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## The No Name Newsletter of the Lake Arbutus Association

Welcome to the first edition of the LAA Email newsletter. I'm Torger Mikkelsen, and along with my trusty companion and co-editor Bernd Rehm, we will be publishing a quarterly Email newsletter (NL). The purpose will be to inform you, the membership, of what is happening at, on or around Lake Arbutus. Please keep in mind that this is a work in progress and we will be changing and improving it as we go. We will be publishing the NL on July 1, Oct 1, Jan 1 and Apr 1, and in it we will keep a calendar of events for the next quarter as well as what events have happened that affect the LAA. There will be several feature articles in the NL written by people such as the Fire Chief, Clark and Jackson County officials, DNR and Forestry officials and other folks who can contribute to the well being of Lake Arbutus.

Starting out with a little housekeeping, note the current name of the NL. We need a name so your participation is requested. If you have a name for the newsletter, please forward it to Bernd or me. Judging will be by vote at our annual LAA meeting on July 23. No prizes will be awarded, but lots of "atta boys" will be given. While I'm on the subject of the annual meeting, let me bring you up to date. We will be serving breakfast at 8:00 at the Dewhurst Town hall, and the meeting will follow. Four board members are to be elected for two year terms at the meeting, and at least two current board members will not be seeking re election. If you would like to contribute a little time on a few Saturday mornings, please toss your hat in the ring. Steve Kunze of the Clark County Planning and Zoning Department will be discussing possible changes to the Shoreland Zoning Rule (NR115). Gary Nordin the Hatfield Fire Chief will also contribute to the meeting with Fire Department concerns as to fire prevention around your properties, and Amy Luebke of the WDNR will discuss the Firewise project, which helps you fireproof your home.

We are very open to suggestions for improving on this NL and also to any articles, pictures, recipes or items of interest for association members. Please limit to 250 words though. Again, welcome to your no name newsletter.

**Fire Chief's Corner:** First of all I will mention burning permits which we all need to have. There are three locations where they may be picked up; the DNR station in BRF, Deerview and the Bait Shop. The permits are good for the rest of the year. You are required to call their 800 number to see if burning conditions are permissible for the night that you call. (1-888-WIS-BURN). Permits allow you to burn Monday through Saturday from 6:00 pm until midnight, with the fire being fully extinguished at that time. No Sunday Burning. If the ground is fully snow covered, you can burn at any time and for any duration.

Campfires are permissible as long as they are for cooking or keeping yourself warm so just be diligent and keep a watchful eye on the fire. When unattended, put the fire out. The best way to have a campfire is to add a little common sense before starting your camp fire.

Gary Nordin, Fire Chief 715-333-2183 or cell 715-896-1247

The Hatfield Fire department is always looking for a few good men and women to train as firefighters. Give them a call if you can afford the time to help your neighbors. They are all volunteers and they appreciate any assistance they get from the public. Remember their October Fireman's Banquet on October. This is their main fund raising activity. Be generous. Buy two tickets for yourself! There are lots of door prizes. ™

**Firewise: Preparing for Wildfire by Amy Luebke WDNR Wildland-Urban Interface Specialist**

Did you know that the Lake Arbutus area is rated as being at “very high” risk when it comes to the potential for having destructive wildfires? There is a high risk of wildfire occurring because of the sandy soil and the pine cover and the potential for loss is great due to the number of homes around the lake. It is important to understand that as a home owner there are steps you can take to reduce the risk of losing your home to wildfire. For example, cleaning pine needles from your roof and gutters remove a potential ignition source. Choosing deciduous trees and shrubs for an area immediately surrounding your home is a safer choice than evergreens, which tend to burn more intensely. Where is your stack of firewood? Is it under the deck or next to the house? It is best to keep it at least 30 feet from structures. These are just a few ways to be **Firewise**. You can find out more online at [www.dnr.wi.gov](http://www.dnr.wi.gov) when you click on “Current Fire Danger” and “Protecting property”.

**Church in the Park:** Every Sunday from Memorial Day to Labor Day at 10:15, there is a church service at the shelter house in Russell Park. Two Pastors, Eric and Ramie Bakken, from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in BRF present an informal service with music and coffee afterwards. Bring your lawn chair or just sit at one of the picnic tables and enjoy this inspirational time with the beauty of the lake as a backdrop. The services and the music are never the same, and neither are the cookies, donuts or cakes. This church service has been continuous since 1973.

**Who cares about water quality? We do!** The LAA has been monitoring the lake’s water quality.....

**Calendar of upcoming events:**

- July 2 6:30 Water Ski Show at the Russell Park beach, followed by fireworks at dusk Thanks C of C
- July Fireworks at the Sports Bar on Rivera Drive Thanks Steve
- Flea Market dates
- Hatfield Fun Days and Water Ski Show
- Carp fest

**Web sites of interest:**

- [DNRpiers@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRpiers@wisconsin.gov).
- [www.dnr.wi.gov](http://www.dnr.wi.gov)
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