit!

Regardless of your thoughts on winter we hope you will enjoy reading this issue as much as we did writing it!

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From the President

Dan MacLeod

As this is the last President's message I will be submitting, I want to take a moment and reminisce the good memories of our last nine years.

We got the website up and running. It is arguably one of the best around. I have Dave Duggan to thank for spearheading the setup and for the maintenance. I am one of many who will jump on the website just to look at the webcam. Who hasn't checked out the guestbook just to see who has entered comments into the guestbook? This is one of our best moments.

The Regattas— just like Christmas; months of planning, sweating the small stuff, jumping through hoops to make sure everything is going as planned. Then the big day arrives and before you know it, you're cleaning up after it's over. During that day, the kids partaking in the events, yelling and laughing, and proudly showing off ribbons and medals are what it's all about. Charlie and Bruce heading up the libation segment of our regatta. All the volunteers who graciously donated their time and efforts throughout the planning, setup and teardown. Remember the year we had Sadie's home-made picture on our t-shirts? These are some of our best moments.

Bottle Drives—to all the people who found time to collect the spent 'good times' from our cottagers' docks, Barb and Rosie sorting all those bottles in 90 degree heat—talk about Wonder Women! Charlie at the wheel aiming straight down the bay. All our runners using time and gas to move the bottles from docks to barge. And the barge, without it we could not accomplish this undertaking. I have to thank Bob for his generous donation of it. In past years we have broken the \$1100.00 mark. Thank you to all the volunteers! These are some of our best moments. *.continued on page 8*

Visiting the Lake In Winter....Things to know

For newer cottagers or those planning to head to the lake for the first time this winter, there are a few things to think about before venturing out. Here are some suggestions for things to consider and bring on your first adventure to the lake:

1. Ice Conditions

Since most of our lake consists of 'boat-in' properties, knowing the conditions of the lake in the area where your property is located is key. Differing depths and currents mean parts of the lake freezes and thaws at different paces, and can even vary by time of day. While keeping an eye on the web cam helps, be sure to consult folks in your lake area and listen closely to the weather report before deciding to visit. Remember, when in doubt, don't venture out and ALWAYS travel with a buddy. Ice picks and flotation winter suits can be purchased at various recreational sport stores for reasonable prices. Cell phones are a good idea to carry at all times. If you are worried about water damage, a Ziploc bag can do the trick while outside.

Lastly, steer well clear of all dock bubblers regardless of ice thickness. These systems prevent ice from forming around docks and can make surrounding ice unstable.

2. Where to enter

In addition to the main public dock between Lakeshore and Mariner's cove, Pine Bay, and Foxback landings are both plowed during the winter. Depending upon where your cottage is located, it may be a much closer walk/snow shoe or sled ride from these locations during the winter months even if you normally get to your cottage from the marinas in summer. Take a look at the map and set the quickest route.

3. What to bring

For those visiting for the first time, a high sided sleigh is a great way to bring supplies in and out by foot or snowmobile. Unless you are lucky enough to have a winterized water system, water jugs for drinking are a must. Consider an ice auger to drill a hole in the ice to retrieve water for washing dishes or other needs. They can be purchased at the local hardware store in your area and can be invaluable to have for water retrieval and fishing!

While this may sound primitive to some, it will interest you to know that the majority of winter visitors do not have water and manage just fine for many days at a time. If you do use an auger and make a hole of any size, be sure to mark it clearly to prevent injury to others. And of course...whatever you fancy for meals, don't forget to bring your beverages of choice to enjoy inside or lakeside :-). There's nothing quite like a lawn chair on the ice on a sunny day! :-)

4. Water

As we noted earlier, bringing in water is a common practise of many cottagers on the lake. Residents with winterized water lines will enjoy the beauty of heat tracing to keep water lines thawed and working during their stay, but even they are not foolproof when the temperature really drops. NOTE: If you are running your water system during the winter, drain your water lines/add glycol to toilets and drains before leaving and/or leave a bit of heat on to avoid freezing in cold temperatures. If in doubt consult a local plumber for advice.

5. Heating

Winter cottagers use a variety of solutions to heat their properties from base board heating to woodstoves, pellet stoves and space heaters. Be sure whatever you use has been safety certified and in good condition. Cottages that have been skirted or insulated underneath will definitely maintain internal heat better than those with open foundations but all are functional once the heat gets circulating. The amount of sun during the day can also impact how warm your cottage is during your stay. Inexpensive slippers and an extra layer of clothing can help make sure you and your family are cozy and comfortable.

6. Amenities

Winter cottagers have devised all kinds of ways to make the call of nature a comfortable one. If you are not in a winterized property (and most are not), an outhouse or enviro-toilet is a must. Even with year round septic, freeze ups can still happen. If you don't have an outhouse as backup, consider a porta potty for late night use. Some cottagers have gotten quite creative over the years—a fully heated outhouse can be pretty sweet in the dead of winter!

Above all, if you decide to come out to Healey in the winter, be safe and have fun. It's an adventure you will not soon forget!

Cottage Watch Volunteers Rock!

This has been a record year for snow so far—446cm (14.63 feet!) fell across the region, leaving many cottages covered to the rafters.

Lots of snow means Cottage Watch volunteers have been hard at work, checking cottages and reporting anything that needs attention. Reports of downed trees have been most common. Several owners have been out to the lake to shovel or have invested in a local clearing service.

Where volunteers find an issue, it is reported promptly to the cottage owners via Watch coordinator, Peter Arnold. Volunteers visit each assigned cottage at least one or more times per season depending upon the weather, and leave behind the familiar OPP tags to confirm their attendance. As this picture of Judy McAlpine illustrates however... getting there can be quite an adventure when snow around the property is 5+ feet deep!

A hearty thanks to Peter Arnold and the Cottage Watch volunteers for all they do to support our community!



Extreme weather has led to extraordinary SSSR trails

Over the past few weeks SSSR (Six Star Snow Riders) Grooming Operations have been methodically opening our trail system, ensuring that trails are safe and compliant with OFSC regulations. Our expert groomers have done a tremendous job packing and grooming the trails and that effort has resulted in some of the best trails that we have seen in years. The snowmobile season so far has been *extraordinary*!

However, the extreme weather has slowed down the opening of trails as there were many trees down; areas that would not freeze properly; and other factors that put a huge strain on our volunteers and equipment. Luckily, our aged equipment pulled through and our volunteers persevered. Job well done!

Don't forget to mark your calendar; March 1, 2014 is the South Seguin / Six Star Poker Run which is the first time the two clubs have worked together on this event. For more information visit our website linked below.

SSSR is also pleased to announce the grand opening of the Six Star Snow Riders Store. This online store is your link to purchase quality SSSR merchandise and accessories. Check out the website for more details.

Finally, the OPP and OFSC emphasize the importance of riding sober, avoiding lakes and rivers and recommend staying on OFSC prescribed trails. Staying on OFSC prescribed trails increases the chances of enjoying an incident-free ride, as OFSC prescribed trails are groomed, maintained and patrolled throughout the season.

Please support your club. See you on the trails and at the events!

Sincerely,
Scott Gibson
President, SSSR
scott@sixstarsnowriders.ca www.sixstarsnowriders.ca

Living At Healey...an insider's story...



Joyce and Charlie Smith make their home on Healey Lake year round and are regular contributors to our community association. You will recognize Charlie as the operator of Barrett's barge during the months the lake is open. The Smith clan on Healey is a family affair. They are joined at the lake with son Gary, his wife Heather, and grandchildren Brooke and Mason. We asked them to share what it's like to be a couple who live on the lake in a boat-in property year round, and here's what Joyce had to say....

LIFE AT HEALEY LAKE by Joyce Smith

Charlie has been coming to the lake since 1959 and introduced his parents to the Lake in 1961. I started coming to the lake with him in 1964. We built the cottage in 1972 always with the intention of retiring here and been very lucky to be able to do it. We moved here in 2007 and enjoy every day. I love snowmobiling, and do some ice skating when the ice is suitable—we even skated down to the Lodge one winter when the ice was perfect! I also do some snowshoeing, and love to read. Fortunately, the Mactier Library has a great selection of books.

During the winter we also get our next year's supply of wood in, dry and stack it. I love to shovel the deck as it is good exercise for me, especially this year! While we wait for the ice to come in or go out, we get jobs done around the house that we put off during the year; we put the summer clothes away, get the winter ones out, do a thorough cleaning, and wash windows. We have 2 freezers and 2 fridges all stocked up for the time when we are not able to get to town during ice in and out.



If we need to get out during this time there is an ATV/ Snowmobile trail that we can use to get to Kapikog road, though there are times when the trail is not useable due conditions. During these times good books come in handy. We are usually locked in for about 2 weeks in the fall and spring.

You have to enjoy your own company to live here all year round and not mind being by yourself; just my husband and I. You have to cope with frozen pipes and no water—especially this winter. It is definitely a challenge but well worth it. This life is not for everyone but having our son and grandchildren next door who also love 4 seasons at the cottage make life more enjoyable. Phones, TV and Internet make keeping in touch easy. We have never left the lake during freeze up or thaw.

The best part of winter is getting together with friends for snowmobile rides as we go in groups and it is great fun. We also snowmobile to town, to the library, and post office instead of driving. The summers are also pretty busy so we don't get together as often.

This winter we have had regular visits from deer, foxes, and turkeys as well as numerous blue Jays, chickadees, nut hatches and others. This makes it the best time of the year. I find November a difficult month as it can be very dark, dreary and this is when we usually get the bad weather. If we were to travel, November would definitely be when we would do it.

When we moved to the lake, pretty much everything in the house stayed as the cottage was already fully furnished. What I couldn't give to family went to Goodwill for the Thrift store. The big thing was trying to downsize my clothes as a lot of them will never be worn up here (like dresses and high Heels). We're still trying to sort and downsize! Most importantly—every day is a memorable adventure and we look forward to them all!

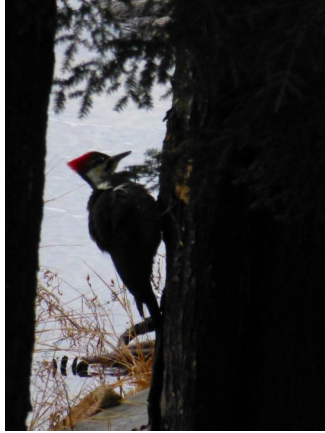
WINTER CRITTERS.....

Many thanks to Debbie Hatter, Charlie Smith and Darlene Jones for sharing some amazing photos of winter visitors.

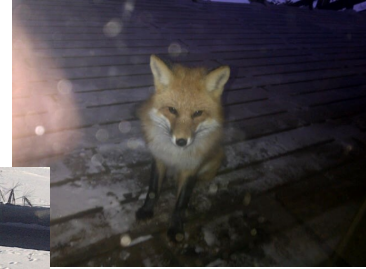
It's been a terrific winter to have a bird feeder with Blue Jays, Woodpeckers and Nut Hatches visiting on a regular basis. Debbie also managed to get a gorgeous shot of a Great Horned Owl pictured below. Beautiful!

Joy Mossman of Pine Bay suggests if you are interested in attracting the birds, consider the Muskoka Mix bird seed — available at the local Home Hardware in Mactier, it offers a wide selection of seed types to attract a variety of visitors.

***A reminder to cottagers to take the feeder down before spring to avoid attracting bears.



Feeder birds are not the only creatures venturing out this winter. Cottagers have been treated to more than their share of turkeys, deer and fox to keep the cameras flashing. Charlie and Joyce Smith have enjoyed regular visit from this little guy who arrives at the door on a regular basis, as well as a family of deer and a few wild turkeys.



Darlene and Dave Jones got a pleasant visit a few weekends ago from these two fellas, looking for a little breakfast :-)



Safety Reminder—Bubblers

Several cottagers use bubblers or agitators on the lake to prevent ice from freezing and protect their docks from ice damage. The OPP reminds all property owners to take strong steps to make sure any open water is clearly marked, and for travellers to stay well clear of all open water areas. Lighted markers in addition to signs are recommended as property owners could be found liable in event of injury due to open water. One caution to owners on lighting— red fixed lights mimic those of snowmobile taillights and can draw drivers to your docks. Consider amber or another colour as an alternative if you are using red today. For more information follow this link: <http://www.muskokaregion.com/news-story/3571974-snowmobilers-dock-owners-split-over-use-of-bubblers/>

Around the Lake..... Community Fun



Healey Lake has an active winter community. One event cottagers look forward to each year is the annual Family Day weekend wine and cheese, sponsored by Greg Partchenko and Joy Mossman of Pine Bay. The



event is now in it's 6th year and as the story goes, was an accidental good fortune. It started one winter afternoon when Greg and Joy decided to take their chairs to the sunny side of the bay to enjoy the day.

They were soon joined by passersby...one thing led to another and it's now an annual affair! This is not an Association event but is open to anyone interested in attending.

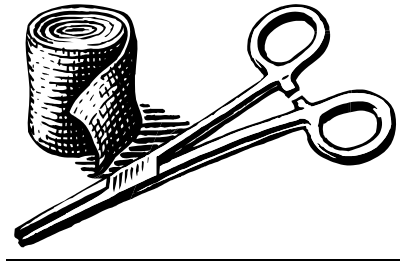


In addition to Greg's homemade chilli, there are hotdogs for the kids courtesy of Mark Howie and Michaela Coco, and a multitude of cheeses and dips from attendees. Cottagers from all ends of the lake come out to share treats, and get re-connected after several months away. A great day for grown ups and kids alike! Mark your calendars for next year!



Mark Your Calendars!

RED CROSS FIRST AID TRAINING



Do you know what to do in an emergency at your cottage? In need of first aid training? Why not take the time to prepare yourself to handle an emergency before it happens.

Sign up now to attend Red Cross Emergency First Aid Training taught by Cathy Koenig, a qualified Red Cross Instructor.

During the 7 hour course you will learn how to deal with the following:

- How to respond to an emergency
- Airway emergencies
- Breathing and circulation emergencies
- First aid for respiratory and cardiac arrest
- Wound care

During the day you will receive hands on training and have an opportunity to practice your skills.

When: Saturday June 7th

Time : 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Where: Mariners Cove Marina

Cost: \$75 per person (tax included)

Must be 16 years of age or older.

Each participant will receive a Red Cross First Aid and CPR Manual, certification card and a wall certificate. Please note – class size is limited to 12 participants, so don't delay sign up now!

To sign up – e-mail Cathy Koenig @ cwoodfirstresponse@hotmail.ca

Payment can be made the day of the training.

RED CROSS TRAINING

**THE EXPERIENCE THAT MAKES A
DIFFERENCE!**

The Cook's Corner

Stephanie Joiner

One of the best parts of winter is comfort food. Here's a recipe for Italian Hunter's Stew that our family loves to prepare with rabbit, venison, and can also be used with stewing beef if you are not feeling adventurous or do not have access to wild game:

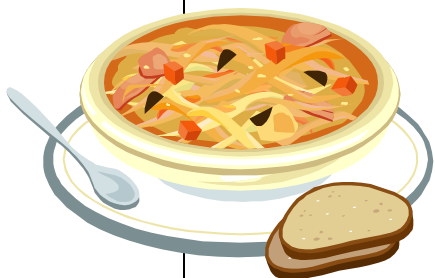
2 cups chopped meat in 1/2 inch portions
8 garlic cloves crushed
1 med sweet onion chopped
5 potatoes cut into 1/2 inch squares
10 mushrooms cleaned and sliced
1 cup carrots chopped into 1/2 inch pieces
1 cup red wine (last week's is fine)
1 large can diced tomatoes
1 can tomato sauce
1 tbsp Red wine vinegar
2 tbsp. Olive
1 tsp salt
1 tbsp. basil leaves (dry)
Pepper to taste

Into a large stew pot chop your meat preference into small bite size portions—between 1—1 1/2 inch cubes. If using rabbit, remove the meat from the bones. For Venison or beef slice into bite sized chunks of same size. Add 2 tbsp. olive oil, garlic and chopped onion and cook on medium until meat is fully browned and onions are soft.

Add a tbsp. of red wine vinegar and cup of red wine and stir 2 minutes. (the vinegar is only required for game. You can skip it if using stewing beef).

Add potatoes, basil, salt, carrots, tomatoes and tomato sauce. Fill empty can of tomato sauce 1/2 way with water and swish to get all remaining sauce. Add to pot and boil, stirring frequently for an hour until vegetables are soft.

Transfer contents to a baking dish with high sides (will need to be fairly large) and bake at 350 F for up to two hours, stirring occasionally. If liquid evaporates too much you can add 1/2 c water and/or wine. The goal of the baking is to thicken the broth and further soften the vegetables and generally enhance flavour.



Serve hot with fresh bread for dipping. The perfect winter food after a long day outside!

Drinks Anyone?

Check out this traditional recipe for Glühwein – German Mulled Wine. It's the perfect relaxing treat after a day enjoying the trails!

1 bottle of bold dry red wine
1/2 cup of brandy or rum (optional)
1 cup water
1 large orange, peeled then juiced
1 lemon, peeled
1 lime, peeled (optional)
1/2 cup agave syrup or sugar
5-6 whole cloves
1 nutmeg, about 10 gratings
1 cinnamon stick

Peel large sections of skin from orange, lemon and lime. Over medium heat in a medium sized pot, pour in sugar and water, then add the peels and juice of the orange. Add the cloves, cinnamon stick, and nutmeg gratings. Bring to a boil, then simmer for about an hour. The liquid will reduce, so after around 30 minutes, add in about a half cup of wine. This allows the flavors to infuse and will create a syrup.

When your syrup is ready turn the heat down to low and pour in the bottle of wine and brandy. Bring back to a gentle simmer and heat for about 5 minutes or depending on how much alcohol you want to burn off you can simmer a bit longer. Ladle it into glasses and serve warm.

Total Time: 60-90 minutes

Yield: Makes 4-6 Glasses

From the President cont'd

Cont'd from page 1.....

Who can forget our Thunderbox Contest? We started out with 5 entrants yet every time we went to look at one, the neighbours would ask what we were doing and then say 'wait a minute mine is better than that, come here and look at mine'. Again, we started with 5 and ended up looking at 14. Whether or not the entrants had a good time the judges sure did! If we ever have another Thunderbox contest, do yourself a favour and sign up as a judge. This is one of our best moments.

Never take a paddleboat when a canoe is a better bet; This would be the Environmentally Friendly Poker Run. People at the stop points were greatly surprised when I turned down beer for water. Ruth and I were the last ones finishing, but the roar of the crowd made our day. Great crowd, great prizes and a super day. This is one of our best moments

My executive team; nobody could have had better. They showed up to meetings, voiced their opinions without fear of animosity, proposed ideas, came up with a process and then followed it through.

Ken taking water samples so we could understand the state of the lake. Sharon computerizing the membership log so we could better understand who was what and then keeping it up to date. Nancy cranking up our timely insightful newsletter, chock full of articles, recipes and I always enjoyed her comments on the last page. Rob doing the advertising, making sure it was up to date and solving problems with the customers. John for looking after the lights, making they worked, and coming up with better products that lasted longer and were cheaper to operate. To Debbie for making sense out of all the talking around the meeting table and making concise notes about them. To Peter, who looks after the Cottage Watch program; I have had more members explain that the blowing tag on their door knob gave them piece of mind. To Tammy, whose deciphering skills for figuring out what invoices had to be paid and keeping track of the mayhem of the regatta auction.

Fire and safety; Charlie, Bob and Scott do a superb job of making sure the fire pumps and accessories are in working order and can function at a moment's notice. To our archivist, Dave who has work tirelessly for many years to make sure our financials and records are up to standard. Thank you very much for making an old gray haired guy look so good. These are some of your best moments.

There are volunteers I did not mention in this article, but you know who you are. The people on Healey are what make it tick. The social scene cannot be beat. People will help when others are in need. People will wave at complete stranger as we pass each in boats.

I have to tell you I am very proud to be a Healey Laker and I am sure there will be many good times to come. It has been a pleasure, a challenge, and a gratifying experience to be your President for the last nine years. Without a doubt it has been one of my best privileges.

Thank you,

Dan MacLeod



Save Our Trees! Receive your Dock Talk by email notice today! Send your request to

Stephanie.joiner133@gmail.com,
Sharon_tosswill@hotmail.com or
Nancy Simpson at m.simpson@sympatico.ca

Girl's Guide to Winter Cottaging

Let it be said that winter cottaging is all fun and games until the girls are not happy! Not built quite the same way as their male friends and partners, winter can be a time for darn chilly jaunts to the outhouse in the wee hours for the lady visitors to the lake!

Many a cottage male has strived to keep his mate happy at the cottage and has gone out of his way to be accommodating. Fully heated outhouses complete with music and lighting are but a few of DIY pursuits in recent years to keep the girls happy to be at the lake.

In spite of ingenious creations, it's the trip from the cottage in the wee hours that keep most awake and waiting for daylight before venturing out. While indoor port a potty's have been a life-

saver for some, for many a bucket beats the alternative any day!



Some like this family, have resorted to bringing their seat inside for a warming between us-

es! No doubt this was particularly comforting this winter where record low temperatures of minus -25 became the norm for several days running. Sure would not have wanted to make a midnight visit on a night like that one!

So the next time you meet a Healey woman in winter who loves the lake enough to be there weekend after weekend with no running water, a pat on the back to recognize her resilience will no doubt be appreciated!

GET YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

It's never too late to support the Association. For the low cost of \$30 you can support your community and keep abreast of activities and events. To purchase, make your cheque payable to Healey Lake Property Owners Association and mail to:

Sharon Tosswill, Membership Secretary
2565 Proudfoot St. Mississauga, Ontario,
L5C 2N9

Tel:(H) 905-275-6834; (C) 705-375-1357

The Last Word

By Stephanie Joiner
stephanie.joiner133@gmail.com

What a privilege it is to be a property owner on Healey Lake. We first started venturing to the lake in winter on foot five years ago after a couple of years of staying home in winter.

From the first time we set foot on the lake in winter we were stunned by the beauty of our surroundings. With boughs heavy with snow and deer a plenty it felt simply magical. The late Tibor Csonka once told us that you could 'hear the snow fall' at Healey. Until we experienced it ourselves we could not have imagined the beauty and peacefulness that surrounds our community in the winter months.

The year following we bought our first snowmobile. It was the cheapest, lowest mileage machine we could find and we're please so say that it's still running like a charm. Definitely a tank, but a great way to get around locally.

Since that time we have added newer sleds and have thoroughly enjoyed trips for lunch to Bass Lake, Memories, Sprucedale and of course, H&H. Our son Mitch also caught the bug last year and is once again back at the lake with us on weekends to enjoy our amazing trail system. The Six Star Snowriders groomers can definitely not be beat!

Having enjoyed nearly all seasons at the lake in the past few years, I have to say that we would be hard pressed to choose summer over winter as a favourite. It was with this in mind that we set about to bring this issue to you for the winter season. We hope you enjoy reading it as much as we have compiling it and wish you all a safe and happy spring....after a little more winter fun of course!

See you on the lake!