

Newsletter of the 108 Ranch Community Association

Articles, news, invitations, humour, all from your
neighbours on the 108.



108 Winter Wonderland

WINTER 2004

Davis Road: 2 pm, February 4, 2004
Photo by Maddi Newman

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Two major North American magazines have picked The Hills Health Ranch at the 108 as among the top destination guest spots in North America. *Outside Magazine* rates The Hills among the top 10 destination resorts and *Cowboys and*

Indians Magazine rates The Hills among the top 12 destinations. Both magazines rated The Hills as the only resort outside the United States to receive such top billing.

Cowboys and Indians Magazine described The Hills this way, "As much a chic health spa as a spectacular guest ranch, The Hills will appeal to those who want not only a western vacation but also a richly pampered one. Here, fitness classes are as important as horseback rides, and the ol' watering hole is a hydrotherapy pool!"

The 108'er congratulates Pat and Juanita Corbett for their long years of effort to achieve such recognition among their peers.



The good news is we have snow! I took a measuring stick out on the lake today and the snow is approximately 30cm deep (one foot). According to the 100 Mile Nordics website, there is 53 cm of 'settled' snow on the 108 ski trails. It couldn't be more welcome. Will it bring the lakes back to normal levels? Will it mean the drought is over? I guess we'll have to wait and see.

Fortunately we will be able to measure the changes in lake levels this year. Just prior to freeze up Land and Water BC, the crown corporation that was formerly part of the Ministry of Environment, installed a measuring device in a sheltered area near West Beach. A metre high length of steel, marked in centimeters and tenths of a metre, was installed and survey sightings and photographs were taken to document the site.

Ann Swann was the moving force behind the installation. She did the research, contacted the appropriate government authority, scouted the location, and assisted with the installation. Although Land and Water BC took responsibility for the installation, it's now up to the community to take periodic measurements and to maintain the site.

It will be important to assure that the comparative readings are accurate and reliable. In order to maintain that reliability, we will need to take annual survey sightings to verify that the measuring stick has remained in the same place and at the same height. The sightings taken at installation were taken off of land marks considered to be reasonably permanent in order that

sightings can be replicated each year.

With periodic measurements we will record the depth at ice out, at the end of spring run off, during the summer and again prior to freeze up. We will accumulate information about how the lake levels vary from season to season and from year to year that will be valuable especially in times of drought. You can find out more about what the province of BC is saying about drought at Land and Water BC's web site: www.lwbc.bc.ca

BC Lake Stewardship Society to hold Annual Conference at the 108.

Four years ago, the RCA joined the BC Lake Stewardship Society (BCLSS) and the Cariboo Lakes monitoring program to find out what is going on in our two lakes. The relationship has been good for both organizations and this year the BCLSS annual conference will be held at the 108 Resort.

Mark your calendars for June 12 and 13. The conference is open to all, the fees are affordable and it's a great opportunity to gain knowledge and insight into the wonderful and mysterious world of lake ecology. Conference attendees typically represent a full spectrum of lake interests. You will meet experts who want to share what they know and you'll meet ordinary people who want to learn as much as they can about lakes. Representatives from government, lake stewardship groups, other non profits and businesses come to share their particular interest in lakes. The conference features a wide variety of interesting and inspiring speakers as well as a Sunday morning workshop. It's still in the planning stages so look for more information in the next newsletter.

The BCLSS report on 108 and Sepa Lakes is near completion. Information collected through the volunteer monitoring program will be presented in an eight page report which should be available to the community at the end of March.

108'er, Newsletter of the

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We invite submissions and letters for future publications, however, we reserve the right to edit submissions and letters for accuracy, space and clarity. We request that all submissions and letters be signed by the author and contain an address and telephone number.

Be A Member:

To become a member of the 108 Ranch Community Association, you must be a landowner or renter in the 108 Mile Ranch. Members can submit and vote resolutions in accordance with the RCA Constitution. Absentee landowners/members are permitted one vote per property owned. Members can serve on the Board of Directors of the RCA. Annual memberships cost \$6.00 per household. Please contact Al Blannin at 791-5757 to register your membership. Or complete the form, enclose your membership fee and mail to 108 Ranch Community Association at the above address.

**108 RCA
 Membership Request**

Cost:	One Yr. family	\$6.00
	Five-Yr. family	\$25.00
	Lifetime family	\$50.00

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

War Scenes Not Seen on the News



What's Happening at the CCLF



108 Church update – by Pastor Rick Barker

So there you were, enjoying a cozy evening at home over Christmas, hot chocolate, nice fire, when a knock at the door suddenly jolted you back from your chair.

“Hi, we’re from the church here at the 108, and wanted to wish you a merry Christmas and give you a gift,” said the person at the door.

As you know by now, unless you are one of the few whose homes we haven’t got to yet, the gift was a bible, and we really wanted to give that gift to every home at the 108 before Christmas. We tried, but there are still a few streets that we haven’t hit yet. Our thought is not to shove anything down anyone’s throat. We simply want to share what has meant so much to us.

We are really appreciative of the warm reception that the 108’ers have given the church folks through the door-to-door gift-giving effort, and as a result of several enquiries, we have decided to once again offer a special, free 10-week video-based course called Alpha.

Did you ever wonder what is the point of life? What happens when we die? What relevance does Christianity or Jesus Christ have for our lives today? How do we deal with guilt?

This course consists of a series of videos looking at topics such as “Who is Jesus?” and “Why and how do I pray?” A discussion follows each video answering any questions raised from it.

ALPHA is for everyone – and particularly caters to those wanting to investigate Christianity. It’s also helpful for newcomers to the church, new Christians and those who want to brush up on the basics.

There is no charge for the Alpha course which will be running every Wednesday afternoon, starting February 4 at 12:30 pm at the 108 Church. Please contact the church office at 791-5532 to register and if you need any further information.



108 Mile Ranch Community **BINGO**

Every Friday of the year the doors of the 108 Community Hall are opened at 5:30 PM with Bingo starting at 7:15 PM. There is a Progressive Bingo with an accumulating total until it is won. Then it starts over again.

A concession, operated by the 108 Mile Ranch Community Association, is open with coffee, soft drinks, and nibbllys.

As always volunteers are needed to help run the bingo. If you are interested in helping call Pat Babineau (791-6411) or Gwen Colwell (791-5533).

Regular 108 Happenings

Bingo: Every Friday evening at the Community Hall. Doors open 5:30; Bingo starts 7:15.

RCA Executive: 1st Tuesday each month

RCA Public Meeting: every 2nd month (if possible)

108 RCA Web Site

www.108ranch.com/



Visit the web site for information about our community. It's a great way to introduce others on the web to where you live.

For more information or to add your name to the e-list notification service, e-mail Jeffrey Newman at rca@jnweb.com

**108 RANCH
COMMUNITY
CENTRE**



108 Community Hall Rooms for Rent

Along with a 200-seating main hall, we also have a cozier setting upstairs that can seat up to 85 - just right for those smaller weddings and get-togethers. The web site has panoramic views of the meeting rooms:
<http://www.108ranch.com/communityhall.html>

Rental Information

Main Hall

- 2470 square feet
- Capacity: 200
- Bar/Kitchen facilities
- Washrooms
- Sound system
- Bright and cheerful

Rates Include:

- Janitorial service
- Setup and take down of tables and chairs.
- Bar/Kitchen facilities

Rates:

- Weekend (Fri./Sat./Sun.) \$255/day
- Weekdays (Mon. – Thurs.) \$205/day

Upstairs Hall

- 1200 square feet
- Capacity: 85
- Sink & counter (no kitchen)
- Washrooms
- Suitable for smaller events

Rates include:

- Janitorial service
- Set-up and take-down of tables and chairs

Rates:

- Weekend (Fri./Sat./Sun.) \$100/day
- Weekdays (Mon. – Thurs.) \$75/day

All bookings are subject to a \$50 non-refundable booking deposit and a \$100 damage deposit.

For inquiries and bookings, call Ken at (250) 791-6593

	DIRECTOR	PHONE	PORTFOLIO
108 Ranch Community Association Board of Directors	Barb Bailey	791-6306	Community Hall
	Aldythe Blannin	791-5757	Treasurer, Membership
	Robbin Edwards	791-5683	Greenbelt
	Dan Fleming	791-6544	Lions Club
	Rick Jones	791-6305	Beaches
	Kathie Knutsen	791-6382	
	Jonie MacLeod	791-6379	Chair
	Jeffrey Newman	791-9206	Airport, Web Site
	Margaret Pugh	791-7277	
	Martin Sarich	791-5540	Vice-chair, Fire Commission
	Walt Sherry	791-5786	Secretary
	Joy Silk	791-5790	Green Belt



OUT

– by **Graham Allison,**
President
108 Mile Ranch Lions Club

of the lion's DEN

Our 3rd annual “Walk for Guide Dogs” on October 5th raised \$1,000.00 towards the training of “Assist Dogs” to help visually impaired, hearing impaired, or special needs individuals. 28 people and dogs participated and a big thank you to all.

Again this year The Lions Club worked hard at the **Children’s Christmas Party**, helping with set-up and take-down, not to mention, supplying clowns, Santa, and taking the photos of each child. It was a 108 Lion that picked up the helium that made all those balloons float.



Soon you will again see the **H.M Lion** sitting on the ice waiting for someone to guess when the ice will finally go. The closest guess will win a cool one hundred dollars. When the ice melts a bucket full of rocks falls through the ice, which pulls up the Canadian flag and stops the clock. Last spring it was April 12th. Only \$1.00 a guess. Write your guess on the envelope (available from 108 merchants) and stick your loonie inside and seal it. It’s that simple to support your local Lions Club and you might even win the \$100.00.

Many of the **108 Lions meet on a Wednesday** evening for a competitive game of **shuffleboard**. Its surprising how a smooth surface and 4 red or blue rocks can change one’s personality!

At every **Friday night Bingo**, one or more Lions can be found selling break open tickets in the alcove of the community hall. This is to support the RCA and the bingo committee, who do a great job of maintaining the Hall.

Did you know the **108 Lions have 28 tables that are available to rent** for weddings or whenever you have a big crowd? Two shelters measuring 10 by 20 can also be rented in case of inclement weather during your family gathering. Your local Lions Club also collects used eyeglasses and hearing aids. These are reconditioned and sent to 3rd world countries where they are given to the needy. The 108 Lions also collect pull-tabs off of pop cans. Funds generated will be used to supply a wheelchair to the local Red Cross Loan Cupboard. Please contact

a member if you have some tabs you would like the 108 Lions to recycle.

Another memorial bench was installed overlooking Sepa Lake just before the ground froze.

A fun day is planned for the 108 Lake, based on winter fun. Snowmobile rides, snowman building contests, Skating, Ice fishing, Dog sleds, Food, drinks and a warm up tent are some of the things being planned.

This year our **bartenders** are going to be busy; we already have many functions booked. From weddings and parties to the prize presentation of the Cariboo Open Golf tournament.

If you would like to **give something back to your community** consider joining the largest service organization in the world, just ask any lion’s member how you can help by joining the 108 Mile Ranch Lions Club.

We meet the 1st and 3rd Thursday in the Lions Den, downstairs in the community hall, at 6:30 pm. Supper begins at 7.

We are having fun, and looking forward to our next Flea market and pancake breakfast in May.

Water Water . . . Everywhere?

– by Patricia Spencer

As residents of the 108 Ranch Community, we are extremely fortunate to have a safe and plentiful water supply. The 108 Ranch water comes from a groundwater supply (as opposed to surface water). The drilling of the new well at Sepa Lake in the mid 1990's resolved past problems with supply and quality.

Nevertheless, we can not take the availability of fresh water for granted. Water is a precious and finite resource, and even groundwater supplies have their limits. During last year's drought in BC, where there was a 50% decrease in both precipitation and snowpack levels, many streams and private wells went dry. Residents

at the 108 Ranch used about 40% more water during the summer of 2003 than in previous years. As our community grows, the demand for water will increase. How can we ensure that there will be an adequate supply for the next few years and for future generations? One way is to conserve what we have.

There are many ways to conserve water in our homes. Here are a few suggestions:

Conserving Water in Our Homes

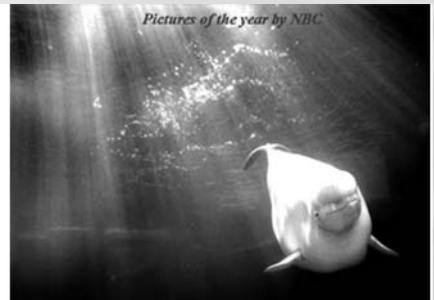
- Take shorter showers or install a low flow showerhead
- Turn the tap on and off when brushing your teeth, washing vegetables etc.
- Check for leaky faucets and leaky toilets; repair the leaks
- Flush the toilet less often
- Install CSA approved low volume toilet
- Install a water saving device in your toilet tank
- When replacing old appliances, choose to buy a water efficient model

Water Facts: Did you know?

- People in Canada and the US are the highest per capita water users in the world!
- About 26% of the world's population lacks safe drinking water
- Fresh water amounts to less than

0.5% of all water on Earth. The rest is seawater or is frozen as polar ice. Of all the fresh water on Earth, 30% is groundwater and less than 0.4% is surface water (in lakes and streams).

TYPICAL WATER USE INSIDE THE HOUSE



Next issue: Conserving water in our yards and gardens

TURNING BACK TIME

my story,
my history:



An Early 108 Christmas – by Joy Silk

This present cold snap has turned my thoughts to past winters on the 108, in particular, the Christmas Eve of my first winter here.

I was the junior clerk in the Block Brothers Office in what is now The Wheelroom. The office was a Real Estate Office, Hotel and Restaurant Management, Ranch Management (at that time the cattle operation at the 105 Ranch was an integral part of our 108), Tourist Information Office and airport weather monitoring for the

incoming pilots. Sometimes the place was a bit of a madhouse!

Employees were expected to do whatever came up, including cooking corn cobs and weiners at a revival meeting in a huge tent on the main beach. We also organized and manned check points on the first

ski marathon put on in conjunction with Ziggy's Ski Shop in Vancouver.

One of our more exciting duties was to pick up hotel guests at the Williams Lake airport in our own cars. We were not paid for any of these duties and after a winter snowstorm trip from Williams Lake with luggage on the roof rack of my Volkswagen station wagon and three passengers I was not licensed to carry, I refused to do that particular chore ever again.

But back to the Christmas Eve. I was told the day before that I was to lead, unaccompanied, a carol

sing in the lobby of the hotel for a bus tour that was here for the holiday. At that time there was a fireplace in the lobby, easy chairs, a big tree, hot wine and holiday snacks, all very cosy and festive. Except I am totally unable to sing! Nothing that emerges is recognizable, even to me. My sister was spending Christmas with me and so she got roped into this effort. This made two of us who could not sing a note.

We arrived at the lobby and made a bee line for the hot wine. After enough wine we started a very shaky "Silent Night," and found our audience had several very nice voices. We let their voices dominate and the evening went well.

Several years later a couple moved into my neighbourhood on the 108 who had been part of that Christmas Eve sing along. They remembered me and told me that they were so impressed with the 108 and their Christmas Eve carol sing that they decided to retire here.

It turned out that the choral efforts were not the fatal disaster I thought they had been.

HOW A DISHWASHER REALLY WORKS



Fire Reduction Program

The 108 Greenbelt Committee is continuing its efforts to reduce the fire hazard on Greenbelt Lands. While many areas were identified in the wildfire assessment done by Richardson's Fire Tech Management the committee is interested in specific areas that residents feel are a concern in their neighbourhood.

The Greenbelt Committee, upon receiving a request, would assess that area with the residents. Upon determining what work needs to be done they would look to assist residents with the cleanup.

Last year approximately \$9,000 was spent on reducing fire hazards on about 10 hectares of greenbelt lands. It is hoped that with community interest and the aid of more volunteers, a much greater area can be covered.

If you know a potential hazard in your area that should be assessed, and are prepared to assist please contact Graham Allison at 791-1977 or Al Richmond at 791-5477.

To The Editor:

One of the great pleasures enjoyed by residents of the 108 is our access to community greenbelt lands and the lands east of the highway. This recreation and personal renewal resource is available to all of us at minimal cost. Block brothers foresight in developing the Ranch this way is most commendable.

However, now the responsibility to maintain these trails is in our and our elected representatives hands.

A necessary outcome of our stewardship of this valuable resource is its ethical and sustainable use. During the spring, summer and fall months, hikers, riders of all kinds, birders, and other users need to be mindful of their impact on the land. There are things we all have to remember: stay on existing trails, particularly in wet season; close gates; avoid harassing livestock; keep dogs under control as chasing livestock and wildlife is

not just bad practice it is illegal.

In winter the established ski trails are available to all for a very nominal use fee. The setting, and maintenance of these trails costs money; that is why the use is not free. Track setting cost at least \$75 per hour. Unfortunately, some people still see this as a free perk of living on the 108. If we want to maintain the grooming at a good standard, the cost must be shared as must the use of the trails. Those who enjoy snowmobiling also have access to the area. But please, if you are a sledder be sensitive to the skiing users. Try to stay off the tracks. If it is necessary to travel on one, stay as far to the side opposite the tracked portion as possible. If we are all sensitive to the environment, and each other, life on the 108 will continue to be wonderful.

– Barrie Bolton



BINGO BINGO BINGO

Bingo money contributes to hall maintenance and upkeep, the operation of the beaches, trail improvement around the lakes, and much more. We owe huge thanks to our bingo volunteers without whose commitment and hard work many things on this ranch wouldn't happen.



Please note: **Volunteers are needed who will commit to one Friday evening a month. Please call Pat Babineau at 791-6411 or Gwen Colwell at 791-5533.**

Official sign near door:
Door Alarmed.

Handprinted sign nearby:
**Window
frightened.**