



Douglas Lake NEWSLETTER

Douglas Lake Improvement Association

www.DouglasLake.org

P.O. Box 472, Pellston, MI 49769



President's Message

Due to recent weeks of clouds, humidity, rain and unseasonably warm temperatures, we have seen mold in places indoors and outside that haven't been moldy before. Some might say it's been that sort of summer.

The Douglas Lake Boat Dock at the DLB was taken out for the season on October 16th by Stuart Case's Volunteer Boat Ramp Committee. These guys have had a busy summer with sand removal, and then problems throughout the summer with deteriorating concrete planks in the ramp sections furthest out in the Lake. Concrete segments broke off shedding pieces of reinforcing rebar that caused problems for boat launches and retrieval throughout the summer. When the volunteers could reach the rebar pieces, they manually bent them back, or cut them back as much as possible. We also appreciate the care and attention boaters used on Douglas Lake to avoid these rebar pieces, still safely getting their boats and trailers in and out of the water.

Clearly this aging boat ramp needs attention. Please read Holly Gedert's important article on the subject of the Boat Ramp, and how the DLIA is working with stakeholder partners to address the boat ramp problems. I wish there were simple solutions I could report to you, but this is a process, and it will take time to come to an agreement on addressing the real problems, liabilities, and responsibilities, among the stakeholders. Funding a new boat ramp is a serious hurdle, but a worthy objective.

Another article worth reading is a report on the merganser trapping and removal project undertaken this summer. The DLIA Executive Board has approved funding for a second season of merganser control for the summer of 2022. The impact of these two seasons will be assessed next autumn.

Points of optimism have been scarce during these COVID years, but there is local progress to share in two areas. COVID emergency funding is helping with one huge problem familiar to Douglas Lake residents: non-existent, or in some best cases, poor, internet connectivity. Thanks to a grant of COVID emergency response funds, Spectrum (formerly Charter) cable services announced that it will be running fiber optic cable in the Douglas Lake Road/Bryant Road area, so that internet, cable TV, and phone service can be offered to residents in those areas. The specific roads/addresses that will be offered service should be posted on the Munro Township website. Check the Township web site (<https://www.munrotownship.com/>) to see if your address is in the proposed service area.

The second piece of promising news is that townships in Cheboygan County are making progress with a county-wide blight ordinance. Although the final sign-offs by each township are not completed yet, Munro Township reported at its September meeting, (and further mentioned at the October meeting) that the bureaucratic wheels are moving along and the final approvals should be in place before spring. The blight ordinance is projected to be effective April 1, 2022. Future eNews will report on both internet accessibility; and the blight ordinance as these proposed activities become realities.

Thank you for being a member of the Douglas Lake Improvement Association. Happy Holidays – Stay Healthy! You are always welcome to share your opinions and concerns at info@douglaslake.com

Mary Ellen Sheidan

October 16, 2021

DRUMMOND ISLAND

Gem of the Huron • 7th largest lake island in the world

by *Linda Orlew*

Drummond Island is 73 miles, or 1 hour, 15 minutes driving time from Levering. Take I-75N, to Exit 359, to M-134 East. The island encompasses 134 square miles. In comparison, Mackinac Island is less than 4 square miles.

The St. Mary's River separates DeTour Village from Drummond Island. Many freighters pass thru from March to November, when the Soo locks are open. The car ferry runs year-round from DeTour Village, and takes ten minutes. It runs in each direction, once an hour (40 minutes after the hour from DeTour, and 10 minutes after the hour from Drummond Island). The cost is \$10 Round Trip (over 65); or \$20 Round Trip (under 65).

Two distinctive Drummond Island natural features are dolomite, which is mined just south of the Ferry dock; and pudding stone (Jasper conglomerate), that can be found along the shores, in the forests, and anywhere the earth has been turned. It was named by the British settlers that were stationed in area forts like the one on Drummond Island, because it looked like boiled suet pudding with berries.



DESTINATIONS

Drummond Island Historical Museum

33492 S. Water Street, Drummond Island. (906)-493-5746.

The museum emphasizes artifacts of Native Americans, Finnish farmers, and Yankee settlers from the island's early historical period. Other displays cover the British fort, the lumber era, ferry boats, and the island's rich fishing and boating industry. Admission is free. Open mid-May through mid-October from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

North Haven Gifts

35409 S. Fairbank Point Road, Drummond Island.
(906)-493-5567.

It is 2.5 miles from the ferry, on the north side of the road. Seventy percent of the large and attractive store comes from items that are either handcrafted, or designed locally.

****Fun read - *The Drummond Girls*, by Mardi Jo Link.**

Esther's Authentic Mexican Cuisine

29299 E. Channel Road, Drummond Island. (906)-493-6669.

It's about 8 miles from the ferry dock. Excellent authentic Mexican food! Very colorful, festive atmosphere, with Esther there most of the time. Open Tuesday – Saturday; late March – end of October.

Gourmet Galley Marketplace & Delicatessen

30420 E. Johnswood Road, Drummond Island. (906)-493-5507.

Just north of the blinking light at 4 corners.

Homemade fudge, great ice cream, Zingerman's breads and coffee, plus pizza and pasties. They even have radio-controlled airplanes, and other hobby supplies in a back room.

The Old Cabin Gift Shoppe

30309 E. Tourist Road, Drummond Island. (906)-493-5366.

Just beyond a large stone house – ask for directions. Fun pottery, and a variety of other art.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR . . .



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2021
AT 7 PM EST
10TH ANNUAL RIGGSVILLE REDNECK
CHRISTMAS PARADE**

Community and Charity Event

Collecting food donations for the St. Thomas Food Pantry and Coats for Kids along the route. Starts and ends on Church Rd. Info: 231-445-2490

2021 Swimmer's Itch Control Program

In 2021 DLIA partnered with Swimmer's Itch Solutions LLC (SIS) to provide two years of swimmer's itch control on Douglas Lake. DLIA obtained a permit from the DNR to host this work; SIS secured the necessary federal and state permits to conduct the control program. SIS offered a training program via Zoom, for DLIA members to facilitate accurate reporting of common mergansers nesting sites, and broods, (as distinct from hooded mergansers) on the Lake. SIS created a Lake-specific website for reports of cases of swimmer's itch, and sightings of common mergansers and their nesting sites.

From mid-June until the end of July, SIS trapped and relocated 4 common merganser broods, including all 29 ducklings from those broods. Trapped hens and ducklings were relocated to Cheboygan State Park, and Wilderness State Park, both DNR-approved relocation sites for this purpose. Swimmers in these areas cannot get swimmer's itch from the Douglas Lake mergansers as the snails that host the swimmer's itch parasite are absent from both relocation sites.

All trapped hens were fitted with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service leg bands, and all ducklings were equipped with U.S. Geological Service-approved web tags.

SIS also conducted three bird surveys (two in June and one in July). Among the various waterfowl species observed, three broods of hooded mergansers were identified on the Lake this summer. Fecal samples from three 6-7-week-old ducklings were collected and examined for the swimmer's itch parasite. One of the samples was negative, and the



other two were extremely lightly infected. For comparison, most, if not all, of the 4-week-old common merganser ducklings were heavily infected with the swimmer's itch parasite. SIS concluded from these data that hooded mergansers play a much less significant role, when compared to common mergansers, in causing and spreading swimmer's itch on Douglas Lake.

Summer of 2020 was a particularly nasty swimmer's itch season, with over 50 cases (mostly self-described as severe) reported; in

summer 2021, fewer cases were reported (many described as mild). Several points to bear in mind: the parasite cycle is long. Last year's broods affect this year's itch. This year's broods will affect next year's parasites population. Everyone should understand that no control program can completely eradicate swimmer's itch. Migratory populations of common mergansers visit Douglas Lake. The particular snail species that hosts the offending parasite is a resident on Douglas Lake. Other waterfowl visiting, or residing on Douglas Lake, may also be potential hosts of the parasite that causes swimmer's itch.

DLIA's Executive Board (EB) committed funds, (\$3,000 plus travel costs for SIS, and DLIA's two-year DNR permit fee) for the first year of a proposed two-year swimmer's itch control program with SIS. Based on the success of the trapping and relocation program this past summer, SIS recommended that DLIA continue the program in 2022. The DLIA-approved 2022 budget includes funding for the Year Two control program.

SIS will return next summer to trap and relocate next summer's common merganser broods. Some broods may be from returning hens; these can be identified as the hens are banded. Some hens may be new to Douglas Lake. It is possible that a research project involving the common merganser broods on Douglas Lake could involve UMBS students next summer.

[Note: This article has been abstracted from SIS's Final Report, "2021 Swimmer's Itch Control Program on Douglas Lake," (prepared by Dr. Curt Blankespoor, Swimmer's Itch Solutions, LLC), and the report to the membership prepared by Kim Grant for the DLIA Annual Meeting, August 24, 2021.]

The Eberhardt Totem

by *Gail Beaver*

It's an eagle! It's a bear! It's a turtle! It's the new strikingly artistic totem pole at the Eberhardt site on Ingleside. The chain saw carving artist is Keith Young of Indian River. When the electric company decided the nearly eighty-year-old white pine had to come down, Jeanie Lou Mercke Eberhardt, and Tommy Eberhardt, thought it might be time to act on the oft-discussed family idea of creating a totem pole for the entrance to their property. Once they were able to get the tree topped, they collected recommendations from family members, and worked with Keith to develop the plan.

It was agreed that the totem would include favorite lake images: the eagle tops the totem, with a bear in the center holding a fish, a turtle, loons, an outline of Douglas Lake, a cherry tree, a crow (Jeannie Lou remembers a pet crow who hung around taking clothespins off the clean laundry hanging on the line when she was a child at the lake), a woodpecker, and a fawn, nestled at the foot of the tree, near the morel mushrooms. Young said the work would take a few weeks for the carving, and then the totem would be stained and sealed. The family wanted natural color for the totem, and the result is a gorgeous piece of art! As Tommy put it - "...it's beyond our expectations. In fact, we had no idea what to expect, or what we were getting into. Amazing for a carving done with a chain saw!" The final piece is the identification of the property as "Est. 1939."

Jeanie Lou Mercke Eberhardt explains that her great-grandmother came to the lake with her husband, William Fleming, Sr., and their two children, around 1910. Later, William Fleming, Jr. brought his wife and two daughters, and began spending their summers on the lake. At the time, they rented from Lambert Wilson, but later in the 1930s, bought the Inglis cottage. They remodeled, and added a guest cottage for other family members. Now, more than eighty years later, the tradition continues into the new generation with Tommy and Jeanie Lou's children and grandchildren, becoming the fifth and sixth generations to spend their summers at the Eberhardt's, now enhanced by the stately totem.



Jeanie Lou Mercke Eberhardt, and Tommy Eberhardt

DLIA Merchandise

by *Kelly Davis*, Douglas Lake Merchandise Manager

The 2021 summer sales season was definitely a good one!

Everyone seemed to enjoy the new designs - especially the lake neighborhoods depicted on sweatshirt hoodies; and the “loon-atic” design for children’s wear. Despite continued COVID related supply shortages, we were eventually able to get all of the sizes and colors we liked.

The online store will open again this year for holiday shopping around November 1st, and will stay open until December 15th. Quantities are limited, so shop early to be able to get what you want. December 15 will be the FIRM cutoff date to allow me to get everything mailed, and hopefully to you by Christmas. A link to the online store will be sent in a separate email, and will be posted on the Douglas Lake website, in the Merchandise section.

None of this could have been achieved without the help of all of the volunteers! A big thank you to our great volunteers - Gail Beaver, Denise Bosin, Ann Covey, Susan Flanders, Kim Grant, Barb Huey, Carol Kaptrosky, Betsy Naumer, Joyce Oldham, Karen Spezia, Sarah Vaughan, and Wendy Vaughan. The volunteers are the folks that set up each sale, help you find your size, help you find that perfect gift, and help make each sale a success! THANK YOU! Being a sales volunteer is lots of fun, so consider it for next summer, even if you are only here for one sale. If you would like to volunteer at any of the sales, help with design, or just have an idea you would like to share, please reach out to me anytime at:

Merchandise@DouglasLake.org

Thank you all for your show of love and support for Douglas Lake, and the Douglas Lake Improvement Association. All profits made from these sales go directly to the many projects and committees that work to keep Douglas Lake the beautiful place that we all enjoy!



DLIA NEW MEMBERS Fall 2021

Zone 71

CORRECTION TO MAY 2021 Newsletter listing:
Morris Family, 9630 Silver Strand Road

Zone 15

- Kevin Olson & Heidi Kresnak, 11170 Douglas Lake Road

Zone 21

- Joshua & Sarah Borders, 7080 Catsman Corners
- Luke & Amanda Borders, 7080 Catsman Corners
- Samantha Borders & Justin Halloran, 7080 Catsman Corners

Zone 31

- Cal & Dorothy Prins, 11282 White Birch Drive
- Dennis & Susan Driscoll, 11418 White Birch Drive

Zone 32

- Margaret Nolt, 11469 White Birch Drive

Zone 51

- Josh & Wendy Payne, 8720 Silver Strand Road

Zone 81

- David & Brenda Garland, 10781 Reinhardt Shores
- Chris & Maurene Stock, 10665 Reinhardt Shores

Zone 101

- Chris & Paula Johnson, 8861 Manitou Shores Trail



Update on the Public Boat Ramp at the End of Douglas Lake Road

by *Holly Gedert* and *Mary Ellen Sheridan*

There are more than 11,000 inland lakes in Michigan. Burt, Mullet, and Black lakes are all in the top 8 in size. Burt Lake is 17,120 acres. Douglas Lake ranks about 25th in size at 3,400 acres. We have great water resources in northern lower Michigan. Stewardship of the lakes is vitally important. Good stewardship means everyone can enjoy the lakes for recreation. While the Douglas Lake water quality is fortunately still good, the Douglas Lake public launching site is aging and is in need of repair, or better yet, replacement.

While the DL boat ramp serves many Douglas Lake residents, the access road, the lake, and the boat ramp are public resources, and are available for the benefit of the general public. On behalf of the DL community, the Douglas Lake Improvement Association (DLIA) is seeking the help of the Munro Township to resolve the problem of an aging public boat ramp. A working relationship between the DLIA and the Munro Township concerning the Douglas Lake Road public launch area is not new. A December 1987 DLIA newsletter reported that, "The launching ramp at the Douglas Lake Steak House was repaired by Munro Township in the Spring." It further states that good neighbors helped with the effort.

In June 1991, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Parks and Recreation Division greatly improved the ramp by installing 12' x 6' cement slabs. They reportedly reset the slabs in 1994. By June 2013, the Michigan DNR ceased their involvement with the boat ramp because it did not match their launch site specifications of having a 100' for a turnaround, ample parking, and a vault toilet. They

wanted to establish a new boat launch location but could not locate, or purchase, an appropriate piece of property.

With great interest in maintaining a functional access to the lake, the DLIA formed a Boat Ramp Committee in 2013, chaired by Holly Gedert, to determine what could be done, and by whom, to accomplish necessary repairs. The Cheboygan County Road Commission (CCRC), the Munro Township, and the DLIA met at the patio of the Douglas Lake Bar and Steakhouse to discuss the area, and the need for safe boating access. Through meetings and discussions, some interesting information was discovered, and some developments occurred.

Rebar and crumbling cement from the furthest plank. Photos by Holly Gedert



At that time, the CCRC manager said the road end leading to Douglas Lake was a platted piece of land of Bryant's Resort, owned by the CCRC. A road end document shows that it has a 47' easement width and is for vehicles and pedestrians. The riparian rights of a road end are different from that of a residential inland lake property owner, and there is Michigan Public Act 56 of 2012 that describes allowable use of that area. The CCRC did some repair work at the site to the water's edge in August 2013.

On October 8, 2013, the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners passed Resolution 13-21 stating, "that the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners encourages the Cheboygan County Road Commission and Townships within Cheboygan County to maintain public access of road ends and easements to water bodies to permit public access and use." Some townships in Michigan have taken ownership of some of the public road

end access sites in their township. While Munro Township has not adopted the action encouraged by the County's Board of Commissioners, the Township has participated in a 50/50 cost share with the DLIA since 2014 for any contractor work required at the launch site.

Chick Hershberger became Boat Ramp Chair in 2014. Significant upgrades to the launch area were accomplished in 2014 and 2015. Stuart Case volunteered as the new Boat Ramp Chair in August 2015, and has been doing a terrific job monitoring the boat ramp; gathering volunteers when needed to clear the sand from the cement planks for safe access; and reports when a contractor is required for more intense maintenance.

The current cement slabs were installed in 1991 by the MDNR – 30 years ago. In June 2021, Stuart reported issues of the aging boat ramp to the DLIA Executive Board. He said that cement is crumbling, and rebar is protruding. These issues and updates throughout the summer have been shared with the Munro Township.

The DLIA wants to continue working with the road commission and the Township to accomplish the goal of a safe public launch

site. The DLIA has experienced successful cooperative efforts in the past, and hopes to continue that success. In September 2021, DLIA President Mary Ellen Sheridan formed a Boat Ramp Working Group to focus on gathering data that would expedite resolution of the boat ramp problems. Ron Witthoff chairs the Working Group, with members Glenn Brantley, Frank Spezia, and Holly Gedert. Stuart Case is a resource to the committee. Munro Township Supervisor, Keith Ginop, is getting an assessment and quote for the job from EF Wilkinson & Sons. The DLIA committee is getting two additional contractor assessments of the problem and their cost estimate for a proper solution. The Working Group plans to present their information to the Township Board at the November Meeting, on November 9, 2021.

Considering there needs to be assessments, quotes, acceptance, and permits, the Working Group hopes that a resolution can be accomplished before the 2022 boating season. Updates about the progress of boat ramp concerns will be shared with the DLIA membership through eNews and the DLIA website.

Please direct questions and concerns to the email:

president@douglaslake.org.

Help! Help! Help!

by *Bill Hartwig*

We all want our homes to be secure from illegal entry, so we install door and window locks. But what if we are away? And a fire starts? The fire department arrives to find the house totally secure. How do they get in? Or suppose you are alone. Say you fall, or in need of medical help. You call for help, and the first responders arrive to find the doors and windows locked. You can't get to the door to let them in, so then what? In either case, valuable time is needed to break a door or window to gain access. Now you have a repair bill - but there is a better way.

The Pellston Fire Department uses the Knox Lock Box system to access a key to unlock your door. This system has the potential to avoid a costly repair bill, but more importantly, it allows faster access, saving valuable minutes. How does it work? You purchase and install a Knox Lock Box. You put your door key or keys in the box, which has a secure lock. When called, Central Dispatch (911) informs the fire department, while enroute, that the location has a Knox Lock Box. Upon arriving, the first responder, who has a master key which opens the box, goes directly to open the box, and uses the door key to quickly gain entry, without having to first break a door or window.

The homeowner is responsible for purchasing and installing the box near the door in a visible location, which is noted by Central Dispatch, and placing a door key in the box. If there is an accessory building, which is keyed differently, a second key can be placed in the box. While there is a one-time cost for the box and installation, consider the cost of repairing a broken door or window. In addition, some insurance companies may offer a reduced rate if you have the system installed.

Chris Rybinski, Pellston Assistant Fire Chief, provided the above information. He emphasized the value of using this system for medical emergencies. In addition, this is especially useful when leaving for an extended period of time, even if you leave a key with a neighbor or caretaker – as they might not be available when access is needed.

You can visit the Knox Lock Box website for additional information. If you decide to order, make sure you choose Pellston Fire Department and under the PRODUCTS tab, choose RESIDENTIAL KNOXBOXES. If you're not certain if your property is in the Pellston Fire Department servicing area, please check with them directly.

For specific questions and/or ordering assistance contact:

Larry Lulich, Great Lakes Regional representative at –

866-889-4181 or llulich@knoxbox.com



Douglas Lake Connection to new Offield Family Pavilion Wing of McLaren Hospital

by *Linda Orlew*

On August 14, 2021, the new 158-million-dollar Offield Family Pavilion wing was dedicated and opened. It is a beautiful, modern addition to McLaren Northern Michigan, in Petoskey. The 182,000 square foot wing features 104 private patient rooms, an expanded 24-bed Intensive Care Unit, a 34-bed Orthopedic/Surgical Unit, and 12 observation beds - all equipped with smart technology. In addition, it features 10 new operating room suites with 4K technology. Convenient parking, close to the new entrance, will be appreciated by patients, families, and guests.

In order to enhance the healing environment, over 200 pieces of art were purchased from Michigan artists, mostly from our area! These pieces are now featured in the entrance area, hallways and rooms. We should be proud to have an oil painting on the wall in the main lobby by Douglas Lake artist, Susan Flanders! She was contacted by the hospital last fall, and asked to submit images of her work. They asked that her submission not be too somber or dark, but pleasing, and typical of Up North scenes, which a patient may relate to and enjoy. The original oil painting they chose was hanging in her home, and representative of our area vineyards. Susan was honored to be chosen to have her painting hang in this new facility. I hope you have an opportunity to see her original painting, as well as other art that was chosen.

Susan paints a variety of subjects, and is currently specializing in portraits that are extremely well done. In 2018 she was juried into Oil Painters of America. Susan and her husband Lloyd, spend half their time at Douglas Lake, and half their time in Falls Church, VA.



Susan Flanders with her artwork



The mission of the Pellston Education Foundation is to enrich the learning opportunities of students of Pellston Public Schools through scholarships and grants.

In April 2021, Pellston alumnus Blake Wagenschutz (class of 2011) passed away in a motorcycle accident. His parents, Mark and Kim Wagenschutz, longtime coaches and teachers at Pellston, started receiving memorial funds for Blake. Knowing they wanted to create a legacy in honor of their son, they decided the funds would be used for scholarships for building and trades students at Pellston. In determining how to hold, invest, and distribute those funds, an even bigger legacy emerged, the Pellston Education Foundation.

Foundation Links

You can be a part of building the Foundation by joining the Founder's Corner. All donors contributing \$250 or more by December 31, 2021 will be permanently named in the Founder's Corner.

Donations can be mailed to:

Pellston Education Foundation

172 N. Park St

Pellston, MI 49769 For more information contact pellston.ef@gmail.com

THE NORTH AMERICAN “SILK ROAD”

by *Janet Taylor Huntley*

For over 1,500 years, traders from the Far East, including China, had engaged in commercial transactions with other eastern trade centers as well as with western trading destinations as far away as Greece. Those goods could then be transported via the Mediterranean Sea to various European ports. The Silk Road consisted of a series of overland routes extending over 4,000 miles, linking the various trading partners together. Goods and other items of commerce passed back and forth across the Silk Road's often treacherous trails, where the tradesmen and merchants would have to battle weather, inhospitable terrain, and even highwaymen when attempting to ferry their merchandise to their intended destinations. Silk, spices and other eastern products passed westward while manufactured goods, technology, and other sought-after resources moved east. As difficult as the journeys were, they represented the only reliable avenues to maintain these necessary trade relationships. The Silk Road flourished from the second century BCE until the latter 1400s.

With the advent of the oceanic exploration engaged in by various European nations, however, another possibility, both safer and more expedient, became available. At that point, the various maritime nations began to launch sailing expeditions in an attempt to locate an east-west passageway more directly connecting them with their trading partners across the Pacific Ocean.

Although many European nations engaged in these explorations, only a few ultimately achieved primacy on the American continents. Spain and Portugal focused primarily on South and Central America, Mexico and southern portions of what was to become the United States, extracting riches by exploiting the natural resources available therein, while their missionaries endeavored to convert the native populations to their Christian faith.

Both France and England, however, directed their earlier efforts towards locating a water route equivalent to the Silk Road across the North American continent in order to expedite East-West trade with China, Indonesia, and other lucrative Pacific destinations. The efforts of the French and, later, the English explorers during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries were to play out across the Great Lakes and through river passages connecting Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico, giving the Straights of Mackinac a strategic front row seat to the historical development of the vast interior regions of what was to become the United States.

In the beginning were the Native Americans, who traveled the Great Lakes and its tributaries into lands further east, south, and west, trading with one another and establishing settlements and communities along the way. Then came the French with their explorers, fur traders, and missionaries, who followed in their footsteps, founding their own settlements along these shores while simultaneously seeking the elusive water passageway to the Far East. Roughly a century later, the English crown, recognizing the strategic importance of controlling the Great Lakes, began its own efforts to secure and exploit the waters of the Great Lakes and the territories accessible thereby in furtherance of their own goals to make this land their own, to develop trade, and to exploit its riches.



In the end, the Great Lakes served as our “Silk Road,” never becoming the long-sought passage to the Orient, but instead evolving into a North American Superhighway and the gateway to the American Midwest and the more western regions. *(to be continued)*

© Janet Taylor Huntley, 2021

Welcome to Our New Neighbors – The Garlands

by *Frank Beaver*

Gail and I were delighted to welcome our new next-door neighbors, Brenda and Dave Garland, when we returned to Douglas Lake in early May. Brenda and Dave had taken possession of the property in late February in preparation for their wedding in June. This will be their year-round home. Dave is a retired down state Redford Township firefighter, having held positions as department chief, fire inspector, and EMS coordinator. But Dave, as he says, has “...failed at retirement more than once!” Currently, he volunteers at the Pellston Fire Department. Having been a pilot since 1995, Dave is now flying regional charter flights for North Country Aviation out of Gaylord.

Brenda Polk Garland is a native of Bad Axe, Michigan. Like Dave, she has had a variety of career experiences, which meant living in Chicago, Ohio, and Phoenix. She has pursued law as a second career after work in non-profit ministry. With college degrees from Michigan Tech, and Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, Brenda then earned her law degree. She says that “...law has become the path which brings together her interests in a way that would allow a quiet march to retirement in rural Michigan.” Her current practice focuses on “estate planning,” often working with families whose loved ones are losing capacity due to dementia or Alzheimer’s.

Brenda also points to her interest in domestic violence issues, having left her first marriage due to violence. She openly discusses the issues, and is proud to have served Huron County’s Safe Place; and RISE Advocacy in Clare/ Isabella/ Gratiot Counties. Another interest has arisen from Brenda’s post law schoolwork on behalf of military veterans involved in criminal cycles, and similar assistive programming on behalf of drug addicts.

As for pastimes, Dave enjoys sailing on the Great Lakes, especially the Port Huron to Mackinaw race. They both love their sunset cruises on Douglas Lake with their Blue Heeler, Indigo. Brenda and Indigo have become part of the North Shore walking group. Brenda and Dave are looking forward to their first winter on the lake together.



Welcome to Our New Neighbors – The Prins

Information furnished by Dorothy Prins

Please welcome Dorothy and Cal Prins to Douglas Lake! Dorothy and Cal bought a great home in Maple Bay, quickly sold their house in Petoskey, and moved to Douglas Lake as year-round residents last fall! The plan had been to find a small weekend cottage on one of the lakes after they retired, but this opportunity came along, and they embraced it!

Both Dorothy and Cal are currently educators in Petoskey. Cal has been the Principal at Central Elementary School for the past 12 years, and Dorothy has been a preschool teacher at Harbor Light Christian School for the past 2 years. Cal had been a teacher and principal in other school districts before coming to Petoskey. Dorothy has also been a Children’s Ministry Director; and a kindergarten teacher. Cal plans to retire in June. Dorothy plans to keep working for a while longer.

Cal and Dorothy have six adult children. Two of the kids live in Petoskey; three live in the Lansing/Detroit/Dearborn areas; and one is a senior at Northern Michigan University in Marquette. It is great that the kids all live in Michigan, and enjoy coming to the lake to visit!

Cal and Dorothy have loved their first year on the lake! Last fall, they enjoyed having their morning coffee on the dock while watching the sun rise. Last winter, Cal took his snowblower out on the lake, and cleared a huge rink. Cal and the kids skated on the lake over Christmas break, while Dorothy enjoyed watching. Dorothy ran out to the lake in late March after school one day, to take a picture of the first open water along the shore.

The Prins’ family created many fond memories during the summer. They feel very fortunate to be here, and want to share their new home with friends and family. They hosted Dorothy’s family to celebrate her dad’s life, who had passed in December; Cal’s family reunion; youth group retreats; their small group from church; and many friends. They have also enjoyed meeting all of their wonderful neighbors; and watching the ebb and flow of the lake and its residents over the year.

Cal enjoys riding his bike, paddle boarding, and working outside. They both enjoy spending time with their kids, exploring trails, and good food. Dorothy enjoys painting; reading and listening to history; and trying to grow plants. Here’s to many happy years on Douglas Lake!



We Will Miss . . .



Clarence Hagerman, Jr.

Clarence, “Junior”, “Puss” Vivan Hagerman, Jr. age 89, of Lansing, Michigan passed away on Tuesday, October 26, 2021. Clarence was born June 19, 1932, in Middleton, Michigan to Clarence and Nettie Hagerman Sr.

Preceded in death by his wife, Alice, son Raymond, and 8 brothers and sisters.

Clarence retired from Olofsson Corporation after 43 years of hard work and dedication. Clarence loved spending time at his cabin near Douglas Lake, Pellston, Michigan. He always had a witty sense of humor, a joke, and a story to tell.

Left to cherish his memory are his daughter, Diane (George) Carter; granddaughter, Kelly (Matthew) Carter-Shelter; grandson, Michael (Katie Stead) Carter; Special and loving companion, Pat Kundrat; several nieces, nephews, and many special friends.

John Dabney Billingsley, Jr.

September 13, 1939 – May 16, 2021

John Billingsley, age 81, born on Governor’s Island in the New York Harbor on September 13, 1939, passed away peacefully with family by his side in Jackson, MI, on May 16, 2021.

He attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY, where he graduated with a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering, and an MBA. It was there that he met the love of his life, Diane Gray. They married on June 9, 1962, just after John’s graduation. John then began a three-year Army enlistment at Watervliet Army Arsenal, while Diane completed her final year at Russell Sage College. The couple welcomed their first daughter, Karen, while stationed at Watervliet in 1964. After the Army, John began a long and illustrious career at the Dow Chemical Company that took the family to Midland, MI, where their second daughter, Sandy, was born in 1968.

As John rose through the ranks at Dow, the family moved to Ironton, Ohio, where their third daughter, Linda, was born. John often talked about being outnumbered by all of the women in his life, but in truth, it takes a very special man to raise three girls, and he did so with grace and poise, championing and encouraging them each and every day.

John retired in 1992 after 27 years with Dow. His last position was Major Manager of Pharmaceuticals and Materials Management for the Michigan Division in Midland. He and Diane then moved to Savannah, GA.

After 19 years in Savannah, and decades of summering in Maine, John and Diane moved back to Michigan full time to be closer to children and grandchildren. They shared many years in a summer home on Douglas Lake; and later split time between a lovely retirement community in Jackson, MI and a golf course home in Indian River, MI.

John is survived by his wife of 58 years, Diane Billingsley; daughter Karen (Kirk) Dundas; daughter Sandy (Eric) Kintz;

daughter Linda; grandchildren Lauren (Bryan), Sean, Connor, Marissa, Ricky and Addy; great grandchildren Abby, Bryce and Gavin; and nieces Barbie and Janet. He was preceded in death by sister Betty (Bill) Hill.

The family requests that you consider donating to The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research.

Marcia L. Warner March 4, 1948 - May 1, 2021

Age 73, of Monroe, Michigan. Beloved wife of Don. Dear Mother of Emily (Marc) Gonyea and Allison (Dan) Tarpey. Dearest grandmother to Andrew, Claire, Jackson and Grace. Also survived by three sisters: Dawn Kulm, Janis VanAuken, and Jo Bryant.

Marcia spent her career as a Teacher/Counselor for Grosse Ile Township Schools, retiring in 2003, after 33 years of service. She enjoyed spending the spring, summer, and fall at her family home, “Green Gables” on Douglas Lake.

Sandra Jo Segrist March 3, 1939 – July 8, 2021

Sandra Jo Segrist, 82, of Howard, Ohio, passed away Thursday, July 8, 2021, at Mount Vernon Health and Rehabilitation, Mount Vernon, Ohio. She was born March 3, 1939, in Lafayette, Indiana, the daughter of the late John and Alberta (Baer) Randall. Sandra was a 1957 graduate of Monticello High School, Monticello, Indiana. She married John Dewey Shell on June 26, 1957, in Monticello, Indiana, and that marriage ended in divorce. Sandra then married Richard L. Segrist on Jan. 13, 1996, in Holland, Michigan. Sandra owned and operated Burger Dairy Store, Bryan, Ohio, from 1964 to 1989, then went on to work for the Indiana Hoosier Lottery until her retirement in 1996. She was a Dancefit Instructor from 1981-89, working for the Bryan Parks and Recreation Department, and was an active board member with the 169 Board of MRDD and Quadco Rehabilitation Center. She had the honor of receiving the Mother of the Year award in 1981, presented by former Gov. James A. Rhodes. Sandra was a member of the Jelloway United Methodist Church, Danville, Ohio, where she was very active. In her free time, Sandra enjoyed spending time at the lake, gardening, and landscaping. She especially cherished her time spent with her family and friends.

Sandra is survived by her husband, Richard “Dick” Segrist of Howard, Ohio; two sons, Robert Merle Shell of Bryan, Ohio and Richard “Rick” (Joanie) Shell of Johnstown, Ohio; two stepdaughters, Jill (Tom) Charlton of Loudonville, Ohio and Jami (Bob) Gray of Parrish, Florida; three grandchildren, Anthony Shell, Fletcher Shell, and Rylee (Brian) Cooper; four step grandchildren, Kristie (Adam) Ray, Karie (Brian) Wheaton, Cooper (Courtney) Charlton and Jason (Allison) Gray; two great-grandchildren, Elijah Shell and Mariah Shell; eight step great-grandchildren, Owen, Asher & Clara Ray, Evan & Brea Wheaton, and Henley, Hezzie & Hayze Charlton.

She was preceded in death by her parents; son, Russell Shell; and a sister, Betty John.



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 – Bill Foster, 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



SPRING 2022 Newsletter Deadline **The deadline for submissions April 1, 2022**

Email news articles and obituaries to info@douglaslake.org

Membership updates to membership@douglaslake.org

Douglas Lake related photos for the annual calendar to

pictures@douglaslake.org

Add info@douglaslake.org to your contacts



WINTER 2022 **Douglas Lake Merchandise**

A Message From Kelly Davis, **Merchandise Manager**

"The online store will open again this year for holiday shopping around November 1st, and will stay open until December 15th. Quantities are limited, so shop early to be able to get what you want. December 15 will be the FIRM cutoff date to allow me to get everything mailed, and hopefully to you by Christmas."

If you have any questions about merchandise or volunteering, please send an email to:

merchandise@douglaslake.org