

## **April Membership Meeting**

Mark your calendars for an important LSIA meeting on Thursday, April 27 at 7:00 PM at Independence City Hall on County Rd 90 just north of Highway 12. Topics include:

- Elections for the 2000-2002 Board of Directors
- 2000 LSIA Budget approval
- Lake Sarah Project detention pond status and 1999 weed treatment recap
- Guest speaker: Lake Management, speaking on weed control

Coffee and cookies will be provided after the meeting – come and meet other Lake Sarah area residents! For more information, please contact Paulette Tollefson at 479-2240.

## **Calendar**

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| • 2000 General Meetings                                   | 4/27/00 (Elections), 7/27/00, 10/26/00 |
| • 4 <sup>th</sup> Annual July 4 <sup>th</sup> Boat Parade | 7/4/00                                 |
| • 12 <sup>th</sup> Annual LSIA Picnic                     | 7/30/00                                |

## **Lake Sarah Project: Loretto Creek Detention Basin A Reality!**

*By Paulette Tollefson, Project Coordinator*

You may have noticed the new pond along Bell Rose Drive, as well as the pile of soil along County Road 11. These are part of the Loretto Creek detention basin project, intended to trap phosphorus coming into Lake Sarah from Loretto Creek. This project has been in planning for several years, and the first pond finally became reality in February, right before the big thaw.

Activities since the October General Meeting:

Doug Doboszanski, Paulette Tollefson, and Gene Ullstrom worked with Carolyn Dindorf and the Hennepin Conservation District engineer to revise the pond design and get approvals. The new design was shallower with two cells to increase the amount of settling, and it spanned two properties. The design was reviewed with the neighbors where pond excavation would be done, and Randy Doboszanski and Sean Farley agreed to the design. Approvals and permits (as needed) were received from HCD, Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed, DNR, and Army Corp of Engineers. Gene, Paulette, and Doug attended the 12/12/99 Independence Planning Commission meeting representing Ron Lyrek, and the "Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to Excavate in Excess of 100 Cubic Yards to Build a Berm" was approved. Doug, Paulette, and Gene also attended the 12/20/99 Independence City Council meeting, where the CUP was also approved. Written approvals were received from the property owners in January. HCD staked the area and Doug Doboszanski excavated the pond on the west side of Bell Rose Drive in February. Soil was dumped on Ron and Chris Lyrek's property along County Road 11 to create a large berm.

Next Steps:

Doug will complete shaping of the berm by end of September. Aquatic plants will be added in and around in the pond. HCD will invoice the contributors for the excavation costs: 1/3 of the cost from Watershed funds, 1/3 from LSIA, and the remaining 1/3 from the property owners. Final costs were less than originally estimated due to the redesign of the pond by HCD.

## **LSIA Accomplishments in 1999**

*By the LSIA Board of Directors*

So what has LSIA done for you lately? Here is a quick recap of 1999 activities.

- Planned and obtained approvals and funding for a Loretto Creek detention basin to trap phosphorus (dug in 2/2000).
- Surveyed lake for milfoil, treated several areas, and encouraged owners to treat their own shorelines.
- Cleaned up debris on the ice following removal of ice houses last March.
- Printed a spring and fall Best Practices placemat to educate area residents, used by several local restaurants.
- Monitored water clarity and lake level, and provided data to Hennepin Conservation District.
- Initiated the Non-Phosphorus Fertilizer Drop in spring and fall to encourage best practices around the lake.
- Represented LSIA at meetings of Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Commission and Citizens Advisory Committee.
- Provided a Lake Sarah Area Directory for local residents.
- Helped Lake Sarah neighbors meet each other at the July 4 boat parade, summer picnic and winter skating party.
- Conducted 3 LSIA meetings and published minutes/newsletters to keep you informed and educated.

*Upcoming Activities:*

- Plan treatment facility for incoming phosphorus from Dance Hall/Rush Creek on north side of the lake.
- Consider new ideas for lake improvement projects, fund raising, and socials.

## **Lake Sarah Directory Updates**

The 2000 Lake Sarah Area Directory was distributed in January to residents living around Lake Sarah. Please notify Sue Mizell at 479-6602 if you have corrections to any names, addresses, or phone numbers in the directory.

## April Elections

*By Paulette Tollefson, VP and Secretary*

Elections for the LSIA Board of Directors will be held at the April 27 General Meeting, including the following positions:

- Safety and Navigation Director, open; one candidate is on the slate.
- Water Level / Water Quality Director, now held by Ed Penney; one candidate is on the slate.
- Membership Director, now held by Mary Lou Peterson, who is willing to continue for another term.
- Secretary, now held by Paulette Tollefson; no candidates

### Responsibilities for All Positions

Attend Board Meetings (4-5/year), Membership Meetings (3/year), LSIA activities (such as picnic, skating party); contribute articles to Newsletters (2/year); assist in planning events.

### Safety and Navigation Director

Deals with issues and regulations involving boating, fishing, skiing, jet skis, ice fishing, and anything involving safety of residents or users of the lake; works with the DNR, Water Patrol and other enforcement organizations as needed.

### Water Level/ Water Quality Director

Handles issues with lake level or quality, such as coordinating a team to clear beaver dams blocking outflow from the lake; coordinates with the LSIA members who do the water clarity and water level measurements for HCD.

### Membership Director

Tracks LSIA member information, sends annual Membership Letters, handles new member awards as appropriate, sends new member packets, checks LSIA PO Box, responds to member inquiries, forwards checks to Treasurer, coordinates development of educational materials for members and area residents (such as Best Practices placemats).

### Secretary

Prepares agenda and writes/distributes minutes of all Board Meetings and Membership Meetings; gathers/writes articles for Newsletters; gathers updates to annual LSIA Area Directory and prepares for publication; sends articles to local newspapers for upcoming events; develops forms and sends letters as requested by the Board.

If you are interested in participating as the LSIA Secretary, please call Paulette Tollefson at 479-2240.

## Skating Party and Chili Feed – a Hit!

*By Mary Lou Peterson*

On February 19 a great group of 65-70 young and middle-aged Lake Sarah residents enjoyed the ice rink at the home of Ron and Mary Jorgenson on Shady Beach Circle. We had a lovely winter day with temperatures warm enough to enjoy being outside, but cold enough to make good ice. We had a great bonfire, and a fish house and benches were available to tighten the skates and warm the feet. The early supper of chili and trimmings rounded out the afternoon. Thanks again to Ron and Mary for their hospitality!

**Photo: Hosts Mary and Ron Jorgenson**

**3 Photos: Skaters of all ages enjoy the great ice**

**2 Photos: Sitting around the crackling bonfire**

**Photo: Chili and other great vittles put smiles on faces**

## Membership Update

*By Mary Lou Peterson, Membership Director*

As of March 3 we have received 58 LSIA memberships. 13 members took advantage of the spring fertilizer sale, and 27 signed up for the trash service savings from Superior. Our association needs your membership to continue our work controlling weeds (including milfoil), assisting the DNR to resolve lake pollution problems (such as our new pond on Loretto Creek), and helping you to know your lake area neighbors. The value of your property, both in the neighborhood and along the lake shore, is benefited by good lake water condition. Please send in your dues!! If desired, you may sign up for Superior trash service at any time.

## Ice Cleanup Meltdown

*By Paulette Tollefson*

Shades of 1998! Our March 4 Lake Sarah Ice Cleanup was 'thawed out' again by unusually spring-like weather during the last half of February. Open water near the shoreline and holes in various sections of the ice prompted cancellation of the event. Participants from last year were notified by phone the previous weekend – we hope you didn't show up! Thanks to those who scoured the ice on their own as the ice melted. Your efforts help keep Lake Sarah clean and safe.

## 1999 LSIA Financial Results

*By Brad Spencer, Treasurer*

During the annual audit, all the accounting records were found to be accurate and complete. A bank deposit made early in the year was not reflected in the 2Q and 3Q 1999 reports, so our balance was slightly higher than reported. The Treasurer's Report for year-end 1999 shows the beginning balance was \$15681.21, receipts were \$9721.79, disbursements were \$23161.73, and the ending balance was \$2241.27. We have 2 CDs to use for current and future Lake Sarah Improvement Project activities.

Audit Statement dated March 9, 2000:

I have audited the financial statements for the calendar year 1999. In our opinion, the financial statements agree with the accounting records and, based upon my tests, appear to be correct.

Signed by the Audit Committee: Paulette Tollefson (signed copy on file)

## **Water Level Committee Disbanded**

The Water Level Committee formed at the July 1999 General Meeting has never met. In the months after that meeting, there appeared to be no interest in having LSIA attempt to control the lake level, other than keeping the beaver dams cleared in the outflow. Unless there is renewed interest, the committee will not meet. Thanks to the volunteers from last July, which included Roger Pitts, Scott Walsh, Dick Weller, Kelly Sandlass, Tom Mizell, Steve Riley, and Ed Penney (Coordinator).

## **Government Liaison Report**

*By Dolores Ullstrom, Government Liaison*

### Citizens Advisory Committee Position Paper

The Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Commission's Citizens Advisory Committee, of which I am a member, presented a position paper to the Commission on February 24, 2000. The paper sets forth a series of recommendations on ways to educate and assist owners of small livestock operations on ways to protect water quality. There are recommendations on manure and pasture management and on setbacks for livestock facilities. Recommendations include having each city provide educational material, monitor commercial manure haulers, and require siting of barns to minimize runoff into water sources. A central source for machinery rental and manure composting is also recommended.

The position paper was developed over a year's time with input from lakeshore owners and horse owners. It is a consensus document that has the great advantage of being acceptable to both groups. The Commission recommends that the recommendations be brought to the cities at a later date, possibly in the fall.

### Storm Water Rules

Revised storm water rules have been sent to the cities in the watershed. The new rules go a long way to protect water quality by preventing the adverse effects of runoff. I believe it is important that the revised rules be adopted by the cities. The LSIA can help this happen by asking the cities to adopt the rules. You will be hearing more about this in the future.

## **Lake Sarah History: The Old Vander Hagen Place**

*By Dolores Ullstrom*

See if you can follow my reasoning. The newly placed berms on Ron and Chris Lyrek's property on the southeast end of Lake Sarah look a little like earthen dikes. Dikes remind me of Holland, and Holland reminds me of Henry and Marie Vander Hagen, former owners of the Lyrek property. Is that not a good excuse for another history lesson? Figuring that it is, Eileen Klaers and I headed for St. Therese Apartments in New Hope to visit with Marie Vander Hagen. Marie and Henry Vander Hagen moved from Independence in 1993. Henry passed away in 1994. Marie has health problems, but she has a good memory of family history and willingly shared it with us.

### **Photo: Marie Vander Hagen**

Henry Vander Hagen, born in 1903, emigrated to the US with his parents and 10 older brothers and sisters from Lith, Holland in 1905. Bernard, Henry's father, had come to the US for several months the year before to scout the country for a place to settle. His sons were getting near draft age and he did not want them going into the military. His wife Marie was, for several good reasons, reluctant to leave Holland. Among those reasons were the travails of travelling with 11 children, leaving her homeland and family, and disruption of her comfortable, upper class urban life in Lith.

Bernard was persuaded to come to Minnesota by Father Van den Heuvel, the priest who built the present church in Loretto. Bernard was not a farmer but set out from Holland intent on farming. Bernard paid the passage of three men, farm hands who promised to work for one year in exchange for their passage. Two of these men were Gisbert Elsen (uncle of Al and John Elsen of Loretto) and Albert VanBeusekom (father of Ken and Adrian). Marie is not sure of the third man's name.

Bernard had made arrangements to buy the Deisting place in Hamel. At Ellis Island he learned that Mrs. Deisting would not sign the papers. Father Van den Heuvel talked them into coming to Minnesota anyway. He put up most family members in the rectory and the older boys found other lodging until another farm could be found. The farm that the family purchased was located around the present site of Windmill Drive on the east end of the lake. A year or so later the Schumacher's farm, site of the present Lyrek home, was up for sale. The Vander Hagens bought it and moved the family into the almost new 5 bedroom house. The oldest son, Bernard, Jr., stayed on the original farm. Bernard Sr., not being a farmer, went to the University of Minnesota to get information on farming in Minnesota. Thus began a life long family connection with the U of M and the Extension Program.

The newly purchased farm was a lovely piece of ground, with lake shore on both Independence and Sarah. Like so many others on Lake Sarah, the family rented boats to fishermen. Records show that the railroad sold the land during the Civil War (1864) to John and Rosa Lock. It was later sold to John and Marie Gaspar and then to a line of Schumachers, Joseph and Mary, Matt, and then Peter and Magdalena, from whom Bernard and Marie Vander Hagen purchased the land in 1905. In 1936 the title was transferred to son Henry and his wife Marie. The farm was later split up. Henry and

Marie used part of it, on the south side of Cty 11, to build a new home. They moved into that home in 1955. Vinland Center sits on land that was once part of the original farm.

**Photo: Former Vander Hagen home, now owned by Chris and Ron Lyrek**

Between 1955 and 1988 the former Vander Hagen home on the north side of Cty 11 was rented out. It was a duplex for a while. The man who bought the farm from Henry and Marie about 1988 tore down the barn, sold the weathered boards, and began remodeling the house. He was unable to complete the project. The house sat vacant for a few years until Ron Lyrek bought it about 9 years ago. Ron and Chris have completely remodeled the house, and it is lovely.

**Photo: Chris Lyrek and their children**

Newly arrived emigrants from Holland often stayed at the Vander Hagen farm until they had their own place. Marie's father, Tony Adams, and two cousins built the Vander Hagen barn with plans from the U of M. Thus started a friendship that eventually resulted in Henry and Marie's marriage October 24, 1928 at Holy Name Church. She was 20 and he was 25. They immediately moved into the farmhouse. Barnard Sr and his wife Marie moved out the next day and went to Minneapolis to live. Marie, the younger, was a busy young housewife. She and Henry had two children, and there were always hired men to feed.

Education was important to both the Vander Hagens and the Adams. Some of Bernard Vander Hagen Sr's children went to St. Mary's in Winona for high school and the U of M for college. In Holland all the older children had gone to boarding school. Before Loretto and Delano merged, Loretto families had to drive their children to high school in Delano. Marie went to elementary school for one year at Ascension in Minneapolis. About 5 a.m. on Monday morning at the Hamel station, Marie boarded the train to Minneapolis and rode into the city, where she transferred to a streetcar that took her to Ascension. She stayed with an aunt during the week, coming home to Hamel on Friday nights. This was thought to be easier than walking 2.5 miles every day to Holy Name School.

Henry and Marie were life long volunteers. Henry was on the Delano/Loretto School Board for many years. Marie was a 4-H leader for 27 years. For 17 years they sang with the North Hennepin Community Choir that entertained all over the county. They spearheaded the formation of the Delano and Loretto Senior Citizen Groups. In 1980 Henry and Marie were honored for their volunteerism by being named Hennepin County's Volunteers of the Year.

It was such a pleasure to meet with Marie and hear her stories. I want to thank Eileen for making the arrangements and accompanying me. Every time I pass the old modernized farmhouse, I will think of its rich history, happy that it has a new lease on life.

## Water Safety Report to LSIA

By Steve Riley, Acting Safety/Navigation Director

The Hennepin Water Safety Patrol reports there are no significant rule changes from 1999 regarding watercraft usage for the upcoming boating season. Any association members observing violations of boating regulations on Lake Sarah should call either 911 from a home phone or 525-6216 from a cell phone, hopefully with the registration number of the offending craft. The Water Patrol does not recommend that complaints be phoned into *911 from a cell phone* due to the call being diverted to the State Patrol rather than the Water Patrol.

The Water Patrol advises association members that Lake Sarah will be actively observed again this summer, with the most noticeable violations having been the failure of boaters to turn on navigation lights at sunset as well as jet skis being operated illegally within one hour of sunset.

A review of some pertinent rules follows:

"Personal watercraft (jet skis) must travel at slow-no wake speed (5 mph or less) within 150 feet of: shore (except when a PWC is launching or landing a water skier by the most direct route to open water), docks, swimmers, swimming rafts, any moored or anchored watercraft, or non-motorized watercraft...You may not chase or harass wildlife...You may not weave through congested watercraft traffic, or jump the wake of another watercraft within 150' of the other watercraft...including other personal watercraft."

"Operation of personal watercraft is allowed only from 9:30AM to one hour before sunset."

"Water skiing and similar acts are prohibited between one hour after sunset to sunrise of the following day."

It's also against the law:

To operate any watercraft in a careless or reckless manner.

To ride or sit on gunwales, bow or transom of any motorboat while underway unless it is equipped with an adequate railing.

Some tips for next winter:

Snowmobiles, cars, ATVs, etc. are not allowed within 150' of the shoreline, as that is considered the "shorezone", which they can only cross at a max speed of 15MPH in the most direct route to the edge of the 150' zone.