



## The Michael Tobin Memorial Chapel

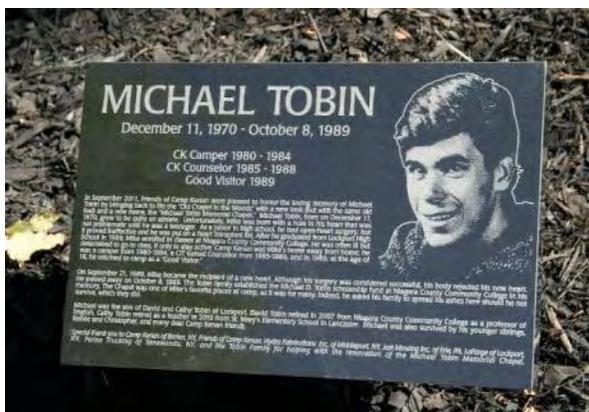
**By: Elizabeth Millen**

On Saturday September 10, 2011 at 2pm Friends of Camp Kenan gathered along with the Tobin family, many extended family members and friends to remember Michael Tobin by dedicating the Old Chapel in the Woods as the Michael Tobin Memorial Chapel.

Leading the heartfelt dedication service was Rev. Fr. William H. Heller. Michael's Father, David Tobin spoke of his memories of Mike with his friends, shared his knowledge of what Mike loved so much about Camp Kenan, in addition to his thanks for his son being remembered and honored this way.

David also shared that the Tobin family has established the Michael D. Tobin scholarship fund at Niagara County Community College in his memory. Michael's Sister, Renee Tobin,

Michael's Brother, Christopher Tobin, as well as friends Timothy McGuire, Christopher McGuire, and Elizabeth (McGuire) Millen stood and shared their remembrance of Michael and how his life affected theirs, whether it was simply his smile or his love of



Camp Kenan. They also expressed sincere thanks to all that gave their support to the family, not to mention the time and effort into the revitalization of the Chapel, all in the name of Michael.

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## The Two Shall Become One

**By: Elizabeth Millen**

Friends of Camp Kenan, along with the Mosher Family proudly announce the union of the two funds created in order to send selected children of Greater WNY to experience the joy that is Camp Kenan. The fund can now be referred to as "The Gilbert J Mosher Friends of Camp Kenan Campership Fund".

The Gilbert J Mosher Fund originated in 2006 after the passing of Gilbert J. Mosher, a dear friend and former staff member of Camp Kenan. The idea of this fund was to send children, specifically one boy and one girl, to Camp Kenan that could otherwise not afford to go on their own. These children

were selected after much effort put forward by the Mosher Family, visiting schools, meeting with guidance counselors and principals, sharing with them the benefit that Camp Kenan could bring to children who needed it. Since 2006, after a year or two of allowing time for the fund to accumulate donations, the Mosher Family raised enough money to send 6 (six) children to Camp Kenan.

In 2010, the Friends of Camp Kenan raised significant funds due to the generosity of area businesses and those of you that attended Goosestock 2010. With that came the idea of creating a Campership, another option of funding the cost of Camp for

area children who could not afford to go on their own. During the 2011 Camp Kenan season, in coordination with the YMCA and Director of Camp Kenan, Luke Kantor, the Friends of Camp Kenan Campership provided the opportunity for 10(ten) children to attend. Those children were selected after being referred to our program by those of you who were aware of it, and by reaching out to area schools, just as the Mosher family did. Prior to Goosestock 2011, Mark Natemeier, President of the Friends of Camp Kenan and the Mosher family discussed bringing together their efforts of raising money, joining the two separate funds to one, the Gilbert J

*(Continued on page 3)*



The Kenan NBA game-Old School vs. New School Staff-was an exciting part of Saturday afternoon!



# Goosestock 2011 Recap

By: Lisa (Polovick) Flaherty,  
Goosestock 2011 Chairperson

As I sit here and begin to write this article I realize that only a little over a month ago, I, along with many of you, was sitting around that familiar glow of a Camp Kenan campfire. It's hard to believe it's already been a month since we honored The Old Gray Goose at the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Goosestock and what a weekend it was! We kicked off Goosestock 2011 with an "all request" Goose camp fire on Friday night that will certainly be one to remember! Goose was in his glory and didn't disappoint his audience of all ages! The fun continued all weekend with Camp Kenan favorites such as Silver Pin Relays, Cabin Cleanup, Tie Dye and more!

As always, Goosestock had some great Friends of Camp Kenan merchandise available for purchase. Our super special secret project was revealed to be Camp Kenan song book! Timothy McGuire's original art work decorates the cover of this first ever bound, paperback song book.

*Friends of Camp Kenan invites young and old to sing, dance, clap and stomp along with your Camp Kenan favorites in this collection of camp songs. Songs from the mess hall, campfire ring, and chapel will bring back memories and help us continue the great tradition that Camp Kenan has instilled in all of us.*

This soon to be classic is flying off our shelves. Over half our inventory was sold at Goosestock! They make great gifts for Camp Kenan Alumni and your family and friends!

Purchase this and all Friends of Camp Kenan merchandise at our online store:

<http://www.friendsofcampkenan.org/campstore.html>.

Goosestock is always a great opportunity for former Camp Kenan staff to reunite and share camp with their families but that's not all. It is also about raising funds to support our mission. Again, this year's contests, live auction, basket auction, silent auction and general donations helped us raise thousands of dollars. In 2011-2012, we look forward to continuing our Campership program, contributing to Camp Kenan program, hosting our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Christmas party, and of course Goosestock!

Generous donations from many local companies helped Friends of Camp Kenan keep the cost of Goosestock to a minimum and allow us to focus our attention on fun and fund raising. We would like to especially thank the following sponsors that graciously donated our meals for the weekend; Lockport YMCA, Camp Kenan, TOPS Friendly Markets, Frey's Tasty Treat, Lake Effect Ice Cream, Pizza Wings and Things, Panera Bread, and Olive Garden. Please help us thank them by supporting them throughout the year!

In addition to these companies, Goosestock 2011 wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of countless volunteers. At the risk of forgetting someone I'm not going to list them here but our deepest gratitude to each and every one of you that helped in the kitchen, with an activity, planning, clean up and more!

Plans are already being made for a very special Olympiad edition of Goosestock 2012! I am happy to pass the chairperson position to our new board member, Rachele Hathaway. I know she will do an amazing job! More details to come in upcoming issues of *The Torch*.



Tom Maroon sings "Sippin' Cider" in the mess hall while Brigid Tobin looks on.

## Thank you (again!) to our Goosestock 2011 Sponsors!

Help us thank them by showing them support throughout the year.



# The Two Shall Become One *(continued)*

*(Continued from page 1)*

Mosher Friends of Camp Kenan Campership Fund.

We look forward to working together, to identify children throughout Western New York and beyond who deserve the opportunity to go to the place we all love so much, which helped shape us into the

people we are today, Camp Kenan. We hope that these children who are given the opportunity to experience Camp Kenan at its best grow to someday work there, and to eventually give back to the place that will without a doubt give so much to them.

## TOGG Tales: Tributes to Goose—Canice

By: Canice Drea

I was an innocent college kid from the Republic of Ireland and decided to spend a year out in the good old USA. For one reason or another, I ended up in the employ of the YMCA at Camp Kenan. Did I know what I was getting myself into? No. My introduction to the great man happened a couple of days before the start of training week. Kevin Clark and Kevin Judge (Top Staff at the time) decided to take a cruise on the lake and invited me to tag along. They then decided after a few beers that we should stop off at the camp and introduce me to the man. We proceeded up to the swimming pool and Kevin pointed me in front of this strange looking chap with a very short haircut and a designer stubble beard and said "Canice, this is your boss for the next 8 weeks". I looked him in the eye and held out my hand to shake his but instead he pointed his two fingers in the air and replied "Peace".

Now, pointing two fingers at somebody where I come from has a different meaning than "Peace", so I was a bit confused to say the least. Once pleasantries and greetings completed we were just about to return to the boat when I was pushed by somebody unknown into the pool. Upon surfacing and blowing water out of my mouth, Goose leaned over and said "Look forward to seeing you Monday- and be sober".

I had this image of "Training Week" being a bit of a vacation where you could put your feet up and work on your tan by the pool, and that was what I was expecting when I reported for duty the following week. However, to my surprise the jovial Goose that I was introduced to the previous week was replaced by a total professional, who stood no nonsense and who expected 100% commitment from all staff, and to use his expression, "Shape up or Ship Out". I knew he was serious when two staff

were shown the exit on day two.

It wasn't all work however. In the evenings, we had recreation, like the Counselors' soccer game. And as soccer was in its infancy in the States at the time, I was the star of the show, despite Goose on the side line shouting to his team to trip me up at every opportunity.

The following night I was told that there was going to be a wrestling event on in the hall. Curiously, I went along to see what was happening. In the center of the floor there was Goose decked out in his wrestling gear looking for a challenger. I noticed all the other counselors were very reluctant to step forward; I being totally naive stepped forward. One of the experienced counselors looked at me and said "I wouldn't do that if I were you". Now at the time I was quite an up and coming Rugby Player back in Ireland and thought that this would present no problem. BAD MISTAKE! As soon as the bell sounded Goose was at me like a man possessed! The speed of the man was incredible. I tried to make a match of it, but to no avail. He had me tied in knots and into submission in a matter of minutes. I never wrestled again.

I would say that the next seven weeks were up there with some of the most memorable moments of my life. From singing silly songs, some of which I still hum today, and whom my kids used to ask me when they were young, "Where did you learn that song from?" My reply was, "From a terrific chap in America who calls himself GOOSE."

During the seven weeks I was in awe of the man, and can say I learned quite a lot from him. However, it wasn't all plain sailing and I got on his wrong side on a couple of occasions. The first time was when, after "Morning Thought", it was my turn to

*(Continued on page 4)*

### Friends of Camp Kenan Mission

To provide supplemental support for the continuation of Camp Kenan as a summer resident camp for young people.

To support the philosophy of Dr. William Rand Kenan in providing the initial foundation for Camp Kenan: "That all children may grow in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man."

To provide for the continuing fellowship of Camp Kenan staff.



### Friends of Camp Kenan Events to Remember:

#### FRIENDS OF CAMP KENAN 2ND ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY »

Saturday, December 10, 2011  
Location: Adam VanDeMark's Home  
Time: TBD

*Please stay tuned for more detailed information coming to you via e-mail soon!*

*Do you have a "TOGG Tale" that you would like to see appear in future issues of "The Torch"? Please email [Elizabeth.Millen@friendsofcampkenan.org](mailto:Elizabeth.Millen@friendsofcampkenan.org) with yours today!*

# Letter From the President

By: Mark Natemeier, Board President



This was the first year my entire family has been able to attend Goosestock since the "New Goosestock Era" began in 2010. I have planned many family vacations over the years, and what I realized is that in addition to spending a lot more money, time, and effort

on previous family vacations they have also paled in comparison to the fun, adventure, and atmosphere that my family experienced at the 15th Anniversary Goosestock, also known as GS2011.

People outside of the Camp Kenan community always ask me "What is Goosestock?" - a question I usually struggled to answer.

**It is not just camping; it's not just a reunion. It is more than a vacation, and it is more than a normal weekend!**

For the people who attended GS2011, I think it will quickly become a destination weekend. It has become a life altering and life revitalizing event. If you don't believe me, just ask those who have attended the last two events (GS2010 & GS2011), or simply check your friends' Facebook statuses from the weeks following GS each year. You will see the joy, the fun, and the memories emoting from their posts.

Those are not easy things gained just anywhere else, in just two days and for just \$20 per person. Some people pay thousands of dollars to try and find a vacation that will give you just a part of what Goosestock offers. At one point there were over a 150 people at Camp Kenan for GS2011. It really was a pleasure to meet many new people and reconnect with some old friends that I hadn't seen in years.

I can easily say the best part for me was watching everyone experience GS in their own way over the weekend. I saw people who were enjoying life to the fullest, they were relaxed and comfortable, they were reliving memories that they thought had been long forgotten, and creating new memories that now included their new families and friends. **They looked like they had come home!**

The weekend was so action packed and full of excitement it is hard to pick some of the highlights, but here are a few that personally stuck out for me:

- Spending some time swapping lies and getting picked on by Goose
- The Goose all request campfire Friday night, "Just one moore Maaark, just one moore."
- About \$1,000 raised for the campership fund during the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual pool contest
- Noreen Collyer's laugh (if you haven't experienced this at 2AM you haven't lived)
- The "I stayed up way too late at OD" tired feeling
- Raising over \$1,800 from the auctions, with

the highlight being the Goose Bobble head

- The Michael Tobin Memorial Chapel dedication with over 120 people in attendance for the emotional service
- The 911 bagpipe tribute during chapel Sunday morning, September 11, 2011
- **The announcement that GS2012 will be the first ever... GOOSESTOCK OLYMPIAD THEME!**

**But, what I missed at GS2011 WAS YOU!** If you couldn't make it this year, or you if you never have had a chance to come to Goosestock, it is time to start planning for next year, it is time to experience Camp Kenan again. Next September please consider making the trip to Camp Kenan for GS2012 "Olympiad Weekend" with your friends and family. Whatever amount you end up donating to Friends of Camp Kenan that weekend will be paid back tenfold with the experiences you will have.

I would like to give a special thank you Lisa Flaherty for being the Goosestock 2011 Chair. Her dedication, hard work, and vision were some the biggest reasons GS2011 was an unbelievable success. Also, I'd like to give a big thank you to Luke Kantor, Camp Kenan Director. He worked with all of us on the Board of Directors to make sure we had staff and supplies for all of our activities and once again opened CK up to all of us for a once in a lifetime experience.

## TOGG Tales: Tributes to Goose—Canice

*(Continued from page 3)*

organize the flag raising ceremony. Apparently there is a right way and a wrong way to hoist the USA flag. Alas, I got it wrong. When I turned around to face the crowd after my efforts, I was puzzled to see all the kids looking up and grinning at an upside down stars and stripes. After being scorned by Goose, he was not amused when I said that it could have happened to a Bishop.

The second time I upset him was when, with nothing better to do one evening, I had this old vinyl

record of Irish "diddly-diddly" music, and I thought it might be a good idea to teach you Americans a bit of culture. So, I played it over the Public Address system. A couple of minutes later Goose came rushing into the Office wanting to know who was responsible for playing the racket over the Tannoy...Another telling off! However, Goose got to like the music and played it regularly over the course of the season.

Yes, the summer of '69 was a long time ago, but it holds many happy memories for me. The year Neil Armstrong landed on the moon, the year the

Mets won the World Series, the year Rod Laver won Wimbledon, the year the Rolling Stones were top of the charts with "Honky Tonk Woman" and it was also the year I had the pleasure of meeting the one, the only, Gray Goose. (Who may or may not remember me) So, as I sit here over 3,000 miles away, can you all be upstanding and raise your glasses of Bug Juice and drink to the health of the man from Worcester, Massachusetts - one Robert Gray.

## TOGG Tales: Tributes to Goose- Jan

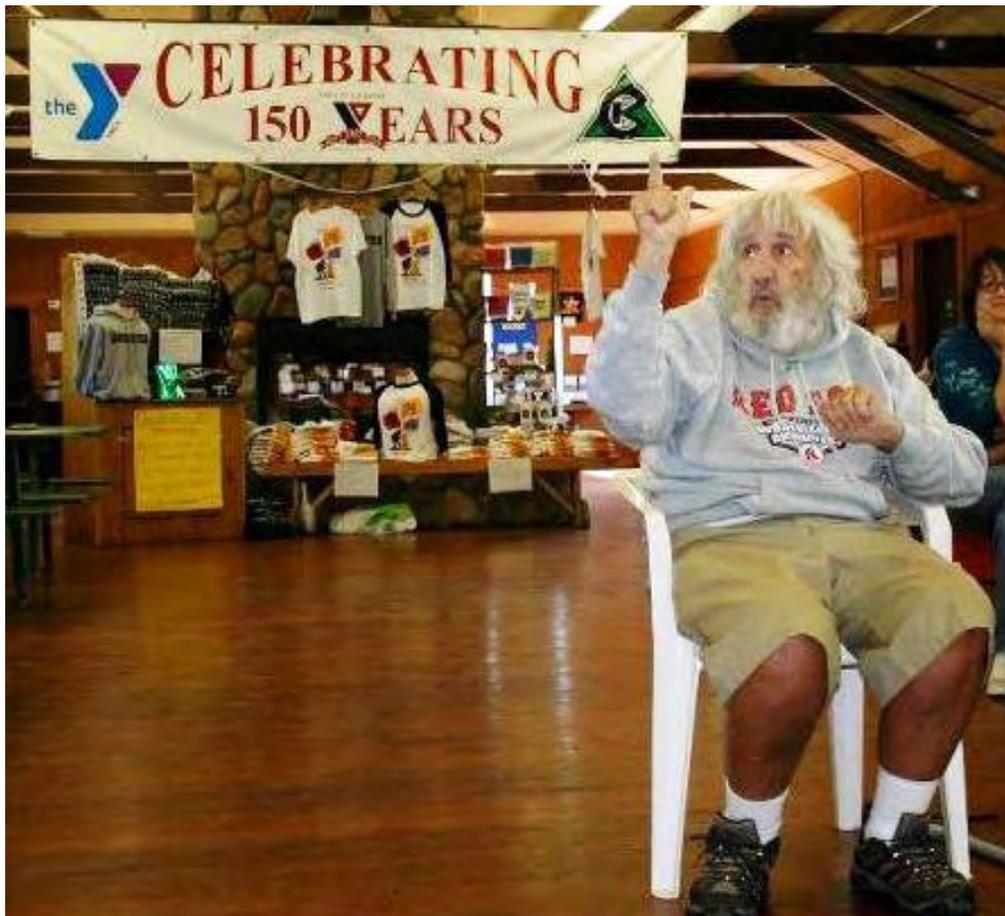
By: Jan Mosher White

Goose Gray is a special person to many people but especially to me (and Gil). I first knew Goose at Camp Blanchard, a Worcester, Massachusetts YMCA camp. He was just a young adult (about 130 years ago I guess). Gil was the Director and Goose was the Counselor in our "Cubby Village". I know that Gil saw something special in Goose and over the years he asked him to take over our older kids' village and I believe he might have even lead program.

Our family also knew Goose as an Outreach Director in what was called Great Brook Valley, a housing development for low income individuals. The year before we arrived in Worcester, MA a tornado had hit the area and did a great deal of damage to Great Brook Valley. Goose ran a program for the kids there that was partially supported by the United Way and the YMCA. After a few years the United Way and the YMCA dropped their support so Goose took a side job with which he supported the program on his own. No wonder he was loved by kids and parents alike!

Gil had eventually persuaded the Lockport YMCA to hire an Outreach Director, a new area that the YMCA had not tried. He convinced Goose to move to Lockport, NY permanently and take the job. Goose ran a wonderful program for the "Lower Town" area for years and again was much loved by the kids. Of course he has since gained a name for himself all over Lockport telling stories for the library, schools and many other groups.

My fondest memories of Goose though are at Camp Kenan. We will never forget the time that Gil was in Lockport when Goose fell out of a tree while playing a game with the kids. We had the



Goose sings "One Finger, One Thumb" in the mess hall during a meal. The weekend was full of songs!

ambulance come and he was taken to the hospital, checked over and warned to take it easy. The kids were very worried so when Goose came back, he insisted that he had to have the kids see him before they went home to see he was all right. So, in the Mess Hall he led "One Finger, One Thumb" (a favorite of many), jumped up and down and all around. I cringed every time he did it because I knew how painful it must have been. But Goose always has felt that the kids are more important than him.

I can honestly say that Goose is the most unselfish person I have ever met. His life is a wonderful Christian example that would be hard to duplicate. He has shared Christmas with us for many years and we love him dearly.

## TOGG Tales: Tributes to Goose—Brad

By: Brad Boyer

When I think of Goose I think of selfless devotion to the service of others. The phrases "anything for program" and "camp is for the campers" which I heard countless times from his mouth over the years are not just slogans but are a way of life for Goose. He has lived his life in that manner for the approximately 50 years that I have known him and he has been a shining example of how to serve

the lord through serving others. His example has inspired so many others to raise their own commitment to making Camp Kenan, and in fact life in general, better for everyone. I have been truly blessed to know TOGG.



# Friends of Camp Kenan: Year in Review 2010-2011

By: Elizabeth Millen and Lisa (Polovick) Flaherty

## Goosestock 2010

- Revitalized Goosestock 2010 with over 150 in attendance
- Donated proceeds of Dan Doctor's Top 10 Songs, \$151 to Gil Mosher Scholarship fund
- Donated proceeds of TOPS gift card raffle, \$145 to Camp Kenan Scholarship
- Raised funds exceeding all expectations!

## Friends of Camp Kenan

- Elected nine (9) new board members
- Move Friends of Camp Kenan bank account to First Niagara Bank
- Filed for Not for Profit 501(c)(3) status with IRS

## Christmas Party

- Hosted a Christmas Party at Renee Sosong-Brady's house in Lockport, NY

## Website

- Completely redesigned the Friends of Camp Kenan website  
[www.friendsofcampkenan.org](http://www.friendsofcampkenan.org)

- Cut hosting expenses by 66%
- Developed online registration form and payment for Goosestock 2011

## The Torch

- Launched our newsletter, "The Torch" to communicate to our members more efficiently
- Published four issues

## Friends of Camp Kenan Campership

- Started the Friends of Camp Kenan Campership fund
- Built, sold, and placed over ten (10) wooden benches at Camp Kenan, proceeds directly support the Campership fund
- Sent ten (10) children from Western New York to Camp Kenan for free

## Old Chapel Renovation and Dedication

- Organized more than six work days to revitalize the old chapel in the woods
- Cost of products, labor and machinery would have been well over \$15,000 had it not been for our generous business partners
- Will dedicate to Michael Tobin during Goosestock 2011 with memorial plaque

## Camp Kenan Wish List

- Worked with Luke Kantor to purchase \$755 in items needed for Olympiad week including, hockey sticks, hockey masks, soccer nets, flags and propane to keep the torch lit!



## GOOSESTOCK 2012: OLYMPIAD

September 7, 8, & 9, 2012



**IF YOU WEREN'T ABLE TO ATTEND GOOSESTOCK THIS YEAR TO SEE THE ANNOUNCEMENT IN PERSON, HERE IT IS, IN BLACK AND WHITE.**

**THE 2012 GOOSESTOCK THEME IS OLYMPIAD! COME ONE, COME ALL, AND EXPERIENCE ONE OF THE MOST BELOVED WEEKS IN ALL OF CAMP KENAN'S HISTORY IN JUST 3 FUN FILLED DAYS, WHICH ARE SEPTEMBER 7, 8 & 9, 2012 !**



# Announcements, Announcements, Annouuuncements!

By: The Torch Staff

On Saturday September 10, 2011, a few new individuals were voted onto the Friends of Camp Kenan Board Directors. The Board of Directors is now as follows:

Goose Gray, Founding Father

Mark Natemeier, President

Adam VanDeMark, Vice President

Elizabeth (McGuire) Millen, Secretary

Brigid Tobin, Treasurer

Kayleigh Fischer

Lisa (Polovick) Flaherty

Rachelle Hathaway

Cindy Roth

Jennifer Shepard

For more information on the Board members, please visit our website [www.friendsofcampkenan.org](http://www.friendsofcampkenan.org) within the next few weeks as pictures and member profiles will soon be updated.



Barker • New York

**Contact Us!**

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Sean Fuller and Tami Schiefflin act out the "puddin' " skit during Mess Hall.



Rev. Fr. William H. Heller conducts the dedication at the chapel dedication ceremony.



The Tobin family stands in front of the new cross erected at the Michael Tobin Memorial Chapel.

## Special Thanks:

To the members of the Friends of Camp Kenan Board of Directors and to Brad Boyer, Canice Drea and Jan Mosher-White who contributed articles. To Karah (Osland) Krajewski, Noreen Collyer Jessiman, Elizabeth (McGuire) Millen and Mark Natemeier for providing the photos used throughout this issue of "The Torch".

If you have an article idea that you might like to contribute in the next issue of "The Torch" please contact Elizabeth (McGuire) Millen by December 1, 2011 directly at [elizabeth.millen@friendsofcampkenan.org](mailto:elizabeth.millen@friendsofcampkenan.org). We'd love to hear what Camp Kenan has meant to you! All article ideas are welcome! The 5nd Edition of "The Torch" is due to come out in January 2012. Thank you!

**J. Shepard, Publisher & Co-Editor/ E. Millen, Co-Editor/L. Flaherty, Co-Editor**

Think green before you print.



Please consider the environment before printing this newsletter.