



photo by Tom Moser

### Loon Update

Each year we publish the “stages of baby loon development” for the loons hatched on the island outside our window. One fuzzy chicks hatched June 9. DL residents can yearly keep watch for the growth milestones (from Loonwatch brochure):

at hatching: fuzzy black chicks ride on parents’ backs to stay warm, conserve energy, and keep safe from predators like eagles, large fish, and snapping turtles. Parents feed steadily to feed themselves and chicks. Any disturbance of this process hinders the loon’s ability to provide for its young. Loons may announce that someone is coming too close by giving the tremolo call, standing on the water, rowing with their wings, splashing before a dive, and trying to look large. If not left alone, they may abandon their family in helpless frustration. Week 3: chicks turn chocolate brown  
Week 4: parents encourage chicks to catch own food by dropping fish in shallow water for youngsters to capture/chicks reach one-third of adult size. Week 5: chicks become adolescent and gray contour feathers emerge. They are left alone for short periods while parents fish and socialize. August: Week 1: chicks are 2/3 adult size and beginning to support themselves though they still beg for food. Week 2: the best time for cautious loon watching from a distance/Unfortunately, chicks mistake fishing bait for an easy meal and are injured. Week 3: Parents leave chicks for extended periods Week 4: Adults teach chicks to fly by practicing take-offs/chicks row with their wings and paddle with their feet back and forth across the lake. September: Week1: Parents leave young and gather in social groups of 3 to 200 loons. They feed intensively and rest in preparation for migration. Week 2: Young loons remain on the natal lake or fly to nearby lakes to find other juveniles. Week 3: Loons born before mid June(like ours) reach adult size. Week 4: Adults begin to migrate at flight speeds of 60-100mph to coastal areas. Juveniles follow later and remain in the south for 2 or more years. The winter loon molts to gray color, does not call, and its red eye fades until it returns to the Northwoods.



The Diamond Lake Loon at 12 weeks about August 30, 2007.

She has been christened, Margie, in honor of Margie Homer. Margie Homer died September 3, 2007 at the Diamond Lake Lodge which she and her husband, Howard, operated from 1972 until 2002. Margie fiercely protected every loon hatched in the cove. She would caution guests of the Lodge to avoid the cove. She was even known to chastise guests who disobeyed her gentle advice. Diamond Lake has lost a piece of its living heritage with her loss. Margie (loon) has not been seen on Diamond Lake since the end of September. Her increasing flight skills have been noted as September progressed.

**the PIERRE family**, new residents of Diamond Lake

Family Members: Matt and Kristin Pierre are originally both from southeastern Wisconsin where our extended families still live in and around Milwaukee and Racine; we now reside in Edina, Minnesota. We have six-year-old twins, Sydney and Jack.

Off-lake occupations: Matt is a Marketing Director at General Mills, Inc. Kristin is on a leave of absence as a shareholder practicing employment law defense with Halleland, Lewis, Nilan & Johnson in Minneapolis.

Hobbies: Matt is an avid golfer and enthusiastic Wisconsin sports fan. Kristin enjoys photography, reading and creative writing.

Volunteer Activities: Evan Scholar Alumni, Parent-to-Parent Mentors at Children's Hospital, Parent Volunteer Association for Edina Early Childhood Education.

Activities enjoyed while in residence on the lake: Sydney and Jack have a grand time exploring, swimming, fishing, tramping in the woods and catching frogs and turtles. Our family also golfs, mountain bikes, hikes, cross-country skis, canoes and kayaks.

Favorite places in the area: Forest Lake Library, Cable Natural History Museum, Brick House Café, Tremblay's Candy Store, West's Ice Cream.

Why we value Diamond Lake: When we were young, our grandparents owned cabins where we spent many enjoyable summer days on lakes and in the woods. We look forward to establishing a place where our children can spend time with their grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.



### **Editorial Comment:**

The fall issue of the Newsletter reverts to Pre-Tom era because of his complicated schedule. Much of the urgent information has recently been posted on the new Diamond Lake web site:

[www.diamond-lakers.org](http://www.diamond-lakers.org).

Those who have consulted it in the last month have noticed pertinent comments about the state of the recent assessment as well as information from the president, Tim Tully. Our web site has been swiftly created by our own Bob Jacobel. We are so grateful to Bob.

Bob will post information as it occurs so it will be available to Diamond Lake residents in a flash!

The newsletter will be published spring and fall, but will not be delivered to email addresses or snail mail addresses. Obtaining updated email addresses created problems no one had anticipated; our new web site allows each resident to obtain the information at his/her own convenience.

### **GROUNDBREAKING for New Museum**

Cable looks different this week. The footprint for the new museum building is visible from the road. During the last week of September, Bob Rasmussen removed the old building and recycled many materials. On September 29, 2007, the ground was broken for this new facility. The previous building was irreparably damaged by rain and mold in 2005. For the past two years, the museum has been operating programs from the former Chequamegon Telephone building. It still does. For the schedule of coming events inside and outside, be sure to consult the museum web site, [www.cablemuseum.org](http://www.cablemuseum.org).



## Minutes of the Diamond Lakers Annual Meeting

August 11, 2007 at the home of Dave and Sue Reichert.

The meeting was opened at 4:15 by President Tim Tully. He dedicated this meeting to the memory of Dr. Fred Wuest and Dr. Herb Dutton. Each of these long-time Diamond Lake residents died in 2006.

New cabin owners, Kristin Pierre and her six year old twins, are moving into Alice Kimball's house; Jules Carlson has purchased the remaining property to create their family gathering center.

The **minutes** of August 2006 meeting were approved as printed in the Fall 2006 newsletter.

**Treasurer** Larry Sanderson reported a balance of \$2243.68.

**Boat Landing Signs:** Tom Williams reported the current signs are faded and hidden. Larry Vorlicky showed two new signs and volunteered to start the process of framing the signs and installing them. Susan Upchurch reminded the body of plans to post the Diamond Lake Guidelines as well as the fishing regulations. Bob Jacobel moved the board plan and implement the signage and show such to the Grand View Town Board for approval before installation. Bruce Hendrickson seconded. Motion adopted.

**Invasive Species** 1. Aquatic Invasive Species : Information gathered indicated Namakagon photographs each boat entering at two landings; cost of each monitoring unit is \$5,000 and requires Internet transmission to the lake monitor. It was recognized that Diamond Lake has neither the fund nor site monitors to accomplish longterm monitoring at this point outside use of Diamond Lake is low; this issue will be revisited if/when problems occur. A new solar powered pressure washer is to be investigated.

2. VHS: Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia has not yet been identified in area lakes; it is on the horizon. If identified in local lakes, the DNR will need to impose severe fishing limits for each lake.

**Shoreland Lighting:** Call the zoning administrator with the fire number of property abusing the regulation published in the spring 2007 newsletter.

**Diamond Lake Chronicle** has survived the first electronic transmission. Email addresses are a chronic problem; some servers do not accept the large "pdf" files and bounce the messages; other servers do not accept the large files but do not

bounce the files so some residents are omitted. In other cases, residents may not be able to open the files without a current edition of Acrobat Reader. Developing a Diamond Laker web site at which each resident could read and print the current editic without the email complications was proposed. Audrey Sanderson moved that Bob Jacobel investigate the development of a Diamond Lake web site and that reasonable costs be authorized. Motion was seconded and passed.

**Fishing Report:** Jerry Robotka reported that there was no change in the size limit. Diamond lak is "on track" to be redesignated as a "stocked lake" rather than a "natural reproduction lake". An implication of such redesignation may be a reduction in the numbers taken by spearing. Realistically, stocking may have to be delayed state-wide due to the VHS threat.

**Zoning:** Questions on current zoning may be answered at this reference: [www.wisconsinonline.com/counties/bayfield](http://www.wisconsinonline.com/counties/bayfield) . Surface zoning trends : The Public Trust Policy may be interpreted to prevent a lake district from writing its own lake rules. There has not yet been a challenge that clarifies the boundaries.

**Loon Report:** The Diamond Lake Loons hatched one chick in June . Success is credited to loon angels who scare away the eagles who target the family, the lack of nesting eagles this year, and to boaters who maintain a 200 foot berth . Since lead sinkers are frequently ingested by loons and thus poison them, we are encouraged to find non-lead alternatives.(see July 2007 newsletter for on-line sources).

**Volunteers:** A "welcome wagon" representative and a social chairperson are requested to volunteer

### Nominating Committee:

The following positions were filled by unanimous vote

President:	TimTully(returning)
Vice President:	Larry Vorlicky (returning)
Secretary:	Susan Upchurch (replacing Dianne Klump)
Treasurer:	Larry Sanderson(returning)
Directors:	Bruce Pankonin (returning) Audrey Sanderson (returning "Newsletter") Jerry Robotka (returning)2 Scott Byrd( replacing Cathy Kestle) Tom Williams (returning)

**Unfinished Business:** none

**New Business:**

Residents have received notice that the Assessor will be inspecting properties starting August 13, 2007. The inspections are to be completed by the end of September. Properties are to be inspected both inside and outside.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 5:05pm. Appetizers served by Heather and Larry Ludzak of the Brick House.

**WINTER FIRE PREVENTION**

Henry Riekoff is the Namakagon Fire Chief; this article was written for the November 2006 issue of the *Namakagon Breeze*, the newsletter for Lake Namakagon. It lists important precautions for chimneys in any season. Henry and the *Namakagon Breeze* have each given permission use in the Diamond Lake Chronicle.

With the winter season fast approaching, now is the time to get your home ready for the winter heating season. If you heat with wood your chimney should be inspected and cleaned. Creosote builds up on the walls of the chimney over time and with a hot fire can cause that build up to burn causing a chimney fire. The fire can burn so hot that it can damage the lining of the chimney. Once the chimney has been cracked the fire inside the chimney can get to the wood structures of the house and start the house on fire. That is why a good cleaning and inspection before you start heating for the season is important.

Use only seasoned wood (wood that has had time to dry) in your fireplace or wood burner. Using green wood has more moisture in it, which can lead to more creosote build up inside your chimney. Use only hardwood, not pine, for burning because pine has pitch in it, which can build excessive creosote also.

If you do have a chimney fire, the first thing that you should do is to call 911 for the fire department. Then try to shut down the air supplies to the stove or fireplace by closing the damper or shutting fireplace doors.

You can purchase chimney fire extinguisher which look

like a road flair and lights the same way. This would be a good item to have on hand at your home. You would light it and put it into the firebox. The chemicals from the smoke of the flare choke off the oxygen to the fire in the chimney and slow the fire down. Your local fire department probably has these for sale. They cost around \$12 each.

After a chimney fire, it is very important to have your chimney inspected by a professional to make sure there is no damage to the flue before you start another fire to avoid a possible house fire from a damaged chimney. If you look in the yellow pages of the phone book you will find numbers of people that inspect, clean and repair chimneys. Give them a call; they are trained and have the right equipment to do the job properly.

Smoke detectors are your family's first line of defense. There should be a working smoke detector on every level of your home and by your bedrooms. Batteries must be changed once a year. The smoke detector should be vacuumed twice a year and if your detector is over five years old should be replaced. Check your smoke detector once a month. If it doesn't work, check the battery; if it still doesn't work replace it. Smoke detectors are not expensive; you can replace your detector but you cannot replace a life. There should be an escape plan to evacuate your house in case of a fire that everyone knows about and should be practiced so that you know that everyone gets out of the house at the same time. Have a designated meeting spot outside of the home.

Just a reminder about the 911 service, when 911 is dialed you will hear nothing on the line for maybe up to 12 seconds, sometimes it is less some times it could be up to 15 seconds. That is because the call has to be routed through the phone lines to a central station that is miles away, it takes that amount of time for the signal to travel that distance to get to the 911 operator. So don't hang up and dial again, If you do that it will tie up another line going to the 911 center, a line that someone else might need. Just stay on the line till the dispatcher answers the call and give them all the information that they ask for before you hang up.

I hope these tips help you have a safe and warm winter.

Henry Rieckhoff, Chief, Town Of Namakagon Fire Department

## **MILFOIL**

For several years, local lake communities have been on the watch for Eurasian Water Milfoil; once it has invaded a lake, the fight to eradicate it is both costly and never-ending. The efforts to prevent it being carried into a lake through a boat landing have led to weekend patrols and some confrontations. Several residents have asked how to identify it. Last year, Audrey Sanderson sent the DNR a sample she picked out of the lake; luckily it turned out to be Northern Milfoil, not its invasive cousin.

There are two helpful brochures to identify milfoil available from Julia Solomon at UW extension. They are currently posted on the diamond-lakers.org web site under the "Invasive Species" category.

## **Drought in the Region**

Fire danger has been reduced in the last two weeks (September 18-October 6) with the addition of 12.5 inches of rain! The summer has been filled with sunshine and warm temperatures; perfect lake weather. However, residents hear that the forests have become dangerously dry. Residents have been heard to predict the pine forests will succeed to oak forests as the band of heat and drought lingers over the area.

Diamond Lake is still 4 to 6 inches low. In mid August, there was no water flowing over the Namakagon Dam. Even after a 1.5 inch rain August 27, there was no water flowing yet by the 29th. In recent news, the rain in Duluth washed so many bird droppings into the lake that the beaches are off-limits. The news anchors commented that there had been no rain to regularly flush off the lakewalk and beaches so one night's rain had quite a heavy accumulation to dissolve and to run into the lake itself.

The Sawyer County Record(8/29/07) from Hayward contacted Dave Kaufura, water regulation specialist with the Wisconsin DNR. He reports that the local deficits from 2003-2006 totaled 2.6 feet below average. In 2006, the area is missing 6.61 inches. Local lakes are down by 18 to 30 inches below the Ordinary High Water Mark. Kaufura notes that the area needs frequent, steady and soaking precipitation to recharge the ground water.

Meg Jones in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel August 6 reported, "The problem is worst in what the Department of Natural Resources calls "seepage lakes," where there is no natural inlet or outlet of water. Also known as spring-fed lakes, water levels are regulated by rainfall and groundwater. Many of Wisconsin's 15,000-plus inland lakes are seepage lakes.

It's no secret it's been dry in Wisconsin the past two years. Aside from a stingy number of raindrops, the drought has been compounded by a mild winter that left below-normal amounts of snow to melt and replenish groundwater tables. Plus warm winters meant lakes froze over later, allowing more water to evaporate, said Richard Lathrop, a DNR research limnologist. Lathrop said he has noticed the shoreline stretching on the Vilas County lake where he has a cabin. Annual precipitation in northwestern Wisconsin dropped from 36 inches in 2001 to 31 inches in 2005 and 22 inches last year, according to the state climatologist's office. Precipitation totals in north-central Wisconsin dropped more than 6 inches from 2001 to 2006. And in central Wisconsin, the decline was more than 5 inches for the same time period. Another factor: water siphoned for high-capacity wells and agriculture irrigation. The DNR this summer began funding two studies in central Wisconsin to figure out just how much groundwater pumped from high-capacity wells affects lakes and rivers and how vegetation affects the amount of water that soaks into soil and replenishes groundwater. Findings from the studies will be sent to a groundwater advisory committee that will develop recommendations for state water policies."

One worries about the condition of one's well. It is recommended that a well be tested yearly. The

well at Sanderson's passed the coliform and bacteria criteria this spring and the family rejoiced. Nonetheless, Sandersons asked guests to conserve water. "Your Lake and You", a booklet by the North American Lake Management Society, notes that 75% of the water used in the home is used in the bathroom. To use less water, the booklet suggests shorter, less frequent showers, less water in the tub for baths, showers instead of baths, turn off the water while you shampoo, brush teeth, or shave. Next, they recommend installing water saving shower heads and regulators for faucets. The cost of retrofitting bathrooms can be less than a hundred dollars unless you purchase a water-saving toilet.

In the rest of the house, the booklet suggests running the dishwasher and washing machine only with full loads and installing water-flow regulators for all sinks. Avoid using bleach, drain cleaners, and other strong cleaning agents and most pesticides and fertilizers. Make sure that no pipes, such as the drain from a washing machine, flow into the lake. Keep gutters and drain spouts free of leaves so that rainwater flows into downspouts rather than over the edges. Plan drainpipe locations so that water soaks into the soil by the house rather than into the lake.