



# SSC Connections

## Happy New Year

On behalf of the Committee, I hope you had an enjoyable Christmas, and I would like to wish all of you a Happy and prosperous New Year 2004. With the winter season now upon us, the Camp is officially closed, however we will be ploughing the driveway to the hall so that families with children that want to visit the Camp in the winter for cross country skiing or tobogganing can safely park their cars on the grounds and not at the side of the road. On some weekends the stove in the hall may also be on so that you can warm-up before your drive home or between the toboggan runs.

On February 8<sup>th</sup> we will be holding our AGM (starting at 3:00 pm) and on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2003 we will be holding our annual *Pustni Barket*. This is one of the few opportunities that we have during the winter months to see one another, rekindle friendships and dance the night away to music provided by Murski Val.

This evening is important to us in many ways, not only is it an important social event that brings us all together in the winter but it also is an important source of funds for the Camp. Through these funds we can continue to improve the infrastructure

of the grounds and that is why we would like to encourage every member to invite as many non-members to the banquet as possible. We all attend banquets organised by other Slovenian organisations. Let's try to get them to attend ours and help support the operation of the Camp.

Over the last few year's we have had a lot of participation from both young and old by "dressing-up" in a costume. Last year we had

over 30 people dress-up..... let's try to double that number this year so as always, we are encouraging as many people to dress in the sprit of this event and to encourage your children to do so as well. Having people dressed in costumes and not just in suits helps preserve this Slovenian tradition.



To avoid confusion and to speed up the process at the door we will NOT be mailing tickets to the members this year. Rather we ask that you call one of the numbers below for tickets and you can pick them up at the AGM or at the door

Marica Komavli (905) 238-5710

The tickets are \$ 30.00 for adults & \$ 20.00 for youth. (No change from last year).

On behalf of the Committee

John Kuri Jr.  
President

## Annual General Meeting - 2003

The Annual General meeting will be held this year on **Sunday February 8th, 2004** at 739 Browns line in the church hall. The meeting will start at 3:00 pm and we would like to encourage all the members to attend this important review of the previous year and a look into what the year 2004 has in store for us. The official minutes of the 2003 Meeting were mailed out with the spring Newsletter and invoices. As such the minutes of the Meeting

will not be read, just approved, hopefully speeding up the process. Please bring your copy to the meeting.

All members attending the meeting are asked to arrive before 3:00 pm to allow for registration as well as giving everyone a chance to ensure that their mailing address, phone number etc. are up to date. You will also be able to pay and pick up your Pustna Zabava tickets prior or after the meeting. We look forward to seeing you there.

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## The calm and quiet of the "off season" .....NOT Quite.

With the main gates closing at the end of October one would think that everyone would be able to enjoy a few months of "off time" before the hectic start of the new Season is upon us. However, that is not the case. With the gates closing... the Committee and sub committees were off and running dealing with items and issues for the 2004 Season and beyond. Here are some of the items we have been hard at work on;

### **Playground Committee**

Members: (Mary Zigante, Mary Tratnik, Klavdija Kuri, Trish Berry, Mario Smolej, Luke Tratnik, John Kuri)

At Vinska Trgatev, proposals received from the playground manufacturers were put on display in the foyer. The committee has been hard at work taking the best of these proposals and combining them into "our" ideal structure. This information was then delivered to five interested manufacturers before Christmas. We have received final proposals and costs from these manufacturers in mid-January. We hope to review these proposals and issue a purchase order for the equipment quite soon, so that we can have both Phase I & II installed by the end of May.

### **Planning Committee**

Members: (Mario Smolej, Luke Tratnik, John Kuri, Boris Ulcar, Joe Muhic, Andrej Gorenc, Stane Kranjc)

Earlier this summer the Caledon Fire Department did an inspection of the hall and as a result we had to do some of the modifications that you may have seen such as the new emergency lighting, door closures and exit signs. Subsequent to that they did a far more comprehensive review of the hall and provided us a two page list of items that need to be addressed ranging from simple items like new exit signs and additional fire extinguishers, to expensive items such as installing a fire alarm system and upgrades to the kitchen exhaust system. These upgrades may require us to install a new hood and fan (anyone have an extra hood and fan lying around?). We are presently implementing some of the lower cost upgrades and reviewing our options as they pertain to the kitchen exhaust system and fire alarm. As these items relate to fire safety, they will have to be completed before the opening in the spring.

## Hvala Za Pomoc

Lansko leto smo zaceli z delom na letovišču že Aprila meseca in delo se je nadaljevalo do Novembra. Tudi lansko sezono smo zaceli z čiščenjem in koncali zopet z čiščenjem. Tudi letošnja sezono bomo zaceli enako. Clani in članice so se zopet odzvali v lepem številu in z veseljem. Kakor prejšnja leta so se tudi lansko leto oddzvali starejši clani v veliko vecjem številu kot pa mlajši clani. Upam de se bo to stanje izboljšalo letos, ker se bodo dela nadaljevala v vecjo korist našim mlajšim članom. Zelo smo veseli vseh članov ki nam dajejo tudi moralno pomoc.

Moram se zahvaliti tudi vsem osebam, ki so pomagali pri odpiranju in zapiranju bazena, kuharicam in kelnarjem, ki so nesebicno skrbeli celo polletje da nam ni zmanjkalo moci. Hvala Vam! Najvecja hvala pa članom in članicam, ki so neprestano pomagali in delali na letovišču brez da bi jih klical.

V imenu Slovenskega letovišca se vam priporocam za vašo pomoc že v naprej za 2004 sezono.

Uspeha in zdravja polno Novo leto vsem članom in članicam želita.

Ivan in Mary Marentic

[www.sloveniansummmercamp.com](http://www.sloveniansummmercamp.com)

Visit us often to check out all the events that are happening. Also look at the pictures from all the events. If you have any suggestions or comments, feel free to sent them to [webmaster@sloveniansummmercamp.com](mailto:webmaster@sloveniansummmercamp.com)



*The following article appeared in the Toronto Sun on December 18th, 2003. It appears that although we have stood alone amongst the other Slovenian farms as it relates to property taxes, for the last few years, changes are now underway at the Provincial level to tax all the other trailer parks including we assume the other Slovenian Farms. It appears that the current governments drive to increase revenues will level the playing field. We assume that since we were able to negotiate our tax rates and account for depreciation on the structures we will fair better than we would have in this scenario.*

## Unhappy Campers:

A tax tornado is hitting Ontario's trailer parks.

For the first time, trailer owners in seasonal parks will be required to pay property tax on their dwellings this year - a hit of about \$325 to \$1,000 annually, depending on the size of the unit.

Trailer owner David Paines of Whitby said the added tax burden will devastate many people who already pay substantial fees to the park operator.

"There's a whole bunch of people who are unhappy over this," Paines said. "There's a lot of people on fixed incomes who may not be able to afford it."

### Real property

Ontario finance ministry spokesman Christian Bode said the change stems from a court decision in May 2002.

"The court decision established that trailers are assessable as real property," Bode said.

He said the Liberal government put out a regulation on Oct. 30 that decreed the taxes would be assessed beginning in 2003, rather than 2001 as originally intended.

"Isn't that generous - as if I'm supposed to feel better," said Paines, who got the bad news this fall in a letter.

Paines, the owner of a 13-metre trailer beside a lake

## Trailer Owners now have to pay property taxes

in the Kawarthas, said he already pays \$2,200 a year in park fees for hydro, water, garbage, road repairs and property taxes on the site.

He'll still have to pay privately for those services despite coughing up an extra \$1,000 a year in property taxes, Paines said.

### Cottagers pay

Denis LeBrun, a senior manager in property values with the Municipal Assessment Property Corp., said many trailers are similar to cottages, which pay property taxes on the structure.

LeBrun said for property tax purposes, trailers would need to have a degree of permanency, be wider than three metres and probably include add-ons. "We don't want to pick up every little pull-out trailer that could be gone in two seconds," he said.

The park owner will be given the new tax bill, and is expected to pass it on to the trailer owners who lease sites.

There are about 900 trailer-park camps in Ontario ranging from about 20 sites to 1,300 sites or more.

The Ontario Divisional court ruling followed a legal battle between the MAPC and a Sarnia-area campground.

By Antonella Artuso

## Voščilo iz Kuhinje in Bara



Ob koncu uspešne sezone bi se oba rada zahvalila vsem članem Slovenskega Letovišča ki so prisostvovali pri dolnostih v kuhinji in baru.

Obenem vam Srečno in Veselo Novo Leto 2004.

Upamo da na novem letju se spet srečamo z novo energijo za delo ki nas čaka v bodočnosti.

Marica in Marjan

## Slovenian Summer Camp Sports

There were thirteen baseball teams, eleven soccer teams and six volleyball teams, totaling 217 players that participated in the sports tournaments at the Slovenian Summer Camp. Players ages ranged from 5 years to 22 years old. There were over 50 volunteers coaching, coordinating, officiating, cooking and announcing for all these events.

The whole Slovenian Summer Camp Sports group was chosen as member of the year for 2003.

Many thanks to the organizers, volunteers, parents and players for making this a great success!

## Important Dates to Remember in 2004

Event	Date
Annual General Meeting at 3 pm on Brown's Line	February 8th
Pustna Zabava	February 21st
Mother's Day	May 9th
Dom Lipa Walkathon	May 30th
Telovska Procesija	June 13th
Slovenski Dan	July 4th
Youth Volleyball (ages 18-25)	July 10-11th
T-ball (ages 6-9) & Softball (ages 10-13) Tournament	July 17-18th
High School Softball Tournament (ages 14-19)	July 24-25th
Poletni Vecer	July 31
Adult Softball Tournament	July 31- August 31st
Soccer (ages 6 - 17)	August 7-8th
Adult Volleyball Tournament (ages 18 -50+)	August 14 -15th
Vinska Trgatev	October 10th

### SSC Connections:

Editor/Publisher  
**Boris Ulcar**

Contributions by:  
Marica Komavli  
John Kuri  
Klavdija Kuri

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SSC Connections is a publication produced by the Slovenian Summer Camp as a means to keep in touch with its cottage holders and seasonal members. It is produced as time allows by the Committee.

Help and comments are always welcome.

If you are interested in having something published or wish to submit an article please contact any Committee member. ***This is strongly encouraged!***



## Lifeguard Wanted

We are presently looking for a second lifeguard. They must be at least 17 years old and hold a life-guarding certificate (Bronze Cross or NLS). Previous work experience would be an asset. For more information please contact **Mario Resnik**. (mresnik@sloveniansummercamp.com)



## Taxes on New Cottages

We are sure that everyone got a surprise when they opened up their assessment notices late this fall. As always it seems that assessments never go down... do they? Most people we know saw an increase between 10 – 30 %. The Camp was not immune to this. The assessment on the grounds increased by a total of 4%. Now since this is only ½ the picture and the property taxes depend on the mill rate set by the Town of Caledon and the Region of Peel we will not know the full impact of this until the spring.