



Merry Christmas

Harper Lake and

Happy New Year

Association

P.O. Box 53, Irons, MI 49644

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 1,... ANNUAL ASSOCIATION FEES DUE \$55.00

MAY 26,..... SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING 9:00 AM IRONS UNION CHURCH

JULY 7,.....POKER RUN 2:00pm CHECK IN

JULY 21,..... HARPER LAKE PICNIC

AUGUST 18,....FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Hopefully you and your family had a wonderful Thanksgiving and you are looking forward to a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year as we all are.

The lake level has risen in the last few weeks, but it is not back to the levels we have seen in the past. The water is still approximately four foot from the exit dam / creek or about 6" below the normal high level.

Your lake association board met in November in order to review our 2011 budget, actual expenses, and the YTD treasurer's report. We were pleased to find we are finishing the 2011 year slightly under budget.

The 2012 budget was developed and approved by the board. Minor adjustments were made in some of the line items to reflect reapportionment in expenses and projected increases in income based on the 2011 history. The overall budget is approximately the same as this past year.

Please take the time to record our calendar of events for 2012. Not only do we want to welcome everyone to participate in the social activities, but we look forward to your input and fellowship at our membership meetings.

Hopefully you had an opportunity to see the pair of mute swans that have made Harper Lake a temporary stop over on their travels down south. Some larger pike have also been spotted cruising along the shore line.

In conclusion, I would like to wish all of you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Let us all look forward to a safe, happy and productive 2012.

Richard Blumenstein
Board President

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You.

Special thanks goes out to Linda VanDolsen and Erin Kozak who have both been so important to the ongoing success of the Harper Lake board and the duties they both took on. Linda has served as Board President and board member and was instrumental these last several years in publishing the HLA newsletter. Along with husband, Laurence, both have volunteered to continue updating the HLA web site. Erin meticulously maintained our books, keeping a watchful eye on our finances and collection of Association Dues.

Thank you both for all your help and dedication!

Harper Lake Board
And all your Neighbors

Dredging Project

The potential dredging project continues to be explored by a group of homeowners along the south west channel. The possibility of the project going all the way through between the island and the southwest properties has somewhat faded. There appears to be a lack of financial support from other homeowners.

It was also discovered the permit would only apply to this one project and anyone else interested in dredging other shorelines would be required to apply for their own permit. The HLA board has not actively supported this project, but has chosen to respect the affected individuals' right to work directly with the DNR and DEQ on this matter.

The original scope has been modified from dredging all the way through the channel. At best, the dredging may start midway in the channel and proceed north so as to allow homeowners easier navigation to the northern part of the lake.

Fletch MacGregor
Board Member

ORVs, ATVs and Golf carts

Eleven townships in Lake County have already opened limited roads to Off Road Vehicles. The Elk Township Board has this issue up for review and has included a survey letter with this year's Winter Tax Bills. Based on public sentiment, the board will most likely vote on this issue at the regular January board meeting. For 2012, the county is considering golf carts (roll bars or helmets required) in the ORV definition. Make sure you express your opinion by mailing back the survey by December 20th.

TREASURER'S REPORT

This year we have had 80 dues paying members out of 138 property owners. The HLA Board would like to give a special thanks to those members for their unwavering support. We encourage non-members, who are benefiting from the HLA's efforts towards the preservation of everyone's property values and lakeside lifestyles, to get involved. Be aware of all the projects we do for the community and property owners of Harper Lake:

- The Asian Milfoil control program that keeps the lake navigable for boating, swimming and fishing.
- The Gypsy Moth program designed to preserve our forest from defoliation.
- The ongoing water testing program through MLSA and CLMP that monitors the health and clarity of the lake.
- The fish restocking program (planned again for 2012)

We started 2011 with a beginning balance of\$12,985
Total Income \$ 6,158
Expenses for 2011 \$ 5,265
Ending balance (as of 11/19/2011 \$13,878

PLEASE COMPLETE THE INFORMATION UPDATE AND MAIL BACK YOUR 2012 ASSOCIATION DUES FOR JANUARY 1, 2012.

Lisa Mullen
Board Treasurer

HARPER LAKE ASSOCIATION DUES INFORMATION

HARPER LAKE ASSOCIATION DUES FOR 2012 are payable to: Harper Lake Association, P.O. Box 53, Irons MI 49644.
PLEASE REMIT BY JANUARY 1, 2012 You are invited to use the enclosed envelope

Property Owner _____

Home Address _____

Home City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Property Address _____

Lot (s) # _____ Subdivision _____

Home Phone _____ Lake Phone _____

E-Mail Address _____

Dues Enclosed \$55.00 Check # _____

(Please complete the above information so that we can make sure our directory is up to date.)

www.harperlake.com/association

HarperLake@jackpine.net

Volunteer for: _____ Picnic 2012 _____ Road Clean Up _____ Poker Run _____ Please check all that apply

Personal Notes on Thanksgiving!

I've been on Harper Lake since 1984. I've seen the trees grow, the homes remodeled and good neighbors and friends come and go. I've also seen some of my neighbors pass on. Things do change on Harper Lake.

There is one thing that has not changed over all those years. There are those with generous hearts willing to step forward to help others and to get involved.

Whether it is support of our local Fire Department Fund Raiser, offering to host the annual picnic, blowing leaves for a neighbors, plowing snow for those who can't, cleaning up the trash along the roads, rescuing a stranded boater out of gas, inviting neighbors over for a bonfire or potluck dinner, or the way just about everyone is willing to greet you with a smile and wish you a "good day", the giving nature of those on Harper Lake never seems to diminish.

I can truly say we are blessed being a part of this community. I hope we can encourage those few who have yet to discover the magic to get involved.

Sometimes the rest of the world is not very pleasant. We have much to be thankful for as we escape to our Harper Lake.

David Kott

Community News

During this season of giving and sharing with others, there has been a lot of activity at the local Irons Union Church Mission Store. Many of our local residents have cleaned out closets and gathered belongings that are not as necessary as they once were, and have donated useable clothing and household goods to the Mission Store. These same items become another person's treasure.

As a reminder, if you are looking to re-organize the cabin, or garage this upcoming year, and have good usable household goods, consider saving them for the Mission Store. If the item is worn out, wait for Trash Day.

The Store is open most Thursday, Friday and Saturday afternoons.

If you have any questions, call Connie Helder at 231 266 2039.