LCIA
LES CHENEAUX ISLANDS ASSOCIATION

SUMMER NEWSLETTER JULY, 2023

PROTECTING

INSPECTING

CONNECTING

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A Message from LCIA President, Paul Tabor

We hope your summer is off to a great start. Bridge traffic is up almost 6%, indicating that more of us are once again enjoying summer in Les Cheneaux.

LCIA members and volunteers have been busy. We have 125 buoys marking water hazards and 14 young boaters have passed their boating safety test, the township fireboat is fully operational, we have a new ADA compliant kayak launch in operation and on July 5th we held a very successful membership reception for young adults at the Tipper Room which culminated in over 20 new LCIA memberships!

And now we are busy planning our annual membership dinner. Since we received so many kind words about last year's 100th anniversary picnic at the Hessel School House, we've decided to do it again! We hope to see you there.

Please make your reservations by July 20th on our website, or via the link in the attached flyer below

OTHER LCIA MEMBERSHIP EVENTS:

New Member Welcome Reception: We will be hosting our annual Welcome Reception at the Tipper Room on July 20th at 5:30pm. Please stop by to meet our new members as well as new Les Cheneaux residents.

Annual Membership Meeting: All members are invited to attend the Annual Membership Meeting help on August 2nd at 3:00pm in the Commons Room (cafeteria) at the Cedarville High School. The Annual Picnic will follow at 5:00pm at the Hessel School House.

Finally, as a reminder, please be sure to renew your LCIA membership. As you know, your annual $50.00 contribution makes the work we do to better our community possible. (Membership payment link)

Wishing you all an enjoyable and safe summer.

SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM LCIA PRESIDENT ON BLASTOMYCOSIS
Paul Tabor

The Les Cheneaux Area is at elevated risk for a rare but serious fungal disease called blastomycosis. While the infection is regularly diagnosed in dogs in our community each year, human cases are more sporadic, yet no less serious.

Over the past few years key members of our community, along with the Les Cheneaux Community Foundation, have provided leadership and funding for effort to fight blastomycosis through education and cooperation with veterinarians, doctors, and health departments. LCIA has stepped into the fight and we have agreed to reach out to our members in an effort to help create a data collection forum to assist in sharing blasto related info. We ask that you please share this note with friends and neighbors and encourage their participation. The following request from the Health Department is another important piece of this effort:

There are two main challenges in blastomycosis surveillance. The first is that Michigan is one of only 5 states in the US where blastomycosis is a required reportable disease for humans – this means that any diagnosed case living in Michigan is linked to their county of residence and investigated to determine possible sources of exposure. A vacationer or summer resident who lives in a non-reporting state is unlikely to be investigated. And there is no tracking system in Michigan for canine cases.

The second challenge is the long incubation period, which is the time between exposure and the start of symptoms. It can take up to 3 months before a person with blastomycosis begins to show symptoms and it will take additional time before a physician makes a diagnosis. Because of this, pinpointing a specific source of infection can be difficult and a case may not think to share details on a trip that took place months prior.

Because of the challenges above and a desire to better track blastomycosis in the summer population of Les Cheneaux, we're asking community members to report any diagnosed cases in either humans or dogs to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Regional Epidemiologist, Scott Schreiber. Scott can be reached at 517.930.3089.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and help.

MANAGERS REPORT
Jim Keighley

Our inspectors are all lined up and ready to begin inspections in mid-September. I am working on a longer term plan to get some younger inspectors lined up as several of our inspectors have indicated that they plan to retire from inspections in the next few years.

The navigation buoys were all in place by Memorial Day. There has been some on-line discussion about having buoys in place for opening day of Pike season in mid-May and using volunteers to enable that placement.

- With over 120 buoys to place, ice out typically being end April and safe placement requiring low wind conditions/no precipitation there isn't a realistic window for this to happen. Our buoys go out about the same time as the Coast Guard places theirs (the big red/green cans).
- Placing the buoys is tough work and can be somewhat hazardous (both in handling the buoys and navigating very near hazards). From a liability standpoint, the LCIA is FAR better off contracting out this service to Viking versus using volunteers as Viking is experienced and equipped to place and remove buoys safely.
- We already do and will consider the sequence of buoy placement from a hazard level perspective. While each buoy marks a navigation hazard – history has shown some areas being more prone to getting hit than others.
- Storms and boat impacts can move buoys. If you think a buoy has moved during the season, call Jim Keighley at 906-484-2369.

Water levels (from Detroit District & Missions & Great Lakes Information & Great Lakes Water Levels & Water Level Forecast & Monthly Bulletin of Great Lakes Water Levels (army.mil):)

- Waters are predicted to have peaked for the season and are projected to remain above the long-term average for the next six months.
- The typical 10-12" seasonal decline is predicted to begin in September.
- USACE predictions of water levels are only made 6 months out because of uncertainty around precipitation, so level predictions always include a range around them to reflect that uncertainty. That range gets larger as the prediction moves from 1 to 6 months out.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE
Linda Schepperly

Save the date!

It's picnic time, August 2nd, at the Hessel School House. Cocktails at 5:00 p.m. dinner available 6:00 p.m. till 8:00. Meet old friends, make new friends, join us for drinks, food, raffles and fun.

LCIA
LES CHENEAUX ISLANDS ASSOCIATION

WE ARE HAVING A PICNIC!

Wednesday, August 2nd

Cocktails: 5:00-6:00pm

Picnic Buffet: 6:00-8:00pm

$45.00 per person, cash bar

Hessel School House - 3206 Cedar St.

(Informal seating inside and outside under tent)

Reservations required by July 26th

Click Here To Make Your Reservation

Attendance is limited to 150 people

2023 LCIA Calendar of Events

Spring Board Meeting - Hessel School House - May 26 - 9:00 a.m.*

Fourth of July Parade - Downtown Cedarville - July 4 - 11:00 a.m.

Young Adults Meet and Greet - Thursday - July 5 - 5:30 p.m. at the Tipper Room

Summer Board Meeting - Hessel School House - Friday - July 7 - 9:00 a.m.*

Frog Fest - Snow's Heritage Park - Saturday - July 8 - 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

New Member Reception - Thursday - July 20 - 5:30 p.m. at the Tipper Room

The Annual Business Meeting - Cedarville High School - Wednesday - August 2 - 3:00 p.m.

LCIA's Annual Picnic at The Hessel School House - Wednesday - Aug 2 - 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

Fall Board Meeting - Hessel School House - Friday - September 2 - 9:00 a.m.*

**All LCIA Members are welcome to attend board meetings in person or by Zoom*

*** Ticket needed to attend. Tickets on sale after July 15th.*

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Anne Royan

The three (3) Pillars that support all LCIA missions and goals are PROTECTING, INSPECTING and CONNECTING.

But our missions and goals are only realized when we are all "working together for the betterment of our community".

As Eugene Mertaugh stated in our purpose statement. . . "These are not the concerns of any single, small, self interested group: they are matters pertinent to all of us."

In the spirit of continuing this mission, the membership committee is focused on increasing membership by 100 new members before May 2024. To accomplish this, LCIA is focused on promoting our connection with individuals who reside in and around the Les Cheneaux Islands. We invite current members to help with this goal by reaching out to family members, adult children, friends and neighbors to join the association.

With summer fast approaching, we know that social schedules fill up quickly. So please mark your calendars and help spread the word for our GREAT membership events:

NEW MEMBERS RECEPTION:

Thursday, July 20th at 5:30 p.m. - Tipper Room (Old Bumpas)

As implied, the intent of this get together is to welcome all new 2022-2023 members as well as any prospective members and to explain ways to get involved within LCIA. So if you know of anyone interested in joining LCIA or who has joined LCIA this year. . . please bring 'em! All are welcome for Hors d'oeuvres and drinks.

New Members events will provide an opportunity to learn more about the LCIA, including ongoing projects and future goals. Everyone is welcome. We look forward to seeing you there.

FISH & GAME COMMITTEE

Mark Engle

May and early June saw some good fishing in the Lee and bass have been on the feed,' resulting in some very good catches by lots of happy anglers. Our local predator fish have been feeding heavily on the invasive round goby. I observed a 30 inch pike being cleaned that had 16 gobies in its stomach. Some good perch were taken this spring in Moscoe Channel and Mackinac Bay.

In mid June, good catches of perch were seen in Musky Bay and Snow's Channel.

"Where are the herring" is a question I have heard repeatedly the past few years. A research program has been ongoing since 2019 conducted by a group representing the Great Lakes Acoustic Telemetry Observation System (GLATOS). The research is a network of tracking devices aimed at monitoring the movements and health of Lake Huron ciscos (commonly referred to as herring). The area being studied is just to the east of the Les Cheneaux islands. GLATOS is a joint effort between Michigan State Univ. and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission which was formed in 2010.

More info is available at:

https://glatos.glos.us/

TOWNSHIP LIASON
Jim Keighley

Want to stay better connected to what the Township is doing? Join the newly formed Citizens of Clark Township FB Group: (2) Citizens of Clark Township: Cedarville and Hessel communities | Facebook

From the Township Supervisor's Office:

- The new Fire/Rescue Boat is in service and has already made several runs.
- The grant proposal to purchase the Neal property as the first step of a long term plan to improve and expand the Hessel Marina is hoped to be approved by the end of the year. The Township needs to raise 25% of the funds for the purchase. All Clark Township residents will benefit from this project and are encouraged to donate and the availability of this property adjacent to the existing marina is a once in a generation opportunity. Donations should be made to the Home - Les Cheneaux Community Foundation (lcicf.org).
- EGLE has approved the Peek-a-Boo trail plan so work on developing can begin.
- The Township closed on property for Hessel Launch Ramp off-site parking (north side of M-134).

From the Township Clerk's Office:

There is an election on August 8 th for... The LCIA encourages residents to vote for both proposals on the ballot:

- Ambulance service/EMTs millage proposal of 1.0 mil for 5 years. The current millage is 0.6 mil.
- Sewer grinder replacement millage proposal. Many of the current 600+ grinders are 30 years old – 10 years beyond their predicted service life.
- The State is granting $3.6M for replacement of all sewer grinders & controls, forgiving 50% of the grant, and loaning the other 50% to the Township at 1.88% interest for 20 years.
- The debt service costs are planned to be covered between the millage proposal and sewer rate increases.

From the Chamber of Commerce:

- Car Show is August 11 th, as always, the Friday before the Boat Show
- Boat Show is August 12 th, as always, the second Saturday in August

LCIA MEMORIES
Kevin Smith

Please enjoy this LCI memory submitted by Kevin Smith. If you have a memory you'd like to share, please email lescheneauxislandsassociation@gmail.com.

"Joan and Mary McCoy in their grandfather's boat in Snow's Channel, circa 1930's"

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

John Griffin

How to choose what our Area's past history is of interest today? What comes to mind is the questions we are all asking each other.

Recent Question was - When will the water go back down ?
Local Lore answer was;
When all the vegetation that grew up along the shore during low water years is drowned out by the high water, then the water will start to go down.

Evidence of that just happening is along all our shores, if you are driving between Hessel & Cedarville on Hwy. M 134, you can see all the dead trees along the shore in Mackinac Bay. Now we see the dead brush & trees and the water has started to go down.

The next question is; When will the water stop going down ?
Local Lore answer is:
The water will start to come back up when we cannot see the water from the mature trees on the shore because of all the brush & trees that grew up as the water went down.

So why is that we ask?
Local lore is that the vegetation & trees create a sponge that holds the water. Believe it or not, if you live another ten years or so you will see this happen. It will happen sooner rather than later if we all just trim the vegetation & trees along our shores and not clear cut our shores. That is the rest of His story we shall witness.

LCIA Merchandise

Show Your LCIA Support Today,
Purchase Merchandise At Events!