Van Vliet Views

Late Summer, 2005

Where Did the Summer Go? Come Celebrate Its Final Days!!!

Your Lake Association invites you to a **Picnic Social** at Presque Isle Wilderness Park on the Saturday of Labor Day weekend, September 3 from 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m..

All Van Vliet neighbors, friends and guests are encouraged to attend this "simply social" event. No meetings! No business! It's a great opportunity to meet new people from around the Lake, visit with old friends, share stories, compare fishing notes, brag about that new boat or cabin renovation....

The Association will provide brats, hot dogs, buns and fixin's. Bring whatever else you want to make it a picnic your style and **PLEASE BRING A DISH TO PUT ON THE SHARING TABLE.**

Wilderness Park has picnic tables, a few small grills and plenty of room to play, so bring your toys, chairs, dogs, and kids. Come by boat or car - CONSIDER POOLING since there's not a lot of parking or mooring space.

In order to give organizers Jorja Burke and Barbara Olson an idea of how much food to prepare, please **PHONE IN** with your projected number of attendees by the **END OF AUGUST.**

Jorja: (715) 686 2557
Barbara (608) 831 0837

Any questions? Give them a call. Hope to see you on **Saturday, September 3, 11-4, at Presque Isle Wilderness Park.**

Annual Meeting Outlines a Year of Accomplishments

The July Annual Meeting of the VVLA was well attended and informative. Members agreed to give Nancy Frank, Jim Sprester, Jeff Burke and Dick Novak another term in their Board positions of treasurer, secretary and members-at-large respectively.

Steve Smithson presented a succinct summary of the Lake Management Plan as did Jeff Burke of the rezoning procedure.

Minutes of this meeting will be posted on the website, www.vanvlietlake.com.

First Stage of Lake Management Plan Completed

It's in a big white binder the contents of which measure about an inch high.

(Continued on the next page)

(Lake Management Plan, cont.)
It represents the efforts of many people dedicated to formulating a long term comprehensive plan for sustaining the high quality of the resource we all cherish- Van Vliet Lake.

This first stage document places Van Vliet Lake in the "big picture" by giving an overview of the effects of glaciers on soils, outlining the features of VV Lake and its watershed, listing the specific Lake features, assessing the Lake and watershed and providing potential projects for future protection of the Lake Environment.

The many charts, diagrams, photos, maps, and graphs both help to understand and raise questions about the complex ecosystem that is Van Vliet Lake.

From the introduction:

"The Management Plan is a living document intended to be updated and focused on continuing monitoring, development of ongoing projects, defining new projects and, where approved by the Board and Membership projects for "implementation" to improve or remedy characteristics of Van Vliet Lake and its watershed."

Unfortunately it is cost prohibitive to provide every Lake Association member/resident with a copy of the LMP, but each Board member has a copy to loan out upon request and soon there will be at least one copy in the Presque Isle library for check-out.

Don't let the bulk of the LMP intimidate you; it is fascinating reading, well worth your time, and very helpful in better appreciating YOUR LAKE.

History Portion of LMP is a Fun Read

"Sometimes on quiet summer evenings when the mosquitoes are gone, the air is quiet, and the sun is setting, we like to sit on our front deck and imagine the voyageurs paddling past on the lake, headed for the Presque Isle River on their way back to Lake Superior. If you listen carefully, you can nearly hear their colorful songs as they pass."

And so Jim Sprester begins his history section of the LMP. Jim goes on, in his easy-to-read style, to talk about the geology and settlement and economic development of the area containing Van Vliet Lake. He touches on the Native Americans and explorers, the fur trade and voyageurs and the logging era with colorful references and citations from many intriguing resources, all to better appreciate where we are NOW.

"Did you know that although Wisconsin is now high above sea level, it was once nearly a hundred feet under the waters of shallow seas for long, long periods in the ancient past? Think about that when you are out in your boat- and hope your floatation devices are U.S. Coat Guard approved."

It is a work in progress with more to come about the counties, towns, villages, and local inhabitants. If you can help Jim out with photos, stories, anecdotes, etc. to make the past come alive, call him at (262) 367 7321.

Thanks, Jim and Kathy Sprester!.

"Covering the far northern portion of Van Vliet Lake and the southern half of Averill Lake is an undeveloped parcel of land very important to the Van Vliet watershed, scenic enjoyment, natural qualities and wildlife. It is owned by (continued on the next page)

the State of Wisconsin, Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL), and is called Van Vliet Hemlocks ...»

A section of the Lake Management Plan is devoted to a very good description of the parcel of land referred to above. "The goal of the Van Vliet Lake Association is to preserve and protect this valuable resource. We are still in the process of formulating a longer term action plan."

Many people are behind the Lake Association's efforts. Zach Wilson, Naturalist and Education Specialist for the North Lakeland Discovery Center writes: "The Discovery Center is very much interested in helping in the effort of protecting and preserving this incredible resource for generations to come." After his hike around the area Zach remarked: "The Van Vliet Hemlocks in my opinion is an incredible educational tool and should be preserved. There are very few of this majestic hemlock, sugar maple stands left in Wisconsin and they are a treasure in the Northwoods, not only for educational purposes, but also for providing diversity among plant and animal communities."

John Bates, respected Northwoods author and naturalist recently led a hike through the VV Hemlocks. He said that the Public Trust Lands that have not already been sold are some of the best remaining examples of natural communities we have left in Wisconsin. "The Van Vliet hemlock stand is one such site, containing a managed, old-growth hemlock hardwood stand with scattered super-canopy white pines," Bates commented.

AND IT'S RIGHT HERE FOR US TO TREASURE AND ENJOY!!!

Rezoning Process Moves Forward

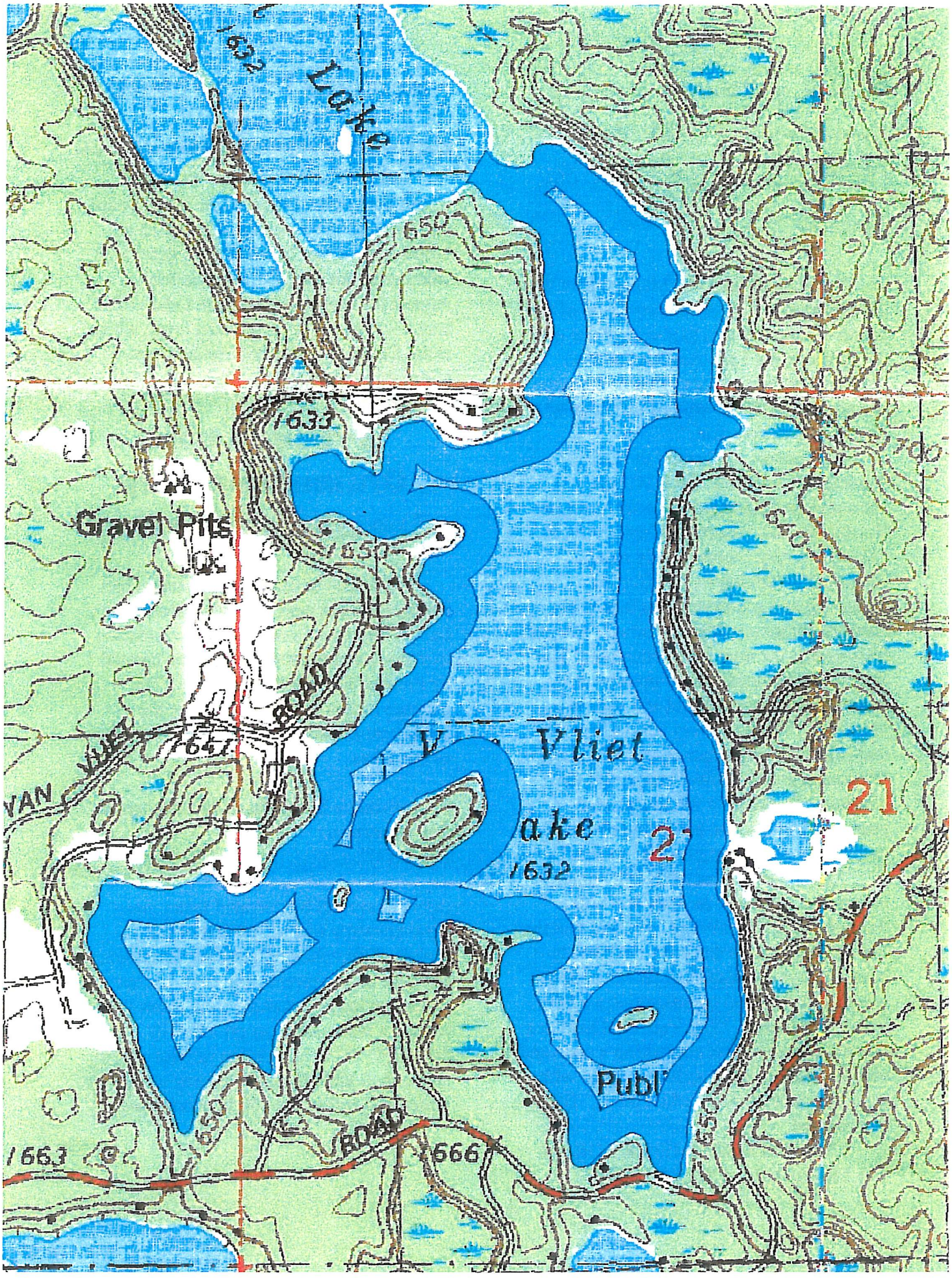
A special meeting with the Zoning Committee of the Presque Isle Town Board will be held on **Saturday, August 13 at 10:00 a.m. at the Town Hall** to determine whether or not the Lake Association's request for rezoning Van Vliet Lake to R-1 status will move on to the next level, which is the County. Interested residents are encouraged to attend.

Presque Isle Ordinances Very Specific on Boating

From time to time we need reminders. The map on the next page was created for Last Wilderness Conservation Association to show the protective buffer zone created by Presque Isle Town Ordinance. The purpose of this buffer is to reduce the motorboat impact on this most sensitive area of our lakes.

From Presque Isle Ordinances Subchapter 501 Motorboats.
501.01(3)

(a)No boat shall be operated faster than slow-no-wake within 200 feet of the mainland shoreline or island(s) shoreline on any lake or any river at any time, except when leaving or returning from shore while towing a water-skier, as provided in 501.03(4) Ski boats leaving or returning to shore shall yield the right-of-way to all other watercraft within the 200 ft. shore zone.


Lake
650
1633
Gravel Pits
1650
ROAD
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Van Vliet
Lake
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21
Publ
650
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