

LOCHWATCH LOCH AWE
NEWS NOVEMBER 2011

Hello folks, hope all is well with you, a lot has happened since the last newsletter in July. You will all be aware that the Chairman of the Loch Awe Safety Company, Donald MacDonald died during a holiday to North Uist. Donald was a staunch supporter of all the efforts to improve safety on the loch and spent a lot of his time promoting water safety locally and on a national basis at the Scottish Government. Donald is second from the right in this picture taken at Dalmally Show in 2010.



David Price is currently the Chair of the Loch Awe Safety Company (LASC) and Murray Humphries has been appointed a Director with Donald Wilson, Jamie McGrigor and I remaining as Directors. Jamie is missing from the picture below.



The report of the Fatal Accident Inquiry (FAI) into the deaths of the four fishermen has been published. The Sheriff has been very complimentary about the efforts of LochWatch scheme and the Loch Awe Safety Company. An extract of the report is attached, the full report can be found on the Scottish Courts website under fatal accident inquiries. There is much that can be taken from the report and the LASC along with the emergency services and voluntary groups will be meeting to seek a way forward. This will include deliberations about a safety boat for the loch along

LOCH AWE SAFETY COMPANY

with other initiatives. If you have any thoughts or comments about the FAI report or indeed any ideas to further enhance safety on the loch, please get in touch.

Link to FAI report:

<http://www.scotcourts.gov.uk/opinionsApp/last50results.asp?searchtype=sheriff&txt=False>

Over the summer contact was made with the Glasgow Humane Society and I was able to visit them at their Glasgow Green rescue station. I was made most welcome and came away with a shed load of ideas, some of which I hope will be transferred to the LochWatch scheme.

Further afield we have recently had contact from the Calgary Police in Canada who are setting up safety schemes on rivers and other inland waters. Information has been sent including poster formats. Murray and I wonder if we should visit Calgary for a fact-finding visit...then again maybe not!

Murray has put a post on the forum asking for information on mobile phone coverage around the loch. He would appreciate knowing who your provider is (O2, Vodafone, Tesco, etc) and where your phone has a signal and where you cannot get a signal. The information will be used in connection with a safety sign initiative which gives easily identifiable location information; crucial in an emergency.

The lifejacket initiative is still going strong and lifejackets for adults and children are available from Loch Awe Boats or through the LochWatch website. Adult gas inflation lifejackets are £35 and a child's lifejacket with built in buoyancy is £25 – these prices are well below retail. Adult lifejackets are now available in black as well as green or red. The price for the adult lifejacket will increase to £40 after Christmas; so now is a good time to buy!

All the best!

Iain

**Contact details – Iain MacKinnon – office 01631 567922; mobile 07702055685
E mail – iain.mackinnon02@argyll-bute.gov.uk**

www.lapb.org.uk