

# Round the Lake

Round Lake Property Owners Association

Spring 2008

www.roundthelake.com

President's Corner by Bob Strachota

## Protecting Our Lakes

Dear Round Lake Property Owners,

We are very fortunate to have an excellent Board of Directors managing the various programs to protect and enhance Big & Little Round Lakes. Since last summer the Board has been participating as much as we are able with the County and DNR to formalize a long term water level management strategy. The Board questions the validity of the County's SEH engineering work that was limited in scope and relies on certain assumptions. We have been given the extensive analysis conducted by Barr Engineering and it is far more comprehensive than the work conducted by the County. The cost to prepare the Barr report reaches many hundreds of thousands of dollars, however it has proven to be a critically useful tool in evaluating the various courses of action proposed by the County.

The current lake level is slightly better than what seemed to be the average of last year. Yet, the existing dam which drains water out of Little Round Lake is non-functional because all of the boards have been removed by the County or minimally used. Currently, a water level management system does not exist and this is not acceptable to the Board. We want to partner with the County and the DNR to adopt an acceptable water management program but the goal to do so is still elusive at this time. Fortunately we have started a litigation fund, if it is necessary to use this type of strategy. At the same time, there are

dozens of property owners who have been deprived of the proper enjoyment of their lake homes because the water level has been so low.

The water quality committee continues to monitor the milfoil growth. We are prepared to treat any new growth this spring and have been putting the milfoil funds to good use. Thank you all for contributing to the effort. As a result, to date, milfoil has been kept in check in our lakes.

The water's edge is a busy place where a healthy and functioning aquatic system does not just happen! It is like our own personal good health; there are prescribed rules for better health that require effort on our part. Management of the shoreline health is a partnership between state and local government with each of us as property owners. Your board is committed to protecting Big and Little Round Lakes as unique and pristine water habitats.

Again, thank you for your support of the Association. For those of you have been able to give your time in addition to your financial support, we are deeply grateful. Round Lake is a special blessing that we have the privilege to enjoy.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Strachota  
President, RLPOA

### Opportunity to Serve

Two Round Lake Property Owner's Association board positions will be open this fall. This is a great opportunity for a property owner to get involved.

Please let any board member know that you are interested in being on the board. Your term would be for three years with general membership meetings held twice a year and Board of Directors meetings held on an "as needed" basis. If you are not here full-time, you need not worry, as "conference call" meetings by phone will be arranged.

### 2008 RLPOA Board

**Bob Strachota,**  
President

**Tom Kintzinger,**  
Vice President

#### Board Members

Jack Ardoyno  
Terry Kingston  
Sue Kintzinger  
Jim Nancekivell  
Wally Narr  
John Otterlei  
Al Reinemann

### Round Lake Property Owners Membership Meeting June 21<sup>st</sup>

The next Round Lake Property Owners Association general membership meeting is at 9 a.m. on June 21, 2008 at The Town of Round Lake Town Hall, 10625N County Road A.

There will be two RLPOA Board positions up for election at this meeting. Bob Strachota and Jack Ardoyno are the two board member positions that are up for reelection.

In the fall of 2008 there will be 4 additional RLPOA Board positions up for election.

If any one is interested in running for these positions, please attend this upcoming membership meeting.

# Round Lake Water Level Update by Tom Kintzinger, Secretary and VP

**There is presently no application or permit for a “new” replacement Little Round Lake/Carlson Road Dam submitted to or currently before the Wisconsin DNR (WDNR).**

**Applications are pending before the WDNR concerning:**

1. Placid Diversion Canal Abandonment
2. Augmenting capacity and lowering Highway NN culverts

**The Voight Task Force** is apparently reviewing these applications and has questions concerning wild rice by the NN culverts.

**Public hearings** are presumably going to be held on the two above applications and this apparently is at the discretion of the WDNR.

There have been Sawyer County statements about building a new concrete Little Round Lake/Carlson Road dam/bridge replacing the existing deteriorating original wood structure.

**On November 2, 2007 The Land & Water Conservation Committee recommended that the Finance Committee “ earmark” \$175,000 of cash reserves for a potential Little Round Lake Dam project.** This is only a preliminary commitment and not final. Actual money, to our knowledge, has not been approved by the full Sawyer County Board yet. In our opinion, one of the main reasons for this preliminary Sawyer County financial commitment is the



dilapidated condition of the Little Round Lake/Carlson Road existing bridge/ dam and consequent potential Sawyer County liability.

Supposedly the Highway NN culvert augmentation/modification application needs to be approved first before an application for new dam can be made to the WDNR. **Its unclear why both cannot be done simultaneously.** This non coordinated approval process could make a new dam/active water level management more vulnerable.

Sawyer County needs to do something about the NN culverts no matter what happens. They are presently too high and either a “dam” permit is needed or they need to be lowered according to the WDNR.

It is not clear why a “preferred” larger dam cannot be built if the Highway NN culverts are lowered and increased in capacity. SEH Engineering work in our view does not explain this apparent discrepancy. RLPOA engineering work by Barr shows how this can be done.

It’s uncertain if the WDNR is requiring that the Placid Diversion Canal be abandoned before a new structure can be built to replace the existing Little Round/Carlson Road Dam-bridge.

One of the main **WDNR Decision makers Frank Dallam (Water Regulations and Zoning Engineer)** of the Spooner Office 715-635-4064 has previously indicated that he is in favor of a “passive” management option for Round Lake and that has made it difficult to reasonably work with the WDNR. The RLPOA Board is for an **Active Management Plan.** Dallam was involved in what we believe to be the premature and inappropriate approval of the new 100 year Regional Flood Elevations on Round/Little Round/ Osprey Lakes etc. that are limiting/ sabotaging management options and are not consistent with the 1941 PSC Order.

**PASSIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN** means abandonment of Carlson Dam and most likely removing dam sill. There would be no dam and nature would be allowed to take its course. It’s possible that the “dam” channel could be scoured out in high water times creat-

ing even lower water in future droughts and alternatively it is also possible that beavers could obstruct this necessary artificial drainage channel causing future flooding. Please see RLPOA engineering work on website which addresses these issues. Links are on the home page [www.roundthelake.com](http://www.roundthelake.com).

## **ACTIVE MANAGEMENT**

**PLAN** means having a Little Round Lake/Carlson Road Dam and regulating the Round Lake water level to specific elevations. RLPOA has made a compromise management proposal which is on the home page of our website.

## **RLPOA Concerns:**

**1. Minimum Flow interpretations by WDNR concerning Carlson Dam exacerbate low water during drought times and create a perpetual late summer/fall low water problem.** RLPOA believes that the minimum flow interpretations by the WDNR and consequent management implications may be adversely impacting Round Lake and the public use of Round Lake by prematurely lowering Round Lake down to the Carlson Road Dam sill level in the spring/early summer and adding to periodic natural drought problems. The WDNR is requiring minimum flow (25%) on the artificial channel downstream of Little Round Lake/ Carlson Road Dam that essentially lowers Round Lake prematurely down to the dam sill level which is one foot below present authorized lake level. Round Lake is at the top of the Chippewa watershed and has no stream inlet other then what is caused by the Tiger Cat Flowage. The WDNR is ignoring minimum flow on the true natural outlet channel of Little Round Lake by Thunderbird Road. The WDNR allows this natural channel to be obstructed by a non compliant driveway obstruction and dilapidated undersized culvert. The WDNR also is ignoring minimum flow requirements at the Placid Diversion Canal which may in fact have some sort of natural stream being there.

Public use is harmed by low water at boat landings and by hindering navigation on the lake and its various bays. The navigation between Round & Little Round Lake has been significantly impaired by minimum flow requirements + numerous reports of boat and prop damage. We also believe that fish spawning areas are damaged by low water. Low water also increases milfoil and other vegetation on Round Lake by creating more shallow areas and allowing increased sunlight to augment vegetation overall in the Lake. There has also been substantial negative property value impact by making significant amount of frontage on Round & Little Round Lake less desirable and non usable. The WDNR idea of minimum flow seems to be to prematurely lower Round lake in the spring and early summer and not to store any water for later in the summer for true minimum flow when it is needed most by all of the public.

2. **The 1941 PSC Order is still in effect** and RLPOA does not support vacating this order until an acceptable Round Lake water level management plan is agreed upon. *This 1941 PSC Order is in high jeopardy and being completely ignored.* The 1941 PSC Order is on our website [www.roundthelake.com](http://www.roundthelake.com). There seems

to be an effort to officially abandon this before a new dam is built.

3. **RLPOA does not support abandoning the Placid Diversion Canal** unless an acceptable Round Lake water level management plan is formally agreed upon in advance. There is a concerted effort to abandon the Placid Diversion Canal before a complete formal management plan is determined.

4. **The new replacement dam is not any larger than the existing dam and will not provide any increased high water protection.** This is because the new 100 year RFE (regional flood elevations) approved by WDNR limit the size of the dam because supposedly the 100 year RFE would be raised downstream which is "illegal". The new 100 year RFE is not compatible with existing law — the 1941 PSC Order which would allow a larger dam. There is no coherent explanation from WDNR that explains this discrepancy. There is no attempt to comply with the 1941 PSC Order. Logically if the NN culverts are lowered and their capacity is increased a larger dam than what exists now should be possible without altering existing flood levels based on present conditions. The dam and channel downstream have been poorly maintained and silted in over

the years. The natural Little Round outlet by Thunderbird is neglected and apparently has non compliant obstructions in it.

5. **The new concrete dam will provide less protection against low water** because of the proposed V notch in the middle of the dam to comply with local WDNR interpretations concerning minimum flow. See minimum flow concerns above.
6. **How much water does the Placid Diversion Canal add to Round Lake?** We are aware that the Placid Diversion Canal only has leakage of water thru it but would like to know how much water this adds to Round Lake in different time periods up to 5 to 10 years. We are also aware of the elevated water table because of the Tiger Cat Flowage and increased swamp drainage that flows into the channel downstream of the Placid Diversion Canal Dam. If the Placid Diversion Canal is not abandoned then potentially some time in the future during low water periods significant water could be diverted to Round Lake based on existing law/orders. If it is abandoned this option is not available.
7. **The important beaver dams upstream of Highway NN may not have a correct elevation.**

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# New Pier Regulations

Jack Ardoyno, Water Safety

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008, the State of Wisconsin enacted legislation concerning the placement of piers on Wisconsin waterways. There are two classes of piers: those which require permits and those which don't (exempt piers). If existing piers or new piers conform to the size requirements, then they do not require permits nor is a permitting fee required. They are exempt. By and large the registration system, (requiring a permit) grandfathers certain pre-2004 piers that no longer meet the new standards.

## Rules For Exempt Piers

**Width** – Maximum 6' wide for the pier. If the pier is not located in an Area of Special Natural Resource Interest, a maximum 8 feet long by 8 feet wide loading platform or deck is allowed at the end of the pier.

**Length** – The length needed to moor your boat or use a boat lift, or 3-foot water depth, whichever is greater.

**Location** – Does not interfere with the rights of other riparian owners.

**Number of Boats** – 2 for the first 50' of frontage, 1 for every additional full 50'.

## Rules For Non-Exempt Piers

If your non-exempt pier was constructed before Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2004, it is allowed to be used this summer without modification. It can be registered to be grandfathered, for free, if it meets the following criteria:

It must have been placed before Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

It must have a main stem that is a maximum of 8' wide.

It must have a loading platform or dock at the end of the pier that is a maximum of 200 square feet or a maximum of 300 square feet if it's 10 feet wide or less.

Not interfere with rights of other riparian owners.

This is a capsule of the new rules. For further information you may obtain the DNR publication, #FH-017, *Pier Planner*, at: [www.dnr.wi.gov](http://www.dnr.wi.gov). Simply search for "Pier Planner" on the site.

Additional information can be obtained at: [www.dnr.wi.gov/org/water/fhp/waterway/piers.html](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/water/fhp/waterway/piers.html).



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# Adopt-A-Shoreline

Round Lake Water Level Update...continued from page 3

As many of you know, several years ago we developed and implemented the Adopt-A-Shoreline program. The purpose of this program was to monitor the shoreline for Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) and report any findings two times a year (early and late summer).

By catching the growth of EWM early we are able to either manually harvest this invasive plant or reduce the amount of chemicals used to control the spread. Over the past couple of years we have had many sightings that have been reported. The volunteers in this program have done a great service to all the homeowners through their diligent efforts.

We need 1 - 2 volunteers to help "formalize" this program to ensure all those that have volunteered continue to do their jobs and a system for reporting is implemented. It is estimated that five hours in the Spring and five hours in the Fall would be required to ensure that the program works as envisioned.

Please help us by agreeing to volunteer when this topic is discussed at the June 21<sup>st</sup> Round Lake Property Owners Association meeting.

***Please contact a Round Lake Property Owners Association Board Member if you are willing and able to donate your time to this very vital program.***

## A big thank you to the following volunteers who have donated their time to the "Adopt A Shoreline" program.

Jane Whitlock	Wally Lisikiewicz
John Sherrell	Ann Swanson
Jack Ardoyno	Betty Rowe
Jim O'Connor	David DeLeon
Jane Stoffel	Bert Wege
Al Mecklenburger	Lisa Ojala
Noel Estenson	Tom Schroeder
Lori Cowles	Byron Miller
Al Reinemann	Wally Northrup
Helen Morgan	Daphne Beville
Frank Tyson	

According to Barr Engineering Carthel Engineering in 2004 under contract for Sawyer County determined the beaver dams to have a dam crest of 1343.5. SEH shows the upstream beaver dam elevation to be 1344.95 in 2006. SEH calculated 100 year RFE (Regional Flood Elevations) and Carlson Dam feasibility are significantly influenced by these beaver dam elevations. The impact of a new dam or the existing one at Carlson Road is minimized the higher the beaver dam elevation. In general the 100 year RFE is also elevated the higher the beaver dams. The WDNR also rushed with suspect motives to approve new 100 year RFE levels on Round, Little Round & Osprey Lakes and these are questionable and may need to be fixed to reflect actual conditions. It is our opinion that the WDNR has been making critical decisions on Round Lake to implement a predisposition to a passive/abandonment system. We are considering hiring an engineer to get another elevation for these beaver dams. Please refer to the Barr Engineering report on our website evaluating the new dam proposal page 7 item #13.

Please check our website [www.roundthelake.com](http://www.roundthelake.com) for the latest information.

## Special Thanks

The board would like to extend a special thanks to Cece Genrich for her many years of volunteer accounting services for our organization.

Cece Genrich Book Keeping & Tax Service; 9728 N. Haskins Rd.;  
Hayward, WI 54843 Phone: 715-634-4428

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cedar & brick house on Little Round Lake.

## 715-634-4428

The Round Lake Property Owners Association wishes to take this opportunity to thank **CECE'S BOOKKEEPING & TAX SERVICE** for volunteering her time and staff providing bookkeeping & accounting services to the association for the past several years. We thank you!

# Water Level Defense Fund Update: How Has Money Been Spent and Balance?

**RLPOA collected \$26,549 in water level defense fund donations in 2007** not including interest. We have received donations to this fund from 150 of the 655 families living on Round Lake, thank you to those of you who have participated to date.

**So far we have spent \$3999.18** for engineering work by Barr Engineering Company.

**This leaves a balance of \$23032.48** as of February 29, 2008 including interval interest earnings.

Barr Engineering in September of 2007 at the request of RLPOA studied

what Carlson Road Dam Abandonment would mean for both high and low water on Round Lake. With this study a very minimal analysis was also done concerning the new 100 year flood levels. This first study by Barr was very helpful because it showed that dam abandonment with sill removal could significantly lower water on Round/Little Round Lake — even lower than recent drought levels. Alternatively if the artificial channel downstream of the present dam becomes blocked there could be serious flooding problems on the Round Lake system. **This analysis cost \$2299.78.**

Barr Engineering also did an analysis for RLPOA in January of 2008 of Sawyer County commissioned **“Hydraulic Design Feasibility Analysis Little Round Lake Dam”** by SEH Engineering. This analysis revealed many potential weak spots, unanswered questions and possible factual errors in the SEH analysis for a new dam. **This engineering analysis cost \$1699.40.**

Links to both of these RLPOA commissioned Barr Engineering Studies are on the website home page [www.roundthelake.com](http://www.roundthelake.com).

## Membership Report by Wally Narr

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN 2007!

We had the best year ever in 2007 for the number of paid memberships. The final total was 405 out of a potential 651. We did very well, but there is still a ways to go.

154 of our members have never paid into the general fund of the Round Lake Property Owners Association, we encourage all to become a part of the association for many reasons.

1. We need your involvement.
2. Financial support. The water level issue is still a concern and needs continual monitoring. The Milfoil issue is still a major concern needing continual funding for a healthy lake.

3. We need to demonstrate to the county and DNR a strong and unified membership voice.

You will see two changes to our 2008 Membership Renewal form below. Dues have been increased by \$5.00, our first increase in many years. We have also included an additional request of \$25.00/family to support our continued monitoring and treatment of Milfoil and other invasive species in our lakes. Your support is appreciated. These donations are tax deductible.

Use the form below for Membership Renewal and Milfoil Fund contributions.

### Round Lake Property Owners Association, Inc. / 2008 Membership Application and Renewal

I am interested in helping on one of the following committees:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Government Awareness | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Safety  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership           |  |

Enclosed are my dues of **\$25.00** for calendar year 2008.

Enclosed is my additional support of **\$25.00** for our Milfoil fund.

Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send to:  
Round Lake Property Owners Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1070  
Hayward, Wisconsin 54843-4048

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
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# Round Lake Aquatic Plant Management Plan

An aquatic plant management (APM) plan provides guidance to manage invasive and native plants in a lake. Such a plan is required by DNR in order to obtain permits for large-scale herbicide treatment (more than 10 acres) and to obtain grant funds for invasive species control.

We identified the need for greater attention to management of aquatic plants in 1994 after the non-native invasive species, Eurasian water milfoil was discovered in Round Lake the previous year. Since then, the DNR, Sawyer County, and the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe have assisted the Round Lake Property Owners in efforts to control EWM. Although EWM is not expected to take over the lake, other lake examples demonstrate that the plant is not eradicated with herbicide treatments. Ongoing management is to be expected.

The Property Owners Association obtained a DNR grant to take the next

step in our plant management efforts in 2007. The grant project paid for a plant survey of the entire lake and the development of an aquatic plant management plan. Our project consultant, Harmony Environmental, completed the plant survey in June and August of last year. A summary of the plant survey, required resource information, and a summary of management efforts to date are compiled in the beginnings of a draft plan.

The next steps for APM plan development require public involvement. Public involvement is not only required for DNR approval, it will also result in a better plan! We need input from lake residents, and we need volunteers to be on a committee to identify the management strategy for the plan. **Please attend the June 21<sup>st</sup> Round Lake Property Owner's Association meeting to express your concerns and recommendations for aquatic plant management.**

**We also need volunteers for the yet-to-be-formed aquatic plant management advisory committee.**

This committee will review concerns and recommendations from residents along with the background information assembled for the plan. This information will be used to develop plan goals and objectives and to determine action steps for EWM management. We would ask an APM committee member to attend two, approximately 2-hour meetings over summer months and review draft documents. Cheryl Clemens with Harmony Environmental would take care of meeting facilitation and plan writing. Cheryl is currently wrapping up a similar planning process on Connors Lake, another Sawyer County lake with Eurasian water milfoil present. Please consider helping us out with this important task!



## ★ Weekend Specials ★

FRIDAY NIGHT All You Can Eat,  
Beer Batter Walleye Fish Fry  
Buffet! \$13.99

SATURDAY  
Hickory-Smoked Prime Rib  
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SUNDAY  
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Brunch Buffet! \$13.99

## ★ Summer Events ★

June 15: Father's Day Brunch 9-2  
Live Music Every Saturday in July  
Fireworks on July 3

Live Music Every  
Saturday in August  
Labor Day Weekend  
Celebration

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# RLPOA Website Update

by Tom Kintzinger, Website Administrator

# Financial Status Update

## www.roundthelake.com usage information

### 2008

there have been 9101 unique visits as of May 14, 2008

January 2008 had 2118 unique visits

April 2008 had 2112 unique visits

### 2007 there were 23515 unique visits

July 2007 had 2339 unique visits

April 2007 had 2333 unique visits

November 2007 had 2327 unique visits

### 2006 December 1006 unique visits

Website started early December of 2006

- Most popular page viewed is the “home page”
- Second most popular page is “RLPOA Official Documents” which includes information about RLPOA and water level issues
- Third most popular page is “contents”
- Fourth most popular page is “lawsuit document”

RLPOA wants to thank everyone for their support. Please let us know if any ideas or suggestions tk25@roundthelake.com.

RLPOA Financial Status	12 Months Ended Dec 31, 2007	2 Months Ended Feb 29, 2008
<b>Statement of Income</b>		
<b>Contributions</b>		
Membership Fees	\$ 8,790.00	\$ 100.00
Milfoil Fund	2,112.80	-
Sponsorships	2,800.00	-
Water Level Defense	26,549.00	330.00
Miscellaneous	315.00	-
Donations	220.00	-
	<b>\$40,786.80</b>	<b>\$ 430.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Bank Charges	\$ 29.39	\$ -
Dues & Subscription	440.00	20.00
Fish Stocking Expense	1,500.00	-
Insurance – Business	956.00	-
Licenses & Permits	15.00	-
Milfoil Expense	9,277.21	822.20
Newsletters	1,675.10	-
Postage	1,074.92	-
Telephone	136.34	-
Water Level Defense	2,299.78	1,669.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$17,403.74</b>	<b>\$ 2,511.60</b>
Operating Income (Loss)	\$23,383.06	\$ (2,081.60)
Interest Income	838.31	209.19
Net Income (Loss)	\$24,221.37	\$ (1,872.41)
	<b>Nov 30, 2007</b>	<b>Feb 29, 2008</b>
<b>Cash Balances</b>		
General Fund	\$30,219.38	\$30,398.92
Milfoil Fund	9,825.86	9,006.76
Defense Fund	24,265.33	23,032.48
	<b>\$64,310.57</b>	<b>\$62,438.16</b>

*Note: the 2007 financial statement is a cash report and does not reflect the value of the intangible property gift received in July 2007.*

