

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

With the hint of fall like temperatures and the Labor Day Weekend signaling the unofficial end of the summer season it is a good time to reflect on the good, the bad and the ugly aspects of the Lake.

The “Good” is always the easy part. The spring treatment for EWM in Library Lake, Cemetery Bay and City Bay north of highway 48 was quite successful. Little EWM survived in Cemetery Bay and no EWM being found in Library Lake or City bay. We survived another year without a serious accident on the lake although there were many observed violations of boating regulations. The water quality on both the west and east sections of the Lake were the best in years. There have been reports of nice sized walleyes, bass and pan fish being caught. A real surprise for a fisherman and others fishing with him was the catching of a healthy 30 inch lake trout. The July 4th celebration was again a great event that many enjoyed, especially the fireworks. The eagles, osprey and loons are always a sight that lake residents can observe on a regular basis.

The “Bad” items or incidents were some of the same violation of regulations that were observed previous years. Boaters being on the front of pontoon boats with their feet splashing and/or dangling in the water outside the pontoon boat railings with the boat under power is just plain thoughtless and dangerous. Anyone falling off the front deck would be exposed to severe injury or possible death. Many paddle board, kayak and paddle boat users seem to forget that Personal Flotation Devices “PDF” are required to be worn or on board. Pontoon boats must also have a PFD for each person on board. Wave runners and jet skis are a blast to drive through big waves, making quick turns, etc. but remember that there are regulations that specify the distance you must keep from each other and nearby boats. Remember that on Wisconsin waters a spotter is required on the craft when pulling a skier or tube. A wave runner or jet ski needs to have sufficient capacity for the driver, spotter and all occupants being pulled. A final “Bad” observation is that some people do not appreciate the services provided to them by the City of Cumberland. Several picnic tables were provided along the lakeshore south of Eagle point and ended up being removed because they were placed in the lake and not returned to the shore where they were originally located. Trash barrels are provided but many people tend to throw the trash on the ground.

Now unfortunately the “Ugly”. Boats and other water craft chasing or purposely running through loons and other waterfowl is just plain thoughtless. Because our Lake is of such great water quality loons have finally established themselves on the Lake. Let’s be more aware of their presence. Complying with boating regulations by observing “No Wake” zones, not skiing or tubing between sunset and sunrise, having spotters on your water craft, keeping a safe distance from people fishing, paddle boarding, etc. is just thoughtful safe boating. The last “ugly” comment pertains to messing with navigation buoys. The buoys are there for a reason. The south “no wake” buoy marking the shallow water between Williams and Rabbit Bay disappeared. It just didn’t disappear. Someone purposely took the buoy or moved the buoy to deep water. Several years ago someone took the “north” buoy and put it in a tree on shore. Also the buoys at the “Narrows” are there marking sand bar and rocks. Leave them alone. Don’t anchor to them, play on them, or move them! Please comply with boating and water safety regulations as ignoring them may result in potential fines of \$175 or more.

The majority of lake residents value the Lake, follow the boating regulations and are courteous, thoughtful and respectful of their neighbors and those using our Lake. Thanks to all for another great summer on Beaver Dam Lake!