

Preserve Your Lake Property

Lakeshore News

The Official Newspaper Of Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association

Vol. 51, No. 06

P.O. Box 21, Battle Lake, MN 56515

August 2021

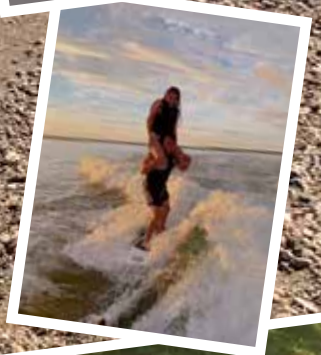
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Last Issue
OF 2021

THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR
SUMMER OF 2021 PHOTOS WITH
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Calendar

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Ottertail Community Center
103 Lake Ave. S

7pm

Aug. 26 | Sept. 23 | Oct. 28

www.otlpoa.com

President's Corner



Roger Anderson, OTLPOA President

Hello August! Where has the time gone? As we come into August, (the traditional end of summer for most of us “lakers”) let’s remember July 2021, an unusually warm month on the lakes. Although some of us thought it was a little too warm, many of us enjoyed the heat, calm winds, and all the water activities we enjoyed almost every day.

With higher-than-average temperatures and low winds, we also experienced very little rain. Low water levels are a very real concern for many reasons. It is more and more difficult to launch and remove your boat and pontoons at boat landings; extra caution is needed. When navigating our lakes, areas that are normally ok for boating can now be a problem due to low waters and rocks. We do not have a sufficient number of buoys to mark all of the low level areas, so please use extra caution. Please visit our website at www.otlpoa.com for safety notices.

It has come to our attention that some folks are cutting vegetation on lakeshores and leaving that vegetation in the water to float to shore. Please be considerate of your neighbors and remove any cutting of vegetation. Also, before changing any natural lakeshore, please review weed control regulations on the DNR website at www.dnr.state.mn.us.

In a recent press release, more lakes in Minnesota were added to the list of lakes with invasive species. Most notable in Ottertail County were Clitherall Lake with zebra mussels and Leech Lake with starry stonewort. Please, please, please remember to clean, drain, and dry your boats, live wells, anchors, and bait buckets to help prevent the spread of invasive species.

Have a great end of summer; the weather looks to be warm again for August. As always, be good stewards of our beautiful lakes!

EMERGENCY ALERTS

HOUSEHOLD INFO

MEDICAL HISTORY

PET INFO

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OTLPOA MISSION STATEMENT

The object and purpose of this corporation shall be to promote the community welfare and civic development of all areas of Otter Tail County bordering on or approximate to the shoreline of Otter Tail Lake and such other land areas further removed therefrom as its members shall from time to time determine, and to assist the property owners within said area in the preservation of their civic areas and those of Otter Tail Lake itself, including the planting and promulgation of fish therein and the protection and preservation of wildlife on the land areas adjacent to Otter Tail Lake as may be determined by the members, to promote and develop the horticultural development of the areas described, to promote the cultural and social lives of the inhabitants of said area and to provide a vehicle by which legal or political problems common to the areas and the inhabitants thereof, including tax problems, may be resolved in any manner provided by law for the common welfare of the members of this corporation; and to that and this corporation may acquire by purchase or other means such real or personal property as may be necessary in carrying out its stated objectives and to mortgage or sell or exchange the same and to do any and all other acts permitted by the laws of the State of Minnesota in furtherance of its stated purposes.

OTLPOA OFFICERS

President: Roger Anderson

651.301.3616, roger.anderson0515@yahoo.com

Vice President: Rob Bope, hedg@aol.com, 612.889.8771

Secretary: Becky Kemling, secretary@otlpoa.com
218.371.9095, beckykemling@msn.com

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Linda Snyder, whip56520@yahoo.com, 701.367.9956

WHAT DOES A MEMBERSHIP INCLUDE?

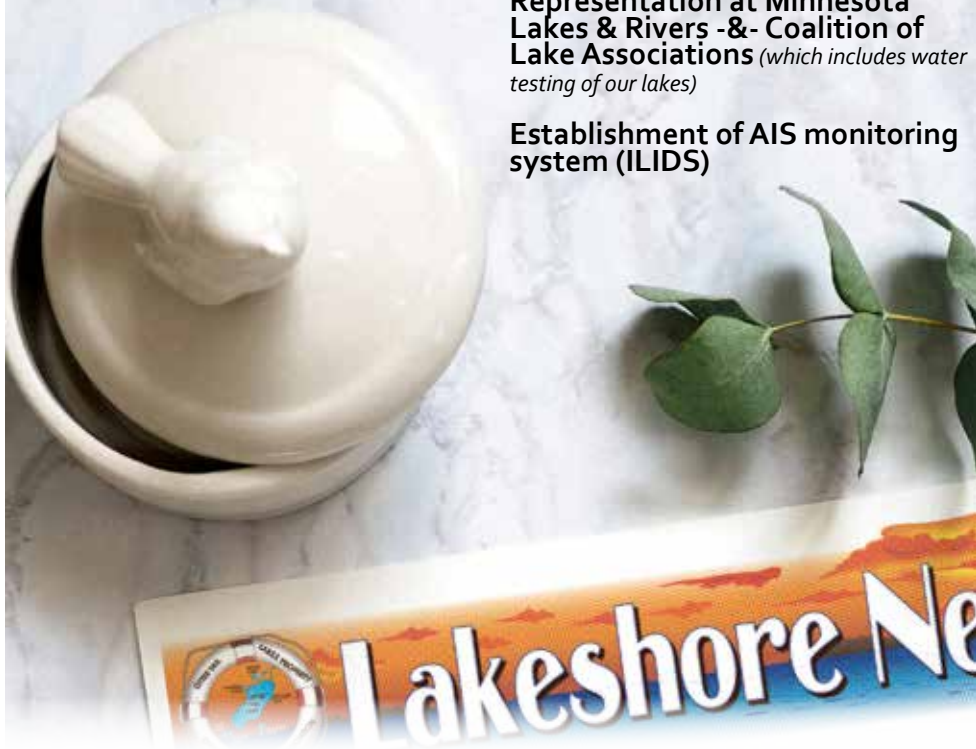
Six issues of Lakeshore News

Lakeshore directory that is published every two years

Continental breakfast at the Annual Meetings

Representation at Minnesota Lakes & Rivers -&- Coalition of Lake Associations (which includes water testing of our lakes)

Establishment of AIS monitoring system (ILIDS)



VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

www.otlpoa.com



Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association, Inc.

Serving Otter Tail Lake, Long Lake, Walker Lake, Manicha Lake, Deer Lake, Round Lake, Pelican Bay and northern Otter Tail River

Now accepting online payments for:

- Annual Membership • Worm Spraying
- Foundation Donations

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association Inc. 2021 Membership (Check one)

Property Owner Member: _____ Associate Member: _____
(Owners Lake Property) (Does not own lake property or shares ownership)

Name of Property Owner living
at lake property address: _____

Address of Property _____ House/Street # _____
(this is the blue house number/street for your lake home) City/State Zip _____

Summer "mailing" address (5/15 – 8/30): _____ House/Street # _____
(must be valid US Postal deliverable address) City/State Zip _____

Winter mailing address (9/1-5/15): _____ House/Street # _____
City/State Zip _____

Email: (please print legibly) _____
Notification of date for tent caterpillar/worm spraying, updates of possible lake changing issues, etc. (If you don't personally have an email address, you can substitute one for a family member who will let you know of these notifications).

Annual Dues (Jan.-Dec.)

- Membership \$25.00
- Foundation \$10.00
- Worm Payment \$30.00

Includes \$10 donation to OTLPOA Foundation \$ 65.00

Additional support for the Foundation (tax deductible)

\$10.00 _____ \$20.00 _____ \$50.00 _____ Other _____ \$ _____

The OTLPOA Foundation was established to obtain financial resources to maintain water quality for recreation, fishing, and enjoyment when Government resources are not provided.

(Total enclosed) \$ _____

Make check payable to: OTLPOA and mail to: PO Box 21, Battle Lake, MN 56515
Or visit www.OTLPOA.com to pay by credit card (under the membership section)

How can the association better serve you? (On another sheet of paper)

What lake related topic or issue is most important to you? How do you think our Association can help?



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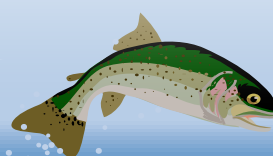


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LOST & FOUND

Have you lost something? Have you found something in your yard or on your shoreline that wasn't yours? If you have been unable to locate your lost items, or are unable to return a found item to the rightful owner, email photo or description to **secretary@otlpoa.com**

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FALL YARD CLEAN UP TIPS



Keep your yard, home, deck and tools looking and working great for years to come. Protect them from the harsh reality of winter by following these helpful tips.

DEBRIS

- Rake up any fallen leaves, as these can inhibit grass growth once spring comes.
- Pests often settle in fallen leaves or weeds, so pay special attention to flower beds and vegetable gardens.

PROTECT YOUR COLD-SENSITIVE PLANTS

- Add 3-4 inches of mulch to the bases of trees, shrubs and plants to prevent damage from freezing. Keep the mulch an inch from the base of the trunk.
- Cover plants/shrubs with burlap to prevent winter burn. Burlap allows the plant/shrub to breathe helping air to circulate not get trapped.

PROTECT YOUR DECK

- Power washing with a pressure washer can prevent mold and mildew growth.
- A weather-proofing stain prevents moisture damage over winter.



HOSES, FOUNTAINS AND IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

- Drain or blow out all water from hoses, fountains, and irrigation systems with an air compressor, and store them in a dry place, as water left standing over the winter may damage your equipment.

TRIM AND PRUNE TREES AND SHRUBS

- Trimming any large or out of place branches can prevent breakage from snow buildup.

CLEAN AND REPAIR GUTTERS

- Clogged or broken gutters can cause damage to your home or flooding when snow melts.

TOOLS

- Adding a light coat of oil can also prevent rust buildup over the winter.



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OTTER TAIL COUNTY ADDRESSES VACATION HOME RENTALS

“One of the driving forces of the recent Shoreland Management Ordinance revision in Otter Tail County is the sudden rise in the ease of finding a vacation home rental (VHR). This is a common issue across the State of Minnesota, as county planning and zoning offices are wrestling with a regulatory framework regarding VHRs.

Here in lakes country, there are anywhere from 200-300 VHR’s advertised on any given day. Knowing this, Otter Tail County decided to be sensible about the regulatory framework, as requiring a conditional use permit (CUP) for each and every VHR would overwhelm the Planning Commission for years to come. We looked to several other counties in Minnesota and used their ordinances as a template, and then adjusted to meet the needs of the county.

The Ottertail County Public Health Department is the point of first contact for a VHR. If a license from Public Health is obtained, a conditional use permit is not required. Other standards that would prevent the need for a CUP include parking fully contained on the property, and no more than 2 dwelling units on the property. The occupancy is established by applying the stricter standard from either the state lodging rules or the size of the septic system.

This was a sensible approach that would allow the VHR’s to exist and operate, while at the same time not overwhelming the county’s planning commission. Ultimately this allows people to come enjoy all of that Otter Tail County has to offer.”

Chris LeClair, Director Land And Resource

“WHAT IS A VACATION HOME RENTAL?”

A Vacation Home Rental is any home, cabin, condominium, or similar building that is advertised or held out to the public as a place where sleeping accommodations are furnished to the public on a nightly or weekly basis and is not a bed and breakfast, resort, hotel, or motel.

Vacation Home Rental Complaint Hotline

Want to report noise, parking, trash, or other problems with a short-term rental? Think there’s an illegal short-term rental in your neighborhood? We’re here to help. The Complaint Hotline is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

SHORT TERM RENTAL COMPLAINT HOTLINE
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SHORT TERM RENTAL COMPLAINT ONLINE
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Otter Tail Lake's Property Owner's Assoc. Inc. Board Meeting Minutes

JUN. 24TH, 2021, 7 PM

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Meeting was called to order by President Anderson. Members present: Wentz, Kemling, Cave, Bope, Ness, Feters, Rizk, Simdorn, Hunke, Overturf, Gerken, Snyder, Anderson and Mourtisen. Absent: Gedde

Approval of Agenda—unanimously approved as distributed

Approval of Minutes—unanimously approved as distributed

Approval of Bills—Approved unanimously as distributed

Presidents Report—Pres. Anderson spoke about the 1st fishing task force meeting, they discussed questions they have for the DNR. Would like to get COLA involved. Board voted to approve creation of task force on walleye fishing on Ottertail. Suggested looking at lowering limits, slot limits 14-19 inch, also on slot limits on northern.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership—Wentz reported we are at 1003 members.

Auditing/Finance—nothing at this time

DNR/GOV'T—

Water Testing/COLA— Blanch 14 ft., Ottertail 16 ½ ft., Long 18 in. Discussed low water levels, close to 1988 levels. Discussed COLA meetings being at 3PM, not great for attendance. VRBO rentals were discussed, this is becoming a bigger issue on our lakes.

Communications—Pictures and content needed for July Lake Shore News. Discussed updating our website, Bope is looking at options. Their committee will look at different ways to accomplish this and report back to board in July.

Worm—nothing at this time

Foundation—nothing to report at this time

Rearing Pond—Bope reported there was good attendance at the Grand Opening Dedication ceremony and it went well. Wentz reported that a sign was stolen from Rearing Pond. This project is now complete.

Social—discussed annual meeting at Thumper Pond, last minute details.

Old business—Discussed foundation shared payments to OTLPOA board for membership mailings, Secretary will look back to see when this was approved by board and will discuss at July meeting. Feters and Cave introduced their replacements on the board, Paul Oxberry-Long Lake and Mark Long- Deer Lake. They will be nominated and voted on at the annual meeting on June 26th. The board thanked Stan Feters for his 33 years of service on the board and Lynn Cave for her service on the board.

Bope reported the spraying for Curly leaf weed is completed in the canal between Long Lake and Ottertail. More discussion on what the original purpose of this canal was, Board would like more information on this.

New Business— Mourtisen reported weed issue on Round Lake is bad. He will look into weed removal options and report back to the board.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM. Next meeting is July 22nd at 7 PM.



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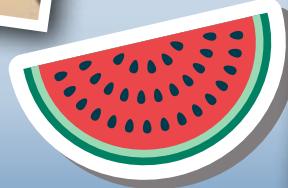


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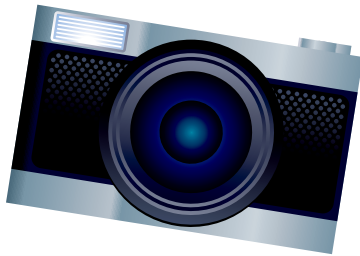
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106 MEMORY LANE (HWY 210 W) | BATTLE LAKE | 218-862-3625

SHOREMASTER

Thanks!



Thank you for sharing your photos with Lakeshore News this summer! Please continue to submit them!

Email us at

AMY@THEMIDWEEK.COM
with a brief description.

2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aug 14 – Oct 30	Fergus Falls Farmer's Market (Wednesdays and Saturdays)
Aug 16	Fergus Falls Fish and Game Club Steak Fry Fundraiser
Aug 20	16th Annual Chamber Golf Scramble "Safari Par-Tee"
Aug 20-21	Fergus Falls Saddle Club Rodeo
Aug 21	Vining Watermelon Day
Aug 21-22	Perham Pioneer Days
Aug 21-22	Black Powder Rendezvous (Perham)
Aug 22	Outdoor Summer Concert at the RTC - Purple Hulls (Fergus Falls)
Aug 24	Music In The Park - Flashbacks (Ottertail City)
Aug 26	OTLPOA Board Meeting
Aug 27-28	Barnsville Potato Days Festival
Aug 28	Clitherall Days
Aug 29	Outdoor Summer Concert at the RTC - Harmonious Wail (Fergus Falls)
Sep 3	Season Championship Races @ I-94 Sure Step Speedway (FF)
Sep 9	Y's Folks annual flapjacks, sausage, and eggs supper (FF)
Sep 16	Wissota 100 2021 @ I-94 Sure Step Speedway (FF)
Sep 19/26	Outdoor Summer Concerts at the Kirkbride (FF)

ONGOING EVENTS AND EXHIBITS

Aug 11-Sep 30	Jon Kamrath at Kaddatz Galleries (Fergus Falls)
Aug 11-Sep 30	Diane Scully at Kaddatz Galleries, Studio K (Fergus Falls)



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- 200 landscape stones have been ordered and 160 stones have already been sold.
- Because the demand has been so high a decision has been made to add approximately 100 new memorial blocks to the Tribute. The expansion will be completed by adding about 5 feet on both sides of the main circle so that the new stones will face the "Walk of Honor".
- The first round of stones were laid on July 29-30, 2020. A second laying of engraved stones has been completed. Another laying is expected to take place this fall before freeze up.
- The three flag poles and flags have been received, paid for and installed.
- The granite "Walk of Honor" is installed.
- As of this date, the entire project has been completed and paid for!
- The dedication of the Tribute was held on May 31, 2021. Close to 200 attended!
- We have started a maintenance fund which will handle any maintenance needed for the Tribute in future years.
- We find ourselves in a situation where we have a lot of elderly and sometimes handicapped visitors at the Tribute at God's Acres. One request we have been receiving is that we pave the handicap parking spots and extend the sidewalk out to the parking lot. We will be taking bids for this work. If anyone is interested in donating to this specific project or knows of a good contractor that does concrete work please contact Mick Baumann.

We invite you and your family to stop by and visit the tribute. We also appreciate your continued interest and support of this special veteran's & family tribute in God's Acres, adjacent to Zion Lutheran Church of Amor. If you have any questions as progress continues on the project, please contact committee member Mick Baumann at baumannmick@yahoo.com or at 218-371-1867.

Special Thanks

TRIBUTE COMMITTEE

Mick Baumann - Chair

Gary Harrington

Dale Johnson

Jane Baumgartner

Chuck Erickson

Rob Bope



God's Acres

Community wellness for the body, mind and soul

RECREATION AND MEDITATION AREA
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
ENTER THROUGH CHURCH PARKING LOT

Play & Picnic Areas - Walking Trails - Disc Golf
 New Veteran and Family Tribute - Baseball - Soccer
 Basketball - Pickleball - Horseshoes - Tetherball
 Amor Drone Airpost - GA GA Ball - Labyrinth
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THE DAMAGING EFFECTS OF POWER LOADING



WHAT IS POWER LOADING?

Power loading is what it's called when you use the boat motor to load and unload a boat onto and off a trailer. Power loading can damage your boat, motor and trailer, as well as the launch ramp and lakebed.

WHY IS POWER LOADING A PROBLEM?

Trying to load or unload your boat using engine power can erode sediment and dig large and hazardous holes at the base of the ramp. The eroded sediment creates a mound behind the propeller. Trailer tires can get stuck in these holes, and boats can run aground on the mound. It results in a barrier for both launching and loading.

- Boats and equipment can incur costly damage when boaters unknowingly back trailer wheels into the hole,

damaging their trailer frames on the submerged ramps or getting the trailer stuck in the hole. When this happens, a tow truck may be the only option to retrieve the trailer and the vehicle attached to it.

- The boat or lower unit can run aground on the mound.
- In extreme cases, the end of the launch ramp can collapse, leaving it unusable and causing the access to be closed.
- Most of Minnesota's public launch ramps were not designed to sustain the forces of power loading generated by today's larger and more powerful boats.
- Repairs by DNR crews are costly and time consuming.

WHAT YOU CAN DO.

- Always check the end of the ramp for power loading holes and mounds before launching, especially in low water level conditions. You may not be able to see holes from the surface of the water.
- Don't race your boat motor while on the ramp. Slightly more than idle speed should be all that is necessary to load or unload the boat.
- Instead of power loading, use the trailer winch to load and unload your boat.
- Back in just far enough that your boat starts to float - you don't need to back in so far that the boat floats entirely off the trailer.
- Consider using smaller watercraft or going to a different launch ramp if the water is too shallow.

LACK OF RAIN CREATING CHALLENGES AT BOAT LAUNCHES THIS SUMMER



The abnormally dry to drought conditions occurring across Minnesota are creating challenging conditions for people trying to get their boats into or out of the water at public boat launches, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

When water levels drop during extended dry periods, the concrete ramps at boat launches may no longer reach all the way into the water and hazards such as prop-wash holes can become more problematic.

Prop-wash holes are caused by "power-loading" the boat onto the trailer instead of using the preferred method of cranking it on the trailer by winch. When water levels are low, people are more likely to back their trailer past the ramp's end and into a prop-wash hole if one is present.

"It can be pretty difficult to get a trailer unstuck from a hole like that," said Nancy Stewart, DNR water recreation consultant. "And just beyond the prop-wash hole, there's often a mound of material that boats may get stuck on after launching, preventing them from getting to deeper water."

Extending ramps can help in some places, but not when shallow water persists beyond the boat ramp. Stewart offers the following tips for launching boats in low water conditions:

- Check the ramp, especially the firmness of the gravel at the ramp's end, and the water depth.
- Visit an alternative access site, or a different lake or river altogether, if water levels are too low to safely launch your boat.
- Watch for obstructions in the lake, like large boulders or tree stumps.
- Expect delays at public boat launches and be patient with boaters who are having difficulty launching. You can also #BeGoodNatured and offer assistance.



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Showy Lady's Slippers

The showy lady's slipper is Minnesota's state flower. Since 1925, the state has regulated the collection and commercial sale of this species. The showy lady's-slipper is one of 43 orchid species that grow in Minnesota. Many people consider it the most beautiful flower in the state.

IDENTIFICATION

General description: A brightly-colored orchid that has one or sometimes two blossoms on a single stem. White petals sit on top of a white pouch (slipper) streaked with pink. Hairy oval leaves clasp the stem.

- Length: one to two feet tall.
- Color: Pink, red, white, and green.

REPRODUCTION

The lady's slipper flowers from early June to mid-July. It flowers best in bright sunlight, although it will grow in semi-shaded areas. In its first year, this orchid grows only as tall as a pencil point. Each year, the lady's slipper may produce a half-million seeds, which are as fine as flour dust. This flower has a long life span; some may be 100 years old.

HABITAT AND RANGE

The lady's slipper grows in spruce and tamarack bogs, swamps, wet meadows, wet prairies, and cool, damp woods. It may be found anywhere in Minnesota where these habitats exist.

POPULATION AND MANAGEMENT

The lady's slipper is uncommon in Minnesota. Population can be hurt by wetland drainage, road construction, tree cuttings, and illegal picking and uprooting. In addition, herbicides used on roadside areas can kill these plants. The best management is to protect the lady's-slipper's native habitat.

FUN FACTS

Some people can get a rash from touching the leaves of this pretty orchid.

Source: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/snapshots/plants/showyladysslipper.html>



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EVERTS	SILVER (EVERTS)	RESIDENTIAL	SAUNDERS REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST	SAMUEL, MATHIAS & JENNIFER	\$880,000
OTTER TAIL	OTTERTAIL RIVER (OT)	RESIDENTIAL	ANDERSON, ERWIN J & JEAN M	BLUE LIBELLE PROPERTIES, LLC	\$515,000

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 Church—218-495-3771
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 Worship Service 10:45 am
 Bible Study, Youth Group & Kids Club - Wednesday 7:00 pm
 Ladies' Bible Study - 3rd Thursday
 Men's Prayer Breakfast - 1st Saturday 7:00 am
 Potluck Dinner - 2nd Sunday

First Baptist (ABC) - Battle Lake
"The Little Brown Church on the Hill"
 Lynn Hansen, Pastor—651-485-7378
www.firstbaptistbattlelake.org
 Sunday Worship 9:30 am
 Fellowship & refreshments 10:30 am

BATTLE LAKE ALLIANCE

401 W. Gilbertson St., Battle Lake
 Derek Mansker, Pastor • Church—218-864-5539
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 Fellowship & refreshments after service
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CATHOLIC

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 Mass Times—218-864-5619
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St. James Catholic - Maine Township

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Saint Edwards - Henning

Sunday Mass 8:30 am - October 1 - May 1

Our Lady of the Lake - Battle Lake

Sunday Mass 10:30 am

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Bethel Lutheran Church
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Meets at Lakes Area Community Center
 112 West Main St., Battle Lake
 218-862-4903
 Sunday School 9:15 am
 (no Sunday School during summer months)
 Worship: 9:00am & 10:30 am
 Website: bethellutheran.church

First Lutheran - ELCA

505 W. Holdt St., Battle Lake
 Bradley Skogen, Pastor
blfirstlutheran.org
 Church—218-864-5686
 Coffee Fellowship: 9:00 am
 Worship: 10:00 am
 Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

Sverdrup Lutheran Church

PO Box 70
 209 Southern Ave. E., Underwood
 Tammy Jacobson, Pastor
 Church—218-826-6919
 Worship 9:00 am

Tingvold Lutheran Church
 6 miles north of Underwood, Co. 1 & Co. 35
 Martha Halls, Pastor
 Church—218-826-6487
 September 1-May 31: Service 11:00 am
 Fellowship 10:00 am
 June 1-August 31: Service 10:30 am
 Fellowship 9:30am

Zion Lutheran Church of Amor - ELCA
 36051 Co. Hwy. 74, Amor
 Hwy. 1 and 74, 10 miles north of Battle Lake
 James Gronbeck, Pastor • Church - 218-495-2563
 Email: zionamoroffice@ptel.com
 Website: www.zionamor.org
 Facebook - Zion Amor
 YouTube - Zion Lutheran Amor
 Sunday Worship Services 8:15 am and 10:00 am
 Traditional Service 1st and 4th Sundays
 Contemporary Service 2nd and 3rd Sundays (Praise Team)
 Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays
 Bible Study - Tuesday 10:00 am
 Covid-19 social distancing protocol in place.
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METHODIST

Ottertail United Methodist Church

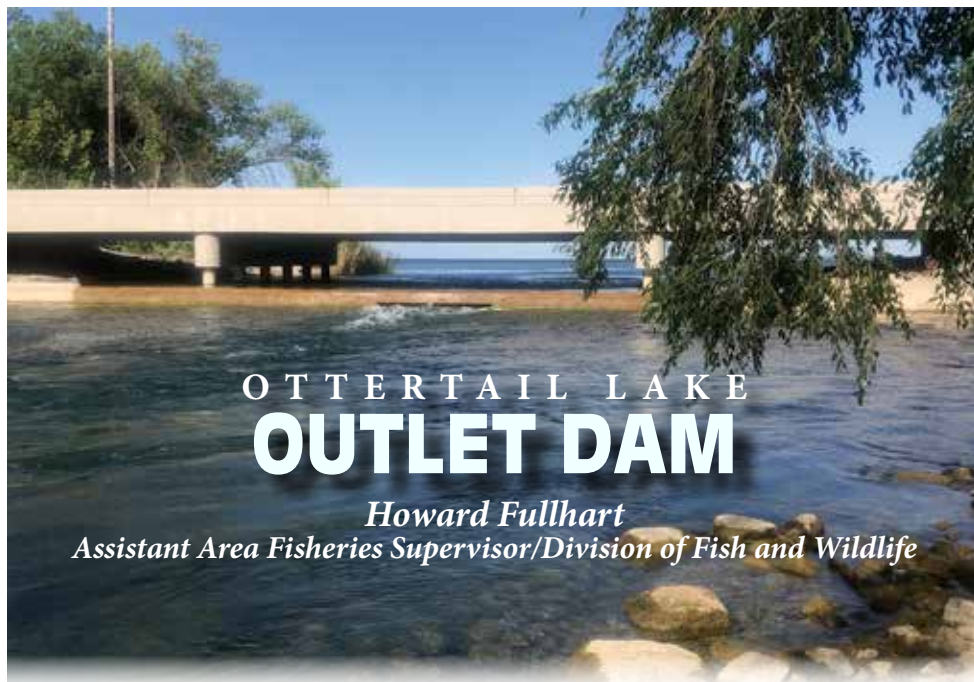
104 Shores Drive, Ottertail
 Rod Turnquist, Pastor
 Church—218-367-2270
 Worship 8:45 am
 Coffee Fellowship following Worship

Richville United Methodist Church
 130 SW 1st Ave., Richville
 Rod Turnquist, Pastor
 Church—218-346-5656
 Worship 10:30 am
 Coffee Fellowship following Worship 2nd & 4th Sunday

PRESBYTERIAN

Maine Presbyterian

30761 Co. Hwy. 45, Maine Township
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 Tom Junkert, Pastor
 Website: mainepresbyterianchurch.org
 Church—218-495-2539
 Summer - Worship 9:30 am (Thru August)
 Coffee Following Worship Service
 Winter - Worship 10:00 am



OTTER TAIL LAKE OUTLET DAM

Howard Fullhart

Assistant Area Fisheries Supervisor/Division of Fish and Wildlife

There has been some discussion about the design and reconstruction of the OtterTail Lake Outlet Dam and the proposal to convert that site into a rock rapids. We are currently working with the East OtterTail County Soil and Watershed District on this project and we are still waiting the official go ahead to put together a work agreement with them. Once that has been put in place we can begin survey and design work. We anticipate that we should have a work agreement in place by the end of August. Ultimately, we are looking at converting four outlet dams on the Otter Tail River into rock rapids. We have them separated into two projects. Little Pine Lake and Big Pine Lake Outlet Dams are one and Rush Lake and Otter Tail Lake Outlet Dams are the second. Separating these four outlet dams into two projects allowed us the ability to secure more Federal dollars for these projects. So until survey work gets completed we do not have any concept and designs to provide you at this time. The anticipated time frame would be to conduct survey work this fall and get concept and designs put together this winter. This would allow us the ability to get the concept and designs out to the lake associations, local sportsmen's groups, Pine Lakes LID, and the general public this spring and summer. Construction on the Little Pine and Big Pine Outlet Dams would begin Fall/Winter of 2022 if all goes well. Construction on Rush Lake and Otter Tail Lake Outlet Dams could also occur Winter of 2022 but is more likely going to happen in Fall/Winter of 2023.

The OtterTail River Outlet Dam Modification projects will have multiple benefits including restoring historic fish passage in the OtterTail River system, improving safety around the lake outlets, and providing an environmentally friendly permanent fix to the aging dams. Below I included some bullet points about past projects. One thing to remember is that almost all of our outlet dams in the State of Minnesota are fixed crest dams. No one is adjusting stop logs or moving flow gates to raise or lower water levels. This meaning whatever amount of water runs into the lake, must also exit the lake at an identified run out set point. So when you have large amounts of water enter the lake it can only leave so fast thus we have high water and shoreline erosion. When you have very little water entering the lake, water levels will continue to go down until no water is able to flow out of the lake. If you have any further questions feel free to email or call me. Once we do get designs in place it would be great to get this out in the Lakeshore News so that residents can see what is being proposed.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- The existing concrete dams typically remain intact while many different sizes of rocks and gravel are placed below the dam (according to a specific engineering design) in a way to manage water levels in the same way the current dam does. This creates the nature-like rock rapids. The rock rapids design is run through multiple hydrologic models at different run out elevations to ensure water levels are maintain at current lake levels.
- The construction contract will require the contractor to maintain current water levels throughout the project installation.
- An example of an Outlet Dam that was modified recently is the Fish Lake Dam. It was modified into rock rapids in 2018, and the water levels in Pelican Lake have been similar to water levels before the modification. Pelican Lake is experiencing low water levels just like all of our lakes in OtterTail County that have natural outlets.
- Pelican Lake residents have been overwhelmingly pleased with the Fish Lake Dam Modification.

There still needs to be design work and permitting done and probably public input on this project, but hopefully this will answer some questions as they go through that process. We will stay on top of this and keep our members informed as the project moves forward.






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CHECKLIST FOR WINTERIZING YOUR CABIN



Use these checklists to prep your cabin for the winter ahead, especially if you don't plan to visit frequently.

OUTSIDE TASKS

For the cabin

- Look for air leaks around electrical wiring, dryer vents, pipes, windows and doors; then seal leaks with caulk or insulation to keep out cold air and pests.
- Insulate pipes in crawl spaces by wrapping them with heat tape or thermostatically controlled heat cables.
- Clean out gutters, and inspect the roof for shingles that are raised or cracked; leaking roofs and clogged gutters can lead to significant water damage.
- If the water is left on for a portion of your cabin that is heated, just be sure to turn off the valve for each outside water-supply line.
- To discourage rot, remove any leaves or other detritus where the cabin and deck meet.
- If you heat your cabin with propane or wood, make sure you have enough fuel to get through the winter.

For the yard

- Mow the lawn (short) one last time.
- Clean and winterize the lawn mower and other gas-powered yard equipment.
- Remove batteries from the boat or lawn mower and store them inside, preferably in a dry, warm place at moderate temperatures.
- Store outdoor furniture, grills, picnic tables, hammocks, fire pit decorations, emptied flower pots and drained hoses and sprinklers.

For the shoreline

- Clean and store boats, dock storage and ornaments, the swim ladder, swim raft, life jackets, water-ski equipment and water toys.
- Turn off the outside pump breaker.

INSIDE TASKS

- Ensure that the power and water are in the proper mode for vacancy.
- Set the thermostat at the appropriate temperature for your region. If you heat your place in the winter, set the thermostat no lower than 55°F. You can seriously damage the A/C unit if you turn it on when it's cold outside, so flip the A/C breaker during winter in cold climates.
- Open cabinet doors to allow heat to get to uninsulated pipes under sinks and appliances near exterior walls.
- Clean the furnace filter to maintain an efficient heating and cooling system and reduce the risk of fire.
- If you're shutting off the refrigerator, leave the door cracked open to prevent musty smells.
- Unplug computers, the television and major appliances.
- Pull shades, or cover furniture to keep it from being bleached by the sun.
- Put mothballs or dryer sheets near bedding and towels.
- Take out all perishable foods; store those that remain in air-tight/critter-tight containers. If you don't heat the cabin in winter, carry out canned goods so they don't freeze.
- Close the damper for the fireplace. Seal the box to prevent critters from entering the cabin.
- Drain the dishwasher and washing machine completely.
- Restock and store the first-aid kit.

EXTRA PRECAUTIONS

- If you'll be gone all winter or for long periods of time, it's best to take these extra precautions to keep your cabin in good shape.
- Drain your water pump, water heater, pressure tanks and toilet tanks, and blow compressed air throughout the system to prevent pools of undrained water from freezing and bursting pipes.
- Splash RV-grade antifreeze into toilets and sink drains. This is especially important if your water supply lines are piped inside exterior walls and/or your sewer traps are located below the floor.
- If you have freeze alarms that monitor temperature sensors and heating and cooling systems, be sure to set them. (If your cabin's in a remote location that suffers frequent power outages, be sure to buy an alarm unit with rechargeable battery backup.)
- Ask a friend or hire a cottage-care business to check in on your property frequently.

GLENDALOUGH

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The Glendalough Trail, in the heart of lakes country, was completed in 2013/2014. Its gentle slopes and easy access allow people of all ages and abilities to enjoy the beauty of the Battle Lake area.

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COMMON LOON

Gavia immer

Photo Credit: unsplash.com/@rayhennessy

Minnesota's state bird, the common loon, is more at home in the water than on land. Built like a torpedo, it swims under water in search of prey. Minnesota has more common loons than any other state except Alaska.

IDENTIFICATION

Larger than a mallard but smaller than a goose, this water bird has a thick neck and a long, black bill. Its legs are set far back on its body, so it has an awkward gait on land. The male is slightly larger than the female, but otherwise the two sexes look identical.

- **Weight:** Adult loons weigh 8 to 12 pounds.
- **Color:** The common loon has a black bill and a red eye. In summer it is a spotty black and white with a black/iridescent green head. In fall a "winter coat" that's gray above and white below replaces its summer plumage.
- **Sounds:** The common loon has four calls. The tremolo, which sounds a bit like maniacal laughter, is an aggressive call. The wail is a long, drawn-out sound. The hoot, a shorter call, is used to communicate among parents and young. The yodel is sounded by male loons guarding their territory.

REPRODUCTION

Loons don't begin breeding until they are three or four years old. The male chooses a territory and attracts a mate. Together the male and female build a nest out of reeds and grasses on the edge of the water. They take turns incubating the one to two eggs the female lays. After 28 to 30 days blackish brown chicks emerge from the eggs, soon ready for a swim. One of the ways parents



care for their young is to carry them on their backs to keep them safe from fish and turtle predators. Young loons don't fly until they are more than two months old.

FOOD

Loons like fish - panfish, perch, ciscoes, suckers, trout, bullheads, smelt, and

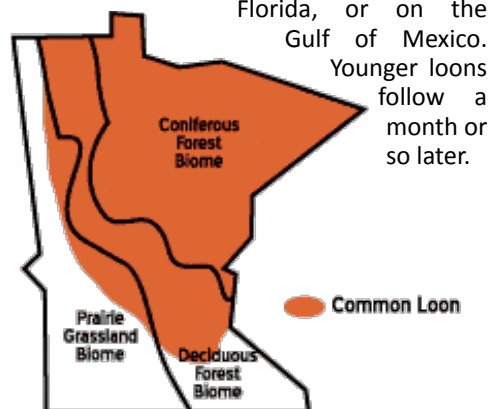
minnows. They also may eat frogs, leeches, crayfish, mollusks, salamanders, amphipods, and insects.

PREDATORS

Adult loons rarely are eaten by other animals (except bald eagles), but their young can fall prey to skunks, raccoons, foxes, snapping turtles, northern pike, and muskies.

HABITAT AND RANGE

Loons are found on lakes throughout central and northeastern Minnesota. In September, Minnesota's adult loons travel to their winter home along the Atlantic coast from North Carolina south to Florida, or on the Gulf of Mexico.



Younger loons follow a month or so later.

POPULATION & MANAGEMENT

Minnesota has more loons (roughly 12,000) than any other state except Alaska. Threats to loons include human disturbance and pollutants such as lead and mercury. The DNR monitors loon populations with the help of volunteers to improve understanding of what our state bird needs to maintain a strong, healthy presence here.

FUN FACTS

- Loons' lives are filled with fun facts. For example:
- The bones of most birds are hollow and light, but loons have solid bones.
- The extra weight helps them dive as deep as 250 feet to search for food. They can stay underwater for up to five minutes.
- Because their bodies are heavy relative to their wing size, loons need a 100- to 600-foot "runway" in order to take off from a lake.
- Loons can fly more than 75 miles per hour.
- The red in the loon's eye helps it to see under water.
- Scientists think loons can live for 30 years or more

Source: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/birds/commonloon.html>

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