VAN VLIET NEWS

Volume 10 Summer 1998

Annual Meeting Report

This year's annual meeting was held on July 5th at the Presque Isle Community Building. 32 members attended.

Boat Landing

Mike Coshun from the DNR provided an update on the boat landing proposed for Van Vliet Lake. The DNR wants a plan which will be attractive and protect the site from erosion. They are committed to saving as many trees on the site as possible. The current plan would have spokes radiating out from the drive which would provide parking rather than a large parking lot in the center of the landing area. This would result in the least destruction of trees on the site.

An issue, which still needs resolution, is the offer from Mr. Krahn to make the current landing site available as an access point for snowmobilers in the winter. This will need to be nailed down before the plan proceeds.

It is anticipated that designs will be developed during this year and that construction would be in 2000.

Steve Frank will continue his involvement in the matter and Tom Olson will assist.

Fish Surveys

Over the last year, several fish shockings have been conducted on Van Vliet Lake. Earlier issues of the newsletter reported on the results. Last Fall, a shocking was conducted by the DNR, and this Spring another was conducted by the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Counsel. Each of these latter shockings focused on walleye and found "good" walleye reproduction on the Presque Isle Lake system. With a number of age classes which have good numbers, Mike Coshun felt that walleye fishing would be improving on the chain over the next several years.

An interesting fact shared by Mike is that it takes about 5 years for a walleye to reach harvestable size.

Fisheries Log

Mike distributed a sample "fishery log" which could be sponsored by the association to improve the survey of the lake fish population. People would be asked to fill it out and send it in. The results would be provided to the DNR and to the membership.

The consensus of the group was that it was a very good idea. A sample is attached. Jim and Barb MacAdam agreed to gather the surveys and send them to the DNR.

Each time you fish, fill in the survey. When the form gets full, or every month, or when it feels right, send the form to Jim and Barb at the address shown on the form. This will help us to better understand what is going on out there and give us another data point for understanding Van Vliet Lake. These surveys will be provided to DNR and be reported in this Newsletter.

Lake Planning Grant

Mike distributed a planning grant application which was submitted by the Annabelle Lake Association. This was for informational purposes. Steve Smithson had earlier agreed to continue to work with Mike on a planning grant.

Aeration Project

We once again discussed the potential for a lake aeration project on Van Vliet Lake. The feeling in the discussion was that aeration is a process which would the fish population in the lake. The census over the last few years has clearly indicated that the fish population does suffer from some low oxygen levels from time to time.

Issues such as proper location, potential liability issues, maintenance and cost still need a thorough review. Any decision would be the subject of a future meeting after all information is developed.

Renn Karl, Mark Osberg and Paul Specht will be working on this project.

Immediate Action Plans

Those in attendance decided to focus on a few activities for the near future; i.e., the fishery log, the aeration project, water quality and aquatic plants.

We have already described the aeration project and the fishery log. Two other activities are planned for this Summer.

Aquatic Plants – Seminar – August 15th

Because of the continuing interest in aquatic plants in Van Vliet Lake, there will be a session on August 15th conducted by DNR staff to help residents identify and better understand the nature of aquatic plants in Van Vliet Lake.

The program will begin at 10:00 AM the Tom and Barbara Olson's cabin located off Baer Road (Fire # 11999). Those currently participating are Barb Novak, Tom and Barbara Olson, Jim and Barb MacAdam, Richard and Carol Novak, Steve and Nancy Frank and Jim and Kathy Sprester.

Anyone else wishing to participate may do so by coming to Olson's by 10:00 AM on August 15th. In addition to learning about plants in Van Vliet, instructions will be provided on the development of a monitoring program .

Fisheree

As a way to better understand the fish population, identify fish, and survey the population, the Association will conduct a "fisheree" on Saturday and

Sunday, September 5th and 6th. The event will begin at Novak's Landing on the west shore off of West Van Vliet Road. DNR personnel will be present to demonstrate the proper manner in which to measure fish, proper identification, and help us to move forward on our creel survey.

The event will begin at 9:00 AM and conclude on Sunday, September 6th with a cookout at Novak's Island beginning at 6:00 PM. Everyone is welcome – even if you don't fish!

You will be asked to bring a few things to the cookout – your completed fishing log, a dish to pass, your own soft drinks and lawn chairs. The Association will supply steaks for sandwiches, buns, and beer. If you need transportation to the island, just come to Novak's Landing about 6:00 PM (or honk your horn if you get there later) and someone will give you a ride.

Steve and Nancy Frank will chair this event with help from Jim and Barb MacAdam.

Jim Freckmann

As most of you know, a great neighbor, and a good friend to Van Vliet Lake, died earlier this Summer. Jim Freckmann was very active in Presque Isle Town government serving as the judge. Also, even though he didn't live on Van Vliet Lake, he has served as our Fishing Committee chairman over the last several years.

Jim cared about his community, his friends, fishing, Van Vliet Lake and many other things. He was a class act, and we will miss him. Our thanks to him for his service and friendship to us. Our best wishes go to Sheila.

Elections

The following were elected to positions with the Van Vliet Lake Association.

President	Tom Olson
Vice President	Forbes Taylor
Treasurer	Nancy Frank
Board Member	Jim MacAdam

Many thanks to Don Liter for his service on the Board of Directors over the last several years.

Treasurer's Report

Nancy Frank provided a Treasurer's report. The 1997 year end balance was $1384.05. With new memberships received to date, the balance currently was $1569.05. Several members paid dues at the meeting.

No expenses were turned in after last year's annual meeting. It was suggested that account be placed in an interest bearing account, and Nancy will look into the possibilities.

The report was approved by the members.

As of the date of this Newsletter, the balance stands at $1693.84 with $365 in dues collected so far this year.

Calendar of Events

August 15th – 10:00 AM

Aquatic Plant Seminar – Olson's Cabin - #11999 Baer Road.

September 5th – 6th - 9:00 AM

Fisheree - Novak's Landing on West Van Vliet Road.

Cookout – September 6th at 6:00 PM on Novak's Island

Paid Memberships

Ken Alix
Paul Alix
Nick & Rita Andrews
Ed & LaVerne Brodsky
(volunteered for Fishing Committee and History Committee)
Paulette Cary
Steven & Nancy Frank
(volunteered for Aquatic Plant Committee and Fisheree)
Lloyd & Sue Freckmann
Al Goeler
Dick & Karen Harris
Joe & Noreen Janda
Renn & Barb Karl
(also volunteered for Water Quality Committee)
Jim & Barb MacAdam
Barb Novak
Jay & Chrissy Novak
Jon & Susan Novak
Richard & Carol Novak
Eric & Kristin Olson
Tom & Barbara Olson
Al Orel
Mark & Wendy Osberg
Matt & Lorraine Pachi
Matt & Theresa Pachi
Doug & Jane Schwanz
Al & Mary Ann Smithson
Paul & Sharon Specht
Jim & Kathy Sprester
Robert Stewart
Rosemary Stewart
Forbes & Toddy Taylor

Please send your memberships to Nancy Frank on the form attached to this Newsletter.