



# Deer Lake Watershed News

DEER LAKE — POPLAR LAKE — PICKEREL LAKE — BATTLE LAKE —  
FIVE ISLAND LAKE — MIRROR LAKE— AND MANY OTHERS

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## IN THIS ISSUE

### President's Corner

Pg 1

An early visit to

Evergreen Inn

Pg 2

5K Fun Run results

Pg 4

Some Memories of

Hideaway Inn

Pg 5

Season to Season

Pg 7

4th of July Flotilla results

Pg 8

Walleye slot limits survey

Pg 9

## President's Corner by Dennis Carlson

Here we are at the end of our busy 2014 watershed season, with winter, cold, and the Holiday season looming close ahead. This was a summer of late spring, high lake levels, nuisance beaver, and beaver dam problems. Volunteers got together to mitigate the problems with the old dams and high water on Deer Creek. A special thank you to Jim Kudloboj and Dan Galagher, and many others who helped tear out old dams and debris on Deer Creek throughout the summer. There also seemed to be endless problems on other major creeks that we were encumbered with on Popple, Lorraine, and Battle Creeks. We even had to tear out a dam seven times that was built under the walking bridge on Lorraine Creek that spans our property and Clarke's. Eight beaver were eventually trapped out this fall after season opened. High water and beaver problems seems to be the topic of the day for much of the summer!

Water and lake levels finally became normal again by late summer, except for Battle Lake, which remained high due to a large dam on the culvert at the outlet into Pickerel Lake. That will be taken care of this fall now after freeze-up.

A major project that our watershed association has been working on for at least eight years looks like it will become a reality. After writing grants and making numerous phone calls and e-mails, it looks

like we will have a new Rock-Arch Rapids Dam with fish passage constructed on Deer Creek! I will write a short article on this in this newsletter to explain it further.

A second large project that we've been waiting in the wings for is the logging of the old CCC Camp area so we can begin the clean-up, excavation and mapping of the historic campsite of the 1930's. These are two enormous breakthrough projects for our watershed association and it will be exciting to watch their progression.

As far as a summary of our association projects and functions for the summer all went well. Several, i.e. the Flotilla, and the 5K Fun Run, are reported on in this newsletter. Fishing seemed a little slower this summer with the late spring and high water. In my opinion, the panfish were way off schedule and not schooled up like normal. Also fewer 24 inch plus Northern were caught, and more larger Walleyes, especially in the spring and early summer. Late fall (Oct.) seemed to produce keeper Walleyes in a hot bite. Ducks and deer were about as poor as I've seen them and I find it hard to believe we are supposed to have the highest duck count since the mid- 1950's!

Anyway, I wouldn't trade our watershed for anywhere else! Have a healthy and safe holiday season and 2015!

Deer Lake Watershed Assn  
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