

# Indian Lake Community Newsletter

SPRING  
2017

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## Coming Attractions

### ILA Annual Meeting: Saturday, July 1, 9:00 a.m.

Meeting will be held in the firehouse meeting room across the parking lot from the Town hall.

### Annual pontoon party and BBQ: Saturday, July 22.

Details to follow via email.

### ILA Fall Meeting: Saturday, September 2.

Details to follow via email.



## Indian Lake Association

The purpose of *Indian Lake Association, Inc.* (chartered in 2005) is to preserve and protect Indian Lake and its surroundings and to enhance the water quality, fishery, boating safety, and aesthetic values of Indian Lake as a public recreational facility for today and for future generations.

Website: [www.IndianLakeAssociation.com](http://www.IndianLakeAssociation.com)

(If we protect and preserve our lake, we will enjoy it more, and we will protect and preserve the values of our properties.)

**Reminder: Dues for the Indian Lake Association are \$20.00 for the 2017-18 fiscal year. Mail dues to:**

*ILA Treasurer  
P.O. Box 1801  
Eagle River, WI 54521*

**(See Membership Form on the last page.)**



## A Message from Indian Lake Association President Joe Smogor

It has been a slow, and sometimes frustrating transition from the time of ice off to the summer season, but we have made it. The water temperature on the lake is now over 70 degrees, and the mosquitoes are out and they are hungry. We had record rainfall amounts in April and early May, along with many days of strong winds and fluctuating temperature changes. The lake level is higher than normal for this time of year, but it is slowly receding. In many ways I guess it was a typical spring here in the Northwoods, but I am ready for the long and lazy days of the summer season.

The warmer temperatures and longer daylight hours will naturally bring more recreational boaters to the lake. We will see more pontoons, fishing boats, ski boats, personal watercraft (PWC), canoes, kayaks, and SUPs (stand up paddleboards) on the water. It is important that we all share the water responsibly, and that we all follow the Wisconsin boating regulations. We want everyone who lives on the lake or who uses the lake to have a safe and positive experience. With the high lake levels, excessive boat wakes can cause damage/erosion to the shoreline and piers. The following boating regulations are from the DNR handbook, and serve as a reminder to all who operate vessels on the lake. Please remember to follow these regulations when boating.

It is illegal to:

*-Operate a vessel repeatedly in a circuitous manner within 200 feet of another vessel or person in the water.*

*-Operate a vessel within 100 feet of the shoreline, any dock, raft, pier, or restricted area on any lake at greater than “slow, no wake speed.”*

*-Operate a vessel at greater than “slow, no wake speed” within 100 feet of a swimmer, unless the vessel is assisting the swimmer.*

*-Operate a motorboat, other than a PWC, at a speed in excess of “slow, no wake speed” within 100 feet of the shoreline of any lake.*

Wisconsin's Waters Belong to Everyone. Wisconsin lakes and rivers are public resources, owned in common by all Wisconsin citizens under the state's Public Trust Doctrine. We all need to remember to use common sense while operating a vessel on the water. See you on the lake.



## Indian Lake: Possible Zoning Change

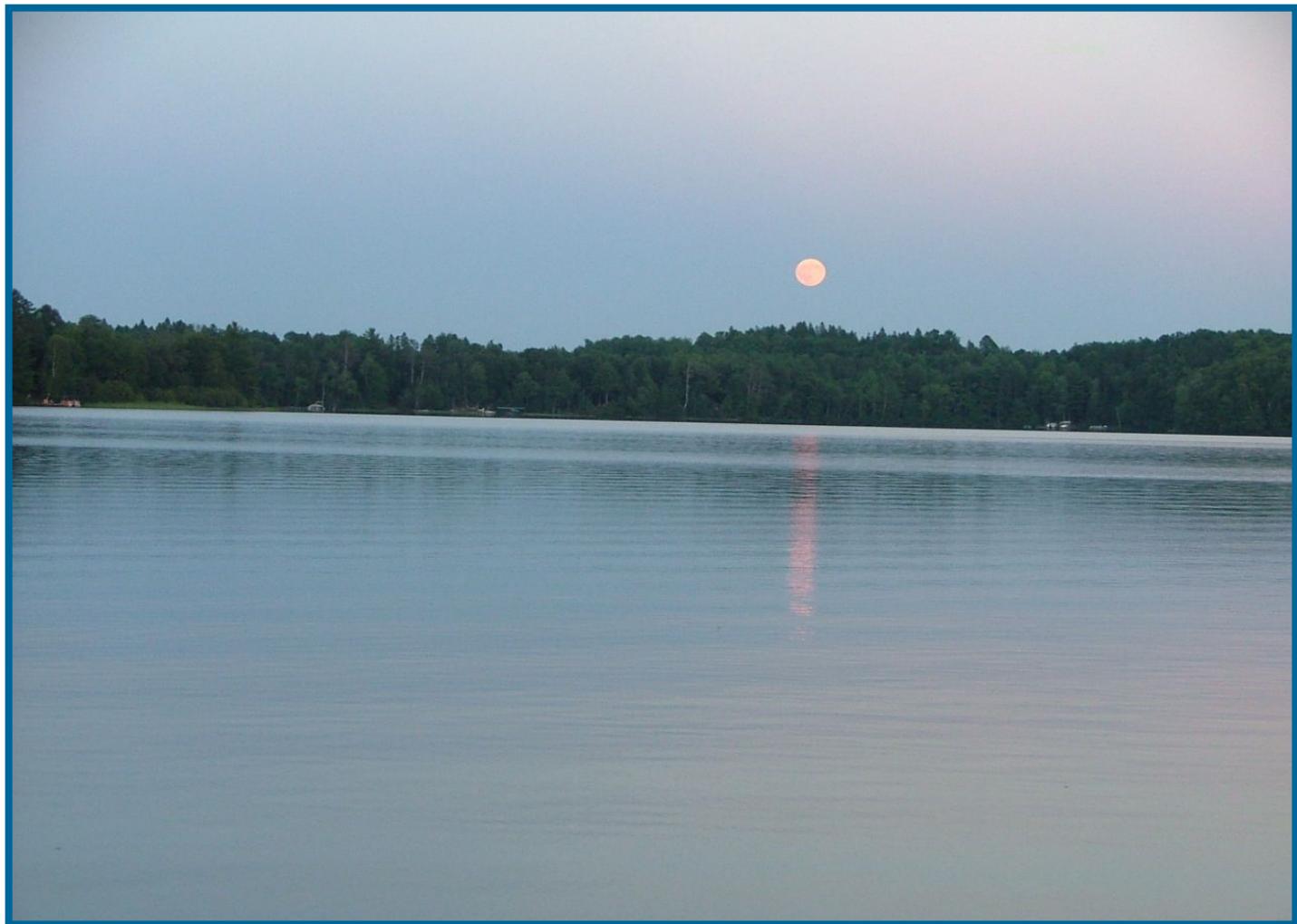
By Roger Ziff (based on summaries by Kathy Noel)

Since 1987, the properties around Indian Lake have been zoned “D-2”, which means “Single Family Residential.” This zoning status protects our lake by prohibiting most business establishments and multi-resident dwellings from locating on Indian Lake.

However, due to recent law changes at the State level, Indian Lake zoning may change.

For the latest information on this issue, please monitor emails from the Indian Lake Association and check the Indian Lake Association website.

This is a significant issue that could eventually impact our enjoyment of Indian Lake and our property values.



## Update...High Speed Internet Service for Sugar Camp

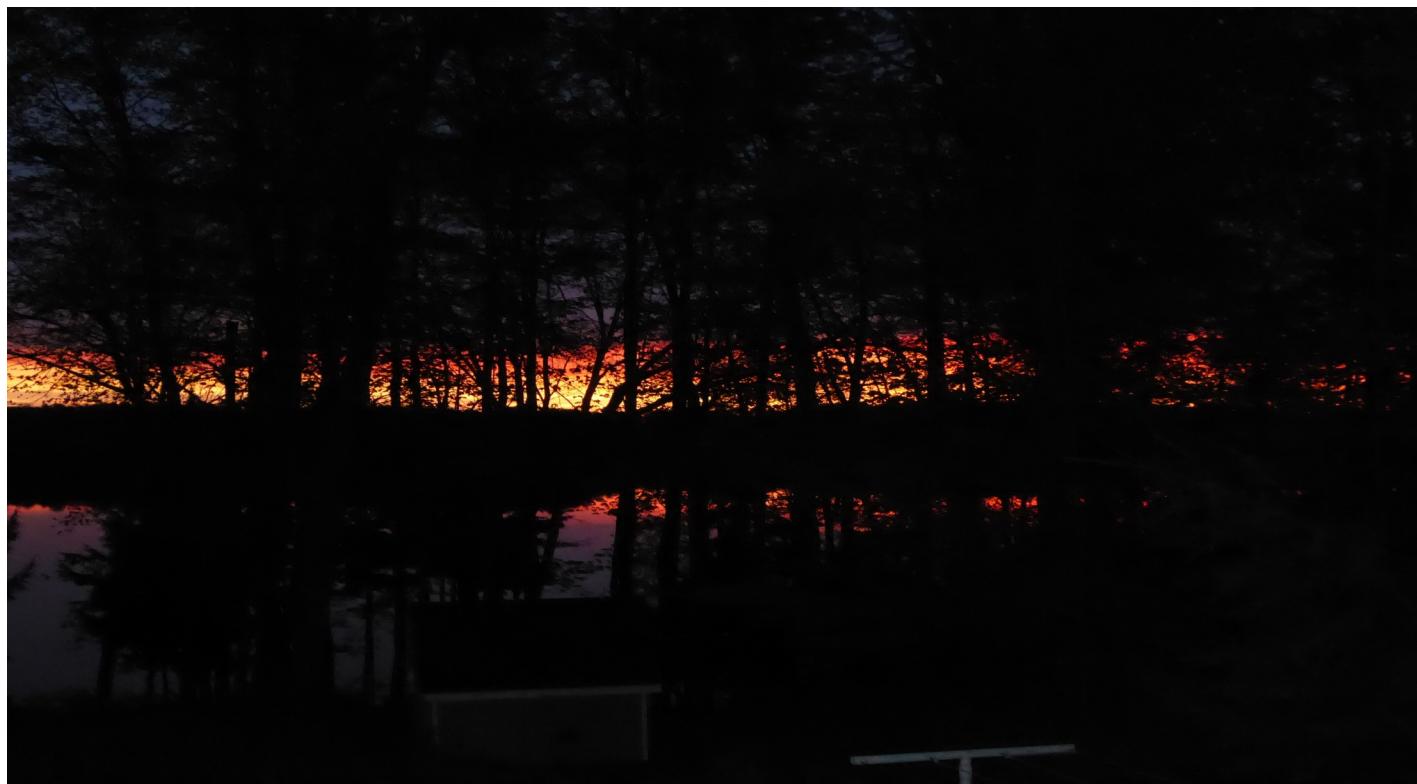
By Dave Noel

Yes..yes..I realize that in every issue I've said, it's coming...it's coming! The guys at *Northwoods Connect* advise that the early spring weather, especially the heavy rains have hampered the installation of the tower expected to serve Indian Lake. But, it's been erected, and I understand they are now installing new internet customers. If you haven't already, contact *Northwoods Connect* with questions and/or to sign-up for their new service. [www.northwoodsconnect.com](http://www.northwoodsconnect.com)

As I've mentioned in previous articles, the towers and associated gear for the Oneida County Broadband system are partially funded by the State through a rural broadband grant. Matching funds for our tower in North Sugar Camp were provided by the Town of Sugar Camp and Pitlik & Wick, and the tower location was donated by Sowinski Farms. Be sure and thank Scott Holewinski, Brian Pitlik, and Paul Sowinski when you see them around town.

A number of neighbors have asked me how this new wireless internet service would work in their home. The technology, which is often referred to as "fixed wireless" broadband service, incorporates a specialized radio and antenna located on a nearby tower, which transmits to, and is received by a small (6") antenna typically installed on a mast on or near your roof. The effective range for each tower in the northwoods is approximately 4-5 miles. A coax cable brings the signal into your house to a special receiver box, which is connected to your Internet router. *Northwoods Connect* owns and operates the service, which includes the antenna, receiver box, and all necessary installation.

As I have mentioned in the past, I have no business affiliation with the *Northwoods Connect*, other than serving as a volunteer on a county economic development committee with the goal of assisting in the development of a county-wide high-speed internet service.



Sunrise

## The Day the Tower Came Down: June 13, 2017

By Dave Noel

What can I say...the iconic Indian Lake Fire Tower is gone! Erected in 1936, the tower stood the test of time and hundreds of kids, families, and storms for over 80 years. I first climbed the tower when I was 16 and a visitor to the nearby Tower Ranch girl's camp while visiting my sister, who was a camper. It was a traditional rite of passage for the campers to steel their nerve and climb the tower each summer. The tower has seen its share of visitors from the nearby community, runners trying to get a workout by running the steps, and of course there's those late night teenage parties. It's even recorded as a national Geocache location. So many stories....

The Department of Natural Resources decided to decommission their fire towers a year and a half ago - but who thought it would really happen? The Indian Lake tower was sold immediately, and evidently was one of the first to be removed. Purchased by the LaVenture family of New Richmond, WI for \$130, they plan to re-erect it on their family property in New Richmond, and expect it to last another 80 years. It goes without saying that they benefited from the fact that the family owns a large crane and rigging company. It was interesting to note that the LaVenture family chose this tower over the other 72 towers that the DNR listed for sale because of the stairs. Evidently most of the DNR towers have somewhat scary ladders for reaching the look-out cabin.

Third generation crane operators and riggers, the LaVenture brothers made the 2-day removal and loading process look fairly effortless. After rigging the top of the tower to their 200' crane boom, they unbolted the top 2/3 of the structure and then slowly lifted the entire 12,000 pound section off and set it upright in the middle of the road. Then, after some calculated re-rigging, they slowly lowered the entire 100' section down and onto a flatbed truck for transport back to New Richmond. The lower section was then marked, disassembled, and the various beams and cross members were loaded onto the same truck for transport to its new home. Their plan is to reassemble the lower section exactly as the original tower, and then use the crane to reattach the top section.

We all remember stories and pictures taken from the top of the fire tower, but it will take a long time for that hole left in the Indian Lake skyline to be filled-in.



## Volunteers Needed for Clean Boats, Clean Waters

By Joe Smogor

Another open water season has arrived, and once again volunteers from the Indian Lake community are checking boats at the landing to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. The Clean Boats, Clean Waters program depends on volunteers who are willing to sit at the boat landing and inspect boats that are entering and leaving. We had good coverage over the Memorial Day holiday, and will have people inspecting boats on June 9-11, July 1-4, and September 2-4.

We still need more volunteers who are willing to do this important work. It is not difficult, and it is a great way to meet new neighbors or other people who use the boat ramp on our lake.

If you want to become a member of this important team please contact Joe Smogor at 715-272-2030.

Additional information about the program can be found at <https://www.uwsp.edu/cnrap/UWEXLakes/Pages/programs/cbcw/default.aspx>



## Spring Clean Up

By Kathy Noel

The Annual Sugar Camp Clean Up was held this year on Saturday, April 29. This is one of the events that the Moon-dance supports with a pot luck lunch and an evening of live music. Thanks to all Indian Lake residents who adopted stretches of highway and local roads to tidy up this year. And thanks to Brad and Gloria for organizing this event!

My area is the Indian Lake shoreline. I paddle around our lake each year, before the plants on our shores leaf out, to pick up the trash. In past years, cans and bottles have made up the bulk of the refuse around the lake. This year there was not much of that – a good thing. What I noticed was a lot of plastic – plastic bags, plastic container tops and plastic 6 pack holders. Shortly after the clean up, this picture came my way. Please keep track of plastics on your boats – especially on our frequent windy days!



## CHILI ON THE ICE 2017

By Joe Smogor

On February 19 there were 10 hearty lake residents who ventured out on the lake ice in bright sunshine and mild 55F temperatures to participate in the annual ILA Chili On Ice gathering. It was a beautiful day where sunscreen was needed more than hats and gloves. The gathering took place between the islands, just west of the boat landing. The ice was still thick enough to support the weight of the cars and trucks. After a couple hours of good food, conversation, and a small campfire that was really not needed, the satisfied group wrapped it up and moved back to solid terra firma. Thanks again to everyone who participated, and to Greg and Dawn Bujalski, who provided the chili for the group.



## **5 North Woods Favorites**

By Roger Ziff

Continuing our feature of lists of five favorite places to go "Up North" (not counting going out on Indian Lake or sitting in the back yard), we have the following new submittal from Kathy Noel:

- (1) Flea Market, Mondays in St. Germain.
- (2) Wolfpack Café in St. Germain, especially breakfast.
- (3) Science on Tap: first Wednesday of the month at Minocqua Brewing Company ([www.ScienceOnTapMinocqua.org](http://www.ScienceOnTapMinocqua.org))
- (4) Berry picking in our local woods and bogs. All welcome to come tromp in Tower Nibiwaan (along Arbutus Dr).
- (5) Various canoe/kayak day trips on local lakes and rivers:
  - (a) Stretches of the Wisconsin River:

A lot of people put in at Rummels Road, North of Conover, and take out at Hwy K or G, in Eagle River.

We often put in at Otter Rapids Dam, 15 minutes from Sugar Camp on Cloverland Road South of Hwy. 70, west of Eagle River. Options for taking out: (i) Sunny Lake Road Landing on Hwy. 70; (ii) Sportsman's Chalet. There is a sign on the river and a drivable road from the spartan pier to the tavern; (iii) Bridge at County Hwy. O; (iv) Rainbow Flowage Bridge. This would be a very long day!

- (b) The Sugar Camp Chain:

Put in on Chain Lake at the Town owned Landing on County Hwy "D". It is located between fire numbers 7942 and 7990. Paddle south into the thoroughfare between Chain and Echo Lake. Paddle south and then west into Echo. Continue southwest through Echo and into Stone Lake.

As you come into Stone Lake, there is public land on the left with a nice campsite/lunch spot. Stone Lake is named for the enormous rock in the middle that you can stand on if the water lever is right. It is marked by a buoy.

When you are ready to go on into Sand Lake, follow the northwest shoreline, the shore on the right as you enter the lake. The thoroughfare into Sand Lake can be tricky to find but you wont miss it if you follow that shore. This is a very long thoroughfare!

Sand Lake is the biggest of the lakes. It can be tough to paddle in the wind. You will head directly across the lake to the bridge and Pitlik's Resort, but if its windy you may want to hug the left (north) shore.

The last lake on the chain is Dam Lake. We used to **take out** at Knocker's Restaurant there. Now, it may be best to take out at the landing on Hwy. D before the culvert entering Dam Lake.

Sugar Camp Creek flows out of the north side of Dam Lake into the Wisconsin River. We have never tried that but it may now be possible since the water is so high this year. In that case, the logical take out would be at Hwy O.

**BOAT TRAFFIC ON THE CHAIN HAS INCREASED OVER THE YEARS. WE SUGGEST THAT YOU CHOOSE A WEEK DAY FOR THIS OUTING.**

## Did You Know Lake Foam can be a Natural Occurrence?

By Kirsten James, UWSP graduate (from *Lake Tides*, Vol. 41, No. 3)

Lake foam occurs naturally when organic compounds, such as plant and animal matter, decompose and are released into the water. This organic content contains surfactants, which are compounds that lessen the surface tension of the water. When these surfactants are rapidly mixed with the air, by wind, wave action, water flowing over a dam, or turbulent rapids, they will create foam in the water. This foam can build up and collect in coves and downstream, but naturally-occurring lake foam will subside and settle relatively quickly.

Lake foam is most common in eutrophic lakes (see definition below) that are dark brown in color. These lakes typically have high organic content from decomposing leaves and the presence of many plants and animals. You will see more lake foam in the late fall due to the release of organic compounds at the end of our growing season.

Beginning in the late 1950s, synthetic laundry detergents containing surfactants made their way into waterbodies and caused massive foam production and buildup. These detergents and other soaps were chemically non-biodegradable, so they hung around for a long time. Phosphorus in these detergents also created biological overproduction – similar to the phosphorus-related problems we still see today. After conflict over the issue in the early years of environmental protection, the industry now produces household products that are much safer for our waterbodies. The sudsing agent of all detergents now on the market must be biodegradable. This effort, combined with advances in water treatment, regulation, and education, has significantly decreased the amount of lake foam from pollution.

### Is it natural or not?

Natural foam has an earthy or fishy aroma, is off-white, tan, or brown in color, and is common in rainy or windy conditions. Foam from pollution will likely smell of perfume, be whiter in color, slimy to the touch, and will not travel very far.

A **eutrophic** body of water, commonly a lake or pond, has high biological productivity. Due to excessive nutrients, especially nitrogen and phosphorus, these water bodies are able to support an abundance of aquatic plants. Usually, the water body will be dominated either by aquatic plants or algae.

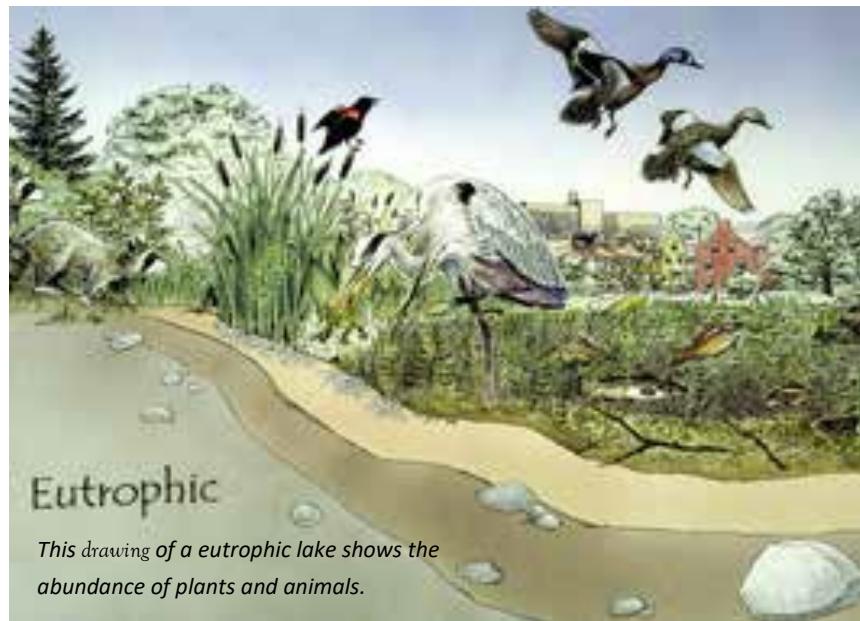


Illustration by Carol Watkins

## In Memory of Indian Lake Friends

Frank Kakel

March 21, 1915 - March 30, 2017

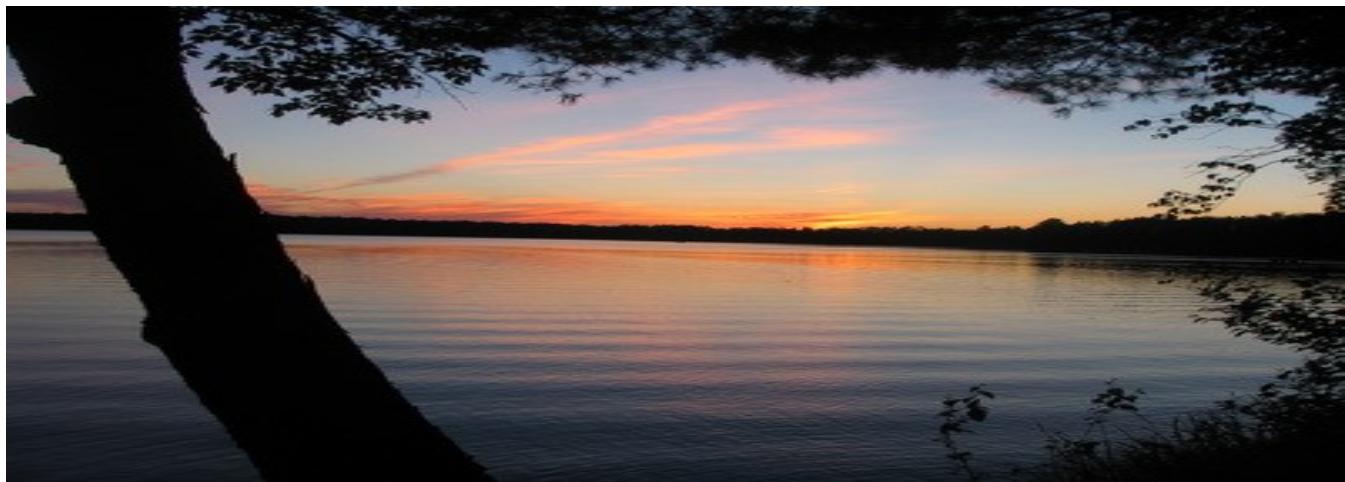
Frank Kakel passed away peacefully at his home in Sugar Camp, Wisconsin, on March 30 at the age of 102. Loving father of the late Włodzimierz.

He is survived by his wife, Leokadia; daughter Elizabeth (Edward) Kurzeja; grandchildren Rene Kurzeja Moran, Edward (Amanda) Kurzeja, and Julie (Jeremy) Boldt; great-grandchildren Alexander, Evan, Anthony, and Henry; and many more loved ones.



Born in Dolna Brodnica, Poland, on March 21, 1915, Frank was a Polish Army veteran and prisoner of war, Stalag VI/ D of the Second World War. After immigrating to Chicago, Frank began working for Motorola as a technician. Frank and Leokadia retired to Sugar Camp in 1997, where they spent many years living on the peaceful shores of Indian Lake.

Frank enjoyed fishing and spending time with family. He was a gifted linguist and spoke several languages, including Polish, English, German, and Latin. A skilled musician, he enjoyed playing his mandolin, listening to music, and dancing. Frank brought the joy of music and laughter to his family and friends. He will be missed forever.



## In Memory of Indian Lake Friends

Richard "Ric" Wollak

June 20, 1926–March 23, 2017

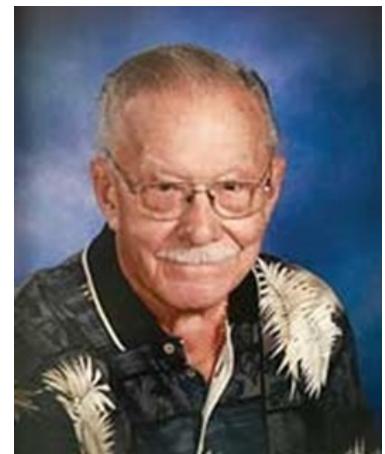
Richard "Ric" Wollak died peacefully in Bonita Springs, Florida on March 23, 2017 at the age of 90.

Ric is survived by his sons Doug (wife Sheila currently residing in Eau Claire), Steve (wife Cindy, currently residing in Elm Grove) and Chris (wife Kerry currently residing in Madison); grandchildren Tim, Hailley, Nick, Cole, Katie, Marissa and Marcus. He was preceded in death by his wife Arleen. Ric and Arleen were married for almost 60 years.

Ric was born on June 20, 1926 in St Cloud, Minnesota, to Rose and Tony Wollak. After graduating from high school, Ric served in the U.S. Navy as a gunner's mate on two LSTs (Landing Ship, tank). After his service, Ric found a position with Texaco. He worked in a variety of locations, but the bulk of his work life was in South Milwaukee, where he and Arleen raised their sons.

Upon his retirement, he and Arleen built a home on Indian Lake in Sugar Camp, in 1987. Ric and Arleen loved their home on the lake and spent many evenings watching the sunset on their pier. Lake life included many fond memories of watching their sons and grandchildren enjoying fishing, swimming, touring the lake on their pontoon, sledding, ice skating, and beach front campfires. During this time they purchased a home in Estero, Florida where they spent their winters. After Arleen's death in 2007, Ric continued to live in Sugar Camp and spend winters in Estero. In 2014, Ric was able to be a part of Mission #17 of the Wausau Chapter of the Honor Flight Network. He shared that it was one of the highlights of his life. Ric sold the home in Sugar Camp in 2015, and moved permanently to Estero until his passing.

Ric loved life, was consistently optimistic, didn't meet a person he wasn't comfortable striking up a conversation with, and was exceptionally proud of his grandchildren. He will be missed.



## Joe Smogor Honored

In April 2017, Indian Lake Association President Joe Smogor, received his second recognition from Wisconsin Lakes Partnership for 10 years of monitoring water clarity on Indian Lake. Joe's previous "Award of Volunteer Excellence" was received in 2014 for 100 secchi disc readings. In addition to monitoring clarity, Joe and Dave Noel have been sampling and monitoring dissolved oxygen, phosphorous, and chlorophyll.

Joe humbly acknowledges Marty Haavisto and others who previously spent years monitoring the lake clarity and temperature. We thank Joe, Marty, and all the Citizen Lake Monitors for the work they have done to help ensure the excellent water quality of Indian Lake.



## Odds and Ends

### Hungarian Rhapsody

Indian Lake resident, Suzanne Millies, has written a book titled, "Growing Up Ethnic: An American Love Story".

About her book, Suzanne says:

The book is basically a memoir about growing up in a Hungarian ethnic community on the South Side of Chicago in the 1950's. The book details how this Protestant Hungarian church served as the nucleus for this immigrant neighborhood helping immigrants to assimilate into American society while enjoying their ethnic heritage.

I enjoyed the benefits of both cultures growing up. Our Hungarian church sponsored a wealth of activities which had us singing Hungarian hymns, dancing to the czardas, and eating goulash. But many of the events ended with us singing "God Bless America" because we knew how fortunate we were to be in the U.S.

The end of the book has a wealth of recipes from my mother who was a great cook. So if you like goulash, try the recipes.

The book can be purchased online at Amazon.com or you can call me for a copy.



# Odds and Ends

## Interested in Indian Lake Spirit-ware?

Best Embroideries in downtown Rhinelander is now offering clothing with the Indian Lake Association logo. For more information, go to the home page of the Indian Lake Association website ([www.IndianLakeAssociation.com](http://www.IndianLakeAssociation.com))

## Photos

Do you have any good Indian Lake photos (or story ideas) you would be willing to contribute to the newsletter? If so, please email them to Roger Ziff at [cziff@charter.net](mailto:cziff@charter.net).

## Indian Lake Association Membership Form

Membership Year: June 1 to May 31

Annual Dues: \$20

Please make your check payable to Indian Lake Association and mail it along with this form to :  
ILA Treasurer, P.O. Box 1801, Eagle River, WI 54521

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Lake Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you receive mail at your lake address? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Would you like to be included in the Indian Lake directory? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Are you interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities with the association? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Comments or suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_