

FALL 2023 Silver Lake IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION *Caring for the future of the lake*

LOON UPDATE



We have enjoyed another summer with our Loon's successfully breeding and nesting on Raspberry Island, resulting in one

healthy chick who is thriving on our Lake now. In mid-July, one parenting Loon disappeared, but the chick continues to enjoy being fed by its remaining parent - but soon will be encouraged to feed on its own full time as the adult prepares for migration, typically leaving for coastal waters a few weeks before the chick does - in answer to questions, this seems to be the migration pattern ..

We continue to have a "lone" loon who comes each summer but does not have a mate The "Lone" Loon attempts to visit with the chick and its parents, but they drive it away after allowing the "Loner" to hang near them for only a short time. There have also

been sightings of another Loon couple in the southern area of the Lake, but they did not seem inclined to nest.

Sharing some Fun Facts:

- As they get closer to migration, our lake may enjoy some social gatherings of multiple Loons at one time.
- Typically mature Loons tend to mate for life, returning to the same nesting sight if they are successful in raising their chick/s.
- One lead sinker can kill a loon from lead poisoning. It is almost 100% fatal once wild life is entangled in discarded fishing line if not rescued shortly following entanglement - so please do not abandon a loose line!

Thank you to everyone for observing boating safety that allows us to enjoy our wild life on Silver Lake!

Please note that Kara Zarafonitis will become the SLIA Loon Ranger starting 2024, Thank You Kara ...

Nancy Weller, Loon Ranger

CHAIRMAN'S COVE

Shorter days and slower activity are sure signs of the transition from summer to fall on Silver Lake. The transition is a good time to share some of the things your SLIA board and volunteers have been doing to improve and preserve Silver Lake.

- A new SLIA safety / informational brochure was created and made available at the boat launch, campground, and on our SLIA website: SLIA Brochure.
- Our township liaison, Tim Brock is coordinating efforts to pursue on-site sewage disposal inspections when lake front properties change hands like other lakes in our region.
- The 3rd annual kids fishing tournament was a big success thanks to Tom Thompson.
- Higher than typical Eurasian Milfoil (EWM) was found this spring and was treated accordingly. In addition, we are digging into non-chemical options to control EWM.
- Our lost and found, and communications sets the standard for lake associations, thanks to Nancy Knight's dedication.

Finally, our membership increased 11% and although dues remain a bargain at \$25, we amended our membership form to allow donations in excess of the \$25. Thank you to members who took advantage of this option. If you have not sent in your membership yet, please fill out the enclosed form and send it in to join our group and take advantage of the benefits!

In closing, we hope everyone was able to enjoy the lake and create memories for years to come.

Ken Kaufman, SLIA President

2023 FALL ENVIRONMENTAL

The 2023 Spring survey showed a large increase in the acreage of Eurasian Milfoil (EWM) that needed to be treated. There were 21 acres to treat. This was due to a lighter than normal snowpack and warmer than normal temperatures. Silver Lake was not alone in the increase of EWM. There were many inland lakes that saw large increases.

The Fall survey showed that we currently have about 6 acres to treat which shows that we have once again greatly reduced the EMW with the spring treatment. We will treat the lake again this fall to hopefully reduce the existing EWM throughout the winter. The treatment will have occurred prior to your receiving this newsletter. We also have 3 small patches of phragmites, also an invasive species. These 3 areas are relatively small.

With fall comes the falling of leaves and yard clean-up. Whether you do this yourself or hire an outside source to clean up your property, please make sure to have them removed from your property and not put into the lake. Have a great winter and we will see you in the spring!

Scot Ogden, Environmental Committee Chair



FISHERIES REPORT

We were stocked with approximately 250,000 leftover Walleye fry from the hatchery this spring, but there was no fish survey done. This fall they are planning on an electro survey and then later a net survey, will report what they find. Looking forward to some good winter fishing this year!

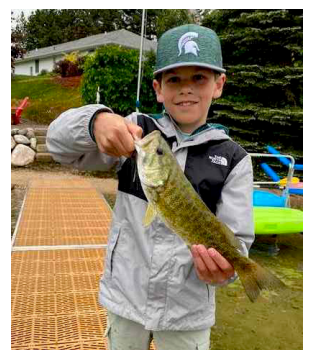
Tom Thompson, Fisheries Committee



Silver Lake Kid's Fishing Tournament ... and fish they did!

It was a cold and windy day - but 22 kids and their families showed up - they caught fish and had a great time in spite of the weather. Then they shared their catches, recognized each other and had a great lunch - a good time was had by all!

Tom Thompson, Fisheries Committee Chair



SAVE THE DATE

ADOPT-A-ROAD, FALL CLEANUP

**Saturday, September 23rd
10 a.m. SHARP!**

SILVER LAKE PARK, East Silver Lake Rd N.

(Members will be advised via g-mail, or check website for changes or rain dates) ... and remember

"Many hands make light work!"

Questions - contact Ron Grin at 231-715-0920

... and the Winners Are! ...



1st Place – “Construction”
Berden & DeBruyn Families



2nd Place – “50th Wedding Anniversary”
Geskus, Babbs, Hoover, VanderZouwen Families



3rd Place – “Aliens Coming In Peace”
Gaca Family



4th Place – “Loon Patrol”
Machuta Family

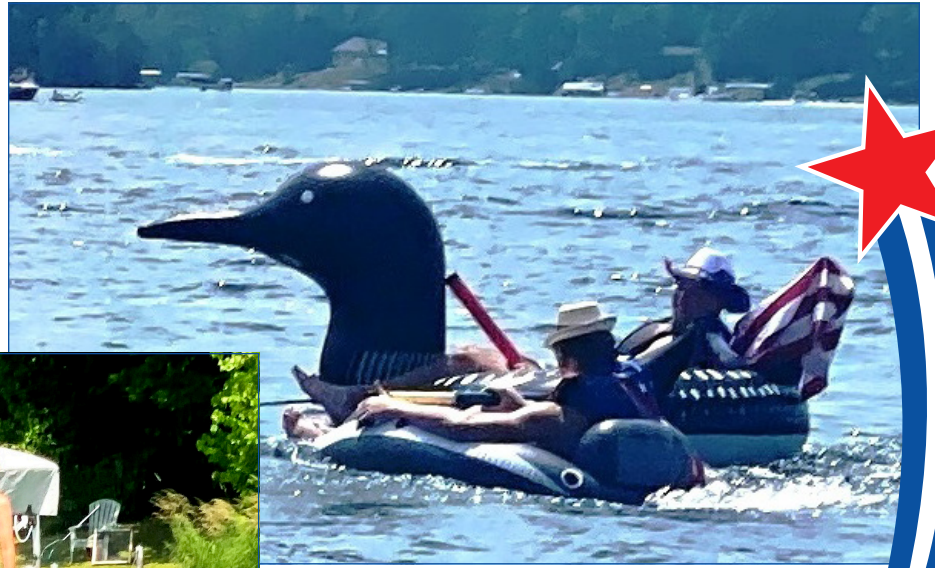
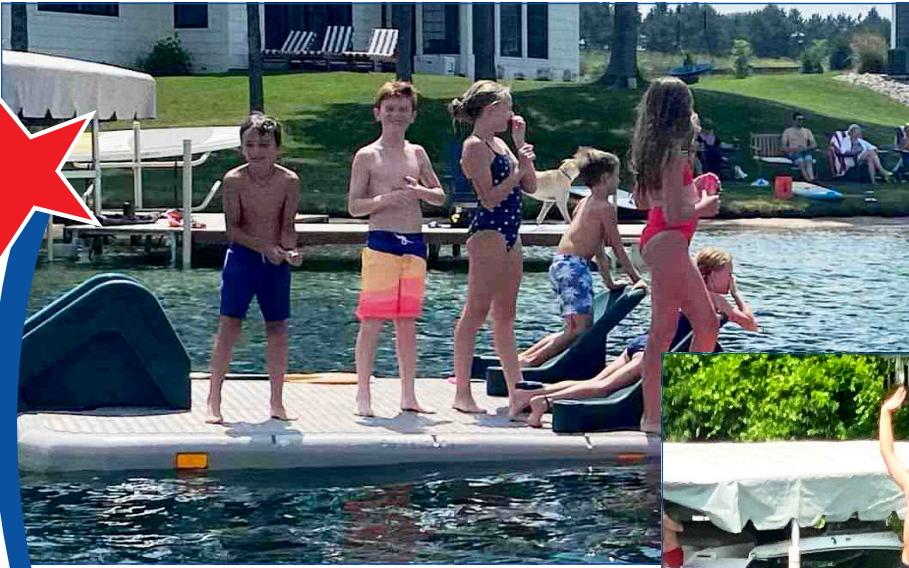
Regatta Enthusiasts – On Parade



Lead Boat - Vance Family



Enthusiastic Shoreline ...



... and
Judging
Families



SILVER LAKE DRAIN UPDATE

The Silver Lake drain is currently working as designed, the current lake level is well below the established threshold of 862.00 feet, at which point the water will drain.

The Roman Drive gauge was at 862.40 on 5/11/23, which is 4.80 inches above the threshold and comparably was at 862.28 on 5/9/22, which is 3.36 inches above the threshold of 862.00, seasonally the water drains out of the lake when the level is higher than 862.

As of 8/21/23, the Roman Drive gauge was at 861.42 which is 6.96 inches below the threshold. Again, comparably on 8/25/22, the gauge was at 861.44, showing that the last two years are very similar for August. Typically water levels decline throughout the summer because of evaporation and home irrigation systems. Of course rain helps refill the lake, which we have not had a lot of this summer.

Gary Borucki, Drain Committee

SHORELAND STEWARDSHIP REPORT

The SLIA board set up a new committee last year to investigate causes and cures for shoreline erosion around the lake. They have been diligently investigating and even putting into place new practices on their own properties and are sharing their findings and thoughts with the community.

Did you know it is possible to have a landscaped lawn and swim area, while using healthier methods to protect your shoreline from erosion? Utilizing bio-engineering methods to protect your shoreline such as Coir (coconut fiber) logs, natural vegetation and appropriately installed rip rap can protect your property. Hard shoreline structures such as rock walls and improperly installed rip rap can reverberate energy from wave action, and result in more erosion.

Did you also know that turf grass has a very shallow root structure that cannot hold the soil in place against wave action while native vegetation has deep root structures that will hold it in place?

Some SLIA members have registered with the **Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership (MNSP)** which has a wealth of resources to understand the options and solutions, these are just examples of so much more information that is available.

If you are interested in learning more about what you can do to protect your shoreline, please contact one of our committee members and we will be happy to share with you!

*Shoreline Stewardship Committee
Melanie Rippentrop, Tim Brock & Mike Lahey*

WHO DO YOU CALL?

Life threatening or dangerous violations.....911

Boating violations, Wildlife harassment (MC number required), Launch site violations
Central Dispatch.....231-922-4550

General Marine questions (Leave Msg)
Sheriff's Marine Division.....231-922-2112

DNR Traverse City Office.....231-922-5280

Lost and Found
TC.Silver.Lake.Association@gmail.com

More information at
www.silverlakeimprovement.com

LAKE KRATOCHVIL

What if we said "We live on Lake Kratochvil" instead of Silver Lake - now wouldn't that be interesting?

In researching Silver Lake's history - found this to be true. I found much information on its original platting as Kratochvil Plat, including family information and pictures, how it came to be named Silver Lake - quite fascinating - this is the story ...

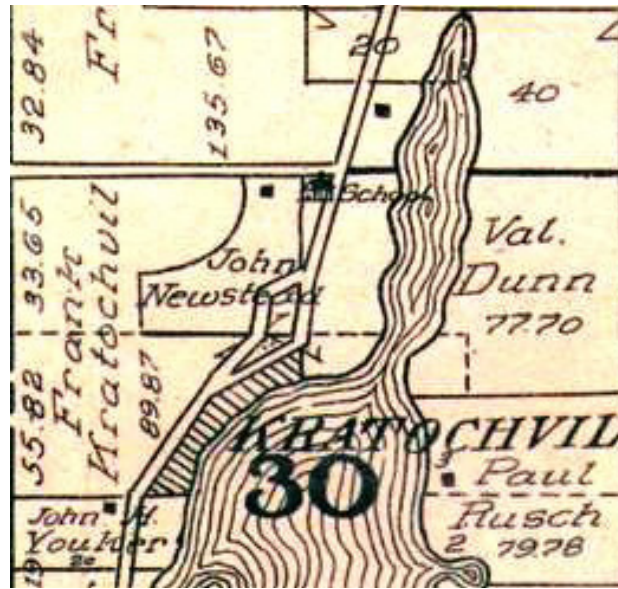
The U.S. congress passed a bill in 1820 to sell "public lands", mainly looking at states that weren't as developed, so in 1866 President Franklin Pierce sold a large section on the NW corner of the lake shore area to the Martindale's, it changed hands several times and finally was purchased by the Kratochvil's in 1897, they built a homestead, purchased more property and developed their own little community and it became known as Kratochvil Lake.



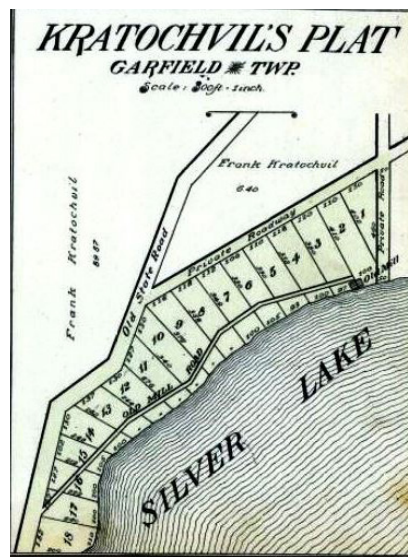
When did it become West Silver Lake Road?

The Kratochvil's continued to purchase more land around the lake, and owned a piece on the SW end in Blair Township, labeled H D Silverdale on the following map.

The story goes that one of the contingencies of the exchange of property between the Kratochvil's and the Silverdale's was that the Silverdale's wanted the lake name changed to Silver Lake - and it did happen!



They even platted out a section along the lakeshore known as Prospect Park in 1902, which it is still called. Interesting that West Silver Lake Rd was still known as Old State Road?



Am continuing research into the lake history - as more information becomes available, will share ... if anyone has more data, would welcome hearing from you and hope you have enjoyed what we have so far.

One final note, we have a Kratochvil family descendant that has moved back to the lake recently - Welcome, it is an honor to have you - your ancestors are happy, we're sure!

Nancy Knight, Communications Committee



Silver Lake
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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