



DEER LAKE NEWSLETTER

BOX 250, LOON LAKE, WA 99148

DEER LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Published maybe 3 times a year

Summer 2008 (#2)

WWW.DLPOA.COM

Dedicated to the preservation and improvement of a beautiful lake for future generations

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to apologize for missing the first newsletter, I was enjoying a short reprieve from this long long winter. It looks as though spring is slowly starting to show itself at the Lake and, as always, I am excited for the upcoming months of fun at the Lake. Quite a few issues are concerning us and need to be attended to on a regular basis to insure the quality of lifestyle we have enjoyed in the past.

The fact that we now have milfoil is of major concern but it appears we have a good handle on it. Please check out the Water Quality article for details. Another major concern is development on the Lake. Our watchdog group is doing a great job in that area but we all need to be kept up to date on developments and be ready to participate to help control major developments that will most certainly affect how we live and use Deer Lake. The most recent development of concern is the potential sale of Deer Lake Resort and the possible placement of many "park model" units being placed there. Nothing has been finalized and the developers have many hurdles to cross before anything can happen. We will keep you informed as this progresses.

Not all is gloom and doom. With the winter we had and the way the snow is melting it should refill the lake nicely and all the subsurface water going into the ground will hopefully help minimize low lake levels later in the year. I am sure the water under the ice is still pristine and will ultimately warm up for a great summer of water activities. We still plan our normal activities at the Lake and encourage one and all to participate. Spring clean-up is coming and it would really be great to see some new faces helping in this task. Remember, this is your lake too and helping keep it looking great is everyone's responsibility. Dock Demo Day will happen again and help is always appreciated. Fourth of July should be great fun again this year with the parade, boat parade, fireworks, and pancake feed. Feel free to volunteer to help on any of these events.

I would like to take a moment to thank all DLPOA members for allowing me to represent the association as it's President. This is a responsibility I do not take lightly and, with the help of a great Board of Directors, will continue to do my best to lead this organization. It is a great pleasure to get to know so many people that have property at the Lake and to work with them for the betterment of Deer Lake.

Sincerely,
Larry Nokes, Your President

FOURTH OF JULY

Based upon comments and donations we are proceeding with of Fourth of July Celebration as in years past.

The *Fireworks Display* will be on the Third and we are working on presenting them from the middle of the lake as we have done in years past. Logistics for still need to be worked out but I am hoping all will come together for this. I feel that we can provide the best viewing for the Lake in this manner.

The *Kid's Parade* will again go from Deer Lake Resort to Westbay Resort with a hotdog feed following. We always have a tribute to our soldiers, past and present, and a flag salute to acknowledge those who have sacrificed to provide us with the freedoms we have in this country.

The *Boat Parade* will be on the Fourth and start at Deer Lake Resort and rotate in a clockwise direction this year.

The *Pancake Feed* will be on the Sixth at the Fire station.

Here's hoping this will be the best Fourth of July Celebration ever.

ROADSIDE AND SHORELINE CLEANUP

On Saturday, May 17th you have an opportunity to help your neighbors clean our roads and shoreline. Twice a year we set out litter patrol signs, pick up county plastic bags and go to work for a couple of hours.

Litter bags are put out on the Friday evening before at various locations. On the east side of the lake they are in front of the fire station. On the west side they are in front of the Nazarene old church building and at the Deer Lake Resort store. Those people that have helped in the past need to do the same areas they did before. Any new people willing to help should call Mike at 233-2510 for the west side or John at 233-8419 for the east side. We will send you to an area that is short handed.

Feel free to collect litter along the shoreline ahead of time. You may collect foam from docks and the usual stuff that floats in. Large items like tires may be left along the roads to be collected on Saturday. Only John or myself can take the bags to the dump. We will pick up all the stuff along the side of the roads later in the morning.

We start cleaning between 7:00 and 8:00 am. We usually get done around 10:00. Afterward we meet at the fire station to have chili and assorted other good stuff. It's a chance to exchange fish stories and catch up on news from around the lake with people we haven't seen since last fall.

Thank you in advance. Many hands make the job easier for all of us

EAST DEER LAKE ROAD REHABILITATION

The Stevens County Department of Public Works has competed successfully for Rural Arterial Program (RAP) funds necessary to rehabilitate the first three miles of E. Deer Lake Road. Bids for the project will be opened on May 5th, 2008, with an expected start date in June and completion in mid to late September.

East Deer Lake Road will be widened to twenty-eight feet and cement will be incorporated into the base to provide a stable roadbed. The surfacing will be hot mix asphalt. In conjunction with new reflective signs, over six thousand linear feet of guardrail will be placed.

Pilot cars will lead traffic through the work zone for the extent of the project. Travelers can expect delays up to one-half hour. Stevens County appreciates the patience of the public and apologizes in advance for any inconvenience that this may cause. All emergency departments have been notified of the road project in order to maintain their level of response.

We are confident that the project will be a resounding success. Please feel free to write or call us with your suggestions and input. We can be reached by telephone at 684-4548, e-mail at publicworks@co.stevens.wa.us or by mail at Stevens County Public Works, E 185 Hawthorne, Colville, WA 99114.

MILFOIL

By Mike Phillips

As of this writing we are waiting for 4 proposals from professional milfoil contractors. When we get them, a committee from DLPOA will decide which one will do the job. The job consists of several surveys of the lake to locate as much of the weed as possible. We think from our survey of last fall, the amount will be small and can be removed by hand as they find it during the surveys. If we find more than expected then we will decide which course of action is appropriate.

Sue Winterowd, the head of Stevens County Weed Board, is working the contract between The Dept. of Ecology and Stevens County. She put the proposals out to 4 known contractors and a notice in the paper to invite any other contractors to send in a proposal.

The grant DLPOA applied for and received on January 1st will pay 87.5% of the cost of surveying and removal of the milfoil. The remaining 12.5% is paid by DLPOA. The grant covers the next 2 years. The fact that it was an early infestation grant helped DLPOA by making our share 12.5%. If we had not caught the milfoil early our share would have been 25%.

I will keep everyone informed as the summer goes and we find what we find. I will talk our eloquent Web guy into putting updates on the dlpoa.com site. If you want more details, e-mail me at [skipper \(at\) webband.com](mailto:skipper(at)webband.com). The next newsletter won't be until late October or early November.

Pancake Feed

The annual DLPOA pancake breakfast is scheduled for 7AM - Noon on Sunday July 6, 2008. The usual sirens and bullhorns will be happy to rouse you out of bed that morning. There is a small charge for the breakfast.

Dock Clean Up!

**Saturday June 7th, 2008
Sunrise Point, Deer Lake
9:00 am – 1:00 pm**

If you have a dock that needs to be removed, bring it to Sunrise Point on Saturday MORNING.

Cost: \$3 a foot (if you tow it in)
\$5 a foot (if we come tow it)

The cost includes the demolition and removal, back hoe, dump truck, dump fees, beach clean up and towing, if needed.

Volunteers needed! Any amount of time is appreciated. Bring crow bars, chain saws, rakes and gloves. Lunch will be provided to all the hard workers.

The last 5 years DLPOA has removed approximately 100 docks. That was about 50 dump truck loads of debris, including styrofoam (which never dissolves), 20 foot long logs with hundreds of rusty nails, and old barrels. Let's continue to remove these decaying, sinking docks off our beautiful lake.

Call Ken Ring at (509) 499-3170 or email [cherylring \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:cherylring@gmail.com) to volunteer or have your dock removed.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

by Gerry Block

Dear readers, the level of the lake is up, yahoo! This is great news! Our weather forecast for June and July is for very dry conditions. With the great snowpack, let us hope that it has been enough for a safe summer. As more folks arrive at the lake, there has been an increase of outdoor burning. Remember, one burning site and no larger than 4'X4'X3'. Be kind to the neighbors and burn a hot fire, not a smoldering one. Before you light the burnable vegetation, check the wind direction and velocity.

East Deer Lake Road is scheduled for a widening and resurfacing, beginning in June. The project has a 180 day completion goal. This may entail periods of traffic stoppage, please be patient. Emergency vehicles require a safe right of way, move over.

The August 19, 2008 primary election ballot will include a \$5.875 million dollar bond initiative for SCFPD#1. There is very important need and passage for our aging/non compliant stations, paid staffing, and a new administrative office. Stations #2 (Loon Lake) and #8 (Suncrest) are not meeting the needs of the fire district. As newer vehicles are purchased, the aged stations are too small for the parking of the trucks and for staff activities. Our fire district has increased in population and requires changes to be made. Please vote for a passage of this fire bond issue!

Our SCFPD#1, station #5, has upgraded to a 1990 International FireCat. This vehicle has an automatic transmission and 4-wheel drive. The FireCat has a 750 gallon water tank capacity and can pump 1000 gallons per minute. This means that this vehicle, in addition to other response vehicles, will be able to do a "surround and drown" procedure. Deer Lake is classified as a wildland-urban interface setting. This newer engine will allow responders to move in a much more rugged terrain than previous trucks.

Stevens County Development

Mauri Paul - Board member (mahooses (at) yahoo.com)

Jim Santora - Board member (deerlaker (at) msn.com)

County governments never seem to have enough revenue, especially Stevens County. One of many ways it is evidenced in Stevens County, is the lack of sheriff personnel at any given time on our roads (sometimes two vehicles for a very large county.)

The question faced by county government is "how do we increase revenue"? One solution is to bring "new" development into the county to spread the tax burden. It is becoming clear that new development is starting to have its impact on Stevens County and especially, Deer Lake.

Clay White, the Director of Land Services for Stevens County, developed a "land use plan" which was presented to county residents at numerous meetings, was modified many times and ultimately passed by the County Commissioners. One main theme of this plan was to "encourage" developers to choose Stevens County for their investments. Stevens County's philosophy in this process is to balance the needs of existing land owners, protect the pristine beauty of the lands and yet encourage developers to look at the county as a place to invest by creating more housing (living) opportunities to attract people and revenue. In this process they do not want to "over-regulate" in a manor that would drive developers away before they even begin the process.

Stevens County, while setting growth standards, expects the State and Federal agencies (DOE, DNR, USFS, Fish and Wildlife, etc.) that deal with land use and development to scrutinize the "particulars" that their agency is charged with implementing and thus require compliance by developers. The county will set general guidelines and the land use agencies will scrutinize what any developer can and can not do.

However, there is one area in the Stevens County Development Regulations that is of great concern to DLPOA and needs our immediate and continual attention. This is Title 3 - Freeing large landholders to subdivide their properties into 5, 10, or 20 acre plots, depending on their particular location, it allows and encourages cluster developments of our woodlands by land speculators. While generally restrictive to the individual lake dweller these regulations open the four resorts on Deer Lake (Sunrise Point, West Bay Resort, Deer Lake Resort, and Zak's Shacks) to the fullest possible expansion of their facilities. For example, these resorts may construct up to 12 building units per acre. A building unit can be anything from a 35 foot high condo to one of the little cracker box faux log structures. At 12/acre that would mean 300 units at the Deer Lake resort, 95 each at West Bay and Sunrise Point and 36 at Zak's Shacks. The impact of 528 new units around the lake is staggering. Will the bays fill up with docks to accommodate all the new boats? Where will all the new people park their cars and their boat trailers? What about the drastically increased and concentrated road traffic? How about the distribution of services like water, sewer, electricity ...? In areas of new development, builders are required to provide acceptable sewage treatment, control runoff so it doesn't go into the lake, construct roads that allow emergency vehicles access. On top of that there is a physical limitation of what the existing infrastructure can handle. PUD has stated that it will not expand beyond its present scope but

could increase slightly, the number of customers it serves. That, by itself, will discourage many speculators from opening up the woodlands to clustered communities because of the enormous cost of providing a separate sewage disposal system. For those who haven't acquainted themselves with these new rules you can read them at www.co.stevens.wa.us/landservices/ordinance.

An immediate roadblock to any development at Deer Lake Resort is the inability of the PUD and Loon Disposal to communicate effectively. At this stage it could require court action to resolve the issues and thus postpone any development at Deer Lake Resort for some time.

We, DLPOA, do not oppose "new development" if it does not compromise the health of the lake and its residents. We are asking you to stay informed and openly resist any development that will compromise the quality of the lake and the surrounding area. We considerate it our charge to act positively on your behalf and keep you informed.

Editor's Note – Mauri and Jim both publish an email newsletter on this subject that you can get by sending them an email asking to be on their mailing list.

Lake Level Information

Ken Merrill from the Washington Dept of Ecology made a presentation at the April board meeting on factors affecting our lake level. (See www.dlpoa.com/boardnotes.htm).

There are several things you need to consider: total rain and snow fall in the entire watershed (which is about 18 square miles for our lake), timing of the runoff (if it takes its time, more of it gets adsorbed by the ground), saturation of the watershed (if you got no rain last year, it will suck up everything in sight this year), evaporation (a function of the wind), and seepage loss and withdrawals. We calculate the withdrawals at about 0.5 inches a year.

There have been a few studies on where the seepage outflow of our lake is. A study done many years ago suggests it exits around Wanakawin and goes to Loon Lake, but the current thinking is it exits at the South East part of the lake and goes to Dragoon Creek, not Loon Lake. They believe we lose 3.5 Cubic Feet / Second (as a year round average) to seepage.

He presented some climate data suggesting we have lost an average of 1 foot of snowpack water equivalents in the last 30 years. Average January temperatures have risen one degree over fifty years. Columbia River water flow has decreased over fifty years.

We have some charts of measured lake level data over a 25 year period. Average variation is about 2 feet, but there have been years with 5 feet. This data gathering stopped in the 70's, but DLPOA is considering starting this project up again.

Could you put a dam in to hold back the lake? It would have to be an underwater dam to hold back the seepage, since that is where the major loss is. Humongously expensive.

“Let It Snow ... Let It Snow ... Let It Snow...” at Deer Lake
by Rod Lord

There’s no National Weather Service station in our immediate area, so I know of no official climatological statistics on snowfall for the Deer Lake region. Perhaps the Forest Service has such data available, but I’ve not checked with them (I’ve had no need nor urge to make such a study). I have gathered, however, some purely *unofficial* measurements (ruler on my driveway) over the last dozen seasons (since 1996). The near-twelve feet dumped on us during the winter of 1996-97 started early and prompted me to begin measuring. I stress that my measurements are crude and purely unofficial and should be used solely for the sake of interest. I measure only the depth of new snow – soaking wet or powder dry – which covers my concrete driveway before I shovel it. I have no way of determining water-content of any accumulation. Nor can I even estimate the amount of fallen snow that may have blown off the driveway or melted and evaporated before I hit it with the shovel.

So, with those disclaimers I offer you the following summary of my findings:

Year	96-97	97-98	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08
Total Accum	142	51	81	60	56	83	30	72	29**	41	43	104 [^]

* Rounded to nearest whole inch¹ ½" rounded up.

**Minimum

[^]as of 4/18/08

From these figures, as you easily can see, there is no good answer to a newcomer’s question, “What’s the average snowfall in these parts?” The season ending in 1998 saw some seven and a half feet of snow less than the previous season and the total accumulation 2004-05 (the minimum on my record) was only a little more than one-third of the total for the season before it. The accumulation for this 2008 season is the second heaviest since I’ve kept records and the potential is not yet over – some years we’ve had snow on the ground until May, and it may be June this year before all the snow melts on the north side of my garage.

When comparing my scant data to “official” Spokane reports, I feel reasonably safe in concluding that it invariably snows more in our area than it does thirty miles southeast in Spokane.

Some of our retired “snowbird” friends don’t care for now and head south in the fall for Phoenix or Albuquerque for a few months. Me? ... I don’t mind the snow. Shoveling provides the only exercise I get this time of year. As for snow ... it’s the price we pay for living in this grand paradise of ours. I wouldn’t trade it for all the golf courses in the entire desert-south.

Rod Lord is a retired meteorologist with twenty-one years as an Air Force weather officer. He holds an MS degree in Meteorology and Climatology.

Coming Events

Board Meeting -- Thurs May 8 - - Note -- New time of 6PM
Spring Cleanup -- Sat May 17
Dock Demo Day -- Sat June 7
Annual Meeting -- Sat June 14 (firestation)
Fireworks -- Thurs Night July 3
Parade and stuff -- Fri July 4
Pancake Breakfast -- Sun July 6
Fall Cleanup -- Sat Sept 20

For a list of board members and their assignments, please see our web site at
www.dlpoa.com/officers

This newsletter put together by Dennis DeMattia 926-8848 demattia(at)acm.org

Deer Lake Property Owners Association

Box 250

Loon Lake, Wa 99148-0250