



LAKE SHORES ASSOCIATION • Box 63 • HOWARD CITY, MI 49329 • MAY 2001

DUES INCREASE

The board is submitting a proposal to the membership for an increase in dues from \$75 annually to \$150 per year. The benefits of the dues increase would be many.

- First the most visible result would be greater weed control. What good is the lake if we can't play in it?
- The dues increase would also allow many other benefits to its members. We could improve the Abbott Pavilion; its building progress has been stagnant for at least the past five years.
- We can increase fish, improve the parks, and have the money to enforce our by-laws and covenants and restrictions.
- You have reviewed the financial statements, if you want the best weed control, we need a YES vote!

We realize that this increase looks to be quite large but remember that its only \$12.50/month. In the big picture of life, that isn't very much for the wonderful benefits afforded to us when we live in such a paradise.



Run for the Board

There will be members that will retire after this term – think about it, the lake needs you. We've done our share, take your turn!



A couple of frequently asked questions:



- 1) What if we don't get the dues increase how will we proceed with weed control? Due to budget constraints we will have to continue on the same lines of treatment as in the past. The only problem is we have between \$15,000-\$17,000 to spend, the price of chemicals is increasing so the acreage that can be treated will be decreasing.
- 2) What is the Lake Shores Association part of our property taxes for?
That money is assessed by the Drain Commissioner and is controlled by them. It is used to pay the electric bill of the pumps. That money does not ever enter the lake's budget.

WEED KILL PERMIT ON HOLD

Are you sick of hearing about well depths yet? We have official notification that our weed permit is on hold. We need to have our packet of information submitted immediately (if not sooner) if we hope to have the chemicals applied before JULY!

The DEQ has sent us an example packet, which also requires a diagram of every lake front house, its wellhead, and the set back from the lake, besides the well depth. This drawing doesn't need be to be elaborate – a box for the house, a line for the lake – but the two measurements are what they are looking for – distance from the lake and depth of the well.

We just spent \$296.34 at the Mid Michigan Health Department for them to dig through their files and copy all of the well drilling permits. Only about half have diagrams, NONE have the setback from the lake. Therefore WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO WALK THE SHORE LINE OF THE WHOLE LAKE TO DIAGRAM HOUSES. PLEASE, IF YOU CAN DO YOUR STREET, CONTACT GORDON POTTER.

PLEASE MAIL YOUR'S RIGHT AWAY! WE ONLY GOT 186 COPIES OF THE 211 HOUSES.. PLEASE WE NEED YOUR HELP – USE YOUR ART SKILLS AND GET THIS INFORMATION TO US (OR PLAN ON PUTTING YOUR BOAT MOTORS IN REVERSE A LOT!)

Watering

A friendly reminder, YOU MAY NOT PUMP WATER FROM THE LAKE TO WATER YOUR LAWN. Every property owner pays a lot of money to maintain the water level, please be considerate. Lawns make houses beautiful. Remember don't fertilize within 10 feet of the lake, and use your own water. The pumps work very hard to maintain the level. Please let us know of anybody pumping out of the lake.

This 'n That. . . .

SEPTIC PUMPING

Mr. John Brooks has made arrangements with Robinson Septic Service that if six septic tanks in an area (the lake) are scheduled together that the price would drop from \$125 to \$85 (SAVE \$40 – Thank you Mr. Brooks!). John Brooks and Don Postma will help coordinate and get six scheduled. Give either of these men a call.

JUNK



PLEASE CLEAN YOUR YARDS. Formal letters will be mailed shortly. Put yourself in your neighbor's shoes – would you want YOU for a neighbor? Clean up – sell it in the spring yard sales – one man's junk.....

PARK CLEAN UP

The date will be posted soon. Please, if you enjoy the parks during the summer, help us clean them up this spring! We need to save money – utilizing volunteers is a good way. One hour will get parks ready, you can get your exercise and maybe make a new friend.



DOCKS

Remember contact Mr. Westveer to reserve a dock at the parks. We need to log in who is where. One boat is allowed for all "members in good standing" room permitting. All docks must be maintained. If you have had a dock, please contact him anyway so this year's paperwork can be filed. (937-5280)

BOATS

Remember all boats need to have their "black polka-dot" sticker. Mr. VanDam or Kathy Thompson have stickers to give at no cost. Dues must be paid. They must apply the sticker so please make arrangements to stop by on the way to the boat ramp.

OVERFLOW DIKE WAS IN DANGER!

(This is an excerpt from a note received)

"Just wanted to let you know that it was observed that the water in the creek was really rushing. That often means a problem with the sand dike at the end of Tonto. It was checked out and found to have damage... naturally happens... sand bags have washed away. A call was made to Don Cooper, Drain Commissioner, and got his #2 person who, when told of the problem... acted quickly to assist in solving the problem. At this moment John Westveer and Stan Chase are at the County sand pile filling sandbags that they will deliver to the site. Tomorrow the county is sending more bags and labor to place them to stop the leak.

Too often we hear negative comments about the County support and we wanted you all to be aware of the benefits of establishing good working relationships with the various County and Township employees and officials... and how supportive and helpful they can be!"

We also owe a THANK YOU to Tom Boss and Dave VanDam who also carried the heavy sandbags through woods and placed them. Hard, heavy work.



BOAT RAMP

The boat ramp has a new combination – it should have arrived to your house. Remember don't share it with your neighbor, they should know it if their dues are paid. Also, make sure you lock it up behind you. The lock doesn't do any good if you forget to relock it after you launch your boat.

FIREWORKS...Volunteers needed to light off fireworks on July 4th. Call Kathy Thompson if you would like to volunteer: TRAINING REQUIRED!!

WEED CONTROL

The question was asked what actually has been treated in the past years.

Weed	2000	1999	1998	Chemical
Milfoil	20 (acres)	25	21	2-4-D Granules
Mixed Weeds	52.5	60	70	Reward-Komeen-cygnat Plus
Chara Algae	4.3	6	6	Copper Sulfate

(note: the lake is 360 acres – so we can only afford to treat about 25% of the lake! And this is at a reduced rate, we haven't paid for the guarantee in return for more acres treated).

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2000/2001

Web Site

www.indianlakes.org

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Architectural

Lake Shores Association Board Meeting Minutes March 17, 2001

Location: Postma's House Start time: 8:40 am End time: 10:30am
Attendees: Thompson, Church, Postma, Brooks, and Visser

Mitch Visser accepted a unanimous nomination to the board.

Weed Control Discussed. The question was raised whether or not contact herbicides would be better than systemic – they are cheaper. Contact will be made with Pinecrest to determine the answer.

Thomas Smith volunteered to identify all lake front lots with houses on the lake plot map. This is a required part of the DEQ packet. THANKS!

Tonto dike was in jeopardy. Mr. Westveer noticed the creek was running too fast. Volunteers got a temporary hold on it with sand bags, the County was out the following day.

Finances: Dues are coming in very slowly; we need to make sure the Smoke Signals reminds everyone that only members in good standing can vote.

Collections are doing well, 65% of \$5000 has been collected.

Church is considering how payment should be made for the programming, systems support and web page. He will be submitting a proposal before summer.

Brooks to contract Robinson Septic for Port-a-Johns this summer. Cost of \$225/mo for three.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Postma and Mr. and Mrs. Gord Potter will be representing the lake at Michigan Lakes and Streams the end of April.

Thompson to contact the Mounted Division of the Montcalm County Sheriffs Department to count the vote. (Note: They meet the second Sunday of the month). The board agreed to donate \$100 to them if they could do it. This should reduce controversy over who counts the vote.

Brooks negotiated a deal with Robinson Septic that if 6 in an area would get theirs pumped the price would drop from \$125 to \$85! Postma said he would help coordinate this, since he's already coordinating the Spider spraying.

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Ballot—

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

BALLOT

Remember that dues were due by APRIL 1st, if we have collected your dues, in this mailing you should have received two envelopes. (Remember only "members in good standing" can vote — meaning dues are paid). The larger of the two is the return envelope, make sure you sign across the flap so we can be insured that it is intact upon arrival and during the counting process. The little envelope contains the ballot (below – cut it off) **ONLY! There should be no names, no notes just one X to support or not to support the dues increase on the ballot or its envelope.**

DO NOT mail any Well Depth information in these envelopes. These envelopes will be held for a 30 day period from the time of this mailing and we will hire "outsiders" to count them to avoid any controversy that we "hand picked" counters.

All well depth information and diagrams must go to PO BOX 63. As you will note, the envelope for this vote goes to a special P.O. Box .
