

The Loon Call

Official Newsletter of Pipe and North Pipe Lakes Protection & Rehabilitation District

August 1, 2008

www.pipelakes.org

WATER QUALITY AND WILDLIFE DRAW "NEW" FAMILIES

NORTH PIPE LAKE Dan Woll

My wife and I have a cabin on North Pipe. When I bought our lot in 1990, I had more time than money. I drew a compass circle fifty miles from Hammond, Wisconsin. I eliminated all the shallow lakes. I eliminated all the big lakes and the very tiny lakes. Then I searched. North Pipe is a jewel of the north, enjoying a symbiotic relationship with its handsome big brother to the south. The incredible clarity and quality of Big Pipe derives in part from North Pipe which serves as a settling basin for Big Pipe. Both lakes deserve respect. I swim because I am a swimmer. I swam as a little kid. I swam in high school and in college. (Until they cut me.) But I kept swimming. I swam from Alcatraz Island to the shore. (It's cold). But for almost two decades, my favorite swim has been the perimeter of North Pipe Lake. Lots of other people swim. In the bigger aquatic universe there are no doubt younger, faster, more prolific swimmers. But nobody has swum North Pipe as much as me. Here's what I see and feel.

First of all, I feel more than I see. As clean and wonderful as North Pipe is, it has a heavy tannic color. Even with goggles, you don't see much until you are right up on it. That means that I see either nothing or weeds. I swim

close enough to shore to keep away from boats and far enough out for some depth. I look for weeds because it means I must veer outward—mostly on the northeast corner and near the big swamp on the west. (If you live near those weeds, don't be offended. They're *nice* weeds.)

I do see things when I roll to breathe. Over the years I see more and more cabins. I miss the old days but it seems that a newer awareness of the value of natural shoreline has encouraged owners to preserve the north woods feel (and ecology) of North Pipe. I never see fish but I know they are in there. Just noodling around over the years I have caught small mouth and large mouth bass, panfish, northern, walleyes and even a bullhead. A newcomer to our lake is the eagle. I see him nesting on the east shore and sometimes he follows me in the water. A positive change in the environment since the 90's is the re-emergence of raptors. I'm not sure why—maybe it's the Rachael Carson thing, but I like them. There seem to be more bears around North Pipe, but I only see them when I'm jogging. Are there springs in North Pipe? I think so because as you swim the perimeter you encounter significant temperature drops that chill you in the fall and cool you in the summer. There are more boats, and I have to watch it. I hope

they do too so that the fragile shorelines and shy wildlife will suffer from heavy wakes. I swim at night when the big bullfrogs come out, but I don't hear them until I am on the dock. The loons don't seem to mind me, or the boats, as long as we all keep our distance.

Sometime, when you are lucky enough to be up on a lonely weekday, it will cloud up and start to rain gently in little morning pitter pats. No one will be out except the loon who you hear cry as you tiptoe out on the rocky Ontario-like shore. It's time to swim!

PIPE LAKE Tom Holloran

In the spring of 2005, when the ice was still on the lakes, Anne Holloran, husband Curt Deering and their two teenagers Joe and Jenny started a search for a family lake cabin. Patty and Tom Holloran, grandparents, previously had owned a house on Red Cedar Lake, so the search started there. Soon it spread to Long Lake and then Beaver Dam Lake and finally and fortuitously to Pipe Lake. Beautiful Pipe with its clear waters and natural shoreline was an easy choice. That summer (2005) we purchased a home on the west shore.

We, the Holloran-Deerings have been warmly welcomed by gracious neighbors and are pleasantly surprised by the number of lake residents we already knew. We are intrigued to be in a habitat for

loon, bear, deer, wild turkey, eagles and hawks. The easy access to the Twin Cities has proven to be a wonderful advantage for trips summer and winter. Both families feel fortunate to have joined a vibrant and welcoming lake community and found the recent fundraiser for the library in Cumberland as just one of the opportunities for lake dwellers to show interest and support for this community.

WE HAVE A NEW NAME!

Thanks to everyone who sent in a suggestion for the name of our newsletter. We received 37 entries. It was a tough decision, but **The Loon Call** was the winner. Congratulations to **Christine Alexander** for submitting the winning entry. Christine is an 8th Grade English teacher from Mounds View whose family built their cabin on Pipe Lake in 2005.

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Residents Address Runoff Issues With Help of Grants.

This year the Commission set aside funds to offer as one-time matching grants up to \$350 for run-off control projects. To date we have had 5 applicants with two owners currently underway on their projects. These projects, along with several grant projects from earlier years have been designed to stimulate owners to undertake changes to their property that would slow water run-off and reduce unwanted nutrients into our lakes. The projects also demonstrate for all of us some of the ways to increase the value of our property while doing more to protect the water quality of Pipe Lake and North Pipe Lake. We will highlight the results of these projects in future newsletters.

In 2004, **Gerry and Carol Ganske** installed nutrient absorbing plants along their shoreline on the northwest corner of Pipe Lake. The project was partially funded with money from a County grant. Despite several years of low rainfall, the installation has matured and now adds an attractive look that promotes cleaner water. Tom O'Hern took this recent picture.



We have learned from these early projects that it is very helpful to talk with shoreline restoration and water diversion specialists in drawing up a plan that will enhance a property while providing the natural barriers that are desirable for water quality. Careful planning has resulted in choosing plants that are also very attractive to birds and butterflies. Carol Ganske says she has had a remarkable increase in hummingbirds and butterflies since they completed their installation.

One of the key focus areas of our 5 Year Lake Protection Plan is to help property owners understand the runoff on their property and to encourage them to address any issues with appropriate water diversions, rain gardens, natural buffers and trees. Stay tuned for more details!

BOAT PARADE WINNERS



PONTOON:

- 1st - Christmas in July - **Durkee** cabin
- 2nd - Pipe Lake Fire Department - **Manor** cabin
- 3rd - Rednecks - **Weinkauf/Carlson** cabin

Honorable Mention:

- Miller Beer - **Keeley** cabin
- Dairy Farm - **McKeever** cabin
- Fourth of July - **Glover** cabin

BOAT

- 1st place - Clowns - **O'Hern** family



CONGRATULATIONS

To all the creative minds and hands that contributed to the colorful and enthusiastic parade.

Thanks to Joan Billig, Al Siemers and Tom O'Hern for the pictures.

PICTURES TELL THE STORY



Help us tell the story of Pipe and North Pipe Lakes. Send your pictures to carolvantine@gmail.com.

ANNUAL MEETING

AGENDA

AUGUST 30, 9AM

Location: Christ Lutheran Church

- Approve Minutes of Special Meeting May 24, 2008
- Review 2008 Financial Report
- Elect two Commissioners* for three year terms
- Review Goals of 5 Year Lake Management Plan
- Review 2008 Progress
- Discuss and approve 2009 Budget
- Update on Property Owner's Survey Results
- New Business

* Nominating Committee selected as candidates:

Joe Errigo

Dan Paulson

Tom Mears

* Meeting is open to additional floor nominations.

PROPOSED BUDGET*

* Budget may be refined prior to meeting.

	2008 Year End	2009 Budget
INCOME		
Opening Balance	\$ 7,762	\$ 5,280
Tax Levy	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000
Picnic Income	\$ 650	\$ 650
Invasive Species Grant	\$ 2,066	\$ 1,100
2009 Planning Grant Reimburse		\$ 4,000
Contributions	\$ 609	
Map Sales	\$ 75	\$ 75
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 20,162	\$ 20,105

EXPENSES

Lake Quality Initiatives	\$ 8,745	\$ 7,725
Lake Quality Monitoring	\$ 2,405	\$ 2,530
Communications, Events	\$ 2,407	\$ 2,230
Insurance, Rent, Trapping, Misc.	\$ 1,325	\$ 1,800
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 14,882	\$ 14,285

In accordance with Sec.33.30(1) of Wisconsin Statutes and the by-laws of Pipe and North Pipe Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District, the Annual Meeting will be held at 9:00AM Saturday August 30, 2008 at Christ Lutheran Church at the intersection of County Road T and County Road G. The regularly scheduled Commissioners meeting will immediately follow the Annual Meeting.

CAROL'S CORNER

PROPERTY OWNER'S SURVEY

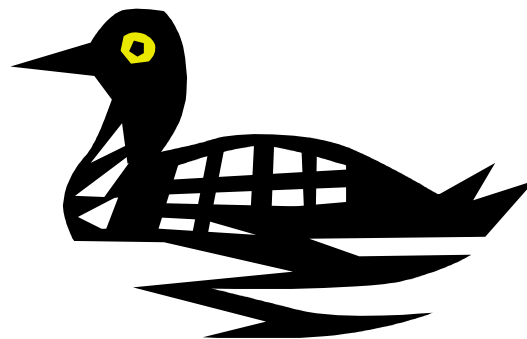
I want to thank all of you who took the time to respond to our Resident's Survey. We had a 37% return rate. Now we are in the process of analyzing the results so that we can better understand your interests and concerns as they relate to our alternatives for protecting and improving the quality of the lakes and the fish and wildlife habitat. We will give you an update on the survey results at the Annual Meeting August 30th and publish the results in our Fall newsletter.

Even though we have not yet analyzed the responses, I was struck by many of the comments. Almost everyone commenting expressed an interest in making sure that the water quality of Pipe Lake and North Pipe Lake is protected for the future. Many of you have deliberately left most of your property natural. Others have already invested in rain gardens, water diversions and other approaches to slow down and absorb runoff.

Of course, everyone is concerned about the costs of any projects the District undertakes. It was helpful to see that a significant number of respondents indicated they would be interested in supporting a plan that had clear goals and costs if the increase to the tax levy was only for five years. There were also a number of respondents who prefer not to have any increase to our tax levy. Many of those respondents also specifically indicated a desire for protecting the quality of the lakes and habitat.

Our challenge as Commissioners is to put together a cost effective, quality effective Lake Protection Plan that the DNR will support with funds so that we may do more than just monitor our lakes. We will be giving you an update on the Protection Plan at the Annual Meeting. September to February we will be refining the Plan and working with our consultant, the DNR, possible funding partners and property owners to finalize our application to the DNR. We will continue to update you on our progress in future issues of **The Loon Call**.

Carol Vantine is Chair of the Pipe and North Pipe Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District. Carol and her husband Ron have a cabin on the northwest corner of Pipe Lake.



COMMISSION ACTIONS JULY 11, 2008

- Approved a financial projection for year end 2008, and a tentative budget for 2009. The 2009 budget estimate assumes no increase in the tax levy.
- Received a report on the status of 2008 Lakeshore Restoration Grants. Three matching grants have been approved and several are still under consideration.
- Reviewed volunteer participation rates for 2008. Our goal of 40 volunteers for the current year appears to be achievable. Dick Hollar will be asking Annual Picnic volunteers to consider alternative locations for storing picnic supplies.
- Adopted a new name for the newsletter - THE LOON CALL. The winner of the newsletter naming contest is Christine Alexander.
- Scheduled a Special meeting of the Commissioners for Friday August 8 to review Survey results.

Q & A

Q: Where can I find the reports on lake quality ?

Q: Where can I find the results of the Resident Survey?

Q: Where can I find a telephone number or email address for a Commissioner?

A: Log on to our website: www.pipelakes.org

We have links to each of our reports so that you can see all of the survey, study findings, maps and recommendations. We also have contact information for each of the Commissioners.

DISTRICT PICNIC

WHO: All residents of the District and their Guests

WHEN: SATURDAY, AUGUST 16 @ 1:00 PM

WHERE: Behind County Line Tavern

MENU: BROASTED CHICKEN HOT DOGS POTATO SALAD
COLESLAW WATERMELON POP / BEER

GAMES: EAST vs. WEST TUG OF WAR

SOFT BALL (BRING YOUR MITT, BAT AND BALL)

FISHPOND SAWDUST MONEY HUNT FOR 2'-5 YR. OLDS

WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING:

\$5.00 ADULTS AND CHILDREN OVER 11

\$2.50 CHILDREN 5 TO 11

FREE CHILDREN UNDER 5

CHAIRS AND BLANKETS AS PICNIC TABLES ARE LIMITED

RESERVATIONS NOT REQUIRED:

PLEASE TELL US IF YOU ARE A LARGE GROUP

715-822-5317



PROPERTY ASSESSMENT TIME

Rod Skoug, Assessor, is currently conducting a revaluation of property in Johnstown Township as required by Wisconsin law. Open Book and Board of Review will be held in September. The dates will be set at the August 12 Town Board Meeting and posted at Town Shed, County Line Tavern, Staples Lake Bar and Town Kiosk. Property owners will also receive a letter from Mr. Skoug in the mail.

Check the **Coming Events** section of our website—www.pipelakes.org after August 12 for the dates and location for the Open Book (a time when property owners can review property assessments) and the Board of Review (a time when property owners can protest their assessment).

HELP US FIND THE MISSING!

What's missing?
YOU!

Some of our property owners sell their property or pass it to family members. It is important to notify one of the Commissioners if your property changes hands—otherwise we may not have the right names, addresses and phone numbers in our database for alerting you to upcoming meetings and issues. Our database is kept confidential and will only be used to send you District information—including The Loon Call, reports and notices.

Do you get email?
GREAT!

Please share your email address with us. We save money every time we can email instead of using the US Mail—not just for the postage, but for printing, copying, and envelopes—not to mention the time our volunteers need to stuff and address envelopes. Right now, almost half of our readers are receiving a hard copy of the newsletter and other official communications. We would love to reduce that by half.

If you change your email address, please let us know as soon as possible. Thanks for keeping us current!



2008 COMMISSION MEETINGS

Aug 8	9:30AM 2198 W. Pipe Lake CT
Aug 15	3PM 2198 W. Pipe Lake CT
Aug 30	9AM Annual Meeting Christ Church
Oct 3	3PM 2198 W. Pipe Lake CT