

# *Arbutus Lake Log*

January 1, 2012 Volume # Two Issue # One

A Newsletter for the Lake Arbutus Association

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**The Flag is flown as a tribute to all who have served.**

**January 2012 to June 2012**

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We hope that the Christmas and New Year's Seasons were joyous to you and yours. The lack of snow on the ground makes you wonder if the calendar is off by a couple of months. But we've had enough cold weather to make ice for fishing. The lake is ideal for skating and kick sleds as well as just walking. Be careful though because it is quite slippery. I found that out today, the hard way.

Do you have any family traditions wrapped up around the Holidays? You know, like watching Bing and Bob in "White Christmas", or Jimmy in "It's a Wonderful Life". It goes without saying that food is a big part of tradition, and now, being the first of the year with resolutions and all, the diet planning begins.

There's an Old Norwegian tradition, passed down from generation to generation. Lutefisk! My tradition has become to watch others eat it while I say "pass the meat balls". Grandpa Mike told me too many stories about lutefisk in the 20's, and, well you have probably heard them too.

A couple of years ago, my wife (who can stand lutefisk) and I went to a lutefisk and meatball supper at the Upper Coon Creek Lutheran Church. Yes, there's a Lower Coon Creek Church too. Well, anyway, it's one congregation with two churches less than a mile apart. The two churches rotate Sunday

Services most of the year till the Lutefisk dinner Saturday night. I was told that the Lower church is then used for the next month while the upper church is airing out. And that's even after they built a garage out back for the cook shack! Uff Da. Note: Church name changed to protect the humiliated.

## **The 2012 Lake Arbutus Calendar**

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This year's Association calendar contest got off to a late start, but we were pleasantly surprised by the amount of entries. Judging was not easy, but the calendars were done in time for Christmas. We still have a few left and we will have them for sale at the Sports Shop, Bob Rockouski or Ralph Johnson. Consider this the official announcement for the 2013 Calendar contest. Now is the time for getting the snow and winter sports pictures taken. We did not receive a single snowmobile picture for 2012. We are going to try to match your pictures with the seasons. Start thinkin' and clickin'.

## **The New Dewhurst Flag Pole**

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Your Lake Arbutus Association has donated a new 30' flag pole at the Township of Dewhurst hall and garage. The hole and footings for the pole were dug and poured on 11-11-11, and the pole was erected at the end of the November. This project has been assisted by many Association Members as well as the Dewhurst Town Board. Steve Morey has allowed the association to connect to his Sports Bar sign for lighting the flag. Joe Kish has donated two LED lights as well as the wiring and labor to make our flag stand visible from dusk till dawn.

Our hats off to Gary Hockerman and Ralph Johnson for hand digging forty feet of trench

for the lights. Really, it was soft sand, and not a rock pile, as they have claimed.

Starting in July, we will have the flag replaced every six months, and we will ask Association members who would like the flag flown in honor or memory of someone to donate \$60.00 for a new flag. The person or event that the flag is flown for will be listed on the top of the newsletter as well as noted on a roll in the Town Hall. After the flag is retired, it will either be returned to the donor or turned over to the American Legion for proper retirement. You may contact any board member for the privilege of having the flag flown in your name or contact the Association by mail. The Lake Arbutus Association has donated the first flag, which will be flown until July 1, 2012.

### **Hatfield Fire Chief's Corner:**

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HAPPY 2012. If you haven't heard by now, we have established a building fund for a new fire station. It will be a huge undertaking for a small community, but we feel it's a worthwhile and justifiable cause. The task at hand will not happen over night or in the next year, but we feel that we have to start sometime. We have had some plans drawn up and came up with an estimated cost of \$450,000. We realize that this isn't the best time to start such a large project, but when is? The Fire Department has taken the proper steps to be a non-profit 501 3 © organization through the IRS. This will make any contributions tax deductible. The Lunda Charitable Trust Fund started off the fund drive with a \$25,000 donation. A fund has been set up at the Jackson County Bank where all contributions will be kept and accounted for. If for some reason the building is not built, all contributions will go back to the giver. We

have enough room at the present site to build the new station. This site is well located and very visible to the community. You may make a contribution at the Jackson County Bank or contact Chief Gary Nordin at 715-333-2183 Email [nordin\\_gary@yahoo.com](mailto:nordin_gary@yahoo.com)

Another item of interest that took place last month was that our First Responders finished their refresher. This consisted of 24 hours of classroom training at a cost of \$60.00. The refresher course is required every two years. A new recruit costs \$300.00 for the certification. We have ten people as First Responders.

With the snowfall on the ground, I would like to remind you to get that brush burnt when the ground is covered. You can burn anytime as long as the ground is covered with snow. Check for dead growth around your dwellings for trees and branches that may hinder us from entering your property with the fire trucks. We need even more room than Santa and his sleigh needed last week.

Again, our Fall Banquet was a huge success. We were able to pay off our new tender, so we are now debt free! Thank you for your contributions and attendance.

**Editor's Note:** I have heard several people say "I'm not going to have my driveway plowed this winter 'cause I won't be here". This is just a suggestion, but two things come to mind. An unattended property is a good sign for a break in, but the main thing about having a plowed driveway is that a frozen three foot bank of snow is going to stop the Fire Department's trucks, First Responders and utility vehicles. Is that few bucks that you have saved worth the risk?

## Association Dues are Due Today, doo-dah, doo-dah.

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Your Lake Arbutus Association dues are due as of Jan 1, 2012 That's today. Annual dues are \$20.00. They may be mailed to The Lake Arbutus Association, P O Box 223, Merrilan Wisconsin 54754. You may also contact a board member with your dues. We encourage you to help build the Association's membership by recruiting a new member. Our goal is simple. Protect our lake and our community, and have fun doing it. We encourage new members with new ideas.

## Phragmites arriving in Lake Arbutus?

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*During the last year Phragmites have been noted in two very small stands or clumps in and near the bay where the East Fork of the Black River enters Lake Arbutus. Look at emergent grasses near your shoreline and as you travel about the lake. If you see Phragmites, please contact the Lake Association Board on the web site and let us know. We would like to determine whether this is the start of a potential problem for the lake.*

*The following information is summarized from the WDNR. Phragmites is a tall, warm season perennial grass with featherlike plumes at the top of its stem. It can reach heights of up to twelve feet. Although Phragmites is a native to much of the world, highly aggressive strains that form dense stands are believed to be from somewhere other than Wisconsin. Phragmites strain reproduces aggressively and form large colonies while the native strain appears to only grow in small groups or individually. See the following web sites for more information on the biology and identification of Phragmites.*

<http://www.invasiveplants.net/phragmites/>  
<http://tcnweeds.ucdavis.edu/esadocs/phraaus.html>  
<http://www.botany.wisc.edu/wisflora/>

*Why should we be concerned? Invasive, non native stands can become so dense that diverse wetland plant communities are eliminated. Even though Lake Arbutus does not support significant native plant stands, non native plants do not provide valuable food and shelter for fish and wildlife that native plants provide. In addition, the tall stands that have visual impacts blocking the view of the water. Phragmites colonies spread mainly by rhizomes (underground root extensions) and to a much smaller degree, by seeds. Phragmites can be controlled. The WDNR recommends that we try to control or manage Phragmites as much as possible. Complete eradication will probably never be achieved once the plant is established, but we may be able to control the spread if we catch it early. The rhizomes of Phragmites should be pulled out before they have a chance to grow and spread. If Phragmites becomes established, the WDNR currently recommend the use of bundle, cut and chemically treat the stems method. Additional information on his method can be found on the WDNR web site, but let's hope we don't get top this stage.*

Another site to check for regulated terrestrial invasive plants in Wisconsin. This site has color photos of most plants.

[www.dnr.wi.gov/invasives/classification](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/invasives/classification) There are 32 photos of these plants. Check it out.

## **Dam update from Jim Beale**

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Considering that the Hatfield Dam was built over one hundred years ago, maintenance and repair is ongoing. North American is constantly working on various aspects of the dam and generating systems. The canal has been brought back up to full height, after a temporary drawdown to enhance sections of the canal embankments. Concurrently, work is being done to repair the ageing concrete on the Tainter gates on the East side of the lake. Two gates have been blocked off on the lake side so loose and deteriorating concrete can be repaired. Long range plans are to perform the same maintenance on two Tainter gates every year till done. Please note that this is preventative maintenance. We are fortunate to have NAH as the guardian of Lake Arbutus.

## **Stay tuned in for the Second newsletter for 2012.**

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Several new features will be added for your entertainment. There will be a new sports section, stock tips, medical advice and a horse racing tip sheet. Also, interviews with two Presidential candidates, want ads, a comic section, puzzles and even a senior citizen column. I'm still trying to find a correspondent for that column. Pay will be commensurate with the ability (read B. S.) of the author. Mark the date on your Lake Arbutus Association Calendar. April First 2012.

*Want Ads:*

*Boat for sale.*

*Call Ole at **1-4 R, Ring 7.***

**"Hey Ole, you don't even have a boat" says Sven.  
"All's you got is dat Jahn deer tracter and dat smelly old bannure spreader".**

*"Ya sure" says Ole. "And dere boat for sale".*