



# The Voice of Burden Lake

*Our Mission ~ The Burden Lake Association (BLA) is dedicated to the preservation and sustainability of our historic lake. BLA members are committed to being proactive and environmentally conscientious in addition to creating community. We are active participants in clearing our lake of non-native and invasive vegetation, always mindful of the environmental impact of our methods. Our commitment to community is strong. We organize and participate in several social activities and humanitarian causes for the entertainment and betterment of our lake community.*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings! Hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and your New Year is magnificent!

Enclosed with this newsletter is the Riparian Land owner notification letter (if your property is waterfront), and the 2021 BLA Membership & Water Quality Donation Form.

In an effort to conserve our funds, we will no longer be mailing out newsletters. However, I felt it was necessary to share some important information on what is going on around our Lakes and within our organization with our members and to take this opportunity to connect with any potential new members. It is my hope that after reading this message, everyone will see the value and importance of belonging to the Burden Lake Association and to let our existing members know how much we truly appreciate their continued support.

The quality of the water in our lakes is our most important responsibility. Our Water Quality Committee has approved the proposal for Burden Aquatics to treat Lake 1 and Lake 2 in 2021. The treatment that will be used is to control the growth of the Curley Leaf Pond Weed in the spring and to apply four separate Copper Sulfate applications to control algae. This is the same treatment plan that we have been using. In the past, our water quality donations have averaged \$15,000, however, the cost of these treatments is just under \$20,000. As a result of our funding deficit, we are unable to treat the invasive species of Milfoil this season. We need to have sufficient amount of funding to treat the lake this year, and we need to plan ahead for treating the Milfoil in 2022.

How do we pay for these expensive treatments? The funding comes from annual memberships and donations from people who recognize the importance of keeping our water healthy and enjoyable to play and live near and to protect our property values. Currently, we estimate a donation of \$300 per household/camp is needed based upon the number of households and camps and our anticipated expense. Donations to the BLA are tax deductible. I cannot stress enough how important it is for *everyone* to invest in the current and future health of our water. We all need to make a commitment to lakes that are swimmable and fishable for us, our children, grandchildren and the community at large. I am sure you are aware that clean water is not a given; it requires action on the part of everyone, and coordinated efforts to track the quality of the water and plan the future actions to keep it healthy. We must be committed to ensure our lakes remain spectacular for generations to come. If you've never joined, we are imploring you to please consider doing so, if you have been a member, please renew your membership and make a tax-deductible water quality donation today. Stay Healthy!

Theresa

## 2020-2021 Executive Board

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## **Cost Savings Measure**

As previously stated, newsletters will no longer be mailed after we realized that with today's technology, the expense could not be justified for printing and mailing it out. Therefore, future newsletters will be sent electronically via e-mail, posted on the Burden Lake Association Facebook page ([facebook.com/groups/108339764223](https://facebook.com/groups/108339764223)) and on the BLA Website ([bla.burdenlake.org](http://bla.burdenlake.org)). Be sure to provide us with an E-mail if you haven't already.

## **Muck Removal Project**

We have a unique opportunity to have the accumulated lake bottom sediment (muck) removed from our lakefronts. Here's what we know so far after contacting the company Solitude Lake Management: the approximate cost for hydro-raking our lakefronts is \$800 for two hours of work on your property. Each property owner would be responsible for paying a share of the transportation of the equipment as well as for how many hours are needed for the removal. The cost would decrease with more families participating. We are planning to host a zoom meeting tentatively scheduled for February 11, 20201 to learn more about this process and to answer any questions. For planning purposes, please contact me ASAP if you are interested in participating. The meeting is for informational purposes only. There's no need to contact me if you have already responded that you wish to participate.

## **Board Member Vacancy**

We have been operating without a secretary and have not been able to accomplish as much as we would have liked to if we had another person to assist. If you are looking to be part of an organization committed to the preservation and improvement of Burden Lake and to work on achieving this goal with other motivated, passionate people, please reach out to me, we really need your help. The Board Members enthusiastically work in conjunction with our dedicated Committee Chairs to ensure our mission is at the core of our activities. Please volunteer today!

## **Water Quality Committee News**

Winter is a quiet time for the Water Quality Committee. Other than reviewing the treatment proposal from Burden Aquatics and reviewing information about Solitude Lake Management, our committee is laying low, chomping at the bit for the moment that we can put our boats on the water and seek out invasives such as milfoil, algae and curly pond leaf. It is these sampling inspections that inform the decisions to pursue treatment throughout the year. The new committee has been entrusted with a specially designed weed rake, identification materials, a map of locations to sample and reporting forms. The reporting forms will be shared with our partner, Burden Aquatics, to inform them of the ongoing health of the lake as the summer continues. As a Committee we are open to look at all options available to us to put forward concerning 1st and 2nd lake water quality maintenance.

## **Social Committee News**

Unfortunately, due to the increasing COVID numbers, we will not be planning the Cabin Fever Party this winter. We will remain open to scheduling a social event should the COVID circumstances improve.

## **By-Laws Committee News**

The By-Laws Committee has been meeting regularly and will be presenting suggested improvements to the BLA By-laws in our upcoming membership meetings.

## **Fundraising Committee News**

The Fundraising Committee has recently reached out to 125 local businesses asking for donations to support the BLA water quality fund. In addition, they will shortly be in the process of soliciting prizes for the Annual Raffle. Each family will be encouraged to sell 10 raffle tickets with all proceeds to go to the Water Quality Fund. More about this fundraiser will be forthcoming shortly.