



LAKE SHORES ASSOCIATION, Box 63, Howard City, MI 49329

July 1999

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1998/1999*

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A lot has happened in the last year. Since this is the last Smoke Signals you will be receiving before the end of the current Board term, (term expires on July 31, 1999), we hope to touch base with you on a number of items that have occurred in the last year, along with our thoughts, hopes and dreams for the Association in the upcoming year.

Meeting Date

Change from July 31, 1999 to
August 14, 1999.

As reported in the last Smoke Signals, the meeting date was originally scheduled for July 31, 1999. However, after review of the Bylaws, we have determined that a more appropriate date would be August 14, 1999. Please mark your calendars for this date. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. We also hope to count the votes at that meeting (Dave VanDam and Bob Richards will help out in this regard). The meeting is scheduled for 10:00 am at Abbott Pavilion. We hope to see all of you there.

4th of July Celebration

We have had tremendous feedback on the fireworks show this year. The show took a lot of work, which paid off for all residents of the Lake. Additionally, a lot of residents were able to take in two fireworks shows, following up on the 4th of July. The ski show was also a tremendous success, and we saw a lot of kids and families enjoying the show. This is

always a great donation on behalf of the ski show, and Terry Veneklas and Dave VanDam deserve a hearty thanks for all the work they put into the show. There were a lot of events, the parks were in great shape and many thanks to all those who helped.

Boating Hours

There was also a misprint in the last month's Smoke Signal pertaining to boating hours. As posted around the Lake, the "no wake" hours are from 8:30 pm until 11:00 am. We are very thankful that this correction has to be made because of our error, and not because we have had problems on the Lake. In the last few years, the residents have come to enjoy the time for fishing and quiet activities. There is still plenty of time and lots of action on the Lake and it's good to see so many people enjoying the time allotted for wave runners, water skiing, tubing and other fast paced activities. Again, we apologize for the error and continue to appreciate everyone's cooperation in observing the Lake hours as posted.

Lake Wide Yard Sale

August 21, 1999.

Accounting Statement

At the last Lake Shore meeting, the Board indicated that it would provide an accounting to its members for expenditures on the Lake. With regard to the expenditures for August 1, 1998 through July 14, 1999, the accounting statement is enclosed.

We are very happy to report that we were well within budget, and as you can see from the accounting statement, we still have an account balance of \$13,903.36 in the Lake Shore account. (There are still 54 members past due on the 1998/1999 dues.) We hope to increase revenues by making the appropriate collections from those who are past due.

The items listed in the report are all self-explanatory with a couple of exceptions. A portion of the dues for this year was spent on projects which had been planned and had the commitment of the past Board. These projects include the boat ramp, lawn maintenance from last year (this year we were able to cover all park lawns by volunteer efforts as organized by Scott Brooks), the sea wall around Teepee Island, and the weed kill. We were very pleased with the progress of Teepee Island and hope to have the back-filling completed (its been handled by volunteer efforts) by the end of the summer. We are very pleased that this Board was able to take over the management of the Lake with a healthy, positive balance in the Lake account and foresee carrying over a healthy balance to the year 1999 - 2000. Also, there were very few capital expenditures foreseen for the balance of the summer. (These would include continued gas for volunteer mowing, some park maintenance, and port-a-pottie service.) The account is healthy and will be going into 1999 - 2000.

Year-End Recap

A lot has happened in the last year. We are very happy to report that we feel that we have made substantial progress toward the goals of making the Lake a more enjoyable environment for all families around the Lake. The items accomplished include the following.

Weed Kill - by and large the weed kill was very successful this year. We don't know what the rest of the summer will bring, but many thanks to Tim Slavens, who helped coordinate treatment early on in the year. It appears that the early timing made a big difference - thanks Tim!

Lake water is up - Again, anticipating potential problems, the pumps were turned on early. The Lake has remained high, despite significant

problems with other lakes. Again, many thanks to John Westveer for his suggestions to turn the pump on a bit early, and for his continuing work for the Lake, in many ways, but certainly including the maintenance of the Lake level.

Park Maintenance - through the efforts of Scott Brooks, Terry Veneklas and Kathy Thompson, the parks have never looked better. These individuals have helped bring volunteers to improve Cedar Point Park and Shady Oaks Park. As a result of work crews coordinated by these individuals and the help of all of you, the parks look great! Additionally, the parks continue to be improved with the help of Derek and Christine Olsen. We were able to enlist the help of these people, who are working as a team, on a lot of the painting and fix up of the children's play areas. Much of the playground equipment has never been in better shape, and again these people should be applauded for their help.

Many thanks to the following volunteers: Al Godley, Gordon Potter, Jim Cox, John Brooks, Dave VanDam, Scott Brooks and others.

Lakes and Streams Conference - we were able to attend the Lakes and Streams Conference through the help of John Westveer, Shirley Westveer and Helen Boss and are currently looking at ways to improve the weed kill, maintain the Lake and keep up to date on current issues involving all Michigan Lakes and Streams - we hope to see this continue into the future.

TeePee Island - TeePee Island is currently being finished up. All we have to do is backfill. Many thanks to Don Duel, Steve and Tim Fuller, Bob Richards, Dave Kaprzak, Amy and Terry Veneklas, for their efforts in this regard. If I've missed anybody, I'm sorry, as there has been a steady stream of people helping out. Also, thanks to Tim Slavens, Dave Slavens, Paul Church and Terry Vaneklas for cleaning up the Island after the fireworks show.

4th of July Weekend - Spectacular fireworks thanks to Tim Slavens, Dave Slavens, Todd Tyron and Terry Veneklas. Again, the ski show was spectacular and thanks very much to

Terry Veneklasé for coordinating the show with the help of Bruce and Sherry Goldsmith. The boat parade was great (thanks to Kathy Thompson for leading the way). The winner of the boat parade was the Mulder family for the theme "Rugrats" - congratulations! Thanks to all for participating. Next year the boat show theme will be "A Song" so start thinking for next year. The volleyball tournament saw a lot of activity, and was won by the Leenstra Family team. The tournament raised \$50.00 to be used to purchase a new net for Pawnee Point Park. Again, thanks to Kathy Thompson for running the tournament and thanks to all who participated.

Park Maintenance - through the help of Terry Veneklasé and Dave VanDam, the old tractor has been brought back into service for the cost of parts only, and is used on an occasional basis for continued park maintenance. Thanks to Scott Veneklasé and Joe Larson for trimming the grass on TeePee Island before the 4th of July show.

Computer Update - with the help of Paul Church, Amy Veneklasé and Terry Veneklasé, we have an updated computer which will take us into the year 2000 - hopefully without a hitch. The new computer will help us in our accounting, keep track of dues, and keep track of other items necessary for the ongoing operation of the Lake Shore Association.

Fish Planting - The fish planting was again successfully completed with the help of Tim Slavens. We are looking into what should be planted next year, and we hope that everyone who has an interest will provide some input so that we can properly plan next summer. The fish planted were 3"-4" Fatheads, 4"-6" Bass, 2"-4" Perch and Bluegills.

Resignation of Treasurer - In December of last year, Lucas Spoor was forced to resign, because he took a job in Wayland, Michigan and was no longer a part of the Association. Thank you to Melissa Tyron, who assumed the position of Treasurer on the Board. Special thanks to Amy Veneklasé and Terry Veneklasé for coordinating the transfer of information, keeping the computer up to

date and getting the dues statements and reminders out on time.

Bookkeeper - it became apparent that in order to have continuity from one Board to another, and in light of the work load, that something had to be done to fill the void in bookkeeping. There is a tremendous amount of regular work when it comes to keeping dues statements flowing out on a regular and timely basis. We were fortunate enough to hire Amy Veneklasé, at a nominal amount to take on all of the work. I know that she has worked very hard, at a sometimes frustrating, and very difficult job. She has assisted in the computer change-over and we are very fortunate to have her. Thank you very much Amy, keep up the good work.

Building Improvements - through the efforts of a number of volunteers, the buildings are being improved, and are open. We've received volunteer help (Gordon Potter and others), to keep an eye on the buildings in the hope that vandalism will be reduced, so we can keep these buildings open for the benefit of all members. We appreciate very much their efforts, and look to continued improvements of the buildings and facilities around the Lake.

Boat Stickers - there has been a tremendous amount of boat sticker activity - thank you for the efforts of Kathy Thompson, Dave VanDam, Scott Brooks and Bob Chisholm. There was a big response after the Spring meeting, and we appreciate all your efforts in getting the registration information to us so that we could pass out the boat stickers. We are also trying to implement a "lake pass" system. This system would allow the residents around the Lake to have friends and family bring up their boats to be used in conjunction with the resident on a one-day basis, without compromising the enjoyment of the Lake.

Fire Protection - we have negotiated our fire protection, and are very pleased that we will continue to be assured prompt fire protection service for residents of the Lake.

Road Representation - it has been very difficult to try to remain visible and make sure that the Township and County knows our needs. We

have had good representation at regular meetings from volunteers, who have appeared as residents of the Lake to make our needs known. We are looking to continue this presence and enhance it in the future, to assure that our roads are improved, maintained, and funded to the highest degree possible by the Township and County.

By and large there has been a lot of activity around the Lake. Many thanks to all of you who have volunteered and pitched in. We are all enjoying the benefits of the hard work of these people throughout the year 1998 - 1999.

Future Projects - The future projects are up to you. Currently the Board is considering the following matters, and hopes to work with the new Board members, on the following projects:

- Improve Lake security
- Improve weed control
- Improve the aesthetics around the Lake
- Improvement of parks and recreation opportunities for residents of the Lake
- Better volunteer commitment and communications
- Improved dues collection procedures
- Increasing the visibility of the Lake amongst our Township and County representatives to enlist their help to continue proper expenditures on roads and other matters around the Lake
- Improve signage for the Lake

We are optimistic that with the help of the new Board and our membership, many of these things will become a reality.

Survey. Attached please find a survey. As you can see, we need your input. We'd like to know what you feel is important. Also, we want to add to the list of things the Board should be working on for the improvement of the Lake. Please take a few minutes and complete the survey and give us the benefit of your thoughts. Please mail the survey to the usual mailing address, P.O. Box 63, Howard City, Michigan 49329.

It's been wonderful working with all of the talented and dedicated individuals who have put so

much into the Lake and its surroundings in the years 1998 - 1999. Thanks again, to all of you who have helped with your ideas, efforts and encouragement. With your committed efforts and input, it looks to be a very bright future indeed.

Sincerely,

Brian D. Vincent
President, Lake Shore Association