VAN VLIET NEWS

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~~FALL 1995~~

1998 ANNUAL MEETING

The 1998 Annual Meeting will be held at the Presque Isle Community Building on **Sunday July 5th at 2:00 PM**. Please try to attend. This year Mike Coshun of the DNR will bring us up to date on plans for the boat landing and on the activities of the DNR on the lake. The lake was shocked both last Spring and Fall by the DNR and again this Spring by the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission.

We will also need to select officers of the association and try to set a date to conduct an aquatic plant survey of the lake.

1997 ANNUAL MEETING

The 1997 Annual Meeting was held at the Presque Isle Community Building on July 13, 1998. About 30 members were in attendance. Mike Coshun of the DNR was the featured speaker. He spoke on a variety of topics.

Boat Landing - Mr. Coshun distributed handouts concept plans for several designs for the boat landing. The plans employed variations on a circular drive with angled pockets off the drive for parking. This concept would minimize the destruction of trees and the amount of centrally paved area in the middle of the parking area. It appears to be quite innovative and an effort to preserve the natural area of the landing to greatest extent possible. The earliest possible construction for the landing would be in the summer of 1999. Mr. Coshun asked for a group to work with him. Steve Frank volunteered to chair the group, and Ken Gross and Forbes Taylor will work with him.

Oxygen Levels - During the winter of 1996-1997, the early freeze and heavy snow caused oxygen levels to get very low. Testing which was done on the lake during that winter showed that levels were very low for the fish. In the opinion of thepersonnel who tested the lake we just "snuck by" during that year without a fish kill.

The oxygen levels and the changing nature of the fish population in the lake indicated that there had been some stress on the fish during the prior few winters, Aeration would reduce this stress and promote better health and growth among the fish population. Overall, it would likely lead to a higher quality fish population.

The aeration would occur by pumping air from a compressor located in a shed on the shore through PVC pipe laid along the bottom of the lake. An area around the area being aerated would need to be fenced as there would be open water. The DNR would supply the equipment and the association would be required to supply the electricity and to maintain the fencing.

Renn Karl, Steve Frank and Mark Osberg agreed to serve on a committee to study the process. (Due to the mild winter, the study was placed on hold but will be discussed again).

Fish Survey - A survey was conducted in the spring of 1997. It showed high populations of fish which are tolerant to stress caused by low oxygen levels (bullheads, golden shiners and perch). In order after perch, the lake showed pumpkinseeds, black crappie, walleye, northern and suckers. Fish which are relatively intolerant to low oxygen levels, bluegills and rock bass, were in low numbers. There were also a small number of muskies. No bass were found in the survey (another sign of low oxygen levels).

A comprehensive fisheries survey has been requested of Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission.

It was suggested that a fishing log be kept during 1998 by residents and users.

Aquatic Plants - During 1997, aquatic plant growth was behind normal and was less than had been seen in more normal seasons. It was agreed that a work group would be set up to work with Laura Herman of the DNR to conduct a survey of the plants in the lake. Barb Novak agreed to lead this survey.

Treasurer's Report - Nancy Grosse presented the following Treasurer's Report.

Beginning Balance	$ 763.53
Due and donations (1996)	170.00
Charge for endorsement stamp	(10.00)
Dues and Donations (1997)	660.00
Newsletter expenses	(181.98)
Wis Assn of Lakes	(52.50)
Vilas County Lakes Assn	(25.00)
Balance on Hand	$1324.05

At the time of the meeting, 1997 dues had been received from 35 homes on the lake.

Nancy also advised that she would be unable to continue to serve as association Treasurer due to travel plans.

WHERE NEXT???

You haven't heard from the Association since last summer's meeting. That is primarily due to the fact that your president has been unable to get out newsletters due to work obligations. For that, many apologies.

Earlier this year, I met with several members of the Association to determine if therewas sufficient interest to continue. Due to issues like the boat landing, better understanding the fishery and its management, understanding the cycle of aquatic plant growth, and understanding water quality issues, it was felt that we should continue our efforts.

This winter was an easy one on the lake. We had an early spring, and the fish seem to be abundant early in the year. We have seen lots of northerns (which we like), some nice perch and a few monster crappies. A very large muskie hit a small northern I was bringing in, so I know there is at least one good one out there - unless someone has caught it.

The easy winter was apparently a good sign for the lake -- my early feelings are that the population of fish looks better. Van Vliet was even the early leader in the Presque Isle walleye tournament this spring - amazing to me since I can't catch the darn things. It will be interesting to see what the fall survey done by DNR showed and what the Great Lakes survey done this spring showed.

The easy winter, and dry sunny spring probably also means we will see more aquatic plants this year -- maybe my amateur guess is wrong, but we shall see.

What's the point? Things change every year on the lake. Some of us want to do something about it. Some of us just want to understand what is going on out there to make sure we are good stewards of the lake we love. Either way, we are getting closer to understanding -- and maybe doing something, if doing something makes sense.

I would urge you all to continue to your membership. Also, we could sure use some help. The aquatic plant survey is a good place to start. Come to annual meeting, and we will set up a time for the conducting of the survey. If we get enough people, it shouldn't take too long and will add to the knowledge of the lake.

Finally, we have had excellent cooperation from the DNR in attending our meetings and conducting surveys on the lake. They have also listened to our concerns about the construction of a low impact boat landing. I am sure that the lake association had made an impact.

Send in this year dues of $10 to

Nancy Frank
4918 Fond du Lac Trail
Madison, WI 53705

Nancy has volunteered to take over as our Treasurer. Many thanks!!!