



Rush Lake News



Fall - Winter 2020

Rush Lake Property
Owners Association

Phone: 734-878-0340
email: clerk@rushlakepoa.com
Website: rushlakepoa.com

COVID-19 VIRUS IMPACTS

The Covid-19 pandemic continues, and it impacts our Association in several ways:

...- The upcoming semiannual meeting scheduled for October 7th must be postponed.

...-Regular monthly Board meetings are held via Zoom

...Newsletters continue to be sent only via email, so it is more important than ever that everyone sign up with our Clerk for RLPOA email service. If you know members who don't have this service, you might encourage them to do so.

As we know, our elderly are much more at risk to serious effects of the virus than those who are younger, so the Board encourages members to keep an extra eye out for your elderly neighbors welfare.

And the Board strongly urges all members to strictly follow the guidelines set by the medical experts!

PLEASE STAY SAFE!

Board Actions

Since the May 6th, 2020 Semiannual Meeting was not held because of the pandemic, the Board has taken these actions :

Elected New Board Officers:

President: Christina Letzring
Vice President: Jerry Lasecki
Treasurer: Peggy Pietras
Secretary: Joe Grech

Elected Sue Holcomb to fill past President Lois Pecia's three- year term, which expired on May 6th. Fortunately, Sue kindly volunteered to serve on the Board.

**BIANNUAL
NEWSLETTER**
**The Newsletter will now
be published twice a year:
SPRING/SUMMER in late
April; and, FALL/WINTER
in late September
just before
our Spring**



and Fall
semiannual meetings.

Lois Pescia Retires!

After more than 20 years of devoted service to the Association as Board President, Lois Pescia retired as of this past May.

Her unselfish leadership of the RLPOA for over two decades is an amazing accomplishment!

Lois moved to Rush Lake in 1986. At that time she was a first grade teacher, and taught, mostly in Brighton, for 30 enjoyable years, before retiring.

Soon after moving to Rush Lake, she joined the RLPOA Board, later becoming Vice-President, and then, in the late 1990s, President..Fortunately for the RLPOA, the "rest is history".

She lives in the same lakeside home that she bought in 1986, now with her husband, Lee.

We all thank her for her service, and wish her, and Lee, the very best!



**Mark Your
Calendars!
Upcoming
Meeting Dates**



**Semiannual Meeting
Wednesday,
October 7, 2020**

!!! POSTPONED !!!

Monthly Board Meeting
Wednesday, November 4, 2020
6:30 pm

Monthly Board Meeting
Wednesday, December 2, 2020
6:30 p.m. . (if needed)

Monthly Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 6, 2021
6:30 p.m. (if needed)

Monthly Board Meeting
Wednesday, February 3, 2021
6:30 pm

Monthly Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 3, 2021
6:30 pm

Monthly Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 7, 2021
6:30 pm

**Semiannual Meeting
Wednesday,
May 5, 2021
7:00 pm**

Presently, all regular monthly meetings are held via ZOOM.

2020 - 2021 Officers

President: Christina Letzring
Vice President: Jerry Lasecki
Treasurer: Peggy Pietras
Secretary: Joe Grech

Board Members

Fred Clough
Sue Holcomb
Cindy Oesterle
Jack Partridge
Pam Sevonty

Association Clerk
Teresa Kinter
734-878-0340

***SIGN UP
TODAY FOR
EMAIL SERVICE!***

Now, more than ever, it is important that each member sign up for email service from the RLPOA! The Board encourages all members to take advantage of the benefits that flow from being signed up for our email service.



Receiving our Newsletter, along with other items: notices of items lost or found, all kinds of alerts relating to such things as spraying for weeds, swimming restrictions, boating etc.

Signing up is very simple: Just contact our Clerk at **clerk@rushlakepoa.com**, and ask to be added to our email list.

**CONTACTING
THE CLERK**

Often members need to, for a variety of reasons, contact the RLPOA Clerk.



The simplest, and most effective, way to reach the Clerk, which is also the most efficient way she can deal with any issue, is for you to simply send her an email. This way, she has a clear written picture of your concern, and can, therefore, most efficiently deal with it.

Simply send a concise email to:

clerk@rushlakepoa.com

**EASILY PAY
YOUR DUES ON
LINE!**

You may now conveniently pay your dues online by:

**CREDIT CARD, or
DEBIT CARD, or
PAYPAL** Clerk

Just email the Association for details at:



clerk@rushlakepoa.com

2020 LAKE REPORT

The summer of 2020 was certainly an interesting and challenging one for Rush Lake. From a recreational perspective, boating, lake usage and park swimming areas were at all time high as families stayed close to home during the pandemic. Boaters found the overall condition of the lake to be at some of the highest levels in recent years.

Our lake improvement challenge for 2020 started with a very mild winter and minimal ice cover. The early spring led to an early start to the nuisance plant growth in the lake and canals.

Working with our contractor (Lake Pro), early surveys indicated that we had to move treatments to an earlier calendar schedule. The first treatment in the north canal of Moon Shadows, the Scotia and Baudine canals and select areas of the lake was to eradicate Eurasian Milfoil. This was completed in mid-May.

The big treatment of the lake took place in mid-June and addressed pondweeds and the algae blooms.

Compounding our challenges to keeping the lake clear of weeds was the very high number of 90-degree summer days. Warm water temperatures can

be a key factor in accelerating weed and plant growth.

For the summer of 2020, a special fund was voted on and approved by the waterfront Moon Shadows residents. These funds are dedicated to plant issues in the two canals. Four treatments took place in the south canal and three in the north canal. Funds left over will be used in 2021 for these areas.

As summer has come to a close, the only disappointment has been the increase in lily pad growth. Lily pads are difficult to treat. The best, fastest and safest way to remove them is raking them out. You really do not want to use an ordinary gardening rake. There is a product called "The Great Rake" which is a landscape rake that can be purchased on Amazon. The cost is approximately \$100 but is very effective at pulling out the tubers buried in the silt. If you are having lily pad growth, a couple of hours of work can be very effective in delivering long term results.

In total, we spent \$50,000 for lake management and lake treatments in 2020.

***"Impossible is for
the unwilling"***

John Keats

BURNING REQUIREMENTS

The Hamburg Township burning ordinance contains several very specific rules regarding burning. Among them are:

-burning is allowed only during the months of April and May, and October and November.

-one cannot burn within 25 feet of any shoreline. By burning back from the shore-line, you are not likely to get any of the ashes in the body of water. Ashes contain phosphorus which can disrupt the delicate balance of nutrients in the lake

-one cannot burn within 10 feet of any property line.

-fires must not exceed eight feet in diameter



-the burning of grass clippings, household waste (trash) and building materials are prohibited.

-if one needs a special permit for any burning as defined by the ordinance, the application for this permit will need to be submitted 30 days prior to the burning taking place.

Please keep these burning requirements in mind when you burn this fall!

Don't Force The Gate

While it is inconvenient if your boat launch key won't open the gate, the answer is not to force open the gate. Last fall the gate needed numerous repairs, some of those which appeared to be caused by someone forcing the gate to get it open. If you encounter a problem with the gate, please call the Association hotline (734-878-0340). Someone will contact you as soon as possible. The Board realizes it can be very frustrating when you have made plans to use the boat launch, but forcing the gate will only result in costly repairs and more inconvenience for everyone.

**Keep
Mailbox
Cleared Of
Snow!**



It is the responsibility of the homeowner to keep the area in front of their mailbox cleared of snow and ice. The Association is responsible for the maintenance of the area roads, but each homeowner must maintain their own mailbox area. Mail delivery will be terminated if the boxes are not kept accessible.

Please don't feed the waterfowl



Waste produced by waterfowl can be a significant source of nutrients in the lake. Research has shown that one Canada Goose can contribute approximately a half pound of phosphorus to a lake each year. When you multiply that by the number of geese that are on the lake on a regular basis, it can add up to a lot of phosphorus which will cause an increase in plant and algae growth in the lake.

Also, in locations where the geese gather, e-coli counts can rise making the water unsuitable for swimming, fishing or boating.

Besides the negative effects on the lake, our feeding of waterfowl doesn't permit them to consume a balanced diet, which can lead to wing deformity in goslings. Also, if you feed the waterfowl, they can lose their fear of humans and can become very aggressive, especially during nesting season.

ALERT!

**Remember, dues
will be assessed
a 10% penalty if
received after April 30!**



Hypothermia

When your body temperature falls below normal, hypothermia occurs, which can be serious. To avoid hypothermia:

- protect yourself from the wind
- keep yourself hydrated
- wear warm clothing, including a hat and gloves or mittens
- stay dry
- do not leave your skin exposed for long periods of time
- take care with areas most affected by hypothermia: the nose, ears, fingers, cheeks and toes.

Symptoms include slurred speech, confusion, loss of coordination, apathy, and irrational behavior.

Road Sand & Salt

There is sand and salt available at Hillside Park and Sunset Park for member's use on icy roads. It is piled in the parking lots of each park. The cost of sanding all of the roads is quite expensive, but sometimes just sanding a small area alleviates the iciness. If you find the supply of sand exhausted, please notify the Association by emailing our Clerk at:
clerk@rushlakepoa.com.

PLEASE CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR PET

Do you clean up after your pet? It is always nice to see pet owners cleaning up after their pets when they have them out for a walk. No one likes to step in pet poop, and it's very easy to clean up. Simply carry plastic baggies and paper towels in your pocket to clean up. Baggies are available at all the parks.



Please remember that the cleared area next to the boat launch gate at Hillside Park is for parents to park while waiting for the school bus. During the winter, the parents need a safe area to park and wait for their children. Please keep this area open for them.



Please Slow Down!

School is back in session and many children are now on our streets waiting for the school bus. Let's all slow down and keep our children safe!



RLPOA WEBSITE MORE VALUABLE THAN EVER!!!

Particularly during these difficult and changing times,



access to current information is more important than ever. The RLPOA Website is the best place for members to obtain this relevant info quickly and easily. Simply go to:

rushlakepoa.com

This website is chock full of updates, news, photos, minutes of meetings, newsletters and other interesting info about our lake and our community

Please visit our RLPOA site and look around, you will be glad you did!.

Don't Dump Leaves or Brush in Parks

While doing your fall yard cleaning, please do not dump your leaves or branches in the Association parks. Doing this will cost us all because the Association must then pay someone to clean up the mess. Please be considerate!.

Boat Launch Keys Will be Deactivated

This winter the boat launch gate at Hillside Park will be locked for the winter, and all gate keys will be deactivated. However, the park gate on Orchard Drive will be opened until next spring. Next year, your key will be activated for the 2021 boating season as soon as your dues are paid in full.

If you don't have a key and would like one, you may request one by emailing the Association Clerk a request. A new key will be sent to you, however, it will not be activated until your account balance is paid in full.

If you should lose your key, we will provide a replacement for \$15.00. Although these keys are nearly indestructible, if yours should break, return the pieces to us and we will replace it at no charge.

DON'T FORGET!
Burning is only allowed during the months of April & May, and October & November!



Don't Block The Road



During the winter months, if at all possible, please don't park your vehicle in the roadway. If your vehicle is in the roadway when the plow comes by, that area will not be plowed and eventually the road will get narrower and narrower making it difficult to get by as the season progresses. Also, members are asked to keep trash cans out of the roadway. Often the trash company will just dump the cans back into the roadway, so please pick them up out of the roadway as soon as possible. Also, please, don't regularly store them in the roadway.

Road Markers Appreciated

Our snowplow drivers really appreciate everyone who placed markers along the sides of the road this winter. The markers help the drivers easily locate the edges of the roads. If you would like to place markers along the edges of the road by your property, the markers need to be 3 – 4 foot long sticks or stakes. These can be purchased from the hardware or even just trimmed from trees in your yard. With all the snow we have had this winter, these markers have certainly helped the snowplow drivers clear our roads.

HELP WITH ICY ROADS

As the Board of Trustees are all volunteers with families and jobs, so they cannot be expected to be out patrolling the roads to determine their daily condition. As members of the Rush Lake Property Owners Association, everyone needs to keep an eye on their own road and contact the hotline when it is snow or ice covered. By everyone contributing just a few minutes of time, it will greatly help the Board to stay on top of the wintry conditions.

PLEASE LEASH YOUR DOG!

According to the Michigan State Leash Law, it shall be unlawful for any owner to allow any dog to stray unless held properly in leash. This law has various exceptions, but basically, dogs are not allowed to free.



The Association members need to keep this law in mind and be sure that their dogs do not run free. It is also courteous while walking your dog to clean up after your dog and not to leave messes along the way!

Is The Ice Safe?

A simple answer to this question would be “no”, the ice is never really safe”, but with care and caution, one can venture out on the ice without any mishaps.



❖ Wait to walk out on the ice until there is at least 4 inches of clear, solid ice. While thinner ice will usually hold one person, ice thickness can vary during the season so by using four inches as a guide, it will provide you with a margin of safety.

❖ Test the ice ahead of you with an ice spud.

❖ Children should always be supervised while on the ice.

❖ Snowmobiles and ATV's need at least 5 inches of good, clear ice, while cars and light trucks need at least 8 – 12 inches.

❖ Take a pair of wooden handled screwdrivers or ice picks with you while on the ice. Screwdrivers with wooden handles will float instead of sinking should you drop them, and they will aid you in pulling yourself up and onto the ice should you fall in.

“BE CURIOUS”

Stephen Hawking
