

# LAKESHORE LINES

June, 2005

Free – and worth every cent!

## Alice Sent Off In Style

By Ellen J.



Alice takes the words right out of Don's mouth

At the end of March the Deer Lake congregation came together to roast and toast our dear Alice Stephenson. After 14 years of putting up with us she was forced to endure just one more opportunity to be teased and appreciated before beginning her well deserved retirement. The fellowship hall was brimming full of well-wishers

and, after a huge supper, a wonderful cake was cut and the microphone was open. Everyone seemed to have a story about Alice who apparently single-handedly kept Marilyn R. off the road by buying her car out from under her! Alice also reportedly met a certain congregation member in the

*Continued on page 2*

## Lasagna e Musica Aplenty

By Gary F.

Eh! Whatsa matta you? You no come a Lasagna e Musica? Well, you missa *reecally* gooda food. Justa lika my mama used a make! And the musica? It maka my hearta sing!

Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> was, indeed, a memorable evening. Almost a hundred hungry and entertainment-starved people crowded the Deer Lake fellowship hall and sanctuary. Marlene C. and Terri L., with the help of a horde of assistants, served an unforgettable lasagna dinner. Nobody left hungry.

The meal was followed by a variety of musical performances, all on an Italian theme, sung and played by members of the Deer Lake United Church Choir. Acts ranged from classical (Caccini's "Amarilli") through the classics ("Volare" and "Arrivederci Roma") to the eclectic ("Satin Doll" – there *is* an Italian connection, Don assures us) and, finally, the humorous ("That's Amore" sung by the men of the choir). Naomi Scott emceed the event in her usual inimitable style.

After all expenses, the event raised \$1805.32. The money will go towards having the church organ services. To all of you who attended or contributed, a heart-felt GRAZIE!

*See page 6 for pictures.*

### Mission Statement

The purpose of Deer Lake United Church is to celebrate God's presence as a foundation enabling our spiritual growth by service to God through worship; each other through fellowship and education, and others through outreach; in a supportive, welcoming Christian community that seeks to follow God's call as revealed in the life and teachings of Jesus.

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## New Deer Lake Manse Nears Completion

By Ellen J.

In order to reduce the daily commute time of Rev. Scott T., Deer Lake United Church has returned to the more traditional housing option of providing a manse for its minister and family in the very neighbourhood the church serves. The home is situated on a grassy knoll in a well established residential neighbourhood, surrounded by a privacy hedge and mature landscaping. Its cedar siding lends itself to our west coast lifestyle and the open plan concept allows living areas to flow together and function as a featured multi use great room. The home's state-of-the-art ventilation system and wheelchair accessibility are sure to provide the minister with years of pleasant summer evenings as he makes use of its ample parking and close proximity to many fine amenities. Deer Lake members are pleased to be able to provide this option to its minister and look forward to the key presentation ceremony and house warming barbeque in late June.

See page 4 for a picture of the new manse.

*Alice continued from page 1*

middle of the night in her bathrobe, and kept an impressive number of ministers on their toes over the past 14 years! David Martin came down for the evening and, to her delight, a letter from Abiel and Carolyn was passed along. Alice said her goodbyes with her usual grace and style and was presented with a beautiful wood sculpture made by Larry S. It was a wonderful night. An end for us and a new beginning for Alice!!



## Sizzling Summer Services

Deer Lake continues to be blessed with a rich diversity in worship leaders throughout the summer months. We take a moment to give thanks for the worship leaders who have graciously agreed to bring God's challenging gospel message to us during the Sundays that Scott will be away.

**July 3<sup>rd</sup>** Rev. George S. has had a diverse career in both the Anglican and later in the United Church. As a minister retired from a long and fruitful career in the church, George brings a depth of experience to his preaching that we eagerly await.

**July 10<sup>th</sup>** Carli T. and Michael H. are a dynamic duo who look forward to celebrating their marriage this September. Carli has blessed this church with her skills as our youth leader, recently completed a well run campaign as the Green Party candidate for Burquitlam and will be working with First United Church Mission as a case worker through the summer. Michael is Deer Lake's new Christian Education chair and executed a well run campaign as the Green Party candidate for Mallairville.

**July 17<sup>th</sup>** Judy I. is a passionate member of Deer Lake who currently serves on the Deer Lake Christian Education ministry and also continues to be active in the ministry of First United Church Mission. Judy brings a rich spirituality that continues to be fed in a range of contextual soils.

**July 24<sup>th</sup>** Trish S. is the director of pastoral care at the New Vista Care Centre. Trish will be addressing the challenging issue of offering pastoral care and support in increasingly secular contexts in which we live out our faith. If pastoral care gives you questions, uneasiness or just honest confusion, you won't want to miss this Sunday.



## Lunch on the Run June 26th and Sept. 18th

Mark them on your calendars! The Outreach Committee is hosting a Lunch on the Run at the end of the school year and then a welcome back Lunch on the Run in September. These simple meals give us a chance for fellowship and catching up on all our families news. Donations for the meal contribute to the Edmonds Youth Centre, giving Burnaby's teenagers a fun and safe place to hang out.

# Daring Leadership

By Rev. G. Scott T.

What do the words 'daring' and 'leadership' conjure up for you? Do these words have any place in our church or in a pastor's article in the summer church newsletter? These words served as the theme of the recent Annual Meeting of the BC Conference of the United Church of Canada: "*Daring Leadership: Ancient Wisdom, Contemporary Challenge*". As a community of 519 lay and ordered delegates from across the Conference of B.C., we gathered in Comox to grapple with this very question. The overwhelming answer we came to was YES!!! This is a time in our history to be *daring* in our leadership as we consider the *Contemporary Challenges* and meet them *daringly* with *Ancient Wisdom*. Indeed, this is an interesting time for our entire denomination. As we enter this 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year for our National church, our Moderator notes that we are about to begin a third generation as a corporate body. During these last two generations, we have been *daringly* led by many Christian brothers and sisters within our own denomination. Prior to our union in 1925, we recall the *daring* leadership of our three founding denominations (Methodist, Congregationalist and Presbyterian). Prior to all that, we ultimately remember and participate in the *daring* leadership of those recorded in scripture where the Holy Spirit was vitally alive in them.

We are all leaders. By virtue of our baptism, we each occupy a unique component part of the leadership of the body of Christ. Some might be more visible leaders like a board member or treasurer or pastor; however, we are all called into leadership roles in the church. Leadership in the church, is somewhat of a paradox because while we act as leaders, we are also required to be faithful followers of Christ at the same time. We lead others towards places of God's healing and hope through all the ways in which we live as faithful disciples of Christ. We also follow as we listen to the Living God revealed to us in the person and witness of Christ Jesus. While most people reading this article might agree with these dual components of discipleship, we need to remember that they do present implications for our living. Seen from this perspective, we come to realize that our faith has power and command over our lives. We acknowledge that in the covenantal relationship with God that there are implications for how we are to live our lives in response to that love.

I am one of many leaders at Deer Lake. I view my personal role within Deer Lake as being the 'spiritual leader'. Thus far, my leadership has focused upon relationship. During this first phase, I have come to walk spiritually with many of you. I have heard parts of your faith journey (and you have heard parts of mine); I have been invited into many of your homes. We have studied together, worked together, grieved together and celebrated together. And through all of this time, we have worshipped together. It has been a wonderful beginning!

Over the last few months, the board and I have begun discerning the next period of ministry for the church and the new role that I will play during that period. It is evident to us that we need to discern a clear direction for this next phase of Christ's ministry in which we have been called. While we have clear mission statement (listed on the front page), we do not have clarity in the direction that this gathered community will act out this mission statement. Such a direction will hone the utilization of our collective ministries of time, energy, money, etc. In a world of diverse needs and segmentation, we realize that we cannot "be all things to all people" and so clarity in directional focus will be critical to our future.

Where do we begin? I see two places for us to start. Firstly, we begin with God. The creation story: "In the beginning..." begins with God. We do the same. During the summer months, I strongly encourage you to pray on how you see Christ's *daring* leadership directing this church into the future. What *daring* things would Jesus have us doing/ being/ saying? What unique thing(s) are there about the church which will make its *daring* existence vital for God's vision to be further realized? What part of God's *daring* plan is to be realized through this church?

The second place of beginning builds upon to the first. If we take the creation story seriously, then we know that we were "created in the image of God" with a deep purpose within God's *daring* plan. Having first thought about the church's direction (i.e. you and me gathered together, called and sent by Christ), each of us then must discern our personal ministry. What unique gifts do you bear that are crucial for our next *daring* direction? Do you find satisfaction in the things which you are involved in at the church? If so HALLELUJAH! You have discovered your present gift to Christ's ministry and are exercising them (That's how it should be. Church should be fulfilling and fun). If not, why not pray on the question 'what would be life giving for me to engage in at the church?' or 'What unique gift has God planted in me?' Given that there is little that we must do as a church, let us then focus on the parts which we are passionate and gifted at doing and being. Jesus said: "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Lk. 12:34) and I suspect that gospel truth will ring true in the next phase of our ministry.

I am personally very excited about the journey that lies ahead of us. Excited because the depth of rich gifts that God has blessed this congregation with is quite evident to me. What is even more exciting is the unknown element in how God will collectively use our gifts that unite as a church. May we all have summers filled with rest and play. May there be times of renewal and growth where we discern the holiness that lies inside each of us. A holiness that unites us as the forever *daring* church on Deer Lake.

Shalom/ Peace,

**Scott**

## Visioning – Food for Thought

Scott would like Deer Lake United Church to think about our vision for the church in the future--the seeds we could be planting and nurturing now for future ministries. At present we are coasting along, but we will lose momentum if we do not think about where we want the church to go and be ten years hence.

For the moment, here are some questions you might want to think about. Watch for exciting opportunities to explore this further in the fall!

### Worship:

How would you like to see it change/stay the same?  
Is the worship service meeting your present needs?  
How will your needs change over the next five years?

### Christian Education:

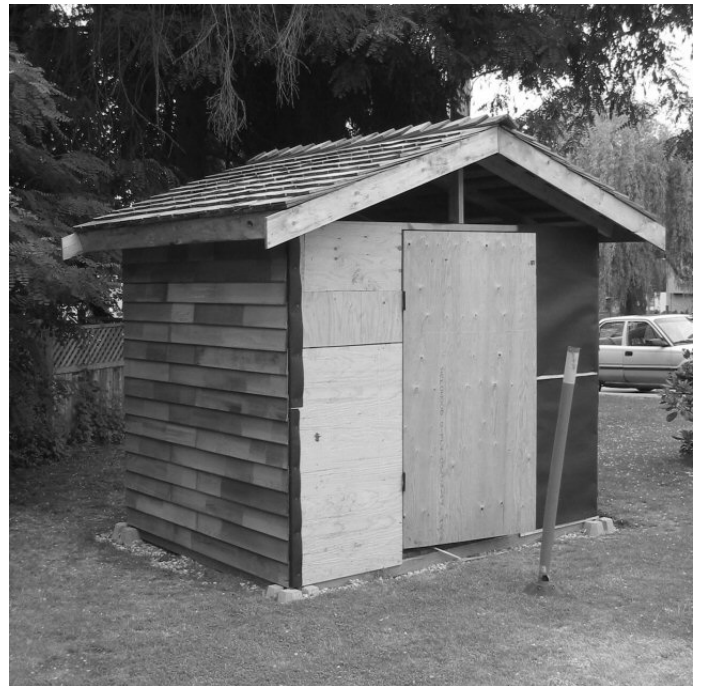
How would you like to see it change/stay the same?  
Is it meeting your present needs?  
As a parent? Teacher? member of the congregation?  
How will these needs change over the next five years?

### Outreach:

How would you like to see our focus change/stay the same?  
Is Deer Lake outreach presently meeting the needs of  
it's congregation? Its community? It's global village?  
What should we be doing in five years?

### Deer Lake Identity:

Who are we?  
What is our mandate?  
What will we look like in five years?



New manse takes shape. Watch for the open house.

## Project Charlie \$4000 goal reached!

A big thank you for all those who have given donations and contributed to fundraising for Charlie C. from Zambia. Bill Hilliard inspired us all with his caring for this young man who wants to go to college and help his brothers and sisters. Special thanks to Naomi S. who organized the fun Trivia Night and Eileen M. who organized the Silent Auction. Both women put forward tremendous energy and steadfast commitment and caring. Thank you!

## Karen S. Dead at Age 32

We have some sad news to share with you. Karen S., daughter of Bill and Carol S., former minister here at Deer Lake, died following a tragic car accident late last month in Toronto. Karen spent her childhood in Burnaby and those of you who knew her then remember a bubbly, energetic, outgoing and friendly young girl – always smiling!

Karen was working with the Red Cross and looking forward to being married this summer. She was 32 years old. Flowers were sent on behalf of the congregation to the service in Saskatoon with our love, thoughts and prayers. In memoriam gifts to the Heart and Stroke Foundation would be appreciated by the family if you wish to support the family in this way. Our thoughts and prayers are with Carol, Bill and Brian in Saskatoon.



Bargain hunters place their bids in the Silent Auction



# The Spirit Of Pentecost At Deer Lake

By Bill H.

“As they met together on that day, suddenly there was a sound like the roaring of a mighty wind in the sky above and it filled the house in which they were meeting.”

That mighty wind was God’s spirit come down at Pentecost. Wonderful things came about. On Pentecost Sunday we saw and heard how eighty years ago Christians gathered together and joined their faith experiences to form the United Church of Canada. We heard how the Church has done many good things in Canada and around the world. We felt that the mighty wind of Pentecost was moving in the United Church of Canada, but some asked, “What of our little congregation? Is the mighty wind moving within it? What has Deer Lake done?”

For many years Deer Lake Church has strongly supported the M & S fund and worked hard to support First United and its East Side Outreach. We provide volunteers to help with the work, we collect food and clothing to sustain the helpless, we transport everything to the centre, we pray for the workers and for the recipients of their work. Quietly going about the

work we are like a gentle wind felt but unseen.

A few years back our departed sister Wenda came to Deer Lake asking for help for battered women and their children. Our church offered them the use of the church basement and kitchen for meetings and set up a committee and gave some money to start things. From that small beginning grew The Lifeline Society and eventually the building of Dixon House.

Our congregation heard of the plight of homeless children of Central America and became involved in Pueblito, the Children’s Village, where the street children were adopted by families and lived regular lives in the village on its five acre farm plot. From Sears we bought hand operated sewing machines to send down so that the moms could make school uniforms for their new families. The people of the village were so impressed by our efforts at Deer Lake that they named one of the houses ‘Casa Burnaby’ or ‘Burnaby House.’

Having helped children in need in another county we undertook to help families and kids at risk in our own community. We sponsored a part-time worker and made

and delivered meals to the Edmonds Centre for street kids. We provided Christmas gifts for the kids. We still have Lunch on the Run to raise money to assist the Centre and our office also has available Safeway food vouchers so that no family in dire need will go away hungry.

A few months ago the gentle breeze blew among us and prompted us to raise money to send to Zambia to help our brother Christian, Charlie C., get an education so that he might help his own people rise up from poverty and despair. We set our goal at \$4000. The spirit moved and warmed us so that today I can tell you that as of Sunday last, May 15, we have raised \$4246.50. And there is still some money to come in. What ever is over the amount will likely be saved and sent as an extra at Christmas.

Yes, the spirit is moving at Deer Lake. Like a gentle breeze warming our bodies, hearts and awakening our spirits, gently urging us to do the work of the Holy Spirit.

Let’s celebrate God’s goodness to us and acknowledge the work of the spirit here.

Allelulia!



Silent Auction high bidders



Garry cuts the United Church 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cake



Collecting money from winning bids

## HELP WANTED Counters

Needed Aug 1, 2005 to  
July 31, 2006.

Couples or singles.

### JOB DESCRIPTION:

Collect offering during  
service, count money, take  
to night deposit at bank.

Training is provided.

Make night deposit at bank

Approximately 1½ hours  
or less, 4 - 5 times a year

Please see Mary Cazalet  
for further information.



A capacity crowd eagerly awaits Marlene's home-made lasagna

## Lasagna e Musica



Have you finished with your plate, sir?



Naomi cracks up Don and the audience



Jean opens the entertainment with some classical Italian



The Brothers Cool belt out that well-known Italian favourite, "Satin Doll"



The men launch into a Gay Tarantella while Terri tries to maintain order in the evening finale, "That's Amore"

## A Hero's Welcome

By Mary W.

Bert W., 82, was one of 1,600 World War II veterans waving at some 200,000 cheering spectators along the parade route in Apeldoorn, Holland. They were celebrating the "60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands" on May 8, 2005. As most veterans were between 80 and 90 years of age, a hundred WWII army vehicles were available to transport those veterans who were unable to walk. Most veterans took advantage of the opportunity due to rain, hail, and cold weather. The Veterans Liberation Parade was the highlight at the end of 9 days of daily festivities. Her Royal Highness Princess Margriet of the Netherlands took the salute, in the presence of His Highness Prince Floris. There were 18 marching bands, and our R.C.M.P. in their scarlet coats were a great hit! Along the 2 km parade route the Dutch people cheered, clapped and shouted: "THANK-YOU, BOYS!" - "THANK-YOU, LIBERATORS!" - "THANK-YOU, CANADA!" Dutch citizens tearfully hugged our marching Canadian veterans. Tons of tulips were given out along the route. Trays of beer were handed to the thirsty marching veterans. Spectators waved Canadian flags. Streets, homes and businesses were decorated with Canadian, Netherlands, and "House-of-Orange" flags.

Numerous other Liberation Festivities included an official reception by the city of Apeldoorn and Mayor de Graaf, who presented each veteran with a special Dutch Commemorative Medal; a ten day International Youth Forum featuring young people from 16 to 18 years of age from Europe and Canada; a Government of Canada ceremony of remembrance & reception at Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, where 2,300 Canadians are buried, attended by over 6,000 people; a ceremony of remembrance at Holten Canadian War Cemetery, where 1,355 Canadians are buried; a remembrance service at De Grote Kerk, Apeldoorn's cathedral, followed by a Silent March to nearby Oranjepark and a wreath ceremony; the Royal Tattoo, with numerous marching bands from Canada and the Netherlands, followed by parachute jumping by the Canadian Forces Parachute Team, the "SkyHawks"; the unveiling of a commemorative



Bert W., one of 1600 returning heroes in Holland

plaque by the Historic Sites & Monuments Board of Canada at the Royal Palace Het Loo, followed by a reception; finally, a "Thank-You-Canada Farewell Dinner" hosted by the Mayor and the City of Apeldoorn, attended by about 300.

Only the veterans who helped liberate Holland during WWII were invited by the Dutch Government to return for the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations. Bert was 19 years old when he joined the Active Canadian Army. He served with the Royal Canadian Signal Corps in Holland. More than 7,600 Canadians died in the nine dreadful months it took to liberate the Netherlands.

The Dutch people opened up their hearts and homes and hosted those veterans and their spouses who wished to stay with them for the 10 days of festivities. Our Dutch hosts could not do enough for us! They drove us to the various venues, showed us the best shopping areas and beautiful points-of-interest along their picturesque, winding canals. Their meals were delicious, especially their Dutch cheeses. They were, and are, very grateful for their liberation from Nazi tyranny by our Canadian & Allied Forces on May 5, 1945.

## Frank Makes a Move

By Garry F.

On May 24<sup>th</sup>, Frank C. moved from Royal Columbian Hospital to St. Michael's Centre at 7451 Sussex Avenue in Burnaby. Although he is frustrated by the paralysis of his right side caused by his stroke, Frank is in good spirits and enjoys having company. He is making slow but steady progress and has been able to go home for day visits.

Eight Deer Lake men visited Frank the week after the Men's Retreat to share stories and pictures of their weekend with him. Frank greeted each man with a strong handshake and laughed along with them as they flipped through the pictures and reminisced about past retreats, many of them at the C.s' cabin. He shared two large collages of his own pictures with his visitors.

Although he is as yet unable to say more than yes and no, Frank verbally counted the men, pointing to each one in turn, and counted himself as the ninth. He clearly considers himself to be a member of the Deer Lake Men's Group still. And so he is.



## Unsung Hero

By Ellen J.

Sharon H. has been overseeing our Sunday school for the past fifteen years in one capacity or another, and it's time we gave her a nod of appreciation!! Since 1990 Sharon has served our children in many ways. She began by working in the nursery, went on to teach Sunday School and is currently the past chair of the Christian Education Committee. She is responsible for helping the children create many welcome and farewell gifts for a number of ministers, and she tried earnestly to teach all of the Sunday School kids the new Lord's Prayer by writing it on a large sheet of paper and begging the teachers to please give it a go every Sunday! She has taken it upon herself to do a lot of research on the curriculum over the years and has consistently chosen appropriate, enriching material for our kids. Sharon has always been one to go the extra mile as she organized church picnics and worked tirelessly on our many pageants which include:

1998 - *Music Machine*,  
 1999 - *Christmas in Cyberspace*  
 1999 - *Jesus our Brother*  
 2000 - *"Song from the Stran"*,  
 2000- *It's Cool in the Furnace*  
 2003 - *Huron Christmas*  
 2004 - *Christmas through the Centuries*

In February Sharon stepped down as chair of the Christian Education Committee and I don't think we ever really thanked her so here it is. **Thank you, Sharon, for your inspiration, your cheerfulness, your incredible flexibility and your devotion to our kids. We have been so lucky to have you watching over us all.**

### What does the Sunday School look like now?

We have on average: five children in our primary group, four or five children in our middle group and about six kids in our youth group. We have not had a consistent nursery schedule for a couple of years. Our kids are growing up. We are no longer a church full of "young families". Some of the teachers who go downstairs each Sunday have been doing it for a *long time!* Fifteen years (Cathy M.), eleven years (Ellen J.), countless years (Judy W.), Jean, Peggy and more!! Most of these teachers sit on other committees as well. The truth is many of us are running out of steam, our kids needs have changed, our needs have changed, and it's time to look at the Sunday School in a fresh light. Please give our Deer Lake kids some thought and let's see if we can come up with an idea or two on how to share the load a little more and make our growing kids a priority. Is it time for a new structure, a new model, a new arrangement? Here's the challenge to all members of our church:

**How can we build our commitment to the children at Deer Lake?**

**They are a small but cohesive group of kids. What do they need?**

**How can the church (not just their parents) meet those needs in Sunday School...in Worship...in their Christian lives?**

## In Memory of Eleanor Masson

By Garry F.

Eighteen Deer Lake United Church members attended a Celebration of the life of Eleanor M., Donna P.'s mom, The fourteen choir members who attended joined members of the Masson family and the St. Andrews United Church choir to sing the anthem, "Take Me Home." Donna's sister, Connie, wrote and recited the poem that follows. I think it is a wonderful tribute to a life well lived and something we can all relate to.

### Hands

Many years ago when my first daughter was born, a friend looked at her delicate little hands, and wondered what those hands would do in this life. Recently I held the hand of my dying mother, and was reminded of that comment. I looked at the dry skin hanging from the bones, the swollen arthritic fingers, felt the softness of the skin, and pondered all the things those hands had done in their 79 years. The farm chores done in her childhood on the cold prairie mornings, and the delicate needlework and sewing done in the evenings. Thousands of letters typed. Thousands of pie crusts rolled out, and batches of bread dough springy beneath her palms. Babies caressed, backs scratched, backsides smacked, children dressed and their hair brushed and curled. All the hours holding knitting needles and guiding fabric under the foot of the sewing machine. Hopefully, loving caresses given to my Dad, as well as endless hours stuck in dishwasher. The dirt of so many gardens under her fingernails as she created beauty in all her different homes.

I imagined her hands in their proper gloves as a young and beautiful woman. How they must have been strong and graceful at the same time. Did she keep admiring them when they first sported her engagement and wedding rings? And as the years passed, and the veins started to stand out, and the joints swell, did she know that her hands were still beautiful? That they told the stories of a life well-lived, love given and received? Had someone once looked at them brand new and wondered what they would do in this life? And would they ever have guessed that so much love could be contained in one pair of hands?

By Connie M.



# Men's Retreat 2005

By Gerald P.

We held this year's Men's retreat at Paradise. Paradise is the name of a cabin and its lovely gardens on Harrison Lake. Many heartfelt thanks to Joan and Bruce D. for offering us such a beautiful setting for our adventure.

Eight men arrived at the cabin in two boats late Thursday afternoon. Thanks to Arnie B. for the transportation in the second boat. With food, water, sleeping bags and duffel bags both boats were fully loaded. We settled in and had a late dinner of Marlene's lasagne. It was delicious.

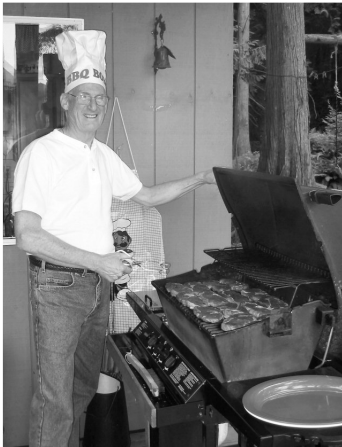
Bruce had a project in progress to reduce the soil, rocks and stumps below his new venicular system So on Friday, four men worked on the trench and four men did what men do best...they supervised. Late in the day, nine more arrived and the fellowship continued.

On Saturday morning we got down to business. With Garry F.'s guidance, we gathered to discuss our theme for 2005: **Blessings**. We defined a blessing. It is a gift from God. People can request a blessing on your behalf but cannot give you one. We reflected individually on how each of us was blessed. We then shared our life's experiences in small groups. Many were emotional about love lives, family and incidences that had shaped their lives.

Returning to the combined group we compared our stories. We acknowledge that we live in a wonderful part of the world. We are surrounded by God's beauty and are blessed by His gifts of family, friends and church. We discussed that in poorer countries they too, smile, laugh, and share with loved ones. They, too, are blessed.

In a setting aptly named Paradise, God's nature blessed us at every turn. Colourful Hummingbirds thrummed past our heads as they fed from feeders, and as we reflected, wrote and shared. After our workshop and lunch, most of the men went on a four hour cruise and hike to Long Island and one of its little lakes. Bob Chapman could not be encouraged to leave his barbecue, though, and Bill Hilliard and I remained at the cabin, just to appreciate the quiet of nature.

On Sunday, after a reverent service by Scott, we packed up, cleaned cabin and loaded our gear back into the boats. A wet, bumpy ride back to the marina did nothing to dampen our enthusiasm and appreciation of our many blessings..





# Motherhood From My Perspective

By Ellen J. (prior to Mother's Day)

I am spending this mother's day in Disneyland with Demmery and Hugh but want to thank you all for providing my boys with a wonderful extended family at Deer Lake. I'm not sure how blessed I'll feel by the time I get back so I thought I'd write up a little something now, before I leave!

I've been blessed to have a mother...

I've been blessed to be a mother...

and I've been blessed by two wonderful women who *became* mothers on my children's birthdays.

They are who I think of each Mother's day

Through sheer determination, a selfless commitment to the well being of their children, and a rock solid faith in me, a stranger from Canada, these women blessed me. I think of them often and I'm staggered by the profoundness of what they did. My children think of them regularly, wondering who they are, what they

look like, whether they remember their baby boys. I assure them that they do and we talk about what wonderful brave and loving women they must be. How one probably has long wavy hair and endless confidence and how the other must be sensitive and perceptive with beautiful almond eyes.

I've been cautioned not to use the term "mother" when I refer to birth parents as apparently it can cause confusion for adopted children. But to Demmery and Hugh the term has only caused affirmation that they were loved from the very beginning, and from this they have both developed a strong sense of self-importance, a sense of self-worth and an unshakable belief that they have value. "She did that for me!!" "What love!"

To our small family these two women are mothers, in the purest sense of the word. Their sacrifice is immeasurable and I am blessed by them every moment of every day..... the mothers of my children.

## Trivia Night



The organizers take a quick meal break before the games begin



A happy winner shows off his tiara and prize



Naomi challenges the crowd with some tough questions

## Ramp Resurfacing



Greg lays down a smooth surface while mixers Gary and Arnie look on



Garry finishes the edges



Doug takes over from a tired Greg

## Submissions

**Lakeshore Lines** will be published four times each year. Submissions may be made to one of the Communications Committee members (preferably by email): Ellen J., Garry F., Jim Y.

**Next Issue: Oct, 2005**

Submission Deadline Sunday, Sep 25<sup>th</sup>