

Gearing up for 2019 season on Lake Mitchell

BY RICK CHARMOLI
CADILLAC NEWS

CADILLAC — It may not feel like we are headed toward summer with the cooler temperatures but those who live around and care for Lake Mitchell already have plans in place for 2019.

Recently, the Lake Mitchell Property Owner's Association and the Lake Mitchell Improvement Board met to discuss the recent survey results and discuss concerns of lake-shore as well as plans for the weed control program and assessment fees for the 2019 season.

LMIB Member Dave Foley said for the past several years the invasive species Eurasian watermilfoil has been one of the topics garnering the most attention from those who live in and around the lake. It seems, however, the invasive species is under control.

"As you can see the last several years we have found less Eurasian (water) milfoil and that has made our job easier. You are always afraid it will (morph) into a hybrid where the chemicals don't work," he said. "This happened several years ago."

When it was discovered the invasive plant had become a hybrid species, Foley said that meant the treatment had to change as well. After some trial and error, treatments once again were successful and now doses are changed or the chemical makeup is altered before the plant becomes immune to them.

As a result, Foley said less than 100 acres is scheduled for treatment this season. In 2013, he said roughly 400 acres had to be treated while 61 acres were



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treated in 2018.

Locally, algae blooms also have been an issue but Foley said it is not as big a problem on Lake Mitchell as it is on Lake Cadillac. He said Jennifer Jermalowicz-Jones, the professional watershed manager with Restorative Lake Sciences concluded it is due to the fact the water composition of Lake Mitchell is different than that of Lake Cadillac. RLS and Jermalowicz-Jones also advise the city of Cadillac regarding the management of Lake Cadillac.

That water composition was something that was discussed in the watershed study conducted by Jermalowicz-Jones, Foley said. The study assessed where most of the nutrients are coming from and entering Lake Mitchell

including from Mitchell Creek, Brandy Creek and Gyttja Creek.

Foley said the study showed there are no serious problems, which can be seen in its entirety by going to www.lakemitchell.org.

Besides Eurasian watermilfoil, Foley said another plant is getting attention. Purple loosestrife has been an ongoing problem and continues to be a problem in the Lake Mitchell area. Beetles have been stocked where loosestrife is growing in order to create a sustainable population around the lake that will manage its presence. Foley said while beetles were not stocked last season, they will be this year.

Roadside pickup of weeds also will return in 2019 and is scheduled to be-

gin May 15. The first week, the weed hauler will check around the entire lake one day and collect weeds. Once started, pick up will continue weekly through September.

Finally, and probably the most exciting news for those living or doing business around Lake Mitchell, assessment fees will be less. The assessment for front lot property owners will be \$50 while those with deeded access to the lake will pay a fee of \$25. Commercial property owners will pay \$100, Foley said.

"When you have less milfoil you don't have to spend as much money. We looked at the fund balance and it was \$400,000 so we're going to be spending more than we are bringing in."

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