

# Little St. Germain Lake News

## **Air Systems**

Since only West Bay of the lake provides enough dissolved oxygen for fish to survive over the winter, the Little St. Germain Lake District operates air systems in East and South Bays. In 2017 a boater cut one of the supply pipes in East Bay, causing us to spend over \$1,200 to repair the line. Last year, we installed two new blower motors, and one new blower, for a cost of over \$9,000. They had all reached their normal life expectancy. This year we found that another boater cut the line in East Bay in the same place. That repair cost over \$750. (There is a marker buoy nearby.)

When everything is operating well, our electrical costs aren't small. The cost for April of 2019 was \$1,034.98. So you can see that we are concerned for the well-being of the fish in the whole lake.

## **Native Weeds (the good guys)**

In the past we have cut native weeds when they became an issue for boaters on the lake. We cut and harvested native weeds in 2001, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2007, and 2016. The tricky thing about this process, is that you have to be completely prepared prior to the weed season, and able to mobilize the resources in a very short time. This year, as in the past, the District's Board has purchased the permit from the DNR, and has secured a contractor to do the necessary work. Should native weeds become a navigation issue this year, we will be able to respond in very short order.

## **Exotic Weeds (the really bad guys) (AIS)**

For several years we have not had enough AIS in one area to permit us to chemically treat the weeds. In fact 2016 was the last year we used chemicals. In the following years and this year again, we plan on using Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting, or DASH boats. They are able to remove the entire plant from areas where chemicals don't work well, such as steep drop-offs and small groupings. We have noted that their work from the prior two years has knocked down the AIS from several areas in West, South, and No Fish Bays,

This year we again plan on using DASH boats to work on the worst of the areas left. Again, mostly in West, and South Bays.

## **Shoreline Restoration**

Shoreline restoration is the term for putting the land back to nature. Most shoreline is robbed of trees and native weeds. Replacing the native vegetation puts the land back the way nature intended, and is better for the mammals and aquatic life that live there. Over time, the value of the property can increase and it certainly helps the lake.

You will need a permit from the DNR to proceed. Once you have that permit, Dave O'Malley has volunteered to assist anyone with a desire to improve their waterfront. Dave is a past Chair of the Lake District and has extensive experience in this work.

## **Our Annual Meeting**

All property owners on Little St. Germain Lake are heartily encouraged to attend the annual meeting of the Lake District. At this meeting, we discuss new ideas for the improvement of the lake, approve the budget for the following year, and elect a new Commissioner for an expiring term. Coffee, tea and sweet rolls are provided.

The annual meeting for 2019 is on September 1, 2019 at 9:00 AM in the St. Germain Community Center.