

CARIBOU LAKE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER JULY 2019

Caribou
Lake

WEED HARVESTER UPDATE

By July 15 the harvester has logged 87.3 hours of operation, and many, many loads of weeds have been taken out of the lake. One dedicated worker has been operating the harvester, and volunteers have been doing the hauling.

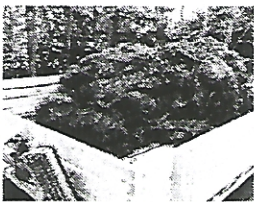
We need to hire another operator, contact one of the CLA officers for more information.

The weed harvester operation continues to be a work in progress. It was delivered on May 29, the DNR allowed two hours of operation for training at that time. Our DNR permit allowed us to start weed harvesting on June 10. Shortly after, it developed a leak in the hydraulic system. Attempts to fix it here were unsuccessful, so the Eco Harvester company shipped a replacement part to a hydraulics expert in Hill City, which meant transporting the entire harvester over to Hill City. To make things more complicated, CLA had to get a permit from the DNR to take it on the roads with weeds attached. After it was fixed, the DNR came with a hot high pressure washer to get rid of all the weeds before bringing it back to Caribou. Thank you to Tom Marchand and Jeff Charnes for their efforts!

CLA purchased a GPS unit for the harvester, it will be installed soon. With the GPS, the operators will be able to work more efficiently.

Until now the harvester has been parked at a dock on Sunny Lane, however it will be moved to the CLA dock at the end of Birch Point Road.

The blue drum on the front of the Eco-Harvester draws in the aquatic vegetation, then the bottom roller and conveyor grab the aquatic plants and pull the weeds out from the roots. They go up the conveyor and are dropped into the hopper.



Thus far, the most difficult weeds for the harvester to deal with are the native water stargrasses. They are long and stringy and don't fall readily off the conveyor into the hopper. They are the propeller cloggers on your motors.

As far as we can determine, all the weeds in Caribou are native weeds, not invasive. They include clasping leaf pondweeds, common waterweeds, northern water milfoil, and common lily pads.

When the hopper is full the harvester needs to be unloaded. Most times the harvester has gone to the DNR landing on Birch Point Road where they are unloaded onto a trailer. The conveyor on the harvester can be rotated so that it sends weeds from the hopper onto the trailer. The load is taken from there to the gravel pit on Industrial for composting. Several people have requested that weeds be dumped on their shore or dock so they can be used for mulch and compost.

We need more volunteers on weekdays to help with the hauling. Training will be provided and CLA has a trailer. It requires a truck or SUV with a 2" ball trailer hitch. You would meet the weed harvester at the Birch Point landing, or on Sunny Lane if that landing is available. If the operator is working a full day, you would meet him at 11 am and 4 pm at the landing to take the weeds. If you are able to help on a one day per week basis, or even a one or two time basis, please contact Jowain at jwallin@cariboulake.org or Tom at tmarchand@cariboulake.org. Please consider helping, so far Tom and Jeff, plus a few others have done the all of the hauling. If you would like weeds for compost, contact Tom, tmarchand@cariboulake.org.

Thank you to all of you who supported the purchase and operation of the weed harvester, thank you to all who have worked and continue to work to get it operating on the lake, and thank you all for your patience while we work out the logistics for this endeavor.



WEEDS, WEEDS, WEEDS

Our plan is to clean up the allowed cutting areas on the DNR map first, then work with property owners who have supported the harvester drive with their weed problems. See the CLA website for the DNR map under the heading "Useful Info".

The DNR rules regarding weeds in dock and swimming areas state that the area to be cleared must be no larger than 2,500 square feet, and the cleared area must not extend more than 50 feet along the shoreline, or one-half the length of your shoreline, whichever is less.

The 2,500 square foot area may also include a boat channel up to 15 feet wide, and as long as necessary to reach open water (the boat channel is in addition to the 2,500 square feet allowed). For floating-leaf vegetation, a lake shore property owner may maintain a channel 15 feet wide extending to open water by mechanical means without a permit.

If you see a large mat of weeds in the DNR cutting area, please notify Tom at the email address below.

AIS INSPECTIONS

Data from the fishing opener through July 12 show there have been 538 inspections at the Birch Point landing and 51 at Holly Lane. The Birch Point landing is covered several hours each day and 10 hours each weekend day. Inspectors report that most boaters are cooperative and understand why their boats need inspection.

LOONS

There are two pairs of adult loons on Caribou, but no chicks have been spotted. Neighbors on North Shady Lane reported an eagle dive bombing two loons and a group of ducks.

MEMORIES

How many years has your family owned the land you occupy now? Tom Rumundstad said that this is the 100th anniversary of their family on Caribou. How many of you grew up at Caribou in the summers? How many remember the path around the lake to Grandma Kehtel's store for candy bars? Dances in Kehtel's barn? Contact Mary, mmmanns@cariboulake.org to share your stories.

CLA OFFICERS

President– Tom Marchand, 218-728-4549, tmarchand@cariboulake.org
Vice President– Jowain Wallin, 218-729-8033, jwallin@cariboulake.org
Secretary– Mary Manns, 218-729-0281, mmmanns@cariboulake.org
Treasurer– Julia Mader, ymader@cariboulake.org

NEW OWNERS ON CARIBOU

Welcome to our new families around the lake! If you have new neighbors, please welcome them and invite them to join Caribou Lake Association.

A CARIBOU 4th OF JULY!

Thank you Les and Rosie Adolphson for organizing the 4th of July Boat Parade. Between the rain showers, fifteen boats went around the lake, led by the CLA weed harvester. Photos of the boats are on the CLA website and CLA facebook pages.

Thank you to all the people who had fabulous fireworks displays on the 4th. There were at least ten places all around the lake, plus a pontoon boat in the middle of lake, that had spectacular fireworks!

MEMBERSHIP

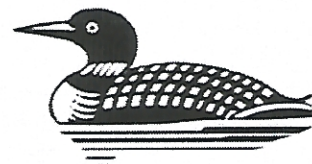
CLA now has 82 members, we hope that even more of you will support the association. Dues are \$35, they help support program planning, weed harvesting, picnic supplies, and communications with property owners. If you have received a membership form with this newsletter, please join. Membership means influence with our local, county and state levels of government.

ANNUAL CLA PICNIC

We are hoping someone will offer to host the annual picnic this summer. All you have to do is provide the space, we will do the rest. Please contact Mary at mmmanns@cariboulake.org if you are able to have the picnic.

AMAZON SMILE BENEFITS CLA

If you order from Amazon, smile.amazon.com will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to CLA. From "Your Account", on the top of the page go down to "Programs and Charities", click on "Change your charity" and type in Caribou Lake Association, Inc. CLA gained almost \$20 in the last quarter from this program!



Caribou Lake Association
P.O. Box 15097
Duluth, MN 55815

Caribou on the web:
cariboulake.org
Facebook/CaribouLakeAssociation