



Rush Lake News



Fall 2015

Rush Lake Property
Owners Association

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

THE DAM PROJECT IS ALMOST COMPLETE!

Big news! The long process of rebuilding the Rush Lake dam is almost finished. Work on the project, which has been several years in the making, will be completed in the next week when the general contractor, CI Contracting, accomplishes the last few details of the work.

For about 15 years before 2013, the RLPOA Board had the dam professionally monitored because of its obvious deterioration. By the spring of 2013, it was clear to the Board that immediate action was necessary to protect the lake.

Early in 2013 the Board proposed a one time Special Assessment on the membership to raise funds to repair the dam, and that assessment was approved at the spring 2013 semi-annual meeting.

The next step was quite complicated. It entailed obtaining the many studies and permits required to move this project forward. Obtaining one of the most important permits, that one from Michigan Department of Natural Resources, ran into trouble.

The DNR noted that there was a minor discrepancy in the 1961 Court Order establishing the natural level of the lake, but it required that that error be corrected before they would issue a permit.

Legal action was necessary to correct the Court Order, so the Board hired an attorney to handle this matter. After several court hearings, finally in June 2014 the necessary Court Order was obtained.

By July 2014 the DNR permit was issued and the search for a contractor willing to bid for this project began. Early this summer CI Contracting's bid was accepted and work began last month.

The new dam will not change, in any way, how the lake level changes during the seasons. Simply put, Mother Nature determines that.

The Board is fortunate that one of its members, Lex Kinter, is an engineer, and he agreed to be the "point man" for this entire project. Fortunately for the Association, he was able to guide this complicated process to a successful conclusion.



New Steel Dam



Upcoming Meeting Dates

**Semiannual meeting
Wednesday
October 7, 2015
7:00 p.m.**

Monthly Board Meeting
Wednesday,
November 4, 2015
6:30 p.m.

Monthly Board Meeting
Wednesday,
December 2, 2015
6:30 pm (if needed)

Monthly Board Meeting
Wednesday,
January 6, 2016
6:30 pm (if needed)

All meetings are held at the
Hamburg Community Center
on Merrill Road.
Members are welcome to
attend any of the meetings

2015 - 2016 Officers

President Lois Pescia
Vice President Eric Schaufele
Treasurer Lex Kinter
Secretary Joe Grech

Board Members

Fred Clough
Gerard Lasecki
Christina Letzring
Peggy Pietras
Pam Sevonty

Association Clerk

Teresa Kinter
734-878-0340

Do You Have Email?



If you do, would you like to receive periodic emails that help keep members up-to-date on happenings in the Association? Whether it is an upcoming herbicide treatment, or that someone's property has washed ashore, these emails are sent to keep you informed of what is going on around the lake. If interested, just contact the Association Clerk at rushlakepoa@yahoo.com.

Remember

The burning of yard waste may only be done in the fall during the months of October and November between sunrise and sunset. This is in accordance with the Hamburg Township Burning ordinance.



Mailbox Areas Need To Be Cleared

Just a reminder to be sure to keep the area in front of your mailbox cleared of ice and snow. The Association is responsible for clearing the roads, but each homeowner is responsible for the area directly in front of their mailbox. Mail delivery can be terminated if the mailbox is not kept accessible.



Swan Tale Update

We reported in June that the mother of the resident swan pair had suddenly disappeared this spring just after she had brought her new brood of signets out onto the lake.



Since then we have learned that her dead body had been found at the west end of the lake, although the cause of her death was still a mystery.

At the time of our report, only two signets were still surviving without their mother. Only one of those two survived the summer while being cared for by its father, whom some call "Mr. Macho". As of now this signet is almost full-grown and hopefully will be ready to migrate this fall.

Experts on swans tell us that although swan pairs mate for life, if one of the pair is lost, they commonly find another mate. Let's hope that Mr. Macho will find another wife over the winter, guide her to Rush Lake next spring, and bless us all with another brood of beautiful babies.

***Treat people
the way you
want to be
treated!***

ATTEND A BOARD MEETING?

Consider attending a RLPOA monthly Board meeting. The Board is working extremely hard behind the scenes for the benefit of all members. In general, members really have no idea the amount and breadth of the problems which your Board faces on literally a daily basis.

Actually watching a meeting is guaranteed to be an eye-opening experience.

Think about making a resolution to actually attend a Board meeting once a year. It will benefit both you, the Board. It will give you an opportunity to offer input on issues that interest you. The Board always welcomes thoughts and comments from the general membership.

You will be able to see the actually workings of the Board, and gain some appreciation for the hard work they do on our behalf.

Amazing as it may seem, snow is not actually white but clear! Snow is made up of billions of tiny, clear ice crystals. These crystals act as prisms, breaking up the light into the entire spectrum of color. The human eye is not able to handle that kind of sensory overload so it sees the snow as white, which is



the combination of all colors.

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, nose, ears, fingers, cheeks and toes.

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

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 the gate 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 a real problem 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.

A VALUABLE REMINDER

Visiting our new, modernized website gives members an opportunity to view a ton of information about our Association and our lake.



Review beautiful photos of our lake and its wildlife, examine our Bylaws, see highlights of recent Board meetings, and review the latest information about our roads and parks. This and much, much more is at your fingertips.

Just go to: rushlakepoa.com for an enjoyable and informative experience.

Welcome New Members!

The Association is pleased to welcome the following six families and one business as new members of our Association. Be sure to take any opportunity you may have to welcome them to our Rush Lake community.

Comiskey

Hockenberger

GK Holding Inc.

Lenk

Kratz

Lahrman

Wilks

Icy Roads? How Can You Help

Along with winter will come ice and snow covered roads. Now is the time for all of us to begin thinking of ways to improve our roads during the winter.

As the Board is composed of all volunteers with families and jobs, 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 if there is a significant snow or ice issue. By everyone contributing just a few minutes of time, it will greatly help the Board to stay on top of the wintry conditions.

The snowplows are scheduled to plow when we have had three inches of snow. When this happens the Board asks that everyone be patient while waiting for the plows to come through their road. It is hard to wait and wonder why the plows are taking so long, but we are not their only contract. The company does have other jobs to plow, so they are not

always able to get to us as soon as we would like. They will eventually get to us and we must be patient. They are working as quickly as possible, but we must wait our turn.

When we do have enough snow for the plows to be coming through, please move your cars off of the road so as to enable the plow to fully clean the road.

Another suggestion is to not shovel or plow snow from one's drive or property onto the road. It seems senseless to have the snowplow come through to clear the roads from a snowfall, only to have someone cover the road again with snow from their driveway.



If you must park in the road, please try and park in such a position so as to not create a hazard for other drivers. Oftentimes, people have parked in the road leaving very little space for others to pass by.

If you have any other suggestions to make the condition of our roads better during the winter months, please share them with us. By working together we can all help to avoid difficult situations caused by snow covered or icy roads.

Important Telephone Numbers

The following is a list of important emergency telephone numbers for the Rush Lake area:

Emergencies – 911

Hamburg Township Police
(non-emergency)
810-231-9391

If non-emergency and Hamburg Police are not answering the above number
517-546-9111

Livingston County Sheriff
517-546-2440

Michigan State Police
810-227-1051

Livingston County Animal Control
517-546-2154

Michigan Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division
800-292-7800

EXCELLENT E.COLI REPORTS

There was good news for swimmers this year! All of the E.coli tests done this summer have had excellent results.



Our lake is tested for E.coli levels just before the major summer holidays: Memorial Day, 4th of July, and Labor Day. Samples are taken at the three parks, Lakeview, Sunset, and Hillside, and at the Moon Shadows Beach.

Don't Burn Near The Water



If you plan to burn any yard waste this fall, be sure you are complying with the requirements of the Hamburg Township Burning Ordinance.

The ordinance requires waterfront properties to refrain from burning within 25 feet of the shoreline. By keeping this distance from the shoreline, you are not likely to get any of the ashes in the water. Ashes contain phosphorus and can disrupt the delicate balance of nutrients in the lake. Too much phosphorus in the lake can stimulate the growth of some plants or algae causing them to grow too quickly or thickly.

Besides the setbacks for burning, open burn fires cannot exceed eight feet in diameter, and the burning of grass clippings, household waste (trash), and building materials are prohibited.

Also, burning is only allowed in the months of April, May, October, and November.

Scoop That Poop!

Please be sure to clean up after your pets. Pet waste left behind will eventually wash into storm drains, lakes or rivers without any filtering or cleansing, which can have an adverse effect on water quality. And, of course, picking up after your pet just shows common courtesy to others.



Road Markers

Winter will soon be here and with it comes the snow! When the snow begins to pile up, the snowplow drivers have a difficult time telling just where the edges of the roads are. They have asked if members could place 3–4 foot long sticks or stakes along the edge of the road. This will better enable them to tell at a glance where the edges are. These stakes will help the drivers from not only plowing across your grass, but also help them to see the width of the road. If we all place a few sticks along our section of the road, it will make it much easier for them to plow our roads.

Slow Down!

With school back in session, we all need to drive more slowly so we can help protect our children. Now many kids will be walking on the streets to their bus stops, so we must be extra cautious when driving especially when we drive in the dark. The few seconds you may save by speeding are not worth the danger you create for our children.

Please leave a few minutes earlier and slow down.

Both our parents and our children will thank you!



Showing Respect

While boating regulations control a good portion of the activities on the water, there are some things that the regulations just don't cover: showing respect for others. Please be sensitive to others activities so that you don't intrude on them unless you are invited.

Recently one member mentioned that she and her husband had really enjoyed sitting on their seawall in the evening just relaxing. Unfortunately, their leisure was ruined when boaters stopped and parked close by, and directly in front of, them to either fish or to just enjoy the evening. Why not show some respect for people and their space, and do your fishing or relaxing at a more reasonable distance from others?

Also, sometimes fishermen park their boats directly in the route that other boaters use to circle the lake. They don't think about the inconvenience they cause others.

Don't use your neighbor's dock for fishing unless it is okay with them. Just showing a little bit of respect for what others are doing would go a long way to avoid these frustrating situations.

Don't turn your radio up loud if you suspect a neighbor might be resting.

Pay attention to where your children are playing, so you don't discover they are in your neighbor's yard when they aren't home.

Please take a moment to think of ways that you can show more respect for others, and make Rush Lake an even better place in which to live.



**Rush Lake Property Owners Association
P.O. Box 78
Pinckney, Michigan 48169**

Mailing Label

**Rush Lake Property Owners
Association
Semiannual Meeting**

October 7, 2015 7:00 p.m.

Registration and Social Time begins at 6:30 p.m.

***Hamburg Township Community Center
10405 Merrill Road***

Agenda Items To Be Discussed

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| Dam Update | Lake |
| Parks | Roads |
| Budget 2016 | Any Additions
To The Agenda |

Meet Your



Neighbors!

Prior to the Fall Semiannual meeting October 7, there will be a social time beginning at 6:30 p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet your neighbors and realize we all share a common goal of having Rush Lake a safe, healthy and happy place to live. Following the meeting, pizza will be served to give everyone a chance to meet. Plan to attend and be a part of the Rush Lake neighborhood!