

# Pequaywan Lakes Association News

Spring 2012



## Weather records set this winter

The winter of 2011-2012 was one for the record books, literally. It was warmer and drier than usual. Until April, that is. A prolonged March warm spell set several temperature records across the region and meant record-setting ice-out dates. It was the earliest ice out for both lakes, unofficially, March 25 for the Big Lake and March 28 for the Little Lake.

Luckily for lake levels and forestation, there were several snowstorms in late February and a lot of rain in April. However, until it really greens up, there is still a fire danger, so please check burning restrictions before having any outdoor fires.

## Cloquet Valley Internet Initiative

CVII is a multi-township effort to improve the options residents have for high-speed Internet service. Area townships (Pequaywan, Ault, Fairbanks, North Star, Normanna, Alden, and Gnesen) have formed a Joint Powers Agreement which is needed to access grants and authorize the expenditure of funds. An important purpose for the new organization is to increase communication and cooperation across the townships on promoting and leveraging broadband Internet. The Joint Powers Board is being called the Cloquet Valley Internet Initiative Steering Committee and will represent the seven townships as well as two unorganized townships (53-15 and 54-13).

CVII has received funding from the townships and from Blandin Foundation, AgStar Financial Services and St. Louis County to support two broadband feasibility studies to be done this summer:

1. An objective comparison across all Internet provider types (wireless, satellite, DSL, fiber optic) to provide us with the speed, capability, and advantages and disadvantages of each.
2. An engineering analysis of “fiber to the premise” and “fiber to the node” to demonstrate where and how fiber optic could be deployed and its cost.

You can read more about this and sign up for the e-newsletter at <http://pequaywanlakes.com/Internet>.

Check out the Association’s improved website – [PequaywanLakes.com](http://PequaywanLakes.com). There’s more information on shoreline and lake protection, where to get answers on zoning and permits, and an “A List” of recommended service providers and vendors.

## Calendar

**Lake Association Meetings:** Meetings start at 10 a.m. at the Fire Hall on #44.

**May 12** General information, committee reports, planning of summer activities

**June 2** Tentative: DNR presentation on proposed public access

**July 14** Program TBA

**Aug. 11** Annual meeting, election,

**Sept. 1** Program TBA

Association committees will present information throughout the summer. Visit the Association’s website at <http://www.pequaywanlakes.com> for updates and program topics.

**Road Cleanup: Monday, May 14.** Meet at the Fire Hall at 9 a.m. for coffee and rolls, followed by the clean-up.

**Yard Waste Day: Saturday, June 2.** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. At the gravel pit near the south end of the Big Lake. No branches larger than 8” in diameter.

**Fire Department Pancake Breakfast: Sunday, July 1,** from 8 a.m. to noon at the Fire Hall.

Be a fan of [Pequaywan Lakes Association’s Facebook Page](http://PequaywanLakesAssociation.com). Keep up-to-date on lake news



## Invasives species a threat

The DNR has been invited to the June Association meeting to update members on their plans for a

proposed public access on the Big Lake.

Whatever happens to that access, we all play an important role in preventing the introduction of these destructive species into our two lakes.

If you take your boat to other lakes, including Lake Superior, St. Louis River, and nearby Fish Lake, Island Lake or Pike Lake, or if you let friends bring their boats to our lake, you could introduce zebra mussels, milfoil, spiny water fleas or other invasives into our clean waters.

Once introduced, these invasives are difficult, if not impossible, to get rid of. *And the cost of doing so would be born by property owners* — US!

They cling to boat, docks, rafts, and, in the case of motors, make them inoperable. They destroy native fish, make swimming impossible, and lower property values. Don't let this happen!

**Recommended actions** — Some species are small and difficult to see at the access, so to remove or kill them before transporting your watercraft to other waters, either:

- Rinse your boat and boating equipment with hot water (over 120° F); or
- Spray your boat and trailer with a high pressure sprayer. (The hot water sprayers at a car wash can be used); or
- Dry your boat and equipment *for at least 5 days.*

## DNR steps up enforcement for AIS

A reminder before you head out on the lake this spring and summer. The DNR now requires decals on all watercraft - including boats, canoes, kayaks, paddleboats and personal watercraft. and boat trailers. It is an effort to bring more awareness to aquatic invasive species (AIS) laws.

The free decals are available at many bait shops, boat dealers, motor vehicle and DNR offices. You will get the decal when renewing any license as well.

One part of the decal goes on the watercraft, another will be stuck on the trailer. Right now, there is no penalty for not displaying the decal. After August of 2014, the violation will be a misdemeanor. Read more about the decals at: [http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquatic\\_qa.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquatic_qa.html)

## DNR road checks

Legislation passed last year also allows law enforcement officers to conduct road checks to inspect watercraft for invasive species. One of the state's pressure-washing decontamination units will be stationed at each road check. If boats are found to have invasive species on them, the pressure washers will be used to clean the boats before they can proceed.

## More pressure washers

After experimenting with three pressure-washing systems last year, the DNR purchased 20 more for this summer. They will be distributed around the state and moved from lake to lake in areas of infested waters.

Six of those units will be in Region 2 (Northeastern Minnesota), One will be stationed at Jay Cooke State Park, to be used on nearby waters such as the St. Louis River, Pike Lake, Mille Lacs and others. The units will be attended by DNR boat inspection employees.

## Tougher enforcement

The DNR said anglers are expected to know the invasive species rules, most of which were in effect all of last summer. DNR officers will be more likely to issue tickets than warnings this summer, DNR officials said.

**MINNESOTA Aquatic Invasive Species Laws**

*These laws are intended to protect your lakes and water recreation from harmful effects of aquatic invasive species (AIS). Under state law, your compliance with AIS inspection requirements is an express condition and legal requirement of operating or transporting water related equipment.*

**You must...**

- CLEAN** visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and other prohibited species off of watercraft, trailers, and equipment before transporting from any water access.
- DRAIN** water from the boat's bilge, livewell, motor, ballast tanks, and portable bait containers before transport from water access site or shoreline property.
- KEEP** drain plug out and water draining devices open while transporting watercraft.

**You may not...**

- TRANSPORT** aquatic plants, water, or prohibited invasive species (e.g., zebra mussels, Eurasian water milfoil).
- DUMP** live bait into state waters, on the shore, or on the ground.
- LAUNCH**, or attempt to place, watercraft or trailers with aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or prohibited invasive species into any waters of the state.

**2012** This decal is only a summary of the laws as of August 2011.

[www.mndnr.gov/invasives](http://www.mndnr.gov/invasives)  
peel here and place bottom portion on trailer rear window

**CHECK THE DRAIN PLUG!**  
Please wear your life jacket.  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

# Impact of mining on area, water a concern

At the March 13 annual township meeting, township supervisors passed the following resolution:

“Whereas, non-ferrous mining has always created major problems, caused the loss of jobs in the outdoor industry, created health issues in the surrounding areas, and devastated the environment and

“Whereas, current funding formulas for the cleanup and proper closure of the mines have been insufficient at best and

“Whereas, current mineral rights have been purposely designed to benefit the State of Minnesota and the private mining industry and do not properly address the rights of the property owner or owners

“THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Pequaywan board of supervisors, and the majority of residents and property owners, support the enactment of a ‘prove-it-first’ law that requires proposed non-ferrous mines to prove they can operate safely through long-term operation and closure of similar mines elsewhere. That the Town of Pequaywan will support a new fully funded ‘non-public’ assurance program that includes adequate funds to pay for any damages caused by operation and/or closure of the mine or mines, including any future environmental issues. That the Town of Pequaywan supports a new property owners law which is designed to protect said owners from intrusions by the State of Minnesota, for private businesses, and bring Minnesota into the 21st century regarding such issues.

“Be It Further Resolved, that the Town of Pequaywan board of supervisors, and the majority of residents and property owners, will only support the non-ferrous mining after the enactment of the ‘prove it first’ law, new property owners rights legislation, and an updated fully funded ‘non-public’ assurance program that covers all aspects of environmental damages and closure of the mine or mines without the use of government or taxpayer funds.”

You can find out more about this issue and the potential impact on our area at <http://www.friends-bwca.org/issues/sulfide-mining/>

The public is invited to an informational meeting on Non-Ferrous (also known as Copper/Sulfide) Mining at 7 p.m., Wednesday, May 2, at Concordia Lutheran Church, 2501 Woodland Ave, Duluth.

**The Panel will include: Rep. Alice Hausman, DNR’s Larry Kramka, Poly Met Brad Moore, and MCEA Scott Strand. Sponsored by the Duluth Izaak Walton League.**

# Water testing

Testing for water clarity is done on both lakes by volunteers using Secchi disks. Measuring water clarity can indicate the overall health of a lake.

A black and white metal disc is lowered into the water on a rope until it can't be seen anymore and raised to the point it can be seen. The depth of the disk to the surface of the water is the Secchi Depth.

Here is the report for the last year.

2011 Little Lake:	June 9	19.5'	July 4	19.5'
	July 30	18.0'	Aug. 28	17.5'
	Sept. 11	18.5'		

2011 Big Lake:	June 10	11.5'	July 1	9.0'
	July 20	7.5'	Aug. 17	10.0'
	Sept. 13	10.5'		

## Do your part to protect loons

- Avoid use of islands before July 15 of each year. Loons prefer islands for nesting. While baby loons are cute to look at, keep a good distance away to avoid stressing baby and parents.
- Protect native vegetation on all shores. Loons often nest on natural shorelines and use natural materials to build nests.
- Conserve electricity. Mercury emissions contaminate lakes and loon food.
- Dispose of household garbage properly. Garbage draws raccoons, foxes, gulls and eagles which prey on loon eggs.
- Be an ethical angler. Never fish or cast near loon nests or swimming loons and properly dispose of extra bait and trash.
- Keep dogs and cats away from loon and nests. Pets disturb nesting loons and destroy loon eggs.
- Use only Phosphorus-free fertilizer. Fertilizer can run off into lakes increasing aquatic (weed) growth, making it difficult for loons to swim and find food.

**Valley Homemakers** — The annual first gathering will be cleaning of Lakeside Chapel Wednesday, May 23, at 6 p.m. After the cleaning, the group will meet for supper at the Pequaywan Inn. Meetings continue into December on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

**Lakeside Chapel** — Services begin Sunday, May 27, at 10 a.m., 8905 Pequaywan Lake Road, and continue through Labor Day.

**Recycling** — North Star Recycling Center is open Saturdays, 9 a.m. to noon, accepting cans, glass, plastic, paper, and cardboard.

**Township News** — Congratulations to Mark Freeman who was re-elected to a three-year term as township supervisor and to April Anderson who was re-elected clerk.

Township meetings are the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 at the Fire Hall. Minutes are posted on the website: [Pequaywantownship.org](http://Pequaywantownship.org)

# Greetings from the Pequaway Lake Fire & EMS Department

We hope everyone had a safe winter season. 2011 was a pretty quiet year at the Fire Department with only two fire calls and six medical runs. We appreciate everyone's care when burning. We are happy to report we didn't have any fire runs to illegal fires in 2011!

So far in 2012, we have already had four medical runs, one structure fire and one search and rescue. Thanks to all our members for all their hard work and professionalism when on these calls.

We burned the township brush pile in October 2011. It was almost a complete burn with very little left over. It is nice to see this community resource being used properly and thanks to all the non-fire department volunteers who help out.

The Fire Department purchased a 1992 Ford LS8000 fire truck from Wyoming Fire Department. It is a long overdue purchase that we have been saving for. It will be a great asset to our department as it replaces our existing 1973 L-9000 which is now our #2 truck. We hope to continue to upgrade our fleet as our savings builds up again.

A state-wide upgrade of radio communication has forced us to apply for a radio/pager grant. We have not yet heard if we are approved. If not, St. Louis County might help with the cost. Otherwise, this will be a large burden of cost to the Fire Department – approximately \$25,000.

We currently have openings for two fire fighters and two first responders. All training expenses will be covered by the fire department. We also have a retirement set up for all members with minimum of five-years of service. If interested, please contact Fire Chief John Lucia or attend our business meeting which are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30.

Our Annual Pancake Breakfast is set for Sunday, July 1 from 8 to noon. Hope to see you there!

Burning restrictions were put on April 1 and will be in place until further notice by the D.N.R. Campfires are currently okay but this could change depending on conditions. Please be safe!

John Lucia

# Association Meeting Minutes Sept. 3, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. with 27 in attendance. Treasurer's report: Balance as of Aug. 13: \$1,426.30. Deposit of \$23. Expenses (mailing) \$67.75 and (picnic) \$124.82. New balance is \$1,256.73. CD due Sept. 21 of \$5,947.75. A second CD due Nov. 11 of \$11,789.00.

**Loon platform:** Steve Peltó will purchase materials and he and Gordy Larsen will build the two structures.

**CLP Grant application:** Grant application applied for to buy a projector for the Association. If a projector is purchased, there may be a usage fee for the use of it by other groups to build up a maintenance fund.

**Broadband update:** 70 residents have completed an online survey with mailing to be done to those who do not have e-mail. Surveys to the unorganized residents will be delivered by Deb Pomroy. (See updates to this project at: <http://pequawaywanlakes.com/internet>.)

**Screen door project:** As the hall door is a commercial door, there may be special considerations to installation of screen. John Lucia has consented to investigate possibility of an insert with a window and screen.

**Road pickup:** Date set for Sept. 8. Helpers to meet at hall at 9 a.m.

**Yard Waste Day:** Sept. 17, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at county gravel pit

**List of area service providers:** A list was circulated for individuals to list businesses that they would recommend to others as a type of "welcome wagon service" for new residents.

**Program ideas for next year:** Ideas included bird ID, presentation by Jan Green, rain gardens, and alternative energy sources.

**Brush cleanup:** Volunteers to help Monday, Sept. 19 (weather permitting) at 9 a.m. to cut and clear trees/brush on West Branch Road.

Marialice Arndt, secretary

## Pequaywan Lakes Association Membership Dues



Please send this form or bring it to an Association meeting along with your \$10 check (made out to Pequaywan Lakes Association) to: Jim Guldseth  
14550 Beverley Lane  
Savage, MN 55378

Even if you pay in person, please attach this form to your payment. It makes it easier for Jim to match payment to name.

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Cabin Address \_\_\_\_\_

***Note: You only have include information that has changed from last year.***

***New members – please complete the entire form.***

Cabin Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Corrections or additions to your listing in the Lake Directory \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_