

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 2003-1

Free

New Community Newsletter

The decision to publish a newsletter containing information from each of the above-named groups came about as a result of a suggestion made some time ago by Dianne Green the publisher of The Yukoner Magazine, who wondered if the Local Advisory Council might like to contribute a page or two for inclusion in the Fire Society's newsletter. Many local Marsh Lake volunteers are also members of - or associated with - the Community Society, Marsh Lake Fire Rescue, the Fire Rescue Society, and the Local Advisory Council, and many of them already share the organizing and running of Marsh Lake community functions, so it seemed logical to me to combine forces and continue in that same spirit by joining together to produce one single newsletter. This of course has meant an increase in the number of pages, and distribution by the Post Office to all homes in the Marsh Lake area is an additional cost, but sharing between the groups will, we hope, prove cost-effective. Several local business and services have given their generous support in the form of a donation by taking advertising space in the newsletter which helps to defray some of the expenses.

As you know, Marsh Lake consists of many subdivisions spread over several miles with considerable distance between many subdivisions. We have no town or village, and as yet no proper community centre, so I'm hoping that a newsletter which reaches everyone might help to bring us a bit closer together. The newsletter will be printed four times each year, and will be mailed to all residents of Marsh Lake who wish to receive a copy.

Marsh Lake News is a newsletter, not a newspaper; I have no desire to get involved in producing a local rag. In any case, many people would already be well-informed via local gossip because it's the only thing that travels faster than the speed of light. I look forward to receiving letters from local residents with questions or suggestions about any subject at all... what does our community need, or not need; what things should be changed, or not changed; your favourite recipe; gardening hints; tips for survival North of 60. I'd also like to hear from anyone with suggestions about what you'd like to see in this newsletter, or what you think of this newsletter. It's *your* newsletter rather than mine, so let's hear from you! Many things take place in the Judas Creek area; it would be nice to hear more from North and South McClintock, Army Beach, and other sub-divisions.

If space permits, your letter 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. Nor will I print letters if you omit your name, address, and phone number, in case I need to contact you for clarification of the letter's content. Marsh Lake News is free to everyone, and my time spent creating the newsletter is also free of charge. If you do not want to receive a copy, contact me at 660-4005 to cancel delivery. If you have a Whitehorse or Carcross Cutoff box number and would like to receive a copy by mail please contact me at the above number.

Editor-In-Chief Rob Alexander

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If things go wrong,

Don't go with them.

Marsh Lake Community Society

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



MARSH LAKE COMMUNITY SOCIETY – A Busy Place

The Marsh Lake Community Society is as busy as ever, finishing up some on-going projects and starting some great new ones. Thank you, Rob, for inviting us to put forward a few words for the community newsletter. This time around we'll just bring everyone up to date on what's been happening with the Community Society in the recent past.

The Marsh Lake Community Society held its AGM on May 7th this spring. The annual budget (of over \$70,000) was approved and a new board of directors was elected:

Judas Creek - Judy Corley, Drew Whittaker (vice president) Tiffanie Tasane, (co-secretary)

New Constabulary - Donna Larsen (president), Jan Milner (co-secretary)

Old Constabulary - Ray Magnuson, Perry Savoie

McClintock Valley - Lucy Skuba

Army Beach - Lisa Snyder (treasurer), Sam Cowley

We would like to say a great big thank you to Sophie Elasoff for her enthusiastic contribution as vice president for the past year, and a fond good-bye to Jan Milner who is relocating to Whitehorse. We will have one board seat open after Jan leaves us, so if you are interested in sitting on the board, please attend the next meeting on September 24.

MULTI-USE COMMUNITY BUILDING

A public meeting was held earlier this year to present the results of the recreation survey that was delivered to all Marsh Lake residents. It is clear from the survey responses that there is strong support for a **multi-use community building**. A committee has been struck and a site assessment of the land near the ice rink will be completed this month by Ferguson Simak Clark (an engineering and architectural firm in Whitehorse). Please keep your eyes and ears open for future public meetings to discuss the next steps and design ideas. Come on out and let us know what you think at our next meeting –September 24. And if you would like to take a more active role, the committee would certainly be pleased to have a few new members.

NIFTY SHACK & AWESOME PLAYGROUND

There is a nifty **cook shack** at the old playground at Judas Creek. The MLCS is looking into moving it closer to the skating rink so that we can make good use of it and everyone can enjoy it. If you have any ideas about moving it down or want to help out contact Donna Larsen at 660-4600. And while we're on the topic of **playgrounds**, have you been by to check out the awesome park we have in New Constabulary? (Many thanks to Lucy Skuba and the playground committee) What a great place to take the kids or just enjoy a quiet moment gazing out at the lake. There are some new bear-proof garbage cans there (and at the skating rink) for litter. Please use them. A box of bags is stored in the back of each can. If you're using the playground and you notice that the garbage looks full, please take the bag to the dump. It will certainly keep the animals from hanging out and will keep the park looking clean.

MARSH LAKE WEBSITE

Did you know that Marsh Lake has a **website**? (thanks Mike Larsen) Please check it out for the minutes of our meetings, fun photos of past events and information about upcoming festivities.

www.marshlakeyukon.net

Editor-in-Chief's note: see page 15

SKATING RINK

If anyone has been by the **skating rink** lately you may have noticed that all the puck board has been removed. There have been some problems with the board this winter and we hope to remedy the situation. However, the board won't be going back on until the **rink is paved** this fall!

Skookum Contracting has agreed to pave it for a reasonable rate so next summer we can use it for many additional recreational activities such as rollerblading, tennis or basketball.

BOAT COURSE

Perry Savoie coordinated a **Boat Operators** course this spring and the MLCS plans to hold another one in the fall of this year. As we will all soon need to have a license to operate watercraft, this is a good opportunity (at a very reasonable rate!) to get the required accreditation. Keep your eyes open for posters or come on out to one of the MLCS meetings to find out when the next course will be held. Thank you, Perry!

Marsh Lake Community Society

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



CANADA DAY

July 1st brought some sweltering weather and a great Canada Day at the skating rink. A super parade started things off, an excellent barbecue (thanks to the Marsh Lake Fire Department Volunteers) followed with some cool prizes and a wonderful excuse to socialize with friends and neighbours. If the weather's the same next year we will definitely have some water games for the kids and the young at heart. Thanks to everyone who helped out.



This wonderful Canada Day cake created by NormaLee Craig was subsequently ruined by people who ate it! How could they do that to such a thing of beauty? Editor-in-Chief

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The much-anticipated MLCS **Christmas party** will be held on December 6, 2003. LeaAnne Dorval will be catering again this year so the food will definitely be the highlight. I've even heard rumours that arctic char will be on the menu. Hope to see you out with your dancing shoes on. Don't forget to bring your cheque book as the silent auction always has great goodies and skookum gift ideas. (Tickets will be on sale at Tom's store again this year).

SUPER DUPER MARSH LAKE YARD SALE

The Marsh Lake Second Annual Super Duper **Yard Sale** was held on an overcast Saturday September 20. The event was relocated to the Fire Hall due to the wonderful weather and that the ice rink had already been packed for paving. Many many thanks to the numerous families who donated everything from car shocks to precious toys. And to all the volunteers who helped out, thanks to the Scottish Bakery for the great food, and of course to the shoppers! About 30-40 shoppers found at least a few bargains to take home. Overall, most of the donated items were sold, and the left overs went to the Salvation Army. Start saving your "stuff" for future sales!"

CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING IN THE COMMUNITY?

Itching to hear more about upcoming events? Got a few hours to volunteer? Come on out to the next meeting of the Marsh Lake Community Society. Meetings are the last Wednesday of every second month at 7 o'clock p.m. The next meeting is September 24th at the firehall. And sometimes Bobbie Magnuson brings some of the best baking that I have ever tasted... yummy! Can't wait to see you there.

Marsh Lake Local Advisory Council



LAC Review

The Marsh Lake Advisory Council is three years old this October. For those of us involved in its organization, it is hard to believe three years have passed. Of course, for those volunteers who have attended 36 months of meetings, I am sure the three years seemed a bit longer!

The LAC was established to guarantee that the residents of Marsh Lake had input into the decisions being made on behalf of the community by the Yukon Government. The primary issues revolved around land use planning and the impetus of ad hoc development and land use permitting. But the input of the Council extends beyond that, and it has gained the recognition of Marsh Lake as a genuine Yukon community.

With the founding of the LAC, Marsh Lake:

- ◆ Is included in community consultations
- ◆ Can be included in Land Claims consultations
- ◆ Is entitled to funding by Lotteries Yukon for recreation activities
- ◆ Will be counted as a special designation in the next Federal Census
- ◆ Is included in all land related decisions, such as lot extensions, forestry permits, agricultural leases, etc.
- ◆ Is a member of the Yukon Association of Communities
- ◆ Now has a forum for discussion of the activities impacting the residents

Committees: Over the past three years the Council has dealt with many issues and created a few sub-committees. These include:

- ◆ Recognition of the Marsh Lake Community Society as the organization responsible for recreation in the community. The Society operates separately from the Council, but reports to the Council on on-going activities.
- ◆ The Marsh Lake Dump committee. Under this committee, a Marsh Lake Dump Society may be created to manage the upgrading needs at the dump, such as waste stream management, recycling, and limiting the hours of operation to prevent unauthorized burning.
- ◆ Land Use Planning Committee – this group has lobbied YTG and First Nations to initiate a formal and comprehensive community level Land Use Plan. This process has been delayed, however, it is important to continue to reiterate to YTG the importance of this Plan.

Issues: The LAC is also available to discuss other issues you may have. If you have an issue you would like to add to an upcoming LAC meeting agenda – you need to contact the representative for your ward. Contact information is:

Ward One: Judas Creek culvert up to and including Judas Creek sub-division.
Helen Smith 660-4402

Ward Two: New Constabulary.
Mike Larsen 660-4600

Ward Three: Old Constabulary and Grayling Place
Malcolm Taggart 660-5347

Ward Four: Army Beach and South McClintock

Pam Blackburn 660-5959

Ward Five: North McClintock to the Yukon River Bridge and McClintock Valley Rd.

Pat Shaw 660-5272

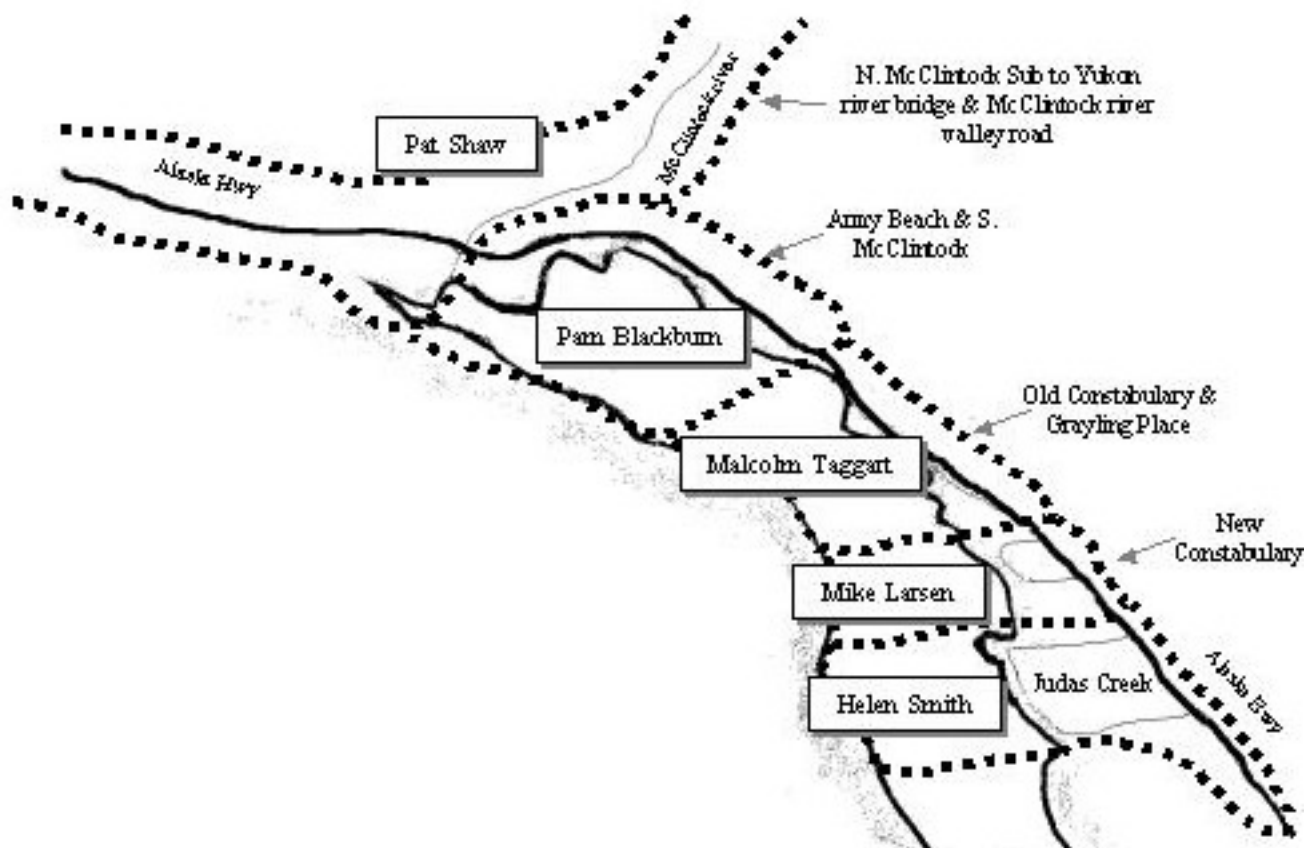
Many thanks to the Council members and to Patrick Rouble and Andy Townsend, who were both past members of the Council.

Upcoming Elections: All Council position terms are up this October 16. If you are interested in running for a seat you need to contact Marg Dunn, the returning officer, as soon as possible. She will have the forms you need, and you will need 10 signatures from residents of your Ward to qualify. This must be submitted back to Marg Dunn by September 25. Marg can be reached at 660-4300.

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



Area Map - Marsh Lake Representatives





Chief's Corner

The year 2002 proved to be a milestone in the history of Marsh Lake Fire Rescue. Statistically speaking it was one of the busiest years we have had since the inception of the department in 1989.

The department has met this increased challenge through training and new volunteers which has made a team approach, capable of meeting the increased demand that is being placed upon it.

While our responses to fire emergencies have decreased, our medical responses have increased and I expect this trend to continue in the future.

Devolution took place last April and we are still in the stage of everyone figuring out who is who, and who is responsible for what.

I expect that this transition will have all the wrinkles ironed out by next year as we can expect more demands in the suppression of wild fires to be placed upon us.

With the wild fire season all but behind us for another year we have been extremely lucky to not have had any wild fires in our area. This no doubt is due to everyone being very careful when they burn, and I would like to thank you for that.

Everyone is reminded that burning permits are required from April 1st to 30 September 30th.

Last winter was a mild one, and we will have to see if we can be as fortunate this year. Everyone is reminded to check their chimneys on a regular basis as the wood fire burning season is upon us.

It is also a good idea to replace those batteries in your smoke alarms, and ensure they are working properly.

The fire hall continues to be used on a regular basis for meeting and user groups



Dennis Levy - Marsh Lake Fire Chief and current President of the Yukon Association of Fire Chiefs

are reminded that they should send a written request to the department for its use. Requests should be made well in advance of the meeting dates to ensure availability.

The cost of the training room is \$25.00 per day.

There was a number of social functions held last year and the early part of this year, such as the Hawaiian night, and this will be done again.

I would like to thank everyone who supported our fund raiser for the AED. The response to our request exceeded our expectations and it has allowed us to

purchase some additional radios and other equipment to assist in fire suppression.

The department would like to thank everyone for their continued support that has been given to us over the past year.

Dennis W. LEVY – Chief – Marsh Lake Fire Rescue.

If you'd like to do something for your community

then think about joining our Marsh Lake Fire Rescue team. There's always a need for volunteers to help in a variety of different ways. No experience is necessary. We will train. You do not have to risk your life, or even fight fires if you don't want to. There are many things you can do to help: data entry, communications, cleaning in and around the firehall, directing highway traffic, fund raising. We can find a suitable niche for just about anybody. We would also welcome young people who may like to help clean fire trucks. If you are interested, phone any of the following people:

Dennis Levy at 660-4200

Jurgen Willms at 660-4121

or send email to:

Firehall@marshlake.polarcom.com

Deputy Chief's Corner (a much smaller one than the Chief's Corner. In fact it's so small there's no room left for him to say anything. Sorry about that Jurgen)

Marsh Lake Fire Rescue

Emergency Number 911

Non-Emergency Number 660-4024



Dispatch News

Ever wonder what you would do if you came across an accident on the highway or had a medical emergency at home? Here are a few tips to help plan for those stressful times.

Your first action should always be to contact 911. When you call 911, the operator will ask you if you need Police, Ambulance or Fire. Identify that you are calling from Marsh Lake and need Marsh Lake Fire Rescue and briefly what the situation is. It is likely they will connect you to our Dispatch (although some times they will route the call to Whitehorse Ambulance). In either case, you will hear the phone ring again – stay on the line. When we pick-up we will ask you the following questions:

- ◆ What is the location of the emergency?
- ◆ What is the emergency?
- ◆ What is the phone number you are calling from (in case we need to recontact you)
- ◆ Is anyone injured? Are they breathing and conscious? Are they bleeding?
- ◆ At this point, we will start to send responders out to you. Please stay on the line during this time. If you are on the scene, the dispatcher can talk you through basic First Aid.

If you come across a car accident – no matter how serious, you still need to contact 911. Marsh Lake Fire Rescue will respond to all traffic accidents on or off the highway. Do not pick up an accident victim and transport them yourself to Whitehorse. You may not be aware of injuries that might have been incurred and if that person requires care along the way it will greatly delay the delivery of emergency services. A person with head or internal injuries may appear to be OK immediately after the accident, but can quickly lapse into unconsciousness, or other serious medical situations where emergency First Aid, oxygen, etc could potentially save their life. In addition, at a traffic accident there are many other issues to consider in addition to the medical needs of the victims, such as road hazards, traffic issues, environmental impacts, power lines, fire risks, etc. If you are travelling alone, first, stop your car in a SAFE area. Do not create more risks by leaving your car on the road. Make sure your emergency lights are on. If you have a cell phone – dial 911 and ask for Marsh Lake Fire Rescue. If you don't have a phone, flag down another car and have them go to the closest house and call 911. If no other cars are travelling in the area, you should leave the scene, phone 911 and then return to the scene. The more information you can provide about the location of the accident, the better. Things to remember:

- ◆ If power lines are down – DO NOT approach the vehicle
- ◆ Do not move the victims unless they are in a high-risk situation such as a fire.
- ◆ If you know First Aid, and the victim is in need, apply the best care you are comfortable with. Help will only be a few minutes away. Don't rush. Use care and don't do anything you are not trained to do.
- ◆ Stay on the scene until help arrives. If you witnessed the accident or were the first person on the scene, stay until the RCMP arrives and give them a witness statement.

If you have a medical emergency at home, call 911 and identify yourself as being in Marsh Lake. Again, they will either transfer your call directly to us, or to Whitehorse Ambulance. In either case you will be asked the same questions. Trained dispatchers are on the line to help you. When you are in an emergency situation it is difficult to think clearly and remember all the things you can do. We can help you. We can walk

you through basic first aid, CPR, even childbirth. Don't wait to call us... time is the biggest enemy. We are trained to help you and every minute counts. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, no matter how big or small you think the emergency is, we are here and will respond to help you.

(Watch for the next newsletter and what to do in case of a fire)

Emergency Services Survey

During this Fall, Marsh Lake Fire Rescue will be phoning Marsh Lake residents to complete a short survey. Your participation is voluntary, but the intent is to provide better and faster emergency care to you when needed. The survey will cover a few areas:

- ◆ Information to help us locate you – this includes lot numbers, road names and landmarks.
- ◆ Medical information – anything you would like us to know about your medical history (confidential of course) that may help us should an emergency arise
- ◆ Property information – such as location of oil/propane tanks or other fire related hazards we need to know to help protect your property (and the fire fighters) in event of a fire
- ◆ Residents – including pets, so we can account for everyone being safe
- ◆ Contact information – to help us locate you or family if you are not home and an emergency occurs.

Your participation is voluntary, but greatly appreciated. It could help save your or a neighbour's life. If you do not have a phone, but wish to be included in our survey, please leave a message toll free at 1-866-YukonML, and we can mail you a survey to complete.

Medics Corner

by Irv Harper

Emergency Number 911

Non-Emergency Number 660-4024



As supervisor of Marsh Lake Ambulance and on behalf of all the members of Marsh Lake Fire Rescue, I wish to deeply thank the members of our community who worked very hard on the fund raising so that we were able to purchase an Automated External Defibrillator this spring. Of course, a special thanks goes out to the people who gave so generously.

As many of you know, sudden cardiac arrest ("heart attack") continues to be the leading cause of death in Canada. CPR by itself is no longer the state of the art for treating cardiac arrest, but combined with the advanced computerized treatment of an AED and rapid transport to Whitehorse Hospital, the chance of survival in Marsh Lake is now greatly enhanced.

Last winter we realized that an AED was essentially needed in Marsh Lake. Summer is now over and, for many, it is the season for getting in the fire wood. Too soon it will be snow shoveling time. Both of these activities can cause huge stress to the heart muscle.

The signs and symptoms of a "heart attack" varies with individuals but persistent mid chest pain, especially in the left side and spreading to the left shoulder arm neck or jaw is often the first thing to be noticed. Difficulty breathing may comes next, with a fast, slow, or irregular pulse. The skin is likely moist cool and pale. Often the person has nausea and vomiting. Women may not experience the same signs and symptoms. There is often more back, jaw, abdominal and neck pain without the mid chest pain. There may be more nausea with less sweating. Shortness of breath and congestion is more typical. A "heart attack" may not be related to exercise, and the pain may be on an irregular basis.

The most significant thing I wish to stress here is that if you think that you, or another person, MAY be having a "heart attack", CALL US at 911. Do not hesitate or wait. Rapid treatment is absolutely essential in the chain of survival.

All of our MLFR members had training this spring in the use of the AED and all are current in their CPR skills. We will continue to train and practice on a regular basis. But, you must call us if we are to help you. Again, THANK YOU to the Marsh Lake community for our AED.

The spring and summer season was extremely busy for the Ambulance section of Marsh Lake Fire Rescue. The vast majority of our calls were trauma centred, with many MVA's (Motor Vehicle Accidents). The injuries varied from relatively minor to very serious. Again it was obvious that people wearing seat belts sustained much less serious injuries than would have occurred without such protection. Continued on page 12

NOT A LOT TO ASK... OF MARSH LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS

On one of our recent medical emergency calls we were given a Lot number by Yukon Ambulance Service and because two of us were already in the immediate area we drove straight to the scene in a private vehicle while another responder went to fetch the ambulance from the firehall. We arrived in the correct vicinity within two or three minutes but drove past the location because there was no Lot number displayed and no person there to guide us, and we wasted time driving around looking for the correct Lot. A few minutes passed before the owner appeared. Fortunately, this particular call was not life-threatening, but what might have resulted if the call had been for a heart attack or some other life-threatening condition? Or what if the patient was alone and unable to guide us to their location?

It's not a lot to ask Marsh Lakers to display their Lot number. A name displayed on a sign is sometimes useful, but because of emergency protocol people's names are not normally mentioned over a radio, so a Lot number is a safer bet. If for some reason you do not wish to display your Lot number, then please try to have a person in an appropriate place to guide us to your location (and remember, we may show up in a private vehicle) or when you dial 911 try to give useful and very definite details about where you are located.

Please cooperate for your safety, and our peace of mind.

Rob Alexander

Marsh Lake Fire Rescue Society



Join the Society

The various annual functions and events that take place in and around Marsh Lake cost money. Funding for most of events comes from the Marsh Lake Community Society and from the Marsh Lake Fire Rescue Society. It costs only *one dollar per person* (per year) to become a member of the Fire Rescue Society, which isn't much but it goes into the pot and helps towards our various functions. If you would prefer to donate more... great! Membership in the Community Society is free.

By joining the Marsh Lake Fire Society you are helping to support a trained fire rescue team, a trained first response medical team, and a firehall complete with modern equipment. Because we live so far from Whitehorse, it should be reassuring to everyone to know we have these facilities right here in our community. In addition, the presence of Marsh Lake Fire Rescue means your home insurance rates can be lower. However, these lower rates depend on how far your home is located from the firehall and on rates from different insurance brokers.

Membership in the Marsh Lake Fire Rescue Society carries no obligations. You do not have to become an active firefighter or join the medical response team; you are not required to attend meetings or join committees if you have no wish to do so, though it would be in your best interests to attend meetings as often as possible to find out what is happening in and around your community. If you are 18 or over membership entitles you to vote for or against various fire safety issues. We hold a minimum of four meetings each year.

Marsh Lake Fire Rescue Society - Fire Smart Program 2002/2003

36.8187 Acres/14.9 ha = \$90,000.00

Project Yukon, Community Services Funding

Fire Smart Committee; Dennis Levy, Fire Chief 660-4200, Lisa Snyder, Society President 660-4066, Sue Greetham, Society Secretary 660-4629, Carol & Rob Alexander, Directors - Site Review & Monitoring 660-4005, Mike Larsen, Director - Site Review & Monitoring 660-4610, Jurgen Willms, DFC - Site Review & Monitoring 660-4121

The mandate of this committee was to manage, monitor, and implement the procedures outlined within the 'Four Year Fire Abatement Strategy for the Marsh Lake Area'. The Fire Abatement Committee's main function is to act as a liaison between the community and government agencies, chair public meetings, solicit funds, and hire and monitor the contractor.

The abatement area in Phase 1 through the Fall of 2002 included 6.79 ha in the South McClintock and Army Beach high risk areas. Work completed in Phase 2 through the winter of 2003 included 8.11 ha within the South McClintock and Judas Creek Drive area.

The objectives of the Marsh Lake Four-year Fire-Abatement plan:

- i. to reduce the risk of wildfire through the *abatement of existing fuel cover* within the high-risk category areas consisting of dominant white and black spruce with lodge pole pine (C-3). There is significant ladder fuel and downed woody debris throughout the Marsh Lake area. Little under-story is present. The canopy does have separation but the access roads are narrow in places and have no egress or adequate turn around.
- ii. to reduce risk and implement hazard reduction techniques including *removal of dead and downed woody fuel, removal of all coniferous regeneration* less than 4 meters tall, prune pine and spruce trees to 2 meters, remove all standing dead trees, remove debris thinning the stand to achieve a minimum 3 meter spacing between crowns, and deck all usable firewood for community use.
- iii. to *dispose of waste* including chipping and burning, as weather conditions allowed in meeting regulatory compliance. Stacked wood has been gradually removed for use by area residents.
- iv. to abate C2 fuels at an estimated cost of \$3,000 to \$6,000 per hectare within the 'extreme and high risk' areas, as described in detail within the multi-year planning document.
- v. 14.9 hectares of planned abatement have been completed under this contract, at an average of \$6,040 per hectare. Considering the time of year that the extension was approved and the considerably more difficult snow cover conditions, the committee feels that the initial objectives have been met very effectively. Work completed in the fall met all pre-estimates and objectives. Continued on page 10

...Fire Smart Program from page 9

- vi. to develop community Fire Smart awareness, cooperation and participation through a one-on-one resident survey. The one-on-one survey was completed within all extreme and High Risk areas and as a result of the support and cooperation of residents, areas for abatement were selected. In addition to phone calls and the completion of a one-on-one survey, public Fire Hall meetings were held before, during and after groundwork was undertaken to keep the community well informed. Fire Smart work notifications were placed in the Whitehorse newspapers, local community notice boards and on the public service bulletins through CBC Radio.
- vii. to *create winter employment opportunity* within the Marsh Lake Community. Twenty hired staff completed over 2,566 hours of waged service.

All of the objectives were met without difficulty, with the exception of some ground work conducted on lands located within the Solitude Drive/Alaska Highway cut area, previously noted as a no cut zone. The resident notified the Fire Smart Survey contractor directly that groundwork was being undertaken within the area. The resident was initially concerned about increased noise from the Alaska Highway and property lines were not clearly evident to the ground crew due to snow cover in February/March. Marsh Lake residents comprised 75% of the contract staff in addition to the experienced, qualified and insured contractor.

The committee feels that the general public was well informed throughout the process. Fire Smart was well received and our community has been to some degree made safer from the risk of wildfire through abatement and education and awareness.

The project proposal was prepared and submitted by the Fire Smart committee on June 13, 2002. Our Fire Smart Committee provided over 200 hours of volunteer support to the project and the ground work was completed between September 19, 2002 and March 31, 2003. The final inclusive report was submitted to Community Services March 31, 2003.

Children's Halloween Party by Sue Greetham

As usual, we are arranging another Halloween Party this year for Marsh Lake children at the firehall in Judas Creek.

Last year's party drew over 46 Trick-Or-Treaters' who anxiously fled their school buses on the eve of Halloween to creep through the inner sanctum of the Marsh Lake Fire Hall den of ghouls, ghosts and goblins. Thanks to Marsh Lake Community Society for their continuing support of this function, and to the outpouring of Volunteer witches, warlocks, broom suppliers who included Carol Alexander, Lloyd Atkinson, Jill & Tom Carmichael, Debbie Champagne, Jean Cook, Norma Craig, Lea-Ann Dorval, Sue Greetham, Pat Healy, Tina & Tom Kramer, Mike Larsen, Dennis Levy, Pat & Don Mackill, Marsha Redman, Bonnie & Hugh Rose (Fairbanks), Jurgen Willms, and Travis and Carla who set up the great decorations. There was also a host of parents there to drag the screaming bodies from the hall, stomachs full, tired but ready to carry on through the deepest and scariest trails of Marsh Lake to fill their pockets with unknown treasures. Memories to last forever.



LETTERS FROM READERS

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, address, 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: alexmarshlake@yt.sympatico.ca

Dear Rob

Thanks for the opportunity to have a first glance at the draft copy of Marsh Lake News. This is a very timely endeavour providing Marsh Lakers with a tool to give updates of ongoing activities, advise of upcoming events, and keep community members in touch. The Marsh Lake News should achieve that goal. Congratulations and Good Luck! Carola Scheu.

Dear Rob,

I saw a copy of your new newsletter. Looks great. I'd like to take this opportunity to say how pleased I (and many other women) are to hear that Marsh Lake Fire Rescue has purchased that AED machine. No more of that old excuse "Lots of men get heart attacks from shovelling snow." They don't need to worry any more. Regards, Norma.

Know what you mean Norma, but an AED is not an absolute guarantee that snow-shovelling husbands will survive a heart attack. It just means the chances of survival are much better if the medical response team can reach the patient in good time. And remember, women can suffer heart attacks too, though men wouldn't of course understand the kind of pain that causes.
Editor-in-Chief

Dear Rob

I enjoyed looking through your new Marsh Lake News. Due to the nature of my work I can't always make it to various local meetings and your newsletter helps me to stay on top of local happenings. Keep up the good work. Kind regards,
Darlene Swiskoski

Dear Rob,

Thank you for the opportunity to preview the new Marsh Lake newsletter. I like the format, and it's great to catch up on all the goings-on in the area. It's nice to see that you are including photographs as well. I'm already looking forward to all the articles in the next issue!

It's useful for all the new residents in this area to get up to speed on what's available and who does what in our small communities. It's nice to see some of our local area businesses supporting the newsletter with their advertisements. Some of the businesses have been around for years, but it's nice to be reminded of who they are and what services they offer.

Good luck with upcoming Marsh Lake newsletters. C.Naylor, New Constab.

Words of Wisdom... sort of

For every action, there is an equal and opposite government program.

A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.

If you must choose between two evils, pick the one you've never tried before.

It is easier to get forgiveness than permission.

A closed mouth gathers no feet.

If you look like your passport picture-you probably need the trip.

Bills travel through the mail at twice the speed of cheques.

A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel so good.

A balanced diet is a (chocolate) cookie in each hand.

Opportunities always look bigger going than coming.

Junk is something you throw away three weeks before you need it.

Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than going to a garage makes you a mechanic.

Someone who thinks logically provides a nice contrast to the real world.

Blessed are they who can laugh at themselves for they shall never cease to be amused.

Before you criticize someone, walk a mile in his shoes. That way, if he gets angry, he'll be a mile away-and barefoot.

Thank you for your complimentary letters. It makes all the work we volunteery-type people do worth the effort. Keep the letters coming folks and remember, your letters can be about any subject at all. They don't have to be full of nice things about the newsletter; you can even say something nasty about the newsletter if you wish. See if I care. Of course, I'll never speak to you again... but that's beside the point. We live in a free society where everyone is entitled to their opinions. Have a nice Fall. The Season that is, not an accidental fall.

Cheers, Rob Alexander, Editor-in-Chief

HOUSEHOLD HINTS

I have not had time to test all of the following hints so I cannot guarantee they will work as described. If they work for you - or don't work - let me know. If you have any other tips or hints of a similar nature send them to me and I'll print them. Editor-in-Chief, Rob Alexander.

If you have gum on any clothing, put the clothing in a bag and place it in the freezer. Take it out the next day and you can easily scrape off the gum.

Place a heel of bread on top of cabbage, broccoli, or brussels sprouts before putting the lid on the pot and cooking. There will be no odours.

An open container of coffee grounds in the fridge removes odours more successfully than baking soda.

Ballpoint pen marks can be removed from clothing. Spray the stain heavily with hair spray and let sit overnight. In the morning, rub gently with soap and warm water and the stain will come out easily.

If that bow you want to use on a gift is crushed, fluff it by holding it over a steaming pot of water.

When zippers stick, try rubbing a bar of soap over them. They will work like new.

When putting windshield washer in your vehicle, add two capfuls of liquid ammonia with the washer fluid, You will be surprised how shiny and clean your windows will be.

If too much salt is used in cooking, add one tsp. vinegar and one tsp. sugar. Cook again.

Add several drops of vinegar to icing while beating and it will be soft and seldom grainy.

You've opened a large bottle of wine, but haven't consumed it all. How do you keep it from souring? The Wine Institute of San Francisco recommends pouring what's left over into a smaller bottle, sealing it tightly and storing it in the fridge. You can keep it this way for about a week.

A sticky drawer that tried your patience will work much better if you rub the under-surface and top with a bar of soap.

Wipe a little glycerine on windows and bathroom mirrors and buff with a soft cloth to keep them from steaming up.

If potatoes get shrivelled or spongy, put them in a basin of cold water overnight, In the morning they will be in good condition.

...Medic's Corner from page 8

Several of the incidents demanded a call-out of many volunteers, and phone and radio communications from start to finish were handled in a highly professional manner by our Dispatchers.

As always, teamwork was essential and our constant training together paid off well. Each volunteer has his or her own skill or skills, and it was very rewarding to see all work together for the common good. All jobs and responsibilities are important and we have a great team.

On one call there were four patients (two seriously injured) who did not speak English; tourists from Europe. The fact that we had two members who were completely bilingual and able to communicate with the patients was absolutely essential and valuable to enable us to evaluate and treat the victims.

The two Whitehorse Ambulance paramedics who gave treatment for the patients enroute to Whitehorse General greatly appreciated one of our volunteers who travelled with the them as a translator.

As supervisor of the medical portion of MLFR, I want to give a sincere "Thank You" to all the volunteers for the energy, effort, and time they continue to put into training and on emergency calls.
Irv Harper.

Comment by the Editor-in-Chief:

The four tourists in the above incident were positively impressed by the treatment they received from various Yukoners. In addition to our two Marsh Lake interpreters, one of the paramedics in the hospital was also bilingual, and the doctor who checked the patients spoke with them in their own language.

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: alexmarshlake@yt.sympatico.ca

2003 - 2004 SCHOOL CALENDAR

SCHOOLS

All Whitehorse Elementary Schools
Golden Horn Elementary
Ecole Emile Tremblay Elementary
F.H.C., P.C.S.S., V.C.S.S
Ecole Emile Tremblay Secondary

OPENING DATE

Tues. Aug. 26, 2003 .5 day
Wed. Aug. 27, 2003 .5 day
Tues. Aug. 26, 2003 .5 day
Tues. Sept. 2, 2003 full day
Tues. Sept. 2, 2003 full day

CLOSING DATE

Fri. June 11, 2004 .5 day
Wed. June 9, 2004 .5 day
Fri. June 11, 2004 .5 day
Fri. June 18, 2004 full day
Thurs. June 17, 2004 full day

CHRISTMAS & SPRING BREAKS

Christmas Break - All Yukon Schools
Spring Break - All Yukon Schools

Mon. Dec. 22, 2003 - Fri. Jan. 2, 2004
Mon. March 1, 2003 - Fri. March 5, 2004

SCHOOL CLOSED DAYS

All Whitehorse Schools & Golden Horn
All Yukon Schools
All Whitehorse Schools

Friday October 10, 2003
Monday November 10, 2003
Friday, January 30, 2004

HOLIDAYS

Discovery Day
Labour Day
Thanksgiving Day
Remembrance Day
Christmas Day
Boxing Day
New Year's Day
Heritage Day
Good Friday
Easter Monday
Victoria Day

Mon. Aug. 18, 2003
Mon. Sept. 1, 2003
Mon. Oct. 13, 2003
Tues. Nov. 11, 2003
Thurs. Dec. 25, 2003
Fri. Dec. 26, 2003
Thurs. Jan. 1, 2004
Fri. Feb. 27, 2004
Fri. April 9, 2004
Mon. April 12, 2004
Mon. May 24, 2004

“LET’S CONNECT”

PRODUCTS & SERVICES RISE UP FROM YUKON’S SOUTHERN LAKES

The proposed Southern Lakes Marketing Cooperative (SLMC) is an exciting new initiative spearheaded by regional entrepreneurs to incorporate the existing tourism service and product offerings under the auspice of one brand. This unique initiative includes *Marsh Lake, Teslin, Atlin, Tagish, Carcross, and Mount Lorne*.

In May 2003, 35 product service providers helped develop the base of our direction and we now number over 90 potential partners. Access, visibility, product development and growth is our goal.

Holiday tour packages will be developed including transportation, accommodation, food services, attractions, tours and rentals within the Southern Lakes Region to best accommodate the clientele. These holiday packages will vary in length of stay and value and will be sold by travel and tourism brokers in many cases months in advance to better prepare our operators for the upcoming season. Tour packages will be designed to meet the expectations of a broad range of traveller.

Knowing the Southern Lakes products and services in detail will better qualify our local booking agent in matching product level with client expectation.

We have a central booking agent and preliminary web site for receiving inquiries on what’s available within our region.

Since May, a 1 800 Booking line has been established and we have started to receive calls, 2000 Southern Lakes Resort Rack Cards have been distributed to the Visitor reception Centers, regional information has been pre-recorded and broadcast on CFET Radio 106.7, a Southern Lakes connection has been listed in the 2004 Vacation Guide, we have been included in the Tourism Industry Association (TIA) upcoming newsletter, many meetings have been held with tourism industry representatives and professionals regarding the Southern Lakes cooperative product.

Our September/October meetings will include information on; the gathering of product and service details from independent operators, targeting operators ready for tour packaging, cataloguing regional annual events, operator Insurance options and challenges, memberships and professional association options, government and commercial publication options, a review of sector training opportunities, wage grants and subsidies, cooperatives Legislation, and Governance and Funding support resources.

All Southern Lakes business operators are included and encouraged to attend.

October 1, Atlin, Kershaw’s Restaurant, 7PM

October 21, Teslin, 7PM

October 28, Carcross, 7PM

Marketing Cooperative – A Southern Lakes Business Initiative

RSVP (867) 660-4629

Comment from the Editor-in-Chief:

According to Sue Greetham, out of ninety Southern Lakes region partners of the above cooperative, twenty-one of them are Marsh Lake businesses.

Don't Get on Thin Ice

Safe Ice Thickness

4 inches for people on foot



5 inches for snowmobiles



10-12 inches for small to average-sized vehicles



12-16 inches for pickups and vans



- No ice is completely safe
- Watch out for thin, white or cloudy ice
- Don't venture onto the ice alone

NDSU Ag Communication

Here's a list of local Marsh Lake Web sites for those who enjoy surfing around:

www.marshlakeyukon.net/
www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Senate/6503/
www.tagishtel.ca/radio.htm
www.yukoner.com/

Are there any others in this area? Let us know and we'll add them to the list.

Local Businesses

Your help in supporting Marsh Lake News is greatly appreciated, and there's room for more ads!

For details contact:

Rob Alexander at 867-660-4005
alexmarshlake@yt.sympatico.ca

Marsh Lake Community Chapel

Sunday Service 11 a.m.
Meditation - Wed. 8 p.m.

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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.

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Local business advertising helps to support the cost
of this newsletter and your use of their services
helps to support local business