

# CHIP CHAT

Vol. 1998 No. 1  
May 4, 1998

Big Chip Lake Association

## Open House at Annual Meeting - June 20th; loaded with information for members. Also, free trash dump.

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#### *Notes from the President:*

What a difference a year makes. After the virtually non-existent winter of 97/98' spring is finally here. Docks are going in at an accelerated pace, the wood ducks and assorted friends have returned. Even boat traffic is picking up.

Another summer at the lake for all of us. For those that enjoy chasing walleye is should be a good year. One of the local fisheries biologists from the DNR is talking about fishing Big Chip on the opener.

Your lake association board has held several interesting meetings over the winter. Our conclusion is: making our organization more effective requires primarily one thing, your participation (continuing or new).

To increase our membership as well provide additional benefits to “All Current Members” your lake association will sponsor an **Informational Open House** at the annual meeting June 20th.

#### Highlights to Include:

- 1) Free anonymous well water testing (nitrate concentration) Minn. Dept of Agriculture.
- 2) Two 40 ft. dumpsters for disposing of a wide variety of trash including appliances and tires (not batteries) and other trash. Provided by Douglas Co. Land Resources Management.

#### Information booths for:

Fishing Resource - staffed by the MN DNR.

Lake Shore Management - staffed by Land Resources Management.

Watershed Management - staffed by Chippewa River Watershed.

Other booths may be added.

Please mark **June 20** on your calendar. Call me or any board member with questions or concerns. We think it will be well worth the \$10.00 membership fee.

*Terry Scott*  
**President**

#### “Wild Weather”

We have checked with Brandon Communications regarding a weather warning radio. They have some available for around \$30 for those concerned about not being able to hear their local weather warning siren. KSTP has also recommended this type of device. This year it seems like it would be a good idea!!

#### “Loons and PWC Don’t Mix”

Excessive PWC use on some loon nesting lakes has resulted in decreased loon populations statewide. The apparent or suggested reason is that newborn chicks are likely to drown when

**CHIP CHAT**  
Board of Directors

*Terry Scott*  
*Cheryl Beattie*  
*Marilyn Tisserand*  
*Paul Evavold*  
*Lon Burgess*  
*Don Peterson*  
*Carol Cashman*  
*Evie Lanners*

their parents are forced to perform a dive to avoid contact with PWC. Let's be especially careful to avoid the loon nurseries which are usually found around islands and bays where rushes provide cover. It is suggested that you stay at least 50 yards away from those areas.

**Safety Reminder:**

*The same levels of intoxication apply when driving any PWC as when driving a motor vehicle.*

**"New Restrictions for Personal Watercraft"**

- 1) Personal Watercraft must travel at slow - no wake speed (5 mph or less) within 150 feet (not 100 ft.) of non-motorized boats, shore, docks, swim rafts, etc.
- 2) Operation of personal watercraft is only allowed from 9:30 a.m. to one hour before sunset. (Not 8:00 a.m. to sunset)
- 3) No longer allowed to jump the wake of another watercraft by 100 ft. (Has increased to 150 ft.)
- 4) The age of adults accompany 13 - 17 year-olds, who do not have a watercraft operator's permit, was raised from 18 to 21 years.
- 5) DNR has increased its coverage of water scooter operation and safety in the watercraft operator's permit course materials.
- 6) Rental operators and dealers must now keep record for 6 months of those who rent or buy personal watercraft, to show that the customer has been provided a copy of the laws and rules of operating water craft.

**Notes from Marilyn Bayerl,  
Douglas Co. Water Plan Tech.**

I took a boat tour of your lake in April and I feel you have a lake to be proud of! The vegetated buffers on the shore of most lots are a real plus in protecting the lake from runoff. If anyone is interested in planting native grasses, flowers and shrubs in the shoreline area, please call me at 320-762-3066. We can help you design and locate the best plants for your soil type and location.

All buildings, including fish houses and recreational vehicles, must meet the 100 foot setback required for a Recreational Development Lake. I did note some fairly close buildings, both permanent and temporary.

You are to be commended for your interest in the quality of lake. The monitoring program in 1998 showed your lake to be cleaner than most lakes. For more information, attend the Open House in June. Joe Magner from the MPCA will be available to discuss the results of the sampling.

**"Zero to 2% Loan Possible for Septic Systems"**

The Douglas County Housing Authority will loan money to a limited number of township residents to bring their septic systems up to code. The interest rate currently available is zero to 2% with repayment over a ten year period. Payments are billed with property tax statements.

The county plans on making between seventy and eighty loans this calendar year. Additional funding may be applied for in subsequent years based upon citizen requests.

To apply for funding or to receive additional information, please contact Judy Rost at Douglas County Housing Authority, 762-2381.

It is the current understanding of the lake association that any property sold in the county on other than a contract for deed

basis must have a septic system in compliance with county requirements.

**"Boat Safety Class"**

WHEN: Thursday, May 14, 1998  
 TIME: 7:00 - 9:00 PM  
 PLACE: Jefferson High School Cafeteria

For boaters and personal watercraft operators of **All Ages**. Especially for beginners the ages of **13-17 and their parents**.

We will have materials available, and will cover the following:


- 1) The rules and regulations for watercraft use.
- 2) Safety equipment required by law to be on board.
- 3) The operation of their watercraft.
- 4) Responsibility for the actions of all persons on board.
- 5) Acceptance of the fact that everyone has the right - the privilege - to use the state's water resource in a **proper manner**.

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We usually do not advertise, however, Pioneer Public TV had a program on this item, and recommended it for lakeshore owners.

**RENEWAL OF AND/OR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

**FOR**

**BIG CHIP LAKE ASSOCIATION**

Name (first, last) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Local Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Lake Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit this form with Association Dues of \$10.00 to: Big Chip Lake Assoc.  
Box 457, Brandon, MN 56315. Your support is appreciated.