

Picnic 2010 Report

The 2010 Lake Picnic was held on Sunday September 5, 2010, Labour Day Sunday. The weather was cool but it did not rain. It was held again at Purdon's Beach.

The organizers were Lorne & Connie Bowerman and daughter Joy Bowerman and her husband Trevor Dee. The event was staged with the help of Lakeside Rd neighbours. Special thanks to Doug Cross who did the duty on a BBQ that had seen better days. Lorne provide the propane.

For advertising, the flyer from last year was adapted and included in the newsletter. As well, Jack and Dorothy Hobbs with some organizers from last year did a circle tour of the lake on Sunday morning to call attention to the event. Lorne and Grandson Alex Dee repainted the boat sign from last year with this year's information. Because of bad weather on Saturday, the run was made Sunday morning. A good effort and it got a few more people out. It should be part of every picnic. Lorne prepared a flyer for distribution at the road meetings of White Pine, Fairs, and Porcupine Way. Lorne emailed his road association neighbours about the picnic on the Wednesday before the picnic. This could be done by all the road representatives. (Lorne could repaint the sign for next year if desired).

It went well with a turnout of 52, about the same as last year. A good time was had by all. There were conversations and introductions going on all the time so it was definitely a community building event.

We had hoped to hold races and games for kids, but although there were enough kids there, they kept coming and going so there were too few kids at any one time. The area is not really suitable for any races as it is not open enough and uneven with hazards . It could be used however for types of circle games, such as Simon Says, Dodge Balloon, or Pass the Water Filled Balloon, . The playground at the beach was well used and appreciated by the kids and their parents. It should figure into the planning for the next picnics. As well, we should give a definite start time for kids games, such as 12:15 to 12:45. Although the flyer asked that Lorne be notified of how many children would be attending, not one notification was received.

We bought the same amount of hot dogs and buns as last year, 96. We used 60 and had 36 left. They were well cooked by Doug Cross and enjoyed by adults and kids alike. Lorne seriously misjudged on the amount of ketchup, mustard, and relish to buy. He bought two 450 mL of mustard and used about one-half of one bottle. For the relish, he bought three 750 mL bottles and used about 500 mL. For ketchup, he bought two 1.5 litre bottles and used about 500 mL. The extra hot dogs, buns, and condiments will be given to St. Mark's Church for use on a BBQ for Council of the North Mission on September 19. A good shopping list will prevent these over purchases in the future.

Lorne had prepared a shopping list and a check list of things to take. He had missed tongs, scissors, and a BBQ lighter. Doug and Heather Cross went back to their cottage and brought the needed items.

We bought 24 bags of potato and Doritos chips to use as participation rewards for kids games and races. In the end these were given to all the kids present, and then the rest were distributed to willing adults.

Two ¼ slab cakes, one chocolate and one white, were purchased from the Independent in Almonte. The words “Patterson Lake Association” were written on each cake. They were tasty and only a little bit was left.

Printer labels were donated by Lorne and used for name badges. Connie went around and had everyone including kids make a label. This worked well and was an ice breaker. (Lorne still has labels left that could be used next year).

Lorne and Connie provided a 5 U.S. gallon cold drink urn filled with ice and water. Lorne had found the 5 oz cups first so he put them out; it would have been better to put out 7 or 8 oz cups. A comment from last year was that some drink should be provided. The most universal drink is water. (This urn is available for future picnics).

A \$50 gift certificate was given to Rhodena and Brian Bell in appreciation of the use of their property for the Picnic.

Good discussions were held afterwards on the timing of the event. The consensus is that we hold it on the 2nd Saturday in August when the weather should be warmer. The timing should be 11:30 am to 2:00 pm.

One person or one family can easily organize it in the present format and with a good shopping and check list for guidance. It takes about four people to help prepare the tables and food. Kids games would need two or three volunteers. It is suggested that the organizing rotate around the lake to the five road areas. The one person or family needed could be the Lake representative. It is not that hard to do.

We strongly recommend that the picnic be held next year on Saturday, August 13th from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm with funding being provided by the Patterson Lake Association. It is further recommended that childrens’ games be scheduled and advertised from 12:15 to 12:45.

Submitted by the Bowerman and Dee Family.