

PORTAGE LAKE ASSOCIATION 2011 (SPRING ?) NEWSLETTER

E-MAIL SPRING NEWSLETTER

This newsletter will be sent to residents having e-mail, so only 20 paper copies (approximately) will be mailed, in order to save printing and postage costs. Please feel free to print out this newsletter if your spouse or other family members either are not computer literate or do not read e-mail so they will be able to read the newsletter. Please notify me of e-mail changes or if you haven't provided your e-mail address before so you will be able to receive the Portage Lake newsletter by e-mail. Please let me know if you would prefer to still receive a paper copy.

(My e-mail is: marilyn@peteport.com) or phone: 218-732-4760



NICE NORTHERN PIKE CAUGHT

Joan and Tom Musil of Far Portage Drive sent this photo of their son, Rob Harrington, who caught this 34 inch, 11 pound northern on Sunday, September 26, 2010. After bringing it into the boat, Rob released the fish back into Portage Lake.

LOW DISSOLVED OXYGEN LEVEL IN PORTAGE LAKE —Partial winterkill possible?

The dissolved oxygen level is very low according to Doug Kingsley, Park Rapids Area Fisheries Supervisor. Readings below 3 ppm dissolved oxygen can be stressful to fish, particularly to the panfish and large mouth bass. Walleyes and northerns can moderately tolerate low oxygen levels. Bullheads are able to tolerate low oxygen levels well. Temperature and how rapidly the oxygen decreases are important factors. A gradual decrease in oxygen allows some fish to acclimate. No actual readings were reported for March. Kingsley just commented that oxygen was very low. With a heavy snow cover, or even unclear "slush" ice, the amount of sunlight reaching plants is decreased causing many plants to die. The decomposing plants use up oxygen instead of producing oxygen, leaving little oxygen for animal life.

<u>Depth</u>	<u>1/21/11</u>	<u>2/16/11</u>	In 1985 there was a massive fish kill. Thousands of dead fish were deposited along the southern shore when the ice went out.
3 ft.	3.9 ppm	1.9 ppm	Residents buried dead fish by the wheelbarrow load. Flocks of crows and gulls sat on the floating ice as it shifted around the lake, busily eating dead fish on the ice and loudly shrieking into the night, happy about the plentiful food. This year, when open water started appearing along our frontage on the north shore, we counted
5 ft.	2.4 ppm	0.6 ppm	
8 ft.	1.5 ppm	0.4 ppm	
10 ft.	1.5 ppm	0.3 ppm	
14 ft.	0.4 ppm	0.3 ppm	

45-50 dead frogs of all sizes, as well as a few dead minnows, in about 50 feet of frontage, only a foot or two out from shore. We do not have any nearby springs for an oxygen supply as residents having nearby springs did not see any dead frogs or minnows. As of 4/21/11, there is still ice on the lake. Last year was the earliest ice out—March 31. Check out the ice dates page on the Portage Lake Association website: www.peteport.com/portage

CARDS OF THANKS

1. From Terry Buell: I am very appreciative of the unique gift. (Portage L. T-shirt) This is something I will keep for a long time. Thanks for thinking of me when my health was not good.
2. From Sonja Anderson: Your kindness will always be remembered. Thank you, Portage L. Assoc.
3. From Betty Bruckelmyer: Thank you for the beautiful card and the gift that will go to Hospice as they were so good to Ed and he kept the nurses chuckling. We appreciate your kind words.
4. From Bev Steenson: Thanks for the nice card and memorial. It was greatly appreciated.
5. From the Sisters of Saint Benedict Monastery of Crookston, MN, the designated charity in memory of Rita Galloway. Your kindness is greatly appreciated. We are so very grateful to all who continue to support us and our ministries. The sisters and I shall offer our daily prayers for your special intentions as well as for all of Rita's family during this time of loss. May all your days be filled with peace and joy.
(Memorials of \$25 each were sent to the families of Dennis Anderson, Ed Bruckelmyer, Walt Steenson, and Rita Galloway, all Portage residents who passed away since last fall.)

FOREST PARK DRIVE RESURFACING WITH A CUL-DE-SAC MAYBE THIS SUMMER

Todd Township is planning to resurface Forest Park Drive, this summer if possible. To bring the road up to standards, they will be changing the end of the road into a cul-de-sac so that school buses don't have to back up and snowplows can do their job easier. It will also help the boaters who know the public access is somewhere on the south side of the lake. The best site for the cul-de-sac is entirely on the Allin property at the end of Forest Park drive such that it ends about 100 feet short of where the pavement now ends. When the project is complete, the Township will ask to vacate this last 100 feet or so. The Allins will continue to use this strip as a driveway. So when construction equipment rolls into the area, be assured that there are no big changes coming to the neighborhood as part of that project.

Kevin Allin

STILL TIME TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CURLY LEAF PONDWEED ABATEMENT FUND

Up to 24 acres are scheduled for treatment—open water treatment sometime in May, with near shore treatment amongst docks and boatlifts probably in June. Suggested contribution per lake home based on 65-70 contributions is \$80 for 2011. This year you need to sign a short permission to treat form if open water treatment areas or near shore treatment areas affect you. If you have **NEAR SHORE CURLYLEAF** in your frontage, you must apply for a **DNR NATIVE WEED TREATMENT PERMIT** as well because treatment will be done after June 1. The cost of the \$35 permit will be taken care of by the lake association. There is a \$750 maximum permit fee per lake. If you wish to send lake association membership dues in at the same time, dues are \$15/ couple or multiparty owners; \$7.50 for singles. **Please write check out to: Portage Lake Improvement Association, C/O Marilyn Peterson, 12651 Far Portage Drive, Park Rapids, MN 56470.** Check out the curly leaf page online @ www.peteport.com/portage

TRIPLET FAWNS SEEN ALONG FAR PORTAGE DRIVE IN 2010.



Charles Hanisch sent this photo of the Far Portage Drive triplet fawns taken during the summer of 2010. The fawns and their mom spent most of last summer and fall napping and nibbling in the Hanisch yard and woods. (Lorelei Kraft's former residence) To the Hanishes—Did any of the fawns make it through hunting season and are they still seen in the area?

DISPLAY BOX ON THE PORTAGE LAKE ACCESS SIGN IS VANDALIZED.

The glass on the display box has been broken so repairs are needed before any information can be placed inside.

LITTERING ICE FISHERMEN LEFT A MESS ON THE LAKE BY THE PUBLIC ACCESS.

It took resident Matt Hirsch between 2-3 hours to chisel out wood blocks, boards and other garbage left on the ice near the public access and pile them up on land. Resident Charlie Pieper and Greg Hensel of Hubbard County Parks & Recreation hauled the debris away before the big snowstorm in late March. Wood used to block up fish houses and personal garbage should be removed from the lake. **Pack it in, pack it out as well!**

We lake association members need to discuss the vandalism and littering problems during the annual summer meeting. Suggestions welcome.

*****NEW HUBBARD COUNTY SHORELINE RULES BROCHURE**

The lake association contributed \$50 to the Hubbard County SWCD (soil & water office) to offset costs of the new Hubbard County Shoreline Rules brochure. In return, the association will receive brochures to distribute to Portage residents.

Portage Lake Improvement Association
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