

Smoke Signals

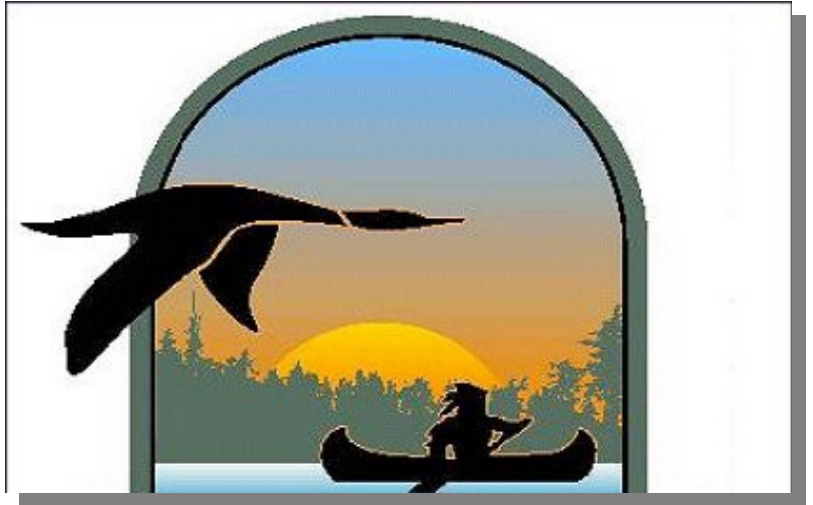
Lake Shores Association

P.O. Box 63

Howard City Mi. 49329

March 2014

<http://www.indianlakes.org>



The Lake Shores Association operates under the direction of the Board of Directors. Members of the Board are homeowners just like those who volunteer their time to serve their community. They serve one-year terms and are elected by vote of the membership. The Board sets policy, establishes budgets, approves subcontractors, and makes all financial and legal decisions on behalf of the Association. The goal of the Board is to work together to provide preservation of the standards and amenities of our lakeside community.



Tee-pee Island Early Spring

INDIAN LAKE LAKESHORE ASSOCIATION FROM YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2014

SPRING is just around the corner and our Annual LSA Membership Dues of \$150.00 per year are due April 1st.

On behalf of the Board of Directors it is my pleasure to report our progress on “**A PATH FORWARD**”. The board identified the following objectives last September and we have been working on them all winter.

LAKE PRIVACY: As many of you know, Mr. Chris Chase (the defendant in the LSA lawsuit) passed away unexpectedly in December. It was a tragedy for the Chase Family and we wish to express our condolences again to the extended Chase family. After a delay due to Chris’s death, the Board, the Chase family, and our attorneys met with a mediator on February 20th. Now that the mediation has been stopped we will proceed to the next step. There will be a court date in June and the judge will determine the outcome of the lawsuit.

WEED CONTROL: In an effort to be cost conscious we will be implementing some new weed control practices this year. Our program will be a combination of chemical treatments (early) and weed harvesting (cutting) later in the summer. PLM has indicated that there is a good chance that the required chemical control will be less after this winter. This is because the longer the ice and snow stays, the more likely that plants will be negatively impacted. The board is very cognizant of this issue and it is our **NUMBER “1”** commitment to control the weeds for the benefit of the lake to allow the continued enjoyment by our lake community.

BOGS: Can you say, “bye-bye bogs”? Well, just maybe some of them. The board is looking at cost figures and what we can allot for removal of as many of the bogs as we can this year. Since Bird Island is a permanent fixture of our lake, some of the bogs could be moved to that area.

SECURITY PATROL: For many years, many members have desired security patrols by professional law enforcement – Montcalm County Sheriff and the Michigan State Police. Due to budgetary restraints, pursuits of these services have been placed on the “back burner” for now. (Note: Howard City Police is now combined with the Sheriff Department).

BOAT RAMP ACCESS CONTROL: In the past, members of the Board of Directors and other volunteers have enforced our “members only” access to the boat ramp on the three summer holidays of Memorial Day, 4th of July, and Labor Day. Until budgetary restraints are resolved volunteers are still needed for "boat ramp duty" on the three summer holidays listed above. Please contact Sue or Jim if you would be willing to volunteer - email Sue at secretary@indianlakes.org or phone at 231-648-6193 or Jim at president@indianlakes.org or phone at 231-648-6481. Boat sticker policies and current registration will be strictly enforced and offenders will be reported to the Montcalm County Sheriff.

FISH PLANTING: The Board is being advised by active fishermen about issues such as the quantity, species, and timing for the spring planting. We are also looking into what the potential fish kill is going to be due to the horrible winter - see "Potential Fish Kill This Spring" page 4. Then we will be better able to determine what we need to plant this year.

ADDITIONAL PARK MAINTENANCE: The board is working on a small budget, if possible, for the cleaning and improvement of our parks. Volunteers can help us with projects in many ways. If you are interested in volunteering to work on one of the parks, please contact Vice President Brenda Tumosa and sign up to serve on a work party.

AND IN CLOSING.....

As a board we are pleased with our progress on these items and trust that you, as LSA members, concur. We wish to thank all who participated in the two “dues increase” votes. Although a significant majority voted in favor on each occasion, neither vote satisfied the LSA legal requirements for passage. With the votes behind us, the board has worked hard to find ways to provide the services desired. To do so, the board has tentatively approved the budget for the period of April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015. This budget also provides for the satisfaction of our legal fees over multiple years.

By Jim Hutchinson, LSA President

The Water's Edge:

By Brenda Tumosa

Pike, bluegills, bass, and other fish spawn in the shallow water along our lakeshore. That same lakeshore is also important to many species of birds such as loons, ducks, and cranes because they nest along its banks. Therefore, our shorelines provide an essential habitat for the fish and wildlife that live in our lake.

Unfortunately, overdeveloped shorelines cannot support the fish, wildlife, or clean water that are so appealing to those of us who live at the water's edge. Bit by bit, the effects of lakeshore homeowners "fixing up" their property are destroying fragile lakeshore habitats.

"Clean" lawns actually make for dirty lakes when owners of lakefront properties strive for the look of a golf course or a sandy beach. Homeowners tend to apply traditional landscaping practices to their lakefront properties. This type of landscaping, however, creates problems for our lake and its inhabitants.

"Green water" is just one example of these problems. A mowed lawn sends rain runoff carrying fertilizers, pet waste, and lawn clippings into the water where they "fuel" algae blooms and contribute to the formation of the muck that we attempt to reduce by using muck pellets and other chemicals.

It is ironic that most property owners buy their lots because they enjoy nature and then unknowingly harm its habitat by altering the natural landscape. Most species of fish and wildlife cannot thrive in a water's edge bordered by sandy swimming beaches and mowed lawns.

What can you do? Switch from mowed lawns and plant native grasses, shrubs, trees, and wildflowers. Along the shoreline, add sugar maples, bur oaks, cranberries, and dogwoods that are all good for wildlife. Avoid using pesticides or fertilizers that contain harmful chemicals that can leach into the lake. Pesticides kill beneficial insects living in shoreline vegetation that are important foods for fish, birds, and other wildlife.

Did you know? One pound of phosphorus fertilizer can produce 500 pounds of algae! Fortunately, most lawn and garden supply outlets offer phosphorus free lawn and garden fertilizers.

For more information, visit www.mishorelinepartnership.org, www.michigan.gov/dnr, or www.shoreline.msu.edu.

Information was pulled from materials provided by Michigan State University, DNRE, and the Van Buren Conservation District

Lake Muck Reducers - Weed Control & Biological Bacteria:

At the November 9, 2013 LSA Board meeting, lake muck control was addressed by Bre of PLM. The Board and meeting attendees found her briefing to be very professional and informative. The Board reviewed the pricing and information of the muck pellets and determined that the muck reducer would be beneficial to the lake and LSA homeowners. PLM will offer a 10% discount and free delivery for group orders received through the LSA.

Members who are interested in purchasing muck pellets through the association should contact Jim Hutchison at 231-648-6481 or by email at president@indianlakes.org. **Member orders must be prepaid with a check made out to PLM and either given to Jim or received at the LSA PO Box by April 30 for individual orders to be included in the group order. The order will be delivered in about two weeks.**

The available sizes are 10, 40, and 50 pounds:

- 10 lb bucket \$106.00 (with tax) less 10 percent discount comes to \$95.40 - final cost
- 40 lb bucket \$371.00 (with tax) less 10 percent discount comes to \$333.90 - final cost

- 50 lb bucket \$424.00 (with tax) less 10 percent discount comes to \$381.60 - final cost

Members treating 50 ft² of lake bottom will need 1½ lb of pellets per application. The recommended application schedule is for a total of 5 applications - one each month May through September. The total used each year on would be 7½ lb, so most people would have plenty with a 10 lb bucket for 50 ft² of lake bottom.

Larger areas may need larger sizes, and Bre can calculate the amount of pellets needed for larger areas. Jim has her contact information if members wish to contact her about muck pellets or about PLM managing the lake weeds along their lake front property. Bre also indicated that she is happy to work privately with individual lake front property owners with their own lake weed control efforts.

PLM Muck Digestion (MD) Pellets contains a combination of natural, beneficial bacteria, enzymes, and vitamins that stimulate the biological activity on lake and pond bottoms. This stimulation allows the bacteria to feed on the organic sediment, therefore reducing the muck levels. Pellets are most effective when the water temperature is greater than 50°F, and of course, it is necessary to follow label precautions.

The Muck Pellets can be ordered directly from PLM's website but you will not receive the discount or free delivery. More information can be found on PLM's website at [MUCK](#) or the URL <http://plmcorp.net/product-category/muck-digestion-pellets/>.

LAKESHORE ASSOCIATION YARD SALES:

The yard/garage sales this year will be Saturday, June 7th and Saturday August 23rd. We will be putting advertising in the RIVER VALLEY SHOPPER as well as posters in area businesses. Flyers will be mentioned in the RIVER VALLEY SHOPPER so that people should look for signs directing them to those who are participating and that some people may open up their sales on Friday. That gives you two days to participate, especially in case of inclement weather.

Susan Guigelaar, LSA Secretary

Potential Fish Kill this Spring:

LSA board members recently received the following from PLM: "PLM, along with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), are very concerned about the current conditions of our area lakes. The long cold winter has produced very thick ice and dense snow pack for an extended period of time. When this happens, sunlight is unable to penetrate down past the ice layer stopping the vital process of photosynthesis from occurring. Without photosynthesis, plants stop producing oxygen, which is essential for a healthy fishery. A lack of oxygen under the ice can produce a "winter kill" of the fish populations in extreme circumstances. Water-bodies that are shallow and have sediments rich in organics (muck) are more at risk for a winter kill."

For further information please go to <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153--322186--rss,00.html>.

We need your E-Mail Address:

Please send an e-mail message to: info@indianlakes.org with a message such as "here's my e-mail address". Your personal e-mail address will be hidden (i.e. "Blind") in group e-mail messages!

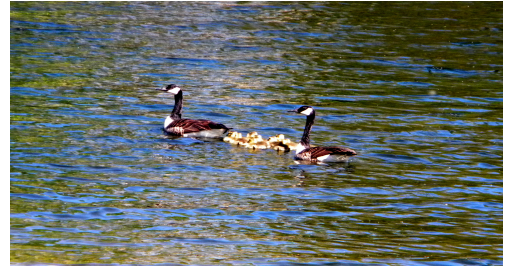
Smoke Signals (published 4 times a year) will be e-mailed, available for viewing/printing from the LSA website, or a hard copy can be picked up from the LSA Board Office on Apache Trail. Smoke Signals will no longer be routinely mailed to the association members - please see possible exception below.

If you do not have Internet access and would like to receive a paper copy of Smoke Signals in the mail, please contact a board member and we will be happy to oblige your request. As of this date, we have received requests from two members who wish to have their copy of Smoke Signals mailed to them.

SPRING IS COMING!!

The time is coming for us to think about getting our watercraft ready to launch.

All watercraft need to have the new blue stickers attached and remove the old stickers. If you need a sticker, please call or email Sue Guigelaar (231-648-6193 or secretary@indianlakes.org). She will set up a time to meet you after the weather breaks to take care of your watercraft. We want to sticker kayaks, paddle boats, sailboats as well as pontoons, motorboats, fishing boats and jet skis. When we sticker your watercraft, we need to see your registration to prove that the craft belongs to you.



The stickers are a security system for both you and the association. If we find a watercraft floating around in the lake, we can get it back to the launch and identify who it belongs to so it can be picked up. Sue has a master log started to keep track of the stickering system.

The Sheriff's Department Boat Patrol will be making more frequent visits to the lake to check registration (MC) numbers. We advise that you have them current and that you carry a copy of your registration on board just like you do in your motor vehicles. This will prevent you from getting ticketed. Those of you who have a registration dated 2014 should check them for expiration. They usually expire on the last day of March. Hoping to see you all when spring finally arrives. Email Sue at secretary@indianlakes.org or call her at 231-648-6193 (home) or 231-856-3467 (cell).

Susan Guigelaar, LSA Secretary

Abbott Pavilion News:



Graduation, wedding receptions, birthday and holiday parties will soon be upon us. We are looking for some volunteers to help with cleanup in and around the Pavilion. We would like to do some painting and scrubbing on the inside, windows cleaning inside and out, and general cleanup around the outside. We are trying to work on re-establishing a swimming area at the pavilion and need help to clean up the beach and grounds. You can also contact Sue at secretary@indianlakes.org.

Sue will set a date so we are on track with this project before the spring and summer rentals begin. You can call Sue at 231-648-6193 (home) or 231-856-3467 (cell) or email at secretary@indianlakes.org.

Thanks for your help.

Susan Guigelaar, LSA Secretary

Architectural Committee:

[Building regulations](#) are spelled out in LSA [covenants/restrictions](#) and [township zoning ordinance](#). All structures and alterations must get approval and/or permits from [LSA architectural committee](#), [township zoning administrator](#) (the Winfield Township permit form is here [township building permit](#)), and [county building department](#).

Special Winfield Township Board Meeting:

Our Township board has scheduled a special meeting at the Winfield Township Hall for March 24th at 7:00 p.m.. The meeting will, in part, be discussing the proper wording on a fireworks ordinance. Anyone can attend this meeting and voice their opinion on the ordinance and its current wording.

Open LSA Board of Directors Meeting:

Please Note: An open LSA Board of Directors Meeting has been scheduled for Saturday, April 26 at 10:00 a.m. in Abbott Pavilion

Neighborhood Watch:

Report any suspicious behavior to the Montcalm County Sheriff or the State Police in Lakeview. If you are new to our community and have not received your new "Welcome Packet" or are a lake member who knows of new members please contact Doug or Darlene Ringler at 231-937-5525 or Mary Holmes at 231-648-6192. Her email address is meholmes711@hotmail.com.



Protect Your Home:

There are things that we can all do to make our homes more "burglar proof"- especially when we are away from home for extended periods. There are signs that burglars tend to look for that indicates that the homeowner is away.

Some suggestions for burglar proofing are:

- Use timers for TV, Radio, Lights
- Leave blinds up
- Put mail on hold or forward - if home owner will be away for extended periods
- Use Alarms at All Times

Things that burglars look for:

- Window blinds down
- Lights Turned Off
- Newspaper & Mail Outside
- Lawns not mowed for an extended time

Board Duties and Responsibilities - Reminder:

- Abide by, uphold and protect the LSA "Covenants and Restrictions" to provide for the preservation of the value and amenities and for the maintenance of the lake, parks, playgrounds, open spaces and other common facilities
- Approve annual budgets and ensure the availability of adequate financial resources
- Hold an annual meeting of LSA members and regular meetings of the Board of Directors upon the call of the president
- Keep a roster of names and addresses of all members of the association, collect annual dues, special assessments, and provide receipts and fiduciary records as required
- Interface with LSA Members/ Township/County regarding issues that may arise that impact Indian Lake and its residents
- General powers and duties of supervision and management of various committees
- Hire and supervise trades people on an as needed basis for various projects that we deem as beneficial to the overall promotion of Indian Lake residents, property values and aesthetics

Consider Advertising in Smoke Signals. We still have room for you!!

Contact a board member or a newsletter committee member if interested! Ads come in three sizes. A full page ad is \$200, a half page ad is \$150, and a business card size is \$75 for one year – four issues.

Contact Numbers:		
Board Members:		Phone
President	Jim Hutchinson	231-648-6481
Vice President	Brenda Tumosa	231-648-6004
Secretary/Treasurer	Susan Guigelaar	231-648-6193
Trustee	Doug Ringler	231-937-4198
Architectural Committee:		
	Doug Ringler	231-937-4198
	Craig Einberger	231-580-6080
	Mark Spangenberg	616-855-4625
Township Permits contact:	Dave Kelsey	989-289-2268
Newsletter Committee:		
	Steve Pritchard	231-937-5010
	Glenn Irwin	231-926-4797
Welcoming Committee:		
	Doug & Darlene Ringler	231-937-4198
	Mary Ellen Holmes	231-648-6129
Law Enforcement Numbers:		
	DNR Website	http://www.michigan.gov/dnr
	Poaching	800-292-7800
	Animal Control – Montcalm County	989-831-7355
	Drain Commission - Sandy Rains	989-831-7322
	Montcalm County Road Commission	989-831-5285
	Michigan State Police/Lakeview Post	989-352-8444
	Montcalm County Sheriff	989-831-5253
	Howard City Police	231-937-4311
	Fire Chief - William Knapp	989-815-0905
	Emergency	911
Drain Commissioner’s Lake Level Committee:		
	John Westveer	231-937-5280
	Steve Pritchard	231-937-5010
Pavilion Rental Contact:		
	Susan Guigelaar	231-648-6193
Winfield Township Directory:		
www.montcalm.org/government0058.asp		
Calendar of events for 2014		
03/24/14	Winfield Township Board - special meeting agenda is township fireworks ordinance	
04/26/14	Open LSA Board of Directors meeting - 10:00 a.m. at Abbott Pavilion	
05/31/14	Bass Tournament - Contact Steve at 231-937-5010 for more information	
06/07/14	LSA yard/garage sales	
07/05/14	Ski Show - at 1:00 or 2:00 p.m.	
07/05/14	Fireworks in p.m. pending sufficient donations - at least \$5000 in donations is required.	
08/09/14	Annual Meeting of LSA Membership - 10:00 a.m. at Abbott Pavilion	
08/23/14	LSA yard/garage sales	
Winfield Township board meetings - 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in our Township Hall.		

Keith Alexis, Agent

State Farm®

Providing Insurance and Financial Services
Home Office, Bloomington, Illinois 61710

2135 Plainfield Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505-4203

Bus 616 363 4889 Res 616 784 3108

keith@keithalexis.com



COLLIER TECHNOLOGY LLC
Home Computer and Small Business Services

JOHN COLLIER
Certified Technician

Located in Southwest Michigan
Onsite Services Available

(616) 304-5923
John@CollierTechnology.net
Repairs , Upgrades, Wireless Service,
Consulting, Networking, Anti-Virus Service
www.colliertechnology.net

Microsoft
CERTIFIED
Professional