



The Christmas Lake Home Owner's Association Newsletter

Summer 2002

by Harley Feldman

From the President

The annual meeting was well attended and we covered five main topics: water quality, the new picture book, water patrol items, treasurer's report and our social activities. We are truly lucky to have a good group of residents with whom to share this lake and its responsibilities.

This spring I have talked to lake organizers at Lotus, Lizzy, Silvia, Minnewashta Lakes and Carsons Bay. They all want to know what we are doing and how we became so organized. At this point we seem to be leading the way with water quality, concern over noise and safety issues and our numerous official social events. Lets stay involved and keep it that way!

We were successful in getting some gravel hauled in by the DNR at the landing. There will always be quite a drop off at the end of the cement so be careful when backing up as I have learned....This year I had quite a spring dropping a boat off a trailer, running over the ski rope, and running out of gas. We will slow it down a bit and enjoy the summer, I hope you will too!!

Steve Midthun

Annual Meeting

The Christmas Lake Homeowners Association Annual Meeting was held on

May 7 at the Excelsior Elementary School. About 40 residents attended.

A presentation on water safety was given by Officer Steve Hardig, Hennepin County Water Patrol. He stressed the safety concerns associated with boating, checking life jackets, fire extinguishers, an approved life saver in each boat, either a large ring or floating cushion. This year there will be three additional officers on water patrol. If one of the residents notices a violation of the law or a disturbance on the lake, 911 can be called to get to the water patrol.

Maureen Bruce talked about the Christmas Lake book being compiled. The production run should be done in early November so that the book can be available for Christmas. Maureen would like pictures of the lake taken from lake residents to augment those being taken by a professional photographer. The cost will be \$159 if ordered by June 15, \$239 afterward.

Steve Mikomas from Blue Water Science gave an update on Christmas Lake. On the state's lake rating system, Christmas Lake continues to receive all "A"s. The lake ranks in the top 97% of low nutrient content. Some aspects of the lake are improving including oxygen concentration which is higher than in the 1960s, and the level of algae in declining accordingly. Not using fertilizers containing phosphorus will keep algae nutrient low. Also, the water clarity is holding and is slightly better than 15 years ago.

A little known fact is that Christmas Lake takes its name from Charles Christmas, the first Hennepin County surveyor.

As research progresses on Eurasian milfoil, nitrogen is being indicated as the nutrient which enhances its growth. Where nitrogen is found in lake sediments, milfoil grows well; where the nitrogen levels drop, the growth slows or stops. The main sources of nitrogen are 1) bio-mass (natural decay), 2) deposits from the atmosphere, and 3) lawn fertilizer. The use of zero or low nitrogen fertilizer is likely to help prevent milfoil growth. More study is progressing in this area.

Since milfoil grows to within a foot of the surface and then spreads out into a canopy, removing the canopy can retard the growth of the plant. Spraying the lake has a negative effect – it kills plants that compete with milfoil. All residents should understand that spraying the lake is counter-productive to the health of the lake. Lily pads are very effective at keeping the sunlight away from milfoil and retarding its growth.

4th Annual Bill Newhouse Walk/Run

The run/walk was held on Memorial Day, May 27. Everyone had a great time enjoying the outdoors, getting some exercise and spending time with Christmas Lake neighbors. Here are the results of the races:

Male 1st Place: David Beddor (23:47)
Male 2nd Place: Eric Newhouse (25:20)
Male 3rd Place: Brett Szalpski (30:15)
Female 1st Place: Megan Sheeley (30:06)
Female 2nd Place: Elli Meusi (30:16)
Biker 1st Place: Mick Johnson (20:31)
Biker 2nd Place: Anna Meusi (25:20)
Best Dressed: Jean Midthun (47:02)

The proceeds will be sent to a deserving charity by the Newhouse family.

Annual Dues

It was decided that due to having over \$20,000 in the Association treasury and very little in the way of forecasted expenditures that there will be no dues for the Association members this year.

Cross Country Skiing

by Steve Midthun

Ten Reasons to cross country ski on Christmas Lake:

- 1) Great exercise
- 2) Can go at your own pace
- 3) Breaks up winter boredom
- 4) It can be fun
- 5) The association owns the groomer
- 6) Even more fun in the dark
- 7) You look good doing it
- 8) Its right out your door
- 9) Dogs are welcome
- 10) You don't need a lift ticket !

July 4th Activities

Last year's theme for the parade and dock contest was "Academy Award Winning Movies". There were many outstanding entries. Attached is the poem summarizing the entrants, the results and pictures. The 2002 theme is "Animated Children's Movies". It should be another great event. To whet your appetite for ideas, pictures from some of last year's entries can be seen below.

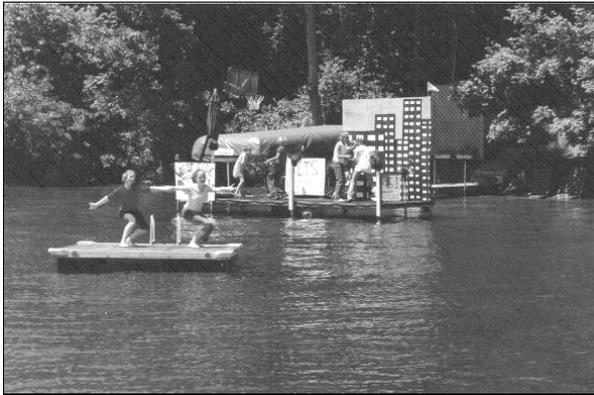
The after parade party will be hosted by the Szalpskis. We thank them in advance.



**Eagle Boat Award
“Mary Poppins”
Harrisons and Obergs**



**“Forest Gump”
Newhouses**



**Eager Beaver Dock Award
“West Side Story”
Albrechts**



**“One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest”
Cunninghams**



**Shark Award
“The Full Monty”
Meyers**



**“Rocky”
Midthuns**