

**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 35th anniversary, and then continued until 2015 for the 50th 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 25th 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 40th 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.

2010 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).

2010 continued

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 45th 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 comites were formed. Sediment, lake level and water depth. (that is what the paper says, but I know the new Lake Management comite 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 14th)

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 24th meeting at the pavilion.

- 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.**