



# Echoes from Our Lake

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE  
WALKER LAKESHORES LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION  
DECEMBER 2019  
VOLUME 146



## INTERIM WALKER LAKE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OPPORTUNITY

### DEFINITION:

The **Board of Directors** is the governing body of Walker Lakeshores Landowners Association (WLLA). It focuses on WLLA's mission, strategy, and goals.

### RESPONSIBILITIES:

Board members:

- Oversee the Association's activities.
- Discuss and make necessary decisions concerning the protection and maintenance of the Association.
- Are advocates for the community.
- Meet **monthly** (every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday) to discuss and vote on WLLA affairs.
- Should serve on at least **one** committee. (To provide oversight for specific operations, and support in successfully carrying them out).

**Do you care about our community? ... Are you willing to give your time? ... If so, then it's time to step out of the shadows and let your voice be heard. By serving on the Board and bringing your knowledge, energy, and expertise to the table, the whole community can and will benefit. We invite you to apply to be on the Board. Send a letter of intent with a brief description of your talents or a resume to [wllassociation@gmail.com](mailto:wllassociation@gmail.com). Thank you!**

## A Note from Your Treasurer



There is so much to report relative to finance! I will lay it out for you briefly here and would recommend that you follow up on our website ([www.walkerlake.com](http://www.walkerlake.com)) for more in-depth information.

- 1) The 2018 Audit is in and has been posted on our website with an introduction from the Board.
- 2) The Association has successfully taken our most delinquent property owners to civil court for collections and has been awarded court judgments in our favor. The next round of cases, against the next most delinquent, is being filed now. If you are behind, please make every effort to get current so that such proceedings can be avoided.
- 3) Your Board adopted the 2020 budget, providing for additional spending in road repair, security, tennis court repair, dam repair and building repairs with minimal assessment increases. This is a very strong budget that does much to move the community forward.
- 4) 2020 assessment rates were established, maintaining Lake and Member at \$325 & \$50, respectively, and a 2.3% Road increase that will be spread across a 6 tier Road assessment (to replace the current 3 tier structure) so that the top tier is broken down, creating a more fair distribution. The Maple Park Pro Rata Share for 2020 is in process as of the deadline for this report to go to print.
- 5) 2020 assessments will be billed out January 1.

Here's to a very Happy and Healthy New Year for all!

Carol Gillen, Treasurer



### WLLA MEETING CALENDAR 2020 All Meetings at the WLLA Clubhouse



|  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <b>January 18</b><br>Board of Directors<br>10 AM | <b>February 15</b><br>Board of Directors<br>10 AM | <b>March 21</b><br>Board of Directors<br>10 AM | <b>April 18</b><br>Board of Directors<br>10 AM |
|--|---|--|--|



The Following Events are Presented by the WLLA Program Committee

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

(All events take place in, or originate at, Clubhouse, unless otherwise indicated)

## Walker Lake Happenings

Some dates and/or times are To Be Announced (TBA). Watch for postings on WLLA website (<https://www.walkerlake.com/events>) and Facebook Friends of Walker Lake... (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WalkerLake/?fref=nf>)

- Sign up at office for all events
- Pay with check at office prior to event

### WINE & CHEESE GET-TOGETHER

Saturday, February 1, 7 – 9 p.m.  
\$5

### SIP & PAINT

Date TBA, 7 – 9 p.m.  
\$15

### DANCE & COVERED DISH

Date TBA, 6 – 10 p.m.

### CAKE BAKE-OFF

Date TBA, 7 – 9 p.m.

### FEISTY DUO \$5 BLING

Saturday, May 2, Time TBA  
\$5

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## WLLA Snow and Winter-Related Reminders

As I write this, I'm looking out the window watching the snow pile up. It's our first winter storm for 2019-2020 and it's had a little of everything: freezing rain, sleet and snow. But winter is part of the beauty (or misery to some) for those who live here and enjoy the activities at the lake that the four seasons allow.



Please remember that our regulations stipulate that no ATV or snowmobile use is permitted in the Walker Lake community or on the lakes. Please do not take an ATV or snowmobile on the frozen lake.

Empire State Excavating, our snow removal contractor, will start plowing once there is an accumulation of 2 inches. That doesn't mean every road gets started when there is 2 inches; it just means they will start plowing in the community.

Last snow season, we saw much improved snow removal service on the WLLA-owned roads. RJ, the owner of Empire State Excavating, truly cares about providing excellent service; however, we must remember one thing when it comes to a snowstorm: **no two storms are the same.** On different occasions, we may receive the same amount of snow, but the rate of accumulation, the type of snow, and its intensity will vary and produce very different experiences during the storms and very different outcomes. So plowing and clean-up times will vary from storm to storm, but, rest assured, RJ and his team will be providing top-notch service.

### For the Safety and Convenience of All Residents

- Please do not blow or shovel the snow from your driveways into the roads themselves. Doing this creates hazards for others using our roads.
- Please bring trash and recycling cans back off the road once they are emptied to keep them from being in the way of plowing or worst yet plowed away in heavier snow.
- Do not park any vehicles on the street even if you are the last house of a dead end road as the snow must be plowed as far back as possible.

If you have a plowing issue or emergency, please call or e-mail the WLLA office or post your concern on our Friends of Walker Lake Facebook page which is monitored regularly.

— Michael DeVita, WLLA Road Committee Chair





# IMPORTANT NOTICE

## TO ALL WALKER LAKE LANDOWNERS WITH PROPERTY ON WLLA-OWNED ROADS

**In accordance with the Rules and Regulations in the Walker Lakeshores Landowners Association Redbook, all landowners (and tenants) are responsible for maintaining ditch lines and culverts adjacent to their property. This will be strictly enforced starting April 2020. (Please read more below)**

### Roads to Ruin

Walker Lake landowners (and tenants) are responsible for maintaining proper drainage from continuous roads and culverts contiguous to their property, as well as from their own lawns and property per the Rules and Regulations of the Walker Lakeshores Landowners Association Redbook. The Redbook further states that this responsibility includes avoiding the dumping of leaves, dirt, sand, or other debris into culverts and drainage ditches. Culverts adjacent to one's own property should be cleared on an "as needed" basis.

As I ride through the community, I notice that very few landowners are maintaining the runoff ditch line next to the roadway. In some cases the ditch line has not been maintained in so long that the roadway sits lower than buildup of growth on the side of the road. When growth is higher than the road surface it acts like a curb line when it rains and snow melts.

Now, that may not sound like a big deal but we do not have inlet basins to catch the water. Thus the water just keeps running along the road until it finally finds a low spot along the edge of the pavement where it may drain.

The number one cause of roadway failure is the inability for water to drain properly. Over the course of time, water will just erode the pavement edges on asphalt roads and wash out areas on gravel ones.

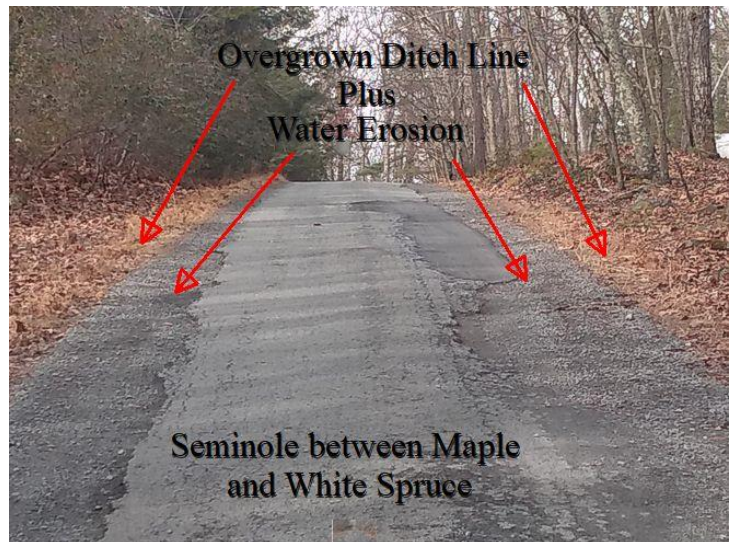
WLLA has very limited funds to maintain and improve the roads. A large chunk of road assessments goes to plowing snow and spreading rock salt and anti-skid. The goal of the Road Committee is to use the remaining road funds available each year to make sure that, each spring, potholes get filled, and gravel roads are groomed and regraded as needed.

With what money we have left, we will look to do some pavement repairs, and – perhaps – resurface some existing asphalt roads and/or upgrade other roads.

Because our roads are our second most valuable asset after the lake, it is important that we do everything we can to minimize possible damage and maximize their life. This is why we must start enforcing the rule that landowners keep their ditch lines clean.

It comes down to this: **Overgrown Ditch Lines + Water Erosion = Damaged Roads**. We can't afford to put money into the roads and then just have it washed away.

Please make sure the ditch lines and culverts are cleaned along your property. Please contact the office or one of the Road Committee members if you have any questions.



— Michael DeVita, WLLA Road Committee Chair

## Protecting Walker Lake

The Lake Committee hosted an informational meeting on October 26 with our engineer, Kiley Associates, to discuss the drawdown of Walker Lake. Over 25 people attended.

The outlet drawdown pipe under the dam was inspected in August and will need to be repaired. However, the pipe under the lake to the dam was not inspected. Kiley Associates is working on having a dive team inspect the pipe. If this is not successful, it will be necessary to lower the lake to inspect the pipe in 2020.

Kiley Associates discussed three options with regard to lakefront property owners removing sediment along their shorelines. These include:

1. Obtaining a dock permit for \$250 from the Pike County Conservation District that allows a property owner to remove sediment from an up-to 10 foot radius around their dock.
2. Obtaining a dredging permit from the PADEP with a waiver if the area of sediment removal is less than one acre. This could be helpful if several property owners apply for the permit together.
3. Obtaining a dredging permit to remove more than one acre of sediment. No waiver and would be a higher cost.

The Lake Committee will continue to work with Kiley Associates regarding a lake drawdown in 2020. We will keep the Walker Lake community informed of the plans.

The Lake Committee is updating the Walker Lake Dam Emergency Plan and this will require Kiley Associates' assistance in preparing an inundation map.

Finally, the Twin and Walker Creeks Watershed Conservancy will be hosting the Pocono Lake Ecological Observatory Network (PLEON) to share 2019 water quality results for Big Twin Lakes, Little Twin Lakes and Walker Lake on a Saturday next summer. They or we will keep you advised.

– Peter Wulforst, for the Lake Committee



Autumn Colors at Walker Lake – by Anthony LaRocco

**Walker Lake Dam Being Built 1952 – Courtesy of Kent Iverson**



## A Snowy Woodland...

“When I look back on my life of nearly three quarters of a century,” says Bob Fisher, whose family has had a home here at Walker Lake for 50 years, “it’s like looking out at a snowy woodland.

“What do you see? You don’t see all the little stones, twigs, tufts of moss, matted leaves. They’re all hidden under a blanket of white.

“What you do see are a few big shapes: a snow-covered boulder, its edges smoothed; a fallen tree looking like a magnified mole’s tunnel under the snow; a stone wall, straight as an arrow, whispering in white of the long-ago labor that had once made this woodland a field.

“So when I look back on my life, filled with days I won’t ever remember, filled with busyness, there really are only a few big moments that stand out.

“*Becoming an Eagle Scout*: More than any other part of my young life, more than church, even, scouting involved the building of what was my father’s favorite word (spelled as I can hear him saying it): “char-ach-ta.”

“*Sophomore Summer on the West Side of Chicago*: For a white boy from a white suburb, these weeks opened wide my eyes to the reality of life for so many African-Americans. Tearing down rotting neighborhood structures, scattering rats, watching from a fire escape as parts of the city burned in the worst rioting of its history, it was not a safe or pretty picture. But it bred in me a fraternal compassion for African-Americans that has lasted all of my life.

“*Backpacking Around the World Alone*: Unlike a roundtrip to Italy, a trip around the world that finished exactly where it started gave me an indelible sense of the planet as a whole, round entity, not unlike what I imagine astronauts get from space. From Taiwan and Japan, across Russia on the Trans-Siberian Railway, down to pre-war Afghanistan, sleeping on the grounds of Persepolis in Iran, Turkey, Greece, imagining myself among the trapped Israelites atop Masada, stops in France, and the UK and then home, I felt like a shoelace threading through eyelets of friendship that tie the whole together.

“*Running a Small Children’s Book Business – That Failed*: Having the privilege, thanks chiefly to my parents and good friend, to purchase a mail order distributor of excellent children’s books at a time when my own children were young was the best vocational experience of my life. We offered great books that conveyed knowledge, wisdom, adventure, imagination and values, were recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, and operated like a family, with employees so loyal they continued to work even when they couldn’t be paid.

“*Running the New York City Marathon on My 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday*: A lawyer I met on the street one day said, when I remarked about his fitness, that he’d run the NYC Marathon and that it “was the highlight of my life.” Not much of a life, I snidely figured. But then, to mark my 50th birthday, I myself chose to run the Marathon – and I finished in, as a friend sarcastically noted: two hours and 142 minutes. The experience underscored for me the inestimable values of individual perseverance and of community: the cheering, admiring crowds that lifted and carried us along.

“*Being Arrested at a Sit-In in Front of the White House Opposing the Keystone XL Pipeline*: I believe the single most threatening phenomenon facing humanity is global warming leading to climate chaos, and I’ve joined with others, financially and in the flesh, to call attention to it. But putting my well-being and personal record on the line by participating in an illegal sit-in and getting arrested for it was its own statement of the courage of my convictions.







"*The Birth of Grandchildren*: Three grandsons, the children of my son, Chris, and daughter, Carolyn, speak to me of the sound platforms those children of mine have built: good marriages, good homes, good jobs. My partner Kathleen's son, Oliver, is building his similarly as well. Nothing in life is assured, of course, but building a solid platform on which to express the best of one's talents and to raise the next generation is a great place to start.

"*Witnessing My Partner & Her Son Purchase an Island on the Coast of Maine*: How many of us actually realize one of our dreams? How many even allow ourselves to have dreams? Kathleen, for years, dreamed of owning an island along the far northeastern coast of Maine that was on the market and that has, from its sturdy, high ground cabin, a breathtaking view of neighboring islands and, beyond, the open Atlantic. When its asking price fell within reach, Kathleen, among several suitors, still had to convince its long-time owner, a forester and environmentalist, that she should be its steward for the next generation. She succeeded brilliantly, proving the truth of George Washington's observation that, 'Perseverance and spirit have done wonders in all ages.' Kathleen's realization of this dream is like that snow-covered boulder I see looming over there in that snowy woodland that is my recollected life.

"And what do you see in the snowy woodland of your life?" Bob asks.

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TO:

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### Walker Lakeshores Landowners Association Officers

*Interim* President: John Weber

*Interim* Vice President: Carol Reynolds

Treasurer: Carol Gillen

*Interim* Secretary: Janice DiMaio

Office Hours: Wednesday & Saturday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Office Assistant: Kathy Zimmermann

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