

# EAGLE LAKE SPRING NEWSLETTER 2024

Website: [eaglelakeotc.com](http://eaglelakeotc.com)

It's March 2 on the calendar, but it truly seems like April on Eagle Lake. For those of you who haven't been around this winter, we've had almost zero precipitation, which is great for not shoveling, but it may mean watering our trees and more this spring. The irises have poked their heads out of the ground already!!! There is quite a bit of ice heave on the shoreline already. The sounds of that happening on the lake are beautiful, but may mean possible shoreline issues to deal with this spring! If you look at our website, you can see the ice-on/ice-off days for the past years. Interesting that 1/4/24 is the latest ice-on date of record, and we may be headed to the earliest ice-off date which was set in 2012 on March 20!

**The most important reason for getting this letter out a bit early this year is that the Eagle Lake annual township meeting is March 12 at 805p.** Before the meeting there will be voting from 4-8p on a township supervisor replacement for Dennis Schmidt who passed away this winter. We have been talking forever about getting someone from the lake on the board to represent the residents on Eagle Lake and we have an excellent person who has agreed to run as a write-in! Jordan Lillemon, who has excellent experience with township concerns and who is an engineer himself, would give us a voice on the township board after many years of having no representation from the lake. All of you who have homesteaded your lakeshore property **please** try to get to the voting booth at the township hall on Highway 78 on March 12! Also this is the meeting where the annual township budget is set. This is important for us lakeshore owners to voice our opinions!

An immediate concern is the road around the lake. Our road committee sent out a questionnaire for all Eagle Lake property owners asking which of three options we prefer for getting the road repaired. The choices were: to turn the road back to gravel, have the township pay for repairing and blacktopping (which was the original agreement in the 90s when the road was tarred), or approve being taxed to completely re-engineer the road. The second option was the winning choice of respondents, but when we asked the township board at their February meeting when the road would get repaired, they now said they don't have the funds to repair the road. We have had quite a few lakeshore owners at meetings regarding the road over the past few months, but this was the first we learned the township is unable to honor their commitment. We need an Eagle Lake resident to represent us on the township board to avoid situations like this! There will likely be quite a bit of discussion of the road issue at the township annual meeting!

In other news, some dates that you could put on your calendars:

April 20, 2024 – ditch clean-up. We always meet at the park at 9A and split into groups to clean our roads. At the rate of the nice weather, we could have 4-foot-high grasses by then, so please watch the website to see if we move that date earlier.

June 1, 2024 – ELLA Board meeting at Faith Haven. Anyone is welcome to attend.

June 15, 2024 – ELLA annual membership meeting at Eagle Lake Lutheran Church at 9a. Breakfast will again be served at 8a. We are excited to have Otter Tail County Sheriff Barry Fitzgibbons as our main speaker. With the many concerns we have regarding the public access, parking on Eagle Lake road, etc, he is ready to offer advice and has said they will try to be at the access the first busy weekend to establish it is no longer a free-for-all at the beach!

July 4, 2024 -The annual Fourth of July Boat Parade will be held July 4 at 130p, with July 5 as the back-up date. The weather on parade day the last two years has been a bit unpredictable, so please watch the website in case we have to delay the start, or move days. Once again, parade participants who complete the boat parade route will be rewarded with some fresh new colors in 2024 beach towels. All towels and tumblers sold out quickly last year. Think of other ideas for rewarding parade participants and bring them to the annual meeting!

Karen Johnson from the west side has been putting together some fun historical information about early residents of Eagle Lake. Please look through your old photos and letters for fun things to share with the 2024 lake residents!

Last year a few of us went on the Otter Tail County COLA (Coalition of Lakes Association) bus tour of three different lake residences who have used the OTC Land and Resource office to help design shoreland improvements. This is what Greg Lillemon spoke to us about at last year's annual meeting. We all want to keep Eagle Lake as clean and clear as we have it, and COLA has many resources on how to do it. You can see what the monthly meeting topics are for COLA starting in May on their website at [ottertailcountycola.org](http://ottertailcountycola.org).

Our ELLA website is kept up-to-date by Craig Andrews and his work is so appreciated! You can go on our website and see the latest news and also read minutes from board meetings and our annual meetings. He also keeps track of our membership updates and dues. We have 141 paid members this year. You will find a link to pay our \$30 annual dues on the website in the next few days. Also there is an e-mail address for your concerns that you'd like to have the board address.

Also remember our Eagle Lake Neighbors page on Facebook. You can find it by looking up: Eagle Lake Neighbors – South Otter Tail County MN. There is helpful information, lost and found, and beautiful photos people are sharing. There are 260 members.

We are so lucky to have this beautiful lake to enjoy, but we are also lucky to have such wonderful neighbors to share it with! Please remember to vote March 12!

We're anxious to see your boats and campers and excitement as you return to Eagle Lake this spring!!!