

# Lake Currents

"The newsletter for Members of the Big Roche a Cri Lake District"

Issue #101

1/24/2009

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## ~WEBSITE~

<http://bigrocheacrilake.org>

## ADDRESS CHANGES

Please forward any updates for  
the Lake District to  
Big Roche A Cri Lake District  
PO Box 447  
Friendship, WI 53934  
or to  
Levi & Jackie Olson  
4039 North Hall Road  
Whitewater, WI 53190  
e-mail: lolson55@yahoo.com

***Please note - it is very  
important that the Adams  
County Records have your  
correct mailing address!***

***Check on line at  
http://***

***www.adamscountylandrecords.com***



## - A Bit of History - Did you know?

**Roche-A-Cri name** - yes the name is French. "la Roche" means "the rock" and "a-Cri" means "a hole or crevice", translated - "the hole or crevice in the rock". Long before Castle Rock and the Petenwell dams in the time 1650-1800, the early French explorers and trappers learned from the Winnegago Indians that this area was known as the place where they "thread the needle". This geographic description location came from a high visible finger-like point of rock above the Wisconsin River which had a hole through it. In 1650, this Wisconsin River Valley was a deep wilderness full of wandering tributaries and flowages. The Indians and later the French needed a high point on this water-way to orientate themselves and consequently this high landmark fulfilled their demands for a definite reference. Losses in translation plus French interpretation changed the name of this descriptive geographic point to the French version "Roche-A-Cri" - "the hole in the rock".

Regrettably, with time, the Wisconsin River flowage had changed, the soft sandstone rocks eroded and the rigors of time, long ago, destroyed the high finger-like rock with a hole through it, but such is nature's plan of things. Thus, we have merely the old legends, never written, to help modern historians trace such designations as "the hole in the rock"- source unknown, shared by Barb Heitman and Dottie Hobart.

**1958** - on August 2, 1958 the Roche a Cri Lake Group was formed. This group was set out to fight weeds in the lake and promote the area. The group was known as the Big Roch-a-Cri Lake Association, Inc. The first meeting was held at the Cottonville

school - do you know where that is? The group approved a Board of Officers and signed up 26 members at \$3 each! John Miklavcic was selected as president, Earl Visgar, vice president, Mrs. George Krapf, secretary and Mrs. Henry Kulmatycki, treasurer. The Directors were Lawrence Billings, Henry Kulmatycki, Fred Gerard, Mr. Bittgren and Mr. Beaver. The first meeting discussions were on killing the weeds in the lake to provide for more fish growth and easier fishing. Talk continued on the use of chemical control of weeds and the best time to spray. Back then, of all the lakes sprayed, not one fish had been killed. It was estimated that spraying the entire lake would cost \$3,600, which would amount to \$20 for a 66' lot 200' into the lake, or \$0.23 cents a front foot for larger tracts. -- newspaper 1958, shared by Tom Czarnik.

**1988 and beyond** - the Big Roche A Cri Lake District was formed in 1988. In 1993, there were 200 property owners paying association fees. The Lake District employed 3 people who performed annual aquatic plant harvesting. At the time, the Lake District owned one aquatic plant harvester, a tow vehicle, and a storage building; By 2004, it was determined there were 197 property owners paying association fees and now the Lake District employed 8 people who did the annual harvesting; Equipment the Lake District had consisted of 3 aquatic plant harvesters, a transport barge, pickup truck a, storage shed and a tow vehicle. Twenty years later in 2008, the Lake District has 4 harvesters and more employees to keep those harvesters running and the lake weed-free as can be done.

*"Congratulations Harvester Crew - Marlin and all - for a job well done!"*

## IN REMEMBRANCE

*"Remembering with you.....the life of someone so dear"*

**Donald A Holmbeck** - passed away September 14, 2008 at home surrounded by his family after a short battle with cancer; he and his family owned on the lake at 1149 Chicago Drive for many years; Don was born on June 6, 1938; he met and married Jacqueline "Jackie" Phen on November 26, 1975 in Rockton, IL; Don loved gardening and the outdoors; he was an avid Green Bay Packer fan and loved watching his grandson, Scott, play ball.

**Lawrence Clifford Billings** - passed away December 7, 2008 at his home; he was a founder and original member and Director of the Roche a Cri Lake Association formed in 1958 - a member for 50 years and had given much to the Association and Lake District, Larry was born on November 10th, 1920 in Friendship to George Willard and Mary Ellen (Madsen) Billings; he attended the Cottonville Grade School and graduated from Adams-Friendship High School in 1939; Karen married Wilma Ferne Kurth on June 5th, 1948 in White Creek Congregational Church; he was a 3rd generation dairy farmer on the family farm and raised registered Holstein; he worked for the Nekoosa Paper Mill for 20 years; Larry loved the outdoors, hunting and fishing especially in Canada.

**Karen Ann Komatz** - passed away suddenly December 14, 2008; Karen was born March 19, 1950 in Wisconsin Rapids to Anthony and Yvonne Najemnik; she lived in Wisconsin Rapids until sixth grade and then moved to Big Flats; she married Kenneth Peterson on September 28, 1967 in St Louis, MO and they had three children; Karen, divorced, met and married Robert Komatz on August 10, 1996. Karen owned and operated the Country Deli near Big Roche A Cri Lake; she enjoyed working at the store, spending time with her children and family and loved those Green Bay Packers.

### 2009 Tree Planting

#### Annual Land & Water Conversation Tree & Shrub Sale

Order deadline is April 3rd

Supplies are limited so order early!

The order form is available on line at [www.coadams.wi.gov](http://www.coadams.wi.gov) or contact the Land & Water Conservation Department at 608.339.4268.

For available tree planting assistance, the Adams County Land and Water Conservation Department has a tow behind tree planter available for rent. You may contact the DNR office at 608.339.3386 to rent.

If you are interested in having your trees planted by professionals, contact the Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners at their toll free number - 888.249.5424; they will plant your trees in the ground for a small fee per tree.

**IMPORTANT MEETING SCHEDULED  
ADAMS COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
PUBLIC HEARING on the  
Proposed Revisions to the Adams County  
Shoreland Protection Ordinance  
FEBRUARY 4, 2009  
9:00 A.M. Room A231  
400 Main Street Friendship WI 53934**

Paul Ivaska, our webmaster, would like owners to be aware of this meeting scheduled on the 4th. The Proposed Ordinance is a 43 page document and can be downloaded by going to the Adams County Website at [www.co.adams.wi.gov](http://www.co.adams.wi.gov)



### Are You Ready?

**2.17.2009**

For more information about the DTV transition, go to

[www.dtv.gov](http://www.dtv.gov) or

e-mail the FCC at [dtvinfor@fcc.gov](mailto:dtvinfor@fcc.gov);

call 1-.888.225.5322 voice or

1.888.835.5322 TTY;

#### Troubleshooting Guide for Digital to Analog Converter Boxes and Digital Televisions

Check Your Connections

Perform a Channel Scan

Adjust Your Antenna

Websites such as [www.antennaweb.org](http://www.antennaweb.org) provide info on the locations of broadcast towers and the types of outdoor antennas appropriate for the stations you wish to receive.



**BONFIRE! - BRATS!  
BIER!**

Thanks to all who helped to make this a very wonderful enjoyable time on the lake last fall - the weather was great too. All brats and beer were enjoyed!





## Summary of Commissioner's Meetings

August 16, 2008

Treasurer:

Checkbook balance = \$14,425.83  
Assets = \$29,331.72 (2 CD's)  
Liabilities = \$101,448.00 (loans on 2 harvesters)  
Income received this period = \$215.37  
(Wisconsin Motor Fuel Tax Refund)  
Expenses paid this period = \$9,748.91  
(Wages, Federal Employee tax, Reinhart Constr.)

Adams County & Town of Preston - no reports noted.

Harvesting - DNR reported to Candy Chapman that fibrous material collected on top of the lake would need to be taken out otherwise it will bloom, flower and spread.

Advisory Group - DNR sent a letter that there is no need for a drawdown for 2008/2009; it was noted that celery was the most dominant plant and EWM was the fourth dominant plant in the lake; Commissioners discussed that Candy will write a letter rescinding the drawdown application and request a refund of the \$500 fee.

Old Business - Candy Chapman reported the advantages and disadvantages of the approval process for a patent which can be very expensive (\$50,000 over time) and can take many years (5+); the Commissioners decided seeking a patent should not be pursued by the Lake District; Ray Heins informed the Commissioners that there was no need for a written ballot for the upcoming Annual Meeting, as only 2 candidates for the 2 positions will be filled.

New Business - None

### COMMISSIONERS 2009 MEETING SCHEDULES

Time - 9:00AM

Location - Adams County Community  
Center - Rm 103 - 569 N Cedar St, Adams, WI

March 21st / April 18th / May 16th  
June 13th / July 18th / August 15th  
September 19th / October 17th  
*"All owners welcome to attend"*

*Spring informational meeting is Saturday - May 23rd  
Annual meeting is Saturday - September 5th*

### *Editor's Notes*

Due to my extreme work schedule, I am looking for volunteer(s) to write the newsletter; if interested please contact me at [kbowgren@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kbowgren@sbcglobal.net) or 630.750.2210. It's not the mailing - it's the writing/editing that is time consuming

August 30, 2008

Annual Meeting minutes will be sent to owners prior to next year's annual meeting.

September 20, 2008

Treasurer's Report

Checkbook balance = \$14,211.57  
Assets = \$29,719.07 (2 CD's)  
Liabilities = \$101,000.48 (loans on 2 harvesters with next payment due 5/09)  
Income received this period = \$20,155.61  
(largest amount is from the tax levy)  
Expenses paid this period = \$20,369.87  
(wages, insurance & Wisconsin River Coop);  
note diesel fuel over \$5.00 / gal

Adams County - Joyce Kirslenlohr reported the budget is being completed with definite budget cuts to come; the County is trying to trim \$1 million from its costs; nothing is new on the dam and there has been no word from the DNR or Engineers; additionally, there is talk of a possible premier tax for future dam funding but this is still in discussion.

Preston Township - John Pavlec said that the Highway 13 bridge is not being replaced or repaired; Candy Chapman did also contact the DOT and no bridge work is to be done as John noted.

Harvesting - Jim Miller reported that the season is winding down and should be completed by the end of September. He also reported that a very nice article regarding the harvesting crew and its operations was published in the Adams-Friendship newspaper. (see the copy included in the newsletter); Jim noted that there were no major problems this year on the equipment; he said that the Saturday weed pickup was most likely down due to less weeds and owners not picking them up. This will be monitored for next year.

Advisory Group - Candy Chapman submitted the refund for the application of the drawdown; Paul Ivaska sent the Advisory Group the results of the survey and the next step would be a petition to owners and then to forward the results to a cable provider; Candy also reported that there is possible research on a prototype instead of a patent and possibly doing this with Aquarius.

Old Business - the ATV referendum was lost by 20 votes most likely due to low voter turnout.

New Business - the Commissioners approved that the distribution of the Lake Directory will be at the spring meeting and not the Annual meeting as in the past; Mary Ellen Bowgren expressed concerns regarding current financial reporting methods in accordance with the Lake District By-laws and the Wisconsin statutes; she and Ray Heins will review this and will let the Commissioners know their comments.