

# Lake Currents

Lake of the Woods Improvement Association

## LOW Board Discusses Five-Year Plan

Written By: Association President, Roy Pearson

The stated purpose in the by-laws of the LOW Improvement Association is “. . . to seek, provide and perform such acts, functions and services as will reasonably enhance and further the enjoyment, safety, health, sanitation and welfare of its members by the protection of Lake of the Woods for its aesthetic and recreational values . . .”

In keeping with our stated purpose, the LOW Board of Directors has established the following goals:

- Continually monitor the condition of the lake, including

water quality and growth of invasive weeds and provide for treatment as necessary.

- Determine the necessary funding to test and treat the lake. Your Board has lowered the annual membership fee to \$10 and has twice lowered the Special Assessment fee for weed control from \$200 per year to \$150 and now \$125 per year for 2011. We have determined that this should be an adequate assessment to cover foreseeable costs for the next five years.

- Use funds collected from membership dues to enhance the quality of life on Lake of the Woods. An example is the

stocking of 2914 walleye fingerlings during the fall of 2010.

- Seek input from LOW members as to projects that will meet our stated purpose.
- Survey the LOW membership to determine interest and feasibility into sewer installation around the lake.

Keep our membership informed of projects and activities provided by the Association. (e.g., the periodic newsletter).

Residents are encouraged to provide ideas for how to improve Lake of the Woods by contacting any of the Board of Directors.

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### Did you know:

Edgar Bergen moved to Decatur, MI in 1908 and stayed for 11 years. This summer Eddie in Decatur, the Story of Edgar Bergen’s Decatur, Michigan History will come to the internet and Public Access TV.

This documentary explores Bergen’s Decatur history and his lifelong ties to Decatur.

The movie trailer can be seen online at Blip.TV: [www.kzoofilms.blip.tv](http://www.kzoofilms.blip.tv)

## Fish Stocking Plan Implemented

Last year, LOW Board members voted to spend an amount not to exceed \$5,000 to stock walleye in our lake. On a crisp Saturday in October 2010, the fingerlings were delivered and released into the lake. 2914 fish approximately 6-8 inches long were released.



According to Joe Laggis of Laggis Fish Farms these were some of the largest and nicest

walleye fingerlings he has ever delivered for stocking.

Walleye are similar in appearance to other members of the perch family and anglers are cautioned to observe the 15” minimum size for walleye. The fish grow rapidly and may exceed 12 inches within a year after release.



Joe Laggis of Laggis Fish Farms

## Save the Date

Mark your calendars to save the following dates:

February 19-20 Free Fishing weekend. Residents and out of state visitors can fish Michigan inland lakes and Lake Michigan for free. All fishing license fees will be waived. (<http://michigan.gov/dnr>)

June 11-12: Free fishing weekend.

June 18: Boater Safety Class

July 4: Annual 4th of July Decorated Boat Parade

July 16: Annual Meeting & Family Picnic.

Please check the website for more information.

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## Sewer Survey

At the October 2, 2010 Lake of the Woods Improvement Association Board of Directors meeting, it was decided to survey Lake of the Woods property owners to determine if there is enough interest to pursue a feasibility study for a wastewater collection and treatment system for our lake.

The Board would greatly appreciate your response to this survey. Please circle yes or no on your 2011 membership renewal form to express your interest and return in the self address envelope to P.O. Box 188, Decatur, MI 49045-0188.

## It's time to renew your membership

It is time to renew your membership for 2011. The Lake of the Woods Association Board of Directors has announced that annual dues will remain at \$10.00 for the 2011 membership year.

Your \$10 for dues helps to promote the boater safety class, sponsor lake and community activities, such as the annual picnic, the 4th of July boat parade and the local fireworks display.

Additional benefits include the Lake of the Woods website that includes news, photos, calendar of events and lots of great information.

Please take a few minutes to review your renewal form, answer the survey and re-

turn it with any changes and your check or money order for \$10.00 in the enclosed self-addressed envelope.

To those of you who have been faithful members we thank you for your continued support, and we ask that you please encourage your neighbors to join the association.

As you can see, the Lake of the Woods Improvement Association is involved in many activities to help maintain the quality of the lake now and for future generations.

Please do your part by joining us with your membership.

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### *2011 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM*

*Lake of the Woods Improvement Association, Inc.*

P.O. Box 188 Decatur, MI 49045-0188

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Please return this entire form with your membership renewal.

Below is the information we currently have on file for you. If it is incorrect, please note any changes.

Thank you for your continued support of YOUR lake association!

I am interested in having our Association initiate an investigation into the possibility of having sewers installed around the lake.

Please circle your response:

YES      NO

The suggested dues amount is again \$10.00 for this year

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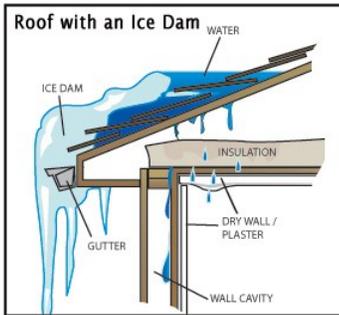


# Protecting Your Home From Michigan Winters

Michigan winters can bring leaky roofs, broken pipes and other costly damage to you home. A little precaution can go a long way.

Ice dams can occur when heavy snow buildup melts during the day and refreezes as temperatures drop overnight. After many days of the freezing/melting cycles the ice and water work up under the shingles until water enters the attic and damages ceilings, walls and inside contents.

If an ice dam goes unnoticed for an extended period it can cause extensive damage to your home and contents.



To help prevent ice dams:

- Keep gutters and down spouts clear of debris, snow and ice. This will allow the melting roof snow to flow.

- Prevent warm, moist air in living spaces from going into the attic by having a good air and vapor barrier at the base of the attic.
- Provide good attic ventilation to replace warm air in the attic with cold outside air.
- Provide adequate attic insulation to reduce the loss of heat into the attic from living spaces below.
- Keep snow on your roof to a minimum. Roof rakes allow you to pull the snow off the roof while standing safely on the ground.

Frozen water pipes cause extensive damage to many homes every winter. If you think turning down the heat while you are away will save you money, think again. When water freezes in a pipe it expands and can exert pressure over 2,000 pounds per square inch. The pressure is enough to rupture most any copper or plastic pipe filled with water which provides no place for ice to expand. If your pipes freeze and burst, it could be thousands of dollars to repair the interior of your home and replace its contents.

To help prevent frozen water pipes:

- Insulate pipes susceptible to freezing especially in a crawl space, under a sink on an outer wall and in the attic.

- Wrap pipes in UL approved heat tape.
- Seal air leaks that allow cold air inside near where pipes are located.
- Disconnect garden hoses.
- Shut off and drain water pipes leading to outside faucets.

If you are going to be away for an extended period of time:

- Shut off and drain the water supply to your home .
- Set the thermostat in your house no lower the 55 degrees.
- Have someone check regularly to ensure the heat is still on in your home.

If your pipes freeze never try to thaw a pipes with a torch or other open flame. You may be able to thaw a frozen pipe with the warm air from a hair dryer. Start by warming the pipe as close to the faucet as possible, working toward the coldest section of the pipe.

Make sure you and your family know how to shut off the water in case pipes burst.

For more information on energy saving tips visit: [www.energysavers.gov/tips](http://www.energysavers.gov/tips)

## Surviving a Snowstorm

Winter is upon us and creating a home emergency kit can be a very simple task to help survive a snowstorm.

- Bottles of water and can goods keep well but not forever. Arrange your cabinets or pantry so that cans don't linger at the back.
- Keep flashlights and batteries on hand.
- Have alternative heat sources: Wearing layered clothing and having lots of blankets on hand in case of power failures will keep you warm.

- Having tools and materials for emergency repairs. Duct tape and plastic sheet or large garbage bags can be used to keep wind and snow from coming through a broken window.
- Phone lines can be damaged by ice and wind. Keep cellular phones charged and have a car charger for an emergency charge.
- Have plenty of salt and sand for walk and driveways.

A little preparation can make surviving a snowstorm a little easier.

## Your Voice

The Lake of the Woods Board of Directors would like to hear from you. Do you have any suggestions on events or projects that you would like the Board to pursue in 2011?

Do you have an article or suggestion for the newsletter? Is there a topic of interest that you think would benefit the members of the association?

Submit your ideas and suggestions via email to:

[webmaster@lakeofthewoodsmi.org](mailto:webmaster@lakeofthewoodsmi.org) or to P.O. Box 188, Decatur, MI 49045-0188.



*Lake of the Woods  
Improvement Association*

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*Servicing Lake of the Woods residents  
since 1980!*



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