



Dumoine River Rod and Gun Club Newsletter 2013

The 2013 year was a year of great loss. Jim, Bob and I arrived at the Club in early spring and celebrated the Sheerway Bridge standing strong against every adversity nature threw at it.



And then it was gone! Little did we realize that this was a metaphor for the season.



Our loss started earlier with news that a long time Honorary Member Boyd Allen had passed away. Earlier, his daughter Nancy had written to me to say how much Boyd enjoyed the news from the Club. Nancy has sent Boyd's records and photos from the club for our archives.

Next we learned that another of our long time Honorary Members, Case Prime had passed away. He was son of Raymond Prime, one of our founding members after whom Prime Cabin is named. Jeff continues the family dynasty and will write an appreciation of Case's contributions to the club.

Then, just prior to our AGM we lost our president Jim Buckley. He worked tirelessly for the club and his love of the region was so obvious to everyone of us. He is greatly missed.

We will start to collect accounts of the contributions these members have made to the club. We have histories of the early days of the club but I am not aware of anyone bringing these up to date and I feel we must record the information before our memories fade.

While reading the histories I was struck by a comment made by Joe D'Avignon. D'Avignon was a founding member of the club and its president from 1918 until his death in 1949. He always hoped a room in the lodge would be named in his memory. The club named its new

cabin D'Avignon Annex but we have become lazy and abbreviate this to Annex. I find many members who do not even know the full name. I would like to suggest that we simply refer to this cabin as D'Avignon and, unless someone objects, I will change the sign. If we remain lazy I suggest an abbreviation D'A. would retain the intent.

We remember what we have lost but we move on to a new tomorrow . We have a new President. Marcus Magee has been duly elected and has taken up his new duties. We are joined on the executive by Larry Daer. Support of the members for having the Chair of the Membership committee as a member of the executive was unanimous. We congratulate Jeanne on her election as a Special Lifetime Member.

One of the steps taken by the executive was to initiate a survey of members on where they see the club going in the longer term. Jeff More will be leading this review. This will guide us as we look at the investments and improvements that need to be made to keep the club facilities in good shape.

We were not successful in getting the Quebec Government to replace the bridge so we have started working on an alternative method of keeping access across the river. A pontoon barge is under construction. The bottom half is nearing completion and Doug Blanchard is busy designing the superstructure. Ralph has generously contributed a motor. The plan is to have this in operation for opening day this spring.



Members will find another change when they come up to the club. Myro and Ann have retired and the store in Rapides is now run by another Rapide local, Grant Lance. Myro and Ann will continue to live in the house across from the store and hope to spend more time in the woods. I have assured them that they will always find a welcome at the Dumoine club.

We welcome our new members. Grey Hagwood joined up at the Vermont Sportsman show and Glen Ruskin joined us in April. Martin Lacasse joined for next year but was immediately put to work at the club. It has also been very good to see the number of people bringing their offspring. We continue to reach out to new members. Tom Magee has

organized a booth at the Vermont Sportsman show in January. Our web site (www.dumoine.com) is up and running and we have placed an ad in the magazine Ontario Out of Doors which goes to all members of the Ontario Federation of Hunters and Anglers. We have some new brochures and if anyone would like a few to pass along to prospective members please let me know.

Fishing over the summer was great. On opening day a catch of two speckles each over 6 lbs took top bragging rights for Terry. Top lake trout on opening day was taken by Graham who went on to snag one of several lakereels of over 10 lb that were taken through the summer. Good walleye catches were also common. The photo below from Larry Daer shows a double header of two walleye each over the slot limit and returned to the lake where they await our lines. The hunting season was a little slow as the cold wet spring limited the survival of grouse chicks but several good bags were reported. Your secretary enjoyed a wonderful grouse dinner at River camp in early November, thanks to Roger and Dick's hunting skills and Al's expertise in the kitchen.



It is now time to plan for next summer. The normal renewal form is attached. Please complete and send along to Ron Moss. Once dues are paid, members may book accommodation. We are very pleased the Jeanne will again be looking after the bookings so please e-mail her with your requests (jeanneg1@frontiernet.net).

We will be stocking lakes as usual. If you have suggestions for lakes to stock please let me know. We are trying to establish a regular pattern of stocking so that we always have good fishing. Contributions to the stocking fund are always welcome! If anyone wishes the club to procure stock for their own stocking, they must contact Bob before the beginning of February.

This year we are asking members to consider providing capital support for the club. We have two projects that will be of long-term benefit to the club – the purchase of the Green Lake property and the addition of the pontoon barge. To provide greater security for the long-term access to our facilities, the club decided to proceed with the purchase of the Green lake site and to investigate purchase of the main site. We have now completed most of the investigation for the Green Lake purchase, the final survey has been completed and we expect the final purchase to happen soon. The total cost of this is about \$25,000. In order to maintain access to the north side of the river including some of our favourite trout lakes we have moved ahead with the acquisition of the pontoon boat described above. The cost of this will be about \$9,000. We propose to invite members to provide support for these projects in the form of loans. Loans would be secured using the club fixed assets and if any assets are liquidated, the first call on the funds raised would be to repay the loans. In addition, members may, if they wish, arrange for repayment of the loans by reducing their annual membership dues by 10% of the loan for a period of 10 years. Any member wishing to support these projects is invited to contact the President.

Looking forward to seeing you all on opening day! Not too late to start tying those super flies!

David Sinclair
Secretary