



FALL 2009

## “SON OF A SAILOR”

The committee of the Fourth Annual “Son of a Sailor” 10K Walk /Run would like to thank the following sponsors for their donations to help fight Cancer:

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 Steve & Jan Baker  
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 Harry & Sally Ten Brink  
 Tim Ten Brink  
 Leroy Throop  
 Webb Electric  
 Tom Williams Builders

Because of all of these individuals and businesses The Fourth Annual “Son of a Sailor” 10K Walk/Run was able to raise and donate \$11,000 to the Lemmen-Holton Cancer Pavilion. Thank you also to the 272 Runners and Walkers who joined us this year. Thanks also to the 55 volunteers that helped the day of the race. Fun was had by all. It was really a truly great day!

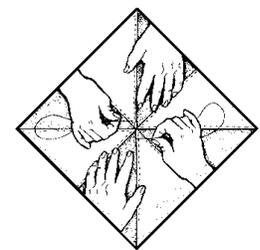


Plans are already in the making for next years’ event. The date is July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Mark your calendars now and invite your friends and family to join us that day. If you would like to sponsor a mile marker next year, please contact Katie Lipner at 231-834-9915 or [KLLipner@aol.com](mailto:KLLipner@aol.com), or Betty Bosowski at [bettybuzz@juno.com](mailto:bettybuzz@juno.com). Signs are filling up fast so make that call. The cost again will be a \$50 donation for sponsoring a sign. If you would like to become part of the committee we would love to have you join us. We would really appreciate your help. Again contact Katie or Betty.

**Thank you again everyone for your help and donations of money and time. You are all truly awesome people. See you next year!**

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### QUILT PROJECT

Did you know that Hess Lake Resident Beth Kazma has a special project going? Beth has talked with the local sheriff’s department and found they had a need for things to give to children they have to remove from meth (drug) houses. The officer has told Beth this helps to calm the children when they are removed from their partners or guardians. Beth has begun making small quilts and is asking anyone who can, to donate a stuffed animal to go along with them. This would be a great project for Hess Lake people to get involved in. If you would like to help Beth with this awesome plan you may do so by donating a stuffed animal, material for the quilts, or by helping make the quilts. Please contact her at 231-282-7019. Beth and Ron’s address is 1229 Hess Lake Drive if you want to drop off something.



## FROM THE PRESIDENT....

Dear HLIA members and friends,

I certainly hope that everyone had a wonderful Summer (where was July ?) and hope that the upcoming Fall season is as enjoyable. I would like to take a moment to appeal to you to try and help resolve a problem that is becoming more and more apparent. I'm speaking about the lack of membership involvement. While it is true that with some events we get great participation (Walk/Run, Ring-of-Fire) yet we seem to lack in other areas. Even more important the lack of new people coming forth to be elected to our Board is really hurting. We certainly have had many wonderful people both in the past and present serve your association either as Board Officers, Zone Representatives, or Zone Alternates and I say THANKS to all of them. Many of our current Officers, Zone Reps. & Alts. have recently expressed to me that they will only serve at least one more term. Many of these folks have served even far more time than I have. Basically it comes down to that once these folks decide to no longer serve and nobody else steps up, then the HLIA (in accordance with our by-law's) will no longer exist. I am appealing to each and every member to consider getting involved.

All members are welcome to attend the HLIA Board meetings which are held every second Thursday (except some winter months) during the year at 7:00 pm at Brooks Township Hall.

So, again I ask you, if you think that you would like to get involved and help out, I would most certainly enjoy hearing from you. I can be reached at both my cell # (231) 519-1139 or my e-mail address: Swendog59@live.com.

Sincerely,

Jerry Swendrowski, HLIA President

## ???? DID YOU KNOW THAT HESS LAKE IS EUTROPHIC ????



You are probably thinking, "What is eutrophic?" To answer that question, let's look at the history of Hess Lake.

Lakes that are scattered across the Newaygo landscape are integral components of the Muskegon watershed. Over time, sediment from the surrounding watershed washes into lakes. Many lakes will eventually fill with sediment, becoming wetlands and in time dry land. This natural aging process is called *eutrophication*, and can take hundreds to thousands of years to occur. Depending on where a lake is in its aging process it is classified as *oligotrophic*, *mesotrophic*, or *eutrophic*.

Eutrophic lakes are farther along in the aging process. They have higher levels of nutrients like phosphorus and nitrates, and are able to support greater amounts of aquatic plant

growth. Clarity can be lower due to algae cells in the water. Eutrophic lakes are generally shallow with mucky bottoms. They support warm water fish like bass and bluegill. Hess and Brooks Lakes are examples of eutrophic lakes. Unfortunately, many human activities can speed up the eutrophication process and lead to unnatural conditions. Fertilizers, septic systems, road runoff, animal wastes, and contaminated stormwater runoff all lead to increased eutrophication.

We, as Hess Lake residents, can do several things to help slow down the eutrophication process. Please use a fertilizer that does not contain phosphorus and has slow release nitrogen. Your grass doesn't need phosphorus, but algae thrives on it. One pound of phosphorus may produce over 10,000 pound of weeds and algae! When you mow, do not dump grass clippings into the lake. In the fall, when you rake leaves, do not dispose of your leaves in the lake. Grass and leaves will decompose in the lake and create food for weeds and algae. Remove fallen leaves, branches and other debris that wash up along the shore to prevent them from decaying in the lake.

## UPDATE FROM THE HESS LAKE BOARD

Since last spring, the Hess Lake Board (HLB) met on July 13 and September 14.

During the July 13 meeting, the HLB reviewed progress to date in planning for the new Voluntary Shoreline Restoration Program (details below). We discussed a future Hess Lake Guidebook (coffee table quality). We agreed to wait and see if other lakes might get involved, thus providing a cost savings if produced simultaneously.

The County Drain Commissioner's office reported that the Wheeler Drain sediment basin (above the 2nd check dam) and the channel downstream from the bridge check dam have been cleaned out and the shore areas were seeded and mulched. A heavy February rain event caused the problem. Thanks go to Drain Commissioner Pat Baker for her quick intervention in February and for the dredging solution to the sedimentation problem in the lower channel this spring. HLB members will attend 2 seminars this fall geared toward addressing inland lake issues. The Newaygo County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution on July 22 to support continuing education on not using phosphorus lawn fertilizers. Lawn fertilizers containing phosphorus are detrimental to lake water quality because the phosphorus migrates to the lake triggering algae blooms and excessive weed growth. **Please spread the word NOT to use phosphorus lawn fertilizers.** Township ordinance prohibits any fertilizing within 25 feet of the lake.

During the September 14 meeting, the HLB reviewed, discussed and approved a \$43,032 special assessment for 2010 weed control and other lake quality efforts. HLB is preparing to use spot treatment or a whole lake treatment for Eurasian Water Milfoil and curly leaf pondweed as counseled by our professional applicator (Weed Control of Indiana). All applications for weed control are safe, permitted and approved by the EPA and Michigan DEQ. The 2010 special assessment gives us the flexibility to be prepared for the more expensive whole lake treatment, if needed. If a whole lake-wide treatment is not needed, future assessments will be lower, as we have done in the past. Your 2010 winter tax bill will reflect the special assessment as follows: \$93.08 (lakefront), \$46.56 (back lot), \$23.28 (3<sup>rd</sup> tier), and \$187.04 (commercial).

At the request of the HLIA, the HLB also agreed to support HLIA and neighborhood efforts to enforce compliance by a lake resident who has failed to comply with a County Health Department order to replace a failing septic system.

The HLB and Brooks Lake Board (BLB) held a joint meeting on September 14. We jointly reviewed draft findings from a Brooks Lake Water Quality/Feasibility Study conducted by Spicer Engineering this summer. Five Hess Lake inlets were sampled as part of the Brooks Lake study. All 5 inlets to Hess Lake exhibited elevated phosphorus levels. Sampling was done in May. Those tests verified independent tests done by HLIA over the last 10 years. The elevated phosphorus levels come from many sources. **Not using lawn fertilizers containing phosphorus and making sure your septic system is pumped regularly (at least every 3 years) or replaced if failing are essential steps you can take to reduce phosphorus loading to our lake.** The HLB and BLB agreed to hold another joint meeting in January to continue exploring ways we can work together.

### Voluntary Shoreline Restoration Program

Participating in this new program for Brooks and Hess Lakes residents is another way to help reduce phosphorus loading in our lakes. On July 25, 55 folks from both lakes attended an education/ instruction meeting at the Newaygo Middle School to learn how converting traditional turf grass lawns to native vegetation helps absorb nutrients from the soil and runoff before they enter the lake. Participants turned in their restoration area designs, picked the types of **free** native plants they want to install and chose either a fall 2009 or spring 2010 planting period. The 30 property owners who chose the fall 2009 planting period picked up their free plants on August 29. Another 20 property owners selected the spring 2010 planting period and plans are underway to order plants and arrange for a May 29 plant pick up. This was done under the direction of the HLB, BLB, Muskegon River Watershed Assembly (MRWA) and Muskegon Conservation District funded by MRWA discretionary monies from the Fremont Area Community Foundation and Wege Foundation. We are looking into continuing this program for a 2<sup>nd</sup> year, depending on available grant funds. Stay tuned for further information. This program is a great way for lakefront owners to become better stewards of their lake by helping to improve water quality and fostering a more natural shoreline landscape.

Dick Besser, HLB Chairman

Gary Noble, HLB Vice-Chairman & HLIA Zone 2 Representative



## 2009 HLIA Annual Meeting

The 2009 Annual Meeting was held at Brooks Township Hall on June 20, 2009. The meeting was called to order by Pres. Jerry Swendrowski at 10:00 a.m.

Treasurer Katie Lipner gave the Financial Report: Checking Account - \$9514.16; Savings Account - \$1401.65; and CD - \$21,591.80. There are 248 paid members for 2009.

The following members were elected for zone representatives:

Gloria Whitmore - Zone 6A

Jo Heidman - Zone 7

A special thanks to all the zone representatives and alternates for their dedicated service.

HLIA Activities:

May 2 : Roadside Cleanup - 16 volunteers

June 5 and 6: Hess Lake yard sales - best turnout ever!

June 13: Boater's Safety Class: 15 people attended (Thank you to host Bob Hake)

July 4: Ring of Fire - most fantastic! (Special thanks to all for the fireworks)

Committee Reports:

1. Hess Lake Board (HLB)/Voluntary Shoreline Restoration (see report on page 3)
2. Water Quality (Hake and Lavin) - Bob Hake reported that 5 water tests are conducted (dissolved oxygen, temperature, phosphorus, chlorophyll, and e-coli). In the last few years the lake quality has not changed.

A number of other reports were given, along with some member comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

### HLIA LAKE ZONE BOUNDARIES

- Zone 1:** East 88th Street from 1605 to 1844  
Catalpa Avenue from 9053 to 9593
- Zone 2:** Hess Lake Drive from 1751 to 1989 and all of Kathleen Street
- Zone 3:** Hess Lake Drive from 1411 to 1644 and Clearwater Street and Peninsula Drive
- Zone 4:** Hess Lake Drive from 941 to 1390
- Zone 5:** Hess Lake Drive from 615 to 925  
Redwood Drive from 9016 to 9394
- Zone 6:** Redwood Drive from 8872 to 9011 East 88th Street from 745 to 1154
- Zone 6A:** 825 East 88th Street, South Old Elm Lane, East Old Maple Trail,
- Zone 7:** East 88th Street from 1166 to 1596, Graves Drive, Parkwood Drive, Lockwood Drive, Wellington Drive

## COMING IN SPRING 2010

### "Hess Lake Clothing Sale"

(Watch the next newsletter for details.)

*Clothing Sale*



## Hess Lake Improvement Association

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