

# Marsh Lake News



Marsh Lake Community Society  
Marsh Lake Local Advisory Council  
Marsh Lake Fire Rescue  
Marsh Lake Fire Rescue Society

Marsh Lake - Yukon Territory - Volume 2004-4

Free to Marsh Lakers

## This Issue

## A Yukon First ! Canada's Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year Award



Marsh Lake Fire Chief Dennis Levy was awarded the Canadian Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year award this past September. Dennis has now retired from his position as Fire Chief but will remain an active member of MLFR. See story on page 13

Editor's Rubbish .....	2
Letters from Readers .....	3
Community Society .....	4
LAC .....	6
Fire Rescue .....	8
Medics Corner .....	10
Fire Rescue Society .....	11
Classified ads .....	14
Business Advertising.....	14-16

Responders Xmas Party .....	3
Subscription Service .....	3
Interesting Questions .....	3
December 4th party .....	4
Democracy .....	6
The Wind Storm .....	6
Chief's Corner .....	8
Annual Disaster.. ..	9
Fireside Suppers .....	11
Frozen Water Lines.....	12
A Christmas Tale .....	12
Household Hints .....	12
Fire Chief's Award .....	13
Previous Issues .....	14
Season's Messages .....	14

**Next Issue**  
Scheduled for March 2005

Whenever you find someone who is convinced they are a real wit, give them the benefit of the doubt... they are probably half right.

## Marsh Lake News

Published quarterly (Yukon Time). Contains local news articles from MLCS (Marsh Lake Community Society), MLLAC (Marsh Lake Local Advisory Council), MLFR (Marsh Lake Fire Rescue), MLFRS (Marsh Lake Fire Rescue Society). Editor-in-Chief Rob Alexander, Marsh Lake News, PO Box 2165, Marsh Lake, Y0B 1Y2. 867-660-4005. E-mail: robalex@northwestel.net

# Editor-in-Chief's Rubbish

## Success?

This is the 6th issue of Marsh Lake News since I began publishing at quarterly intervals in the Fall of 2003.

When I produced the first issue I really didn't expect the newsletter to be accepted as well as it has been, and wondered how long it might last. It's been successful because of the support given by local business and other advertisers, for which I am very grateful. Ditto for all those people who sent donations.

To date, only one person asked for their name to be removed from the mailing list. That was me. Just kidding... I'm not even on the mailing list. I prefer to read intelligent literature, so you won't catch me reading any of the rubbish I write. If you do catch me, it'll just be one of them there elliptical illusions. Or is that called an optical delusion? I need new glasses. (Preferably filled with beer.) While we're on the subject of mailing lists, I often wonder if some of the names on our mailing list are spelled incorrectly. If your name is not spelled correctly, let me know. Unless of course you don't know how to spell your name. If that's the case, write (as best you can) and I'll create a new spelling for you, or maybe even a new name. No charge from me for this.

Where was I? Oh yes... the State of the Newsletter Address. The newsletter has also been successful thanks to the half dozen or so people who supply me with nicely written articles which help to offset the nonsense that I provide. Of course, if more Marsh Lakers sent photos or things to print I could remove all of my stuff and you might get to read things on this page that actually make sense.

Are you still there? Alright, let's continue. Creating each issue has been very time-consuming. I ate a grand total of seventeen wristwatches. (Time consuming? Never mind.) However, it has kept me off the streets. Not that we have many streets around here.

Most of the newsletter content looks reasonably good except for my photos. Horrible disgustingly grainy looking things. If there's any photographers or graphics experts in Marsh Lake who know how to manipulate images for reproduction in the newsletter, please get in touch with me. If they ever make euthanasia legal I'm going to have my dysfunctional digital camera put down.

I could try using my wife's cool SLR camera, as long as she doesn't find out of course. Her camera has a zoom on it, some useful filters, and an attachment for taking photos of overweight people, you know... those Why Dangle lenses? Then of course, when I scan the prints and save them as digital files they will likely produce exactly the same end results as my digital camera. You can't win.

Boy! Did I ever get a lot of feedback about those front page "assassination" photos of me in the last issue! Apparently several people got a good laugh out of them. Wishful thinking on their part perhaps, or maybe they thought they were real?

Getting away from newsletter stuff for a moment, there's something I need to know. Are there any women out there who buy anything at all that is *not* on sale? When my wife comes home from town she almost always says, "Look what I got! They were on sale! And look at this... on sale for only fifty dollars."

Editor-in-Chief age eighteen



When I go shopping, nothing I want is ever on sale. In fact, I believe retailers quickly raise prices when they see me coming down the street. But for my wife it's a different ball game.

She says, "Look at these! They had books on sale for only a \$1 each!" And I think to myself, what the hell are we going to do with 200 copies of War & Peace?

By the way, three paragraphs back I used the expression "*almost always*." This is no longer considered a grammatical faux pas because it's used by all the world's leading politicians.

Speaking of politicians, here's a photo of Premier Fentie reading Marsh Lake News during the October 7th meeting at the firehall.



## READER'S LETTERS

If space permits, your letters will be printed (unless you request otherwise) but I reserve the right to edit for readability and will refuse to print anything that is unethical or offensive. If you omit your name and phone number, I may not be able to print your letter if the content needs to be clarified. Let me know if you do not want your name to appear in print.

Editor-in-Chief, Rob Alexander, Marsh Lake News, PO Box 2165, Marsh Lake, Y0B 1Y2. 867-660-4005.  
E-mail: robalex@northwestel.net

Dear Rob,

To all our neighbours and friends at Marsh Lake: we'd like to thank you all for your help and friendship over the last 11 years. Our time at Old Constabulary was very special and we enjoyed the sanctuary it offered.

We'll miss all the activities such as the Loppet, skiing, dinners and special events, including the awesome boating, hiking and bird watching!

We are closer to the grand kids now and enjoying a change. I'm sure we'll see you at Marsh lake or town from time to time.

Merry Christmas to all!

p.s. To all the kids who ride the Golden Horn bus from Marsh Lake: I miss your smiles in the early morning and after school, keep smiling and have a happy holiday! Sincerely,  
Trudy and Nick Veres, Wee Jock too!

### Subscription service

From the Editor-in-Chief: Trudy and Nick Veres are the first subscribers to Marsh Lake News. The newsletter is currently free to all residents of Marsh Lake but anyone who sells their home and moves away from the area and wishes to continue receiving a copy of the newsletter by mail can subscribe to this service at a cost of \$4.00 per year.

While I'm still here trying to fill blank holes in the page, please note that NorthweTel in its infinite wisdom has decided to drop the sympatico service so I now have a new e-mail address:

robalex@northwestel.net.

As I keep telling people, it sounds like a new drug... take two robalex and call me in the morning!

### MLFR RESPONDER'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

A very big thankyou to the owners of Jake's Corner Restaurant. They kindly offered to sponsor this year's Christmas Party for Marsh Lake Fire Rescue volunteers.

The cost of MLFR Christmas parties is usually shared by the volunteers and donations from the Community Society, so this kind and generous offer was much appreciated.

Rob Alexander, Editor-in-Chief

**Season's Greetings  
to all readers of  
Marsh Lake News  
from the  
Editor-in Chief.**

**(Regardless of which season  
it is. I mean, you might not  
come out of hibernation  
until Easter. Whenever)**

**& A Happy New Year**

## Interesting Questions

Does killing time damage eternity?

Daylight savings time - why are they saving it and where do they keep it?

Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard?

Why is it called lipstick if you can still move your lips?

Why is it that night falls but day breaks?

Why is the third hand on the watch called a second hand?

Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavour, and dish washing liquid made with real lemons?

Are part-time bandleaders semi-conductors?

Can you buy an entire chess set in a pawn shop?

Do pilots take crash-courses?

How can there be self-help "groups"?

How do you get off a non-stop flight?

If you jog backwards, will you gain weight?

**If you would like copies of photos appearing in Marsh Lake News please contact the Editor-in-Chief.**

# Marsh Lake Community Society

Box 10430 Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 7A1  
mlcs@datapathsystems.net



## From Pat Healy

The MLCS has started another busy winter season

### Pub Night

On Dec 4 they joined forces with the MLFR to host an English Pub Style Dinner, cooked by Carol Alexander and her gang. Thanks Carol. Following the dinner Lea-Ann Erschen provided entertainment for the packed firehall.

A lively action led by auctioneer extraordinaire Ian Pumphrey raised \$1000.00. It was wonderful to see all the people who attended.

For us "old-timers" it made us reminisce about the old Marina days and all the get-togethers we had there. It will be good to see the realization of the Community Centre so we can once again have a meeting place. On that note, we would like to extend our thanks to all the member of the building committee for all the hours they have put in to make the centre a reality. Your time and effort is much appreciated.

### Ski Trails

During the summer, improvements were made to the ski trails, taking out some of the roots and sharp corners. Now with the acquisition of a new renovator, the trails are in awesome shape. Just a couple of trail etiquette requests for both skiers and non-skiers: please do not use the ski trails as a walking trail during the winter. It plays havoc with the set trail and makes it less enjoyable for the skiers. Also, if you like to ski with your dog, as many of us do, please refrain from taking your dog on the trail the day the track has been freshly set. If it is allowed to set overnight the track will be hard and last a lot longer. Thanks for your cooperation. Many thanks also to Jim Healy who has done an amazing job of keeping our trails in such wonderful condition these past 11 years.

## Ski Loppet

With the winter and the ski trails comes the next big winter event, the Marsh Lake X-Country Ski Loppet. Traditionally held on Valentines Day weekend, it is indeed a sweetheart of an event. It will be held on Feb. 12, 2005. Already the Loppet Committee is in high gear making sure everything will go off without a hitch. This year we are missing two of our key organizers, Jan and Peter Milner. Peter has been Chief of Race for 9 of the past 10 years and Jan was in charge of registration and results. For those of you who don't already know, Peter is currently fighting a very tough battle with cancer. We wish him well and in his honour we are dedicating the 2005 Loppet to him. There will also be a representative from the Cancer Society at the race to accept donations on behalf of the Milner family and all the other families in Marsh Lake who have been affected by this devastating disease.

## Youth Program

Marg Wallace, the Community's Recreation Director and Drew Whittaker have been working on a proposal through Crime Prevention to support local youth programs and employment for our younger residents. They have also taken on the task of organizing the skating rink facility, with such tasks as arranging for the clearing and flooding, plus organized activities to be held at the rink.

On behalf of the MLCS a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

## *Hug a Volunteer*

## Building Committee

The Marsh Lake Planning/Building Committee has had a very busy fall and are gearing up for an even busier winter. Lots of meetings and discussion, survey data to pour over, feasibility studies to peruse, an open house, researching different energy sources, talking to politicians and funders. Phew! I'm tired just thinking about it.

The group held an Open House at the end of November and presented a draft design to the community. It was a well-attended event with lots of good discussions, some fresh ideas and support for the project. Thank you to all who came out to see and share your thoughts. The design presented was a two story building with a gymnasium. Also included in the design were meeting spaces, a library, administration space, elevator shaft, change rooms, kitchen, gathering space, storage and space for additions to the gym and a fitness room. Both our project manager, Mike Frasher and the architect, Gordon Sinclair were on hand to answer questions and discuss the design. Gordon also showed a topographical drawing of the site with the building situated to scale, which was a great help in assisting the community in seeing where exactly this thing is going to be built. The geo-technical engineers were on site in November and have marked the four corners of the proposed site with orange and red flagging tape. If you happen to be down by the skating rink in the dwindling daylight hours, feel free to walk the site to get a better idea of how things may shape up.

As this is an on-going process, the committee has since met and is now tweaking the design to remain in our planning budget of \$140,000 and to remain within our contribution agreement with YTG to design a building not to exceed \$1.5 M. The two-story design presented was estimated to cost more than the suggested \$1.5M. Currently we are considering a one-story building with many of the same options as the previous design, but with the spaces having more multi-use roles. A second open house will take place in the new year to showcase this design to the community.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Tiffanie Tasane at 660-4900 or [tiffcarl@marshlake.polarcom.com](mailto:tiffcarl@marshlake.polarcom.com).

# Marsh Lake Community Society

Box 10430 Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 7A1  
mlcs@datapathsystems.net



## December 4th Special Supper at the firehall



Lee-Ann entertaining the children



Behind the scenes (left to right) NormaLee Craig, Carol Alexander, and Natasha McGovern preparing the desserts.



Enjoying conversation with friends and neighbours.



...and those delicious meat pies waiting to be eaten.

### Society Meetings

The Community Society meets at the Marsh Lake Fire Hall on Doehle Drive in the Judas Creek sub division the last Wednesday of every odd numbered month. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Membership is established by registering at the meeting, and there is no fee to become a member.



## Articles from Mike Larsen

### Democracy - Use it or Lose it

For the past few years Marsh Lake has enjoyed the dividends of participatory democracy. Gone are the days of secret cabals and vague murmurings of hidden projects carried out by 'them'.

We (yes, that means you) meet on a regular basis to work out issues that crop up in our community. These are open, public and recorded meetings. The solutions hashed out after much discussion are the results of democracy. I'm not saying that we make perfect decisions, just open, public and recorded ones.

The quickest way to kill democracy is to simply do nothing. Stay at home. Don't make your opinion count. Dictatorships don't happen by accident, they are started by apathy and encouraged by the lack of participation of the community members. After a while, the ruling power discourages public discourse, and ultimately removes that ability.

Trying to restore democracy after a dictator has siphoned off your rights takes enormous effort. So, don't be shy, come out to engage the community, and stand up for decency and free speech. You have nothing to lose... except democracy.



### The Yukon - A Highway Runs Through It

Nothing unifies communities like a big ol' road. I recently attended the Alaska Highway forum to sign a memorandum of understanding on behalf of the Marsh Lake LAC. We packed up the ancient RV and drove the highway to Dawson Creek. There the various fly-in dignitaries and government types met to discuss the best way to promote and enhance the Alaska Highway as an entity. That is, as a thing separate from the 2 countries and three state/territory/provinces that it winds through. Like the road itself, which has been designated as one of the top 20 engineering marvels of the planet, it is a massive undertaking. As an initial step, there has been movement towards establishing the highway as a scenic byway, much like Route 66 in the states. Hopefully, some day we may be able to tell our grandkids what it was like to travel and live on the greatest chunk of road in the world. For more information, please go to:

<http://www.alaskahighwaylegacy.com/>

And hey, don't forget to actually drive the thing end to end like we did this year, it's still an adventure you won't find anywhere else.

### Marsh Lake Weathers Wind Storm

The Big Wind blew in on October 13 and left most of Marsh Lake in the dark for about 28 hours. Trees toppled and powerline fuses blew over a wide area of the Southern Lakes.

I've heard that it wasn't necessarily the force of the wind that did the damage, but the direction it came from coupled with the ground not being frozen, which allowed trees to leverage their roots out of the ground. Either way, it was a pain, and we held our October LAC meeting by flashlight, being the resourceful types that we are.

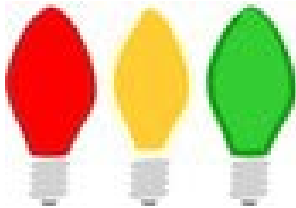
Thanks to Yukon Electric for their hard work in clearing fouled lines and diligence in restoring power.

Also special thank you to NorthWestTel (gasp! the phone company?) who realized that the outage was to be a long one, and that their phone exchange batteries would soon be exhausted (meaning no phones in Marsh Lake), rushed a generator out to power the exchange for the remaining 20 or so hours.

Our 911 emergency dispatch and the Marsh Lake Fire Rescue team sent a letter of thanks to them. Having no communication during an outage could have been life threatening.

#### LACMEETINGS

Meetings of the Council are open to the public. They are held the second Wednesday of EVERY month - 7:00 p.m. at the Marsh Lake Firehall. Agendas are posted on all bulletin boards the week prior to the meeting.



Seasons Greetings  
and a  
Happy New Year  
from the  
Marsh Lake  
Local Advisory Council

**LAC:** [marshlakelac@mail.com](mailto:marshlakelac@mail.com)

**Ward One:**

**Judas Creek**

Councillor: Helen Smith (Secretary)

mail to:

[hsmith@marshlake.polarcom.com](mailto:hsmith@marshlake.polarcom.com)

phone: 660-4402

**Ward Two:**

**New Constabulary**

Councillor: Mike Larsen

mail to: [mike@datapathsystems.net](mailto:mike@datapathsystems.net)

phone: 660-4600

**Ward Three:**

**Old Constabulary to Grayling Place**

Councillor: Malcolm Taggart (Chair)

mail to: [mtaggart@northwestel.net](mailto:mtaggart@northwestel.net)

phone: 660-5347

**Ward Four:**

**Army Beach to South McClintock**

Councillor: Perry Savoie

phone: 660-5116

**Ward Five:**

**McClintock Valley Road, North**

**McClintock to Yukon River Bridge**

Councillor: Pat Shaw

mail to: [pat.shaw@gov.yk.ca](mailto:pat.shaw@gov.yk.ca)

phone: 660-5272

# Marsh Lake Fire Rescue

Emergency Number 911



## Chief's Corner

First, thanks to everybody for the trust you have invested by electing me as Fire Chief and Mike Larsen as the Deputy Fire Chief. We will do our very best to live up to that responsibility.

We had a very busy year, probably the busiest ever. Even though the number of calls are down a bit (and the year isn't over yet) we spent more time than usual keeping the community safe. The calls this year were more intense than in previous years; we dealt with some fatalities, critical medical calls, and we almost delivered a baby... we transferred the mother to a Whitehorse ambulance and the baby arrived less than ten minutes later.

By November 17 we had responded to 46 calls in total: 8 motor vehicle accidents, 9 fires, 29 medical calls. Total volunteer hours spent on those calls were 288.3. That doesn't cover training time or stand-by times. Emergency Medical Response training takes 90 hours plus 10 hours of in-house training a month, and additional courses.

This year we worked again towards complying with the required NFPA standards (National Fire Protection Association) by working on rescue, rapid intervention, first response to wild land fire, vehicle extrication, and we are now moving back into house fire training. We hope to have another FF1 (Fire Fighter level 1 course) starting in January to bring everybody up to speed. Formal training for FF1 takes about 130 hours. Emergency Medical Response training takes 90 hours. Plus we do 10 hours of in-house training in a month and additional courses to keep everybody current. On December 11 we had a Multi Casualty Incident tabletop exercise at Marsh Lake with our mutual aid and neighbouring fire departments and ambulance services.

As you remember, our wildland fire season was at extremely high danger levels for a long time and we were tasked with new responsibilities that came out of devolution and the merger of EMO, Wildland Fire, and structural fire into Protective Services. We were asked to be on stand-by for almost 4 weeks, filling 12 hour days as the first response to possible bush fires. We dumped over 20,000 gallons of water at the Marsh Lake dump, patrolled our response area every day, checked the campground twice a day, and did a lot of PR work to make the locals and the tourists understand the huge threat we were exposed to. All fire threats were brought quickly under control and we were lucky we did not have to face a major wildfire. The cooperation with all the other agencies and our mutual aid partners worked well, and we will see a lot more of this in the coming years.

At the Yukon Fire chiefs conference we had the pleasure of meeting Dave Hodgkins, the BC Fire Commissioner who provided us with the bigger picture about the 2003 BC fires. In 2003, 334 homes and businesses were destroyed, 45,000 people needed to be evacuated and the overall cost ran around \$700 million. Dave pointed out mistakes that were made in 2003 and what can be done to correct those mistakes to better prevent such devastating losses in the future. His basic message was to be prepared by developing plans. He also pointed out what every single household can do to make an urban interface fire survivable with as little loss as possible.

We are very happy to announce that we obtained funding for an Emergency preparedness plan for the Marsh Lake area. Donna and Mike Larsen and myself put an application together for CDF funding and we have now received the money to go ahead. This will be a

bit of a pilot project for the whole Yukon and after talking to EMO, Wildlandfire and the Fire Marshal's office we have their support to create the plan.

Wildfire is the most likely disaster we will have to face, but we also are preparing for hazardous material spills, storms, earthquakes and unforeseen events. The Plan involves: strategies and tactics; establishment of a compatible emergency operation centre; communications; mapping; resources; evacuation and notification plans; pre-fire attack plans; research into sprinkler systems and individual power systems, and probably a lot more we haven't thought of yet.

Perhaps the most important part is to get the community involved to show everybody what they can do to survive a forest fire with the least amount of damage. This means we will have to conduct a survey by visiting every household to explain the benefits of Fire Smarting your property. Public meetings will be held to understand the bigger picture, and to learn and discuss what everyone can do. Last but not least, it will provide some winter employment for Marsh Lake. This huge project has only just started but you will hear a lot more about it in the near future.

During Fire Prevention week in October, we invited our neighbouring fire departments to vehicle extrication training and the use of effective methods to battle vehicle fires. Gilbert Bradet from Nordique Fire Protection joined us with his mobile fire extinguisher service. He serviced over 30 fire extinguishers in the community right here on the spot and provided live fire training. He also gave everybody a good deal on his services! Thank you Gilbert for taking the time to come out to help in our efforts to make this a safer place to live.

**Cont. on page 13**

**Page 8**

# Marsh Lake Fire Rescue

Emergency Number 911



Our new Fire Chief Juergen Willms demonstrates use of self contained breathing apparatus.

## MLFR Annual Disaster

Vehicle extrication training involved the use of rescue tools to open doors and to remove a roof to gain a large access into a vehicle. This scenario was followed by setting a vehicle on fire and using various methods to battle the blaze.

Editor-in-Chief's note: I think our MLFR people are pyromaniacs... they're always setting fire to things.



After glass removal, the rescue tool is used to open a door.

A two-man attack team, guided by a training officer, approaches a burning vehicle. They are using a full protective fog stream for the safest approach by narrowing the stream to thirty degrees for more efficient water application. Also you can see the straight stream of water from a back-up line.



## Live training

One Marsh Lake youngster shows everyone how easy it is to douse a fire with a fire extinguisher.



# Medics Corner

by Irv Harper

Emergency Number 911



Marsh Lake Fire Rescue Ambulance Service is very pleased to announce, after months of negotiations with YTG, that we have a new ambulance. Unit 91125 is not exactly "new" but with 68,000 km its diesel engine is well broken in

It is a full sized ambulance with much modern equipment to aid our volunteers in the administration of higher quality medical care than was possible with our former Suburban.

It has on-line oxygen that can be administered to two patients if necessary. Mechanical suction is on the wall near our AED and Automatic Blood Pressure Monitor. We also have a Pulse Oximeter to aid in the assessment and treatment of both medical and trauma patients.

The interior storage area for supplies and equipment far surpasses what we had before and allows for superior organization. Our full sized stretcher/cot is compatible with other Yukon ambulance units which makes safe transfer of patients possible.

The roomy interior space and sophisticated lighting will allow us to do much more patient care. We are very fortunate that one of our volunteers is on staff with Whitehorse Ambulance. She will now be able to use her advanced protocols in our ambulance here in Marsh Lake. These include IV therapy, Ventolin, Epinephrine, Nitroglycerin, advanced airway and diabetic treatment.

Of course, we will continue our training on a regular basis with more advanced training of protocols planned in the new year.

We wish you all a happy and safe  
Holiday Season.



# Marsh Lake Fire Rescue Society



In what seems to have established itself as a tradition for our fund raising suppers, Carol and Rob Alexander are dressed for the occasion. They were not able to find any standard Oktoberfest costumes so they came as Barbarians instead of Bavarians.

## Fireside Suppers

Thankyou Marsh Lakers for your attendance and support at our "Oktoberfest" evening. Special thanks to Beth McIntyre for your expert help in the kitchen and the awesome strudels you prepared. The attendance was almost overwhelming and spurs us on to more evenings in the future.

We hope you also enjoyed the Xmas evening on December 4th which we shared with your Community Society.

Coming up in January, we are planning yet another evening of food and fun. Watch for posters in January with date and details.

In the past we referred to these fund-raising events as Family Suppers because children were allowed to attend, but during the last two events we heard many people call them Fireside Suppers because they are held at the firehall. So from now on that's what they are... Fireside Suppers!

Thankyou all  
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year  
Rev. Carol Alexander



Draw prize time

## HOUSEHOLD HINTS

I do not have time to test all these hints so I cannot guarantee they will work as described. If you have any other tips or hints of a similar nature send them to me and I'll print them. And let me know if something does a really good job. Editor-in-Chief..

When you get a splinter, reach for the scotch tape before resorting to tweezers or a needle. Simply put the scotch tape over the splinter, then pull it off. Scotch tape often removes splinters painlessly and easily.

Ants, ants, ants everywhere ... Well, they are said to never cross a chalk line. So get your chalk out and draw a line on the floor or wherever ants tend to march- see for yourself!

Use air-freshener to clean mirrors: It does a good job and leaves a lovely smell.

Hairy Situation? Take a quart-size container and fill it with hot water and several tablespoons of baking soda. Drop in plastic combs and hairbrushes (no wooden handles) and soak. Rinse well and dry.

To get the most juice out of fresh lemons, bring them to room temperature and roll them under your palm against the kitchen counter before squeezing!

To easily remove burned-on food from your skillet, simply add a drop or two of dish soap and enough water to cover bottom of pan, and bring to a boil on stove-top. Skillet will be much easier to clean now!

Spray your Tupperware with nonstick cooking spray before pouring in tomato-based sauces no more stains!

When a cake recipe calls for flouring the baking pan, use a bit of the dry cake mix instead. No white mess on the outside of the cake!

If you accidentally over-salt a dish while it's still cooking, drop in a peeled potato it absorbs the excess salt for an instant "fix me up"!

Next time you need a quick ice pack, grab a bag of frozen vegetables out of your freezer no watery leaks from a plastic baggie!

Rinse cooked, ground meat with water when draining off the fat this helps "wash away" even more fat.

Wrap celery in aluminum foil when putting in the refrigerator it will keep for weeks.

Substitute half applesauce for the vegetable oil in your baking recipes you'll greatly reduce the fat content. (Example: 1/2 cup vegetable oil = 1/4 cup applesauce + 1/4 cup oil)

Place a slice of bread in hardened brown sugar to soften it back up!

When boiling corn on the cob, add a pinch of sugar to help bring out the corns natural sweetness!

Clean water lines from a crystal decanter: Use baking powder to sprinkle over the water marks and then pour white vinegar over the baking powder. This will fizz and then with the vinegar and baking soda mixture, dip a soft rag into it and rub the marks gently. Or, just fill the decanter with vinegar and let it soak overnight.

Cure for headaches: Take a lime, cut it in half and rub it on your forehead. The throbbing will go.

Don't throw out all that leftover wine: Freeze into ice cubes for future use in casseroles and sauces.

If you have problem opening jars: Try using latex dishwashing gloves. They give a nonslip grip that makes opening jars easy!

To get rid of itch from mosquito bite: try applying soap on the area instant relief.

Wonder If a Dish Can Be Used in the Microwave? (Never use metal containers or any dishes with gold or silver trim) Here's any easy way to find out: Place the dish and one cup of water inside the microwave. Turn it on full power for one minute. Then touch the dish... if it's cool to your touch, it's okay to use. But if it's warm, use it occasionally. And, if the dish is hot, do not *ever* put it in the microwave.

Editor-in-Chief note regarding the last sentence in the above paragraph: Too late! Don't you just love those kind of suggestions! That's the same as the warning on the *bottom* of some sugar bags "Do not hold upside down." And similar to those software companies that tell you to send them an e-mail when your e-mail program isn't working. We'd all be better off if they used 9 year olds to write product instructions.

### Frozen Water Lines

Please note: if you get your water from the firehall and the outside lines are frozen, call

Dave Albisser, Dept. of Community Services & Transportation at:

1-867-667-5269

**Do NOT call Marsh Lake Fire Rescue**

## Chief's Corner from page 8

Towards the end of January 2005 we will receive a brand-new pumper. The pumper is basically the same as the one we already have but with a bigger 1050 g/min pump, overhead cross lays, and 6" suction ports. We are replacing the pumper because the Fire Marshal's office wants to make southern lakes fire departments more compatible with each other. The Government's pumper replacement program concluded this year and in 2005 they will start a tanker replacement program. We are on top of their list to receive a new (or newer) tanker ASAP.

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind everybody to change batteries in their smoke alarms and check that they function properly. Remember those appliances might save your life!

Thanks to all our volunteers for all their efforts and the great work you are doing to make Marsh Lake a safer place for all of us.

I want to once again congratulate Dennis Levy (our now retired fire chief) for his Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year award from the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs. That's Canada wide and that translates directly, that we are one of the best volunteer departments in Canada, which should make us all very proud.

I wish everybody a very Happy Christmas and a great New Year. If you have any questions regarding fire safety, Marsh Lake Fire Rescue, or if you are thinking of joining us in our efforts, please do not hesitate to call:

Juergen Willms      660-4121  
Mike Larsen          660-4610

Lets keep it up. Thank you.

Juergen Willms, Fire Chief

## Fire Chief's Award

Congratulations to Dennis Levy on receiving the prestigious Award of Excellence as Volunteer Fire Chief for 2004. The award was presented at this year's annual general meeting of the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs in Saint John's, Newfoundland.

Dennis was acknowledged by nearly 300 of his peers from across Canada for his dedication and outstanding commitment to our community. To be selected as a winner from a list of so many worthy Fire Chiefs from across Canada is indeed a great honour, and this is also the first time a Yukoner has received this award of distinction and we Marsh Lakers should be very proud of his achievement.

Recognition of Dennis Levy's achievements and the work of Marsh Lake volunteers was honoured by the Yukon Legislative Assembly on November 9th at which it was stated "Volunteer fire fighters are one of the most valuable and dedicated community resources; they give a remarkable amount of time and energy to their community. Not only do they spend time on-call, in response mode, and carrying out day-to-day business, they also dedicate countless hours toward training in structural fire fighting techniques, wildland fire suppression and in first aid."

Dennis was one of the founding members of the Marsh Lake Volunteer Fire Department in the late 1980s, and has contributed a great deal of time and effort into making our community a safe place to live. He was elected as President of the Association of Yukon Fire Chiefs in 2002 and was re-elected this year for another two-year term. He has now retired as the Marsh Lake Fire Chief but he will remain an active member of MLFR.

Editor-in Chief



## A Christmas Tale

One particular Christmas a long time ago, Santa was getting ready for his annual trip... but there were problems everywhere. Four of his elves got sick, and the trainee elves did not produce the toys as fast as the regular ones, so Santa was beginning to feel the pressure of being behind schedule.

Then, Mrs. Claus told him that her Mom was coming to visit. This stressed Santa even more. Then when he went to harness the Reindeer, he found three of them were about to give birth and two had jumped the fence and were out, heaven knows where. More Stress.

Then when he began to load the sleigh one of the boards cracked and the toy bag fell to the ground, and scattered the toys. So, frustrated, Santa went back into the house for a cup of coffee and a shot of whiskey. When he went to the cupboard, he discovered the elves had hid the liquor and there was nothing to drink. In his frustration, he accidentally dropped the coffee pot and it broke into hundreds of little pieces all over the kitchen floor. He went to get the broom and found that mice had eaten the straw it was made from.

Just then, the doorbell rang and Santa cursed his way to the door. He opened the door and there was a little angel with a great big Christmas Tree. The angel said, very cheerfully, "Merry Christmas Santa. Isn't it just a lovely day? I have a beautiful tree for you. Isn't it just a lovely tree? Where would you like me to stick it?"

Thus began the tradition of the angel on top of the Christmas Tree.

## Classifieds

10c per word. A boxed semi-display ad is \$5 per column inch.

### Christmas Messages

*From  
Marg & Drew Dunn*

Merry Christmas  
and a happy New Year

*From  
Jean Cook*

Merry Christmas  
and a happy New Year

From Rob & Carol Alexander to all our many good friends and neighbours in Marsh Lake - have a very pleasant and enjoyable Christmas and may the coming year be one of success, happiness, and good health for everyone.

Many thanks to the employees of DataPath Systems and Market North for another fun year! Your efforts are greatly appreciated. Donna and Mike Larsen

Thanks to the crew of Marsh Lake Fire Rescue and fellow dispatchers. As always, you guys are great. Happy Holidays, Donna and Mike.

Another thank you to everyone involved in the Marsh Lake Community Society. We accomplished much over the past year, and I look forward to working with all of you in 2005. Donna Larsen



This valiant attempt to swim in a pool of water at the skating rink during Canada Day celebrations suggests the need for a much larger facility. An Olympic-size pool?

### Christmas Family Treat

Come to the 6th Annual Christmas Eve Gathering for parents and children at Tilly's Cafe, New Constabulary. A traditional old style Christmas Eve with an Xmas story and carol singing around the firepit, a visit by Santa, free gifts for the kids, and free food in the cafe. Sponsored by Tilly & Archie McDonald and Marsh Lake Community Chapel. For further info contact Carol Alexander at 660-4005.

### Marsh Lake News in Colour

You can view Marsh Lake News in glorious colour on the net in PDF format at:

[www.marshlakeyukon.net](http://www.marshlakeyukon.net)

If you do not have a program on your computer that views PDF files you can download a free copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader from the same site.

### Marsh Lake News in Colour

You can view Marsh Lake News on the net in PDF format at

[www.marshlakeyukon.net](http://www.marshlakeyukon.net)

If you do not have a program on your computer that views PDF files you can download a free copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader from the same site.

### Local Businesses

Your help in supporting Marsh Lake News is greatly appreciated.

For advertising information contact:

Rob Alexander at 660-4005  
robalex@northwestel.net  
Next issue is scheduled for March 2005

### Previous Issues

If you missed the first five issues of Marsh Lake News, there are some copies still available. Contact Rob Alexander at 660-4005.

  
**BARBARA/SHALANDRA**  
**OF**  
**LINKING PATHWAYS**  
 (HOLISTIC HEALING CENTER)  
 667-7903 - 667-4485



*Wishing YOU ALL THE  
 BLESSINGS  
 OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON*



**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A  
 BLESSED NEW YEAR**





We are often looking for part time employees. If you have good reading and telephone skills and want flexible evening hours, send us a resume. No sales involved.

**DONNA  
 & MIKE  
 LARSEN**

**BOX 2180  
 MARSH LAKE, YUKON Y0B 1Y2**

867.660-4603    info@datapathsystems.net

HELP!

Marsh Lake Fire Rescue Society always needs help for their various functions. If you can spare the time to assist with cooking, or setting up tables and chairs, or bar work, cleanup, etc., give Carol Alexander a call at

660-4005

The Old  
Screen Door  
Bed & Breakfast

MO HARTIGAN  
INNKEEPER  
(867) 660-4410

email: mo17@marshlake.polarcom.com  
website: oldscreendoor.homestead.com

121 Judas Creek Drive  
Marsh Lake, Yukon



Yukon Legislative Assembly  
**Patrick Rouble, M.L.A.**  
 Southern Lakes  
 The Yukon Party

Home: (867) 660-4023  
 Office: (867) 667-8655  
 Fax: (867) 393-7400  
 Toll Free: 1-800-661-0408

Legislature:  
 Box 2073  
 Whitehorse, Yukon  
 Y1A 2C6  
 patrick.rouble@gov.yk.ca

**Dozers Variety Store  
 &  
 Pizza House**

**Lot 2 Army Beach**  
 Pop, Candy, Chips  
 Burgers, Hot Dogs, Gum  
 Smokies, Pizza  
 Ice Cream Bars



**BARBARA COLLINS**  
**OF**  
**RE/MAX ACTION REALTY**  
 667-2514 - 667-7903



*Wishing You All  
 A Very Merry Christmas*



**AND A NEW YEAR OF  
 ABUNDANCE & PROSPERITY**



## **McCLINTOCK CONTRACTING**

**Tel. (867) 660-5914**

- General Excavating
- Sand & Gravel
- Septic Systems
- Landscaping



Lloyd Atkinson, Lot 29, Army Beach, Yukon  
 Mail address: Box 1119, Marsh Lake, Yukon Y0B 1Y1

**Bobcat • Loader • Backhoe • Dumptruck**

## **Marsh Lake Community Chapel**

Lot 32 New Constabulary  
 Sunday Discussion 11:30 a.m.  
 Wednesday Meditation 8pm

**Counselling - Weddings - Christenings**  
**Rev. Carol Alexander**  
**660-4005**

## **FIREWOOD**

**Standing Dry Pine**  
**Year Round**  
**8' or stove length**  
**small orders accepted**

**Lot 91 Judas Creek**  
**Rolland 660-4671**

## **GRANDPA'S GRAPHICS AND PRINTING**

Box 10288, Whitehorse  
 Yukon, Canada Y1A 7A1

grandpa@marshlake.polarcom.com  
 Distributor for Heartland Assoc. Books

**660-4214**

**Paul D. Albertson**

Yukon's Pre-Press & PR Specialist



**Katherine Igbneweka**  
 (formerly Fireweed Financial Services)

**867-633-7401**  
 igbins@yknet.ca

1105 Hemlock Street  
 Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 4G6

Notary Public Income Tax Preparation Electronic Tax Filing

## **TOM'S VARIETY STORE & TILLY'S KITCHEN**

**Coffee Shop (867) 660-4245**  
**Post Office /Fax (867)660-4249**  
**Box 2108, Marsh Lake, Yukon Y0B 1Y2**

**Hours: Noon - 9 p.m.**

**7 days a week**

**FRESH PIZZA AND PIES**

**Business advertising helps to support  
 the cost of this newsletter and your  
 use of their services helps to support  
 local and other businesses**