



CARIBOU LAKE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER JUNE 2017

ANNUAL JUNE MEETING JUNE 10, 10 AM

Summer, glorious summer at last!

The annual June meeting will be Saturday, June 10 at the Old Caribou Lake School at the intersection of Industrial and Munger Shaw Roads. Please come for coffee, juice and pastries at 9:30 am, the meeting will start at 10.

Please join the Caribou Lake Association. Last year we had 80 members out of a total of 170 owners on the lake. We need to work together to protect and preserve our lake's ecosystem, advocate for responsible recreational activities, and enhance the relationships among lake-shore owners.

We are all responsible for protecting our lake, to use only what we need, make smarter choices, and pass on to future generations the beauty, wildlife, water and natural resources we enjoy today.

Items on the agenda for our business meeting will include election of officers, AIS prevention for Caribou, need for a financial audit, document shredding, and program plans for summer.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL ENCLOSED

Attached to this letter is your 2017 membership form. Please send the form along with your dues of \$35 to the address on page 2, or bring them to the June meeting. Dues have not increased for many years, we would rather increase revenue by increasing membership numbers. Dues help support AIS inspections, program planning, weed harvesting, mailings, and picnic supplies.

Remember that CLA is an IRS approved non-profit under IRS Code 501 (c)(3). Any donations made to the association ABOVE the membership dues are fully tax deductible. Your support is greatly appreciated.

NEW PO BOX NUMBER - 15097

Your 2017 CLA signs will be available at the June meeting.

SUGGESTIONS FROM 2016 MEMBERSHIP FORMS

Each year on the membership forms we ask members for their suggestions to improve Caribou Lake. Last year ten people wrote that there needs to be a sewer system around the entire lake, and that people should be required to upgrade their non-compliant septic systems. Others wrote asking that people pick up and clean up the unsightly junk on their properties and across the roads. Another person suggested that there be less lighting on cabins and in yards so we can appreciate the night skies. A member asked if there are regulations on burning garbage, and laws regarding outhouses.

Please add your suggestions on the 2017 membership form, they help us focus on future plans.



AIS INSPECTIONS

Thank you to the CLA officers and the Canosia Town Board for meeting together last October to discuss the application for AIS funding for 2017. As a result of that meeting and agreement, the county board granted Pike and Caribou Lakes \$30,000, which includes \$10,000 for inspections at Caribou. Canosia Township completed and submitted the application form.

Currently, AIS inspections are going well. Most inspections are at the Birch Point landing, but they are also covering the Holly Lane landing. Ten to twelve trained inspectors rotate between Pike and Caribou.

Each year, through the AIS Prevention Aid Program, the state legislature gives funding to counties to allocate to organizations that will participate in AIS research, control, prevention, and education activities. The amount of funding is based on a formula that factors each county's share of watercraft trailer launches and watercraft parking spaces.

Aquatic invasive species disrupt the health of water bodies and pose a myriad of threats to natural and recreational resources. Key AIS species of concern in the county include zebra and quagga mussels, the New England mudsnail, viral hemorrhagic septicemia, round and tubenose gobies, Eurasian ruffe, faucet snails, mystery snails, spiny waterfleas, Eurasian watermilfoil, purple loosestrife, rusty crayfish and starry stonewort.

At the beginning of last summer, starry stonewort was found in Lake Koronis in west central Minnesota. By the end of the summer, nine lakes were infected, transported on boats or trailers during fishing tournaments.

We must take care to protect Caribou. Zebra mussels can cause problems for lakeshore owners, swimmers and boaters. Once a lake is infested, zebra mussels are impossible to eradicate. They are carried from infested lakes to clean lakes on boats, trailers, motors, in bait buckets, in live wells and bilges. If you take your boat to an infested lake, it is the law that boats and trailers must be decontaminated before entering another lake.

ZEBRA MUSSEL MONITORING

Last summer, Jeffrey Flory, invasive species technician at the 1854 Treaty Authority put several cinder blocks into various parts of Caribou to monitor for zebra mussels. Jeffrey reported in October that they did not find zebra mussels or spiny waterfleas. They plan to do a vegetation sampling this summer.

WEEDS, WEEDS, WEEDS

Weed harvesting on Caribou will resume soon. We realize that cutting weeds simply provides "recreation lanes" for boaters. Too many phosphates and nitrates are getting into the lake and fertilizing the weeds. It all comes from non-compliant septic systems and lawn fertilizers that flow into the lake. Warmer and longer summers are providing good growing conditions for weeds in the lake.

Long timers on Caribou say they have never seen so many weeds in the lake.

Most of the weeds that blow up on our shores are not from the weed cutter, rather from boat motors that cut the weeds and from motors going in reverse to get the weeds off the propellers.

HIGH SPEED INTERNET SERVICES

The Grand Lake Township Broadband Committee has been researching high speed internet services for our area and has asked us to share their findings with our residents. For years, many of us have used DSL connected to a land line to access the net. If service was available, we would often see speeds of 6-8 MB down, and .5-.7MB up. This falls well short of the national standard of 25MB down and 3MB up for high speed internet.

A newly upgraded option is now available to nearly all addresses on Sunny and Shady Lanes. Savage Communications Inc. (SCI) can now provide us with speeds as high as 200MB. Typically a connection of 30MB down and 3MB up, bundled with digital telephone service will cost the same as, or slightly less than, the current land line and DSL service that we now use. There are no contracts required and no installation costs in most cases. If you are a seasonal resident, disconnect at the end of the season is free. Reconnect next season is available for a very reasonable fee.

For more information and current pricing, SCI can be reached at [800-222-9809](tel:800-222-9809). Please tell them that you learned about their services from the Caribou Lake Association. They have offered a donation to our association for every new customer that we help to bring to them.

ICE ON AND OFF DATES

Caribou Lake froze November 27, 2016 and opened April 7, 2017. We have records going back to 1968 and are hoping to locate older freeze and thaw records.

Caribou Lake Association
P.O. Box 15097
Duluth, MN 55811

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

All officer positions are open. Thank you to Seth Heikkila who has served as Vice President for several years.

We would like to have representation from all sections of Caribou Lake.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We are looking for people to help with program planning. It would be fun for some of the "old-timers" to speak about their early days on Caribou.

A person interested in computers and web pages is needed to help with the CLA website and Facebook page.

The large painting on the Caribou Lake sign at Midway and Industrial needs restoration.

Please consider hosting the annual Caribou Lake Association picnic usually held in August.

UPGRADES AT BIRCH POINT PUBLIC LANDING AND BEACH

Grand Lake Township is acquiring two large portable toilets which will be secured to a concrete slab. The ADA compliant toilets will also facilitate clothes changing needs for swimmers. The parking area is being improved and enlarged to accommodate parking and vehicle movement. Parking delineation barriers are being acquired to ensure vehicles stay off the grass. Two fire rings will be placed and concrete picnic tables are being acquired. Signage is being acquired to advise users of the conditions of use. As in the past, the gates will be locked by security.

TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS

Represent Caribou at our local township boards:

Grand Lake - 2nd Tuesday of the month

Canosia - 1st Wednesday of the month

MINNESOTA LAKES AND RIVERS - ADVOCATES WORKING FOR LAKES

Caribou Lake Association is a member of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates, a statewide grassroots organization that works at the Capitol to protect Minnesota's lake and river heritage for current and future generations by forging powerful links between lakes, lake advocates and policy makers. See the MLR website: <http://www.mnlakesandrivers.org>.

CLA OFFICERS

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Caribou on the web: Cariboulake.org

Facebook/CaribouLakeAssociation