



# CARIBOU LAKE ASSOCIATION

## Aquatic Weed Harvesting



### ISSUE #2 - SEPTEMBER 2021

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Our 88-day permit started on June 10, 2021; however, a broken harvester prevented harvest operations from starting until July 24, 2021. This was frustrating for our board, residents, and lake enthusiasts with the weeds growing quickly. We learned many things about the manufacturer's support of this machine and the importance of ensuring it is stored for the winter in tested and serviceable condition. This fall it will receive full maintenance before storage and be tested on the lake in the early spring to ensure we are setup for the 2022 season. Additionally, common maintenance parts are being ordered to be available without delay if needed.

The DNR extended our season until September 7, 2021 giving us extra time to harvest. While the weeds are dying off at the end of the season, removing them is still important for the upcoming season as the fallen weeds on the lakebed leave nutrients and nourishment for the upcoming year's growth. Our goal remains having a healthy

weed balance. As of writing this, we had over 140-hours of operation for the season, 150-gallons of fuel used, and an estimated 235-yards of weeds pulled from the lake. We are getting very effective at running the machine and can pull a giant trailer load in about 1.5 hours. Volunteer weed dumpers are also very happy with the newly donated hydraulic dump trailer streamlining our operations. Thank you to the two very generous donors that knew we needed help with a weed hauling trailer and stepped forward with an amazing donation! Additionally, thank you to the Peterson's for allowing weed dumping in their pit. This close proximity to our current setup has allowed us to make the most of our short season.



## CLA Annual Picnic: September 10, 2021 5:00pm – 7:00pm

We hope you will be able to attend the CLA Annual Picnic coming up soon! It has been a busy summer and the CLA board looks forward to hosting the annual picnic before docks come out, seasonal neighbors go home, and the fall season encroaches upon us. The event will be the evening of Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at the Sheet Metal Workers Labor Building. For those that have been in the area a while, this is the old Caribou Lake School building. The address is 6279 Industrial Road, Saginaw, MN 55779 and the building is located on the corner of Industrial Road and Munger Shaw Road. We will host the picnic rain or shine with a family friendly

gathering. **Please RSVP** so we know how many attendees to plan for. RSVP at <http://evite.me/ezRsBjBgt7> and let us know how many guests you have. If you any issues you can call or text your RSVP information to 218-590-4555. See you at our end of season finale picnic!



## Email: Important Changes – Update Your Information

It is becoming increasingly important to be able to communicate with our lake residents and association members via email distribution. Mail is too slow, not everyone is on Facebook, and relying on people to check our CLA website isn't effective. We have CLA email addresses for our board; however, they only forward to a personal email. We are changing this so we can send email and tie this to a contact database. A few items that will be important to ensure we are able to contact you with timely communication:

- Spring newsletter will be a hard copy mailing. Any additional newsletters will be electronic going forward.
- Event planning and invitation needs.
- By-law status and proposed updates that haven't been revised since 1982.
- Surveys on what you value for preserving the lake.
- Voting on any open issues (members only).

Any emails submitted on membership forms have been saved; however, some penmanship is difficult to read. You can ensure we have your current information on file by submitting a digital membership form on the website: [https://cariboulake.org/?page\\_id=1384](https://cariboulake.org/?page_id=1384). This is an informational only form and not tied to payment. You can find this form on our CLA website [www.cariboulake.org](http://www.cariboulake.org) (Go to Our Association – Online Membership Form). If you need any assistance please email Carrie Romundstad at [cromundstad@cariboulake.org](mailto:cromundstad@cariboulake.org).



## Wildlife Corner: 2021 Loon Family

It has been several years that I can remember seeing a baby loon on the lake and I personally thought it was a pleasure watching the loon family show off their baby! It grew fast and one of the things I enjoy about being involved in a Lake Association is learning about and getting involved in wildlife preservation. Last year we put our first loon-nesting platform out on the lake and this spring we put them all out for a



total of three. This chick wasn't a by-product of our platforms but it gave me the interest to research and understand more about how loons nest and some ideas for modification that might be more successful in seasons to come. The platforms were a hotspot for other waterfowl and turtles and if you are a nature lover like me, these are always welcome sights! (Carrie Romundstad)



## Membership & Budget

2021 was Caribou Lake Association's highest membership level since 1982 with 108 participating property members. That represents 65% of the lake and we couldn't be more pleased with the progress and how many people have chosen to become CARETAKERS of our lake. As a new board, we want to be very transparent with our plans, have frequent and open communication, and balance the budget so our members always know what they are supporting and where their membership and donation dollars are going. Last year's expenses were 2.1 times the memberships/donations collected and we want to correct that and ensure we are running a healthy plan for our lake. We are not done with this year's operations and fundraising but are much closer to a balanced budget. The more members/donors we have, the more we can

share the lake expenses as a community. As an example, costs over \$800 to run the harvester per week. At 108 members, we can pay for 5.4 weeks of operations. We have additional donations and fundraising, but the example highlights why it is important that we all participate as lake property owners. Our board's off-season will be analyzing the revenues, expenses, donations, and fundraising opportunities to bring our Members a detailed plan going into the year with a budget, operational hours, and expenses to approve with a membership rate for 2022. We will then track and report back to our Membership base how we are doing against their approved plan. We are a board of volunteers that are committed to working for our membership's core values and bringing transparency to budgets and operational plans and needs.

## Ongoing & Upcoming Work

We hope that you have seen great progress this summer. Here is a summary of what we have done to support our members and lake:

- Increased communication and visibility on our Caribou Lake website and Facebook page. While not all questions are easy we are working on ensuring all of our members have a voice and communication is transparent.
- Personally made and donated a new shallow area buoy and placed in an area many have damaged propellers.
- Reduced expense by relocating our PO box to the Twig, MN location. The closer location and expanded hours allowed us to select a smaller size because we can go more frequently.
- Transferred weed-dumping trailer into our name to ensure Association's (members) asset was secured.
- Insured dock and trailers to protect Association (members) assets.
- Requested title to Eco-Harvester trailer so that this asset could also be transferred into the Association's (members) name.
- Contacted St. Louis County to start the project on rebuilding the outlet structure by the beaver dam.
- Brought forward an issue to the membership at the annual meeting on an issue with the old weed-dumping trailer and secured a 100% donation for a new hydraulic lift trailer.
- Introduced weed harvest operation and safety plans to protect our operators and property owners.
- The weed harvester had not been operational since fall of 2020; we diligently worked to be operational. We now have fall and early spring operational checks planned so this does not happen in the future. We also secured an additional week of operation time on our license with the DNR.
- We are typing up the by-laws from 1982 to be shared with the membership for review and update.
- Caribou Lake Meeting/Event sign updates are in work for all roads. Additionally, we are investigating adding nameplate signs for Birch Point and Charles Roads.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

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### Cory Garden

Cory is not only the President of the Association but also spends many hours harvesting weeds and maintaining the harvester for our lake.

### Jeff Charnes

Jeff is our resident IT expert and has maintained our website infrastructure, setup online payments, and also carves the names for our legacy Industrial Road sign.

### Paul Manns

Paul assists Jeff with the finishing of the nameplates for the legacy Industrial Road sign. Paul also volunteered time on the harvester this season.

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Want to volunteer? Harvesting, by-law review, event planning, other ideas and skills? We would love for you to reach out and share your ideas and skills!

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or (218) 590-4555

