



Douglas Lake NEWSLETTER

Douglas Lake Improvement Association

www.DouglasLake.org

P.O. Box 472, Pellston, MI 49769

May, 2020

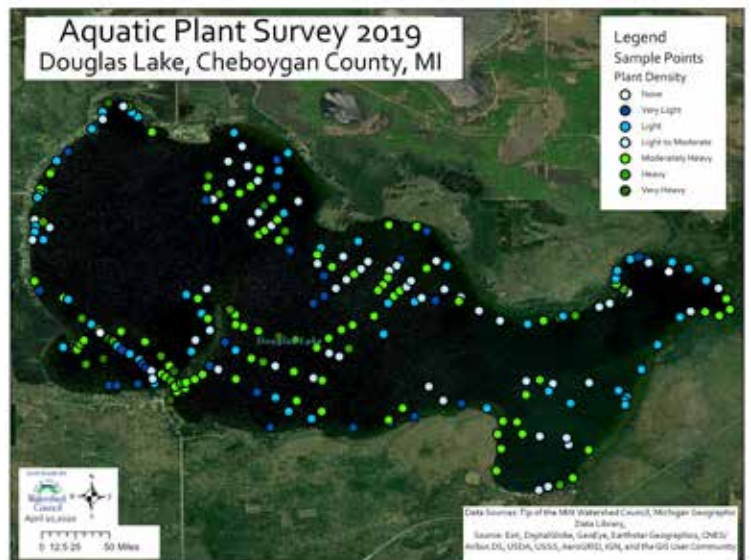
Summer 2020 at Douglas Lake

Writing this message just after mid-April, I can confess that the days are running together pretty much undistinguished. Is it Friday, or is it Monday, or maybe another day? We live in weird, and, unfortunately, historic times. There is nothing “normal” about the new normal. Whether you’re a glass half-empty, or a glass half-full person, we are all troubled, uncertain, and waiting for a healthy economy, a healthy population, and easing of the social distancing/face mask lifestyle. There is some comfort in being surrounded by Mother Nature, where life progresses in accordance with the season. The ice has gently disappeared from Douglas Lake. Spring flowers are blooming. Hope. Hope. Hope.

Our partners at the Watershed Council have shared an early map of findings from the 2019 Douglas Lake Aquatic Plant Survey (see picture). Douglas Lake is healthy, the vegetation is free from aquatic plant invasives, and the milder winter seems to have left most shorelines in pretty good shape. The full report will be available to the DLIA membership in the near future.

Predicting how this summer will play out compared to our traditional summer of boating and water sports, fishing, merchandise sales, Book Group discussions, and community gatherings, is an exercise in frustration at best. As the learned medical folks say, plan for the worst, and hope for the best. We’ll be using eNews to share updates, openings, closings, postponements, etc., with DLIA members, as we become aware of them. The Executive Board has several tentative dates for meetings - beginning at the end of May and into early June. If circumstances won’t let that happen, the Executive Board will join the Zoom-user community. Although there won’t be any “on-site” classes at the UM Biological Station this summer, we have reserved Monday evening, August 24th, at the Gates Lecture Hall, for the DLIA Annual Meeting. I would like to be optimistic that a community gathering by that date will be possible. If not, then the usual and necessary Annual Meeting functions will be covered by direct mailing to all DLIA members.

DLIA members have stepped up all around the lake to help neighbors, share shopping, and attend to some routine tasks. To acknowledge just a few: Thanks to Marilyn Kelemen and Gail Denkins who made masks for neighbors; thanks to Rich Gedert who got all four of the loon nesting platforms in place just as the ice was going out, and the first loon couple was heard/seen on the Lake; and to Stuart Case, and his crew, who have been able to get the DLIA /Munro Township boat launch in place. I’ve cited only a very few of the many acts of kindness and generosity that reflect why living in the Douglas Lake community is so special. We have much to be thankful for. There’s never a bad time to express your gratitude to those folks who keep us safe, and provide the mundane, ordinary, and exceptional services we benefit from.



Stay Safe. Stay Healthy. Mary Ellen Sheridan DLIA President

DLIA ANNUAL MEETING Monday, August 24, 7:00 p.m. – UM Biological Station (Date and time subject to change)



Lake Level Update

by *Adam Schubel*, UMBS Resident Biologist

After appropriately sounding the alarm due to a record-high January level on Douglas Lake, local climate observer and amateur hydrogeomorphologist, Mark Paddock, is now predicting a spring high lake level below the 2018 record of 714.95 feet. After the extraordinarily high winter lake level of early January, the lake steadily declined through (a record-high) February, and reached a year-to-date low of 713.84 feet in early March. Late winter/early spring lake level declines are unusual here, and we did not expect the trend, but we welcomed it.

The lake is still unusually high. The low level of early March was over 10 inches above the long-term March average, and the lake has since risen about 7.5 inches to 714.46 feet on March 31. A relatively abrupt increase in lake level typically occurs between March and April, when Douglas Lake usually reaches its highest annual level.

We expect the lake level to continue rising in the coming days to weeks, but we suspect that most of the increase has already occurred, and that the lake will not reach the levels it has the past two springs. Spring lake level responds to various factors, among which are snowmelt, precipitation, and lake ice. Snowpack this winter reached about 75% of the long-term average, and much of the snow has already melted, accounting for some of the lake level rise in March. Precipitation in March was over an inch above the long-term March average, which accounted for some of the rise as well.

Lake ice contributes to the lake level primarily by inhibiting evaporation. After the lake ice melts, evaporation begins to compete with precipitation as a driver of the lake level. Whether the lake goes up or down is usually up for grabs for a little while, depending on the weather. By late spring, however, the lake typically enters a declining phase that lasts through the summer. This year, the lake ice remained relatively thin, and we expect it to go out within the next week or two. Usually, the lake level starts to decline a short time later.

Due to the sustained high lake levels, risk of property damage remains relatively high. The risk does not appear to be as great as we feared over the winter, but weather in the coming weeks remains a wild card. The lake continues to be at a level where heavy precipitation could cause rapid rises to damaging levels. (March 31, 2020)

Do's & Don'ts for Septic System Care

by *Mary Ellen Sheridan*

"Lovin' Livin' at Douglas Lake" comes with at least one new way of life previously unknown to many of us: the care and maintenance of a septic system that treats waste water from household plumbing produced by bathrooms, kitchen drains, and laundry. Fortunately there are some very helpful guidelines available on:

- Michigan State University Extension Services "Managing Waste: Systems – Part One, Part Two and Part Three"

http://www.canr.msu.edu/news/comprehensive_onsite_wastewater_management_education_program

- Health Department of Northwest Michigan "Homeowner's Guide to Septic Care":

<http://nwhealth.org/septic.html><http://nwhealth.org/septic.html>

Some Basic Rules:

DO:

- Pump your tank on a regular basis (generally every 3-5 years). The more you use it, the more often it should be cleaned out.
- Conserve water. Fix leaky faucets, install low-flow fixtures, and avoid unnecessary water usage.
- Restrict or eliminate using a garbage disposal. Compost organic waste or put it in the trash.
- Know where your drainfield is and take care of it. Make sure heavy items are never placed over the drainfield including piles of snow.
- Remove trees 10-20' around drainfield to prevent root intrusion.
- Make sure your tank is protected from unauthorized entry.
- Know where your septic tank lid is and keep it accessible for inspections.

DON'T:

- Flush items that aren't biodegradable. Many items labeled as 'biodegradable' are not readily digestible by traditional septic systems (i.e. biodegradable wipes and other similar products).
- Allow hazardous fluids to enter your wastewater treatment system. Solvents, oils, paint thinners, poisons, pesticides, used pharmaceuticals, etc., need to be disposed of properly.
- Enter a septic tank – EVER! Gases in the tank are very dangerous. Call a professional service provider in case of problems.
- Dig into your drainfield or build anything over it.

Warning Signs of System Failure:

- Wastewater backing into household drains.
- Bright green, spongy grass on the drainfield, even during dry weather.
- Pooling water or muddy soil around septic system or in the basement.
- A strong odor around septic tank and drainfield.

Special Considerations for Cottages around Douglas Lake:

The average person uses about 75 gallons of water per day. Most septic system sizing guidelines utilize 150 gallons/bedroom, (expecting 2 persons per bedroom) to determine the size of a septic tank. When demands

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BEAVER ISLAND LAKE MICHIGAN'S "EMERALD ISLE"

by *Linda Orlow*

Having sailed and raced into Saint James Harbor on Beaver Island, (the best protected harbor on Lake Michigan) and the historic, eclectic village of Saint James many times, my late husband Tom and I grew fond and familiar with many aspects of this 'step back in time' island, located 32 miles northwest of Charlevoix. The island can be accessed from Charlevoix by the Beaver Island Boat Co. ferry in two hours, or by Fresh Air Aviation and Island Airways in ten minutes.

The island is 13 miles long and 6 miles wide with 7 inland lakes and 7 nearby islands in the archipelago. There are about 650 year-round residents on Beaver Island, where 2600 lived at one time. You can explore over 100 miles of scenic (most are unpaved) roads, two lighthouses, two museums, beaver dams, old trails and miles of beautiful beaches with opportunities for beachcombing, birdwatching, biking, hiking and camping.

Beaver Island was first inhabited by Native Americans, then French explorers stopped by. The island became the next stop after Ellis Island for waves of Irish immigrants, which are still very evident at McDonough's Market and many more places. Beaver Island even had a KING! Renegade James Strang crowned himself king of the Mormons in 1850 after establishing a Mormon colony and having the town named for him. He was a polygamist with 5 wives and 14 children. The Strangite Mormons started the first newspaper in Michigan - the Northern Islander - in 1850. Strang was not popular with many Irish islanders and was assassinated in 1856.

The island was the center of the finest fresh water commercial fishery in the world from 1880 to 1900 and by 1940 many of the fishing families had left the overfished area.

I would recommend staying on the island at least two or more nights. Due to the ferry schedule, staying one night means you will only be there one afternoon, to early the following morning. You may want to consider bringing your car on the ferry to see all of the island. There are rental cars but they are in very rough condition. If possible, think about traveling by ferry one way and flying the other if you don't want to take a car. Our favorite lodging is the Beaver Island Lodge, which is within walking distance of the ferry, and pick up service from the airport. Baileys Restaurant at the Lodge has an outstanding view of Garden Island and a possible freighter passing, as well as wonderful food. You can also find good VRBO or Airbnb accommodations. Other good restaurants include the not-to-be-missed Shamrock Bar and Restaurant, and Dalwhinnie Bakery and Deli.

Along with the Mormon Print Shop Museum, I would recommend visiting the 1851 Beaver Head Lighthouse on a bluff at the south end of the island as well as the St. James Harbor Light. Make time to visit Russian Feodor Protar's 1893-1925 Cabin on Sloptown Road, west of Donnel Mor's Lane. On the road along the harbor don't miss the Toy Museum and Store (owner Mary Rose is a talented artist and a character), the Beaver Island Library on Donagel Road (trust me on this recommendation), and on West Side Road, check out the Central Michigan University Biological Station and their Millers Marsh Natural Area with trail guideposts.

Enjoy this unique island!

WELCOME NEW DLIA MEMBERS

November 2019 through April 30, 2020

Zone 71

- Larry & Beth Grzegorzewski, 9460 Silver Strand Road

Zone 102

- Mary Jo Gruber & Bruce Cicone, 8333 Quiet Lane

A REMINDER

In order to receive important DLIA messages, please add membership@douglaslake.org to your email contact list.

WILD EDIBLES AROUND the LAKE

by *Frank and Gail Beaver*

Foraging around Douglas Lake has been a wonderful springtime activity for us - breathing Northern Michigan air, hiking to limber up the legs, observing early wild-flowers as they pop up among fallen leaves. Our spring foraging includes morels, ramps and wild asparagus.

MORELS

The morel mushroom season is two part - the black coming first followed by the white - or some call them yellow or gray.



We have found early black morels when there was still snow in the woods, especially in familiar hunting areas. But with the fluctuation of weather and temperatures from year to year, diligent searching

is the best plan. On days when the weather is warm and the ground moist, morels can pop up overnight.

During the season black and white morels can often be found together. The whites often grow quite large and are sometimes most prevalent during the height of the black fly scourge! Wear head nets and spray. A few years back, the flies were so bad we hesitated about going into the woods again. But we went - to check out a special spot around a cluster of ash trees. Within 15 minutes we had picked a bagful.



Remember to take along net bags so that as you walk the morels will release spores and help spur next year's crop. Also take along a pocket knife

for harvesting, or pinch the stem so that the bottom of the morel remains in the ground. The hunters' mantra: When you find a morel, stay in the area as usually there are more in the surrounding area - hot spots. Identifying true morels are not difficult because they are a single entity, a continuous specimen. You won't be able pull away the mushroom cap as you can with the false morel. If you slice a true morel down the middle, you'll have two equally matched sides, which are easier for brushing away debris and for drying. We use Cabela's set of stacking wire grids to dehydrate the mushrooms in the sun near an open window. Air drying takes a day or two. We put the dried mushrooms, which shrink to very small sizes, in jars in the freezer where they stay well preserved for surprising lengths of time. In Antonio Carluccio's, *The Complete Mushroom Book* (2003) the famed Italian chef described morels as the ideal mushroom for culinary use because they rehydrate almost completely.



Our most reliable source of information about morel hunting is Nancy Smith Weber and Jim Weber's book titled, *A Morel Hunter's Companion: A Guide to True and False Morels*. Jim Weber was a researcher at UMBS at the time the book was written (1995). Nancy is from Michigan and hunted morels with her parents, who were experienced and "best-known mushroomers".



RAMPS

Wild ramps, often referred to as wild leeks, are annually heralded as the earliest spring edible to appear on New York City restaurant menus. The ramp's strong, unique garlicky - onion taste, has long been a spring staple in the Appalachian Mountains. The wild ramp trail runs from Northern Georgia to Canada. They're easy to see: deep green plants with one or

two broad leaves ranging in length from 4-12 inches as the season progresses. Ramp patches can be found in the higher elevations around Douglas Lake. We once saw a couple emerge from the woods with two burlap bags filled with ramps. That kind of harvesting is now widely



discouraged, as large removal of ramps from patches takes a toll on sustainability. Leek festivals in southern mountain areas have depleted low and mid-level ramp populations. Conservationists recommend digging around the ramp, and cutting off the bottom of the bulb, leaving the roots in



the ground. Many ramp lovers harvest only the leaves. Numerous ramp recipe books are now in publication. *Ramps: How to Take a Leek in the Woods* is the work of Brian Cool, a Northern Michigan farmer and craftsman. The humorously titled book, in paperback and Kindle, has been praised for its comprehensive content about harvesting, preserving, and cooking with leeks. We use ramps in much the same way as we use green onions: in sauces, with cream cheese for a cracker spread, pizza topping, or as sides sautéed in a little olive oil. We found that pickled ramps are tasty garnishes for vodka or gin martinis. A Brutus Road acquaintance chops and dries the leeks for use in soups and other winter comfort dishes. The first “mess o’ leeks” of the spring season was a family event in northwestern Pennsylvania where Gail grew up. One of her uncles always brought the leeks and everyone pitched in to clean them before stuffing them into a folded slice of freshly baked and buttered bread. She still takes the buttered bread into the woods and eats the first one out of the ground that way. The early spring family ritual also included cleaning and storage. The leeks are cleaned just as you would clean a green onion. Then they can be stored in a large covered jar of cold water, (to keep the “aroma contained”) in the refrigerator. It’s best to change the water occasionally so they remain fresh for several weeks.

ASPARAGUS

Wild asparagus appears in late May around the lake and continues until late June/early July, when the plants go to seed. Finding wild asparagus is easiest when you can spot last year’s thin, dried stalks - often by the side of roads. Young spears will emerge at the base of the stalks and can grow inches overnight. When the spears are four to five inches high, use a pocket knife to cut off the spear at ground level - a new spear will appear in a few days. Snapping off the spear by hand will curtail the natural reproduction cycle. If done correctly, you or some other Douglas Laker can be harvesting wild asparagus for weeks. Another strategy: When you locate a site with dried stalks, new spears will often be surrounded and hidden by tall grass. Move through the site and draw the palm of your hand through the grass as you go. Invariably you’ll discover hidden treasure. This is especially so in uncultivated open field spaces. Harvesting should stop when the spears become thin and wrinkled. Wild asparagus, lightly blanched for 2-4 minutes and frozen in Ziplock bags, can be kept for up to six months.



Douglas Lake Womenade by Kim Grant

As we prepare the Womenade Summer 2020 gathering schedule, we are extremely hopeful the Covid-19 Pandemic will be behind us, so we may share a meal and enjoy the company of friends who believe in the mission of the organization: to assist children and families from Pellston, or who live in Cheboygan County, and who are experiencing a family emergency.

All women of Douglas Lake or friends who are interested in the mission are invited to attend. Each member is asked to bring her own table service and beverage, a dish to share, and a suggested donation check for \$35, made payable to DL Womenade. After a short business meeting, we share dinner and conversation. All meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday in June, July, August, and a September dinner (to be announced) for a member and her guest. Even if you are not interested in attending the monthly gatherings, please consider a donation to Womenade. Checks can be made out to DL Womenade and mailed to Marilyn Kelemen at 11406 White Birch Drive, Pellston, MI 49769. Rest assured; your money will be put to good use.

2020 Schedule (subject to change)

June 17 – Holly Gedert’s home – 9760 Silver Strand Rd

July 15 – Becky Duffy’s home – 7256 Bryant Road

August 19 – Karen Spezia’s home – 9380 Star Trail

September – *Date, time, and location to be announced at a later date.*

BURT LAKE TRAIL

by *Dale Covy*

Munro Township Representative to the Burt Lake Trail Committee, with an update by Gene Hodulik, Burt Lake Trail Committee Chair

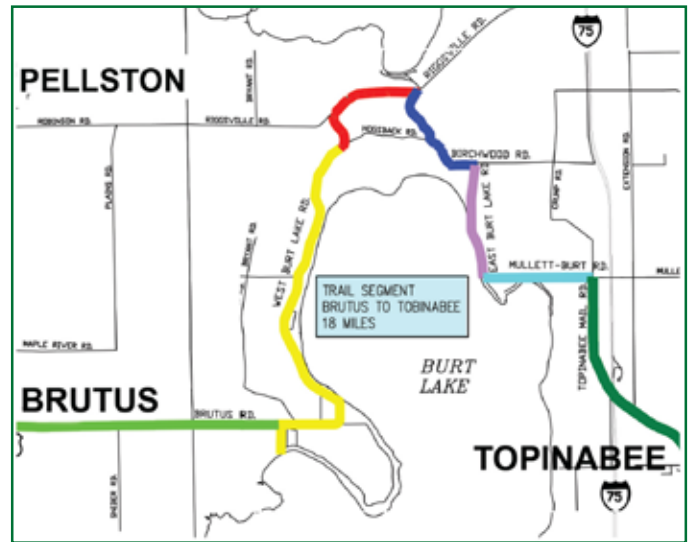
Dale writes: As I sit in my office in Ohio, I can't help but think about how much I miss Michigan. With the outbreak of COVID-19 and the travel restrictions in place, I wonder when I will be able to get up to Douglas Lake, and what it will be like when I do. One thing that I know for sure is that being outside in nature is now more essential to my well-being than ever before. Northern Michigan has one of the best systems of parks, nature preserves, and trails, in not only the state, but in the entire country!

The Burt Lake Trail will connect the North Central State Trail at Topinabee, to the Northwest State Trail in Brutus. The North Central State Trail extends from Mackinaw



City to Gaylord, and the Northwest State Trail extends from Mackinaw City to Charlevoix, and eventually to Traverse City. The Burt Lake Trail will be 18 miles long, and when combined with the North Central State Trail, and the Northwest State Trail, it will form a 67-mile loop from Brutus to Mackinaw City, to Topinabee, back to Brutus. All of these trails are ideal for safely walking, jogging and biking, with or without your pets.

The first section of the Burt Lake Trail, completed in 2013 (yellow section on map below), was a 5-mile stretch of crushed limestone along West Burt Lake Road, from the Burt Lake State Park-Maple Bay parking area, to Hogsback



Road. The second section (aqua), completed in 2017, is a 5-foot paved shoulder on each side of Mullett-Burt Road, from Hoppies Restaurant to Topinabee Mail Route Road. The third section (red), along the south side of Riggsville Road, between Hogsback Road at West Burt Lake Road, and the intersection of Riggsville Road at East Burt Lake Road, was scheduled to be finished in 2019.

This segment was not completed last fall as Reith-Riley had a large backlog of roads to blacktop. Construction is now being completed, and you will be able to ride, walk, and jog on this 1.83-mile trail paralleling Riggsville Road from West Burt Lake Road to East Burt Lake Road, across from the UMBS entrance. This section will be easily accessed from the parking area for the 'Gorge' just east of the West Burt Lake Road / Riggsville Road intersection. This will be a ten-foot-wide paved path, made possible by an easement from The University of Michigan, and funded entirely by grants from MDOT, and the Michigan DNR's Recreational Trust Fund.

Additionally, when East Burt Lake Road from the Birchwood Road intersection, south to Hoppies restaurant (1.5 miles), is reconstructed this summer, it will have 5-foot paved shoulders for another section of completed trail. These last two sections are not as flat as the previous sections mentioned, and will be a little more challenging to walk or ride.

So, by fall, the trail will stretch from the DNR Maple Bay boat launch on the west, around the north end of Burt Lake, east to the Mullett-Burt Road intersection with Topinabee Mail Route. The last two sections (light green and dark green) will be completed later.

For more information about the Burt Lake Trail go to: http://www.burttownship.org/downloads/burt_lake_trail_handbook2017.pdf

For more information about other area trails go to: <https://www.trailsouncil.org/trails-2/>

We hope to see all of you on the Trail!

You Are the Cure by *Bill Hartwig*

It's no secret, both ground and surface water levels are really high and could go higher, depending on the amount of spring rain. It's also no secret, the high-water level is a problem, especially eroding the shoreline and flooding low-lying property. Once boats appear on the lake their wakes could potentially exacerbate the erosion problem. What to do???. Some have suggested the remedy is to establish boat speed limits to control the wake.

The Michigan Legislature adopted House Bill 5401 and with the Governor's signature, it became Act No. 70 Public Acts of 2020. Act No. 70 amends 1994 PA 451 creating a process to: ... "establish maximum vessel speed limits" ... Well, problem solved – not so fast (pun intended). Let's look a little bit more in depth at Act No. 70 as it relates to Douglas Lake.

If a vessel speed limit, other than the statutory limit of 55 mph, has not been established, Munro Township could, by resolution, request the State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to reduce the statutory speed limit. The DNR may reduce the statutory speed limit to no more than 40 mph. If the DNR does not reduce the statutory speed limit, then Munro Township, by resolution can request one of three agencies: DNR, Cheboygan County Emergency Management Coordinator, or Cheboygan County Sheriff to establish a temporary vessel speed limit. The temporary vessel speed limit may be issued for a maximum of up to 14 days but can only be reissued twice in each year, i.e. a maximum of 42 days. If either of these agencies issue a temporary speed limit, then they shall inform each agency and the public by taking considerable subsequent actions, such as: posting the vessel speed limit and the maximum fine for a violation on their website, and on buoys. What are the chances of either a reduction of the statutory limit or the issuance of a temporary limit happening?

We Will Miss . . .



MARY ELLEN McCORMICK

Mary Ellen passed away March 20, 2020, in Palatka, FL, at the age of 87. She was born in Detroit, and is survived by her husband, Jim, and tons of nieces and nephews. Mary Ellen and Jim began building on Douglas Lake in 1965, and retired on Silver Strand, before recently moving to Florida. As a retired accountant, she volunteered to help others with tax preparation; and assisted the Tip of the Mitt SCORE organization – helping small businesses establish and grow. Mary Ellen was active with the Maple Ridge golf league; had an annual family and friends Douglas Lake Party Open golf weekend; and enjoyed tennis. She appreciated the beauty of northern Michigan; loved to watch wildlife; to see a beautiful moonrise; and to sit around the campfire singing WWI songs.

ROSEMARY MORRIS

Rosemary Morris, age 81, passed away peacefully on Friday, March 13, 2020 at her home. She was born February 11, 1939 in Romulus, MI, the daughter of Stanley and Lillian (Palovino) Ryznar. On October 5, 1963, at St. Aloysius Catholic Church in Romulus, Rosemary married Thomas Morris and they raised their family in Sterling Heights, MI. They celebrated 50 years of marriage before Tom's passing in 2014.

WAKE ALERT

Michigan Law P.A. Act 70

"No wake within 100 feet of the shoreline"

A wake causes shoreline erosion

PLEASE: NO WAKE NEAR THE SHORE

Thoughts to keep in mind concerning vessel speed limits:

1. There already is a statutory vessel speed limit of 55 mph.
2. An agency issuing a temporary vessel speed limit would have to incur considerable expense to inform the public, as well as the added expense for monitoring vessel speeds and enforcement.
3. A temporary vessel speed limit would hardly be worth the effort and its issuance is based on a may, which is highly unlikely given the cost, which would be incurred by the issuing agency.
4. A temporary vessel speed limit has a limited duration - 14 to 42 days at most.
5. Act No. 70 requires that a vessel shall not be operated above a no wake speed within 100 feet of the shoreline where the water depth is less than 3 feet. This would apply to the entire Douglas Lake shoreline. Water skiers and jet boaters take note!!!

Clearly, the ball is in our court. If boaters obey the law and operate a vessel responsibly, any additional speed limit restriction is not needed to control erosion, protect property, and ensure safety.

Recommendation: If boaters obey the law and operate a vessel responsibly, any additional speed limit restriction is not needed to control erosion, protect property, and ensure safety.

Recommendation: A sign at the boat ramp to educate boaters of the need to control their wake. DLIA members and Douglas Lake property owners can make a copy of the sign as a reminder to themselves, visitors, and renters. Every little bit helps.

Rosemary graduated from Henry Ford Hospital School of Nursing and worked as an emergency room R.N. at Holy Cross Hospital in Detroit for over 30 years.

She was a member of St. Clement Catholic Church in Pellston, and was never happier than when resale or garage sale treasure hunting. She collected just about everything ("It's vintage!"), but especially angels, anything Christmas, and Barbies. She also enjoyed keeping track of all the wildlife at her home on Douglas Lake; long drives through farm country; and searching for the elusive morel mushroom every spring. Rosemary was a truly kind, gentle, and patient woman, who loved talking to everyone she met.

Survivors include her two daughters, Dawn Morris of Lake, MI and Donna Morris of Lake Ann, MI; one son, Michael (Nickie) Morris of AZ; her brother, Stanley; three granddaughters, Mary Rose, Sara, and Lydia; her special friend and caregiver, Molly Maltby; and her beloved little dog, Anna. Besides her husband Tom, Rosemary was preceded in death by her son, Tommy, in 1996.

The funeral mass took place at St. Clement Catholic Church on Friday, March 20, with burial at Michigan Memorial Gardens in Flat Rock on Monday, March 23, 2020.

HOW CLARK GABLE SORTA, ALMOST COULD HAVE PAID A VISIT TO DOUGLAS LAKE.....MAYBE

by *Jan Huntley*

Through the years, many interesting stories have circulated about unusual events, famous visitors, or even shocking happenings here at Douglas Lake. Most of them, not surprisingly, have turned out to be not quite what they were said to be. And the occasional one turned out to be a purely imaginative invention. In that latter category was the one about the British ship supposedly constructed on the lake that wound up being sunk because it was too large to make the voyage to Burt Lake via the Maple River. That brings us to the one about Clark Gable and his surprise visit to Douglas Lake one summer's day during the 1930s.

My mother was a major contributor to this one, and she repeated it gleefully many times during my childhood and thereafter. The substance of the tale was that Clark Gable, a movie idol of his day, had been visiting Mackinac Island in the mid-1930s, at which time he had made the acquaintance of one or more Douglas Lake residents. Since no names of these local residents were ever provided, however, the story was difficult to corroborate. The tale continued with a description of a promise purportedly made to this/these local resident(s) that the actor would have his pilot fly over the lake when he left Mackinac Island and would have him waggle the wings and buzz the cabin of his new friend(s) as a farewell salute. Had all gone according to plan, of course, there would not have been much of a story to tell. However, according

to her, a miscommunication must have occurred. Instead of buzzing the north shore cabin where his new friends supposedly lived, the pilot had taken direct aim at the southern shore of the lake, where no one was expecting its arrival. The plane dropped from the sky and skimmed over the surface of the lake before waggling its wings and quickly elevating as it approached the shoreline. And in the window of the plane, according to Mother, was a man who looked very much like Clark Gable, waving enthusiastically. Only at the very last second did the plane shoot upward, barely missing the chimney of the cabin as it disappeared from view. At least, that was how the story went.

Over the years, I have looked for evidence that such an event could have ever taken place. Assuming that Clark Gable would only have been on Mackinac Island if he were involved in shooting a scene from one of his movies or promoting one of his films, I checked his film biography to no avail. There was no evidence that Mr. Gable had ever played a role in any film shot in the general area, let alone on Mackinac Island. Indeed, I could find no evidence that he had ever even been on Mackinac Island at any time during the 1930s. Nevertheless, Mother



continued to insist that Clark Gable had waved at her from the window of his private plane as he flew past directly overhead at very low altitude.

Then it came to pass that while I was researching local history while preparing to write a different article, that I chanced upon this interesting passage in a story in TIME Magazine entitled "Sport: One Fresh, Two Salt." Therein the author described three significant yacht races taking place during the summer of 1936, one on the Great Lakes and the other two, ocean-based. That passage stated:

"In progress last week on Lake Michigan was the 29th running of the longest fresh-water yacht race in the world, the Chicago Yacht Club's famed Mackinac Race from Chicago up Lake Michigan, through hazardous Mackinac Straits to Mackinac Island. Sailing the 331-mile course and due to finish this week was the largest (42) fleet of yachts ever to participate. On hand to greet the winner were Clark Gable, Joan Crawford, Franchot Tone, Myrna Loy, Jean Harlow, and Harry M. Daugherty."

Quite suddenly, the story acquired at least a scintilla of credibility, since it was clear from the magazine account that Clark Gable had, in fact, been staying on Mackinac Island in the mid-1930s, two facts consistent with Mother's recollection. Furthermore, it would not have been surprising, given the star-power of the famous names enumerated, that some Douglas Lake residents would have traveled to Mackinac Island to share in the glamorous events taking place that week. So the question becomes: did Clark Gable really fly down to Douglas Lake to say goodbye to his fellow celebrants? Quite possibly, since there is at least SOME verifying data available to help substantiate it. Therefore, this very intriguing tale has been elevated to the realm of a "definite maybe." Does this account jar loose some distant memory in anyone whose family was living on the northern shore of Douglas Lake on a summer's day in July of 1936? © Janet Taylor Huntley, 2019

"Sport: One Fresh, Two Salt," TIME Magazine, Monday, July 27, 1936.



Continued from page 2. . .

on the septic system are greater than the system can manage, empty the tank more frequently. Examples: short term rental of a cottage with a septic system designed to support 2-4 people, mushrooms to house 6-10 adults and children for more than a few days; family gatherings of significantly more people than the system can manage over more than a week's time.

We are experiencing a period of high water levels in the Lake. The water table level on land (groundwater) has also increased. Older septic systems designed and constructed when the water table was significantly lower may have problems with groundwater getting into the septic tank increasing the load on the system. Normally there should be at least 4' of soil between the water table and the septic tank.

(Principal resource: Health Department of Northwest Michigan "Homeowner's Guide to Septic Care" and use of their "Septy" logo.)

2020 AREA SUMMER EVENTS

(All events subject to change)

FARMERS MARKETS

Cheboygan Farmers Market

401 North Main Street Festival Square, Cheboygan, MI 49721

Website: <http://www.facebook.com/cheboyganfarmersmarket/>

Season: June – October

Days: Wednesday and Saturday: 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Harbor Springs Farmers Market

Main & State Streets, Harbor Springs, MI 49740

Season: Memorial weekend – Labor Day Weekend

Days: Wednesday and Saturday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Downtown Petoskey Farmers Market

400 Block of Howard St, Petoskey, MI 49770

Mitchell and Michigan Streets (between J.C. Penney's and Julienne Tomatoes)

Season: May 22 – September 25

Days: Friday: 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Boyer City Farmers Market

319 N. Lake Street, Boyer City, MI 49712

Season: Mid-May to October

Days: Wed: 8:00 AM-12:00 PM; Saturday: 8:00 AM-12:00 PM

ART FAIRS AND SIDEWALK SALES

- July 8 – **Women's Club Art Fair at Nubs Nob Ski Resort** – 9:30 AM – 4:00 PM
- July 18 – **Art in the Park**, Petoskey, Pennsylvania Park, 10 AM – 6 PM
- July 24 - 25 – **Sidewalk Sales**, Petoskey, 10 AM – 6 PM
- July 24 - 26 **Annual Bay Harbor Arts Festival**, 10 AM – 4 PM
- August 8 – **Charlevoix Waterfront Art Fair**, East Park, 9 AM – 6 PM
- June 27-28 and August 29-30 – **Mackinaw City Arts and Crafts Show**, Conkling Heritage Park, 10 AM – 7 PM (Saturday), 10 AM – 3 PM (Sunday)



SAILING RACES

- July 11 - Port Huron (Bayview) to Mackinac Yacht Race
- July 18-21 – Chicago to Mackinac Yacht Race
- Saturdays – Sunfish sailboat races on Douglas Lake (contact Dave Travis, dtravis5@mac.com, 231-537-4620 for details)

TOURS

Cheboygan River Front Range Lighthouse – Thursdays thru Sundays, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm to Labor Day

Cheboygan historic sites walking tours – All tours begin at Cheboygan Carnegie - 400 West Elm Street, Tuesdays: 10:00 am, Thursdays: 3:00 pm, Sundays: 2:00 pm. Cost - \$10/person; children 12 and under free. Call for custom tours (231) 420-6665; Email - cheboygancarnegie@gmail.com

Petoskey Walking Tours – 306 East Lake Street (located inside the Arlington Jewelers store) (517) 290-3162, email: chrisglht@gmail.com

- **Turn of the Century Walking Tour** – 90 minutes, \$20/person
- **Nick Adams' Country** – 2 hours, \$30/person, requires transportation
- **The Hemingways' Petoskey** – 90 minutes, \$20/person
- **Haunted Petoskey** – 90 minutes, \$20/person

The Icebreaker Mackinaw Maritime Museum

<http://www.themackinaw.org/>

131 S Huron Ave, Mackinaw City

Prices:

Ages 5 and under	Free
Ages 6-17	\$ 6.50
Ages 18 and over	\$ 12.00
Family Pass	\$ 38.00 (2 adults, plus all youth 17 years and under)

NOTE: All current and former USCG personnel are admitted FREE with proper identification. All USCG Auxiliary members are admitted FREE with proper identification. Military personnel are admitted at the rate of \$ 8.00 with valid identification.

- May 17th – June 14th: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
- June 15th – August 24th: 9:00 am – 7:00 pm
- August 25th – August 29th: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
- August 30th – Sept. 1st: 9:00 am – 7:00 pm
- Sept. 2nd – Oct. 6th: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Munro Township Clean Up Day

Saturday, May 30, 2020 (*subject to change*)

Please have your trash ready at the end of your driveway near the road by 7am. One pickup load per household.

ALLOWED: Household junk, bagged garbage, bundled building materials, furniture, scrap metal, appliances without Freon, dry cut carpet. Lumber must be cut to 3-foot lengths.

NOT ALLOWED: Brush, leaves and grass clippings, oil, liquid paint, flammable materials, chemicals, explosives, tires, batteries, cement, appliances with Freon and hazardous waste materials.

If you have problems or questions pertaining to trash day cleanup, please call Supervisor Charles Antkoviak at 231-627-7232.

Douglas Lake Book Club

When: Wednesdays (April – Nov.), 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.

Where: Airport Conference Room (2nd Boor)

Books: There is no required book. This is an opportunity to talk about any book you are reading, and to learn about new book selections from other participants.



P.O. Box 472, Pellston, MI 49769



Douglas Lake Improvement Association
www.douglaslake.org

Membership Dues: \$25 a year
Mail to DLIA, PO Box 472, Pellston, MI 49769

President – Mary Ellen Sheridan, president@douglaslake.org

Vice President – Marilyn Kelemen, vice-president@douglaslake.org

Treasurer – Suzanne Witthoff, treasurer@douglaslake.org

Secretary – Barbara Huey, secretary@douglaslake.org

Newsletter Team – Joan Hartwig (Chair), Frank Beaver, Holly Gedert,
Jan Huntley, Margie Ladzick, Jayne Morse, Linda Orlow

Email news articles and obituaries to info@douglaslake.org

Membership updates to membership@douglaslake.org

Add info@douglaslake.org to your contacts



DLIA Merchandise Sale Summer 2020

All sales are on the following Saturdays from 10 a.m. to Noon at the DL Store.
June 13, July 4, July 25, Aug 15, and Sept 5 (subject to change)

www.DouglasLake.org/merchandise

Contact Kelly Davis at merchandise@douglaslake.org or 615-305-2957
See our website for more details.

Recycling in Cheboygan and Emmet Counties

For a complete list of day-to-day recyclables,
where to take them, plus what to do
with many other household items, see the following:

<http://www.cheboygancounty.net/recycling-99/>

<http://www.emmetrecycling.org/i-want-to-get/the-full-recycling-guide/>

www.douglaslake.org

Add info@douglaslake.org to your contacts



Emergency Identification

Because minutes count when emergency service responders are attempting to locate your home, consider placing a green identification sign with reflective house numbers on a mailbox post near the road, at the edge of your property. If your mailbox post is located away from your property, install a separate post with the green sign near the edge of your property. The sign kits can be purchased at Cook's Hardware, in Pellston, for \$14.99 plus tax.