

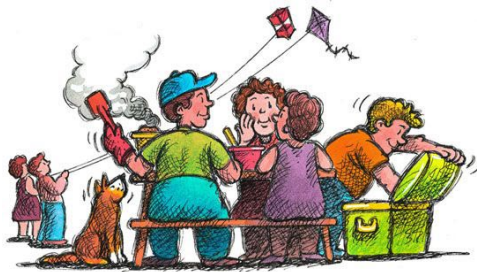


Pequaywan Lakes Association

Summer Newsletter

August 2008

Annual Picnic set for Saturday, Aug. 23



The Lake Association's Summer Picnic will be Saturday, August 23. Games for kids start at 3 p.m. and adults will start gathering between 4:30 and 5 at the Pequaywan Inn.

The Association will provide hotdogs, brats, hamburgers, buns, condiments, silverware, paper plates, and coffee. Bring a side dishes, dessert or snack items to share.

Sandy Williams, who has a cabin on the Little Lake, will play ragtime piano after dinner (she is active in the Superior Ragtime Society) and there is a rumor that Scott Mead will do his cowboy poetry. There will also be historical photos of the lake area (bring some to share if you have any) and minutes from old Association meetings.

While the Association sponsors the picnic, everyone is invited to attend. It's a good way to meet your neighbors from both the Little and Big Lakes.

If you plan to pay your Association \$10 dues that day, please put your check or cash in an envelope with your name and address to make it easier to track membership and payments.

Important Alerts

Water Quality: Clarity is down in both the Big and Little Lakes this year, a sign of troubling deteriorating water quality. A comparison of this year's August clarity readings to last year's shows the decline:

Big Lake:	2008: 7.5 feet	2007: 11 feet
Little Lake	2008: Two readings of 14 feet and 16 feet	2007: Two readings of 16 feet and 19 feet

At the Aug. 9 meeting, Association members voted to have the water tested on the two lakes to determine a baseline of water quality and perhaps determine the cause of the decline. There was discussion of forming a water quality/shoreline management committee which will work to determine reasons for the deterioration and how to educate and assist cabin owners in managing their shorelines in an ecologically sound manner.

YOU are an important part of the effort to protect our lakes. Once the water quality deteriorates, it is difficult to get it back. And water quality definitely affects property values.

Rainwater runoff is a major source of water pollution. Runoff occurs when water flows over lawns and heads into to the lake. Runoff carries pollutants which can lead to algae blooms.

Two important steps you can take:

- Create a shoreline buffer of natural vegetation that traps, filters and impedes runoff. The simplest, most effective way is to stop mowing your grass all the way down to the lake. (This also reduces geese feeding on your lawn.)
- Limit the use of fertilizer and sod near the lake. Remember fertilizer is not allowed within 75 feet of the shore by DNR regulations.

St. Louis County zoning ordinances have standards and rules for how much shorelines and vegetation can be altered within this 75-foot shore impact zone:

“Section 3:01 Limits to removal of vegetation. The removal of natural vegetation (i.e., trees, shrubs and plants) within the shore and bluff impact zones is restricted and limited to the following:

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- “A. The removal of dead, diseased, dangerous and storm or fire damaged trees, shrubs and plants.
- “B. The trimming and pruning of trees, shrubs and plants.
- “C. The removal of 25% of trees (greater than two inches in diameter at breast height) shrubs and plants. Note: This means that no more than 25% of the trees may be removed between the principal structure and the water body within the impact zone and 25% vegetative removal standard throughout the shore impact zone.
- “D. Authorized removal of trees, shrubs and plants shall be accomplished through human means (i.e., hands, ax saw, etc.), and shall not be done by] heavy equipment.”

Learn more about how you can protect our lakes at the DNR’s Lakescaping and Shoreline Restoration (<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakescaping/index.html>) and watch for more information from the Association.

Be prepared for emergencies: John Lucia and Peggy Linn of the Pequaywan Volunteer Fire Department and First Responders spoke at the Association meeting Aug. 9. They explained that when you call 911, the dispatcher asks for your fire number or address and the next highest cross road. If the emergency is fire related, pagers of the volunteer firemen go off. If it is an medical emergency, the ambulance is dispatched from Duluth and the area’s First Responders are notified.

They suggested the following safety practices:

- Be sure your address/fire number is visible. Cut brush around the sign that might impair visibility. Make sure you know your fire or address number.
- Know the next crossroads near your address (i.e., Rossini Trail, Smith Lake Road, etc.).

Fire prevention: Burning brush is the #1 reason for area fires, followed by cigarettes thrown out of car windows, John reported.

Any fires other than those in a fire ring (maximum size 3 by 3 feet) require a fire permit, obtainable from John or at the Inn. Only brush can be burned, not garbage or other items. Violators can be fined.

John stressed to not leave fires unattended and to not have too large of a fire. He cautioned that the forests in our area are very old with lots of dead vegetation, which could easily burn and cause a large forest fire.

Spotted Knapweed: This very toxic weed is spreading quickly in our area and can be seen along West Branch and #44, as well as along some driveways. The plant is a prolific spreader and poisons the ground for other plants so it soon takes over.

It out-competes native plants, reduces native plant biodiversity, and decreases forage production for wild-life. Spotted Knapweed also degrades soil and water resources by increasing erosion and surface runoff.

If you remove any patches near your property, wear heavy gloves, as the plant can cause skin irritation and spray herbicide at the roots. The best time to pull the weed is after a rain because it has long taproots. There are 8 sites from North Star to Pequaywan Inn, where there should be no pulling, because weevils have been released to eat the plants.

St. Louis County has received petitions from 67 townships to add the weed to its primary invasive species list, but the county board has not acted on that request. Contact the county commissioner for our area to ask her to help control this toxic weed.

Commissioner Peg Sweeney
Room 208, 100 N. 5th Avenue West
Duluth, MN 55802
218-726-2450
sweeneypeg@co.st-louis.mn.us

Plant Description: You can see the weed growing along the ditches on Pequaywan Lake Road. It is 2 to 3 feet tall with thistle-like pink to purple flowers.



Association News

The next meeting is 10 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 13.
The new bylaws can be picked up at the meeting or read at: <http://pequaywanlakes.com/bylaws.htm>

Summary of Minutes of Aug. 9 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Scott Mead, Co President at 10:05 a.m. 24 members present.

Jim Guldseth presented the Treasurers Report. The checking balance as of August 9 is \$1,524.24.

Old Business

Missing buoy: Scott Mead reported that the buoy in front of Gordon Ramsay's cabin on the Big Lake is missing and to be on the outlook for it.

Pontoon ride exchange: Phyllis Mead, Co President, thanked Marialice and Richard Arndt, Terry Condon, and Don and Faye Swanstrom for providing pontoons for the exchange. Also thanks to Marialice and Richard for hosting the picnic after the rides.

Annual Association Picnic: Lori Gherna reported that the picnic on August 23 will begin at 3 p.m. with the kids games. There will be burgers, brats, and hot dogs. Bring a dish to share. There could be a tug-of-war between the two lakes. Scott Mead will do cowboy poetry. There will be a sharing table with lake history and photos. Phyllis thanked Lori for getting the picnic organized.

Cell Phone Report: Terry Hanson had talked to AT&T and was told that the more people who request the service, the more likely it was that a tower might be built in the area. AT&T's 1-800-331-0500 is the number to call for information. The suggestions for a place for a tower were the Pequaywan Volunteer Fire Department acreage or the township corner lot on the Rossini-Pequaywan Lake intersection.

New Business

Spotted Knapweed: A sample of Spotted Knapweed was shown and Deb Pomroy gave information about the invasive plant and the problems of having it in the area.

Loon Report: Lorene Sorlien reported that a dead loon was found on the Big Lake and reported to the DNR.

The loon is in Donna and Arne Johnson's freezer until further notice. There has been a lot of loon activity on the Big Lake. There are two baby loons.

Clarity Report: Scott Mead reported 7½-foot clarity on the Big Lake. Since 2003 the clarity on the Big Lake has gotten worse. It was suggested that a committee be formed to work on water quality and shoreline problems. Judy Strom made a motion that the Association do water quality testing of the two lakes so there would be a baseline. Seconded by Cam Johnson. Approved.

Election of Officers and Lake Representative Directors: Marilyn Bamford made a motion that the current board of officers be re-elected minus Scott Mead, who was not standing for election as Co-President. (The new by-laws do not include a co-president.) Seconded by Marialice Arndt. Approved. Judy Strom made a motion that Richard Arndt be elected 1st Vice President. Seconded by Terry Hanson, Approved. Scott Mead made the motion that Jan Kolehmainen represent the Big Pequaywan Lake as a representative director. Seconded by Cam Johnson. Approved. Judy Strom made the motion that Mark Merrill represent Little Pequaywan Lake as a representative director. Seconded by Ray Barnes. Approved.

Position	Elected	Term*
President	Phyllis Mead	2 year
1st Vice President	Richard Arndt	1 year
2nd Vice President	Judy Strom	2 year
Secretary	Lorene Sorlien	1 year
Treasurer	Jim Guldseth	2 year
Representative Directors:		2 year
Big Lake	Jan Kolehmainen	
Little Lake	Mark Merrill	

* All terms will be two years for the next election. Terms are staggered initially so positions do not expire in the same year.

Jan Kolehmainen reported that burglaries had occurred on Salo Lake recently. It was also reported that mail had been taken out of mailboxes along Highway 44.

Lorene Sorlien, Secretary.

Summary of Minutes July 12 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Co-President Phyllis Mead at 10:05 a.m. 29 members present. The treasurer's report in the June minutes was corrected to read \$1,374.88 for the checking account balance.

Jim Guldseth presented the treasurer's report. Since September 1, 2007, income has been \$1,048.80. Expenses have been \$1,176.41. New checking balance as of July 12 is \$1,454.88. CD # 1 is \$11,130.85 @ 3.5%, 13 month term, due July 18, 2009. CD# 2 is \$5,000.00 @ 4.10% due August 8, 2008.

The total paid membership so far for this year is 78.

Incorporation of Bylaws: Phyllis Mead gave a brief description of the history and legacy of the Lake Association dating back to 1945 when it was called the Pequaywan Improvement Association. She explained the process of incorporating. Phyllis thanked Dexter Larsen and Judy Strom for their hard work and extra hours put into the new bylaws process. She also thanked members for their constructive comments. If approved, these by-laws can be amended if necessary in the future.

Judy Strom made a motion that the Pequaywan Board of Directors as members of the (new) Pequaywan Lakes Association accept those paid members of the Pequaywan Improvement Association of record as of July 12, 2008. Phyllis Mead seconded the motion. Board approved. The mem-

bers voted to accept the bylaws.

Old Business: The Annual picnic has been rescheduled for August 23, with children's games at 4 p.m.

New Business: Lake Association Meeting: August 9. Election of officers. Two representative directors will be elected. They will represent each lake. The program will be the Pequaywan Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad.

- Cell Phone Service: It was suggested that a committee explore getting better cell phone service in the area.
- Water Clarity Report: Scott Mead reported on 3 readings, 10 ½ ft. , 9½ ft, and 9 ft. Carol Bradbury reported that the water clarity is down on the Little Lake.
- Loon Report: 10 loons were seen gathering on the Big Lake. No baby loons on the Little Lake this year.

Lorene Sorlien, Secretary

Yard Waste/Brush Day: The next disposal day will be Saturday, Sept. 13, Noon to 4 p.m. at the gravel pit near the south end of the Big Lake. No branches larger than 8 inches in diameter.