



CHIP - CHAT

Newsletter of The Big Chip Lake Association

Mission Statement: The mission of the Big Chip Lake Association shall be to promote the interests of the lakeshore owner; to serve as a resource on issues of individual and common concern; and to promote education, public awareness and advocacy of lake and lakeshore issues.

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From the President:

Our mission statement gives the reasons for the existence of the Big Chip Lake Association, but what is a lake association really for? How does it become an active association? Many lake associations are formed and become active because of a crisis on their lake. Lead by a handful of volunteers, an association formed around a crisis quickly becomes a cohesive group, solves their problems and continues on with projects to enhance their lake and community.

Other lake associations form because other lakes around them have associations and they think that they should too. Unfortunately, some remain associations in name only because they never develop a direction.

At this time, Lake Chippewa is fortunate. We don't have any ecological disasters looming over us. We don't have any big developments threatening to crowd our shores. Our lake is fairly clean and except for a couple of weekends a year, it is not crowded on the water. Fish are hard to find, but they are there.

So, what real purpose can we give to our association. Several suggestions have been presented which would require volunteers from the association:

- Maintaining and harvesting the carp trap.
- Building and maintaining Loon nesting platforms.
- Artificial reefs, fish attracting devices.
- Citizen lake monitoring - already being done.
- Dredging the passageway to the bay at the South end of the lake.

Please bring your comments or suggestions to the Annual Meeting! Let's try to activate our Association.

Bits & Pieces:

There have been complaints about Jet Skis (Personal Water Craft), and there are bound to be more. A summary of the laws are printed later in this newsletter. But it's really up to the adults and parents to police this situation. If you see a Jet Ski being operated in a manner not within the law (or any other water craft), get the registration number and call the Douglas County Law Enforcement Center at 762-8151, and report the incident.

If anyone has any ideas for articles for the newsletter, how about writing it up and submitting it. There's a lot of knowledge out there and a lot of memories. Things like the history of the lake, days when the fishing was good - anything pertaining to the lake and the surrounding area.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING:

The Annual Meeting will be held on June 24th, 9:00 AM at the Brandon High School. A reminder will be mailed.

Lake Directory: We expect that the first edition of the Big Chippewa Lake Directory will go to print on June 1st and copies will be available at the Annual Meeting.

As a part of the directory, we are having an aerial photograph taken of the lake, and we will be selling prints of the photo at the Annual Meeting.

Lake Picnic/Potluck: Interest has been expressed to hold a Picnic/Potluck for our lake community. Tom and Barbara McCleod have offered their shore area as the site, and a weekend in August has been mentioned. More will be discussed at the Annual Meeting.

Volunteers: THE ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOU! If any of the items mentioned in this newsletter spark an interest, please give me a call and we can talk about how you can help.

Questionnaire: We will be sending a form out with the Annual Meeting reminder. Please fill it out and bring it with you to the Annual Meeting.

Membership: Why Join? What are dues for? We all want to protect what we have and if possible make it better. If you have questions or concerns or want to join the association, please come to the Annual Meeting, June 24th - 9:00 AM at the Brandon High School.

Big Chippewa Lake

