

**ANNUAL MEETING**

Thursday, June 16 at 7:30 PM

Inverness Country Club

**CONGRATULATIONS - KEYHOLE ORDINANCE ADOPTED**

Because of your strong support and overwhelming attendance at the public hearing last summer, the Dexter Township Board of Trustees adopted a keyhole ordinance - despite strong objections from the Township Zoning Board. Those of you that supported the Association's efforts over the last five years are to be congratulated - it is clear that the ordinance would not have been adopted without your continued and overwhelming support.

Essentially, the new ordinance allows a lake-front lot to be used as a park for lots off the lake if it has at least 150 ft. of frontage on the lake. If this requirement is met, 30 ft. of frontage must be dedicated to each parcel off the lake - in other words, a lake-front lot with 150 ft. of frontage could funnel only 5 lots away from the lake onto the lake. Our proposal also included a load factor, that if exceeded would have precluded any new keyholes regardless of the amount of frontage, but the Township Trustees chose not to adopt this part of the proposal. Putnam Township has also adopted the ordinance (including the load factor), and Hamburg and Webster Townships are considering adoption.

Again, congratulations and thanks for your support.

**THE STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION**

The Association's Board of Directors met on April 27, 1983 to discuss plans for the upcoming Annual Meeting. This will be held on Thursday, June 16, 1983 at 7:30 PM at the Inverness Country Club. The items of the agenda will include the election of new members to the Board of Directors to replace expired terms and the confirmation of officers. Also on the agenda will be an update on the current Water Quality Task Force committee in Dexter Township. Featured speaker will be Mr. Fred Matthis, Region One Vice President of the Michigan Lake and Stream Association who will give a presentation regarding the activities and programs of that organization. All residents of the North Lake are invited to attend, whether or not you are a member of the association.

At the meeting of the Board of Directors it was voted to drop the initial membership fee of \$10.00 as we felt it was not effective for the growth of our association. We did at that time vote to raise the yearly

dues fee to \$5.00 per year. One of the items under consideration is additional testing by aquatic specialists. The raise in dues will help to cover the cost of this study. More information on the details of this study will be given at the annual meeting. Dues shall be forwarded care of your Treasurer; Kelli Kadlec at 6995 Westbourne, Chelsea, Michigan 48118. Alternatively, the dues may be paid at the Annual Meeting or to the Board member representing your landing. Checks should be made payable to the North Lake Protection Association.

Funds obtained through dues are used for the ongoing activities of the Association such as the DNR Self-Help Program, the publication of the newsletter and the lake study program. Any surplus is set aside to cover the costs of future projects and toward future problems that may require immediate action.

Currently the Officers and Board of Directors of the Association, together with their respective terms, are as follows:

OFFICE	MEMBER	LANDING	BOARD TERM EXPIRES
President	Renee Warren	East End	1983
Vice President	Ralph Rumsey	Sauer Drive	1985
Sec./Treasurer	Kelli Kadlec	Park Lawn	1984
Director	Ron Burkenberger	Noahs Landing	1984
Director	Dave Classon	North Lake Four	1983
Director	Don Ferguson	Gilbert Drive	1983
Director	Tom Kessler	Watt Drive	1984
Director	Dave Knisely	Glen Oaks	1984
Director	Gerry Nicks	Webb Shore	1985
Director	George Carter	Shorehedge	1985

\*Officers are elected from the board for one year terms.

#### DEXTER TOWNSHIP LAKES TASK FORCE

On April 2, 1983, Arlene Howe, Dexter Township Supervisor, requested that the Township Board Members approve her recommendation that the Lakes Management Task Force be a nucleus of the following people;

Doug Smith - Dexter Township Board Rep.  
Mark Purcel - Portgage Lake "Chairman"  
Phil Kearney - Silver Lake  
Renee Warren - North Lake

This was approved by the Board on April 5, 1983. At that time the Board asked that the group meet before May 3, 1983 in order to present to the next Township meeting the results of their initial efforts. The Task Force has been asked to first draft an initial charge and present this to the Board. This would include the objectives of the Task Force and plans for the future. Some of the items to be addressed will be as follows; Ground Water Quality, Chemical Waste Disposal, run off, and many other items that affect the water quality throughout the Township. The Task Force will continue to meet and grow in representation in order to meet the needs of the township community. Many of you already know how much impact this group had in the recent "land use regulation ordinances" that were passed in November of 1982. This is an example of the type of issues that will be considered in the future in order to keep the quality of the lakes at their best for the community.

TESTING RESULTS SHOW SUBSTANTIAL DETERIORATION

Testing results from our participation in the DNR Self-Help Program for last year showed deterioration for the first time since 1977. After improving a foot or more a year since 1977, the average depth reading declined last year over two and a half feet. You may recall that this test measures the clarity of the water; the clearer (and the deeper the depth reading), the better. Results of the tests, compared with prior years, are shown below:

	<u>Average Depth Reading (feet)</u>	<u>Average Chlorophyll Level (ug/l)</u>
1976	8.4	4.9
1977	8.2	3.6
1978	9.3	---
1979	10.3	---
1980	11.3	2.5
1981	13.5	---
1982	10.9	---
Memo- Percent Improvement Since 1976	+30%	49%
- Percent Decline in 1982	-19%	---

In the table below, our depth readings are compared with other lakes in the area.

	<u>North Lake</u>	<u>Cavanaugh</u>	<u>Portage</u>	<u>Half Moon</u>	<u>Horseshoe</u>	<u>Ford</u>
1976	8.4	NA	9.7	NA	5.1	4.0
1977	8.2	7.8	8.4	9.8	6.1	4.0
1978	9.3	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1979	10.2	10.2	8.5	NA	NA	NA
1980	11.3	9.7	10.8	NA	5.1	NA
1981	13.5	11.5	8.9	12.1	7.7	7.2
1982	10.9	13.2	NA	NA	NA	NA

The deterioration last year appears to be the result of:

1. Fewer people following the lake improvement guidelines - especially fertilizing and maintaining septic systems.
2. The spring, and to a lesser extent the summer months, were very warm last year - which caused weed and algae growth to accelerate and cloud the water.

Until last year, our progress had been impressive. We cannot become complacent and begin to ignore the lake improvement guidelines. Everyone must participate in the improvement program, and not leave it to the other guy, if we are to be successful. A copy of the guidelines is attached - please read them, follow them, and urge others to follow your example. If we don't, we have a lot to lose, in terms of recreational pleasure and ultimately declining property values.

At the Association's Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 16, we plan to discuss additional testing programs that can be undertaken to identify specific trouble areas.

Dick Neff took the Self-Help tests for us again last summer - many thanks for another job well done. Don Warren, also of the East End, has volunteered to take the tests for us this summer.

A Reminder

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A Reminder

NORTH LAKE IMPROVEMENT GUIDELINES

Our primary problem is an excessive level of nutrients in the water - especially phosphorous and nitrogen that accelerate weed and algae growth, and ultimately bacteria growth. The following guidelines were developed from a number of sources, including the University of Michigan Biological Station, the study completed for us by Prof. Clifford R. Humphrys of Michigan State University, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The guidelines are designed to reduce the level of nutrients entering the lake. We hope everyone will join together to improve our quality of life on the lake and to protect our property values for ourselves and our children.

**\*\*Don't fertilize - lawn and garden fertilizers ultimately end up in the lake because North Lake is ground water fed, according to Prof. Humphrys. Instead, water from the lake and reseed your lawn with grass varieties that have low nutrient requirements. Watering from the lake uses nutrients already in the water and helps filter the water before it returns to the lake. If you absolutely must fertilize because your lawn is dying, do it lightly only during the growing season in May, and do not fertilize within 50 feet of the shoreline or over your septic system drainfield. Do not fertilize just before it rains. Remember, if a resident fertilizes because he thinks one person won't hurt, it undermines the efforts of all others on the lake who sacrifice lush green lawns for a cleaner lake.**

**\*\*Improve septic system efficiency - research by the University of Michigan has found that we can improve the efficiency and life of our septic systems by following a few simple rules:**

1. Conserve water - the less water used, the better a septic system works. In addition, your electric bill is reduced because your pump runs less and you conserve energy. To reduce the use of water, you can:
  - add two or three bricks or a plastic jug filled with water to your toilet tank,
  - repair dripping faucets and toilet leaks
  - use the dishwasher or washing machine only when there is a full load (along with low phosphate detergents),
  - use water conservation devices like flow-control shower heads and low-flush attachments for toilets,
  - reroute away from the lake rain gutters and footing drains that are connected to your septic tank.
  - replace old appliances and plumbing fixtures with new ones that are designed to conserve water - dishwashers, washers, one gal. Thetford toilets, or 3 gal. conventional toilets (most have 5 gal. tanks).

Maintain your septic system - like anything else, it will deteriorate more quickly with neglect. Maintenance recommendations include:

- pump and clean the tank at least every 3 to 5 years. If you don't, sludge will flow into the drainfield and eventually clog it so there is no filtering process left. There are several local companies that will do this for you at a reasonable cost, and considerably cheaper than a new drainfield! Don't wait until you have problems to have the tank pumped - if you do, the drainfield is probably already plugged.
- avoid letting substances that kill bacteria get into the septic tank - bacteria include poisons, drain cleaners, bleach, disinfectants, paint and chemicals.
- prevent wastes that will not decompose and clog the drainfield from getting in to the septic tank including grease, hair, cigarette butts, band-aids, facial tissues, paper towels, and solid wastes from a garbage disposal.
- don't exceed design capacity for a septic tank and drainfield or use a garbage disposal unless the system is designed for it. A common mistake is to convert a cottage into a year-round home without enlarging a totally inadequate septic system.
- avoid parking or building on a drainfield because it compacts the soil and hinders the filtering of waste water.

3. If your system is not working properly, have it repaired - as unpleasant and costly as it may seem, it won't get better by ignoring it! In the meantime, you may be contaminating well water in the area along with the lake. You can tell if your system needs attention if toilets back up, drains won't drain properly, there are foul odors around the tank or drainfield, or there is excessive moisture over the drainfield.

4. If you must put in a new system, investigate systems with holding tanks, locate the system as far as possible from the lake, and obtain expert advice. In addition to the Health Department, we are fortunate to have experts on the lake who are willing to provide free professional advice; for more information, call any Board member.

Test every three to five years with a septic system dye to be certain waste is not draining into the lake. The Association has purchased a dye and will provide it at no cost to anyone who will test their system. We encourage everyone to do so - attend the Annual Meeting or contact any Board member if you're interested.

\*\*Plant a tree or shrub - experts strongly recommend increasing greenbelts between the water and the residential area - especially between the lake and septic systems. Check for soil erosion; seed exposed soil or plant ground covers, trees, and shrubs to minimize sedimentation into the lake. Trees and shrubs act as a filtering system for run-off into the lake, reduce erosion, and add to the beauty of the shoreline. Any tree, shrub, or ground cover that will grow in existing soil or light conditions will work. Obviously, low-lying plantings should be used where the view may be obstructed, and flowering trees and shrubs will add more beauty to the shoreline. Imagine the effect in a few years if everyone on the lake planted one tree!

\*\*Remove leaves and weeds from the water - fallen leaves, aquatic weeds, and other debris should be removed from the lake and taken away from the

water's edge as far as possible. If they are left in or near the water, they will decompose and add nutrients to the water. Don't burn leaves near the water or in an area that will wash into the lake - this is even worse than leaving them to decay in the water because of their high phosphorous content.

\*\*Encourage Dexter Township Board of Trustees to enact zoning restrictions to protect the lake - this is the cornerstone of any lake improvement program according to experts. The Township Board publicly stated six years ago that it would seriously consider enacting a keyhole ordinance and increasing set-back lines for lake properties to minimize the effects of future development on the lakes. (A keyhole ordinance, if properly written, would prohibit a relatively small area of lake frontage from being used as a private park for a residential area not on the lake.) The Board of Directors of the Association asks all members to support these efforts by encouraging the Trustees to enact restrictions that will minimize adverse effects of future development on our lakes.

\*\*Improve boating and swimming safety - Prof. Humphrys' study in 1977 concluded that we had too many boats for safe operation. There are simple rules that we can follow to improve the safety of everyone's enjoyment:

1. Check the number of boats on the lake before going out - the lake can handle safely only about ten boats with water skiers, according to Prof. Humphrys, and substantially fewer if there are fishing boats, sailboats, and power boats on the lake. If there are too many boats, wait a few minutes until some have gone off the lake.
2. Stress with power-boat drivers and other boat operators observance of the Michigan Inland Lakes Safety Code before we have a serious accident.

#### SEPTIC SYSTEM DYE STILL AVAILABLE

Plenty of dye is still available if you wish to test your septic system to be sure it isn't draining directly into the lake. A system should be tested every three to five years. The dye is free, so attend the Association's Annual Meeting on June 16 - it will be available to anyone who wants it.

Reminder

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Please forward your annual dues in the amount of \$5.00. The Lake needs your support.