



May, 2021

Dear Eatonbrook Lake Association Members and Friends,

It is once again time for our annual Eatonbrook Lake Association Spring newsletter and donation request. I do hope that everyone had a good winter. The weather here was very snowy, and we all are ready for another warm, sunny summer on our beautiful lake.

As you may recall, I sent out a message on Facebook and email over the winter months that the Canal Corporation repaired the broken valve at the dam. The result is that the lake is back up to an acceptable level. It did seem to many of you that the valve repair took an inordinate amount of time to complete. The COVID pandemic and the restrictions placed on all of us (including the Canal Corps folks) was a major reason for this delay. The economic downturn that our state was facing curtailed services that were deemed non-essential. And, dam maintenance was included in the non-essential services category. In addition, many of our contacts at the CC that we had established working relationships with, in the past, had either been moved to new positions or retired. In addition, there was a hiring freeze because of COVID. So, several key people who needed to be replaced at the CC had not yet been hired or moved into these key positions.

During the fall and winter months I was able to establish a very productive and mutually responsive working relationship with our new contacts at the Canal Corporation. My hope and expectation is if we have a problem with the valves at the dam in the future, the Canal Corporation will be more proactive in response to our inquiries and requests. (Good relationships mean a lot!)

Your board members have been doing an incredible job, ready and willing to pitch in whenever I ask and even when I do not ask. They are all very proactive and committed to Eatonbrook Reservoir and to all of you! There are a couple of folks on the lake, in addition to our board, that I would like to thank for their "behind the scenes help" especially during this time of COVID. Special thanks to Jim Cunningham for patiently sharing his expertise on all issue's aquatic and Pete Lilley and Sarah Roy for their vigilance in monitoring our Eatonbrook website. And, to Andy Sapoznikov, our past president, for being available for consultation when necessary.

I also want to thank all of you for making our association a strong Lake Association. The importance of a strong lake association cannot be underestimated when it comes to dealing with lake issues. The recent broken valve that impacted the water level of our lake is a good example. That issue was a difficult one for several years and the topic of discussion at many of our association meetings. Andy Sapoznikov, our past president, also dealt with the dam issues during his time in office.

Since we are still under some Covid restrictions, the lake association board has decided that we will not hold an in-person spring meeting. We have no way of ensuring that any and all who might come to the meeting (even if held outdoors) have been vaccinated and/or not infected. It is too high a risk at this point in time.

Please be sure to fill out the information on the enclosed form and provide us with your current (preferred) email address. Email is the most efficient and secure way we can provide information to everyone. If you are new to the lake these emails can be highly informative.

For all neighbors, if you see someone new moving in next door to you, or near you, please be sure to let them know about our ELA and how they can provide their address and other important personal information for our records, to a board member. Also, be sure to check out our Facebook page and our website (www.eatonbrooklakeassociation.com).

Activities currently being planned are the annual 4th of July boat parade and displaying lit flares at each of our lakefronts around the lake on the 4th. (Inherently, socially distanced events). This year the association board is suggesting that our members consider purchasing LED flares instead of the old road flares. These LED's can be used every year and are much better for the environment.

Our very first annual ELA golf tournament is currently in the planning stages and will be held this summer. The date is August 14th. The golfing event will be a 9-hole, four-person, (mixed) captain and crew. Sponsors are needed! Contact Andy Sapoznikov for more information at 315-506-8809.

We currently have two immediate board openings for trustees. Our bylaws state that four trustees serve staggered three-year terms. The trustees along with the other officers of the association assist the president as needed. If any person wishes to become a trustee, please contact any current board member.

In 2020 a Watershed Management Committee was established and was formally recognized by the Town of Nelson. This committee is working on water quality issues that affect both Eatonbrook and Tuscarora lakes and their surrounding watersheds. Donna Isbell, Randy Fuller and Jim Cunningham represent Eatonbrook Lake interests at the Watershed Management's regular meetings.

****WHY WE NEED A STRONG LAKE ASSOCIATION!!****

There are many reasons why a strong lake association is imperative to keeping our beautiful lake and surrounding area as pristine as possible. If you own property on the lake or have been deeded access to the lake, you automatically belong to our Eatonbrook Lake Association. This membership is so important to the health of our/your lake. We ask you to consider donating a monetary amount to the ELA and/or volunteering in some capacity.

We typically ask for monetary donations from lake dwellers/users once a year. The lake association uses these funds to provide activities around the lake, as well as services that help keep our lake as well as the surrounding areas clean, e.g.; the porta-potty at the boat launch and trash cans on either side of the lake for visitors and for those who come to fish, to name a few.

In addition, we are obligated to pay dues to certain county and state organizations that help promote environmentally clean waters. Since we are a non-profit organization, we ask our members for a minimum donation of \$25.00 per household toward these necessary expenses. Naturally, we will gladly and most gratefully accept an additional amount if you are so inclined. Our annual Treasurer's report is included for your reading pleasure.

We look forward to seeing everyone on or around the lake this summer.

Take care and be well.

Colleen

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