



Lake Shore Breeze

Spring 2011

Fremont Lake Association

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Fremont Lake Association will be to improve the water quality of Fremont Lake and its watershed through research, education and actions leading to lake maintenance and improvements; promote activities which enhance the social welfare of its members & provide pertinent information through its Website, Newsletter and meetings as appropriate.

LAKE LEVEL ASSESSMENT

As you recall, our 2010 Winter Tax Bill included the Lake Level Assessment. The purpose of the assessment is to manage & maintain the control structure (aka Dam) which maintains the court ordered levels of the lake. The control structure & administration of the assessment district are managed by Drain Commissioner, Pat Baker. Thanks are in order to Pat for this article on the history & how the assessment is administered.

The control structure was constructed in 1948 & an assessment district was formed with the percentage of benefit allotted per lot or parcel. The 1st assessment was levied in 1948 for \$10,813.03. Since that time there has been numerous splits and combinations of the parcels around the lake so percentages change. The current winter lake level was determined by a Circuit Court Order in 1978 with a level of 745.59 feet above sea level. The winter season is from November 1st through April 15th. The winter level must be achieved before November 15th, and the summer level must be achieved prior to April 15th. The Circuit Court Order of 1978 confirmed the prior Circuit Court Ordered summer lake level of 746.59 of 1945.

The assessment is levied on an "as needed" basis to cover any maintenance done, the removal and replacement of the boards to maintain the summer and winter levels, & an inspection every 3 years by a professional engineer, which is required by the Inland Lake Level Act. Property owner assessments are based on the percentage assigned at the time of establishment of the district of all properties within 500 feet of the lake. Pat is not sure how the engineer in 1948 determined individual assessments. It's a 3 tier formula by lake frontage, lot size, or other considerations. For the most part, individual assessments are relatively small depending on the amount of maintenance required though out the year.



The total amount levied this year to the property owners in the Lake Level District totaled \$5,000. (The total Computation of Cost was \$6,848.32) A major part of this cost was to pay for the maintenance done for the installation of the railings on the control structure, per MIOSHA standards R.408.10213 (2) and R.408.10235 (2). The railings were constructed by the vocational school welding department, the students cut, welded and put the railings together. Once constructed the drain maintenance crew painted them and installed them on the control structure. The balance of this year's assessment was for the maintenance & management of the control structure since the last assessment. Due to the spring and fall replacement and removal of the boards to maintain the level and any other maintenance that may be required during the course of the year, we usually assess the lake level district every year. The assessment in 2009 was \$2,500.00, the one in 2008 was \$2,729.69, the one in 2007 was \$3,110.80. The amount changes from year to year depending on what needs to be done. The pictures are of Pat & her crew prior to the installation of the railings & the completed project.

MSU/DEQ Sediment Survey on 6/18/09

Ryan Vannier from Michigan State Univ., Department of Geological Sciences will present **“Fremont Lake Sediment Trends: What mud can tell you about the health of a lake”**. This survey was taken in June 2009 & was one of several surveys that MSU makes every year. The analysis of the sediment takes over a year to develop. The selection criteria are that the lake has very deep spots to take the core samples.

Analysis of the mud found at the bottom of every lake can tell a very interesting story about the lake’s environmental history. This mud, commonly referred to as lake sediment, contains a number of contaminants like mercury, lead, arsenic, cadmium, zinc and persistent organic pollutants (PCBs, pesticides, etc). Because these contaminants react very readily to sediment particles they usually stay in the sediment and do not move into the water. Over time, these sediments and their associated contaminants accumulate on the lake bottom and act as a kind of a chemical tape recorder and other significant environmental changes in the watershed. The concern is that any possible contamination in these sediments can directly impact bottom-dwelling organisms and represent a continuing source of toxic substances in aquatic environments that may impact wildlife and humans through food or water consumption.



The in-depth description of the Fremont Lake Project details as well as reports showing the results of sediment analysis in other lakes, can be found with this link:

http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3313_3686_3728-32365--,00.html

Membership Drive

Please note that this year’s Membership Form is a “One-Stop Form” that includes your \$25 Annual Membership Dues, a Fireworks Donation & a request to your email address. This will enable us to improve ability to communicate information (email will not be shared with any other organization) & provide funding to Eric Hanson & Scott Cradall to take advantage of “Early Bird Specials” for the Fireworks. Please return check to Fremont Lake Assoc., Sheridan Township, PO Box 53.



CITY GRANTED \$180,300 FOR FREMONT LAKE PARK AND CAMPGROUND IMPROVEMENTS

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources recently approved a grant application from the City to expand the Fremont Lake Park Campground, add trails and walkways to the picnic and beach area and improve barrier-free access for swimmers.



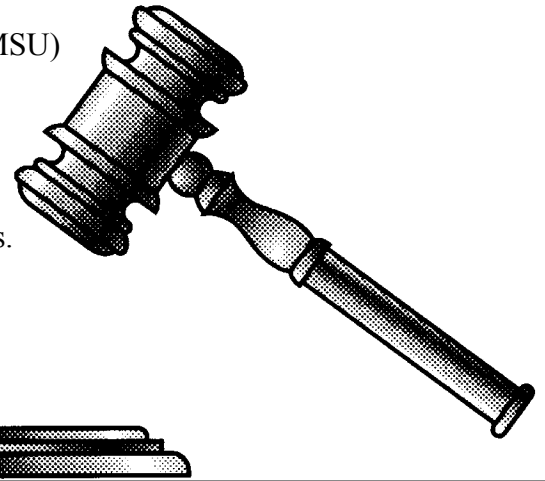
The campground expansion includes the addition of approximately 40 lots (32 fully serviced, 8 tent) north of the existing campground area and a new restroom facility. Additionally, the Town & Country path will be extended along the west side of Daisy Creek to the lake as well as along the north side of Park Drive to the Swirl concession area. A path will also be extended south from the Swirl along the east side of the beach area, leading to a barrier-free “swimming ramp” for wheelchairs.

In late March, Governor Snyder signed the legislation to release the funding. Construction could begin in late 2011/early 2012. (Information provided by Btyan Gruesbeck – City Manager)

Annual Meeting Agenda
May 9, 2011 Township Hall
7:00 PM

Welcome & Opening Remarks – Bruce Essebaggers
Approve Minutes Of 5/10/10 Annual Meeting – Norm Knorr
Treasurer’s Report And Membership Update – Stan DeKuiper
Shoreline Restoration Update – Dean Morehouse & Gary Noble
Weed Spraying/Special Assessment District – Gary Breuker & Bre Grabill (PLM)
Fireworks Report – BEric Hanson.& Scott Crandel
Boat Parade Report – Norm Knorr
MSU/DEQ Sediment Survey results for Fremont Lake – Ryan Vannier (MSU)
Website Update – Nels Johnston & Erich Heger
Fishing for Kids – Jeannie Caris
Acknowledge Retiring Board Members
Board Elections – 3 Members for 3 Year Terms
6 Members have agreed to be nominated for the 3 positions.
If you’re interested in running,
please contact Chair, Bruce Essebaggers, 924-5855.

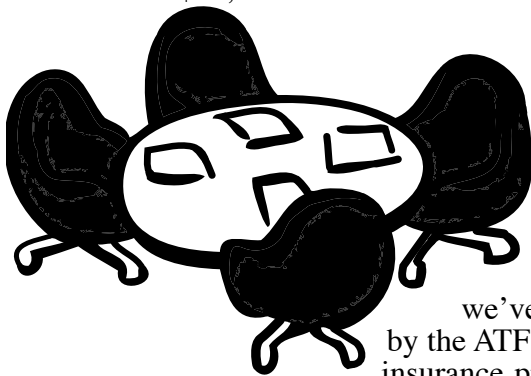
Member Comments
Adjourn
Next Meeting – Monday, May 14, 2012 (2nd Monday in May)



2010 Annual Meeting Summary

Board Members in attendance; Dean Morehouse, Tom Moore, Kurt Lowdermilk, Stan DeKuiper, Bruce Essebaggers, Erich Heger & Norman Knorr. 28 members & guests attended.

Treasurer Report – Mike Oosterhouse submitted a report of Income & Expenses since the 2009 Annual Meeting. The Membership Dues received during the last year totaled \$2,560 & Expenses totaled \$2,163. The current Balance is \$14,915. Additional Membership Dues were received at the Meeting.



Committee Reports - Bruce Essebaggers reported the updated By-Laws are available on the website & can be emailed upon request. Tom Moore reviewed the Surveys he & Darrel Crawford have conducted the last few years & reported to the DNR. Tom indicated that volunteers are needed to continue these efforts. Erich Heger reported that a Website (fremontlake.net) has been established. Norm Knorr reported that we plan to publish 2 Newsletters a year. Spring issue prior to the Annual Meeting & a Fall Issue. Our mailing list is about 225 with a cost of \$1.25 to \$1.50 per copy. Stan DeKuiper indicated we’ve exceeded last years membership of 80. Eric Hanson reported he is certified by the ATF & that this year’s display cost will be about \$6,000 with \$1,000 of that for the insurance premium. He thanked the Association as well as individual members for their contributions. He indicated that they are still short of this year’s \$6,000 goal. Norm Knorr said this year’s Boat Parade theme will be “Pirates of the Caribbean”.

AWRI/GVSU Project – Nichol DeMol outlined the objectives of the project that was funded by the Fremont Area Foundation with the cooperation of the City of Fremont. Her report reviewed data, conclusions & recommendations followed by a discussion of short & long term actions we could take. This was followed by BreAnne Grabill’s review of the weed survey PLM coordinated with AWRI.

Elections – 3 Terms Expiring 2013 1 Term Expiring 2011
2011 - Dean Morehouse, Bruce Essebaggers, Luke Pfeiffer (replaces Darrel Crawford)
2012 - Erich Heger, Kurt Lowdermilk, Stan DeKuiper
2013 - Gary Breuker, Nels Johnston, Norm Knorr
Thanks were extended to outgoing Board Members Mike Oosterhouse, Tom Moore, Darrel Crawford & Norman Knorr

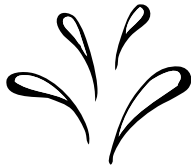
Fremont Lake Association
c/o Sheridan Township Hall
PO Box 53
Fremont, MI 49412

Annual Meeting Monday, May 9, 2011

Board of Directors

Bruce Essebaggars – Chair
Stan DeKuiper – Treasurer
Norm Knorr – Secretary / Editor
Dean Morehouse
Kurt Lowdermilk
Eric Heger
Luke Pfeiffer
Gary Breuker
Nels Johnston

~ Annual Meeting
Monday, May 9, 7 PM
~ Fireworks &
Boat Parade,
Sunday, July 3, 7:30 PM



BRUCE'S DOCK

As summer is just around the corner for Michigan and Fremont Lake residents, it is time for the Fremont Lake spring newsletter and to outline the activities of the Fremont Lake Board. Thank you to Norm Knorr for putting this newsletter together.

The first activity will be the Annual Meeting of the Fremont Lake Association at the Sheridan Township Hall at 7 p.m. on Monday, May 9. See the accompanying article for the agenda.

Dean Morehouse & Nels Johnston will coordinate the distribution of plants later in May for the Lake Shoreline Restoration Project. The Fourth of July will again have fireworks and a boat parade on July 3rd. Check out the association website at fremontlake.net.

The Board has been working with Professional Lake Management, the Sheridan Township Board and the City of Fremont to create a special five year lake tax assessment district to weed spray for Eurasian milfoil, algae, and other aquatic, non-native weed nuisances. We are also investigating measures that can be taken to reduce and control the non-native mute swan population.

Come to the annual meeting for more information and answers to your questions. Have a great summer on Fremont Lake!