

HAPPY SPRING!



After a seemingly endless winter, spring is finally arriving on the lake! The snow piles are melting, and the ice on the lake is disappearing. Can summer be far behind? **Winter was a bit uncooperative this year** — the cold weather came so late that the annual Winterfest ice activities at the lake in January had to be cancelled for the second year in a row. (Do we need to think about a February Winterfest instead?!) But thankfully, there was enough cold weather and thick ice in late winter for the ice fishermen, skaters, and snowmobilers to have some fun.

Now, we can look forward to a great summer on the lake! With last year's lake-wide weed treatment for Eurasian Milfoil (that obnoxious, non-native plant that has caused havoc on lakes throughout the state), we should be able to enjoy a relatively weed-free lake this year. The Hess Lake Board has been working closely with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and Weed Patrol, the herbicide applicator who treats our lake, to insure that we will not have problems in the future with timely treatments. (See article on page 2.) Do your part to keep our lake weed-free by not fertilizing your lawn (or use a phosphate-free fertilizer if you must) and keep your leaves and grass clippings out of the lake.

Start the season off right by joining Hess Lake Improvement Association board members and your neighbors at the **Hess Lake Roadside Clean-up on Saturday, May 5**. We will meet at the boat launch at 9:00 a.m., divide up into teams by zone, and then walk the road around the lake to pick up trash and debris. It only takes an hour or so and makes a big difference in the appearance of our neighborhood!

If you have not yet joined HLIA for 2007, please use the enclosed envelope to send in your dues. They remain \$25 per lake address. The 2007 memberships signs will be distributed by Memorial Day. (If you are not sure if you've already paid for the year, call treasurer Joyce Longo at 231-834-5201 or president Jeannine Lemmon at 616-364-3066. Many of you sent your 2007 dues in after the last newsletter—thanks!)

Finally, HLIA wants your input and ideas! The enclosed survey is designed to solicit your feedback on a number of issues. We are most interested in knowing when the 2007 4th of July Ring of Fire should take place (the 3rd or the 4th?) as well as whether or not we should continue to sponsor the Boat Parade. Participation in the parade was down significantly last year; was that due to lack of interest or the date? (i.e., should we hold the parade on the Saturday before the 4th? When the holiday falls in the middle of the work week, it's difficult to know when to schedule activities so everyone can enjoy them.) Give us your ideas!!

HLIA is YOUR neighborhood association! We appreciate your support and involvement! Help make Hess Lake a great community in which to live and play!

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Upcoming events in 2007:

Mark your calendars and don't miss these important Hess Lake events!

- **Hess Lake Roadside Clean-up**
Saturday, May 5
9:00 a.m.
Meet at the Boat Launch
- **Hess Lake Yard Sales**
Friday, June 8
Saturday, June 9
- **Boater's Safety Class**
Saturday, June 9
9:00 a.m.
915 Hess Lake Drive
- **HLIA Annual Meeting**
Saturday, June 16
10:00 a.m.
Brooks Twp. Hall
490 Quarterline Road
- **4th of July Events**
Please complete the enclosed survey to help plan events!
- **Hess Lake 10K Walk/Run**
Saturday, July 21
8:30 a.m.

From the Hess Lake Board

Editor's Note: In addition to HLIA (which is a neighborhood association), Hess Lake residents are served by the Hess Lake Board (HLB). The board is a legal entity created by local government and focuses on issues of pollution, flood damage, and water conditions that affect public health or safety. They also work to increase the value of property by improving the quality of the lake and conservation of fish and wildlife. A lake board can create an assessment district and assess the tax roll to fund various projects. Special thanks to Hess Lake Board Chairman Dick Besser for submitting this report.



Members of the Hess Lake Board (HLB) met with officials from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in Lansing recently to discuss strengthening our partnership with respect to the prompt and efficient issuance of DEQ permits for weed control when a fluridone treatment is needed. (As many will recall, in 2006 delays in issuing the permit for a lake-wide treatment led to an unusually high level of the invasive, exotic vegetation Eurasian Milfoil in Hess Lake at the beginning of the summer.)

Board members clarified that the timing of the permit process is critical and also clarified what documentation is necessary from the HLB's professional herbicide applicator.

The DEQ acknowledged the fact that the HLB has been very proactive in the management of exotic lake vegetation, and board members believe that an understanding has been achieved that will ameliorate any misunderstandings in the future.

The DEQ is fearful that the exotic weed (Eurasian Milfoil) that is our main adversary in Hess Lake may build a resistance to fluridone. Board members advised them that they are aware of that potential and are as concerned as the DEQ is. Board members further advised them that is why we attempt to use careful maintenance plans, using safe contact herbicides which will lengthen the times between needing to use fluridone. Fluridone is a very good product because it is very selective, killing only milfoil and is safe and long lasting.

Hopefully, because of the lake-wide fluridone treatment applied in the summer of 2006, we will have a 3 or 4-year-period with minimal exotic vegetation in the lake and need for lake-wide treatment. The late arrival of winter may throw a monkey wrench into that, but the HLB is hopeful that it will not.

Fish Planted in Hess Lake



Last November, approximately 7,000 bluegills (shell cracker hybrids) were planted in Hess Lake at a cost of \$2,500. HLIA sponsored this fish plant with the help of member **Terry Roelofs**, who consulted, organized, and managed with a local professional fish supplier. The final cost of the fish plant was nearly \$1,000 less than initial estimates.

HLIA would like to thank Terry for volunteering his time and energies to this project and his diligence in helping to control costs. HLIA would also like to thank member **Ken Bull** for his significant leadership donation to the fish plant, along with other members who generously contribute annually to the fish plant. Results from this project should provide improved fishing for lake residents and visitors alike. Please remember to fish responsibly by obtaining a proper license and honoring all size/catch limits.

Help our Soldiers in Afghanistan — Here's How!



This past holiday season, Hess Lake Board Chairman Dick Besser organized the collection and shipment of some basic

comfort supplies to US soldiers serving in Afghanistan who don't receive much from home. In response, the HLIA Board agreed to underwrite the cost of packaging materials and postage for the shipment. Because the need extends well beyond the holidays, Dick and the HLIA Board have decided to continue the "Care Package" program throughout the year and encourage all HLIA members and lake residents to participate.

Simply purchase items from the list below and/or write letters and/or provide pictures. Then drop off or send your items to Dick Besser at 9469 Catalpa Avenue, Newaygo, MI 49337 (Zone 1 on Hess Lake). Dick will store and package the items properly and mail them periodically, with the HLIA picking up the cost of packaging and postage.

Here's a list of the most requested items compiled by Dick's contact (a US soldier serving in Afghanistan):

- ★ Mach 3 razor blades
- ★ Cough drops
- ★ Vitamins or "Airborne"
- ★ Clove cigarettes (Djarum is a popular brand)
- ★ Magazines or comic books
- ★ Candy (that doesn't melt in the heat)
- ★ Books
- ★ Tea bags (all flavors)
- ★ Newspapers / Letters / Pictures (these items make Afghanistan feel a little more like home)

Or if you prefer, you can send a check to HLIA, P.O. Box 239, Newaygo, MI 49337-0239 noting that your donation is intended for "Care Packages" to Afghanistan. All monies received will be used to purchase items listed above. The "Care Package" program is a great (and easy) way to give comfort to our troops in Afghanistan, targeting those soldiers who receive very little from home. Please help if you can!

2007 Hess Lake "Son of a Sailor" 10K Walk/Run



Plans for the second annual 10K Hess Lake Walk/Run on Saturday, July 21, are underway! Please mark your calendars and participate! Invite your friends to walk or run with you or volunteer to help. The event will start at 8:30 a.m. and will necessitate the temporary closing of roads around the lake for just a couple of hours to ensure safety of the participants. Please plan accordingly!

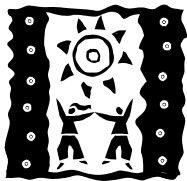
The first "Son of a Sailor" Walk/Run was held on July 15, 2006 in honor of Ervin McLaughlan III, 42, who passed away on February 23, 2006 of colon cancer. Erv was a long-time resident of Hess Lake and our HLIA board vice-president and Zone 1 representative. 262 people entered in the fun, and many, many people around the lake volunteered to make the event a success. Thanks to everyone's efforts, \$10,000 was donated to the American Cancer Society for colon cancer research and treatment. Let's make the event an even greater success this year! If you would like to volunteer to help or be an event sponsor, please e-mail Katie Lipner at KLLipner@aol.com. With your help, we can make this a highly successful annual Hess Lake event.

Around the Lake...

Announcements from the Neighborhood

HESS LAKE SIGN — The Hess Lake “Welcome” sign spent the better part of the winter at Graphicus in Newaygo, undergoing some much-needed repairs. The sign, which is located at the boat launch on East 88th Street and Redwood Avenue, is expected to be back in place before Memorial Day. Our thanks to member and Zone 4 Alternate Jerry Swendrowski for his work in overseeing the sign repair project and his diligence in regularly updating the messages on the sign board. Also, a huge round of applause to member John VanDam and his company, Gelock Heavy Lifting, for their donated assistance in removing and reinstalling the sign.

WINTERFEST 2007 — Due to unseasonably warm weather



and the resulting unsafe ice conditions on Saturday, January 27, the annual Winterfest Ice Activities at Hess Lake were cancelled for the second year in a row. However, many residents gathered at Smugglers Cove in the afternoon of the 27th to hold the first “Family

Friendly” Wet T-Shirt Contest. Jennifer, a waitress at Smugglers Cove, took First Place. She was the first contestant to take a frozen, twisted t-shirt, crack it open, and put it on. There were a lot of laughs, cheering and fun. Let’s hope next year, the ice will be safe enough to enjoy all the activities!

WINTER WAKEBOARDING — Jon Kuyt loves wakeboarding so much that he couldn't wait for the warm weather to return. So with his brother, Jason Kuyt, driving the quad, Jon went wakeboarding, Michigan-style, in early February on Hess Lake. The weather was 20°, and the winds were about 10-15 mph - VERY COLD, but nice form, guys!!!



Hess Lake Improvement Association

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HLIA Lake Zone Boundaries

Zone 1 — East 88th Street from 1605 to 1844
Catalpa Avenue from 9053 to 9593

Zone 2 — Hess Lake Drive from 1751 to 1989
Kathleen Street

Zone 3 — Hess Lake Drive from 1411 to 1644
Clearwater Street, Peninsula Drive

Zone 4 — Hess Lake Drive from 941 to 1390

Zone 5 — Hess Lake Drive from 615 to 925
Redwood Drive from 9016 to 9394

Zone 6 — Redwood Drive from 8872 to 9011
East 88th Street from 745 to 1154

Zone 6A — 825 East 88th Street, South Old Elm Lane,
East Old Maple Trail, East Old Birch Trail

Zone 7 — East 88th Street from 1166 to 1596
Graves Drive, Parkwood Drive,
Lockwood Drive, Wellington Drive