

A View from the Lake by Tom Schroeder – President, Beaver Dam Lake Management District

What a summer it is turning out to be! Again this year we went from the cool spring temperatures to near or above normal temperatures for June, July and so far in August. The lake level finally returned to normal levels around July 4th. A big “thank you” to those that observed the NO WAKE request when the lake was significantly above normal. Avoiding big wakes when the lake level is high prevents shoreline erosion, damage to boats and other water craft that are moored and dock damage. In addition, high water levels present a challenge to the loons that are nesting. Because a loon nest is built low to the lake level and are at the water’s edge, it is easy for wakes to flood out the nest. So far this year 4 pairs of adult loons have been observed on Beaver Dam Lake. Three of the pairs have managed to hatch a total of 5 baby loons. They are called “nestlings” but only for a few hours. Once they dry off they leave their nest for good. They can immediately swim for themselves but when they get cold or need protection they climb onto a parents back and seek shelter under the parent’s wing. It is amazing to watch how quickly they mature. Please watch out for them and try to stay at least 200 feet from them. For more information about loons, please go to Loonwatch-Northland College on the web.

Based on the recently completed aquatic plant survey, the results of the spring treatment for Eurasian Water Milfoil -EWM exceeded expectations. Preliminary data indicates that the Beaver Dam Lake is almost clear of all EWM except for Cemetery Bay, a few locations in Library Lake, Williams Bay (EWM was removed by mechanical means) and Hunts Bay area. The Hunt Bay area will be treated with a newly approved herbicide called ProcellaCor. The main benefit of using ProcellaCor is that the application rate is in parts per billion – ppb rather than parts per million – ppm, common with all other herbicides. The test of this new product in Beaver Dam Lake has been in the planning for over 3 years. The planned application in June 2019 was postponed as the little growth of EWM found at the location wasn’t sufficient to justify moving forward with the treatment. The EWM has now developed to the level that treatment results should be noticeable and valid. The current schedule is for the treatment to take place on Thursday, August 15th. If you see marker bottles in the Hunts Bay Area please stay clear until they are picked up. The WDNR is going to cover the cost of post treatment water analysis.

The Annual meeting on Sat. July 13th was attended by 38 individuals including Senator Janet Bewley who discussed the State Water Initiative that will address various water issues throughout the state. The 2019/2020 budget was approved unanimously and will allow continued development of the Library Lake SE Storm water remediation and pond. Funding was approved to cover continued water quality needs, the intermodal (bike cycle, ATV/snowmobile and pedestrian) aspect when the Hwy. 63 box culvert is replaced and storm water pond maintenance.

The “fish sticks” that were placed in the winter of 2017/2018 have proven to be quite successful. Various species of fish have found the locations to be attractive homes. Anyone that is interested in having a “fish stick” placed along their shoreline please contact one of the BDLMD

commissioners. Based on the response will determine whether a Health Lakes Grant will be applied for in Dec. 2019.

Numerous attendees questioned the frequent occurrence of swimmers itch this year. Swimmer's itch is an itchy rash that can occur after you go swimming or wading in lakes or rivers. Also known as cercarial dermatitis, swimmer's itch is usually caused by an allergic reaction to larvae that burrow into your skin after you come out of the water. Because the larvae are looking to stay moist, as your skin dries they burrow into the skin. The larvae soon die while still in your skin. This is what causes the itch and red spots. What starts the cycle is when an adult parasite lives in the blood of infected animals such as ducks, geese, gulls, swans, and certain mammals such as muskrats and raccoons. The parasites produce eggs that are passed in the feces of infected birds or mammals.

If the eggs land in or are washed into the water, the eggs hatch, releasing small, free-swimming microscopic larvae. These larvae swim in the water in search of a certain species of aquatic snail. When the larvae finds one of these snails, they infect the snail, multiply and undergo further development. Infected snails release the developed larvae (or cercariae, hence the name cercarial dermatitis) into the water. Swimmer's itch is uncomfortable, but it usually clears up on its own in a few days. In the meantime, you can control itching with over-the-counter or prescription medications. One way you can avoid swimmer itch by using oil based lotions on your arms and legs and/or drying off immediately after leaving the water. Lots of information on swimmers itch can be found on the web.

If current plans evolve, on Wed. Aug. 14th, cattails and floating chunks of bog should be removed from Library Lake in the channel from the open water to the dock located along the City parking lot. A go devil will be used to deepen the channel once the vegetation is removed. Thanks to all the volunteers that helped with this project. The dredged channel along the parking lot was treated to deal with vegetation that is hindering navigation along the shoreline.

Last, Mike Werner and Don Phernetton were elected unanimously for another 3 year term and the past officers agreed to serve for another year. The continued support by the community of the Beaver Dam Lake Management District goals will help to keep the lake the valuable treasure for all to use. Be safe on the lake and enjoy the remaining weeks ahead.