

EAGLE LAKE SPRING NEWSLETTER 2023

Website: eaglelakeotc.com

Dare I say Happy Spring as I look out at the very frozen lake? But we all know spring WILL come soon and once again we have the beautiful blue of Eagle Lake! Ice off in 2022 was 5/4 which was late (it was 4/2 in 2021!). Any predictions for 2023?

This newsletter is being written the day after our Eagle Lake Township annual meeting on March 14 so that I can share important concerns our lakeshore neighbors expressed to the township board. There were about 30 people at the meeting, with almost half of them being from Eagle Lake. Eagle Lake residents were most concerned about the lack of road maintenance this winter. We made the point that there are several more year-round residents on the lake and the township tax has increased on most properties in the past 4 years by almost 70%, meaning our increasing taxes should be able to keep the roads in good condition. We were more than thankful to see the road maintenance here right away today to scrape the built-up ice. They really do listen when we attend their meetings!

There was also quite a bit of discussion about the deteriorating condition of the tar road around the lake. It was decided to consult with an engineer about options to repairing the road. The other concern was the need for law enforcement at the public access and park with regard to illegal parking, alcohol use, garbage left by park users, and general disregard for park rules.

Because of the good attendance of lakeshore owners, we felt the township board was listening and wanting to address these issues. The township clerk, Robyn Anderson, is working with the Otter Tail County Sheriff's department. There will be new signage and increased enforcement at the park this summer.

Please put March 12, 2024 on your calendar for next year's meeting held once again at the Eagle Lake Township Hall (13088 Highway 78). The township board listens when we show our interest! It would be even better if someone from the lake would serve on the township board. Please consider running next year. It's been a few years since a lakeshore resident has served on the board, and it would be a strong voice for all of us!

Last year our average water clarity was 26' (not going to mention the assistance of the pesky zebra mussels). As a comparison, you can see how this compares with other OTC lakes on the Otter Tail County COLA (Coalition of Lakes Associations) website at ottertailcountycola.org.

For example:

Clitherall Lake – 12.3'; West Battle Lake – 18.8'; Otter Tail Lake – 8.5'

COLA meetings are well-attended and very informative and usually held at Otter Tail City Community Center once a month May – September.

Speaking of water clarity, our speaker at our annual ELLA meeting **June 17** will be one of our own residents, Greg Lillemon, who is the director of the Grant County Office of Land Management. He'll be talking about preserving our shoreline through landscaping and other lakeshore issues. There is much we can all do to preserve the crystal clear water of Eagle Lake.

There will be a breakfast of pancake and sausages served at 8a followed by the meeting at 9 a.m. Please come with your ideas and concerns! It's always great to see everyone again!

In case you hadn't heard, our lakeshore resident Jerolyn Johnson set up a Facebook page:

In Facebook, look up: **Eagle Lake Neighbors – South Otter Tail County MN**

This has been a great place to post lost and found (including pets!) and other news & photos that are related to our lake.

Rumor has it we'll see new construction this spring on Eagle Lake. There is also a lot of new building in Battle Lake. The Hatchery Row project behind Stella's and the Market is making big progress and a new car wash next to the Dairy Queen is nearing completion. Stub's is opening 3-17 for the season – a sure sign of spring!

Other important dates coming up are:

4/15 – Annual Eagle Lake Road clean up. We meet at the park at 9a. Last year we had enough help that we were done in an hour! Please watch our website for updates as we have only a month to lose all this snow! We will reschedule as needed on the website (Eaglelakeotc.com)

6/3 – Officers & Directors meeting (let us know if we need to address any issues there)

6/17 – ELLA annual meeting & breakfast @ Eagle Lake Lutheran Church

7/4 – Fourth of July Boat Parade! Last year with threatening weather we didn't have quite as many participants, so this year can be bigger and better than ever. Last year's special addition was the Peterson family band playing the music for each branch of the service which had a military flag out for their affiliation. If we have bad weather, July 5 is the backup date.

7/8 – Second annual LID (Lake Improvement District) meeting (more information on our website)

8/12- Our bi-annual ELLA picnic at the park. ELLA invites all members and covers the meals for two people per property. Extra meals can be purchased at the park.

Any questions please email us at: eaglelakeotc@gmail.com

We who have survived this long winter on the lake (mostly beautiful!) are anxious to see everyone happily returning to Eagle Lake this spring! See you on the lake soon!

Tam Fjoslien

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