



Pequawaywan Lakes Association

Spring Newsletter

April 2007

Looking forward to summer at the lake

There may still be lingering spots of snow on the ground, but summer IS on its way.

The first Lake Association meeting will be May 5. Dates for meetings have been scheduled through the summer to make it easier for you to plan to attend! (See the calendar at right.) The Lake Directory will be available at the first meeting. It will be free to association members and \$5 to non-members.

If you have email and have not sent it to the Association, please do so. We will add you to the electronic mailing list, which helps save the Association postage costs. You can send it to lake@superiorassociates.com or spmead@frontiernet.net.

The Association's web site has a new address this year: www.pequawaywanlakes.com. We have added a page on township news with unofficial, unapproved board meeting minutes so those cabin owners who can't get to meetings can keep up-to-date on area news. The township is also looking into its own web site.



Tips to keep geese away

The greener your lawn, the more attractive it is to geese. Geese prefer lawns that are mowed down to the lake.

Reducing the size of your lawn and increasing the native shrubs and perennials near the water's edge will make your property less attractive to geese, especially if there is dense, native vegetation along shorelines. Doing this removes the feeding habitat and eliminates their "escape route" from predators. Shorelines that are allowed to grow over with tall grasses and shrubs are not only less attractive to geese but also help to reduce water quality impacts from erosion, sedimentation, and nutrients that can come from urban lawns. Not only that, but less lawn means less of your time at the lake is spent on lawn care!

More suggestions for goose control can be found at: www.pequawaywanlakes.com/geese.htm

(Thanks to Sue Johnson at Pequawaywan.com for finding these tips)

Calendar Calendar Calendar

Association meetings — All meetings start at 10 a.m., Saturdays at the Fire Hall.

May 5	July 7	August 11
June 9	August 11	September 1

Yard Waste Day — **June 9, Noon to 4 p.m.**

Open to township residents. Bring your brush to the gravel pit on #44 near the south end of the Big Lake near the storage units. You can bring leaves, grass clippings, pine needles, twigs and branches no larger than 8 inches in diameter. If you have debris in bags, you must empty the bags and take them home with you.

Road Clean Up — **Monday, May 7.**

Meet at Scott and Phyllis Mead's (9130 West Branch Road) for coffee at 9 a.m. Clean up starts at 10.

DNR Public Open Houses on its plan for off-road vehicle trails in the Cloquet Valley State Forest

June 20 - Cotton

June 21 - Rice Lake Townhall

Upcoming (though tentative) events

Plant sale after an Association meeting. We hope to be able to offer plants that are appropriate for along the shoreline to help with erosion and keep those geese away. There may be an opportunity to request a site visit by a member of the Garden Club for advice on appropriate plants for your lake shore.

Pontoon Ride Exchange: Rides for Little Lake Pequawaywan residents on the Big Lake and visa versa for Big Lake residents on the Little Lake, hosted by volunteer residents.

Trash and Recycling Day — mid-summer

Association Picnic — mid-summer

A good suggestion: Dick Madden, Big Lake, suggests that residents who want to blacktop their driveways get together with neighbors. The more folks who do so, the cheaper the cost per person.

Meet your new Association officers

Scott and Phyllis Mead were elected co-presidents at the Association meeting in September. They brought their cabin on West Branch Road on the Big Lake in 2002 and “have been working on it ever since.”

Before moving north, the Meads lived on a small farm outside of Rochester, raising a family of three sons and a daughter. Their family has now expanded to include nine grandchildren (one year to 15 years old).

Scott retired from IBM in 2001 as a programmer/system designer. Phyllis specialized in early childhood special education, which she taught for 12 years; she also taught Title One and Fifth Grade. Phyllis still does some substitute teaching at area schools.

Scott and Phyllis have been checking lake clarity for the Pollution Control Agency since their first summer here. Phyllis is a member of the Gardening Club and Homemakers group and Scott was elected to the Township Board this March. He is also an avid fisherman and hunter.

Among their goals for the Association are:

- Continue to build community by being sensitive to the diversity of new vs. long-time, year-round vs. seasonal, always focusing on what benefits our lakes
- A good set of working bylaws and a clear mission statement
- Making the Association an educational resource for the residents with lakeshore protection how-tos, emphasizing lake and lake water quality, input from DNR, and safety recommendations

The list of attributes they appreciate about Pequaywan “includes the view, water quality, good swimming, wild life (including those pesky deer), great neighbors and friends, being close to most of our family, the fishing challenge, sunrises.”

Vice president Phil Erickson, also a Big Lake resident, is a lawyer in the Twin Cities and lives in Plymouth. He describes himself as a (legal) generalist with a strong emphasis on business manners. His wife, Donna, is in health care management and son Michael is working at a mortgage brokerage.

Phil says he has been visiting the Pequaywan Lakes since 1950s when his uncle, Art Pera, brought their cabin on West Branch Road. Phil’s dad, Carl, did most of the work on the

place up to his death, Phil recalled.

Each member of the Erickson family has his or her own fondest memories of the lake, Phil reports, involving each of the four seasons. “We all enjoy the place and the people very much. None other like it in the state!”

Phil said he chose to get involved in the Association because of the “treasure we have here. I think it is incumbent on each of us, permanent and seasonal, to do what we can to assure that living and recreating at Pequaywan Lakes remain fundamentally sound and available to people who treasure the shrinking wild.”

Lin Johnson was re-elected secretary, a position she has held since 2002.

Lin and husband Mark built a new home on Pequaywan Lake Road on the Big Lake in 2001 and moved in May 2002. But with Mark’s parents (Cam and Betty Johnson) being long-time Big Lake residents, Lin’s familiarity with the lake goes back to the 1970s when she and Mark started dating.

Mark is a owner of Johnson Mertz Appliance in Duluth. They have one son, Ryan.

Lin works in Duluth as a Fiber Production Planner at Stora Enso Recycled Pulp Mill. She says she doesn’t mind the commute. “I feel so blessed to be able to live at Pequaywan Lake. The commute is not an issue for me at all. It’s actually a great time to ‘unwind’ except watching out for deer and unexpected snow storms in April!”

She likes the direction that the Association has stood for — “ all members working together on issues that are important to us all; new and innovative ideas, guest speakers at meetings, trash/burn days, just to name a few.”

Jim Guldseth is the new Association treasurer. Jim and his wife, Marilyn, have a cabin on West Branch Road on the Little Lake. They bought the cabin in 1985 from Bill and Mabel Soderstrom of Two Harbors. Building a garage and an addition has increased their storage and sleeping space, which is helpful with two married children and six grandchildren.

For the past 30 years, Jim has been in the real estate

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Meet your officers/ continued

business with Guldseth Realty and Guldseth Appraisal. Jim sold the appraisal business in 2004, but retained his license with RHS Realty, where his son sells and manages the office. Since retirement obviously holds no appeal to Jim, he also manages an office building in Edina with 20+ companies.

Jim says he and Marilyn love our lake area, which is evident by the time spent at their cabin. He is involved with the Lakeside Chapel as a board member and treasurer. "What makes the cabin experience so positive are the wonderful people and neighbors we have, always friendly and willing to lend a hand or a tool."

His goal for the Association is to be "a helping hand and advisory group to folks to assist where needed in making the area a place where we can remain the best of neighbors and friends and keep the area clean and attractive to visitors. My wish is that we always have enough volunteers for the potlucks, holiday parties and other gatherings in our community."

Jim encourages other residents to attend meetings and give input as how to improve the work of the Association for the area.

You can bring your \$10 membership dues to the first meeting or mail them to Jim at 14550 Beverley Lane Savage, MN 55378.

Fire Department News

Pequaywan Lake Volunteer Fire Department responded to 18 medical calls and 10 fire-related calls in 2006.

The department currently has 14 members and is looking for at least four additional personnel to help with workload. There is a wide variety of positions available. If interested, call Chief Lucia, 391-8232. They meet the first Wednesday of each month.

We had two new members join us during this past winter. Brian Linn has rejoined us after a leave of absence and Jack Rinne is now a member of our department. We are fortunate to have them with us. They are truly an asset to our department and community.

Pancake breakfast: We are already preparing our annual pancake breakfast for 2007. We are not sure of the day yet, as the 4th of July falls on a Wednesday this year. Watch for our signs.

Submitted by Lori Lucia

Summary: Association minutes Sept. 2

Arnie Johnson presented the treasurer's report. The checking account balance is \$2,201.47. The CD balances are \$15,204.39. The total for the accounts is \$17,405.86. Jim Guldseth moved to approve the treasurer's report and Phil Erickson seconded – motion passed.

Loon Watch: Big Lake – Two pairs seen on the lake. There was a nest on the north end and one egg was seen – but no chicks. Largest group noted were 8 at one time.

Water Clarity Testing: Scott Mead reported on the latest test he conducted on the big lake. The clarity level has risen to 10.5 feet.

Dale Brooks reported he has performed 5 tests on the Little Lake and the clarity readings have been between 11.5 feet in June to 14 feet in August.

Trash Day/Dumpster Rental on August 19. Judy Strom reported the trash day was very successful. Total spent was \$1,132.60 Weight: 9.71 tons Two dumpsters were packed full.

Recommendations for next year:

- Keep limitation of one car/truck per member
- Keep member requirement
- Investigate possibility of charging something to defray costs
- Solicit input as to how much trash people will have this year.... will we still need two dumpsters
- Make sure folks tear down and compact as much as possible

Thanks to volunteers and particularly Chris Ringsred.

Brush Burning – Saturday, September 2, 2006 was the first day open for people to bring their yard waste to the gravel pit. It was available from 10 am to 4 pm and open to everyone in the township.

Ron Sluka reported the fire department would like to purchase a fire burner to burn the brush pile. Phil Erickson made a motion to approve the purchase of a burner but not to exceed \$50. Don Bullene seconded the motion, which passed.

Don Bullene reported to the group about the MSRPO organization (Minnesota Seasonal Recreational Property Owners). This group lobbies the state government for lower property taxes. The dues are \$50 a year and a newsletter is provided to its members. Please see their website — www.msrepo.org — for more information.

Lin Johnson, secretary

DNR Plan for Cloquet Valley State Forest to be unveiled

The DNR is conducting a forest-by-forest review of Minnesota state forests to determine their appropriate classification with regard to Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use, and to evaluate overall motorized road and trail access to state forest lands. This process will continue through 2008.

Public hearings on the plans for the Cloquet Valley State Forest (in which Pequaywan Lakes are located) will be in June 20 in Cotton and June 21 in Rice Lake. As these dates get closer, please confirm the location and times to make sure they have not changed by checking with the DNR or on the Association web site.

As more details are released, we will post them on the Association web site and have materials at Association meetings. You can also visit the DNR web site where plans and maps will be posted. (www.dnr.state.mn.us/ohv/index.html) The Friends of the Cloquet Valley State Forest also has information and maps. (www.friendscvsvf.org)

Contact is: Brian McCann, 651- 259-5627, e-mail: brian.mccann@dnr.state.mn.us

Besides the location of trails, another issue involved in the forest plan is whether areas in the forest are designated as closed, managed or limited.

An area in a state forest can be **closed** to motorized use altogether.

In **“limited”** forests, trails are assumed closed to riders unless they’re posted open.

In the third category, **“managed,”** trails are assumed open for riding unless they’re posted closed.

There is debate over which classification is best. Some feel that limited trails gives the County and the DNR better ability to control where the ATVs go, thus reducing conflict with land owners and also environmental damage.

However, many ATV trail riders prefer managed trails because they feel it gives them more freedom in where to ride.