



# Delavan Lake Improvement Association

Newsletter, March 2018

## Welcome to Spring 2018!

Delavan Lake enjoyed a fantastic winter season! The seasonal weather allowed people to enjoy iceboating, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing. The lake iced over in late December and is still partially covered. The past two winters we barely had 30 days of ice. Although the weather is still chilly, Spring 2018 is approaching fast!

The DLIA continues to work in the watershed with additional cover crop programs coming. Currently, we are developing a new project on property located between County F and South Shore Drive. As these efforts evolve more information will follow. The DLIA is working with the Walworth County Conservation Department to develop even more cover crop/buffer opportunities around the lake.

### **Mound Road Ponds**

Last year we informed our members about the increasing use of Pellets to dissolve organic matter in some of the heavier "muck" areas of the lake. The Mound Road ponds were designed to filter sediment that enters the lake from the Jackson Creek watershed. The job of the ponds is to slow water flow and capture sediment before it makes its way into the lake. Brown's Channel, View Crest, Ravenswood & the Inlet subdivisions are using Pellets and have had some success with sediment elimination. Although it remains to be seen if the positive results are long term. The Watershed Plan done by Peter Berrini recommends dredging the ponds. Although this may be the most effective way to reduce sediment, the cost is significantly higher. The Town of Delavan and Delavan Lake Sanitary District recently partnered to use Pellets in the Mound Road Ponds. The conversation about the difference between dredging the ponds and Pellet use has been ongoing. On February 20, 2018, the DLSD held an informational meeting to discuss the science of Pellets. After much discussion with scientists and other experts, it was determined that, although dredging is the most affective approach to cleaning the ponds, the Pellets have no negative impact on the lake. Therefore, an experiment will be conducted this spring in the Mound Road Ponds to see if the Pellets really do reduce the sediment that has accumulated over the years.

## Construction in the Watershed

A healthy economy leads to development, and apparently Walworth County is a prime spot for new homes & businesses. Some of the upcoming projects in our watershed are:

- **The Shores of Delavan** – Developer and land owner, Shodeen, will begin a major single-family housing development at the corner of Mound Road and County F. The plan is for 600 new houses on this plat of farmland. The project includes retention ponds which may reduce some of the flooding experienced by Inlet Shores residents. Shodeen is also building 4 lakefront homes off Blue Gill Road and South Shore Drive.
- **Lake Lawn Marina** – Expansion of the current marina will bring construction to the lake.
- **Travel Center** – A full service travel center with a hotel, gas station & restaurants is planned for the south side of Highway 43 on Route 67. This development is at the headwaters of Jackson Creek, the major inflow into Delavan Lake.

## What Can We Do – Healthy Lakes Initiative Grants

The economic expansion of the area will make it more important than ever to create buffers and lakeshore plants to slow down run off into Delavan Lake. The DLIA has partnered with the Delavan Lake Sanitary District to support the **Healthy Lakes Initiative** grant program. We are holding an information session at the DLSD office on June 2, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. This event is open to everyone who wants to learn more about lakeshore native plants and the DNR grants that are available to homeowners and associations. A formal announcement will be sent out in May.

## DLIA Board Members

We would like to thank two of our long serving board members for their service. Craig Williams & Beth Peters decided to utilize their knowledge and expertise in other areas. Both these individuals will be missed on the DLIA Board. We now need to replace these officers. If you, or anyone you know, is interested in working on our Board, please contact us! We are looking for skills in communication, lake science, finance and volunteering. The DLIA board meets monthly from March through November, and there are many opportunities to be involved in other groups we partner with. Let us know of your interest by May 1, 2018.

More news to follow as the season unfolds! As always, please do not hesitate to contact us with any comments or concerns.

Warm regards,

The Delavan Lake Improvement Association