



HALF MOON LAKE PROTECTION  
AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

June 1, 1996

6625 Lyndale Ave So, Suite 526  
Richfield, Minnesota 55423  
(612) 869-7123

To: Half Moon Lake Electors

Greetings from the Board of Commissioners of the Lake District. They say spring has arrived but it's hard to believe it from the weather outside. Ice out was April 29 according to my scouting reports. I was too busy uncovering my roses in town to get to the cabin so I missed the grand event. Sherm Gardner was on hand to drop his Secchi Disk into the lake to get his first water quality reading of the year. His lifetime ambition is to get a better reading than Deer Lake, the only lake in the area that compares with our water quality. The board is back in the dam and will remain until the fall. The Loons have returned and are nesting. Please stay clear of the nest. Opening day of fishing was uneventful as usual with less than perfect weather. The ice on the lake was reported to have been as thick as the old timers can remember. Lake maps are available and will be mailed on request. Here's hoping for a great summer. Drop in anytime and say hello.

Sincerely,

David Butler, Chairman

\* \* \* \* \*

NO SPRING MEETING

The board has decided to present its report through this newsletter instead of holding the usual spring meeting in June. With the late spring, it was thought people would prefer to spend their extra time doing other things. There is nothing pressing that needs the attention of the members so we will hold off with a meeting until the annual meeting in August.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

The Board will be meeting on Saturday, June 8, 1996, 10:00 a.m. at the cabin of David and Mary Martha Butler, 1915 120th Street. All members of the District are welcome to attend.

## ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the District is scheduled for Saturday, August 24, 1996, 10:00 a.m. at the Public Beach Pavilion. This will be the time for electing a director, approving the budget for the next year and considering any business that needs approval by the members.

## ANNUAL PICNIC

The 1995 annual picnic was a great success due to the attendance of so many of our members and their families and due to the excellent work of Shirley Dworsky and her committee. Shirley reports, "The rains came but our spirits were not dampened by the weather. We had a good time under the hastily pitched tents and we got acquainted with some of our neighbors on Half Moon Lake. Thanks to the following: Food - Donna Stelmaszewski; Hospitality - Dawn Johnson; Silent Auction - Sheila Palewicz; Games - Don & Sheila Waldoch; Prizes - Louie Saad; Set-up - Barb & Dick Turnquist; Demonstration table - Martha McMahon; Face painting - Mary Martha Butler; Publicity - Tom Diederich; Handmade Breadboards - Irv Carlson; Tables - Don Croes; Music - Nancy Maki; Beverages - Dave and Nancy Needham; Donating food - Wayne's IGA in Luck and Holiday Foods in Milltown; Donations - Melin Drugs in Balsam Lake.

No date has been set for a 1996 picnic because no one has come forth to chair the event. If a group wants to get together and plan the event, the Board will support it and provide some seed money to help cover the costs. If there is an interest, please let me know. Phone, 825-3578 (cabin).

## PLANNING GRANT #2

Our application for a second planning grant in the amount of \$10,000 has been approved. We can spend up to \$13,333 with the District providing \$3,333 of the cost. We will be discussing at the Board meeting on June 8 the steps we will be taking in carrying out the study. This will be more than a study. It will entail gathering information that will be preliminary to acquiring easements that will help in protecting important areas around the lake and gathering information on how zoning may be useful in protecting vulnerable areas around the lake. We will keep the members advised as we proceed.

## FISHING REPORT

The DNR reports that they will be stocking 29,000 walleye fingerlings which are 3 to 4 inches long in July or August, 1996. The lake is being stocked with walleye every other year. By stocking every other year instead of every year, a count can be made of the walleye hatching in the off year to determine the amount of natural reproduction. The goal of the DNR is to increase our walleye population count from 1.5 walleye per acre to 3.0 walleye per acre. The spearing quota for the St. Croix tribe was

128 this year and 117 walleye were speared. The tribe intends to stock 4,000 - 3 inch walleye fingerlings in the lake in July or August. Daily possession limits this year are 3 for walleye and 5 for bass. Minimum lengths are 15 inches for walleye and 14 inches for bass.

#### POLK - ST. CROIX COUNTY LAKES FAIR

The Polk County Land Conservation Department reports that Polk County and St. Croix County will be joining this year in holding a Lakes Fair on Saturday, July 20, 1996 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Cedar Lake Community Center located on the north side of Cedar Lake in southern Polk County. There will be a variety of educational exhibits planned to promote protection and understanding of our lakes' ecosystems. Experts will be talking about fish, aquatic plants, water quality, water regulations and other issues. An aquarium will display local fish, an area artist will demonstrate her talents while working on a painting. Project Loonwatch, the DNR sponsored Self-Help Monitoring Program, the National Park Service and more will have exhibits. There will be clowns, musicians, theatrical performances, a face painter and maybe a pig roast. Sounds like a good place to spend a leisurely day on July 20.

#### PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (PWC)

Talk about PWCs continues to make waves. Current estimates are that between 750,000 and 800,000 PWCs are presently in use in the United States. Sales topped 200,000 with a retail value of more than \$1.1 billion in 1995. 34% of all power watercraft sold were PWCs. Colorado's Boating Safety Education Specialist, Dennis George, said, "Personal watercraft represent about 7% of the state's watercraft and 30-40% of the accidents." Kansas and Arkansas report similar figures. Coast Guard figures show national PWC injuries jumped from 532 in 1990 to 13,338 in 1994. Eight out of ten PWC accidents involved collisions with other vessels. Dealers say the bulk of the accidents are with rental units and persons who have not had lake experience.

When you experience people using PWCs that apparently don't understand the rules or don't respect them, there's nothing wrong with talking with them and expressing your concern. Sometimes a friendly reminder will do wonders.

#### LAWN CARE

We seem to have inbred in us the yearning to have lush green grass yards. There's nothing wrong with that except when keeping up a yard results in damage to the lake. Nitrogen does not seem to be harmful to the lake because the lake already has more nitrogen than the plants can use. It's phosphorus that results in algae blooms and other growth in the lake that we don't like. If you must fertilize your lawn, please go light on the phosphorus. All bags are labeled. If you want to experience the excitement of wild

flowers, talk to Florian Lauer, one of my neighbors. He has a wild area near the lake he doesn't mow and it's unbelievable the number of unusual flowers growing. I'd love to see more people around the lake experiment with letting a border grow wild or planting it in something that does not require mowing. We can learn from each other. Anything that slows down the runoff of water to the lake is valuable because when the water seeps into the ground, the phosphorus is filtered out and its chemical nature is changed into less harmful residues. A brochure titled, "Shoreland Plants and Landscaping" is available through the University Extension Office. Some areas are advocating a 35 foot wide buffer strip around the lakes.

#### BALSAM LAKE DISTRICT LAND ACQUISITION

The Balsam Lake P & R District has finalized the purchase of an 80 acre farm so that a system can be installed to remove the nutrients from Rice Creek before they enter Balsam Lake.

#### LOVELESS LAKE EROSION CONTROL PROJECT

The force of water flowing over steep pastured slopes caused the formation of a gully that stretched almost 300 feet to Loveless Lake, our neighboring lake to the southwest. A fan of sediment had deposited in the lake over the years. The existing gullies were filled in, shaped and seeded. The runoff was diverted into a grassed waterway to slow the water down and then diverted into a rock settling basin minimizing the soil erosion. A fence was installed around the grassed waterway. Everyone seems to be happy about the project.

#### WATERFRONT IMPROVEMENT PERMITS

A news release from the DNA reminds us that property owners must receive permits before improving their shorelines. Types of shoreline activity that are regulated are bank improvements, shoreline grading and removal of vegetation. Bank improvement using either riprap or stone is helpful for erosion control. The placement of sand or pea gravel on a lake bed is regulated because of the danger of covering spawning beds. Piers may extend out to the line of navigation, which is generally considered the 3 foot water depth. Swimming rafts must be anchored within 200 feet of the shore. For information on designs and permits, contact Ed Slaminski, Cumberland Area office of the DNR, 715-822-3590.

#### POLK COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

The Polk County Board of Supervisors are considering adoption of a shoreland management ordinance and cost share program. Polk County has an abundance supply of water resources consisting of 365 miles of streams and 431 lakes for a total of 23,680 acres of water with 50,829 acres of wetlands or about 12% of the total land in the county. These natural resources of wetlands and water are major reasons that others wish to locate in the county. 68% of the

assessed value is from rural residential property.

A shoreland management ordinance requires owners of shoreland to control soil erosion, runoff and livestock access near streams, lakes and ponds. The main objective is to protect and improve water quality in our wetlands, streams, ponds and lakes. The ordinance would affect the use of land within 300 feet of perennial streams, lakes or ponds. The ordinance would establish the allowable uses in these areas. Agricultural land owners who do not meet the standards would be eligible for up to 80% cost sharing on the installation of necessary erosion and pollution control practices. Informational meetings are being held throughout the county.

#### HALF MOON LAKE YACHT CLUB

Four yachts (radio controlled) are now competing on a regular (some call it highly irregular) basis. New competitors are welcome. Look for the red bouys at the southeast part of the lake.

#### Commissioners:

David J. Butler, Chairman

Beverly Hoiium, Secretary

Art McMahon, Treasurer

Sherm Gardner

Dana Gauthier

Gerald Handlos, Chairman, Polk County Board of Supervisors

Bruce Christensen, Chariman, Milltown Township Board

# SAVE YOUR ENERGY DOLLARS!

**\$769 value!**

**D**id you know whether you use electricity, gas or fuel, water heating is one of the most costly energy requirements in your home or cabin?

However, if you're a member of Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative (PBEC), there is a special money-saving program just for you.

Install one of the co-op's top-of-the-line electric water heaters, and not only may you qualify for a **FREE** life-time warranty water heater (a **\$769 value!**), you pay nearly half the regular electric rate to heat your water.

PBEC's electric water heaters are safe and energy efficient. Plus, they're guaranteed not to leak.

Call today to learn more about this special program for PBEC members only.



1000 Highway 35 • P.O. Box 310  
Centuria, Wisconsin 54824-0310

## **SAFE**

- ▲ No flame
- ▲ No fumes

## **EFFICIENT**

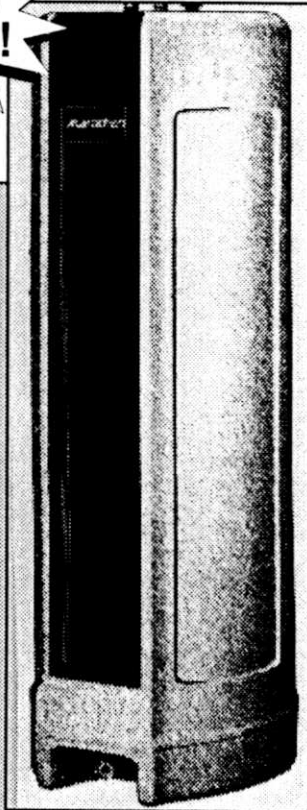
- ▲ Well-insulated
- ▲ Saves energy
- ▲ Operates on a reduced electric rate

## **LIFETIME WARRANTY**

- ▲ **FREE** repair if ever needed, (during PBEC's regular business hours)

**FREE Water Heater!**

or \$300  
-- Call for details



**(800) 421-0283 • (715) 646-2191**