

Lake Manitou

Area Newsletter

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Publisher Fred Farkas

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“Running water does not flow backwards. So it is with life.” Make it happy!



On November 23rd Frosty made his first appearance this winter season. Riding a bicycle and pedaling through the neighborhood, he was taking full advantage of the first snow fall. Thanks to Jacob Feinauer for the creativity.

New To Our Community

Welcome to Linda Baldwin who recently purchased a home on W. Manitou. Linda is looking forward to moving into her home after making renovations. She currently resides in the Laingsburg area but is very familiar with Owosso. Linda's name and address is now listed in our on line address book. Stop by and say hello to her.

Water Wonderment

According to Water Quality Investigators (1993), Lake Manitou is 73 acres with an average depth is 11 feet. Its deepest point is 19 feet and there is a complete water replacement, called “the flushing rate”, more than twice a year. (2.12 times/yr average).

According to the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, the water in the Great Lakes makes up 18 percent of the world's fresh water.

Lake Superior has the deepest spot in the Great Lakes at 1,333 feet. The water replacement time is 173 years.

Lake Michigan is the second largest Great Lake by water volume, but has less than half the volume of Lake Superior. The water replacement time is 62 years.

Lake Huron has the most shoreline of any of the Great Lakes with 3,830 miles of shore.

Lake Huron has a 1,000 miles more shoreline than Lake Superior. Although Lake Huron is the second largest Great Lake by surface area, it only takes 21 years to replace the water.

Lake Erie is the shallowest of the Great Lakes with an average depth of 62 feet. It would only take 2.7 years for Lake Erie to dry up if no water flowed into it.

Lake Ontario's average depth is 283 feet. The water replacement time is 6 years.



As The Lake Churns



The aerial photo is of Lake Manitou believed to be taken about 1959. There's only a hand full of homes. Can you find where you are located? Thanks to Joe Ross and family who shared this photo.

Some of you have probably been lying awake at night wondering, and maybe even concerned about what happens to all that wave energy generated by large fast speed boats motoring around the lake. Water has a powerful altering effect on shorelines, especially from wave action. In small lakes such as ours shoreline erosion increases exponentially as the wave energy has less distance (called fetch) to dissipate before reaching shore. There is a science to understanding water wave energy and its impact on shorelines.

After purchasing my lake front home in 2009 a neighbor mentioned that my lakeshore property line had lessened 4 to 5 feet over the last ten years. Over the next few years I watched it recede another foot as a result of boating wave action before engineering a hardened shoreline with rock and deep rooted natural vegetation.

At shores where there is a ledge or steep grade the wave energy is forward and downward. Erosion is increased when the shore has shallow rooted turf grass. If you take the time to carefully observe some of the shorelines you will see signs of accelerated erosion.

A number of residents have vertical steel sea walls out of necessity to protect their property from excessive erosion but these cause

As The Lake Churns (continued)

additional negative wave energy effects to the lake. Wave energy is not only deflected downward causing lake floor scouring and increased turbidity, but energy is also deflected backwards and sideways causing additional erosion to unprotected shorelines on either side. They create barriers and reduce natural habitat for turtles and other shoreline wildlife which are an integral element in a lake setting. Sometimes the waves will over top the seawalls causing erosion behind the wall. Currently the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) is emphasizing more natural type shoreline hardening as an alternative to vertical sea walls whenever possible.

Historically the lake has been "all sports", but should boats be regulated in size and speed? I have heard opinion in favor. Another concern is a newer style boat; the wake boat. The hull is designed specifically to increase the waves it produces for a bumpier ride for the person being pulled (which increases on shore wave energy).

Here's an educational website for information on helping to protect your shoreline without a vertical sea wall: www.mishorelinepartnership.org/. Shore line alteration or hardening at or below the water line requires a MDEQ permit prior to the start of the project.

Snowmobile Courtesy Please

Snowmobiles will soon be making their way over hill and valley and across the lake. Please be mindful that other residents' property is not access points to and from the lake. Snowmobilers have caused some damage to our neighbors landscaping. The dam, Smith Park Drive and the private properties adjacent to the dam and spillway are not access points to the lake or the wood lot. Let us be considerate of our neighbors' property.



Farewell To Family

Henry "Hank" Griffin (76) passed away November 19, 2015 after a lengthy illness.

Hank was a high school educator more than 30 years, retiring in 1993. Hank and Bonnie have been Lake Manitou residents 39 years and one of their sons, Jason and his family, reside at Lake Manitou. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Bonnie and her family.

It was sunny and an unseasonably mild Sunday afternoon December 6th when Patti Sidebottom's mother, Mary (93) passed away. A few days preceding her death it was evident that Mary would soon be at rest, giving the family time to prepare and say good bye. For more than eight years Patti and Howard had been providing loving care in their home for Mary. It takes a very special personal commitment to provide continuous attention and resources to a loved one who is frail and in need.

When parents and other siblings have died, the last remaining member of the immediate family is faced with a sobering reflection that they are the last of the family legacy. It's a reminder of one's own mortality and that there is a beginning and there is an end. So it is for our neighbor Dave Gagnier whose youngest sister Judy (73) passed away last month. Dave is now the last surviving family member of his immediate family. Dave shared a vivid childhood memory which is as crisp and clear as if it were yesterday. On a cold snowy day in Detroit, Judy would be pulling a sled load of Detroit Free Press newspapers, helping her big brother Dave deliver them door-to-door. A memory of yesteryear to be cherished.

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven".

Crooked Tree Nursery

A very special thank you goes to Eddie Louch, owner of Crooked Tree Nursery located at the corner of M-52 and Bennington roads for allowing us to compost 37 truckloads of harvested aquatic plants on his property. Please support his business. 472-4408.

Dutcher's Dairy Farm

Maybe you've heard of it? The dairy operation is located on Morrice road just South of Garrison road. The name on the silo is Shawnee Creek Farm. According to brothers Matt and Kevin Dutcher they milk about 120 bovine producing 1000 gallons of milk a day. They also crop farm 1,500 surrounding acres. It's a substantial agribusiness that has been passed down through their family for almost 100 years and judging by the enthusiasm of their offspring, the operation could very well continue for many more generations. Prior to the Dutcher's, others had dairy farmed on the site 50 years making it a continuous dairy operation for 150 years.

Did you know the gestation period for a cow is 274 days? Just over 9 months.

This past October 13, 2015 the Dutcher's welcomed Michigan State University Extension agents and others, including me, to view their operation as it relates to water quality and utilization practices. The MSU Extension group was participating in a Shiawassee Water Tour making stops at Owosso water intake treatment plant, Lake Manitou shoreline and the Dutcher farm.

Getting back to the farm, did you know it takes about 4 ½ gallons of water to produce 1 gallon of milk?

Matt also explained they incorporate conservation practices to minimize runoff of manure and crop land fertilizers into the Hardy-Jennings Drain by planting cover crop buffer strips 50 feet wide along the edge of the drain near the dairy operation. There are also buffer strips along the drain where there is crop production. Fertilizers are stored a mile away from the drain. They also test their crop soils every three years to manage their fertilizer applications.

Websites Of Interest

www.lake-manitou.org As you may know, the Association sends out email notifications when new or important information becomes available. Please be sure to forward your email address to Kathy Landes,

Websites (continued)

(director-4@lake-manitou.org) so you can receive timely information. Here are a few websites of outdoors interest:

www.mymlsa.org

www.msue.msu.edu

www.agbioresearch.msu.edu

Shiawassee County

As of the year 2013:

The county population was 69,910 which was a decline of 1,777 persons since 2000.

Unemployed persons 16 years or older was 7.6%. (More than doubled since 2000). The percent of people in poverty was 15.1%. (More than doubled since 2000, and just reported in the Argus Press last week, Shiawassee County population in poverty in 2014 was 15.5 %.)

The statistics come from MSUE, "A snapshot of Shiawassee County".

Holiday Tunes At The Village



Our neighbor Joe Ross (left) and his partner Caleb Garrison volunteered their musical talents at the Corunna Historical Village this past December 12, 2015 during the annual open house in which all of the historical buildings were open to the public. The village is decorated with thousands of Christmas lights which are on display in the evenings through the Christmas holiday.

At The Village (continued)

The village road is open to drive or walk through. Stop by and take a look.

You Know

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform, educate, enlighten and entertain. It is privately funded and not an official publication of the Lake Manitou Association.

Your thoughts, opinions and suggestions are very much appreciated. Contact Fred Farkas at 734 417-1276.

You can find this newsletter in color on the Lake Manitou Association website www.lake-manitou.org Click on "About Us" then click on "Newsletter".

The newsletter is published quarterly and the next edition is scheduled for March 2016.

A Wish For All

Take time to pause frequently and admire the landscape and ever changing scenery that surrounds us. Realize that many neighbors are suffering with serious illness, emotional distress or loss of loved ones. Be mindful that many others are struggling with life's complexities. Treat others as you would like to be treated. Be kind and compassionate. Reflect on how fortunate you are to be a part of this community and this country.



"Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is God's gift, that's why we call it the present."

"Being thankful is a choice that we must make every day."

"We tend to forget that happiness doesn't come as a result of getting something we don't have, but rather of recognizing and appreciating what we do have."