### **WINTER 2023**

# Lake Límeríck Country Club Newsletter

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#### In This Issue:

- CAM Update
- Inn Committee
- LLCC Litter Patrol
- Greenbelts & Trails



# President's Message

Hello fellow members! It's already the end of 2022 and although I would like to say it went by quickly but, that's not really the case. It seems that the Board of Director's has been constantly in flux. In February, Brian Smith resigned and was replaced with Esther Springer-

Johannesen. Sheila Nokes resigned in July and was replaced by Mike Berni and then Connie Wong resigned and was replaced by Dean Dyson. In spite of all the changes, which included new Board members that were elected in March 2022 (Pat Paradise, Mandy Paradise) we have been tackling a lot of different topics. I want to just touch on a few of them:

Security is always on the top of our list. We have had a number of breakins and thefts within the community, and we are constantly looking at what we can do to put a stop to it. Whenever an incident occurs, please remember to always report it to the Mason County Sheriff's Office so there can be a record of it.

We have closed the Café on Wednesdays for the season. We will look to open it back up when golf starts back up in the Spring. The Restaurant is also closed on Wednesdays, but the Lounge will stay open with limited menu items, for the rest of the season. We will continue to monitor this as well.

We had a very successful 2022/2023 budget process, which involved a



Thank You Magpies for your service to the community.

number of open "budget sessions," where members attended, and the Board Members presented proposals and amendments that were both discussed and debated openly. We are also looking to close up the past fiscal year so that we can have an audit, as many members have been asking for this. More to come on that.

We are still looking to fill the LLCC Project Mgr. position. We have a number of projects that have to be worked on within the overall community, but we want to make sure that we get someone who has experience with both regulatory compliance issues and some sort of background in lake management/limnology. We are re-evaluating the job description and hope to be able to get this position filled and onboard soon. We have added to the office staff. We want to welcome Shauna Sharpes who is back full-time as our Accounting Manager and welcome Carianne Smith who has left the Café and is now our Member Services Representative. We are hoping that these additions relieve some of the pressures in the office and help get what we need accomplished.

We are all saddened to hear that Bonnie and Budd Morrow have left the community and are moving to Arizona. They will be missed for their many contributions. Also, too many of our members have passed away this past year. I don't want to list any of their names because I don't want to miss someone but, we are all saddened by this, and we will miss all of the knowledge and support they had provided over the years.

## John C. Ingemí, President

### Community Association Manager

We hope you are enjoying a joyous Holiday season with family and friends. The community is invited to join in celebrating the season with planned LLCC events. Saturday December 10 kicked off the Holiday season with a family event including children cookie decorating, Santa Claus and elves, tree lighting and caroling organized by the Inn and Youth Committees. The Inn dining room served a Special Holiday Halibut entrée dinner December 16 & 17 in addition to our regular menu. Members can also celebrate the season by reserving your New Year's Eve dinner table at the Inn restaurant. NYE dinner will have seating from 5-6:30 and 6:30-8pm. Email foh@lakelimerick.com or via Table Agent to make your reservation. Recapping significant 2022 events reminds us we live in a wonderful community with several events and assets to enjoy.





The annual Fishing Derby is organized by Lake Dam Parks Committee volunteers and held the forth Saturday of April kicking off the fishing season. This is a terrific family event including children and adult largest fish contests, raffle prizes, silent auction, a gift for every participating child plus breakfast and lunch sponsored by the Inn Committee.

Lake Limerick Daze is an Inn Committee sponsored event held on the first Saturday of July. This fun event starts early with a Ski Club Tournament, a Saint Andrews street parade, followed by a Corn Hole Tournament, plenty of Inn food and food truck options, beer and wine service including the Blarney Room with the day ending with live music on the patio.

End of Summer Bash is held on the first Saturday of September including many of the same July activities including lunch hot dogs and strawberry short cake served by Inn Committee volunteers. EOSB ends the day with live music enjoyed by a great community gathering including boaters. Food & beverage, music and dancing bring people together!

The Greens Committee and golf leagues sponsor numerous golf events and supporting tournaments. The committee plays an active role in promoting and maintaining one of the best golf courses in the county. The Pro Shop staff is managed by Mark and with staff coordinates summer golf lessons for children, women, and men. If you are new to golf or planning to tune up your game, signup and enjoy the new practice area developed on the third hole. Additionally the Pro Shop and Café are currently promoting the 12 days of Christmas with daily shopping events. If you are looking for stocking stuffers and great meals, be sure to stop by. The golf course is well managed by Superintendent Javi and staff. In partnership with the Pro Shop staff they have the goal - We strive to be the #1 in Mason County!

Food and beverage services are provided in the Inn dining room, Blarney room lounge, and Café managed by Chef Jon. The dining room in open Thursday – Sunday 5-8pm with monthly themed events including Trivia, Bingo and Open Mic including sports on TVs. Check the lakelimerick.com calendar for dates and times. The Blarney room is open Wednesday – Sunday 4pm with a limited Wednesday menu. Join us for the best bar around with Dale's drinks 5 days per week. The Café is also seasonally open Thursday – Sunday 7:30am-3pm serving great breakfast and lunch prepared by cook Brian.

Our lakes, dams, and parks are primary assets and the Lake Dam Parks Committee volunteers play a key role supporting the long term planning of these assets.

The Facilities maintenance department has an active role throughout our community, a territory of over 500 acres. The team is managed by Norm for maintaining HOA assets including greenbelts. Our 2 lakes, 3 dams and 7 parks are well maintained including the Inn, Pro Shop Café and Shop buildings. They provide maintenance and when necessary, contract services for our buildings heating/cooling, electrical, and plumbing.

Office Administration is open Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm at 360.426.3581 or mail@lakelimerick.com to assist your needs. The Office does a fantastic job with planning and completing community work. We pay our bills on time, remain current on licenses, permits and payments to county, state, and federal agencies, develop monthly financials, maintain general liability and medical insurance policies, support the Board and Committees, and create annual operations and capital budgets with Committee inputs for Board and HOA approval.

The LLCC Water department continues providing excellent water services combined with Office support. We strictly follow WA State Department of Health requirements ensuring safe water. Lake Limerick Water System is a primary asset and the Water Committee actively supports operations with budget oversite including capital projects. Customers are responsible for their internal plumbing including piping from the meter to the home. For Water issues on the supply side of the customer meter during business hours 9am – 5pm Monday – Friday, call the office 360.426.3581. After hours, Holidays and during weekends call 360.507.6258.

Our community has a long history of coming together, helping neighbors and supporting each other. Lake Limerick continues to progress with the support of your dedicated employees. We wish you all a joyous and Happy Holiday season.

### Roger Mílliman,

CAM, Lake Limerick Country Club



### <u>Inn Commíttee</u>

The Inn Committee hopes you have had a chance to take part in the many community events put on for our members during 2022. Monthly **Trivia** and **BINGO** continue to be popular and recently added **Open Mic Nights** have been a HUGE success! The Lake Dam Committee put on another successful **Fishing Derby** in April and the Inn Committee took charge of the food service. The annual **Community Garage Sale** was held in July. July also brought our annual **Lake Limerick Daze**, featuring a Street Parade, a Boat Parade, competitions, food, Kid's events and music.

Our **End of Summer Bash** in August included lots of fun games for all ages, food and drink (root beer floats and hot dogs), and music. A special nod to Holly Vopat-Steiner who provided fantastic kid's events this year! All of the above, along with multiple music events brought people together in the interest of fun and good fellowship, the cement of our community. Everyone in the community is invited to participate in these events and the income generated from the sale of food and drink covers most, if not all, of the costs.

This year a huge void was created when the Magpies disbanded. For those of you new to the community, the Magpies provided countless support and volunteer hours in all areas of LLCC. Additionally, they generously raised funds for the Restaurant / Lounge remodel and items needed in the kitchen – just to name a few. We cannot thank them enough for all they have done for the benefit of the Community over these many years. I would be remiss not to acknowledge the Inn Committee members who will not be with us next year – Bud and Bonnie Morrow who are moving to the warmth of Arizona

(they just could not say no, and we love them for it!). Sadly, we lost Sharon Corrigan and Dorothy Powter recently, both of whom displayed ongoing dedication to this community and the Inn Committee.

Our hat goes off to Chef Jon for determinedly tackling the job of navigating us through these challenging time of labor shortages and supply chain difficulties. We have had to raise menu pricing more than once this year because of inflationary food costs. We have a Chef who appreciates the LLCC membership and is willing to go the extra mile by continually tracking cost and building a menu the incorporates dishes with those items with a favorable price point. If you have not eaten at the Restaurant or Café recently, you will enjoy the food and service. Not many communities are as fortunate as ours and we ask for your continued support.

Speaking of your support, the Inn Committee needs additional members to continue providing the social activities we all enjoy. We meet at 9:30am on the second Saturday of each month in the Restaurant. If you are not able to join us on the Committee, we are always looking for volunteers to help on individual events. If you are willing to help from time to time, please email <u>mail@lakelimerick.com</u>. And don't forget, **it's all for fun!** 



Litter pickups will be scheduled quarterly, weather permitting. Main section is along Mason Lake Rd. between the two farthest Saint Andrews Drive entrances. To enable a more family-friendly event, those not comfortable picking up along Mason Lake Rd. are encouraged to "Adopt-Your-Block" on the same day.

Watch for Updates & Announcements at www.lakelimerick.com or email LLCC Adopt-A-Road Litter Patrol coordinator, Tamra Ingwaldson at llcc.vicepresident@hcc.net to receive updates via email.

## Paul Wagner, Commíttee Chaír



# <u>Greenbelts & Traíls Commíttee</u>

The Greenbelt & Trails Committee is a new committee this year. Its main purpose is to look at developing and maintaining the many greenbelt areas in Lake Limerick. This could mean new walking trails/paths, additional parks, beautification greenbelt areas including entrances, and work on ways to clean up and maintain greenbelt areas.

With these goals in mind, the committee has been working on several projects. First, thanks to Tamra Ingwaldson, Mason County has just approved Lake Limerick to set up an "Adopt-a-Road" litter pickup team. Once participants have been trained and equipped and of course when the weather allows, times to do the work will be set up to clean the litter from the Mason Lake Road between the farthest two entrances to Lake Limerick on that road. Other roads in Lake Limerick will be worked on also.

A presentation by Scott Steltsner from the Squaxin Island Tribe on November 5<sup>th</sup> at Anglia Beach Park about the salmon migration that comes up Cranberry Creek into Lake Limerick and on to Cranberry Lake at this time each year. The presentation was very informative and well attended by more than 60 people. It was recorded and should be available at the office soon if you want to view it. Thanks to Sue Klemp for organiz-ing this event.

The committee has also worked on a plan to beautify all the Lake Limerick entrances. The Board of Directors did not approve the project in this year's budget. Planning will continue.

The committee is working on creating new trails in the community. This is a project that could take some time. The committee has worked on maps that will show possible walks that can be taken on existing trails and lightly driven roads in the community in the mean time. These maps will be available soon.

The committee is looking at the possibility of creating a dog park. Several areas are being considered with several lots on Road to Tralee near the 6<sup>th</sup> green on the golf course being the most likely location. Another park in division IV is being looked at.

As you can see, the committee is working on a variety projects. Please consider joining us. We can always use more members and ideas. The committee meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month in the Crows nest at 6:00 PM.

### Dean Dyson, Committee Chair

# <u>Greens Commíttee</u>

Merry Christmas from your Greens Committee. We hope that you and your families are doing Well. This is a time when we reflect and look to the future.

The golf course had a good year. Revenues for 2021- 2022 were over \$335,000 and the Café brought in over \$112,000. We did this through the great effort of the staff, management, the Greens Committee and the Board.

Our staff is awesome. In the Pro-shop, Elen Gaschet de L'Isle has stepped down from Manager and Mark Hendricks is the new Manager. Elen will still be working for us part time this summer. Dave Morgan is still on staff, and we have hired Chuck Henricks. Mark is our only Full-time employee; the others work part time. From October to March, they work on as needed basis. Jason Howerton stepped down from Greens manager and Havier Martinez has been hired for the position. Havier and his staff have done a great job.

We have secured a 50-year easement with the US Navy for land on the golf course and the community.

We thank the Board and Roger Milliman for their leadership in approving the capital expenditures, which continue to improve the HOA owned golf course. We especially thank the members of Lake Limerick that voted to approve the budget expenditures. The revenues are up, the Golf course is in great shape and is a community asset.

Three examples of the golf course improving are:

1) Replacing 5 old, outdated golf carts with 5, 2017 golf carts. This is after we sold 5 of the old carts, to offset the cost.

2) The pro-shop staff and volunteers hosted a tournament which raised over \$10,000 to improve tee boxes. Some tee boxes are already complete, and others are in the process of being done. This defers the cost from the HOA.

3) A new practice area is opening this spring, to help you learn to enjoy the game. If you haven't played for a while or ever, 2023 would be a great time for you to start. See the Pro- shop for group or Private lessons. This area was done under budget.

Our 2022- 2023 Annual Golf pass is going up for sale soon. See the Pro-shop for details.

Thank you one and all. The Lake Limerick community has a great Golf course. We are always looking for ways to save money, improve the golf course and raise more revenue. Come out and enjoy the golf course and cafe. They are open to everyone.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Greens Committee and Staff.

Vern Duggan, Greens Committee Chairman

### Vern Duggan, Committee Chair

Page 5

# <u> Lake/Dam Commíttee</u>

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN (Teddy Lovgren)

We experienced another beautiful Summer/Fall for the

LLCC community to enjoy. As we move into the Winter months it's time to make sure we are ready for the cold wet weather so be sure your gutters are clear of debris and outside water faucets are protected. Everyone on the lakes should ensure your docks and floats are secure, and that your paddleboards, paddleboarts, kayaks, canoes, and floats won't blow away in a storm. You should make sure items are marked with your Division and Lot Number—we have a few stray boats, canoes, kayaks, etc. wandering the lakes every winter.

The Lake/Dam (LD) Committee is responsible for supporting our lakes, dams, and parks, recommending usage rules, monitoring maintenance, and planning and supporting long term improvements.

This year we completed several priority projects and supported on-going initiatives including:

- 1. Planning and executing the Spring 2022 Fishing Derby
- 2. Updating and installing new park signage
- 3. Successfully demonstrating the operability of our emergency water release valve on the Lake Limerick Dam
- 4. Recruiting summer Park Hosts (more needed for next year)
- 5. Conducting periodic park walk-throughs to address safety and maintenance needs
- 6. Establishing two new teams to focus on Park Improvements and Long-Term Lake Health

7. Re-establishing Water Quality Measurements in both Lakes for total Phosphorus and Nitrogen concentrations to support actions for ensuring long-term lake health and proper weed management

Continuing automated data capture of Lake Limerick levels and temperatures for future lake management needs. A Big Thank You to LLCC Facilities Maintenance Team, Norm and Gerado, for great park maintenance all summer/fall and supporting our LD Work Order requests. Lastly, on a more serious note, please keep an eye out and report suspicious activity at our parks. Recurring vandalism is a costly issue to address and reduces everyone's enjoyment of our parks

#### LAKE LEVEL MANAGEMENT --CHALLENGES AND SUCCESSES, DRAIN VALVE TESTING

#### (Roger Milliman, Community Association Manager ((CAM))

Lake Limerick has invested in lake level data loggers on Lake Limerick which automatically and continuously record lake surface levels. This upgrade has eliminated personnel having to manually read and record spillway gauges at the dam. In addition to lake height, we also record surface level water temperature and barometric pressure. This establishes lake levels reference data that can be used to judge the effectiveness of improvement projects like the dredging project carried out several years ago, as well as information that can be valuable in making decisions about future projects. In addition, this information has enabled Lake Limerick this fall to fine tune the timing of weir board removal. Due to low rainfall, we delayed lowering Lake Limerick ensuring migrating salmon had sufficient water levels in the fish ladder and water flow down the spillway.

This year we successfully tested opening and closing the emergency drain valve at the Limerick dam. This drain valve can be used to more quickly lower water levels behind the dam in an emergency. Periodic testing is one of a series of requirements of our operator's license with the WA State Department of Ecology Dam Safety Office. The original pipe was installed during the dam's construction to allow continuous stream flow. The pipe was redesigned in 1994 with a new valve that continues to function 30 years later.

Our 7 parks are major community assets and enjoyed by many members. With the support of the Committee, our Facilities Department, and the golf course Greens crew, we maintain the park grounds, beaches, boat launches, docks, swim areas, bathrooms and signage. The Parks are fully maintained starting with the annual April Fishing Derby through October 31 each year.

The Tipperary Park bathroom was vandalized in August. Toilet and sink fixtures were destroyed in both women's and men's rooms, resulting in a \$3,000 unnecessary expense to community members. An MCSO report was filed, but the culprits have not been identified. If you see vandalism at community property, report it to the office (360) 426-3581.

#### LLCC PARK HOSTS WANTED (Dave Kohler)

LLCC had Park Hosts in three of our parks last summer. We really appreciated the hosts' support in providing some muchneeded guidance to members and guests. We anticipate needing a couple of new park hosts in 2023, so if you know anyone who may be interested, please reach out to the office. Park Hosts are needed from May 15 until Sept. 15. Our hosts are on duty from mid-day to dusk on Fridays, Saturday and Sundays and are there to ensure park visitors know and follow the rules. Benefits include space in a lovely, wooded setting with power, water, septic, and local phone service available, and access to other club amenities including the tennis/pickle ball courts, golf course, and restaurants. For further information on host duties and an application form, see the Lake Limerick Country Club website: <u>http://lakelimerick.com/parkhost</u> or send an email to the attention of the Lake/Dam Committee at: <u>mail@lakelimerick.com</u>

#### CRAPPY SUBJECT, BUT DO YOU KNOW ... (Joel Gray)

Whether you live on either of our lakes or not, the nitrogen and phosphorus from your septic system effluent ends up in either Lake Leprechaun, Lake Limerick, or Cranberry Creek and ultimately Puget Sound. This is becoming a big problem as more people now call Lake Limerick Community "home".

The increased nutrients entering the lake via ground water fertilizes and stimulates plant growth. During the wet soil season, those nutrients can be moved into the lake. Depending on many variables (amount of rain, amount of vegetation between your drain field and ground water table leading to the lakes, etc.) the result is a lot of algae and aquatic plant growth each year.

Additionally, by not maintaining your septic system on a regular basis, additional nutrients in the form of organic-nitrogen, ammonia-nitrogen, nitrate and nitrite-nitrogen, will move into the lake where they fertilize the lakes' aquatic plants and remove oxygen from the water.

While LLCC treats the lake to counteract plant growth, we are getting to the point where we may not be able to keep up.

Increased plant growth = increased "bio muck" on the lake bottom (filling in the lake) and increases algae production (reducing water quality) = increased need for vegetation removal/dredging = increased costs to maintain our community asset = increased HOA dues.

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED**! Ensure you comply with Mason County's Public Health requirements to maintain your septic system and perform regular septic tank pumping. This will help reduce the chemicals entering our lakes and help reduce the need for increased treatments so all of us can enjoy everything our lakes have to offer!

Septic Maintenance Requirements are located at: https://masoncountywa.gov/health/environmental/onsite/oss-maintenance.php.

Septic pumpers are listed at: https://masoncountywa.gov/forms/Env Health/pumpers.pdf

As a heads-up for Spring, start looking at the landscaping and the fertilizers you may be using. If you live on the lakes and streams, you should not maintain fertilized landscaping close to the lake and stream banks to prevent irrigation and rainwater runoff introducing fertilizers into the lakes and streams. Even if you don't live near the lakes and streams, irrigation and stormwater runoff can still be carried by drainage ditches into the lakes. We will be sending out a flyer with more information on how you can reduce nutrients from landscaping fertilizers from stimulating algae and aquatic plant growth.

### LLCC FISHING DERBY (Dennis Muretta)

Upwards of 260 members, family and friends enjoyed our annual spring Fishing Derby, held on the last Saturday in April. For the first time in a while, the weather also cooperated and we had a nice day. As usual, a lot of big trout were caught and entered into the contest. The winning fish in the adult category was 6lbs 9oz, caught by Marlene Anderson. Dexter Johnson's 5lbs 1oz fish won the children's category. We were also very fortunate this year in receiving generous donations from both LLCC members and local businesses. A great big shout-out to Bill McDonald and Rich Hamilton whose donations allowed us to provide a tackle box to every child who participated. Other donations supported our raffle drawing and silent auction with a lot of great prizes and local crafts. Income from ticket sales, raffle drawing and the silent auction covered all derby expenses and we realized a profit of \$2600. These funds were used for a fall fish plant and the remainder deposited in the LLCC general fund for use in other community projects.

LLCC PARKS SURVEY (Dennis Muretta)

In late summer, we released a member survey requesting community thoughts and recommendations on our various community parks. LLCC is blessed to have 7 individual parks for the use and enjoyment of our membership. Our goal is to keep these parks in good condition and expand their use consistent with the interests of the community.

The survey focused on three areas; 1) park operations; 2) park usage and features; and 3) general comments and recommendations. We received excellent survey input from the community. The key messages received were: 1) the majority of members are largely satisfied with park utility, cleanliness, accessibility and hours of operation; and 2) the biggest concerns expressed were on overall restroom cleanliness and general park safety. Several also commented they would like: 1) at least one park bathroom open year around (for walkers in particular); 2) an off-leash dog area; 3) Inn Island bank repair to provide better lake access; and 4) added gazebos and children's play toys.

Survey results provided input to the recently adopted Association budget plan (Oct 2022 thru Sept 2023). Several items were subsequently approved for funding, including: 1) initiating planning to repair the Inn Island; 2) reroofing all park restrooms and outbuildings; 3) upgrading the Banbury park restroom for year-around usage and as a model for all parks; 4) replacing all restroom doors with steel doors/frames including cypher locks; and 5) increasing security during the summer months. We are also working with the Greenbelt committee to determine feasibility of an LLCC dog park/off-leash area.

Thank you for responding to our survey and please know we take your concerns and recommendations seriously. Progress on approved items will be provided in future newsletters.

### HOW OUR PARKS FAIRED THIS SUMMER (Maureen and Steve Glenn)

All 7 of our parks were well maintained and well used over our extended summer weather. Our hats off, and kudos to, Norm and Geraldo of our Facilities and Maintenance team and to Roger, our CAM, that do an outstanding job to maintain our Parks!

Unfortunately, we had several incidents of serious and costly vandalism at a couple of our Parks, (Way to Tipperary and Olde Lyme) which is a huge disappointment. Please remember--if you see something, say something. Log Toy Park had several large dangerous trees taken down recently for the safety of our members and guests. Our Parks were "winterized" at the end of October but are still "open" to be enjoyed by our members.

### LAKE AND PARK PROJECTS BUDGETED FOR FY 2023 (Teddy Lovgren)

\$14,000 Cranberry Creek "stream walk" to assess erosion and soft sediment impact to Lake Limerick to determine and support future lake improvement projects.

\$10,000 Bathymetric Survey of Cranberry/Kings Coves to measure depth and sediment accumulation (plan to expand to the entire lake) to support study and determine future lake improvement projects.

\$5,400 Inn Island Bridge Upgrade/Rebuild (Phase 1 Feasibility) - determine the best option for repair of the shoreline erosion and obtain the necessary permits and award contract(s).

\$12,000 Upgrade all Park Bathrooms (and park storage buildings) with steel doors and cypher locks to reduce vandalism at our parks.

In addition, the following projects are being evaluated for potential supplemental funding during FY2023.

Lake Leprechaun Dredging: Phase 1 of this project was previously funded and initiated. The initial core samples taken during the October 2021 survey were not conclusive to the impact of soft sediment. Another survey conducted in September 2022 obtained an additional sample and observation that soft sediment accumulation is limited to a couple areas. We are awaiting a final recommendation from our Limnologists, Lake Advocates as to the targeted areas for dredging to develop the cost and schedule for the next phase.

Bird Sanctuary Dredging: The islands in the Bird Sanctuary once separated are growing together. Increased invasive plant growth including Water Lilies, Yellow Iris, Cat Tails, etc. have encouraged additional sedimentation along the shoreline of these islands and is shrinking channel width between the islands as well as the mainland. Additionally, homeowner shorelines are experiencing an increase in filamentous algae growth. Lake-Dam is proposing conducting a bathymetric survey, obtaining core samples for analysis and developing a dredging plan (cost and schedule) based on results (Phase 1). Future tasks (Phases) would include permitting, removal of invasive plant growth and physical dredging.

### LASTLY, AND SADLY

The Lake/Dam Committee, along with the rest of the Lake Limerick Community, is mourning the passing of Dorothy Powter. Dorothy was a long-time member of the Lake/Dam Committee. She was a tireless, sincerely passionate, and definitely out-spoken supporter and advocate for the Lake Limerick Community, the Lake Dam Committee and our parks and lakes. She will be missed. Rest well, Dorothy.