

Boating Safety

Once again this past summer, our Marine Patrollers were involved in delivering boat safety training to our senior Ojibway campers. Adrienne Hall and Alec Bradford did an excellent job with this particular task as with all the other areas of their job description. Their assistance was much appreciated. As in past years, PaBIA distributed FOX 40 whistles to all the participants. Our plan is to offer this training again this summer.

Pleasure Craft Operator Card seminar/examination sessions were held at the Ojibway on several dates through July and August. I'm very pleased to announce that seventy candidates of all ages successfully completed the program and should have received their permanent certificates by this time. I would be interested to hear from PaBIA members if there are significant numbers of boaters who have yet to acquire their PCOC. If there is enough demand, seminars may be offered again this summer. Please phone or e-mail me, using the contact information in the directory.

PaBIA executive has been involved in much discussion regarding an increased emphasis on boating safety and I am sure you will see more mention of this program in the online newsletter "Connections". Remember, we are all responsible for all our fellow boater's safety!

Pointe au Baril Emergency Response Team

Ed Garner included an extensive article about the PaBERT in the fall "Connections" newsletter and I do not intend to repeat what he has said. I would, however like to mention a few statistics: according to their annual report, the PaBERT was called out to medical emergencies on average, twice a week between June and September, the majority of these calls to seasonal residences; on the up side (given our weather patterns for last summer) they were called to only one fire scene. We owe a tremendous debt to these volunteers. We can attempt to repay this debt by contributing to their fund raising efforts.

Fire Safety

Remember, fire extinguishers and fire pumps require regular maintenance and, in certain cases, replacement. Remove extinguishers from their brackets and invert them; you should be able to hear the dry powder slump to the lower end of the container. If you cannot, the extinguisher should be drained, refilled and recharged. (or replaced). Always check the pressure gauge; if the indicator needle is above or below the green sector, the unit should be recharged or replaced. Fire pumps and fire hose should receive annual maintenance and pumps should be test run regularly through the summer, perhaps once a week. Inspect hoses in order to avoid catastrophic failure when you need it least. Ensure that all your family and guests are familiar with the proper use of all cottage fire equipment and ensure that you have prepared for the worst possible scenario. Everyone should be aware of all emergency exits and emergency marshalling points. Don't forget, the first five to ten minutes are critical in suppressing a structure fire. We need to be

prepared to deal with these emergencies ourselves. We also need to be prepared to assist our cottage neighbours! If any members have ideas or suggestions that they feel might improve our community emergency preparedness, once again, feel free to contact me at my home phone or e-mail. If you see a boat at our dock, please stop by. Have a safe and happy summer!