



WINTER 2010

Greetings Hess Lakeians and Happy New Year!

They say time flies when you're having fun, but I think it just flies period. It seems like just yesterday we were saying hello to 2009 and now here it is 2010. Where did that year go? This past year your HLIA was extremely busy with both activities and challenges. Activities such as the annual Roadside clean-up on May 2 when we had the most volunteers ever and all went extremely well. Also, on July 11th we had the biggest turn-out ever for our annual Walk/Run around Hess Lake. With a record 250 participants, we were able to raise and donate \$ 11,000 toward cancer research. Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped with both of these events. The HLIA also met head on some very important challenges, of which I'm proud to say that with the joint efforts of some local government agencies, we were able to overcome them and be successful. Our efforts in these challenges (though criticized) were justified. Our actions were justified through our by-law's (Art. I sec. I) which clearly state what this Association is about. We will in the future continue to promote the civic and social welfare of its members, stimulate active interest in Hess Lake problems and to find suitable solutions thereof, to encourage general property improvement and beautification in and about Hess Lake, and to arouse among all members a genuine spirit of good fellowship.

Looking ahead to this new year, we see more activities for its members and look forward to facing any new challenges. We've had some members "step up" and have volunteered their time and services. I personally thank these individuals and look forward to working with them. One of the new happenings is a T-Shirt sale. (see insert in newsletter for details). Also new this year will actually take place during the annual July 4th Ring of Fire event. There is going to be a fly over on the actual Ring of Fire event for an aerial photo. You will be able to purchase this photo at a fair price of \$35. More info on this will be forthcoming. Then on August 14th plans are in the makings for an actual Summer Water Festival. That's right, a festival that will be held right out on the waters of Hess Lake. There'll be water activities for both adults and kids, a beer boat, hot dogs, and fun for all. Then at night at a location soon to be announced, we will have a band playing all of your favorite tunes for your enjoyment. I'd like to personally thank member Ramona Dettler for chairing this committee and certainly wish her every success. There will be more info forthcoming on this and the other events mentioned.

Of course, in order to have success in these events it takes a lot of volunteers. If you would like to help out, please contact your zone rep so that we then can contact you. All contact info can be found in both the newsletter and the web-site (www.hesslake.com) and we most certainly look forward to hearing from you. In closing, I would like to thank all of those who have helped serve on the association board or have helped out at various events. It always takes people to have success and to have a strong and active association. Please remember to send in your dues and watch for future newsletters and mailings for more important info on upcoming HLIA events.

Sincerely,
Jerry Swendrowski
President/HLIA

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ANNUAL SUMMER MEETING

**Saturday, June 19
10:00 am
at
Brooks
Township Hall**

**Mark your calendars
and plan to attend!**

BENEFITS OF HLIA MEMBERSHIP

Your HLIA remains hard at work throughout the year planning activities and monitoring issues that affect our lake community. Annual membership dues help offset expenses associated with printing and mailing the newsletter, lake events, signs, prizes, etc. In short, the \$25 annual dues go a long way to support the HLIA efforts year round. Please take a moment and send in your annual dues payment in the enclosed envelope and be sure to fill in your information.

HESS LAKE BOARD UPDATE

The statutory Hess Lake Board (HLB) met in September and approved the computation of costs for weed control for 2010. The HLB may assess an amount for the next year that is equal to what was spent in the present year plus 10%. The 2010 amount will be \$43,032.00. Front lots will be assessed \$93.08, back lots \$46.56, third tier \$23.28 and commercial \$187.04. HLB has cash on hand as of September of \$38,390.40. So we will have about \$81,000.00 available after whatever expense we have for the balance of 2009. We may or may not need a whole lake treatment in 2010. If so, it will be very costly. We are prepared and have plans either way. The complete document as to 2009 expenses is available at the Ne-waygo County Drain Commissioner's office.

Just a reminder for Hess Lake area property owners. HLB is an entity enabled by state law; Act 451 of 1994, Part 309, Inland Lake Improvements. The members are five in number. One appointed by Brooks Township (Dick Besser), one by Grant Township (Gary Noble), the County Drain Commissioner (Pat Baker), the County Commissioner serving the Hess Lake district (Adam Wright), and one at large member appointed by the aforementioned HLB members (Dale Dozeman) who must be a lakefront property owner. The Hess Lake Improvement Association, HLIA, may submit up to 3 names to the HLB, from which the board shall make its selection.

Our September meeting was also a joint meeting with Brooks Lake Board (BLB). BLB recently completed a lake study by Spicer Engineering. Their cost was around \$26,000.00. HLB helped in this study by paying to have water testing done where five inlets come into Hess Lake. We contributed \$1216.50 for these tests. The tests confirmed previous water studies at those locations with respect to nutrient loading, pH, temperature profiles, E.Coli, and oxygen levels. No changes from previous testing were observed. Our water is nutrient rich in phosphorus (P), a bit acidic (normal for conditions around Hess), oxygen levels are reasonable and E. Coli doesn't appear to be a problem.

After reviewing the results of the study on Brooks Lake, HLB believes paying Spicer to do the same for us would not offer anything new, or anything we did not already know, save one thing. That would be comparing present depth of the lake to previous depth records. We may consider doing the depth study only. Because we're not sure about the accuracy of older depth studies, the value in this would be a benchmark for future generations. In addition, in the spirit of partnership with BLB, we loaned them some money to help pay for their Spicer study. They will repay this no interest loan in January when assessment monies begin to come in.

Algae continues to make the water murky during the cottage season. The reason for this is our waters are warm, the lake is shallow, there is a lot of silty bottom sediment in the SE, S, and SW portions of the lake which extends outward. Phosphorus (P) bonds to solids (silt). Wind, rain events and boat traffic disturbs the silt and releases the P into the water table making it rich in food for algae. In 2009 we had an unusual continuously windy spring and summer, a lot of rain early and then the usual boat traffic. The fact that Hess is rather shallow, intensifies the problem. Thus, the murky water.

Speaking of rain events, we had several large ones, especially early in the year. The Wheeler Drain weir south of Hess Lake Dr. and the other weir north of the bridge over Wheeler were both compromised. Our county Drain Commissioner, Pat Baker, within a couple of days, under adverse conditions, repaired both dams. In addition, later in the spring, because a good deal of sand infiltrated Wheeler north of the bridge, Pat had the sand removed from the stream bed. The upstream holding ponds captured thousands of yards of sand that would have come into the lake or further compromised the stream from the bridge to the lake. That sand has been excavated twice this season, the latest in November. Work was also done on the banks of the upstream portion of Wheeler. Thanks, Madam Drain Commissioner, for your good work.

Algae again: Any effective treatment for algae is extremely short lived; maybe a day or so. It's not inexpensive. Dense blooms of algae tend to form and break up rapidly, depending on various weather conditions. (I gave a more detailed account of algae in an earlier newsletter) By the time our applicator arrived the bloom could have dissipated thus wasting money.

Hess Lake Board Update cont...

When our applicator does contact herbicide for E. milfoil and curly leaf pondweed, he has included some copper sulfate to kill algae for good measure. The herbicide is absorbed better by plants in clearer water, thus better resulting kills of noxious weeds.

A word about contact herbicides: The products used by our licensed applicator are approved and re-approved by the EPA and the State of Michigan. When applied properly (and they are) the products are harmless to man and beast. Some of these products are used on farm fields in the production of our food.

Our whole lake treatment is usually at 3-5 year intervals, if needed, for E. milfoil and curly leaf pondweeds, and uses floridone (Sonar). Floridone inhibits the plant's ability to form carotene, which plants need to maintain essential levels of chlorophyll. Simply, it causes E. milfoil and curly leaf pondweeds to starve to death. We apply it soon after the ice goes away if possible. Ergo: no milfoil or pondweed growth is possible. Sonar has no adverse effect on humans or animals or fish. There is no defined upper limit for human consumption of floridone that is harmful. Sonar is EPA approved at up to 150 parts per billion (ppb) for drinking water. Our applicator uses only 6 to 9 ppb for full effect on E. milfoil and curly leaf. Vegetation that we want to keep healthy in our lake is not significantly effected by this dilution. Maintaining healthy native vegetation in the lake is good for a variety of reasons, including providing fish habitat, absorbing nutrients (P) from sediment and helping to trap sediment from re-suspension in the water column.

Dredging: A Canadian researcher has recently found, surprisingly, that dredging portions of lakes can actually make algae problems worse under certain conditions. There are a lot of variables that we don't know about regarding this research such as correlations with depth of the lake, size of the lake, water temps, nutrient levels, etc. One of our HLB members is going to follow up on this. An HLIA board member is also looking into any recent positive developments in dredging. He has promised to keep your HLB up to date on what he has found. HLB looked into this a number of times over the last 25-30 years and found dredging to be extremely cost prohibitive, highly regulated, and we learned about some negative effects dredging has on the lake and its residents. We continue to be interested in whether dredging can be a viable alternative for Hess Lake.

Anyone interested in participating in the voluntary shoreline restoration project by planting deep rooted native plants near your shoreline next fall (2nd round), get with Gary Noble. As was done in the 1st round (fall 2009 & spring 2010), we anticipate plants being provided free to participants through Muskegon River Watershed Assembly discretionary funds from the Fremont Area Community Foundation. Gary's phone number is 231-652-6661.

If you have any questions, please give me a call at 231-652-2009 or 616-304-1481 (cell) or e-mail rbesser@charter.net

Dick Besser

Chairman

Statutory Hess Lake Board

ICE FISHING..... Did you know?

- All shanties must have a name and address on all sides in 2" letters.
- All shanties must be removed from the ice by midnight on March 15.
- It is illegal to clean and dump fish remains back into the water.
- More than one million anglers fish through the ice each winter in Michigan.



SON OF A SAILOR 10K WALK/RUN MAKES 5 YEAR MILE MARKER

It is Saturday, July 15, 2006, 8:30 A.M. It is 80+ degrees and the humidity is off the charts. There are 248 walker/runners lined up for the start of the first Son of a Sailor 10K (6.2 mile) walk/run around Hess Lake.



That spring cancer had taken the life of a 47 year old Hess Lake resident who was not only a friend and long time supporter of Hess Lake but Vice President of the HLIA. In order to keep his memory alive and others that would follow in the fight against this disease a small committee was formed and in less than two months put together the first S.O.S. event.

FAST FORWARD 5 YEARS!

Having raised over \$40,000 in the last four years, which has been donated to cancer research and awareness, the committee this year is busy organizing the 5th Annual "SON OF A SAILOR" scheduled for Saturday, July 10, 2010 and looking for ways to reach the goal of \$12,000 or more!

Each year the team has tried to come up with new ways to raise more funds for their fight against cancer. Added in 2009 were printed Mile Marker Signs for a donation of \$50.00 which were all taken in the first two weeks. Also added were Start and Finish line markers that others wanted to donate. These are available for 2010 but going quickly.

Sponsors and volunteers are needed to help underwrite the cost of this event and donate in kind items, along with working the day of the race. Those interested in helping in any way can contact race coordinators Katie Lipner KLLipner@aol.com or Betty Bosowski at bettybuzz@juno.com.

As in past years the committee is proud to be part of a lake community that is so generous with their time and monies to make this event such a success.

More information will be in the Spring 2010 HLIA Newsletter. Watch for those details, meanwhile "waddle on my friends"!

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, Kathleen Street
- Zone 3:** Hess Lake Drive from 1411 to 1644, Clearwater Street, 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

Hess Lake Improvement Association

P.O. Box 239, Newaygo, MI 49337-0239

www.hesslake.com

Jerry Swendrowski, President & Zone 4 Rep

231-834-0908, swendog59@live.com

John VanDam, Sec/Vice-Pres. & Zone 1 Rep

616-453-9885, chiefheavyload@aol.com

Sherry Davis, Treasurer & Zone 7 Rep

231-652-7336, sherrydavis2001@yahoo.com

Amy Riordan, Zone 1 Alternate

248-475-4423, asriordan@aol.com

Diane French, Zone 1 Alternate

616-447-4423, hess.lake@gmail.com

Gary Noble, Zone 2 Rep

231-652-6661, garynoble@ferris.edu

Katie Lipner, Zone 3 Rep

231-834-9915 or 616-247-6789, KLLipner@aol.com

Paul Delmar, Zone 3 Alternate

616-698-2893, pdelmar@chartermi.net

Sue Robinson, Zone 3 Alternate

616-260-7885

Rich Bosowski, Zone 4 Alternate

517-543-5333, bettybuzz@juno.com

Jeannine Lemmon, Zone 4 Alternate

616-364-3066, jeannine@patriot-realty.net

Bob Hake, Zone 5 Rep

231-834-8219, bobhake1@juno.com

Phil Laven, Zone 5 Alternate

231-652-2226, lvphilip02@aol.com

Randy Hall, Zone 6 Rep

231-519-0719

Renee Flemings, Zone 6 Alternate

231-652-5644, rflemings@ameritech.net

Ken Russell, Zone 6 Alternate

616-532-4798

Gloria Whitmore, Zone 6A Rep

231-652-2850, jagwhitmore@yahoo.com

VACANT - Zone 2 Alternate (2)

Zone 5 Alternate

Zone 6A Alternate (2)

Zone 7 Alternate (2)

Ellen DeLong, Newsletter Editor

616-396-1558, lakeviewcottage@hotmail.com