



R.H. McCLURE INC.
CONSTRUCTION • REAL ESTATE • RENTALS

Ocean Isle Beach Rentals

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Winter 2012 Newsletter

In This Issue... Loons, Oyster Festival Review, Gift Certificates, Facebook Sweepstakes Winner, Super Saturday, and more!



Loons

We sure enjoy watching our loons through our “rear window”. These graceful divers remind me of the Weeki Wachee Mermaid Show down in Florida, with their synchronized swimming. Sometimes there will be eight to ten loons swimming behind our building, when all of a sudden, all of them dive at the same time, then, after what seems like an incredibly long time to stay underwater, they all pop back out simultaneously. They’re the looniest birds around. Belonging to the family Gaviidae, loons are usually two to three feet long. Their closest relative is the penguin.

In the summer, their plumage is patterned, almost herring-bone like, in black and white. In winter, which is mainly when we see them, they’re just plain gray above the water, and white below. Loons spend the summer in fresh water lakes up north, and they migrate south to coastal waters around October, staying with us until around May. They dive underwater for food, mainly fish, but they will also eat crabs, shrimp, frogs, and/or insects. They eat their food underwater, unlike most birds we see back here, which bring the fish up and swallow it at their leisure. Loons have sharp, rear-pointed projections on the roof of their mouths and tongue, so slippery fish won’t escape back out once they’re caught. Loons are also known as the Great Northern Divers for their ability to dive as deep as 200 feet. Unlike most birds, their bones are solid, which helps them dive, and also makes them ride lower in the water. They blow air out of their lungs and flatten their feathers so they can dive and swim fast. Also, their hearts slow down when they dive, so they can stay underwater longer. The red tint in their eyes helps them see under water.

The female loon lays two to three eggs in a nest close to shore, and both the male and female take turns incubating the eggs, around 30 days, and they also take turns feeding the young afterwards. Hatchlings are able to fly when they’re about twelve weeks old, and after that, they’re on their own. Until then, they ride on their mom’s back.

Unlike most birds, which molt – or shed their feathers – a few at a time, loons lose all their feathers at once, and for several weeks each year, while they’re molting, they can’t fly. This doesn’t seem to bother them in the least, since they’re really water birds, so, while unable to fly, they just stay put.

Because the loon’s legs are positioned towards the rear of its body, the loon has a terrible time walking on land (thus its name), but that same trait helps it to dive and fly. They have been known to fly more than seventy miles an hour. When it lands on water, the loon slows itself down by skimming along on its belly, since its legs are useless for this too. They take off like an airplane, which has to gain enough speed running down the runway. Loons need up to a quarter of a mile “runway”, running across the water to gain enough speed for lift off. Sometimes, during migration, they’ll land on a small lake, and they’ll get stranded there, unable to fly out.

It’s believed that loons have been around at least twenty million years, making them the oldest and most primitive living birds today. To us, they’re some of the most amusing ones.



In the News



The 72-year old Beck's "Original Calabash Seafood" Restaurant, on River Road in Calabash, burned down on October 22. The owners have promised to have it rebuilt by Summer of 2013, so y'all make sure to visit the new restaurant.

Ocean Isle Beach's four natural canals are being dredged. The work started November 21, with completion expected by March 31, 2013. Canals are dredged every five years to assure that they stay deep enough for boats to navigate. This year the cost is expected to run over a million dollars. The dredge operates twelve hours a day, six days a week. It's rather noisy, but the results are worth it, allowing our guests and homeowners full use of the docks behind the natural canal homes.



Oyster Festival Review



The 32nd Annual Oyster Festival took place on October 20 and 21. One of the most popular events is always the Oyster Stew Cook-off. We had a new champion this year, Pelican Perch on Second Street, Ocean Isle Beach, taking 1st place. The Grille, in Shallotte took 2nd again, and The Boundary House, in Calabash, placed 3rd again. Photos above are of the concert on Saturday with headliner Casey James from American Idol. Children enjoyed the many carnival rides, as well as the "new" fried candy bars. I, of course, enjoyed my annual, Oyster Festival funnel cake.



It's time again for our new Rental Brochures to be mailed. If you're not already on our mailing list, be sure to give us a call so you don't miss getting a 2013 Vacation Rental brochure!

800-332-5476



The staff and management at R.H. McClure Realty would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Speaking of Christmas...

What do you get for that someone who has everything? A way to get AWAY FROM EVERYTHING!

Give your loved ones the gift of a beach vacation this year!

Call us and order your R.H. McClure Realty Gift Certificate today!

Gift certificates can be for a dollar amount you choose or for a complete stay if you choose dates and a unit.

Certificates are printed with the recipient's name and mailed to the purchaser for gift giving.

Order by December 16, 2012 for a mailed certificate.

Certificates may be purchased through December 22, 2012, and emailed to purchaser to print at home.

So there's still time to get the perfect gifts for those hard-to-shop-for people on your list.

Gift certificates are available year-round for birthdays, anniversaries, or just because.



R.H. McCLURE REALTY'S FACEBOOK SWEEPSTAKES

We've been running our Facebook Sweepstakes and asking you to "Like" our page on Facebook. As promised, one of our lucky Facebook fans will win a free reservation fee (a \$60.00) value.

And our winner is...



Patsy Patterson Robinson

Patsy, when you book your reservation for 2013, your reservation will not be charged a reservation fee! If you already have a reservation, call us to make the adjustment in our records.

Prize has no cash value – it can only be applied to 2013 reservation.

Make sure you go to facebook and Like our page to be in the running next year!

Super Saturday

An old friend of mine once told me the parade started at 11:00. We don't know where that came from, but it stuck with us. When I run into her, I don't say, "Hey, how are you?" Instead, we usually greet each other with, "At what time's the parade?" As everybody knows, the parade starts at 2:00p.m., but silly me walked over to the Museum parking lot just before 11:00 to watch the parade, because guess what? "The parade's at 11:00" is so ingrained in my head now.

At 2:00 p.m. the parade started. This was phase I of Super Saturday in OIB, followed by the lighting of the Christmas tree, Santa's visit to the OIB Fire Department, and capped by the 9th annual Christmas Flotilla. The parade, as usual, was a hoot. The Dunn clowns are my favorite – those old boys go walking/dancing/prancing down the street, looking like they're enjoying every minute of it, making us laugh with their antics, and everybody has a good time. I lost count of how many dogs were in the parade this year, but the three black poodles won first place with me. Of course the Shriners with their tiny, fast cars are always a welcomed treat.



The OIB flotilla starts at Inlet View Restaurant at the Shallotte Inlet, works its way down the Intracoastal Waterway, and ends at Sharky's Restaurant. This year it got a late start at the other end, so it didn't arrive at Sharky's until almost 7 p.m. It was 48 degrees, with no wind, which made it pretty comfortable, but you know I was freezing. The crowd cheered each and every boat, including the Sea Tow one which came at the head of the parade. The band Bail Out – formerly Cousin Homer Band – entertained during and after the flotilla, at a HUGE party at Sharky's. The first place winner was The Clipper Ship, from Shallotte Rent-All, with second place going to an animated shark, which opened and closed its mouth, from guess where? Sharky's!



Left: This Clipper won first place!



Right: The band Bail Out performed at Sharky's



Left: Animated shark float which won second place

For more information about the Flotilla, visit www.oceanislebeachflotilla.com.

RH McClure Real Estate Sales

Below is a current list of properties that are available through R.H. McClure Realty, Inc. We would like very much to represent you in your quest for properties on or around Ocean Isle Beach. Our sales staff will assist you with any listed property in this area. Please check with us often, as prices and listings change frequently. Call

Bob Kennette
910-540-5940

B. Wayne Melton
910-233-6606

John Hightower
910-520-0533

Or visit our website at www.rhmclclurerealty.com to view all listings in Brunswick County

Beach Homes

Oceanfront-149 Ocean Isle West 6 br, 6.5 bath	\$1,999,000
West Ocean Palms-13 Coggeshall-6 br,6 ba-gated	\$2,289,000
Summerplace-74 Private Dr 4 br, 3.5 ba	\$ 497,000
Soundfront-125 SSD – 5 br, 5.5 bath SOLD	\$ 749,000
Canal-45 Raeford-4 br, 3 ba, new dock SOLD	\$ 499,000
2 nd Row-67 East First – 4 br, 2 ba w/ 3 rd row lot	\$ 649,000
3 rd Row-256East Second-3br, 2 bath w/ marsh view	\$ 355,000

Beach Lots

Soundfront Lot-192 West 4 th St SOLD	\$ 349,000
Second Row Lot-313 East First St SOLD	\$ 250,000

Mainland Homes

Wood Duck retreat-3 br, 2 ba manufactured home in quiet subdivision	\$ 141,000
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Beach Condos

Windjammer Unit 1-J – 2 br, 2 bath, oceanfront	\$ 299,900
Windjammer Unit 1-I – 2 br, 2 bath, oceanfront	\$ 274,900
Ocean Point Unit 1002 – 3 br, 2 ba, oceanfront	\$ 565,000

Mainland Lots

Brookhaven Subd – Lot 10, 5 minutes from Wilmington	\$325,000
Bricklanding Golf Course Frontage - 1633 Carriage Pl	\$ 99,000
Bricklanding Golf Course Frontage - 1625 Carriage Pl	\$ 99,000
Bricklanding Golf Course Frontage – 1756 Forest Oak	\$ 69,000
Crown Stream - 1602 Crownstream Drive SOLD	\$ 35,000



Photo courtesy of Suzanne Lanthier of Quebec, Canada