

# Spring, 2017 Newsletter

## Little St. Germain Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District

**In this issue:** Bad weeds (we are winning), Good weeds (too many), A five year plan for the lake, and a math quiz

We don't often send a mid-year newsletter out, but there is much to say and your response to the Lake Owner's survey said that you enjoy hearing from us. So here is the latest news for your lake.

**Bad Weeds** Our consultant for the lake weed issues (Onterra) has informed us that this year the invasive species weed problem is minor and not worthy of spending money on a chemical treatment. But to keep it in check, we are moving forward on a new method for controlling the AIS problem. This new method is called Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting or DASH. A diver team, with its special boat, will suction up the plants without need for chemicals and hopefully get the plants and its bulbs out of the water.

**Good Weeds** Native weed harvesting will again resume July 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>. The DNR has granted us a permit and Onterra will be providing our vendor with the approved maps for the harvest. Remember that the harvester can only operate in water that is over 5 foot deep, and the DNR will only approve us to clean out navigation lanes across the lake.

**Lake Plan** The planning process for the Lake Management Plan is progressing well. Many of you have responded to the survey and we are taking your input into consideration as we develop the plan. The Lake Plan is for the next 5 years, and helps the Board of Commissioners to make decisions regarding the health and wellbeing of the lake. It is also used by the DNR when we apply for grants. Expect to hear much more on this at the annual meeting on September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Test Your Math Skills** You may ask, if we are not perusing chemical treatments this year, why do I have to pay so much money to the District in my taxes? Good question. Here is why. The DASH boat harvest may run to \$20,000, permits and notifications an additional \$500. The native weed harvesting will cost about \$9,000. And our aeration

systems costs about \$1000 a month in electricity when they are in operation. Plus this year, we spent about \$1,200 to fix a broken pipe in East Bay.

Here are some more financials.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Balance transferred from prior year</b>	<b>Mill Rate</b>	<b>Y over Y change</b>
2009	\$168,394.70	0.0643	
2010	\$217,605.57	0.0203	\$49,210.87
2011	\$200,481.88	0.0314	-\$17,123.69
2012	\$222,722.02	0.0362	\$22,240.14
2013	\$226,490.58	0.0278	\$3,768.56
2014	\$178,240.53	0.0289	-\$48,250.05
2015	\$168,405.72	0.0279	-\$9,834.81
2016	\$158,329.22	0.0304	-\$10,076.50

As you can see, we have kept the tax rate as low as possible, and at the same time we have been spending down our bank balance. Just in the past 4 years, we have spent over \$68,000 of our bank balance. That money was spent on valuable lake projects and was not a part of your tax bill.

**Enjoy the summer; it will go too quickly as usual. See you at the annual meeting at the Community Center on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. More details on that meeting in the summer newsletter.**

**Tom Groth**                      [tom.groth@frontier.com](mailto:tom.groth@frontier.com)

**Cheryl Kelsey**                [SelltheNorthwoods@gmail.com](mailto:SelltheNorthwoods@gmail.com)

**Tom Schwartz**                [tom01schwartz@gmail.com](mailto:tom01schwartz@gmail.com)

**Tom Christensen**            [stgsport@frontier.com](mailto:stgsport@frontier.com)

**Dennis Nielsen**              [dennyn41@hotmail.com](mailto:dennyn41@hotmail.com)