

FREE

The Laker

FREE

No. 10

The Newsletter of the North Lake Protection Association

May, 1985

ANNUAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 7:30 PM
INVERNESS COUNTRY CLUB
 13892 NORTH TERRITORIAL RD

Program will include: Discussions on Water Quality, Weed Control, and Election of Officers

Annual Dues: Dues continue to be \$5.00 per year and should be forwarded to Kelli Kadlec, Association Treasurer at 6995 Westbourne, Chelsea, MI 48118. Also, 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.

Some marine funds restored, but patrols still in danger

In an emergency session of the state legislature, an emergency bill was passed to appropriate money to pay Michigan sheriffs the \$450,000 still owed to them for 1984 marine patrol expenditures. However, North Lake and most of Michigan's other inland lakes still face a summer with severely limited patrols.

"The 1985 budget cuts will leave us with about 50 percent of the program we had last summer," said Sergeant Susan Ledford, Budget Director for the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Marine Safety Division. "The cuts will force us (the Sheriff's Department) to have a reactive instead of proactive approach to marine problems. We will be forced to respond to complaints instead of being on the lakes where we can prevent them."

In the past, Washtenaw Sheriff's Department maintained seven motor boats, a canoe, rowboat, and inflatable raft to enforce safe boating practices on the county's 377 lakes and ponds. The division operated three full time boats on Portage, Ford and Half Moon Lakes; two boats traveling among other waterways; a supervisor's boat, and a crew on the Huron River. Washtenaw County Sheriff Ronald Shebil states that this summer with the budget cuts we can expect one patrol during the week, boats stationed on Ford and Portage Lakes on the weekends, one traveling boat on the weekends, and a supervisor's boat.

For North Lake residents, patrols will probably be seen only during problems and for an occasional visit. "We will distribute the limited boats as equally as we can among the county's waterways according to usage. We must also respond to accidents and problem areas.

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Keyhole law among concerns for North Lake residents

Residents and users of North and other Washtenaw County lakes should be aware of a number of concerns over the 1985 summer months. Douglas Smith, Dexter Township Trustee and Executive Officer of the Portage and Base Lakes Property Owners Association communicated these concerns and the need for the lake residents' support.

Foremost, Mr. Smith believes the P-5 Ordinance, commonly called the keyhole law, needs attention. The keyhole ordinance is a regulation which would prohibit developers or businesses from using a single lake-front parcel to funnel large amounts of additional users onto the lake. The P-5 is called the keyhole ordinance because one parcel could be used to open the lake to additional usage by residents living closeby, but not on the lake front. This could constitute unreasonable use and result in overcrowding and a deterioration of the lake.

The ordinance now in effect is about two years old and needs updating for the area lakes to be secure. Mr. Smith states, "The lakes don't have all the protection they need."

Two different steps might be taken to update the law. Smith is in favor of hiring a township planner who will review and develop the ordinance to meet today's needs. Planner Dick Carlisle has submitted a proposal to the

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New gate to prevent lake crime

In a measure designed to combat future illegal activities on the lake, the North Lake Protection Association will operate a gate at the public access site. At the last annual meeting a motion to request the gate and a permit to operate on the site was voted on and approved by the residents in attendance. The special permit was granted by the Department of Natural Resources in cooperation with Mr. John LaBossiere, Director of the Pickney Recreation Area.

"This gate results from the late night and early morning thefts on the lake," said Ralph Rumsey, NLPA president. Beginning May through December the access site will be open from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm for regular public use, but will remain locked during the late night hours. The Department of Natural Resources will maintain the access ramp, gate and lock, while NLPA members will tend to the opening and closing. Signs stating the operating hours will be posted at the entrance to inform access site users of the change

The Laker**Marine patrols have money problem**

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We cannot make any generalizations about how much we will be on any one lake," said Sergeant Ledford of the Sheriff Department's Marine Safety Division.

Patrol funding problems hit the Michigan sheriffs in two blows. First, Michigan anticipated \$1.5 million in federal funds for water safety purposes, but was allocated only \$525,000. Then the Department of Natural Resources reversed plans to reimburse sheriffs \$450,000 for 1984 expenditures.

Before the emergency bill was passed, Washtenaw County would have lost \$13,679 spent on last summer's marine program. However, current cuts take away \$35,112 from \$77,781 previously budgeted. Of the remaining 1985 budget, \$11,296 comes from the state while the balance consists of county funds.

The return of the money owed for 1984 expenses is a significant help as marine division budget directors were forced to compensate in this year's budgets for the lost allocations. Even with the reimbursements, present DNR cuts will leave the county operating at half the effort of last summer.

With the new cuts over half of the 400 deputies that previously patrolled 80 of the 83 Michigan counties will be lost. The remaining is handled by the U.S. Coast Guard, patrolling mainly the Great Lakes, and about 16 DNR officers. Sheriffs are not required to provide marine patrols and, by law, must only recover drowned bodies.

With North Lake receiving a high usage, residents should be concerned about marine safety and funding for the patrol program. Current cutbacks place property and lives in serious danger. Keith Wilson of the Michigan DNR stated, "Such layoffs will seriously impact our ability at the state level to maintain even a minimum boating safety program and comes at a time when we are realizing the benefits of early boating safety training." The summer of 1984 was Michigan's "safest season in the history of boating and water recreation," said Wilson.

Lake residents who wish to express their concerns or require additional information should contact the Department of Natural Resources and their state and national representatives.

Lake Association can use your help

The North Lake Protection Association is made up of residents, property owners, and friends concerned with providing crime prevention and a sound ecological and environmental balance in and around North Lake. All participation is strictly voluntary and time commitments are minimal when considering the positive results produced for the lake and your property. If you are interested in helping protect North Lake by serving as an officer or on a committee, please contact a current officer or your landing representative. Your assistance is valuable in aiding our committees and in preserving North Lake.

Keyhole ordinance needs revision

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Dexter Township Board for this project explaining the requirements and costs.

The other consideration for updating the ordinance is the addition of a load limit. Basically, this load limit is a mathematical formula which considers the current number of lake users, the useful area on the lake, and the lake's condition to determine the population a lake can withstand. In cases of new development where the number of additional users would exceed the load limit, the project would be prohibited.

North Lake residents are especially needed to support the new measures. Mr. Smith believes the new proposals may be difficult to push through the local political system, but a strong show of support from lake residents can make the needed difference.

Boating safety class offered in Saline

The Marine Safety Division of the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department has announced an additional boating safety class sponsored by the Sheriff's Department in conjunction with the Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

The class is to be held in the Saline High School cafeteria, 7190 Maple Rd., Saline, and will consist of three two-hour sessions. Classes will be June 17-18-19, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

The program will include instruction in Michigan watercraft laws and regulations; familiarization with navigation rules and aids; principles of safe small boat handling and seamanship; proper selection and maintenance of equipment; first aid pertaining to water sports; and accident prevention, rescue and assistance.

The classes are open to all and are free of charge. All materials needed will be provided. Upon the successful completion of the course, students will receive a Boating Safety Certificate which allows persons between the ages 12-16 to operate a powerboat (6 h.p. or greater) without adult supervision. However, all ages are welcome.

Information on this and future courses can be obtained by contacting the Marine Safety Division of the Washtenaw Sheriff's Department at 971-8400, ext. 557.

Township Zoning Board to Appoint Members

Two positions are scheduled for appointment to the Township Zoning Board in July. The terms of Mr. Thomas Ehman and Mr. Charles Thomas will expire this summer. Members on the board serve five year terms and are responsible for maintaining and developing ordinances dealing with building sites and land use.

Residents should be concerned that persons appointed will be receptive to the interests of lake users. While members are not elected, support for candidates which represent your views on area zoning can help to favorably influence such appointments. Supporters and interested persons can contact Jim Drolett, Dexter Township Supervisor or any Township Trustee.

Weed Control

Last July five adjoining property owners on Sauer Drive undertook a weed control program. This program involved chemical control under a permit from the Department of Natural Resources and was undertaken, in part, as an experiment. Results from the experiment were positive and this year approximately five more groups will employ the services of Great Lakes Aquatic Weed Control. Plans for this year's weed control are scheduled for sometime during the week after Memorial Day and will be under permits by the DNR. North Lake residents can distinguish the areas where chemical control has been used by signs posted around the lakeshore areas that are in the control program. Results from last year's experiment and information about the upcoming weed control program can be found at the annual meeting.

Management of Aquatic Plants: Herculicides or Harvesting?

The article on the following pages was written by Peg Bostwick and Howard Wandell, Aquatic Biologists for the Inland Lake Management Unit of the Department of Natural Resources. It is reprinted with permission from "The Michigan Riparian," May 1985 issue. "The Michigan Riparian" is a quarterly journal devoted to protection, preservation and improvement to Michigan waters and to the rights of riparian owners to enjoy their waterfront property.

The Department of Natural Resources and "The Laker" would like to supply this article to its readers as an informative resource which explains the methods and benefits of different weed control programs.

Items to Remember

Please remember that the upcoming annual meeting is Wednesday, June 19 at the Inverness Country Club, 13892 North Territorial Road. The meeting will begin at 7:30p.m. The agenda for the evening will include discussions on water quality and weed control and the election of officers.

Also, please remember your annual dues. Dues can be paid at the annual meeting, or to the Board Member representing your landing, or forwarded to the Association Treasurer, Kelli Kadlec, 6995 Westbourne, Chelsea, MI 48118. Checks should be made payable to the North Lake Protection Association.

Your participation with both the meeting and your dues is needed to ensure the future of North Lake and improvement of our properties.

North Lake Protection Association Executive Board

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>LANDING</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
President	Ralph Rumsey	Sauer Drive	475-3260
Vice President	Tom Kessler	Watt Drive	475-3382
Sec./Treasurer	Kelli Kadlec	Park Lawn	475-7256
Director	Dave Knisely	Glen Oaks	475-7423
Director	George Carter	Stonehenge	475-1570
Director	Dave Classon	North Lake Forms	475-1255
Director	Ted Lane	Gilbert Drive	475-7931
Director	vacant(?)	Noahs Landing	
Director	vacant(?)	Webb Shore	
Director	vacant(?)	East End	