

History of Roaming Shores, Ohio-- 50 years Feb 8, 1966 to 2015

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“The Way it Was—Not so Different From the Way it Is Now”

The first 35 years of this history was researched by Carolyn Tharp in 2001 for the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. I had only been here 2 years at that time. I read every newsletter and newspaper published from 1966, and kept notes. At times, publication was erratic and writers changed frequently, especially during the first 10 years. The goal is to give a picture of life at the Shores during our first 50 years.

Feb 8, 1966. Volume 1, No. 1 Rome Rock News. Headlines announce “Dam Completed, Huge Lake Full.” Another headline proclaimed “Property Owners Should Remember that All Building Plans Must be Approved Before Construction Begins” Others: “Paving of Roads Set For Spring” and “Sewer and Water Systems Up for Approval”. My favorite was “Clubhouse Opens January 20, 1967 with Tastefully Arranged Furniture and Pool Table!” Tom Glass, owner of the Marina is named head of the Homeowner’s Association.

July 1967 finds those water and sewer lines under construction, marina in full swing. The lake is stocked with 30,000 “well-behaved fish.”

Oct. 1968 to 1969 350 lot owners attend the 1<sup>st</sup> annual meeting of Association. Dues at \$60 a year per person. First elected Pres. James Hess was also first full-time resident along with his wife LaVerne. She organized the first social activities with dinner dances being especially popular. Mr. Hess was hired as the first manager and his wife as social director. He also continued as President of the Association while manager. A card club was very active, and the first 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration included games, boat ride, clowns, potluck dinners, golf outing and a 10 pm fireworks. A security force is started as security became a concern.

1970=1971. A list of the problems facing this board reads like an agenda from one of today’s meetings. Roads, lake management, EROSION, rebuilding of swimming pools, how much to charge for use of club house and pool and building regulations are all addressed. 171 attended the 1971 annual meeting, but a total of 28 people ran for the board! The paper reported that nearly 5000 voted, so we have here an extreme stuffing of the ballot box, or the paper made a mistake. In any case it is now obvious that a few rules were needed.

1972 First building and grounds committee was composed of 3 men, one from each side of the lake. The first woman as elected to the board and she said, and I quote “We all know that big potatoes are at the top of the heap because there are a lot of little ones holding them up” as she encouraged the community to support the board. Pools are object of much concern. The original heater was too expensive to run, so it was turned off. There is a major revision of the by-laws (remember the 28 person election in 1971?). But dues remain at \$60 a member and remain so until mid 1980s. I cannot resist telling you that the menu for a private luncheon was stuffed cabbage, crepes suzette and cherry flambé’.

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**1973** Pat Pencombe Grubb for some time has been writing wonderful nature articles called “At the Water’s Edge”. She especially loved blue birds and wrote of the beauty of nature at Roaming Shores. Another monthly feature, a “gossip” column related stories of a close community and the social happening of the day. It detailed potlucks and dances, ladies luncheons, flower club and the Roman Candles, which supported the Fire Department.

**1974-1975** The energy crisis led to a series of articles on how to conserve energy. Fireplaces and windows were the major concern, Pools 3 and 4 were upgraded. The dam is targeted for completion in 3 stages, extending both spillways with erosion control mats placed on the dam’s southern sloping faces.

Plans to incorporate as a Village made headlines in 1974 with the first public meeting on this topic lasting over 3 hours, but a few months later the County Commissioners voted to refuse to grant incorporation as they felt the tax revenues would not be enough to support a village. The result was panic of “How will we pay our bills?” now that the dam and roads have to be paid for by the association and not the developer. At the same time the purchase of Lakeside Utilities from the developer became possible. The association does not have funds or borrowing power necessary for such a major purchase. A vote on Dec 18, 1975, of 502 against the purchase and 165 in favor, was a shock to the Board who had devised a plan each resident to pay \$600 payable as \$10 a month for 5 years. We need to incorporate so bonds could be issued, so Roaming Shores turned to the courts to appeal the decisions of the commissioners. But on Sept 1975 the Ashtabula Court had upheld the “no” decision. The case was taken to 11<sup>th</sup> district Court of Appeals.

**1976-77** Incorporation was denied by the 11<sup>th</sup> district, words began to fly between different groups of residents. Strong words were exchanged in the Letters to the Editor, with the suggestion made that any board member who supported incorporation should resign. One board member did resign. The board asked for permission for a dues increase which must have a vote of two thirds of the membership. Soundly defeated 644 to 351. At the next board meeting, a \$40 fee for use of the lake was approved to cover cost of maintenance of pools and insurance premiums. The new break wall and deck of the clubhouse was the pride of the Dec 1977 issue.

**1976.1977** First cookbook was published and mouthwatering recipes began to be printed. The Flotilla now enters the 3<sup>rd</sup> year. Knowledgeable boaters conducted safety courses and aid boaters in distress. Concern about the state of health of the lake arose, and lake management became a familiar theme. A mower is purchased to control lake weeds and is credited for great work for some years. (Updating this information in allows the author to tell you that the mower became unpopular in later years and sat idle, only to be brought to life again as lake conditions changed.) Social life is in full swing and groups such as water skiing, poetry, golfing, fishing, little league, and Jogging With Judy are mentioned.

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1979 Without any mention for some time the association president announced

**“It appears that a new Village has been formed.”** He urges more participation by more members now that the two groups will be working together to benefit everyone. The first woman president now takes over and the August 8, 1979 writes that Village status has been granted to Roaming Shores.

The Editor of the Paper explains that nothing had been said about plans for the incorporation while the case was before the courts in order to avoid conflict. “Now is the time to bury the hatchet and work together.” Norm Atchison, was the first Mayor

1980 **By-law changes raise dues to \$60 per lot, not per member as previously**

**decreed. Members retain one vote regardless of number of lots owned. Lakeside utility asks permission to raise water rates 4 times the previous rate, but on Dec 15 the utility declared Chapter 11. To say the Roaming Shores Owners were upset would be a very mild statement. The paper is erratic for several months, editors change frequently, but in**

1982 It announced proposed **purchase of the Utility by the Village, and by the annual meeting in**

1984 the paper was able to proclaim **“RESOLVED: THE LONG-STANDING LAWSUIT BETWEEN THE DEVELOPER, LAKESIDE UTILITIES AND THE VILLAGE IS OVER AT LAST. THE LAKE AND THE DAM ARE OURS CLEAR OF ALL ENCUMBRANCES. The Utilities were purchased by the Village at \$1,500,000.**

1986 WOW. What a find. The staff has condensed the history of the first Twenty years in detail and here it is in one of the 1986 editions. ( Sure, after I sat up night after night reading all of those papers!) A very thorough job with lots of details I did not find in the newspapers. (We are looking for a copy of that paper in the storage boxes in the RRA office, and have not found it as yet. **If anyone has a copy of that paper in your files, please let the office know, please.**)

The Promotion club president has a dream. Marlyn Cantini would like to see a community fireworks as a continuing salute to your community during the July 4 celebration. See what she started?

1989 President's report from the Annual Meeting declared that 1988 had been a great year including A. promotion of area through home shows resulting in escalated prices for homes and lots. B. The Village police department is a reality and C. the road issue is (oh-oh) slower to resolve, but ongoing.

The Board has changed the formula for assessments, a very touchy subject, And Lake Management in coming into its own, because the state of Health of the Lake is alarming and erosion controls are essential to the lake's survival. Monroe Frados and Newt Bakely will be later honored by the state of Ohio for their work using innovative methods of lake management. Residents are congratulated on seawall construction and clean up of shoreline debris to control erosion.

1990 Newsletters are now quarterly and in the form of report from the board and ads. This results in a great listing of agendas but it is not clear what is really going on. There is an impressive social calendar. A balloon launch was a fun event and the three months of Sept to Dec 1990 lists a Friends and Neighbors Potluck dinner, Fishing Club Clambake, a Juried Art Show, Antique Car Show, Wine and Cheese Tasting, Dance Club, Happy Hour, Women's Club, Halloween Dinner Dance, and a Craft Show and Holiday Boutique featuring Mrs. Pockets who passed out treats to children) Coast Guard flotilla, Gift Exchange, children's Christmas party and a New Year Eve's Party!

1991 The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Shores is the big news with the entire day celebration ending in the now traditional fireworks. Fishing contest, decorated boat parade, water ski exhibition, children's games, volleyball tournament, tug of war between East and West sides, and a Happy Hour.

A sadder picture was present in the annual report with the President saying that the rosy picture painted last year had now soured due to a land speculator who had been buying and selling property without paying any association, village or county charges. The RRA in cooperation with the Village has offered to legally dispose of unwanted lots (called the lot take back program). As a result, we now show the lowest number of active members in history. Even so, the ambitious social schedule continues and we host the Ohio Lake Communities Assoc. where we were able to brag about the active construction of seawalls, and the use of ground cover on lakeside lots, slowing erosion from that source. A detailed sedimentation survey shows that our lake loses original volume to sediment at a .2 percent rate a year. The community is warned of the perils of raking leaves into the lake, and asks that only trees needed for actual construction be removed from lots being developed, to limit erosion runoff into the lake. Lake Management explained that winter algae lying just below the surface of the ice release oxygen that help fish stay alive during the winter, but the rest of the algae is lying on the bottom just waiting for summer to cloud our waters.

The Promotion club installs a new tile floor in the clubhouse, and the Young Adult Club addresses children's parties and events. There are now 400 homes, requests for variances for boat houses, gazebos and fences are at new high.

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**1992** December of 1992 is the date of the first issue of the Shores News as known today. Published by the Gazette Printing Co in Jefferson, OH, it replaces the newsletters of previous years. This issue contained 12 pages with articles on local clubs and events, as well as featuring local VIPs like Monroe Frados. It also includes more information about the Village Council, which is a new thing.

**1993** finds Mayor Art Hess busy at work on a newly formed Zoning Committee and convincing the post office to allow residents to use Roaming Shores as an official address. The Shores still uses the lake for drinking water, but the Council is concerned about the cost of needed updates, which is way beyond financial reach. Utility rates are raised 12% in 1994 while the council hopes to replace our aging system. Options include replacing our plant or going with Ohio Water Service Co. The RRA board is concerned with improving the dam and spillway, and the roads still (!) need repair.

**1994** The Buyback program is finalized in 1994 with the sale of 50 lots to Individuals and 80 lots to the RRA. 3 of the 4 pools are damaged as part of an escalating problem with vandals. Gary Phillips was hired as RRA manager out of 132 applicants, replacing Ron and JoAnn Leach who had been managers for 6 yrs.

**THE LAKE WAS LOWERED FOR THE FIRST TIME THE FALL OF 1994 AND 12 TRUCK LOADS OF TIRES, METAL AND OTHER OBJECTS WERE REMOVED FROM THE LAKE BOTTOM.**

Property owners were asked to pass a Village levy to generate monies for the improvement of the water treatment and sanitary wastewater plants, but before that happened the State of Ohio warned that even more stringent regulations will soon be enforced, making use of our own plants impossible. To jump ahead and complete this story—the Village awarded a contract to Ohio Water to do design engineering for a pipeline to tie us in with Ohio Water Service in Ashtabula County. It will cost one million dollars financed by grants, loans, or rate hikes. In May 1995 a utility rate raise of 70% was announced as well as a tax levy to raise the rest of the monies. In June a grant was received to pay 1/3 of the cost. Mayor Hess encouraged residents to choose whether to pay for the utility through the tax levy or through water rates, promising to lower the rates if the levy passed. The levy passed and work proceeded with the line under construction in 1996.

**1995** A developer has purchased 112 lots and used “A Day at the Shores” Passes to allow prospective buyers to boat, swim, picnic as well as a tour of the lots and Model Home. This was met with a great deal of resistance by owners. Lake Management announces refurbishing and renovation of beach 2. The weed harvester is considered one of the most valuable tools in keeping the lake clear. 13 miles of roads were improved and the clubhouse area paved and lit.

A “rainbow” of complaints reached the Police chief with burglary high on the list, along with loose or barking dogs. We now have 900 boats, and 540 homes on 2300 lots. Natural gas now available. Better control over use of facilities by non-owners is a big issue.

**1996** **ROADS ARE AGAIN IN NEED OF REPAIR!** Barking dogs, motorcycles, ATVs, increased vandalism are disturbing. Tennis courts keep being proposed and put on hold, this time by the cost of dam repairs.

1997 came in like a lion and every furnace in the public areas is broken down.

Village again updating zoning regulations, using help from Ashtabula Co. Plan Commission in a 6 month process. The goal is to prevent duplication of regulations with the RRA. Property tax “enjoyed” a sharp increase. RRA studying ways to improve roads. Vandalism major concern. Lake Management continues to study the health of the lake and dam. Coves are becoming heavily silted, making some docks unreachable. There are now 1000 boats registered on lake.

Promotion club is installing new kitchen in the clubhouse with help from other clubs. Social events seem to enjoy a good attendance but there is no doubt that there are fewer functions. A balcony is built for smokers after an effort to change the clubhouse to a non-smoking facility met with angry resistance.

1998 started off quietly. Lake lowered to permit work on the dam was not successful as lake filled rapidly. The Fishing club is placing 150 artificial habitats in the lake. Lake Management recommends closing beaches on several occasions due to the high bacteria count and due to geese and also due to amount of fuel from jet skis on the lake. First annual Village sponsored clean up day great success. Filled 9 semi truck loads.

Tennis courts back on high priority again. But—pools 1,2, and 4 in desperate need of major repairs. (A little history on the tennis courts: they had been a priority as a goal for the year 1990. In 1994 courts were among the top wishes in the all--member survey. In 1996 the board authorized \$20,000 but price on drain pipeline needed firming up first. Board finally voted to let the construction begin and do as much as they could for \$20,000. Did not happen as projected costs came in between \$30 and \$40,000. In May 1997 the manager asked if he could build the courts with no more delay. No. In 1998, tennis courts were at the top of the priority list again and the board had had the money but had put it in other funds that could not be used to build tennis courts. They said they were looking for windfall profits and if there were such profits the courts would be constructed as soon as possible. I honestly do not know when they were built. Still looking for some mention of that great event in the paper. I do know that many people who had originally wanted the courts were too old to use them when the courts were eventually built.)

The Mayor leads successful effort for much needed composting site off Rt. 6.

Both governing bodies are under fire by residents over personal behavior and overbearing use of rules and regs. The Police Department is subject of many letters to editors, both pro and con, with some wanting to eliminate our own police department. The topic dominates both meetings until Nov of 1999, when the police issue coming to a head when a petition was placed on the ballot to eliminate the police department and rely on the county Sheriff. It was soundly voted down and we have enjoyed our own police department with little argument since that time.

1999 Again the Village discusses the need for a sewage plant and an engineering firm is asked to make recommendations. The announced cost of \$1,250,000 for a sewer plant seems to be lost in concerns over the police and geese population.

Pools and Roads continue to lead the list of major problems for the RRA.

Roaming Shores found itself featured on CNN and on the front page of USA Today when two Council candidates found themselves in a “tie” situation and settled the matter with a coin toss.

We all waited nervously to learn the fate of the world on New Year’s Eve 1999, as Y2K loomed over us. We all survived with little or no damage, and we go into 2000 enjoying a life style that would be the envy of untold millions of people. And if the past is any predictor, we will fight our way through every minute of it! This is the end of the study done by Carolyn Tharp in prep for the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on July 2001. I can tell you it was a glorious success and a weekend full of friends and neighbors coming together to celebrate their chosen home.

(An important note: Please read the History of Roaming Shores done by Jen Addair for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2015. She does use some of this study but from an entirely different perspective. Look under the RRA web site History title. Jen also updates her work on a yearly basis.)

(This portion of the history was written quickly in response to a request by manager Gary Phillips and presented to the OCLA meeting)

In 2001, with Y2K behind us, we also reached a major decision in the history of Roaming Shores. The final decision by the RRA board to pave all 26 miles of roads in the Shores was made after a successful pilot project the previous Fall. The process for obtaining a million dollar loan takes up most of the next year but the work was scheduled and the improvement to lake living was immediate.

The dreaded sewer issue comes again to the forefront and the impact fee for new houses rose from \$200 to \$3500 along with rate increases as the Village Council prepared for a new sewage treatment plant.

A photo contest was sponsored by the Promotion Club called “A Year in the Life of Roaming Shores.” Winning photos appeared in the Shores News along with a story about the photographer and the inspiration for the photo.

Snowmobiles and recreational vehicles became a true matter for concern. Many meetings and many letters to the Editor ran hot. A club was formed to bring more control into the problem along with safety training courses.

The RRA began to sell sections of the roadway to the Village in order to take advantage of the gasoline tax revenue for upkeep. The Council starts a spring clean up program, and a mulching center is open on Hwy 6. Both are very popular.

Fishing Club reported that the Golden shiners are keeping our perch and crappies very happy. We are noted for fishing and this club is strong and active.

The Promotion Club yearly sponsors a community garage sale and its Casino Night is one of the favorite events at the Shores.

29 vacant lots were sold at tax sales, raising about \$1600 per lot for the county. Another 41 will be auctioned off later this year, removing bad debts from RRA books.

20 new homes were constructed in 2000 giving us 700 homes, with 1200 paid up memberships. 300 of these homes were built in the past 12 years.

Concern about decaying swimming pools takes precedence. Normal aging and vandalism have destroyed the 1 heated pool at the clubhouse and 3 unheated pools at various locations around the lake. The decision to not rebuild the 4 old pools and to build two new heated pools, one on each side of the lake, met with a full range of strong emotions—from rage to praise. Accompanying pool rule changes and the continuing ATV debate raised the barrage of heated letters to the Editor. But the two new pools were built the following year and are well attended.

Geese are still with us and now we try shooting a starter gun with the hope that they will fly up and away. Strobe lights and spraying the beach with grape extract does not work. Dogs only become friends of the geese. Shaking of eggs and leaving the eggs in the nest is recommended. But geese are and will continue to be a major problem in contaminating the beaches and water.

After being delegated to the back storage yard for a few years, the weed harvester is again in demand as algae was heavy this year of 2001.

A “CLAM” study was set up to monitor lake quality and heighten Citizen awareness of lake management.

The lake was lowered from Oct 15 to Dec 15 allowing much repairing of seawalls and removal of silt especially in the coves.

The Promotion Club sponsored an Antique Road Show on the heels of a Murder Mystery Dinner the previous Fall.

The OCLA meeting was held here—the first time in 10 years.

In 2002-2004 the new wastewater plant is opened and the village Planning and Zoning Committee is still working on a comprehensive plan with open community meetings to gather input. RRA transfers the bulk of zoning and planning to the Village. Before this date a person wishing to build or make additions would require sign off from both the RRA and Village. By insuring that the rules are basically agreeable to both groups, the process should be much more user friendly.

6 tons of trash left the area on clean up day. Yard Recycling center well used.

Promotion club starts a Welcoming Committee, giving an info package to new residents. Club makes large donation toward air conditioning for clubhouse.

Dam ownership is transferred to Village in response to huge increase in Insurance costs after 9/11. Shores News reported that the Village paid \$1300 yearly premium instead of the \$35,000 yearly the RRA would have been required to pay.

Another successful “lot take back program” cleared lots that are in arrears, with the RRA and Village working together on back charges.

A lake study by EnviroScience aided by 10 lake monitor volunteers found major concerns over summer algae blooms, lack of oxygen below 15 feet and an almost total lack of weeds.

Village chooses a dedicated waste hauler in effort to keep larger trucks off the roads more than one day a week, signing with Waste Management.

Polar Bear club formed—they plunge into icy waters at unlikely times!

Our geese still making news. The 10 pounds of waste each deposits daily is major area of concern. We are still requested to shake those eggs.

In 2005 The 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is celebrated with the huge party we throw every 5 years. Elvis was here—horse rides and a bunch of tournaments-including tennis, fishing, volleyball, tug of war and a major hot dog bonfire give away.

In 2006 the annual meeting reported 824 homes, 113 new in the past 4 years. We are repaving 5 miles of road yearly and a new playground arises beside the new pool at beach 2.

A new lake monitoring committee is now in place and restoration of the Village office is often on the agenda.

A new era begins in our water and sewer saga as Ashtabula Co Dept of Environmental Services is now involved. The marina changes owners.

Our website is up and running thanks to dedicated residents, featuring both RRA and Village news.

1400 7-9 inch young walleye are happily (I'm told) swimming in our lake.

Notching of the dam has been on the village agenda for some time, but there are safety concerns, so studies will continue.

Snowmobiles are of concern this past winter due to thin ice, and some riders going out after dark.

US Coast Guard Safe Boating course well attended, and guess what?

The weeds we were so thrilled to see returning to our lake the past two years are now a source of concern and the weed eater is in high demand. Roaming Shores certainly has a love/hate relationship with that monster machine.

In 2007 we open with notching of the spillways to address high water levels, and the beavers who have built large dams in that area. Reckless behavior on snowmobiles also caused concern.

The fishing club announces an aggressive schedule of events. The lake is stocked with 1400 walleye thanks to a gift of \$5000 from the BOD. A strict catch and release program is in place for the next few years to allow the fish to grow.

Only 360 of the eligible 1037 members cast votes for the RRA Board.

Following many years of considering remodeling of the Village Hall, the Council turns to thoughts of a new building. Studies have shown this to be the best choice--due to new code demands. Thus begins 2 years of planning and funding efforts.

Waste Management is signed on as sole provider in order to have fewer large trucks on the roads.

A Lake Safety Committee is formed with the goal of education of the public on lake behavior plus enforcement of a professional lake patrol.

The current lake management committee presents articles on water quality and how to protect and improve our most valuable asset. They report that dissolved oxygen in lake water is the key indicator of water quality.

**20 Polar Bears enter the chilly waters in March!**

**Clubhouse bathrooms are completely renovated by a group of owners just in time for a record number of fully paid members.**

**Construction starts on a new service garage at the Hwy 6 location.**

**Silt Sediment is at its worse (or best) at an area just north of Hwy 6 bridge.**

**Safety committee explains that the Low Wake Zone means travel at lowest speed possible to maintain control of the craft.**

**2008 Controversy over need for both an association and a Village became highly contested. This resulted in an even clearer understanding that both entities have a strong role in our community.**

**A petition with 256 signatures demanded an audit of the RRA books. It was eventually completed in 2009 and was really a review as it cost \$6,000 while a full audit would have cost \$50,000! It showed the books to be in good shape.**

**The Friends and Neighbors potluck group began a series of 4<sup>th</sup> of July Free Hot Dog Give Away events, with over 500 hot dogs cooked over an open bonfire, along with lemonade, chips and marshmallows. The club paid all expenses. It was very popular for a number of years—then all of sudden it was not well attended.**

**2009 New Village hall now a definite “maybe” with the price now an estimated \$800,000 (from an original \$500,000). (looking back we now know we had just entered five years of major recession.) A 2<sup>nd</sup> round of bids, resulted in Lakeland Managements Systems of Painesville for \$886,000—one story plus basement.**

**The Lake Management chair writes strongly in favor of a siphon system, and regular draw downs. This 2009 draw down was very successful.**

**“At the annual meeting a member demanded the the association should have 3 bids for any project costing more than \$30,000. He asked for a Yay or Nay from the audience. Many said Yay but many said “What is going on?” It was declared an improper vote, so it was all for Nay.” (Who knew the Shores News reporter had a sense of humor?)**

**Members of the audit firm were at the meeting to present their report.**

**Village Council votes to use Smollen Engineering plans with 16 weeks construction time for 5900 sq ft. Bids came in from \$930,000 to 2 million. At this point the Mayor stepped down after nearly 8 years, and John Ball filled out the rest of the term and eventually became Mayor.**

**Pool and Lake Safety wants stronger enforcement of rules. Such as no throwing of objects in the pools and no leaving small children unattended.**

**The Manager warns of need to control weeds and algae and recommends a professional company to apply chemicals. Over 80 owners did so. An opposition group took a full page ad in the Shores News to protest. A letter from the association bans the use of chemicals in the lake.**

**Dredging options under review by RRA board. Mechanical or Hydraulic?**

Lake Management asked by RRA board to recommend how to proceed with dredging in summer of 2011. The chair later resigned as his suggestions were criticized and he was so “vilified”. (per newspaper).

Much unhappiness with construction of a new Village hall in such a current economic downturn. But many were happy to see an end to these many years of discussion, with such a beautiful building as a result.

The new web site is well received.

Road maintenance, cost of the new service garage, cost of the Village Hall, are main topics of discussion in these months.

In June new lights on the beaches and the boat ramp will signal high water levels. And this is the first year of the cardboard boat races.

EnviroScience is hired as consultant for survey of weeds. Weeds and excess sediment are major concerns. A 200 page report dealt with weed management, siphon drainage system

Soon a new chair hopes to have a new siphon system in place by 2011. No.

Final cost for the garage is announced: \$229,000. “The funds came from Lake Management which had no major plan at the time. Actually the funds were originally from the garage budget, but moved to Lake management, then back to the garage budget.” The project was paid by cash.

**2011** EnviroScience releases a 135 page study showing lake is healthier than others in the area.

The annual meeting found the BOD eyeing dredging methods. Prior boards are criticized for not taking action and not taking lake health seriously, and action is needed immediately. President says purchasing hydraulic equipment would cost \$300,000 to as much as 1 million. He says although that sounds high, it is cheaper in the long run than mechanical dredging. Main conclusion is that dredging is needed by one method or another.

The 2011 RRA budget is 1.02 million. \$500,000 for road work, \$97,000 for capital improvements, \$380,000 salaries, \$89,000 to service loans. Expected income 1.023 million. Bless those early leaders who insisted on incorporation of a village, as we can apply for grants and use tax monies to support our lake community. The budget for the the Village is closer to two million, wiith a large portion of than going to service loans . (The Mayor in 2013 stated that the taxes on his home and lot are \$3,324.54 a year. Of that, \$212.17 makes it way to the village. The rest goes to the county, schools, township, police, SCAD. Association dues and assessments go directly to the RRA for their budget. I am astounded at the work done by the Village as it deals with over 50 year old infrastructure.)

The Village is “blessed” with 27 lift stations, more than the city of Cleveland. They are currently being replaced on an extended program due to high cost.

The new garage is being used and the new Village Hall is close to occupancy.

Storm water is entering the sewer system. Tests will be done to identify homes with gutters and foundations draining improperly.

**30 take-back lots offered to members for \$2500 each during a 90 day period. These are lots with unpaid dues and assessments. All are off-lake.**

**69 Polar Bears plunge on March 15, raising \$4000 for charity.**

**Prep for the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary start as the 44th annual meeting featured questions re the lake quality. The BOD decides to plan for mechanical dredging,**

**The Promotion club plans a newcomers potluck dinner, garage sale, July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks, wine tasting, cardboard boat race . Fishing Club also has a strong agenda.**

**On December 2011 the RRA announced that assessments would go up by \$115 a year on each property and each craft would pay \$95 instead of \$45. (Please note that the dues of \$60 per lot will remain at that amount until a vote by 2/3rd of the owners changes that amount.)**

**January 2012 Standing room only RRA meeting as owners were concerned about assessments connected to lake dredging and the amount of debt proposed. After an hour of debate, the directors voted 6-1 to increase assessments.**

**Board continued with details to obtain permission of Corp of Engineers to do hydraulic dredging. Plans surface to lease or buy land for retention ponds. Mention is made of purchase of land for \$135,000, hiring of Chagrin Valley engineer to design the pipe line route and handle permits, and a new week harvester is \$60,000.**

**Long time Manager Gary Phillips was fired and the Pres of the RRA took over those duties as a volunteer with no salary, using the \$80,000 managers salary toward expenses for mechanical dredging. This eventually changed and Dan Mullins was hired as Director of Maintenance and Facilities in 2012. He later was given the position of Manager in August 2015. (Actually, he earned that position!)**

**Then we read that dredging will be delayed to 2014 to use funds more wisely. 2013 6 candidates for the RRA BOD 3 pro-hydraulic, 3 pro mechanical. The largest return of ballots in recent years (53%) resulted in all three pro- mechanical dredging candidates winning.**

**The new President has a goal. Pay down current debt and not take on new ones. But they will continue with dredging.**

**They spent \$200,000 for 2 barges, \$45,000 for two hoses, and \$6,000 for a trailer, along with \$34,417.50 to finish paying for dredging equipment.**

**“This plan is simply to restore access to cove residents that once had access. Work cannot be closer than 30 feet from a resident dock. Residents will still have to hire a contractor to clear sediment close to docks. (A quote from that time).**

**3 new sub committees are formed—sediment, lake level, and water depth. The present Lake Management Committee grew out of that group.**

**Village Council started a program of upgrading home water meters by visiting each home with a goal of 15 minutes per home.**

**2014** A by-law change limits any board's new assessments and loans for projects of over \$500,000 unless a majority of the owners vote in favor of the spending. A lawsuit was filed against the RRA regarding the legality of the by law. (It eventually was settled in favor of the association.) \$72,500 was put in legal reserve by RRA.

The Village Water Tower was cleaned at \$152,000.

The Village water system was upgraded to be in compliance with new codes.

The beaches and lake are tested monthly for algae toxins.

Lake dredging started Sept 14<sup>th</sup> 2014. 1300 yards of sediment gone by Nov.

The RRA Office building on Hwy6 was declared unstable and temporary space was rented in the front office of the former Medical Center in downtown Rock Creek,. They later built a new building on the original site on Hwy 6 after extensive study and consideration of other options and locations.

**2015** Lake Security official sits on his deck watching multiple dangerous situations on the lake involving water craft and the people who “control” them. He often urges “THINK people THINK'

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. End of the study, but not end of the drama of this special place called Lake Roaming Rock and/or Village of Roaming Shores

With a big Thank You to all of the volunteers who have Loved this Lake and cared for its needs so beautifully. Also to the loyal staff in both the Association and Village offices and departments who have paved the way for those volunteers and elected officials to function so well.

Yes, we disagreed on many things through the years, but we still manage to preserve the beauty which drew many of us to this location for our main or second home. This is the site of many wonderful memories for our loved ones, both family and friends. How could a child not remember a July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration which included watching the night time sky light up with brilliant fireworks as he/she sat in a rocking boat surrounded by those family and friends?

Also, a big Thank You to the Shores News which has stuck with us for all these years (since December of 1992).

This study did not use many names on purpose, as so many have been part of the story it would be impossible to name them all.

**Page 1 of 4 Lake Concern Report**  
**HISTORY OF LAKE ROAMING ROCK CONCERNS ABOUT WATER**  
**QUALITY OR EROSION OR DAM SAFETY DURING 1966 TO 2016.**

by Carolyn Tharp

This is a report on lake management written in August 2019 to highlight moments during the first 50 years of The Shores when lake management and concerns were mentioned. The goal is to acquaint the present BOD and Village Council (as well as newly formed groups dedicated to improve the appearance of the lake waters) with the history of the previous efforts from 1966 to 2016. All owners are welcome to this information, of course.

Included are comments taken from the History of the Shores written by Carolyn Tharp for the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and then continued until 2015 for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Any mistakes may easily be blamed on the Newsletters and Newspapers or on Carolyn. I welcome any comments or corrections.

**FEB 8, 1966** The lake is filled, served by a small meandering stream that was backed up by a dam. The dam will not be completed until 10 years later and has been repaired and improved several times through the years, with erosion control mats on southern slopes of the spillways.

**1970** First mention of erosion concerns and lake management involvement

**1974-5** Dam completed and control given to association by builder. RRA must now pay the bills. They have no money. We need to incorporate. It took 4 years of court battles until 1979 when the Village was finally approved. Meanwhile--

**1976** "Concern about the state of the health of the lake arose" and lake management became a familiar theme. A weed mower is purchased to control lake weeds. It is praised highly for many years, then became unpopular in later years as lake conditions have changed. There have been different mowers through the years.

**10 years** go by with little mention of the lake, partly because the newsletters were erratic and mainly listed meetings. In 1989 this following headline pops up--

**1989** "State of Health of Lake is alarming and erosion controls are essential to the survival of the Lake." Two owners are later awarded medals by State of Ohio for innovative methods of lake management, especially sea wall construction and shoreline debris clean up. A Dr. Cook did extensive studies of the lake for Monroe.

**1991** 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Lowest number of active members in history. A detailed sedimentation study shows lake loses original volume to sediment at .2 percent a year. Do not rake leaves into lake Do not cut trees until needed for building.

"Lake management explained winter algae lies just below the surface of the ice and releases oxygen that keeps fish alive in winter, but rest of algae is lying on the bottom just waiting for summer to cloud waters."

**1992** First issue of Shores News as we know it today. Much easier to keep track.

**1993** Lake water still used for drinking water. This is another issue but took much effort and huge amounts of money (millions) to finally give us the water as we have it today, along with the sewage plant.

**1994** Lake lowered for first time fall of 1994 and 12 truck loads of tires, metal and other objects removed from lake bottom.

**1995** Weed Harvester going strong. 900 boats, 540 homes, 2300 lots.

**1996** Dam repaired.

**1997** Lake management studies way to improve health of lake and concerned about coves or heavily silted areas. Some docks unreachable. Some owners group together to pay to have docks cleaned out of sediment. 1000 boats now on lake.

**1998** Beaches closed on several occasions due to high bacteria count and due to geese and also fuel from jet skis.

**2000** 700 homes 1200 paid up members Geese major concern.

**2001** week harvester out again. Lots of weeds. Algae heavy.

CLAM study set to monitor lake quality and heighten citizen awareness.

LAKE lowered allowing much repair of seawalls or removal of silt. (a personal note, my husband was called by neighbor that the next few days seemed a good window to work on our dock support. He flew up from Florida the next morn and was able to finish. Almost impossible to know when the weather will cooperate in draw downs.)

**\*\*\*Lake study by EnviroScience aided by 10 lake volunteers found major causes of summer algae blooms was lack of oxygen below 15 feet and total lack of weeds.**

**2004** geese shake those eggs

**2005** 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary

**2006** 824 homes

Another new lake management committee. Weeds have returned thickly, after 2 years of being so happy to see them return again. What a mystery! Weed eater out in full force again.

**2007** of 1037 members possible voters, only 360 cast votes for BOD. Notching of dam still needed but halted at last moment as drawings were found showing duct work running near the surface. (Notching was to lower the spillways allowing more water to leave the lake in cases of high water.) Completed later I believe.

**2008** Series of articles by Lake Management discuss dissolved oxygen in lake water is key indicator of water quality. Area just north of st road 6 bridge is best (worse) example of silt deposit in lake.

**2009** A proposed siphon system by new lake management group draws much discussion, both pro and con.

Same group calls for more lake draw downs.

Manager Gary Phillips warns of need to control weeds and recommends a professional group apply chemicals. Over 80 owners did so. An opposition group places a full page ad in the Shore News. A letter from the association bans the use of chemicals in the lake.

Series of silt ponds planned and siphon project study in the works. Did not happen. Lake draw down Oct 5- Jan 5. Do not know if worked.

**\*\*\*Dredging options under review by BOD. Mechanical or hydraulic dredging to address areas of lake with excessive levels. Mechanical cheaper. Hydraulic has advantage that it can work year round.**

Lake Management asked by BOD to recommend how to proceed with dredging in summer 2011. The chair of that Lake Management group then resigned as he was so “vilified” (per newspaper story).

Budget and quality of the lake are the two big problems. RRA again places a ban on herbicides and nothing may be used without the approval of the BOD.

**\*\*\*EnviroScience hired as consultant for survey of weeds –soon to be available, the paper said. Weeds and excess sediment major concerns.**

A 200 page report from new Lake Management chair dealt with weed management, siphon drainage system (not practical), herbicides discouraged, weeds around docks can be stopped by blocking sunlight.

\*Soon a new chair hopes to have a new siphon system in place by 2011. No. (There has to be a special place in Heaven for any one who takes this “job”.)

**2011 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary.** Lake Management still studies lake, discussing phosphorous.

**\*\*\*EnviroScience 135 page report (guess from 2010 study) shows lake is healthier than others in the area.**

Annual meeting says RR board eyeing lake dredging methods. Prior boards are criticized for not taking needed action and not taking lake health seriously and immediate action is required. President says purchasing hydraulic equipment would cost \$300,000 to as much as \$1 million. Although that sounds high it is cheaper than mechanical in the long run.

Main conclusion. Dredging is essential by one method or another. Two of the present employees would be trained to run the hydraulic equipment.

**2012** Standing room only meeting at January 2012 BOD meeting. Concerns were assessments connected to lake dredging and the amount of debt proposed.

After an hour of debate the directors voted 6-1 to increase assessments.

**\*\*Board continues with details to obtain permission of Corp of Engineers to do hydraulic dredging. Plans surface to lease or buy land for retention ponds. Reports mention purchase of land for \$135,000, hiring of Chagrin Valley engineer to design the pipe line route and handle permits \$26,350.and a new weed harvester for \$60,000.**

Manager Gary Phillips was fired, and the pres of the BOD took over those duties without pay, saying that the \$80,000 salary saved would be used from dredging expenses. (Eventually that changed and we now have present manager.)

Then we read that dredging will be delayed to 2014 to use funds more wisely.

Mention is made of new cost estimate of \$1,690,000 for a new dredger, need for larger pumps would be \$300,000. (not sure if this was part of larger number)

**2013** 6 candidates for the BOD. 3 pro hydraulic, 3 pro mechanical

The largest return of ballots in recent years (53%) resulted in all pro-mechanical candidates winning. The new President has a goal. Pay down current debt and not take on new ones. But they will continue with dredging.

3 new sub committees were formed. Sediment, lake level and water depth. (that is what the paper says, but I know the new Lake Management committee came out of this group) Hydraulic dredging is not favored and efforts will be concentrated on mechanical dredging.

**2013 Mechanical dredging plan revealed to over 80 attendees.**

**\$200,000 for 2 barges, \$45,000 for two hoses, and \$6000 for a trailer.**

**Also spent \$34,417.50 to finish paying for the dredging equipment.**

**“This plan is simply to restore access to cove residents that once had access. Work cannot be closer than 30 ft. from a resident dock. Residents will still have to hire a contractor to clear sediment close to docks.” (A quote from that time).**

**2014 Board will do mechanical dredging and has the backing of the majority of the owners (proven by vote for pro-mechanical members of the board).**

**New Pres promises testing of the lake for algae toxins or water quality will happen every month. Has been done faithfully I believe.**

**Lake dredging to start mid July ( due to permits they actually started Sept 14<sup>th</sup>.)**

**1300 yards of lake sediment removed by Nov 2014.**

**2015 Personal note by Carolyn Tharp**

**I did not keep track since 2015, but am told by RRA office that the progress has been steady and most of the coves were cleaned out and the south end by hwy 6 is in the process of being worked on at this time—August 2019.**

**A new committee is working with EnviroScience to do a study for \$7800.00. They will be requesting this amount from the RR budget. Several donations have been given by owners to help with this effort.**

**Suggestion that 2 men be hired to do only dredging was put forth, but the reality is that hiring anyone qualified to do such work is very difficult in today's economy.**

**I do not know the plans for dredging after this years efforts.**

**Thank you for your interest.**

**PS Comments from the August 24<sup>th</sup> meeting at the pavilion. Jet skies concern**

- 1. A healthy lake is not especially a “clear” lake. In fact, a period of several years when the lake was clear and there were no weeds were really bad!**
- 2. A delegation of RRA board members were told by Ohio officials at a meeting in Columbus that our lake serves as a silt bed for the Grand River and there is no interest in helping with our sediment problem.**
- 3. We are well aware that the surrounding farm land plays a large part in the pollution of our lake. Efforts to work with farm agencies in the past have been unsuccessful, but we can keep trying. It is noted that more and more area fields are being drained with tile in order to make the excess rain water run out of the field and thus save the crop.**
- 4. It is noted in the report that jet skies are prone to leak fuel. The number of such skies are growing daily. We do not presently keep track of how many different types of boats are on the lake—just the number of permits given in all. We presently have 900 boats on the lake but this does not count those without motors such as kayaks and canoes. At some time in past years we counted all forms of boats, which why we really do not know the numbers.**