



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE~

April 2008

Tom Brown's Tidbits

Greetings! Old Man Winter is starting to take a back seat and thoughts are turning once again to our wonderful Deer Lake. Summer will be here sooner than we think. Your Deer Lake Association has continued throughout the winter months to plan another exciting summer for its members. Presentations for meetings need to be planned; BBQs to be arranged; Tee times to be made for golf outings; Books to be assigned as required reading for the book club; Canoe trips planned; Nights to play bridge set; Big Fish Contest dates, rules and participation to be fine tuned; Dates set to do road clean-up and trash removal; Bear Island trail\trash clean up dates set. Lots of other things need special attention. It's a busy time for your DLA. Want to help?

This year the focus of the DLA will be to attract members and solicit their participation in as many of the DLA programs and events as they can find time to do. Increased efforts will be taken to re-introduce previous members that may not have joined the association in the last several years. No organization wants to lose those people that once were active. Each of us needs to be an ambassador for the DLA and Deer Lake. Area Communicators are always available to discuss what is going on with the DLA. Take advantage of your Area Communicator. It's your avenue to let the DLA know what you are thinking. Also, don't hesitate to call any member of the Board of Directors to discuss any issues or concerns you have. But most of all get involved with the DLA and let your voice be heard. We all have a common goal: Nothing but the best for Deer Lake.

For those of you that haven't renewed your membership, or want to be a member for the first time, send your \$25 Membership fee to:

**Anna Hoffman, Treasurer DLA
38841 Oklahoma Hill Road
Deer River, MN 56636**

I personally look forward to meeting with many of you this summer and discussing DLA. Please let me know what you think the DLA should be doing, what we may be doing wrong and offer suggestions as to how to make it even better. Don't hesitate to contact me if you would like to talk. (805-541-2732 or 218-246-2565)

Enjoy this issue of the Deer Lake Newsletter. It's another great benefit of membership in the Deer lake Association!

\$25.00 Membership: Any person, family, firm, association, corporation or other legal entity owning property or residing during all or part of the year within 1,000 feet of the ordinary high water mark of Deer Lake. Definition: "Family" shall mean a husband and wife or any two adults who reside in the same household.

\$12.50 Associate Membership: Any person, family, adult offspring, firm, association, corporation or other legal entity, which does not qualify for membership. Associate members have all the rights of members except the right to (a.) Nominate candidates for the Board of Directors or officers of the DLA or (b.) vote in any meeting of the Board of Directors, unless they are actively serving as a director at the time said vote is taken, or any vote of the membership.

Member Information:

Name	Winter Phone	
Winter Address	City, State	Zip
Deer Lake Address	Deer Lake Phone	
E-mail address/es		

Would you like mail sent to your Deer Lake address during June through August? Yes / No

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE respectfully submits the following slate of **nominees for the 2008-2009 DLA Officers and Board of Directors.** (DLA By-laws Article III, Sec. 2) "The slate is to be presented to the voting membership for consideration upon nomination and seconded by the members in good standing at the **Annual Meeting.** Any person nominated, however, must be present to accept the nomination in person or written acceptances shall be provided by the nominee at the meeting. Such written acceptance shall be mailed by the member to the Association Secretary so that it is received at least three (3) days before the Annual Meeting." The following persons have been nominated and have agreed to serve if elected to these offices;

<u>PRESIDENT</u>	<u>Tom Brown</u>
<u>VICE-PRESIDENT</u>	<u>Holly Newton</u>
<u>SECRETARY</u>	<u>Trish Bogenrief</u>
<u>TREASURER</u>	<u>Anna Hoffman</u>
<u>BOARD MEMBER (3yr term)</u>	<u>Tom Kleinkauf</u>
<u>BOARD MEMBER (3 yr term)</u>	<u>Mark Hoffman</u>

PROXY FORM~ The By-Laws of the DLA (Article III, Sec. 5) authorize voting by proxy if a member is unable to attend the DLA Annual Meeting. The following form may be completed and submitted to Trish Bogenrief, DLA Secretary, authorizing a designated DLA member to serve as your proxy to vote on your behalf at the 2008 Annual Meeting on July 12th.

I, _____ (please print your name)

Hereby designate _____, to serve as my proxy for the 2008 DLA Annual Business Meeting, July 12th and authorize him/her to vote on my behalf.

Signature _____

Date _____



ATTENTION GOLFERS

Hello all Deer Lake Association members, Hack and Slice, the Divot Boys, have been busy planning and making arrangements for the what they think will be the best year ever. It is filled with new things, and you know that the devious duo will come up with some new challenges to add special excitement to your participation.

The new season will include a fifth event, the Preseason Warm-up, so that you will be able to play all five of the outstanding Grand Rapids golf courses this year. But the crown jewel of the season will be how they wrap it up.

Yes, there will be a closing banquet, as has been done for the past several years. This year, the banquet will be held at perhaps the most outstanding eating establishment in Grand Rapids, The Rivers Wine Bar and Bistro!

Your intrepid leaders have met with the River's management and a superb evening has been planned to close out the 2008 Golf season. Hack and Slice invite ALL those who have signed up for the Golf program to plan to attend the closing banquet. You don't need to play in the event to qualify for attendance.

Be sure to mark the third THURSDAY (a change from past years) in June, July, August, and September on your calendars, plus the fourth Thursday in May, so that you won't miss an exciting minute of the 2008 Golf Season.

Here are the dates:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Cook Out Hosts</u>
May 22*	Blueberry Hills	Chatterton's
September 18	Pokegama GC	Rivers WB&B

We will arrange Wendigo GC, Eagle Ridge GC, and Rutger's Sugar Lake GC for **June 19, July 17, August 21.**

Cook Out Host Volunteers are still needed for those months also. *New event, the Preseason Warm-up is the 4th Thursday.

FOR SALE:

20' 1986 Weeres **Pontoon boat**, 35 hp Mercury refurbished with new electric tilt. Aluminum pontoons in good condition. Side steering, bench seats and table. Ladder, fenders, electric anchor wench (and anchor), gas cans, awning. New upholstery available and partially installed. Blue and White. \$3995
Call Carolyn McGinnis 246-9414

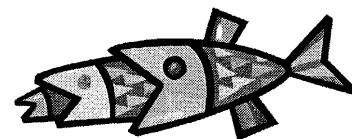
FOR SALE:

32'x4' **Dock.** Excellent condition. Call Paul Dealy 327-3090

FOR RENT:

Newly remodeled **2 Bedroom pine paneled cabin** on West Shore of Deer Lake. Sleeps 6/8. Stunning view of sunrise and moonrise, includes screened Gazebo, 14' fishing boat with 10HP motor, dock and canoe. Low sandy beach for the kids. Available May 10-Sept 15. Weekly or monthly rates. DLA Member. dga9@msn.com or 817-291-5209.

Also go to www.vbro.com and type in 170458 for the vbros #. Pictures and details there.



The Big Fish Contest will again be held in 2008 to recognize Association members and their families who catch the **biggest** fish during the summer months.

Winners will be announced in the Newsletter and Website, and will be awarded a special plaque in spring of 2009.

Start date is Minnesota Fishing Opener, and ends at the conclusion of Labor Day Weekend.

Report your catch to Contest Central:

George Ritzinger

33422 N Portage Trail

Grand Rapids, MN 57744

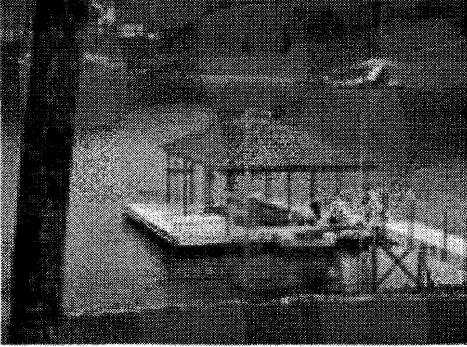
gbrper@peoplepc.com, (218) 327-4826.

DEER LAKE DOCK SURVEY by Wayne and Jerry Welch

BACKGROUND

In response from a request by Erika Rivers of the Minnesota DNR, we agreed to conduct a survey of the dock situation on Deer Lake. We hoped to involve other Deer Lake residents but were unable to do so. The survey was conducted between Sept. 19 and 24, 2007. At that time, a few docks (about two dozen) had been removed from the water but we were able to observe the type and size of the docks as they rested on the shore.

The issue of concern and the reason for DNR interest is the increase in the number of "platform docks" being built on Minnesota lakes, especially on Lake Minnetonka and in the Brainerd lakes area. Current regulations call for a dock being no more than 8 feet wide and less than 50 feet long or to a 4-foot water depth, whichever was less. There was no provision for adding a widened structure at the end of the dock. However, it was possible to obtain a permit from the DNR to build docks that exceed these dimensions.



It is our understanding that these regulations were little understood and seldom enforced until a couple of years ago. Homeowners began building ramps extending from the shore to an enlarged platform, often covered, that is used for fishing, accessing boats, lounging, and partying. (See example photo below.)

As these structures got larger, neighbors began to complain about their impact on fish, wildlife, aquatic habitat, and lake shore appeal. The DNR started issuing citations for violations of the ordinances which resulted in some very angry platform dock owners. They took their case to their elected officials seeking some kind of compromise solution.

In 2007, the DNR issued a temporary "General Permit" authorizing dock platforms up to 10.5 feet by 16 feet, or 160 square feet. This permit expires the end of November 2007. In the meantime, dock town meetings were to be held involving legislators, business owners, and property owners. A stakeholder group will be convened this winter to discuss the issue and possibly make recommendations to the DNR.

Five open houses on the subject were held in August, and a town hall meeting called by a state representative was held in Pequot Lakes on Oct. 24. Minutes of this meeting and other information on the issue are available at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/issues/docks/index.html>

Additional information about Minnesota lake docks was sought by the DNR. Volunteers were asked to gather data about docks on their lakes. Three surveys are listed on the DNR web page. Apparently, the Deer Lake survey is the 4th one that was conducted. Our survey was conducted during four trips around various segments of the lake. We were asked to count the number of first tier buildings on the lake, the total number of docks built by commercial and private owners, and the number that complied with the ordinance and the temporary General Permit. Our findings are listed below.

DEER LAKE SURVEY FINDINGS

1. Total number of first tier homes N = 290
2. Total number of docks N = 323 (15 of these are commercial, 308 are private)
 - A. Docks part of commercial properties N = 15

Resorts	6
Campgrounds'	3
Marinas'	0
Shared access	6

(All of the commercial docks meet the General Permit limitations)
 - B. Private docks N = 308

Legal size	287	(97%)
Temporary exempted	15	(5%)
Illegal	6	(2%)

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DEER LAKE DOCK SURVEY by Wayne and Jerry Welch

(Continued from previous page)

DISCUSSION

Recall that a legal size dock is 8 ft. or less in width and extends out less than 50 ft. However, we were not told of the 50 ft. limit when we did the survey. (We didn't realize this until we started writing this report) Thus we cannot state for sure that all 287 legal sized docks were shorter than 50 feet, or if they were longer than that, did they only go out until the water depth was at least 4 ft. deep. This would be nearly impossible to determine and it is difficult to estimate length when driving by on a pontoon boat. There are a few very long docks on Deer Lake but we think most of them are necessary, that is, they need to get out far enough so they can moor a boat in at least 4 feet of water.

Most of the platform docks that exceed the General Permit limitations are in the 180 - 190 sq. ft. range, only slightly above the limit. Only one is extremely large and that one is about 400 sq. ft. None have a roof, which is becoming common in other parts of the state and nation. (We spent Thanksgiving on Tellico Lake in Tennessee and nearly every lakeshore home has a covered platform and most of them are more than 250 sq. ft.)

On balance, we think our Deer Lake dock builders have been within the code although we doubt that many of us are aware of the size limitations. (Part of this probably is related to the cost of installing a dock and a large platform.) Surveys conducted on two lakes in the Brainerd area yielded about 30% code violations. One done on Jessie Lake discover zero violations of the present code.

If you have comments about this survey or suggestions to pass on to the DNR, please send them to wwelch@umn.edu and I will forward them to Erika Rivers who is in the Grand Rapids DNR office.



June 14, 10 am Saturday at Camp Sherwood **Deer Lake Association Program:**

PROPERTY TAXES

Just got your current real estate tax notice? Can anything be done about the constant increases? How about appealing them? These and many other questions will be addressed by our guest speaker, Jeff Forester, Executive Director of the Minnesota Shoreline and Recreational Property Owners Association.

August 9, 10 am Saturday at Camp Sherwood **Deer Lake Association Program:**

THE WOODS

Susan Hawkinson, of Itasca Community College and author of "Timber Connections" will be our guest Speaker. She will cover some of the lumbering operations around the area including the early railroad and logging camp near Deer Lake. The emphasis will be on environment and lessons for the future.

It will be a good program for the kids too and we hope to have a woodcarving workshop for them after the meeting.

This editor wishes to extend sincere apologies to Darrell Stokes for an error in the December newsletter mentioning himself instead of his father in memoriam. My deepest regrets to you and your family.

In memoriam...

Don Wonstrom

Bob Stokes...

Wayne Bengston...

General Ed McFarland... and his wife

Gloria Grimes McFarland...

Clarence Hedquist

Cherished friends, Deer Lake will not be the same without you.

Memorial donations may be made to the Deer Lake Association to honor a loved one who has passed.

ITASCA COUNTY ZONING UPDATE~

At the very end of a year-long process that included an update to the County's Comprehensive Land Use Plan a last minute change that would effectively exempt resorts from the rules and regulations of our Zoning Ordinance has been proposed.

Even though the Planning Commission submitted its unanimous recommendation, backed by the Zoning Office staff and the DNR, that existing resorts should be required to obtain a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for large expansions to their commercial resort development, 3 of 5 Itasca County Commissioners supported this last minute change. Commissioners McLynn and Burthwick have courageously stood firm, defending not only Due Process and Equal Protection, but also the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. This citizen-written Plan serves as the legal basis of the Zoning Ordinance, and requires a balance among Commercial, Residential and Environmental interests.

The requirement of a CUP for large-scale resort expansion is an important component of the DNR's minimum Shoreland Standards which are state law. It is retained in the new Alternative Standards that the DNR is promoting. The law grants the DNR some degree of flexibility in the details, and our regional DNR officers have allowed fair and balanced trade-offs in several places, including those for resorts. But to eliminate the CUP process altogether for all existing resorts would set a precedent for the entire state. Only the DNR Commissioner can approve such a radical departure from established practice, and only after extensive documentation and public hearings.

In 2004-5 Itasca resorters obtained not only an expansion of their allowed density to levels noncompliant with DNR standards, but also a provision in the ordinance to develop adjacent residential land commercially without a rezone. These changes may also have been a state precedent and are of questionable legality. With this latest 2008 exemption the neighbors and everyone else, including the DNR, would be shut out of the process. There is very little in the proposed ordinance that regulates expansion of existing resorts with the elimination of the CUP requirement.

Given the drastic excess of this amendment, we hope the DNR will recognize that granting such a variance would be arbitrary and capricious. However, given the uncertainty of their position, we urge you to contact both them and your state representative with these concerns.

Quoting from the Itasca Comprehensive Land Use Plan adopted in 2000 and revised in 2007:

*Statutory Authority: The Comprehensive Land Use Plan is the legal basis for land use controls.....
Land use ordinances and programs must be consistent with the adopted comprehensive land use plan.*

Use of the Plan: In working with the Planning Commission/BoA and County Board on land use issues, the County staff should explicitly connect recommendations directly to goals and objectives in the Plan.

I Cooperation Goal: Ensure that land use decisions are made in an open process, and in a timely and predictable manner, fairly and consistently applied.

II Natural Resources Goal:

14. Updating and enforcing of ordinances: Update the existing ordinances and plans relating to water quality where appropriate, and enforce ordinances equally and consistently.

15. Standards for variances and conditional use permits: Establish narrowly defined standards for variances and conditional use permits that promote the protection and enhancement of natural resources in general and water quality specifically.

III Housing and Settlement Patterns Goal: Provide adequate guidelines for Housing and Settlement in Itasca County that protect the health, safety and welfare of the public, respect the unique settlement characteristics of the county, maximize the use of existing infrastructure, and offer a diversity of development patterns that minimizes adverse effects on natural resources.

B. Development should be appropriate to the environmental conditions present. Encourage respect for established residential neighborhoods.

E. Lakeshore Development Objective: Establish guidelines to encourage new shoreland development using practices that provide protection and sustainability of water quality and habitat for fish and wildlife.

6. Maintain residential zoning – Encourage retention of existing zoning and uses especially in established residential neighborhoods.

I. Compliance with Zoning Ordinance Objective – Develop consistent and well regulated residential land use to protect both the environment and community.

2. Criteria for approval – Establish standards, clear language and definitions regarding the variance and conditional use approval processes and criteria found in the Zoning Ordinance.

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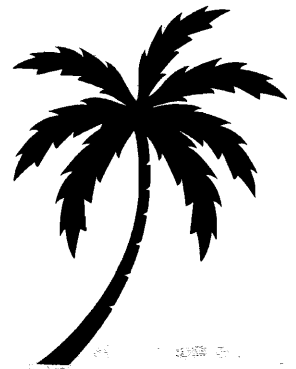
2008 Deer Lake Book Group

Date/Time	Book	Author	Place	Leader
Wed. May 28 4:30pm	<u>The Plot Against America</u>	Philip Roth	Chatterton's	D. Chatterton
Wed. June 25 4:30pm	<u>The Book Thief</u>	Markus Zusak	Marier's	M. Chatterton
Wed. July 23 4:30pm	<u>The Highest Tide</u>	Jim Lynch	Bogenrief's	T. Bogenrief
Wed. Aug.20 4:30pm	<u>The Tipping Point</u>	Malcom Gladwell	D. Johnson's	D. Johnson
Thurs. Sept. 11 4:30pm	<u>Double Blind</u>	Chris Bohjalian	Erickson's	D&J Erickson

Winter BBQ~ Southwest Florida Style!

Thanks to the efforts of Stan and Lovelle Meester with assistance from Jim and Trish Bogenrief, a winter BBQ was held for all of the Deer Lakers who could be found in the southwest Florida area.

Nine couples: Stan and Lovelle, Jim and Trish, Bob and Carolyn Ludwig, Don and Mag Shields, Joe and Jean Mulheran, Pat and George Ritzinger, Daryl and Sue Sauer, Steve and Nancy Klassen, and Bob and Gale Lyons all signed up representing Naples, Fort Myers, Punta Gorda, and Palm Island (Englewood).



Stan and Lovelle provided the venue at their place in Punta Gorda and Lovelle and Trish did all the planning. It was a perfect evening and a great time was had by all.

Unfortunately because of last minute complications the Lyons and Klassens couldn't attend and were missed by everyone.



ITASCA COUNTY ZONING UPDATE~ (continued from previous page)

V. Commercial/Industrial Goal

D. Recreation Industry Objective – Support recreation commercial development including resorts, campgrounds, services and products while sustaining the quality of the natural resources on which they depend.

1. Resort development standards – Create standards for resort development or expansion.

b. Impact – Create performance criteria (soils, group septic, visual buffers) for resort development or expansion that minimizes negative environmental impacts on surrounding property owners.

c. Lakeshore – Reduce the environmental risks posed by development on lakeshores.

2. Shoreland standards – Encourage the adoption of shoreland standards that allow for expansion of existing resorts and campgrounds and include mitigation of negative environmental impacts.

H. Commercial Development Objective

3. Location of commercial development – Discourage commercial development of lakeshore, and encourage commercial development in existing commercial areas.

DNR Decision Makers:

mike.peloquin@dnr.state.mn.us

erika.herr@dnr.state.mn.us

Craig.Engwall@dnr.state.mn.us

peder.otterson@dnr.state.mn.us

State Government:

tim.pawlenty@state.mn.us

sen.tom.saxhaug@senate.mn

<http://klobuchar.senate.gov/emailmy.cfm>

<http://www.state.mn.us/govtooffice/index.html>

<http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/members>



The Creative Endeavors Group has been meeting for the last 7 years. Some of the creative projects produced were jackets, purses, tote bags, slippers, organizers, pillows, small quilts, table runners, household and Christmas items. In addition to all this, members have a lot of fun talking and laughing. The group meets on 7 or 8 Monday mornings during the summer months. To join just give one of us a call!

BEAR ISLAND CLEAN UP

9 am on May 16, June 13, Aug. 8, Sept. 5

Please help keep this lovely treasure in good shape! If bad weather- please come the next day.
No reminder calls!

To join the effort, call **Bob Baker at 327-1807**

FREE DEER LAKE ASSOCIATION E-MAIL

Our Deer Lake Association now has its very own e-mail system and can be accessed from any computer with Internet service.

Only members of the Deer Lake Assn. will be given a deerlakeassn.net address and password. You can *e-mail to* and *receive from* anyone using your personal e-mail address.

We will begin sending Deer Lake Assn. communications, newsletters and other notices to your Deer Lake email address this summer.

Our Webmaster Tom Nelson has made it easy to access your e-mail via the Deer Lake Association home page.

Simply go to: www.deerlakeassociation.org (Suggestion: add this to your favorites)

1. Click on DLA EMAIL.
2. Enter your user name (email address) and password (enclosed on this page).
3. Click on log in.
4. Select "inbox" at the left side of the page.
5. Click fetch mail at the top of the page.

Each mailbox has 10 megs of storage space per member. If you find this is not enough storage contact Doug Widen. To save space, do not leave your e-mails or pictures on the server system. I suggest you save pictures and other items you wish to keep to your computer then delete from your e-mail account.

If you do not have Internet access and wish to have communications sent via U.S. Mail please contact Doug Widen.

E-mail communication will be a huge cost savings for the association as postage and printing costs are a major budget expense. If you are a DLA member and did not receive a user name or password ~~please~~ contact Doug.

Doug Widen
doug_widen@deerlakeassn.net
 36085 County Road 19
 Deer River, MN 56636
 218-246-2708 or 763-559-4417

deerlakeassn.net

DLA CALENDAR, 2008

GENERAL MEETINGS

JUNE 14th, 10am "**PROPERTY TAXES**" PROGRAM
at Camp Sherwood, 36359 Sherwood Forest Trail
JULY 12th, 4:30pm **ANNUAL MTG** at Camp Sherwood
AUG 9th, 10am "**THE WOODS**" PROGRAM at Camp Sherwood

SPECIAL EVENTS

JULY 5th, 12:30 pm **ROCK BASS TOURNEY** at Sherwood Dock
AUG 12th, 3:30pm **DEER LAKE FROLIC** at Camp Hiawatha
AUG 30th, 5 pm **SPAGHETTI DINNER** at Camp Sherwood

SUMMER GOLF OUTINGS

JUNE 19, JULY 17, AUG 21, SEPT 18
(See inside for details)

BOOK CLUB

MAY 28, JUNE 25, JULY 23, AUG 20, SEPT 11
(See inside for details)

SUMMER BBQ'S

JUNE 11, JULY 9, AUG 13, SEPT 10

BEAR ISLAND CLEAN UP

MAY 16, JUNE 11, AUG 8, SEPT 5
(See inside for details)

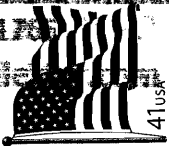
DULUTH MN 558

"LET US DARE TO READ,
THINK, SPEAK AND WRITE"

21 APR 2008 PM 1 L

John Adams, 1776

DEER LAKE
Association



Janna Nemeth
38763 Oklahoma Hill Rd., Deer River, MN 56636

06636+3071



DLA BOARD MEETINGS

MAY 17th, 3-5pm at Brown's house
(34190 Deer Path Drive)
JUNE 14th, 7:30 am
JULY 12th, 2:00 pm
AUG 9th, 7:30 am
SEPT 13th, 10:00 am

DLA OFFICERS

Thomas Brown, President
Holly Newton, Vice President
Anna Hoffman, Treasurer
Patricia Bogenrief, Secretary
Gunny Gunsolly, President Emeritus

DLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Robert Baker
Paul Dealy
Rev. Lew Johnston
Dr. T K Nelson
Janna Nemeth
Col. Douglas Routt

DLA AREA COMMUNICATORS

Area	Contact	Phone
West Deer Lake Rd	Erickson	246-2209
West Thorpe Ave	Jeckel	246-2263
E.Thorpe, Pinehurst Maid Marion	Ludwig	246-8891
Oklahoma Hill	Nemeth	246-2403
Deer Path	Carlson	246-8911
Little John	LeWin	246-8503
Hiawatha	Eaton	246-8830
Sherwood Tr.	Nielson	246-8647
NE Corner	Widen	246-2708
Christmas Point	Nelson	326-6311
Baker Rd.	Baker	326-1807
Bonnie Pt, Sears Bay Pine Bay	Kinnunen	327-8677
Bonnie Point Comfort Cove	Chatterton	326-0827
North Portage Tr.	Isackson	327-2023
South Deer Circle to N. Portage	Hunter	326-5664