

Hardwood Lake Property Owners Association



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May 2002



Hardwood Lake in early March is still frozen with a scattering of snow. It won't be long and the lake will be busy with summer activities. (Photo by Edith Sommers)

Lake special assessment down 30 percent

The Hardwood Lake Board held a special assessment hearing on Saturday, September 1st, 2001.

There were four people in the audience.

The purpose of the meeting was to hear protests of tax notices.

Those present and the Board felt the lake weed control project was improving the lake.

County Commissioner Rose

Walsh commented, "The water didn't look good to me. It was very brown. I was expecting something else."

Township Trustee, Judy Sheehan stated, "It used to be a lot worse."

David Sommers, Hardwood Lake Property Owners Association Representative pointed out that it will never be a clear, blue lake. He said the DNR and the engineers

had explained that because of the type of lake it is, the best we can do is to control the weeds.

Sheehan brought up the issue of the surplus in the Lake Board account. As of August 2001 there was \$43,951.56 in the Lake Board account and expenses for 2001 were only about

**See Assessment Page 2
Assessment from Page 1**

\$2,500. The reason for the small expenditure in 2001 was due to the effective chemical treatment in 2000.

Mike DeMatio, Ogemaw County Drain Commissioner also pointed out that the money in the Lake Board account is an interest bearing account and that the interest goes into the account.

After much discussion the board decided to increase the surplus carryover funds spend-down from \$5,000 to \$8,000 per year for the next three years (2002 to 2004). Even with spend-down of surplus funds there still should be a surplus of about \$19,000 at the end of the upcoming three year period.

Because of this surplus, the special assessment for the lake cleanup has been reduced by about 30% over the upcoming three years as compared to the past three

years.

The Special Assessment is broken down as follows:

Aquatic Plant Control	\$19,525
Administration / Inspection	5,000
Total	\$24,525
Surplus carryover Funds	(\$ 8,000)

Annual Assessment	\$16,525
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In laymans terms, the Lake Board plans on spending \$24,525 per year for weed control for the next three years. This program includes herbiciding and harvesting.

The board will pay Progressive Engineering \$5,000 per year to administer the program. This includes determining what needs to be done to the lake, where and when to do it, hiring and scheduling the contractors, and ensuring that government regulations are met. Because of surplus funds of \$8,000 the net cost to the property owners is \$16,525

per year for the next 3 years. Total expected expenditures for the next three years is \$49,575.

The Special Assessment Program is approved in blocks of three years. The reason there is a surplus is because when the last program was adopted three years ago, the chemical Fluridone, trade name Sonar, had not been approved. The cost of using fluridone is higher than the herbicide and harvesting that had been done. Because the fluridone treats the entire lake, extensive treatment was not needed for two years resulting in a surplus.

The Lake Improvement Board feels it is beneficial to carry some surplus to cover unexpected expenses that may arise.


Tax bills were sent out last fall.



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HARDWOOD LAKE ASSOCIATION MET AT GIL'S

After a day of mixed weather on Saturday, August 18th, the sun came out and the skies were clear for the Hardwood Lake Association pot-luck hosted by Gil Ezzo. Of the 30 or so people that attended, some were new faces that came to an Association event for the first time.

The Association provided the meat and soft drinks, while the members provided an assortment of side dishes and desserts. The group enjoyed getting to know each other better, and the great view of the sunset from the east end of the lake. Due to the drought, there was not a campfire out of concern for fire danger. Everyone that came talked about how much those that were not able to make it were missing, and how they hoped Gil would have them again next year.

The date for this years pot-luck is yet to be determined. We hope that you will make an effort to join us this year for another fun time at Gil's. Watch for the date in the next newsletter.

**Saturday
July 6, 2002
9:00 a.m.**

Hardwood Lake Property
Owners Association
Annual Meeting
at Richland Township Hall
in Prescott

- Update on lake treatment
- Update on Road Brining,
status of special assess-
ment and tax rolls.
- Election of officers


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LOCAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 25-26 10th Annual Shoreline Arts & Craft Show - Tawas

JUNE 8 Arts & Crafts Fair, Downtown West Branch

JUNE 8-9 Tawas Point Celebration Days ALSO Michigan Free Fishing Weekend

JUNE 13 & 27 JULY 11 & 25

AUGUST 8 & 22 Summer Music Series, Irons Park, West Branch - Free

JUNE 15-16 Tawas 12th Annual Summer Arts & Craft Show

JUNE 22 Smiley Days, West Branch - Downtown

JULY 4TH CELEBRATIONS
4th Fireworks, Newman Park, Skidway Lake at dusk
4th Fireworks, Lake Ogemaw Thursday at dusk.
4th Independence Day Grand

Parade & Fireworks, Tawas
JULY 7th Fourth of July, Skidway Lake Parade, fireworks & more!

JULY 17-21 Summerfest 2002 Tawas, Kid's Bike & Pet Parade, Street Dance, Classic Car Cruise, Classic Car Show, Dawn Patrol Fly-in Pancake Breakfast - Tawas

JULY 26 Show Off Your Iron - Downtown West Branch, Harley Davidson bikes on display

JULY 26-27 H.O.G. Rally, Ogemaw County Fair Grounds, Harley Owners' Group annual conference

JULY 22-27 Iosco County Fair - Hale

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER
Each Saturday - Farmers' Market - Fresh produce, cut flowers, home grown herbs.

city of West Branch

AUGUST 1-3 Sidewalk Sale Days, Tawas

AUGUST 3-4 Rods & Relics Car Show, Ogemaw Fair grounds. Hot rods, stock cars & funny cars of yesteryear

AUGUST 3-4 42nd Annual Tawas Bay Waterfront Fine Art Festival & Wine Tasting

AUG. 9-11 Sand Lake Fest

AUGUST 10-11 6TH Annual Tawas Bay Antique Market Show & Sale

AUGUST 10-11 Victorian Art Fair, Iron Park, West Branch

AUGUST 13-17 County Fair, Ogemaw Fairgrounds

AUGUST 31-SEPTEMBER 1
12th Annual Labor Day Arts & Craft Show, Tawas

Hardwood Lake Property Owners Association
Edith M. Sommers
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Freeland, MI 48623

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