

# COLA update

Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations PO Box 746 Park raoids mn 56470

Spring Issue 2002

## **"RESTORE THE SHORE"**

JERRY KNOBLICH - PORTAGE LAKE

COLA, IN COOPERATION WITH THE SOIL, WATER & CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCD) IS MAKING PLANTS AVAILABLE TO MEMBER LAKE SHORE OWNERS IN AN EFFORT TO "RESTORE THE SHORE". STUDIES SHOW THAT RETURNING VEGETATION TO THE "BUFFER ZONE" (AN AREA ROUGHLY 25 TO 50 FEET FROM THE SHORELINE) IMPROVES THE LAKES' WATER QUALITY, HELPS PREVENT EROSIAN, ASSISTS IN LOWERING FLOOD INTENSITY AND ENHANCES WILDLIFE AND FILTERS FERTILIZERS AND OTHER POLLUTANTS FROM ENTERING THE LAKE.

IF AN INDIVIDUAL ORDERED TREES AND SHRUBS DIRECTLY FROM THE SWCD, THE MINIMUM ORDER WOULD BE 25 FOR EACH SPECIES. HOWEVER, THROUGH THIS PROGRAM A PERSON CAN ORDER A SMALL NUMBER (2 OR 4 OR WHATEVER) OF EACH SPECIES AND THUS PLANT A GREATER VARIETY OF TREES AND SHRUBS. *KEEP IN MIND" THINK IN TERMS OF BIODIVERSITY!*

OVER 6,000 SHRUBS AND TREES HAVE BEEN ORDERED AND PLANTED DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS IN HUBBARD COUNTY. *NOW IS THE TIME TO START PLANNING FOR SPRING 2003.* THE SHRUB/TREE ORDERS ARE DUE IN SEPTEMBER. A "RESTORE THE SHORE" PACKET WAS DISTRIBUTED DURING THE PAST TWO COLA MEETINGS AND WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE JUNE 27<sup>TH</sup> COLA MEETING. FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND INFORMATION -

CALL JERRY KNOBLICH AT 732-7687.

## **COLA LAKE WATER TESTING**

JERRY LAMP - BELLE TAINE LAKE

Most lake associations are completing at least three consecutive years of lake water analysis by RMB Environmental Laboratories. The participating associations have been taking five monthly water samples each year plus taking frequent Secchi disk readings. During the testing period we have been receiving monthly reports that tell us the general health of our lakes. The monthly report tells how much phosphorous and chlorophyll are in our lake water.

This fall we will hear reports that will summarize the results of the tests for each of the participating lakes. For most associations there should be no surprises - the water quality will probably show no or very little change during the test period. Some people may be disappointed that the results aren't more dramatic or that they just tell us that our lake's condition has been stable the past three years.

The results of the water testing is just a beginning. To understand our lakes we need to develop a lake profile - water quality is just a part of the picture. We will be hearing about developing a lake profile this fall. Darren Moe from the Hubbard County Soil and Water District office will be working with COLA and the lake associations to begin that next step. This will be a great opportunity to pinpoint areas of concern and develop a plan to protect your lake from problems associated with erosion and loss of aquatic vegetation.

# LAKE ASSN. NEWS AND IDEAS

**DOES YOUR LAKE ASSN. HAVE A NEWSLETTER?**

IF NOT, YOU PROBABLY HAVE COMMUNICATION PROBLEMS. EVEN THE SIMPLEST TYPED COMMUNIQUÉ - WITH COPIES PRINTED AT A SHOP IS HELPFUL. COLA CAN'T WRITE A NEWSLETTER FOR YOU BUT WE CAN HELP WITH ADVICE. (A COMPUTER SURE HELPS!).

**HOW ABOUT LUNCHEONS OR DINNERS?** ASSNS. HAVE FOUND THEM TO BE VERY POPULAR SO PEOPLE CAN GET TO MEET AND LEARN OF EACH OTHER.

**A STRETCH OF HIGHWAY TO CLEAN?** MNDOT WILL PROVIDE THIS AND A SIGN THAT SAYS 'MNDOT THANKS.....' - HUBBARD COUNTY WILL CHARGE \$200 FOR SUCH A SIGN. SEVERAL AREA LAKE ASSOCIATIONS ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE LITTER PICKUP (AND HAVE FUN GETTING TOGETHER TO DO IT- SOME MEET AT A RESTAURANT AFTER.).

**WATER CLARITY -** ALMOST EVERY LAKE ASSN IS TAKING 'SECCHI DISK' READINGS AND RECORDING WATER CLARITY TO THE MN POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY. IF YOURS ISN'T - CONTACT THEM. A DISK COSTS ABOUT \$10.

**SPECIAL CONCERNS?** ABOUT THINGS ON YOUR LAKE? DEVELOPMENT? JET SKIS? NOISE? POLLUTION? MILFOIL CHECKS, FAILING SEPTICS, LOONS - ALL ITEMS FOR YOUR LAKE ASSN!

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THREE LAKE ASSOCIATIONS (SPIDER, BELLE TAINE AND 5TH/6TH CROW WING ) JOINED TOGETHER TO PROVIDE A SCHOLARSHIP FOR TWO KIDS FROM NEVIS SCHOOL TO AN ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPING ADVENTURE AT DEEP PORTAGE NATURE PRESERVE NEAR HACKENSACK FOR A WEEK. COST IS \$350 PER CHILD SO THE ASSNS. SPLIT THE COST OF \$700 THREE WAYS. THEY'VE DONE THIS SEVERAL YEARS NOW AND ARE SO PROUD OF THEIR 'CAMPER'S'. \*\*\*\*

5TH/6TH CROW WING ASSN. HAS DONATED \$100 OF A TIGHT BUDGET (\$15 MEMBERSHIP) TO THE NEVIS 'FIRST RESPONDERS' TO SHOW THEIR APPRECIATION FOR THIS SERVICE. \*\*\*

KABEKONA LAKE ASSN - HERE IS ONE THAT

IS HARD TO KEEP UP WITH. THEY HAVE A CHORAL GROUP, A 'GARDEN WALK', A COFFEE GET-TO-GETHER, A BREAKFAST FOR MEN, A LUNCH FOR WOMEN, A 'BOOK CLUB' AND PROBABLY MUCH MUCH MORE! A MOST ACTIVE GROUP! \*\*\*

8th CROW WING-" "OUR FIRST LOON NEST HAD A SUCCESSFUL HATCHING OF TWO CHICKS. OUR SECOND, NEWER NEST HAS TWO CHICKS. WE'LL HAVE OUR 4TH OF JULY PICNIC AND ARE PLANNING SOME COFFEES. WE'RE PLANNING A LAKE-WIDE EDUCATION PROGRAM ON BOAT SAFETY AND COURTESY. A WOLF WAS SPOTTED AND ALL THE 'RED RIDING HOODS' ARE KEEPING A SHARP EYE OUT." JUDY NOVAK - PRESIDENT\*\*\*

LONG LAKE ASSN- FOR THE 2ND YEAR, HAS AWARDED A HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER A \$500 GRANT FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE PROJECT.

EAST CROOKED LAKE ASSN - THE LAKE LEVEL IS STILL HIGH BUT MANAGEABLE.. THE SHORELINE RESTORATION PROJECT ON THE SOUTH SHORE SURVIVED THE WINTER QUITE WELL.. J GROVER \*\*\*

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## GLOBAL WARMING

BY SAM ZIBIT - LONG LAKE

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS SENT A CLIMATE REPORT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADVISING THAT GLOBAL WARMING WILL IMPACT ON THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENT. THE REPORT BLAMES HUMAN ACTIONS FOR THE GLOBAL WARMING, STATING THAT THE BURNING OF FOSSIL FUELS HAS SENT HEAT TRAPPING GREENHOUSE GASES INTO THE ATMOSPHERE.

THE REPORT STATES THAT THERE PROBABLY WILL BE DISRUPTION OF SNOW-FED WATER SUPPLIES, MORE STIFLING HEAT WAVES, LOSS OF COASTAL MARSHES AND ROCKY MOUNTAIN MEADOWS AND ALTERATION OF WEATHER PATTERNS.

THE REPORT EMPHASIZES THAT DEPENDENCE ON FOSSIL FUELS, SUCH AS GASOLINE AND DIESEL FUELS FOR AUTOS AND TRUCKS, & COAL FOR PRODUCTION OF ELECTRIC POWER IS A MAJOR CAUSE OF THE GLOBAL WARMING.

# "OUR TOILET WON'T FLUSH"

BY CAL MOE - 5TH CROW WING LAKE

As a former resort owner I can tell you that you didn't want to have one of your guests tell you, "Our toilet won't flush". As a cabin owner you don't want to hear this because it will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July when you have a cottage full of guests. While there are several causes of this problem - I would like to address one of them.

Like your car, a septic tanks needs some maintenance. Because we put them in the ground and cover them up we tend to forget them. But the truth is they need to be pumped dry. here is the why, how often and how:

Your septic tank has three layers in it. the top layer is scum that is light weight matter that floats on the middle layer, the liquid layer. the liquid layer is the water you have added and solids that have been digested by the bacteria and changed to liquid. This is the layer that goes out of the tank and into your drain field. The third layer is sludge that builds up in the bottom and is mostly matter that the bacteria can't change into liquid.

As you use your tank the scum layer gets thicker and could get below the baffle and out your tank into the drain field. This plugs up the drain field and it stops working . "Our toilet won't flush"

"How often to pump?" is not an easy question to answer. As a minimum it should be every three years. Depending on your system and how much use it gets you may want to pump more often. A test is to put a pine board in at the manhole and push it to the bottom. The sludge will leave a mark on your board. If this is 12-16 inches thick it is time to pump.

There is no question as to what is a good pumping job. The only question is finding a person who can do a good job! All pumping jobs are not equal. This is what a good pumping job will include: It must be done through the manhole in the center of the tank. This is not one of those easy to get at 4 inch white pipes you have to mow around. This is a cement lid that weighs 100 pounds or more and is big enough so the pumper can visually inspect the inside of the tank.

The visual inspection may show some deterioration of the baffles or tank. The tank should also be back flushed. Here, the pumper

will pump liquid into the tank to stir up the sludge layer so it can be pumped out.

An oil change costs \$20 but a new engine costs \$2,000 . Aseptic tank pumping job will cost you about \$65 but a new drain field may cost thousands. Put it on your maintenance schedule because you don't want to hear, "THE TOILET WON'T FLUSH!"

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## THE DUMP! WHAT A PLACE!

ARE YOU A CONNOISSEUR OF DUMPS ? (ALSO KNOWN AS THE 'TRANSFER STATION'). HAVE YOU SEEN A NICER DUMP THAN WHAT HUBBARD COUNTY HAS? AND TWO OF THEM!

THE SOUTH TRANSFER STATION ON HENRIETTA AV - SOUTH OF HIGHWAY 34 - HAS SEEN SOME NEW PROCEDURES.

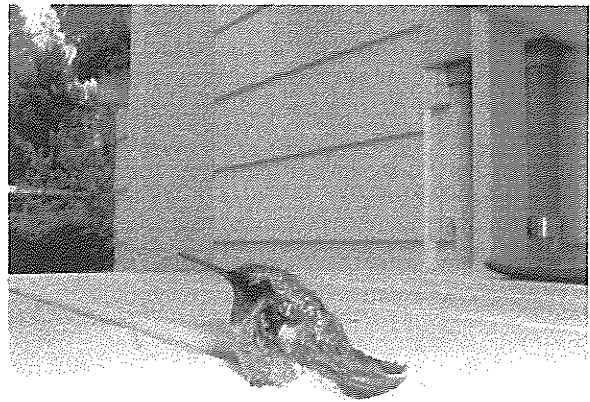
NO MORE DO YOU HAVE TO DRIVE INTO THE DUMP BUILDING WITH A FEW BAGS OF GARBAGE. NO MORE STEPPING INTO POOLS OF OIL. NO MORE UNLOADING YOUR GARBAGE AND HAVING TO THROW IT INTO THE BIG BIN WHILE HOLDING YOUR NOSE! NO MORE WAITING IN LINE TO GET INTO THE BUILDING.

THEY HAVE INSTITUTED A HANDY AND QUICK 'FAST LANE' WHERE YOU CAN STOP, PLACE YOUR BAGS OF GARBAGE IN A CONTAINER AND DROP OFF CANS AND BOTTLES - AND NOT GET MESSED UP! WHOEVER FIGURED THIS OUT WAS ON THE BALL!

HAVE YOU BROUGHT LEAVES TO THE TRANSFER STATION AFTER ALL YOUR RAKING THIS SPRING? HOW HANDY! AND WHAT GOOD COMPOST THEY MAKE! AND, IF COMPOST IS AVAILABLE YOU CAN COME AND GET SOME TO TAKE HOME.

ONE FELLOW DUMPING HIS LEAVES COMMENTED, "WE ARE TRULY FORTUNATE TO HAVE SUCH A GOOD DUMP". THINK ABOUT IT!

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EVER GET CLOSE TO A HUMMINGBIRD? THIS ONE SAYS, "WHO PUT THAT WINDOW THERE?" HE WAS STUNNED BY THE IMPACT.

## **COLA MEMBER LAKE ASSNS**

**BAD AXE LAKE  
BELLE TAINE LAKE  
BIG MANTRAP LAKE  
BIG SAND LAKE  
BLUE LAKE  
EAST CROOKED LAKE  
EAGLE LAKE  
EMMA/STOCKING/BOTTLE LAKES  
FISH HOOK LAKE  
GILMORE LAKE  
HINDS LAKE  
ISLAND LAKE SO.  
KABAKONA LAKE  
LITTLE SAND LAKE  
LONG LAKE  
LOWER CROW WING (1-2-3-4)  
PALMER LAKE  
PORTAGE LAKE  
POTATO LAKE  
SPIDER LAKE  
STONY LAKE  
5<sup>TH</sup>/6<sup>TH</sup> CROW WING LAKES  
8<sup>TH</sup> CROW WING LAKE  
TWIN LAKES  
(HAS YOUR ASSN. PAID IT'S COLA DUES?)**

## **WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT SEPTIC SYSTEMS?**

**ATTEND AN INFORMATIONAL MEETING AT  
THE ENVIRONMENTAL BUILDING AT THE  
COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS - PARK RAPIDS -  
JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup> - 9AM  
HOW THEY WORK - WHAT'S NEW - HOW TO  
CARE FOR THEM!**

## **COLA OFFICERS**

**JERRY LAMP - PRESIDENT - LAKE BELLE TAINE  
JIM HABER - PAST PRESIDENT - EAGLE LAKE  
JON WEBER. TREASURER - SPIDER LAKE  
JUDY NOVAK - SECRETARY- 8<sup>TH</sup> CROW WING LAKE  
COLA UPDATE EDITOR - TED SPENCER - 5<sup>TH</sup>  
CROW WING LAKE - E-MAIL [spider@wcfa.net](mailto:spider@wcfa.net)**

**Remember- A TURTLE MAKES  
PROGRESS WHEN IT STICKS  
ITS HEAD OUT.**

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Park Rapids  
MN  
56470**

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Hubbard County Cola  
P.O. Box 746  
Park Rapids Mn 56470**