

June Commentary

Hello Hess Lake Residents,

I am a summer resident and have been coming to Hess Lake since I was a child, about 65 years now. Like many residents, I have many good memories visiting Hess Lake with family and friends. Many of us learned how to fish, swim and waterski on Hess Lake. My brother and I are third generation owners of our grandparents' cottages. In addition, there are many second and third generation cottage owners around the lake. Furthermore, it is still nice to see a diverse group of different types of cottages and homes (not a cookie cutter community) around the lake.

The purpose of this web site is to look at Hess Lake from a perspective of Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow with up to date information. I hope you enjoy some of the old pictures and articles. If you have any old pictures or articles that you would like added to this web site, please email them to me. I welcome any comments about this web site, pro or con. If you have any suggestions on what could be added to this web site, let me know.

Around the United States and Michigan many lakes are having water quality issues. Mainly too many nutrients such as phosphorus or in some cases nitrogen entering the lake from various sources. Over the last two years I have looked over many engineering studies from both Hess and other Lakes. Per past water quality data, Hess Lake has too much phosphorus, which can fuel algae growth that reduces water clarity. In addition, I have talked to many experts on this. The DEQ, U.S.G.S., DNR, Muskegon Water Shed Assembly and others. Also I have attended a few Hess Lake Board meetings and would encourage you to attend future meetings. Last summer I organized a meeting at Wheeler Drain to try and understand how we might improve the function of the drain and reduce the amount of sediment/nutrients coming into the lake. Stay tuned for updates on Wheeler Drain.

The ecology of a lake is very complex with many components and will require us all to work together to improve Hess Lake water quality. I would encourage you to read some of the past engineering studies to get a flavor of Hess Lake. The Hess Lake Board in November 2017 approved a 3-year \$30,000 lake study with Progressive AE. Tony Groves of Progressive will be leading this project. While we are waiting for the results of this study there are a few things that we could do on our own.

Suggestions

1. Stop fertilizing your lawn, what washes into the lake could increase weed growth and fuel the algae

2. Pump your septic system on a regular basis, every 2 - 3 years or what your septic service provider recommends
3. Use only phosphate free dish washer detergent, some of the off brands still use small amount of phosphates, look at the label, all laundry detergents have been phosphate free for a long time
4. Keep leaves and grass clippings out of the lake
5. Burning leaves adds phosphorus to the air which can drift into the lake, consider looking for other solutions to dispose of your leaves
6. Help reduce the carp population, see article on how carp impact the water quality of a lake
7. Attend Hess Lake Board meetings and offer ideas, very few people attend these meetings
8. While washing your boat or car use phosphate free soap, check the label
9. Do not feed the ducks or geese
10. Take a good look at your property and see what good be done to reduce the runoff into the lake, consider a green belt zone

Email me any suggestions you might have.

Thanks,

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