



The Mel-Sal

President's Message by MaryAnn Bond

The summer of 2015 will arrive with some new changes in the Shoreham area. As most of you know Rick Lynch sold the Shoreham Hotel and area to Tom Hanson, owner of Zorbas. Tom has assured us that there will not be many changes in the Hotel's ambiance or food. They are repairing the floors and I understand that they will be updating the restrooms.

Last summer many of us were working to get our office remodeled so that we could keep the old gas station in the heart of Shoreham. The building was not in good shape and we weren't able to fix it up so we could open up our office on a consistent basis. The new owner, Tom Hanson, has come forth with a plan that we think will please everyone who cares about keeping as much of old Shoreham as possible. Tom has decided that he will rehab the building and then it will be ours to rent for at least the next three years. We feel certain that Tom will make this a building we can be proud of.

We have moved all of the merchandise we had in the building and the directories and files into Jim Bond's basement. Mary Claire and Jim have agreed to store everything until the new headquarters are finished.

Those of us who remember how Shoreham was before the 1970's are thrilled that this old icon of Shoreham will be saved. We will give you more details when they are available.

Another change for our organization was that Celes Mickelson sold her cottage and moved to Muskrat Lake. She, therefore, will no longer be our treasurer. Jim Bond volunteered to take over the job in September and has been doing it since then with the help of Kristine Christensen. Those of you who have been dying to do this job will have the opportunity to run against Jim in June at the annual meeting.

Mike Becraft has agreed to run for President when I finally retire in June. He has served as Vice President this year and I know he will do an outstanding job.

Those of you who receive e-mails from our association throughout the year know what a fantastic job Hans Tronnes has done in keeping everyone informed about what is going on around the lakes. He can only do this if he has your e-mail address. If you have not done so, PLEASE SEND YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS IN WITH YOUR DUES.

Once our office is available we will be holding regular office hours on Thursday night and the weekends. Carolyn Becraft will let you know when it is time to sign up to volunteer at the office. In the meantime we will have a couple of days when you can go to Jim and Mary Claire's if you need merchandise or a directory. We will let you know later when those days will be.

Have a good winter and see you at the lakes.

Board of Directors Current-June 2015

President MaryAnn Bond
Vice President Mike Becraft
Secretary Sandy Alinder
Treasurer Jim Bond

Committee Chairs

Government Liaison Hans Tronnes
Activities Chairman. Carolyn Becraft
Membership Chairman Vicky Williams
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Publicity Chairman. Marsha Johansen

Ad Hoc Committees

Newsletter/Directory Sandy Alinder
Office Manager Jennifer Williams
Property Manager Danny Clark
Archivist/Historian Bob Hatlestad
Septic/Water Quality Lead Clayton Jensen

**Annual Meeting: Saturday, June 20th
Social 9:30am • Meeting 10:00 am •
Shoreham Chapel**

**Spring Beach Captain's Meeting: To
be announced-check our Facebook
site, the office, or emails!**

**The Lakes Melissa Sallie
Improvement Association was
started in 1936. As a non-profit
organization, we exist to
safeguard our shoreline, water
front, and the recreational
advantages of Lakes Melissa
and Sallie.**

LMSA News

AIS Update

Mike Beacraft

In spite of all of our efforts to protect lakes Sallie and Melissa from getting an infestation of zebra mussels, some of the mussels have been found in Lake Melissa.

The State of Minnesota has appropriated money to help counties control Aquatic Invasive Species and Becker County received over \$150,000 the first year with an additional amount of \$319,000 for 2015. The county is working on a plan to distribute these funds. The County did purchase a Hydro Blaster decontamination unit which will be available for use by all boat owners in Becker County. The machine will be located in Detroit Lakes because they have localities where it can be stored and have the water supply needed to operate the machine. We will send out a notice when we know where the machine will be this Spring. The County Commissioners are also considering the purchase of an additional AIS decontamination unit for this season.

Becker County has begun the recruitment of AIS Inspectors for the 2015 season. Along with recruitment of these paid positions, the Sheriff's department will again assign additional deputies for AIS Inspectors and education. It is very important that we have enough inspectors on Sallie and Melissa. All boats leaving Melissa will need to be inspected and we want to do all we can to stop the spread to Sallie. Those interested in the positions, which will pay between \$12 and \$15 per hour, should contact the Becker County Human Resources Department.

There has been some progress in finding a solution to the zebra mussel problem. Christmas Lake near Minneapolis has been treated with Zequanox and potash and the initial results are encouraging. The area treated was very small and it will be some time before we will know if it was totally successful and can be used in other lakes. But it is encouraging and we are hopeful that we will be able to control this species before too long.

Government Liaison

Hans Tronnes

It is critical that we have your email address, regardless if you pay your dues. Use the enclosed dues form to give us your email address if you have not been receiving periodic emails from us this past summer.

DNR postpones AIS training and trailer decal program

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will postpone the new aquatic invasive species training and trailer decal program that was due to launch at the end of the month while legislators consider changes to the program.

Under a law passed by the state Legislature in 2012, anyone trailering a boat or water-related equipment such as docks and lifts in Minnesota is required to take aquatic invasive species training and display a decal on their trailer. The effective date is July 1, 2015.

“With the legislative interest in this educational program and ongoing discussions about possible changes, we are postponing the launch until we see if the Legislature acts this session to modify the program,” said Bob Meier, DNR assistant commissioner.

The DNR supports the education that would be provided under this law, but recognizes there are some concerns with the way the law is currently written. For example, people transporting boats on trailers through Minnesota to another destination are required to take the course and display a decal even if they don't put their boat in Minnesota waters.

Since the training and decal are currently not required until July 1, the DNR wants to remind people that there will be time to see what happens legislatively and still take the course and receive decals. The agency will post any updates on trailers at www.trailers.mndnr.gov and alert the media if there are any program changes.

Ice Ridges

With the warm winter and small amount of snow cover, the lake ice is really moving this year. There are many areas around the lakes where the ice is pushing sand up onto properties.

According to the DNR website: *What are the benefits of ice ridges? Ice ridges are natural berms that have formed around Minnesota's lakes over thousands of years. These mounds of material provide the lake with ecological benefits by creating a barrier to nutrient loading. Nutrients collect on the landward side of the mound, producing fertile soil where plants and trees thrive. The root systems of this near-shore plant community help to protect the shore from erosion and soak up additional nutrients. Shade and habitat offered by near-shore plants benefit organisms along the shore and in the lake, thus supporting nesting and spawning fish. Ice ridges also work to protect the shore from the lake itself. For example, a small ice ridge formed one year is followed by additional pushes in ensuing years. The ridge is fortified by jamming rocks into it. The roots of the near-shore plant community bind together the soil and rock to form natural shoreline protection.* ©2003 State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources.

So, although the ice ridges protect the lake from nutrient loading, you may need to do some work this spring to get access to your docks! The Pelican River Watershed District does require a permit to repair damage to the shoreline.

If you plan to undertake any land alterations within PRWD's Shore Impact Zone, your project is subject to permitting. This includes the following activities:

- Rip-rap installation
- Brush or tree removal
- Ice ridge leveling or repair
- Sand blanket installation

Check out their website at www.prwd.org

Miss the Boat Parade? Want to see what our other lake did? LMSA Home Tour?



Check out the pictures on Facebook!

In Remembrance

- Jane Marie Guy
- A. John Finnie
- Jean Ellen (Brazell) Selbo

If you know of other LMSA members, please share via Facebook or email salinder@arvig.net

County 17 Bar and Grill caught fire and burned in November. It was a total loss.



Detroit Mountain has been hugely successful since opening this winter. *(continued from previous column)*



If you are a summer resident, get ready for the new bike trails planned for opening this summer. From the website:

Bike Trails, Gravity Fed Flow Trails! The biking trails continue to be designed by Progressive Trail Design out of Arkansas. The trails are being carefully designed with all levels of riders – from beginners to professionals – in mind. Our goal is to make the New Detroit Mountain a Mountain Biking Destination, bringing you an exciting new network of trails, along with gravity fed flow type trails that will put a smile on faces of ALL AGES!

Contour Flow Trails-A natural surface trail consisting of berm, rollers and constant undulation to create a “roller coaster-like” experience.

Downhill Flow Trails-These trails will drop down the east side of the mountain that contours across the mountain taking advantage of the wooded areas. They will consist of berms, multiple rollers and few custom wood ramp features.

Skills Course-The Skills Course is a playground-like facility comprised of a variety of elevated features, such as ladder bridges, designed to teach balance and technical handling skills.

Frozen pipes bursting onto the local scene- DL newspaper online

It’s been a tough winter for septic system experts, even though warm weather would dictate otherwise. “We’re seeing a lot of frozen tanks,” said Dave Hacker of Backhoe Pete.

Warm weather drives the frost down and the frost gets down around the pipe if people don’t use enough water. Hacker said families with kids who frequently shower and do laundry aren’t in much danger of freezing. But weekend residents have been calling for help with burst sewer lines that have to be steamed out and frozen septic tanks.

“We’re seeing more freeze-up,” he said. The biggest reason is lack of snow for insulation. Hacker said many people throw hay bales over their tanks but then leave them exposed to the elements. Wet straw is the worst type of insulation, he said. It provides no insulation unless you cover it with a tarp to keep it dry. Wet insulation keeps the ground frozen in the spring, he said, prolonging the need for a professional to help thaw lines.

He’s seeing lift stations freeze up worst. And he said he’s not allergic to doling out professional advice for homeowners to help themselves. A heater on a lift station can easily be installed by a homeowner, once they have the know-how, which a professional can give. He doesn’t advise installing your own heater system until you’ve talked to a professional about the brand and installation methods.

“You can still have problems with daily water use,” he said. A leaking toilet or a drippy faucet can fill a septic tank and freeze if not attended to. Hacker said at night, he runs his faucets 20 minutes before bedtime, because shallow pipes can still freeze overnight.

Three to five gallons down the water line can help flush them clean. “I’ve found frost down four-and-a-half-feet deep,” he said, which may surprise people who think we’ve had an abnormally warm winter. “I’ve seen a lot of septic tanks with frost in the tank or ice forming on top of the tank. Luckily we’ve caught it them all in time.”

Lakes Melissa Sallie Improvement Association (MeISal)

2015 Information / Dues Sheet

Please review this form **completely** to help assure we have your necessary information.

Lakes Melissa + Sallie
Improvement Association

Shoreham Minnesota
Since 1936

Name _____ My total commitment is: \$25,000 \$10,000 \$5,000 \$2,500
Address _____ \$1,000 \$500 \$100 Other
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Method of Payment

VISA Check
 MasterCard *Make checks payable to the
LMS/West Central Initiative*

Please spread my gift over the following period:
 Bill Me 2006 2007 2008 Other _____
 Annually
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Credit Card # _____
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 Yes, I would like my gift to be anonymous.
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1000 Western Avenue
Fergus Falls, MN 56537-4805
218-739-2239 or 800-735-2239

The Lake Melissa and Sallie Association is a component of West Central Initiative, a non-profit 501(c)(3) tax exempt corporation.