



Higgins Lake Property Owners Association

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To Protect, Preserve and Enhance the Quality of Higgins Lake and Its Surrounding Watershed

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Remember to pay your HLPOA dues by January 31, 2025. Thank you for your continued support.



President's Message

Happy, happy 90th birthday to HLPOA!

Here's to another 90, and more! We are so fortunate that four of our fellow shoreline property owners had the insight to establish HLPOA to "protect, preserve, and enhance the quality of Higgins Lake and its surrounding watershed". With your valued support, involvement, encouragement, and confidence, your board, committees, and volunteers are vigilant

throughout the year. For 90 years and running, work continues to meet this mission statement for our children, grandchildren, and their grandchildren. Some of the enhancement projects are featured here with more information at www.hlpoa.org. Hope you find this helpful.

Our unscientific, unofficial, resident scientist, "Roscommon County Person of the Year", Herb Weatherly, declared January 10, 2025, "It's Frozen Day". Stay safe on the ice!

A huge "Thank You" to all of you who have renewed your membership for 2025 so far. We look forward to the continued and much appreciated support from our Higgins Lake neighbors. Please help us preserve Higgins for 90 more years of family special memory-making moments. Join us as we celebrate 90 years of success.

Charlene Cornell, President HLPOA

Dedicated to Preserving the Quality and Beauty of Higgins Lake

Health of Higgins Lake by Jim Ostling, Gerrish Township Trustee

The newly elected Gerrish Township Board is in place and working on the review of existing policy and procedures that affect the residents of the Township. We feel it is important that the business of local government be efficient, consistent, and accessible to its residents. Procedures without approved policy are being reviewed and appropriately amended or in some cases simply created. This will leave future Boards a firm foundation to conduct the business of the Township.

Last summer, as I contemplated running for an open trustee position, I watched and listened to issues within our government as well as those that surround a potential sewer discussion, I began to make notes about how I might be able to help. One of those notes was to address the Health of Higgins Lake from an overall new perspective. I have been gathering material, talking with residents to better understand their concerns, and assembling those thoughts and ideas into a document that can be shared. Since being elected, I have been working with the new Board to present various ideas and ask for its support.

As a product of that work, we now have the "bones" of a new fresh approach, as well as the support of the Township Board – *Health of Higgins Initiative*. While this project is still in its initial development, we have agreed upon the establishment of a Steering Committee and a series of sub-committees to address many facets of the impactors to the lake and its ongoing health.

Our next major step will be to solicit applications from those that want to be a part of the solution to the long-running concern over the health of our lake. The position descriptions are posted on the Gerrish website, and we will be formally accepting those applications for at least 30 days after our February Board Meeting.

It is our desire to assemble a team that will take a bi-partisan approach to the perceived problem of the deterioration of the quality of Higgins Lake. This will need the involvement of many people and organizations around the lake with a sincere interest in finding solutions that will assure protections for the Lake for generations to come.

Go to the HOH tab on the Gerrishtownship.org website for information as this important project moves forward or contact me anytime. Jim Ostling - Gerrish Township Trustee; Trustee1@gerrishtownshp.org (989) 710-1062



[Ice In/Ice Out](#)

Higgins Lake Winter Weather Information 1963-2005

This weather information is from the personal observation of Mrs. Gladys Chinn, who was a full-time resident at the lake from 1963 until her passing in January 2005 at the age 96. Mrs. Chinn owned property on the lake since 1929 and was an unofficial historian of Higgins Lake. She charted weather and water conditions with such accuracy that the National Weather Service consulted with her many times to verify their records.

Higgins Lake Ice In/Out 2005-Present

Herb Weatherly, Higgins Lake Property Owners Association Board Member, “unofficial” data collection of Freeze/Thaw of Higgins Lake has collected that data from 2005-2025.

To review the specific data for each year, charts are posted on the HLPOA website.

[Winter is the Time to Look for Woolly Adelgid in Hemlock Trees!](#)

Look for this invasive insect on your eastern hemlocks now. Your trees can be treated with insecticides to stop the death of these trees. To learn more about inspecting and treating your trees go to:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIDNR/bulletins/3c6f5cb>

[Well Water and Your Responsibility](#)

If you use private well water in the State of Michigan, it is your responsibility to test and maintain your well and the surrounding area. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services recommends testing your water’s taste, color, or odor. Every year test for coliform bacteria, *E.coli*, copper, and lead. Contaminants in drinking water can cause short-term health problems while others can cause long-term problems. For more information go to:

https://www.michigan.gov/-/media/Project/Websites/mdhhs/Folder2/Folder8/Folder1/Folder108/Protect_Against_the_Unknown-Test_Your_Drinking_Water_from_Your_Well_10-14-2020_FINAL_WEB.pdf?rev=dbe87d4140584481b738568dcd7745a



[Nature Center Summit delivers education inspiration](#)

Winter Blues? Looking for something to do with your family or friends this winter? Cabin Fever offers sessions to help you safely enjoy the outdoors and discover more about our state’s incredible natural resources. Sign up for a one-day summit on February 7, 2025, hosted by the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center. Topics include

threats to Michigan bald eagle population, and invasive species management. For more information and registration, go to:

<https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/education/educators/summit>

RAFFLE OPPORTUNITY

HLPOA is excited about a “once in a lifetime” opportunity. Raffle tickets for a Mackinac Bridge Tower Tour are now on sale. This one hour tour for 2 people is available this summer, May 1 to October 15, 2025. The Mackinac Bridge Authority requires that participants be at least 18 years old, 56” or taller, and be able to climb a 40 foot ladder. The towers stand 552 feet above the water and the views are spectacular.

Tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 tickets for \$20. One does not have to be an HLPOA member to purchase tickets.

Make checks payable to HLPOA with “Raffle Tickets” in the memo section. Please include your phone number. Mail your payment to HLPOA, P. O. Box 55, Roscommon, MI 48653. (HLPOA is unable to process credit cards or on-line payments.) Your tickets will be sent to you via United States Mail.

The drawing will be held at noon on April 30, 2025. The winner will be called immediately and the winning ticket number will be posted on the HLPOA website. If the winner is not fond of heights, the ticket may be given to a relative or friend.



HLPOA Dues for 2025

HLPOA dues for 2025 are \$125.00. Please note, dues for 2025 are due by January 31, 2025. Mail checks to HLPOA, P. O. Box 55, Roscommon, Michigan 48653



Measuring Flow Rate in The Cut River



Teams of volunteers are measuring the flow rate in cubic feet per second for The Cut River at a fixed location approximately 100’ below the Roscommon County Road 100 river crossing. The water velocity is measured with a Global Water Company FP111 flow meter donated by Jack Cornell. You can find the water flow chart in the Cut River

at: <http://hlpoa.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/line-graph-2.pdf>

MAN OF THE YEAR

Herb Weatherly, HLPOA Board member for 37 years, was named 2024 Roscommon County Person of the Year. Since 1988, Herb has regularly attended Roscommon Board of Commissioners meetings. He served on the Gerrish Township Board for twelve years. This recognition is well-deserved for his unwavering service in protecting the lake he loves, Higgins Lake.



Darlene Sensor, Eric Ostergren, Herb Weatherly, David Russo, Rex Wolfson, Marc Milburn (Photo by Athena Schrader)

THANK YOU, DONORS:

General Fund: Robert & Michelle Angst, John & Martha Barta, Willaim & Katherine Beuerle, Pat & Megan Butcher, Dudley & Sharon Cahn, Barbara Cantley, Brad & Robyn Cornell, Patricia Dennis, David Dionise, Jim, Julia & Kate Dunn, Lois & Dave Elliott, Glenn & Jane Fausz, Tom & Michele Foster, Judy George, John & Amy Gregorio, Ken & Nancy Hayward, Anthony & Kimberlee Hensel, Robert & Nancy Hoffman, Dave & Karen Jordan, Kyle & Kevin Keeley, Doug & Marge Kik, John & Betty Markham, Timothy & Victoria McCarthy, Tony & Lisa McKerchie, Will McKinley, Scott & Natalia Mee, Dan & Mary Ellen O'Keefe, Sandra Olson, Nancy Albosta Perry, Steven & Cynthia Popp, Louis & Ann Raden, Pat & Vicki Springstead, Jay & Bev Trucks, John & Sue Vandenberg, Dan Wagner & Laura Chiera, Fred & Michele Walsh, Brian & Jennifer Walter, Mark & Ginny Yuschak

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2024-2025 HLPOA Board: President - Charlene Cornell, Vice President - Greg Semack, Secretary - Herb Weatherly, Treasurer - Bruce Carleton. Directors: Wayne Brooks, Patty Dennis, Curt DeVoe, Becky Gibson, Bob McKellar, John Ogren and Fred Swinehart. Administrative Assistant - Kathleen Barger.