

# Windemere Township Lakes Association

<http://windemere.mnlakesanddrivers.org/>



# WINDOW

"If you want information, just open a window"

Summer 2020

## SPECIAL EDITION



For the safety of our members, the board of directors has decided to cancel the remaining two general meetings this summer. However, business is still going on! In this "special edition" we will let you know what we have been working on.

### **BOARD MEMBER ELECTION**

Normally at the August meeting we would nominate and elect members to the board. Since we are not meeting, we will conduct the election process by mail. All of you by now should have received a post card outlining our process and asking for a response by July 9, 2020.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership is slightly up from last year! As of 7/1/20:

- Sturgeon Lake – 93 paid members
- Island Lake – 54 paid members
- Sand Lake – 107 paid members
- Small Lakes – 16 paid members

Efforts are being made by our association to increase membership on Sand Lake and letters have been sent out. Also, renewal reminders and membership forms will be going out in July to those who have not renewed in 2020.

Corporate sponsorship renewals for 2020 have been waived due to COVID-19 forcing businesses to be closed or open in only a limited way.

Many of you expressed your gratitude for a job well done, however, some of you commented on things we could do better. Our association always wants to hear from you so it's only fair you hear from us as well. To address these concerns, you can expect contact from one of your lake representatives.

### **LAKE REPORTS**

1. **Sand Lake** – The lake level is down over 5” from the average high-water mark, however, it is still 1.52’ above the ordinary high water level. The game warden was out recently patrolling on the lake.
2. **Sturgeon Lake** – Lake level has dropped 7.56” as of June 26<sup>th</sup>. A 16’ water clarity reading (Secchi) was reported on June 18<sup>th</sup>. The DNR is considering raising the ordinary high-water level. There was considerable ice jacking on the lake this winter. The township is considering licensing contractors that work on shorelines. The sheriff has created a no-wake zone within 300 feet of shore (see more below). The Lake Association has purchased three lighted buoys to indicate the sheriff’s no-wake zone. The board approved the purchase earlier in an email vote. The High-Water Committee has not had much luck working with the County, and the State seems to be considering the high water a natural phenomenon. The committee has decided to seek a meeting with the MN DNR assistant commissioner with jurisdiction over lake water levels. The goal of the meeting is to determine if any means to lower/control the lake level could receive approval.
3. **Island Lake** – A 9’ water clarity (secchi) reading was reported which is typical for this time of year. The new outlet seems to be working well as there was no excessively high water on the lake this spring. The lake does, however, have high levels of phosphorous and the MPCA states that it is close to being on the “Impaired Waters” list. Chip and Dan applied for an advanced water monitoring study from the MPCA and although selected to participate, the program was unfortunately eliminated this year due to budget cuts and will be delayed until 2021. The board approved via an email vote to fund tributary monitoring and analysis by Wenck, a national environmental consulting & engineering company headquartered in Maple Plain, MN, on the sources of the phosphorus.
4. **Small Lakes** – The MPCA has reported that Lake 11 is also close to being on the “Impaired Waters” list. Nothing else was reported for the small lakes

### **BRUSH PILE**

The brush pile was opened by Bill Patrick on April 18, May 16, and June 20 from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM. The next scheduled date is July 18. A couple of signs were added to remind everyone on where to dump your grass and leaves.

### **ROAD PICK UP**

The first pick-up of the year has been completed. We still need a volunteer for Harmony to Military Road on Lakeland Road. Please contact Rita Menke at 218-485-8071 for more information.



### **AIS – WHAT’S THE PLAN**

We received grant money from the state of MN for Eurasian milfoil chemical treatment on Sturgeon and Sand lakes for \$4,650, and a grant from Pine County for \$16,206.

The process to begin treatment is to;

- 1- Complete a delineation and mapping survey for each lake.
- 2- Secure an AIS management permit from the DNR (which includes a process of notification to shoreline property owners prior to treatment).
- 3- Use grant money to hire an approved third-party contractor to apply chemical treatment to specific areas in Sand and Sturgeon lake.

### **NO WAKE SURVEY**

Thank you to all our members who took the time to complete a survey that was mailed to you this spring on wakes during high water. The results are in:

- Approximately 70% of you on Sand and Sturgeon Lakes have concerns about wakes.
- The majority of lake owners on all lakes (70%) are not aware of DNR wake regulations.
- 56% feel lake users are not following current regulations.
- Many lake owners feel education of all lake users about regulations and wakes would be appropriate.
- Most prevalent area of concern is lakeshore erosion, with Sturgeon also concerned about property damage. 74% felt further regulation is needed only with high water and only on certain areas of the lakes.

In response to our survey, we have provided you with the current wake information as found in the 2020 Boating Guide at <https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/rlp/regulations/boatwater/boatingguide.pdf> (pages 35-42) and on our website at <http://Windemere.mnlakesanddrivers.org>. Please remember that it is against the law to operate a watercraft so its wash or wake endangers, harasses, or interferes with any person or property. Just as important is that “jet-skis must travel at no-wake speed within 150 feet of non-motorized watercraft, swimmers, shore or anchored boats.”

We also decided to support the Pine County Sheriff’s Office with their temporary “No-Wake Zone” on Sturgeon Lake and authorized the purchase of three buoys and related equipment. The buoys were placed during the last week of June. The board decided no further action on this will be taken until we learn what other lake associations in the county are doing.

Each year our lakes get busier, our boats get bigger, and more toys motorized and non-motorized become available. Our lakes provide immense opportunities for all ages and skills from beginning paddleboarders to veteran wakeboards to senior fisherman. Sharing the water with respect and courtesy for all users enhances the enjoyment and value of everyone’s lake experience.

***NO WAKE ZONE IN EFFECT ON STURGEON LAKE***

*Due to the high-water level of Sturgeon Lake, Sherriff Nelson is advising a no-wake zone within 300 feet of shore. The current high water has overtaken some structures and the wave action created by boaters may impact shore land stability. Please be aware of the impact that creating wake along a flooded shoreline may create. The Pine County Sheriff’s Office asks that you limit your boating activities to areas that allow your wake to dissipate safety. This advisory is effective 5/19/20 until further notice.*

**LOGO APPAREL – COMING SOON**

Valley printing is working with our association to soon offer logo apparel through their online store (t-shirts, hats, etc.). All you will have to do is go to their website at <https://www.valleyprinting.ink/> and click on line stores to place your order. They will even ship it directly to you! We will let you all know when the site is ready to roll.

**Windemere Township Lakes Association Board Members**

Sturgeon Lake	Sand Lake	Island Lake	Small Lakes
Mark Dunaski Cell: 612-867-3515 <a href="mailto:mdunaski@msn.com">mdunaski@msn.com</a>	Jerry Blazevic Home: 218-626-1651 Cell: 218-213-2797 <a href="mailto:jmdblaze@chartermi.net">jmdblaze@chartermi.net</a>	Dan Benzie - Treasurer 218-485-4667 <a href="mailto:danislandlk@gmail.com">danislandlk@gmail.com</a>	Bruce Jacoby – Vice Chair Home: 651-458-0491 Cell: 651-600-7193 <a href="mailto:Obe1jacoby45@gmail.com">Obe1jacoby45@gmail.com</a> Passenger Lake
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**STAY HEALTHY AND BE SAFE EVERYONE!**

