

# SHORELINES

## THE NEWSLETTER OF LONG LAKE CLOVERDALE ASSOCIATION

December 2022

### Presidents Corner



*David Jackson*

Welcome to the Holiday edition of the Long Lake Shore Lines! Unfortunately, it is that time of the year when the water gets hard and pontoons cruising into the sunset is a distant memory but also a happy & hopeful vision of the summer of 2023. Think positively – only 100 days until spring 😊

A Few updates: In November of 2021, Barry County Circuit Court set a legal lake level for Long Lake. The structure was scheduled to be installed in the spring of 2022. Your association board, led by the lobbying efforts of Vice President Doug Bamfield, promoted a revised plan to place the legal lake structure on the lake side of the bridge on North Shore Drive. According to our review of the permit process on the EGLE site, confirmation from the Drain Commissioners office, and the letter we all received announcing the public comment period they should be issuing the permit in the next 60 days or so. The Drain Commissioner indicated that he hopes to begin construction later this winter, of course this all depends on EGLE acting in a timely manner after the end of the public comment period which should end on the 12th of December.

Why is this important you ask? With the rework of the outlet on the North end of Long Lake, the bigger outlet culvert allows more water to escape the lake much quicker than the previous outlet. Without a legal lake level structure, Long Lake could drain down nearly 1.5 feet lower than the August summer level making some areas of the lake too shallow for boats. Our established legal lake level allows you to set your docks and boat lifts to a predictable permanent level, protecting Long Lake water for the foreseeable future. While we can't predict mother nature actions: We know in times of heavy rain, we have a functioning drain that will protect us from flooding and in times of drought we have a lake level structure that will help maintain consistent water levels in Long Lake.

Water Quality update: Every year your lake association continues testing for any E.coli sources in the lake checking six locations: the inlet from Cloverdale Lake, the boat launch, the narrows, the camp area beach, the sand bar and the outlet. None of the areas tested had any E.coli detected in the samples. The lake association continues to do water testing throughout the year checking for clarity and other

### Water Quality

Water Quality Improvements Continue for Long Lake Graham Smith here, lifelong lake resident and avid fisherman. I am out on Long Lake fishing each year and I have noticed tremendous improvements in water clarity over the last three years and it is doing wonders for the aquatic wildlife in Long Lake. The clearer the water, the deeper the sunlight can penetrate and support life. I can see deep-water weed growth on my fish finder and the depth at which the weeds are growing has increased 10 feet in the last three years. The last three summers we had weeds growing at maximum depths of 20 feet, 25 feet and 30 feet respectively. Weed growth is the essence of life in the lake as it provides oxygen, nutrients, and habitat for aquatic wildlife. Adding an extra ten-foot depth of weed growth adds a tremendous amount of life to Long Lake. How much? I looked at a topographical map to see that the lake has more than 130% of the deep-weed growth it had just three years ago. We are doing a great job taking care of Long Lake! If this trend continues, and we will see more fish, loons, eagles, osprey, and clean, clear water. You can help the lake by using lawn fertilizer that is phosphorus free (look for lawn fertilizers with a middle number of zero 10-0-10) and consider protecting the shoreline by leaving a portion of your lake frontage natural. Great job everyone! See you on the water.

Graham Smith Board Member

### New to Long Lake?

We are wishing you a warm welcome from all your friends & neighbors at Long Lake! To keep up with what is happening on Long Lake, please join our Members / Residents Facebook page at [Long Lake Members Only FB](#)

Also visit our member update link to be added to our email list: [www.long-lake.org/member-update.html](http://www.long-lake.org/member-update.html) We look forward to meeting you! If you have questions or concerns, please email us at [llca.communicationsteam@gmail.com](mailto:llca.communicationsteam@gmail.com)

## Presidents Corner continued...

variants that could impact water quality. The great news is that in 2022, water clarity depth readings were better than at any time in the past 20 years – an amazing 16 feet of clarity!!! As a follow up, please read the article by Graham Smith again highlighting the water clarity, quality, and the great environment of Long Lake.

Before closing, I need to put in another reminder to join your Long Lake Cloverdale Association. For \$25.00 / year you can join the 70% of your friends & neighbors who support our community activities and want to continue protecting the waters of Long Lake. It's the gift that keeps on giving & what a great Christmas present for your family.

From everyone at your Long Lake Cloverdale Association, we want to wish you a very Merry Christmas, A Happy New Year, and a blessed holiday season with your family and friends.

We do miss the sunshine, suntans and sandbar, but we promise Santa will soon bring another great summer in 2023!

David Jackson, President  
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## Weed Treatment & Water Clarity

What a great summer and fall we had this year! Lots of sunny days, but we could have used a little more rain. All that being said, here is a short breakdown of our invasive weed management program this year and some readings of our water quality and clarity for 2022.

Our first treatment was in early June and was for Eurasian Milfoil, Northern Milfoil, various pondweeds, and an invasive type of seagrass at the far north end.

The second treatment was in mid July. This one also treated Eurasian Milfoil, Northern Milfoil, pondweeds, and the seagrass mentioned in the first treatment. It also included treatments for Cabomba and Starry Stonewort.

Our final treatment was in later August included another treatment for Eurasian Milfoil in three troublesome spots and a few spots for lily pads. We are going to survey the lake next year to reassess the areas we treat around dock areas for lily pads. There are some areas that we are not licensed for by EGLE that are either new dock areas or are becoming a little bit of a problem so we are going to submit a change request to add some additional spots.

All this year's treatments were spot treatments, there was not lake wide treatment this year. Our next lake wide treatment is scheduled for 2024. More on that in the future.

## The Long Lake Pike Marsh

What is or was the Long Lake Pike Marsh?

In the fall of 1960, the Long Lake Protective Association was formed and in the early years the Association was mostly concerned with the protection of rights of the property owners.

In 1963 a committee was formed to investigate two possible projects: 1) placing a dam at the lower end of the lake to control the lake level and (2) establishing a pike marsh. The Michigan Conservation Department was creating Northern Pike rearing areas known as Pike Marshes to raise Northern Pike to release into lakes that had an excess of small panfish. The Northern Pike would eat some of the small panfish allowing the surviving panfish to grow to a favorable size for the state fishermen.

In 1964 a property which was suitable for creating a Pike Marsh became available. An 11-acre section was made available for \$450. It was sold and then the Lake Association was given the opportunity to purchase it from the new owner for the same \$450. But funds were not available.

In 1965 The Conservation Department was hit with a cut in the State budget, so to continue with forming a Pike marsh the land had to be donated to them. But now the property existed in two areas, one 5 acres at \$450 and one 6 acres at \$350. After some fund raising the Association purchased the properties and offered it to the Conservation Department. It was accepted.

In 1966 The Conservation started work to create the Pike Marsh. 4,000 cubic yards of fill was donated by the neighboring property owner and an area suitable was created. A dam was built to separate the marsh/pond area. An 8-inch pump was installed that would pump water from the lake into the marsh creating a spawning area. The pump was reversable so it could then pump the water back into the lake along with the infant pike.

In early March 1967, 18 female and 36 male Northern Pike were transported from the Kalamazoo River to the pike marsh and released to spawn. Each female, depending on size could drop 30,000 to 100,000 eggs. After they spawned, they were removed so they would not eat the small fry. The eggs hatched into fry, and they fed on small micro-organisms and tiny insects. Around Memorial Day they had grown to about 2 to 3 inches long and became cannibalistic. The dam was opened, and the pump was actuated. The fry were released into Long Lake. But the desired results were not reached. Probably most of them went out of the lake because there was no dam to keep them in the lake. Something else needed to be done.

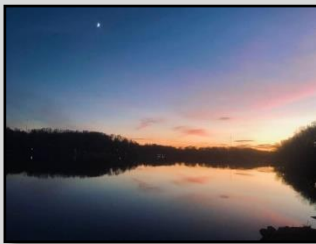
## Water Clarity

This year was our best year yet for water clarity. While there were days on the weekends which were pretty cloudy due to the boat traffic, we had some of the best clarity readings we have ever had.

We just got our spring phosphorous back and they are a little higher than last year. Last year's reading was 10.0 with a state average of 14.9. This year's reading was 18.0 with the state average not out yet. Our chlorophyll readings were also a little high last year with our average for the year were 3.1 and the state average was 2.2. Those of you who are using fertilizers please make sure the middle number on the bag is 0 which means there is no phosphorous contained in that bag.

Finally, our E.coli tests this year came back well under the max levels allowed.

Doug Bamfield - Vice President, Invasive Weed Management Program Coordinator



## Pike March Cont.

So then in 1968 a new plan was made to try to improve the survival rate of the Northern Pike fry. And in our next newsletter we will see what that plan was and if it worked.

Ken Chandler – Secretary

Taste of Long Lake 2022 Hosts



Long Lake-Cloverdale Association - PO Box 133 - Cloverdale, MI 49035

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