

# Newsletter of the 108 Ranch Community Association

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

# 108'er



Spring 2003

Photograph by Stanton Newman



by Ann Swann

The Commission has begun a campaign of wildfire prevention on Greenbelt lands. The first area to be cleaned up and "fireproofed" is the section

parallel to Eazee Drive and south of the pump station. Other areas rated as high hazard will follow.

Although the rain in late April appeared to provide a good soaking, the reality is grim, according to Bob McInnes of the Ministry of Forest Cariboo Fire Centre office. A condition known as "carry over drought," which was caused by a dryer-than-normal summer and fall, was followed by a winter of very little snow. Even the snow we did get last winter melted prematurely in many areas. The surface of the soil on the forest floor may be damp, but underneath the conditions have been rated "High Drought Code." Normally, at this time, McInnes said, the soil would be "wringing wet." If we don't have above average precipitation, the fire danger this summer will

## *Wildfire Prevention*

be extreme.

In the face of such a frightening prediction, what can the individual property owner do? Just what is being done on the Greenbelt. Cut down and take out "ladder fuels," trim tree limbs to a height of eight feet, thin trees to a width of 8 feet, and remove from the site. A green lawn, McInnes says, will provide the best protection of buildings. Above all, observe Forestry regulations when burning yard waste.

The Greenbelt Commission is also pursuing other projects this season, following the interests expressed in last June's survey, and at the October workshop. In fact, there is such a heavy workload the Commission has had to defer until next year the proposed wheelchair access to a section of the 'round-the-lakes trails.

Thistle control will continue again this year. The Commission has been encouraged by the success of the first two years of the program – the thistles are actually shorter and fewer.

**Cont. on next page**

### **This Issue:**

Greenbelt Commission

A Cross-Country Ski  
Trip to Remember

108 VFD update

911 Coming Soon

Lake News

Energy

108 Lions Club

What's Happening  
with CCLF



By Ann Swann  
Cont. from front page

Four new outhouses are planned – one each for Sepa and Stewart Beaches and two at the Main Beach.

By the time this paper comes out, the trail easement through the 108 Heritage site should be a done deal. Trail maintenance will focus on this section. A new bridge is being constructed across Succour Creek, with the infrastructure provided by Commission funds, and the decking materials and labour donated by the 108 Lions. And... the bridge will have a roof – it will be “a covered bridge!”

The Commission supported the “Healthy Shorelines” presentation in

April. The meeting provided a wealth of information for those who live near the water, or enjoy it recreationally, as well as information on how to keep your septic tank healthy.

The bud worm infestation is predicted to be light to moderate this year. Refer to an article elsewhere in this publication for further information.

There has been ATV damage in the Walker Valley. The commission is looking into preventing access.

It is a very busy season for the Greenbelt Commission. If you would like to pitch in, remember to take out the thistles near you, and above all, fireproof your property. Should you be in the vicinity of fire-proofing activity, when it begins (early in June) and wish to volunteer, contact Graham Allison at 791-1977.

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Wanted: ALIVE**

The 108 Ranch Community Association has started preparation for our Heritage Festival in the fall. If you have ideas or, even better, some time to help with the planning of this community event please contact Bonnie Winter at [bwinter@bcinternet.net](mailto:bwinter@bcinternet.net) or phone at 791-9240.

**Heritage Day, Fall 2003**



by Nils Hoeg

# TURNING BACK TIME

my story,  
my history:

## A Cross-Country Ski Trip to Remember



Audrey and I moved to the 108 Mile Ranch three years ago. We enjoy cross country skiing, and were sure we would have opportunity to use our skis here. This winter's lack of snow will, hopefully, be an exception. Even then we have managed to get out a few times, skiing on the ponds in Walker Valley. On the way back from one of these excursions, near the end of February, I remembered another cross country skiing expedition 59 years before, almost to the day. It was a much longer trip, lasting 36 hours, and undertaken not for pleasure but out of rather dire necessity. The place was Norway, and the time was February 1944.

I grew up in a small industrial town called Rjukan in a narrow valley in southern Norway, half way between Oslo and Bergen. The name of the town comes from the old Nordic name Rykandir, meaning smoking and referring to the mist created by a 105 meter high waterfall, an excellent source for hydro-electric development. In the early 20th century a dam, a power station, and facilities for the manufacture of nitrogen fertilizer were constructed. Later on



Rjukan as it was in 1940.

an installation for the production of oxygen and hydrogen gas was built next to an existing power station; and therein lies the background for my long cross-country ski trip.

The hydrogen and oxygen gasses were produced by electrolysis, from the available electricity. But there was a problem. Fresh water was continually added to the containers where the electrolysis took place, but the amount of gasses produced decreased with time. Investigation led to the discovery there was water in the containers resistant to electrolysis.

Further research led to the discovery that this "residue" was what is now known as "heavy water." It looks like ordinary water, it tastes like ordinary water, but it is about 10 per cent heavier than ordinary water. The reason for this is that in heavy water the oxygen atom is combined with two atoms of deuterium, a hydrogen isotope with nearly twice the mass of the more common hydrogen atom. In the

1920s and early 1930s this was no more than a nuisance in the manufacturing process. The containers had to be emptied from time to time to get rid of the heavy water, most of which was discarded, but some was used in scientific research.

Then the age of nuclear research dawned, and it was discovered that heavy water could be used to control nuclear reaction. (Heavy water plays an important role in Canadian "Candu" reactors.)

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*Through underground intelligence the allied forces in England were informed that the Germans had stepped up the production of heavy water at Vemork, the industrial facilities about five kilometres west of Rjukan.*

Cont. from page 3

## A Cross-Country Ski to Remember

Einstein, with his  $E=mc^2$  equation, pointed to the source of more energy than anybody could have imagined.

In military circles the immediate question arose, "How can this be used as a weapon?" And the race was on to produce an atomic bomb.

Through underground intelligence the allied forces in England were informed that the Germans had stepped up the production of heavy water at Vemork, the industrial facilities about five kilometres west of Rjukan. The allied high command became increasingly worried that the Germans might succeed in producing an atomic bomb, and it was decided that the heavy water production had to be stopped.

In the fall of 1943 an attempt was made to bomb the plant, unsuccessfully, due to the position of the plant in a narrow valley. The next attempt was to bring in a company of the special forces in two gliders towed across the North Sea by motorized airplanes to land on the ice on a lake near Rjukan. One of these planes was lost over the North Sea, the other crashed on the west coast of Norway, killing all aboard. The last desperate attempt was to parachute a commando group into the mountains north of Rjukan and establish a base from which to attack the facilities.



*Nils Hoeg, February 1940, in the Norwegian Forces as a volunteer preparing for possible hostilities. The Germans invaded in April.*

Some of you may have seen a film called "The Heroes of Telemark" with Kirk Douglas. (Telemark is the district in which Rjukan is situated.) In spite of the typical Hollywood glamour the film does give a reasonable impression of the successful action which by many military experts is considered to be one of the top commando achievements of the war.



The heavy water production facilities were disabled, and rather than rebuild them the Germans decided to take the salvaged equipment and the supply of heavy water produced to Germany. The railway cars with the equipment and the tank cars with the heavy water were loaded onto a ferry crossing a lake.

However, three members of the underground managed to sneak aboard the ferry during the previous night and place time bombs below deck near the bow of the ferry. These went off as planned when the ferry was out over the deep part of the lake and sank with all the rail cars.

*The last desperate attempt was to parachute a commando group into the mountains north of Rjukan and establish a base from which to attack the facilities.*

That was essentially the end of the German effort to produce an atomic bomb.

Of course, nobody knows whether they would have succeeded had they had a supply of heavy water, but that was a chance the allies were not prepared to take. The Germans spared no effort trying to apprehend anybody involved in this affair. When word reached members of the group that had been working on the "inside," gathering information and supplying support, that the Gestapo was getting too close for comfort we were told to get out.

That meant getting across the border to Sweden. Eight of us reached Oslo separately, where early one February morning in 1944, we climbed onto a flatbed truck covered by canvas. After a couple of hours we stopped at a place in the country north of Oslo where we were met by the first of several guides to begin our cross country trek towards the border with Sweden.

Thirty-six hours later, including a few stops to eat and rest, we stood on top of a hill, looking down at a small collection of buildings, all brightly lit! –something we had not seen for four years. A last run down the hill, and we had found safety.

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## 108 RCA Web Site Update

[www.108ranch.com/](http://www.108ranch.com/)

by Jeffrey Newman

- Visit and sign the new online guest book.
- Garage sale ads free to RCA members
- Greenbelt map and list of commissioners
- List of upcoming events
- List your 108 business on the site
- and the site URL is now on the board at the south entrance

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

### Regular 108 Happenings

Bingo every Friday

RCA Executive: 1st Tuesday each month

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



## by Deputy Chief Larry Knutsen

*They may be the person next door or the gal across the hall. The 108 Volunteer Fire Department is an organization open to any member of the Community who, upon meeting the requirements, wishes to join.*



They are the person who can trust their life to the person working beside them at an incident scene knowing that person **is** watching their back.

They are people who are asked to give of their time 24 hours a day 7 days a week, when they are called on, whether it be a special day, or not.

It is not just showing up on a Tuesday Evenings at 7:30 to 9:30 pm to socialize. It is being ready and go out and do whatever the Training Officer has ready for that evening's practice.

It may be putting up a 40 foot ladder and spraying a charged fire hose from the top of it; or it may be doing a victim search in a blacked out condition.

It may also require members to take part in a prescribed burn for fire protection.

Whatever the it involves, members are being trained.

Training covers a wide variety of

skills and for those who would fight fire they include:

- Driver Training in a Emergency Vehicle
- Aircraft Fire Fighting
- Structure Fire Knowledge
- Roof Venting of a structure fire
- On hand training at the Kamloops Live Burn Centre
- Ice Rescue Operations which means practicing in a pool during -15° to -20° C. We are one of the few halls allowed this operation in B.C.
- Pumping Practice ( knowledge and handling of all fire truck apparatus)
- Handling and placement of a ladder
- Fire knock down of a structure fire
- Handling of Natural gas and propane gas fires (includes gas

pipeline training)

- Incident Command training
- Self Contained Breathing Apparatus training (air bottles)
- Fire hose and nozzle training
- First Aid Training (level 1)

On top of all that you have to know the names, uses and location of all the equipment in a fire vehicle.

The 108 Volunteer Fire Department is currently looking for **Volunteers**. If you are interested in **joining** drop by the fire hall on a Tuesday evening at 7:30 pm or call Fire Chief Ian Henderson 791-5774; Assistant Chief Steve Fouchier 791-5637 or Deputy Chief Larry Knutsen 791- 6382.

**Remember in case of Fire**

**Emergency: 791-5252  
Non-emergency: 791- 5715**



## Service for the South Cariboo by Al Richmond

The Cariboo Regional District is moving ahead with the implementation of 911 emergency telephone service for residents of the South and Central Cariboo as well as the Chilcotin.

Several months of negotiations

with the Regional District of Fraser Fort George and the City of Kamloops has resulted in reducing the cost to less than \$10 per \$100,000 home. This amount is considerably less than the expensive system that was considered a few years ago. With the North Cariboo already receiving 911 service through the Fraser Fort George Regional District, the entire region will now benefit from this valuable service. The board believes that having only one service provider will assist in future negotiations for contract renewal.

911 is a continuous call transfer system that enables a person to link in a matter of seconds to an emergency service provider. When

a person in distress calls 911, the dispatcher will automatically receive computerized information as to the exact location of the call's origin. The person will be questioned in order to determine whether they require police, fire or ambulance service. The call is then transferred to the appropriate agency, which will dispatch the required emergency services. Should the caller be unable to answer the questions or lose contact with the dispatcher the police will be dispatched.

911 will simplify the access to emergency services but will not provide fire service to those areas not currently served by a fire department. It is expected the service will begin in October or November of 2003.



by **Bonnie Winter**

As we approach a summer predicted to be unusually dry, it will be interesting to see how lake water levels fluctuate. Changing water levels can be quite a challenge to the three pairs of nesting loons on our lakes. However, it may be some comfort to know that a management plan exists that allows for some adjustments to the base flow to 108 Lake.

Ducks Unlimited (DU) has an operating plan for monitoring this base flow to 108 Lake which is perhaps less well known than DU projects in other areas of the San Jose River watershed. Operations between Sucker Lake and 108 Lake are part of a DU project to manage the watercourse between Tubbs Lake and 108 Lake and are funded equally by DU, the RCA, the Greenbelt Commission, and The 108 Resort.

April through October the watercourse is inspected periodically and the screwgate adjusted according to need. For most of the year, the screwgate on Sucker Lake is closed and the stop logs in Express Meadow are in place except for a gap to provide a base flow to 108 Lake. The water

stored in Express Meadow serves two purposes:

- 1) It provides water from Sucker Lake and Express Meadow to 108 Lake in order to reduce the draw down effect of the existing irrigation license on 108 Lake.
- 2) It provides a base flow in the watercourse between Express Meadow and 108 Lake to allow fish to swim upstream and spawn.

During April, May, and the first part of June the spring runoff is monitored to ensure a base flow. The monitoring also ensures that the water level of Express Meadow is stable and that the watercourse from Express Meadow to 108 Lake is free of obstructions. In early April, if the spillway on Sucker Lake is not flowing, the screwgate will be opened to provide the necessary flow. In late June, if the reservoir of water in Express Meadows is insufficient to provide a base flow to 108 Lake, the screwgate will be opened to increase the flow, but by the first week in August the screwgate is closed and the flow will be provided by the existing water in the system and by any remaining water in Express Meadow. In October, the screwgate is checked again to make sure it is closed for the winter.

The existing water license on 108 Lake mentioned earlier is held by Cariboo Resorts Ltd., for the purpose of watering, and dates back to 1969. The annual allowable draw down on the lake is 400 acre feet (one acre foot is equal to 271,472 imperial gallons). That converts to approximately 108 million imperial gallons or 490,000 cubic metres. (Water license information is available on the web at [www.lwbc.bc.ca](http://www.lwbc.bc.ca).) According to a 1971 survey, the volume of 108 Lake is 7,106 acre feet.

*Changing water levels can be quite a challenge to the three pairs of nesting loons on our lakes.*

### **Are Lake Care and Lawn Care Related?**

A newspaper advertisement for “weed ‘n’ feed” reminded me that indeed, spring is here; time to head for the golf course, get our hands dirty in the garden, and sharpen the mower blades. Do we also need to feed our lawns and what does that have to do with lakes? Questions worth considering.

Lakes surrounded by residential communities are at risk due to excessive nutrient input from homes and one of the sources of nutrients is improper use of lawn fertilizers. Fertilizers used on neighbourhood lawns can end up in our lakes where they nourish undesirable aquatic plant growth and upset the delicate ecological processes in the lake. Pesticides present in many ‘weed and feed’ products contaminate our ground water and are toxic in the lake environment.

Some residents choose to have a casual looking lawn: grass that is mowed but otherwise left in its natural state. Others prefer a more manicured cultivated look. If you enjoy a well manicured lawn and believe you have limited choices about how that might be achieved, check out the web sites listed below. You’ll be surprised to know there is information out there to help us have the lawn we want in the gentlest way possible.



[www.evergreen.ca](http://www.evergreen.ca)

[http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/pesticides/greenguide\\_healthyawn.htm](http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/pesticides/greenguide_healthyawn.htm)

[http://book-reviews.info/Organic\\_Gardening\\_Book\\_Reviews/1550172719.shtml](http://book-reviews.info/Organic_Gardening_Book_Reviews/1550172719.shtml)

*Last issue we wondered what you wanted to share about how you are using energy wisely. Here are some examples.*



**Patricia Spencer** writes that her thoughts have turned to transportation as it is such a large item in all our lives and produces approximately 41% of the greenhouse gas emissions in British Columbia. She points out that picking on this category for savings is not easy to do in the Cariboo as we all drive long distances and often have little choice.

Patricia has been looking closely at what to do when replacing a vehicle and has found there has been quite a change in fuel economy over the past 10 years. Ten years ago the average consumption was 8.7 l/100 km. Now there are cars that go 6l/100 km burning about 1.3 tonnes (about 32%) less carbon dioxide every year. She also points out this saves the driver about \$200/year in fuel costs.

She has tried to change her driving habits and for every day in the week she doesn't drive she puts a happy face on her calendar. As she says "silly, but fun." She also suggests we try biking if possible or taking the community bus as an alternative.

**The Newmans** are always thinking about how to recycle and reuse. Jeffrey and Maddi try to buy items that can be reused, refilled or repaired.

They advocate buying locally wherever possible, noting the Farmer's Market and local produce as a good place to start. They use an outdoor clothesline when weather permits saving the use of the dryer. In fact, they even have an indoor drying rack they occasionally use during the winter. They use very few prepackaged items and have sometimes gone as much as a month without needing to put out garbage for pick-up.

They heat with wood (gathering kindling from their own lot) and thus save on the ever increasing costs of imported energy (natural gas) and all the energy involved in just getting the gas to their house. Above all, Jeffrey and Maddi say it takes conscious thought to determine whether what we are doing is good for the environment or not. "Most of the time we just think it through to know what is right for the environment in which we live."

**Ferne and Jack Witty** decided to switch all lighting in their home to either fluorescent or the new power saving bulbs. As these bulbs are much more expensive than regular incandescent bulbs they have been changing two lights a month for the

past year. At a saving of 75% on power they have already noticed a difference in their power bill – not big, but a difference.

The other thing they do is collect rain water during the summer for watering their greenhouse. This cuts out the use of ranch well water and the work of the pumps – a saving they can never see and that probably doesn't register with the Water Works but if enough of us did that during the high consumption months of the summer it would register.

The 108'er will try to have something about energy saving and use in later editions of the newsletter so if you have anything to suggest please contact Jack Witty phone 791-6456 or e-mail [jnrwitty@bcinternet.net](mailto:jnrwitty@bcinternet.net).

## **THE 108 LIONS CLUB**

by **Graham Allison**

At the Spaghetti Dinner on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February, over 100 people were served and lots of local business donated great door prizes. By the time you read this there will have been another successful dinner held May 3.

The "ICE OFF" contest went very well with a nice looking boat floating around. Chris Jolly from Forest Grove was the lucky winner. April 12<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm 47 minutes and 20 seconds was Chris's guess which netted him \$100.00 for the closest time that the ice melted on the 108 Lake. Last year it was April 28<sup>th</sup> that the ice went off. A big thank you to those who bought tickets. Look to see this boat in local parades and again next year on the ice.

May 25<sup>th</sup> is the date for our next Flea Market, If you would like to rent a table to sell those extra items or if you have some sellable "junk" which you would like to donate to the 108 Lions then phone Barney at 791 5496. Don't forget  
**Cont on next pg.**

## **BINGO**

We all know the Friday bingo raises money for the community. We owe great thanks to our bingo volunteers without whose commitment and hard work many things on this ranch wouldn't happen.

**Note:** *Volunteers are needed who will commit to one Friday evening a month. Please call Pat Babineau at 791-6411.*

# What's Happening at the CCLF

by Rick Barker



There's a myriad of activities going on in and through the church at the 108, Cariboo Christian Life Fellowship (CCLF) throughout the summer months, besides the Sunday morning services which blend a unique style of contemporary and traditional worship.

The only interdenominational church in the area, CCLF offers a wide range of activities for a wide range of people. Every Wednesday, there's a youth church service put on by young people for young people at the Junior High and Senior High levels, which is attended by approximately 40-50 teens.

On the May long weekend, about 25 of them will be heading to Kelowna for a national youth conference, joining

about 1,500 others.

The weekend before will be a fun time when the church hosts an absolutely free car wash, which will include some vouchers for free gasoline as well. There are no strings attached on the giveaways. It is simply an attempt to show God's love in a practical way.

Meanwhile, the church is preparing to play host to a nationally promoted marriage conference, entitled "Building Marriages of Integrity" put on by Promise Keepers Canada. One of our church's core values is to strengthen the family, and this is one way of building a foundation for oneness in marriages in the area. The conference is slated for June 13-14 and costs \$99 per couple, which includes a luncheon on the Saturday. The keynote speakers are Steve and Jackie Masterson from Winnipeg, Manitoba.

July will see the first-ever full-time summer school at CCLF, which is called Acts 29, featuring pastors and church leaders from all over B.C. coming to teach. Out of town participants will be billeted, getting a chance to enjoy the scenic 108 for the four-week school. Local people will be signing up for the school as well.

As August rolls around, one of the biggest events of the year will take place as 120 children from the community take part in SCUBA (Super Cool Underwater Bible Adventure), which totally tops last year's Bug Safari five-day adventure. There is limited space for SCUBA, which runs from August 4-8, so people are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible.

For more information on these and other events taking place at CCLF, contact the church office at 791-5532, or visit the web page at [www.cclf.ca](http://www.cclf.ca).

## The 108 Lions Club

Cont. from prev. pg.

there will be the Lion famous pancake breakfast starting at 9 am.

Last year we made 80 picnic tables for a resort in Penticton and again we just sent off 20 more. These are the same tables that we have for sale at the Flea market. Or try your luck as there will also be one raffled off during the Flea Market.

The other major project the Lions have undertaken is to build the covered bridge across Sucker creek. This was a challenge from our District Governor to

make something for our community. It is a joint project with the 108 Greenbelt as they redid the abutments and replaced the stringers with steel girders. The Lions built the rest from the deck up.



We are still working on the West Beach where gravel was installed on the parking lot and cement curbs will be placed to help define parking spots.

Three new members were added to the 108 Lions in an induction ceremony on February 20<sup>th</sup>. We welcome Roger Golberg, Dave Simkins and Ted Zwolak. If you are interested in helping out your community see a Lions member and ask about joining this great club.

The new executive was nominated at the March meeting with Graham Allison agreeing to the president's position, Eamon McArdle will be the Secretary and

Horst Ellermann will again be the treasurer. The installation of these officers will be in June.

Our concession of Hamburgers and hot dogs has been requested to provide lunch for the 2 day 100 Mile House Rod and Gun Club "shoot" happening in August.

The 108 Lions will be having their annual year-end picnic and golf tournament to celebrate another successful year in July.

We also provide bar service to weddings and parties in the community hall, and we have 30 tables we rent out. Hamburgers and hot dogs (full concession) can be arranged for just about anywhere locally. The Lions provide the labour for the break open tickets at Friday night bingos as a service to the RCA, and the Lions Clubs are the local sponsors for the 108 Boy Scouts. We install memorial benches if required anywhere in the 108.