

108-ER

NEWSLETTER OF THE
108 MILE RANCH COMMUNITY

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

Summer, 2006

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New Chief for the 108 VFD

— by Ann Swann

When Lee Simpkins took over as chief of the 108 Volunteer Fire Department at the end of March, 2006, he knew he was taking over a tight, well-trained, well-organized crew.

Under former chief Ian Henderson's watch much was accomplished. Most recently twelve members took the First Medical Responder program (see 108'er Autumn-Winter, 2005) - training which was critical in their readiness to respond to the accident at the Heritage Site July 1st.

Another set of skills was provided by ice-rescue training. These were crucial in the rescue of Elvis the Rotweiler (see "Award," page 5). VFD members are frequently upgrading through training in such areas as airplane rescue, forestry assistance, and various seminars around the province. All these "extras" are on donated time. Nobody gets paid for doing it.

Ian Henderson has been with the Department for thirteen years - the past four as Chief. Some of the highlights of that time include: the Barrier and Kelowna fires (the Department sent a contingent to the latter, and covered for 100 Mile for the former); the fire at 100 Mile firehall (when the Department kept a crew and truck on the scene overnight, as well as covering for their fellow fire-fighters until they were up and running); the big grass fire at the 113, and the transition to 911.

Perhaps the largest impact has



New Fire Chief, Lee Simpkins

been the switch to dispatching through 911 at Prince George. It means that we should never again hear the siren endlessly running until someone can get to the hall to shut it off. Have you noticed? Two "rings" is all it takes. If the Department doesn't connect with P.G. within five minutes, the dispatcher there will contact another fire department (e.g. 100 Mile or Lac La Hache).

But it's some of the apparently "little things" which appear to bring Ian Henderson the most satisfaction. Such as: sorting out the boundaries with 100 Mile, doing more mutual aid with them, and getting the trucks re-numbered. Three fire departments attended the 113 fire. Henderson was incident commander. When he called for a truck to go to a particular site, he would call for it by number. But each department had a truck of that number (e.g. #1), so

three trucks would converge on the site. Now the trucks are numbered differently for each. For example: 108 has #101. 100 is #201 and LLH is #301.

Chief Simpkins says the Department has had 51 calls in the past year. In May the First Responder team was called to the Hills to attend an elderly woman who'd been bucked off a horse. Being a volunteer firefighter isn't just about fires these days. There is room for more members, however. "We've got a couple of empty lockers," Simpkins says. And why do it? "Well," Chief Simpkins says, "It's neighbours helping neighbours."

For more info', please call Lee Simpkins at 791-5781.



Former Fire Chief Ian Henderson is moving with his family to Lac La Hache to enjoy some fishing time.

More on the 108 VFD on pg 5

Notes from the Cariboo Christian Life Fellowship

There continues to be a hubbub of activity around Cariboo Christian Life Fellowship (CCLF), the church located on the hill on Telqua Drive near the Mile 108 Elementary School. According to Pastor Rick Barker, "there's a pile of opportunities" to partake of for families throughout the summer months.

Rather than a one-week Vacation Bible School this year, Hiedi Mack, the church's director of children's ministries, will be offering a summer camp experience once a week, every Tuesday from July 4 through to the end of August. The event, which is geared for ages 5-12 year olds, will run from 9 a.m. till 3 p.m. every Tuesday featuring several fun, outrageous games, Bible-centered lessons with "lots of food, lots of fun," says Barker.

"Discussing the DaVinci Code" is the name of a four-week evening class that Barker hosted every Thursday from June 8 to June 29. A DVD-driven curriculum took the DaVinci Code's advice to "seek the truth" and provided an opportunity to share opinions about the book and movie.

We enjoyed a Fathers' Day picnic June 18 and a canoeing overnight adventure for men June 9 -10. British storyteller Ken Needham was here June 3 - 6 for evening meetings as well as Sunday morning at the 10:30 a.m. service; a 25-member contingent from Kitimat arrives July 8 with their band for a moving concert of passionate worship that night. In August, Daniel Juster from Israel will be the featured guest speaker at a conference entitled Canada, Israel and You – putting the pieces together. There was also some talk of a Summer Dance Camp for girls and a Soccer Camp for boys, however, these couldn't be confirmed before press time.

For more information on these and other activities at CCLF, please contact 791-5532 or visit the webpage at www.cclf.ca.



CCLF leader Doug Steven (right) gave Pastor Rick the traditional pie-in-the-face show of appreciation during Pastor Appreciation Month but a quick hug from Pastor Rick settled the score.

108'er, Newsletter of the
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We invite your submissions, (500 words or less; 200 words or less for Letters to the Editor) comments and letters for future publications. We reserve the right to edit 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 of property 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 \$10.00 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 | \$10.00 |
| Five-Yr family | \$35.00 |
| Lifetime family | \$50.00 |

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

You're invited to the Ranch Community Association ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

October 18, 2006, 7 p.m.
at the Community Hall

This is a great time to meet the RCA Board of Directors, get or renew your RCA membership and hear about how the RCA has served you as a community member for the last year. We'll be electing our officers, too. We hope to see you there.



On May 30th, a stunningly beautiful sunny day, I had the further pleasure of accompanying Tom Godin on a short walk on the lakeshore path. I'm sure most of you know that Tom Godin, aside from being a gifted artist and writer, is an expert on birds of the Cariboo. We covered about 1/3 of the path around 108 Lake, the distance from my place on Chilcotin Crescent to Main Beach. We identified 44 species of birds. I shouldn't say we because it was actually Tom who made the identifications. And we didn't actually see 44 species; Tom identified many by song.

By May 30th, all of the migratory birds planning to nest here have arrived and are "making hay while the sun shines," as the saying goes. The natural vegetation is in full leaf and early bloomers are showing their stuff. It's an extraordinarily lush and vibrant time of year in the Cariboo and especially so on the lakeside greenbelt.

Our two lakes make it all possible. Studies have shown that many wildlife species are more abundant along shorelines and some species are entirely dependent on this habitat for feeding and reproduction. The presence of water and the elevated soil moisture of shorelines allow plants to grow rapidly and provide a greater abundance of plant species that in turn provide food and shelter. The canopy of trees, such as aspen and birch, act like an umbrella providing shelter from heat and cold and trapping humidity.

Tom identified 6 successive male yellow warblers along the path, each claiming his own nesting territory. Other interesting sightings (to name just a

— by Bonnie Winter

Lake levels: Gains made from winter precipitation the past 3 years:

2004 – 10cm

2005 – 9 cm

2006 – 8.5cm

The level on May 29, 2006 was 5cm lower than on May 30, 2005

few) were flycatchers, sapsuckers, 5 warbler species, 3 species of swallow, 3 sparrow species, 3 finch species, and many Spotted Sandpipers that nest near the water in the tangle of vegetation that has sprouted due to lower lake levels. At home in the ponds were blue winged and green winged Teals, common and Barrows Golden Eye, and the ubiquitous Mallard.

The sum of 44 species is not the whole story. It's only the number identified during one hour on a sunny day in May. (I'd be happy to share with you the identified species.) A complete list of birds to be found in the Cariboo is available at the Information Centre in 100 Mile House. It is compiled and illustrated by Tom Godin and sponsored by The District of 100 Mile House. You can also read Tom's weekly column about birding in the Cariboo at www.birding.100mile.com.

Unfortunately it's not all sun, song and good times. A few days ago the frantic cries of crows caught my attention. Four crows were swooping and diving on a nest in a fir tree on the greenbelt near my home and as I drew closer a raven rose out of the nest and flew away with a baby crow in his mouth.

It's tough out there dealing with dangers of the natural world, but the human element can present additional challenges. For one, there is the matter of dogs. Over the years, the subject of dog control has been raised many times. To our credit, the dog situation has improved in recent times. Rarely do I see dogs unattended on the greenbelt path. However, it is still common to see dogs, accompanied by their owners, snooping around off the trail, chasing sticks into the water, and occasionally chasing birds.

At intervals long the path signs are posted reminding dog owners they are required by law to control their dogs in sensitive nesting areas. Many dog owners are unaware that birds are nesting close by; after all, birds like to keep out of sight for obvious reasons. If your dog is off the trail during nesting season, chances are it will be near a bird nest on the ground or very close to the ground and could destroy the nest and the new life it contains. There are substantial penalties for destroying nests.

Then there are the challenges presented by household pets of the feline sort. Enough said.

And of course there is "us," you and me, busily "improving" things: cutting, chopping, pruning, mowing, enhancing views, on both private and public land. Many areas on the lakeside greenbelt have been repeatedly altered and valuable habitat destroyed by well intentioned residents. With knowledge and skill it is possible to enhance views while retaining esthetic qualities and important habitat. If you have opinions or suggestions about the alteration of greenbelt shorelines by individuals or public authority, please make those views known to the Greenbelt Commission.

None of these human activities would matter if there was no adverse impact on wildlife. But the facts are that many species of song birds and other birds are in decline, and in some cases in danger of extinction. This includes birds that nest along the shores of our two lakes. The major cause of this decline is loss of habitat. Our activities have a direct impact on the survival of birds you see and hear and it's within the power of each of us to do something about it.



Canada Day

The 100 Mile & District Historical Society dedicated the Ainsworth Display on July 1st, at the Canada day celebrations. Dave & Susan Ainsworth were in attendance. We had a full agenda, starting with the Eclectica choir and cowboy poet Mike Puhallo. There were singers, bands, kids air games, wagon rides, and helicopter rides. We hope that all of you who came out enjoyed the day.



The 108 Heritage Site, against the backdrop of the 108 Lake, is the perfect site for Canada Day celebrations.



Eclectica sang an array of Canadian songs.



Tinga, doing her patriotic duty.



In the shade it wasn't quite as hot!

Church

The 108 Heritage Church has been approved by the Northern Trust Initiative (NDI) for funding. Ground breaking will be in Aug or Sept. 2006. Completion will be in spring of 2007. Canada Log Home People will be building the church at their yard, then transporting it to the Heritage site, as a partial donation. West Fraser has donated the logs for the church and Sanders Redi Mix will be donating cement for the foundation. The Historical Society has acquired, from an Anglican church in Merrit, the complete furnishings for our church here at the 108. These furnishings are from the 1900's and are in beautiful condition. The only thing missing at this time is a church bell for the steeple. Tom Rutledge, Garry Babcock, Elsie Babcock & Maryann Rutledge, received an invitation to the opening of Barkerville. The group attended meetings and gained valuable information and contacts for the 108 Heritage site.

Staff and Stores

We have hired back for a 9th year Jessie Stewart as our assistant curator, and Daniel Ogden as our CCATEC student for ground maintenance. Beat d'Aujourd'hui as a volunteer museum guide fills out the staff. We will be losing our caretakers, Grant & Jean, as they feel its time to retire and travel. A western store, the Post House, run by Kees & Marja Boode and the Gift Shop in the Ice House with local crafts, canning, beverages, snacks and gold jewellery, run by Silvia Appel, are both open from 10 am - 5 pm daily.

Agnus McVee

CTV Travel came to the site on June 4th and filmed from 8am to 5 pm out of which a 1/2 show will be shown in the fall on CTV Travel and the Discovery Theatre. Their point of interest was our own Agnus McVee story.

In Person and on the Web

I invite all to come and see us and enjoy this beautiful site that is becoming world known. We are open from 10 am to 5 pm every day during the summer months. Should anyone have any questions or suggestions please call Tom (President) at 791-1971. Visit our web site at www.historical.bc.ca/main.html

Nesting Season is Now

May 1 to July 15th Some birds nest on the ground and along the shores of lakes and wetlands. Please keep your dog on a leash. The birds will thank you!

108 Mile Fire Department Honoured by SPCA

On June 10th, several members of the 108 Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) travelled to Vancouver to receive the BC SPCA's highest award – the **Kevin Anderson Award of Heroism** – for the rescue of the dog Elvis from Sepa Lake.

Last November, a VFD member was walking along the lakeshore when she came across a frantic dog owner whose pet had gone out on the ice, fallen through and was unable to pull himself from the frigid waters. The owner made attempts to go out on the ice to save his pet but was stopped by the VFD member to protect him from the extreme risks presented by the situation. The VFD member called 911 and requested that the department's trained ice rescue unit respond to the scene.

It should be noted that while the fire department is not authorized to respond to animal rescues, there were extenuating circumstances in this situation. Only by saving the dog was the VFD able to stop the pet owner from venturing onto the ice, something that could have resulted in a much more serious incident: the need to rescue the owner.

The SPCA's Award of Heroism was created four years ago in honour of 29-year-old Kevin Anderson, who was driving along a busy road in a Vancouver suburb on a rainy night when he spotted an elderly dog that had become lost and was wandering in the middle of the road. Kevin pulled over to the side of the road, picked up the dog and was making his way back to his vehicle when he was struck by an on-coming car. The award was created to honour his selfless compassion and is presented each year to an individual or group, who have demonstrated similar courage and concern for animals.

The 108 Community is fortunate to have such a great group of fire fighters. Hats off to all the men and women who give so generously of their time to serve our community.



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Fire Department Plans for the Future

The Cariboo Regional District and the 108 Fire Commission gave the green light to purchase land adjacent to the fire hall. The property which was rezoned several years ago to permit a medical clinic recently came on the market after the owner decided not to proceed with the development. The department will use the land for future expansion and training. The purchase was accommodated within the department's existing budget.

Nip the Knap

— by Al Richmond

A local resident commented recently that when she had pointed out an infestation of knapweed to a group during a hike in Walker Valley, no one in the group knew how to identify this noxious weed.

Knapweed was introduced to North America from Eurasia in the late 1800s. Since there were no natural enemies to keep the plant in check, it rapidly spread to infest different regions of the continent, including BC.

People are the major cause of its spread, as the plant is easily caught up and transported on the undercarriage of trains, cars, RVs, logging trucks and heavy machinery. It is also spread by the movement of hay from infested areas to non-infested areas, and by florists who use knapweed in dried floral arrangements.

The two types of knapweed which are most common in the Cariboo are the Diffuse and the Spotted.

Diffuse Knapweed is a biennial to short-lived



Mature Diffuse Knapweed

perennial weed, over-wintering as seeds or low growing rosettes. The seeds germinate in the fall or spring when growing conditions are favourable. In early May the plants bolt usually producing one stem with numerous flower buds blooming in July and August. Mature plants are 20-100 cm in height, its flowers are usually white, but can sometimes be pinkish in colour.

Spotted Knapweed is a



short-lived perennial weed, over-wintering rosettes bolt in early May to produce 1 to 15 stems.

Mature plants are 20-120 cm tall; branches occur in the upper half of the plant. The purple, (occasionally white) thistle like flowers bloom from July to October. This species is easily



recognized by a black-tipped fringe on the flower head, which gives it a spotted appearance.

How You Can Help

- Learn to recognize both kinds of knapweed;
- Hand pull knapweed plants before they go to seed;
- When traveling through rangelands, stay on established roads.
- Do not drive across grasslands.
- Carefully clean the underside of your vehicle before leaving an infested area.
- Do not purchase knapweed-infested hay.
- If you are involved in any activity which can disturb the top layer of soil, reseed the disturbed area.



The Cariboo Regional District is tracking knapweed infestations using GPS to record the locations. Please call the CRD at 1-800-665-1636 to report knapweed sightings and to receive advice on weed control. You can learn more about knapweed by visiting the information sign located at the Highways rest stop at the north entrance to the 108. Or visit the Cariboo Regional District web site at www.cariboord.bc.ca.



The 108 Greenbelt Commission

Keeping the greenbelt green

channels under the bridges while we're at it but, based on a recommendation from Roger Packam of the Ministry of Lands Air and Water, this will not be done. The commission felt this would cause too much disturbance to the riparian zones around the lagoons. To view the report online:

<http://crd-director.com/reports/Chilcotin%20Ponds%20Report.pdf>

This spring a 3rd horse pasture was created to accommodate the growing number of horses in and around the 108. This new pasture is located behind the Easzee Drive pump house. When you are out

walking in any pasture, we ask that you keep gates closed at all times. If gates are left open they will be locked to avoid possible injury to livestock or residents. Also, please don't feed the horses as this may cause them to go looking for handouts, approaching anyone walking through the pasture.

Again this year we plan on attacking the thistles that plague the 108, especially around the lakes. This will be the 5th year we have spent containing this pest. Some long time residents have commented we are making progress. You can help by removing any thistles you have on your property.

A clean-up project was approved to remove the old float plane docks from the Greenbelt area on Watson Lake. A local contractor was hired to remove the wooden structures and to install a chain across the road to restrict access and help to protect the riparian area. Parking will be limited to the area closest to the road. If access is required please contact the Commission.

For further information on the 108 Greenbelt Commission, please check out the Greenbelt link from our Cariboo Regional Director's web site at www.crd-director.com. Or you can e-mail us at greenbelt@bcinternet.net.

It's a busy time for the 108 Greenbelt Commission.

Another Federal grant was received and this will allow 6 workers and a supervisor to continue to reduce the fire hazard in and around the 108. The plan at this time is to continue on with the areas that were presented last year, however we are off to a slow start as we only have a crew of three at the present time.

The 2 bridges on the north end of the 108 lake are scheduled to be replaced this fall. These bridges were installed over 20 years ago and are slowly beginning to deteriorate. One resident suggested that we dredge the

The 108'er Helps Reunite Old Friends

— by Nils Hoeg

Some of you may remember a piece I wrote for the 108'er last year about cross country skiing and the commando raid on the heavy water installation in the district of Telemark in Norway.

The story caught the eye of one Bob Cromack who lives on a small island just south of the border in the state of Washington. He was "surfing the net." It was possibly my name which caught his attention, as back in the early 60s he had worked with a person by that name doing research for the International Harvester Co.

in Chicago. He contacted Jeffrey Newman by email, wondering if the author of the article could possibly be the same person. Jeffrey passed the e-mail on to me for any further action. I e-mailed Bob Cromack to tell him that no, sorry, I was not his former colleague, Nils Hoeg.

Bob informed me that, after working together for a few years in Chicago where they had become good friends, they had gone their separate ways and eventually lost contact. He also said that his friend had

been born in Norway, which made me suspect that we could in some way be related since the name Hoeg is not all that common in Norway. I told Mr. Cromack that I would look into this possibility. I discovered that I do in fact have a second cousin now living in Norway who had worked for I.H. Co. in Chicago in the early 60s. I was able to get his email address which I passed on to Bob. The latest news from him was that he had re-established contact with his old friend!

BINGO



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 7:00 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 nibbles.

Volunteers help run the bingo. If you are interested in helping, call Phone **Bev Iverson, 791-9286**.

The 108 Lions

The 108 Lions elected a new slate of directors at their April 20th meeting. Bill Bailey assumes the 108 Lions Club presidential role with Nick Theoret becoming vice-president. Past president is Eamon McArdle, Janet Herrick takes on secretary duties and Dave Simkins the treasurer's role. They take office as of July 1st.

108 UPCOMING EVENTS

RCA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Oct 18, 2006, 7 p.m.
Community Hall

REGULAR 108 HAPPENINGS

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

- **RCA Executive:** 1st Wednesday each month

- **RCA Public Meetings** watch post office kiosk or web site for notices

- **"108" Crazy-Quilters** Tuesday afternoons 1 - 1:30 upstairs at the 108 community Hall, Nominal fee. Doreen 791-7242

108-er Distribution Outlets

108 Supermarket
108 Cafe
108 Post Office
Hair Flair
Hills Health & Guest Ranch
108 Conference Centre
Race Trac Gas
Action Fitness
Heritage Thyme Restaurant
Heritage Site Gift Store
The Post House
Aviator's Roost

If you would like to have copies for distribution at your business, call Maddi at 791-9206.

For current news on the 108 read our Free Press correspondent's column every other week. To see back copies of these reports click the "news" button on the RCA website www.108ranch.com.

WHAT YOUR RCA DIRECTORS ARE DOING

Some highlights from decisions and reports at the past four month's RCA Board Meetings (in no particular order):

- * Applied for and received a grant from the C.R.D. to provide chipping of dead pine tree branches for 108 residents.
- * In response to our current promotion, memberships in the Ranch Community Association are increasing.
- * After further consultation with both volunteers and participants, Bingo went through a three-month non-smoking trial. On the whole this was well received so our Friday Bingo evenings are now non-smoking
- * Our membership drive continues and new RCA membership subscriptions continue to come in. Members now receive the 108-er newsletters by mail.
- * The RCA donated \$250 to the 100 Mile Historical Society to assist with this year's Canada Day celebrations at the 108 Historical Site
- * New posts have been set up on the road bordering the main beach
- * The RCA sponsored and organised the annual volunteers dinner. This included the award for 108 Citizen of the Year (Kathie Knutsen). About 80 attended.

Your input to the RCA Executive board is always welcome - by mail, e-mail or in person (by prior request). Our meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month.