



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2013

VOLUME 9, NO. 4

PLA President's Letter

Fall has made its way to Onekama. Apples, pumpkins, gourds and squash are being harvested and can be found at many roadside stands in the area. The trees are starting to show color and it promises to be a spectacular autumn display. The summer residents are starting to leave, and soon the snow birds will be making their way south for the winter. It won't be too long before Portage Lake will be frozen!

The summer of 2013 was a great one for Onekama. Three new businesses had successful openings. The new owners of Portage Point Inn are completing their master plan for making the Inn again a destination location in northwest Michigan. The PLA enjoyed community support for the petunia parade, June annual fundraiser, Monday Night Concerts in the Park, the first annual Beer and Ale Tasting, the Second Annual Pig Out for Scholarships and Onekama Days. The PLA has joined the Onekama Lions and other community groups to energize Onekama Days and bring new attractions to the event. PLA increased efforts at community and regional promotion through 1.-Onekama, Michigan and Portage Lake Association Facebook pages- many have complimented these efforts to promote the area and what it has to offer residents and visitors.

PLA events and activities continue for the remainder of the year. Fall Festival takes place on October 12th and the Scarecrows of Onekama will line the streets thanks to many residents creative efforts. Christmas in Onekama will occur on November 23rd with an arts and craft show, Onekama Originals, chili cookoff and the Celebration of Lights. Plans are being made for the return of Winterfest in mid-February. The Concert Committee is starting their search for the 2014 lineup and the fund raising committee is planning the next June Fundraiser event. A new slate of officers and Board of Directors will be presented to the PLA membership in mid-October. PLA members will start their volunteer work at the Onekama Consolidated School this fall as well.

All of our activities and events are conducted solely by volunteers. We have roles for folks that only have a couple of hours to spare to roles that involve coordinating our big events. Please consider giving some of your time to the community. It is a great way to meet new people and get to know the community. If you are interested, let me know by email at windsongmi@aol.com.

Don't forget to check out what is happening by going to www.onekama.info and selecting the fishing reports, local events or regional events tabs. The fishing reports come from the Michigan DNR and the Manistee County Sports Fishing Association. The Regional Events tab will take you from Ludington to Cadillac and up to Traverse City and most places in between.

This is my last president's letter for the Portage Lake Association. I have served two consecutive terms as President which is the term limit. I feel privileged to have served the PLA and the community in that role and have thoroughly enjoyed the time spent with the PLA. I will serve the board in the role of past president and as a member I will continue to develop and promote the community. I will also assist the new PLA President in making the Onekama area a great place to live, play and stay.

Have a great autumn and enjoy all this region has to offer. Hope to see you at some, or all, of our events!

Al Taylor



THANK YOU---THANK YOU----

to the more than 77 volunteers that came to the Onekama's Main St. the first week of May to start the process that resulted in hundred of petunias being planted along M-22.

The soil was replenished, rototilled and weed killer applied ahead of planting day. Petunias were planted and fertilizer applied on May 22. The plants were watered three times a week by a village employee on his own time. This was a huge help to the committee! A special thanks to David Meister and Bob Blackmore for their work in reconfiguring the water wagon so that it's a one person, much safer, job.

Gratitude to the PLA for fundraising the monies to purchase the plants, soil, fertilizer and barrels. Thanks to PNC bank for the refreshments and to the Glenwood for the special treats for the workers on planting day. Finally, thanks to those who helped with the "roll up" of the flowers in late September.

So you can see that it is a lot of work, but more fun than work really. If you would like to join the group and see your neighbors and friends (or make new ones), call Marilyn Acker at 231-889-4758 or Jon Phillips at 231-889-4516.

*Submitted by Jon Phillips and
Petunia Parade Committee*

INVASIVE SPECIES REPORT

An additional 10 acres of Eurasian water milfoil were found in a new area of the lake during a lake survey on July 23. It was treated on August 8 along with an estimated 1.5 acres in the channel off Easy Street. The lake was resurveyed on September 16 and another water quality sampling was done. Phragmites treatments were done in late September. The annual report from Professional Lake Management will be available by the end of the year.

In an effort to not just treat but to also prevent aquatic invasive species from entering our lake, the Portage Lake Watershed provided volunteers for the Manistee County Clean Boats Clean Water boat washing program. Their portable boat washer came to the Onekama Village Park boat launch on Sept. 7th. This was the first operation for this unit and for 4 hours, boats were cleaned and decontaminated with their hydroblaster heated power washer. The new Manistee County Aquatic Invasive Species(AIS) Program is led by Kirsten Sheffield who is the AIS coordinator. She shows boaters how to inspect their equipment, use proper cleaning techniques and distributes educational information about invasive species. The project is expanding to boat launches throughout the county to prevent the spread of invasive species

The Northwest Invasive Species Committee of the counties of Manistee, Benzie, Grand Traverse and Leelanau continues to meet and identify the highest priority areas for early treatment.

Submitted by:

Mary Reed, Chair, Invasive Species Committee



HAIR REPLACEMENT SERVICES

Linda English is proud to announce the addition of hair replacement services - this includes wigs and attachment units for those suffering hair loss due to medical conditions.

Initially, services will be offered to women and children, but men will be added as the program gets underway. All of the services are offered in a discreet private room of the salon. Your visit starts with a consult to determine the best hair replacement option for you.

The prostheses and wigs are individually designed and handcrafted with lightweight materials to ensure comfort and natural appearance. All are made with human hair or Syntress fibers that look so natural that you will not know that it is not human hair. Extremely light and skin-like material is used to attach the hairs to the wig/prostheses and then the attachment to your head is done with new materials. This product is unlike any wig you may have tried or seen in the past.

Call 231-889-0222 with questions or to schedule a consultation for your hair loss issues.

Memorials For Connie Zimmerman

Connie Zimmerman, a former PLA president and active member, asked that memorial contributions be made to the PLA. The following friends and family have sent memorials in her name: Dwight & Vivian Lund, Dorothy White, John & Joyce Fischer, Janice Reed

The PLA thanks you for your contribution. The board of the PLA at their September meeting voted to add to these donations in honor of Connie's work for the PLA and plans to use the monies for a special project.

Why Join the Portage Lake Association?

We rely on members and volunteers to help make our community a better place to live, work, and play for the residents and visitors of the Portage Lake area. Becoming a member is a great way to become involved in this all-volunteer group. We contribute our time and energy to organize events and make things happen! Please join now to become a part of something special!

Portage Lake Association APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name _____

Summer Address _____

Summer Phone _____

Winter Address _____

Winter Phone _____

Email Address _____

I am a New Member _____ *I am a Renewing Member* _____

Make checks payable to: Portage Lake Association • \$30 for one year family membership

Mail Payments to: Portage Lake Association, P.O. Box 493, Onekama, MI 49675



CHRISTMAS IN ONEKAMA-

Saturday, November 23 starting at 10am

There is no better way to begin the holiday season than with Onekama's **Christmas in Onekama** craft show, bake sale, chili cook-off, Onekama Originals tree auction, and Celebration of Lights. Onekama is one of the very first communities Up North to kick off the holiday season!

Daytime events will take place at the Onekama Consolidated School, 5016 Main St in Onekama. The arts/craft show and bake sale begin at 10am until 3pm. Many artists from all over the area bring their beautiful artistic creations to sell. Do your Christmas shopping here. Local churches bake cookies, pies, cakes, breads, and other delicious treats- many folks find this a solution to their holiday baking needs!

The Boy Scouts will hold their annual Chili Cook-off starting at 11am until 2pm. A variety of delicious chili samples from individuals and business in and around the area will be served for a very reasonable price. Simultaneously there will be a Silent Auction of 24 live potted Christmas trees decorated by artistic individuals, clubs, and businesses, thus called Onekama Originals. Bid often to obtain a one of a kind decorated tree!

After the above events end, the Celebration of Lights will be held at the Farr Center. This begins at 5:30 to allow time to view the lovely Christmas tree decorated by the Garden Club and the Christmas Village displayed by Frank English. Both are breathtaking!

At 6pm, the Christmas tree and village decorations will be lit at the Farr Center and adjacent park. At this time there will be a touching ceremony of the reading of names of individuals honored and/or memorialized. A form is included in this newsletter to order Celebration of Lights names.

Following the ceremony, refreshments will be served and Christmas caroling will be led by the Church of the Brethren. Come and join in the festivities... it is a wonderful way to start the holiday season with family and friends!

Attention: artists, cooks, and creative types!

Local artistic residents won't want to miss the 2nd annual Onekama Original Christmas Tree Auction on November 23 as part of Christmas in Onekama. If you, or your organization/school/church group would like to decorate a live potted fir tree, please contact Pat Pomaranski at 889-3229 or patpomaranski@gmail.com for more information. No entry fee is required to decorate a tree for the auction.

If you are an artist or crafter with a product to sell at the Christmas in Onekama event, contact Jewelee Franklin at 889-4048 or jewkenfran@gmail.com. A small entry fee is required to sell at this event. Chili makers can contact Jeff Sternberger at jssternberger@chartermi.net or 889-5680 to participate in the chili competition. The only entry fee is your best chili recipe ready to serve to hungry community folks. *Fun prizes for the winners!*

CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS DONATION FORM



The Celebration of Lights is a fund-raising project sponsored by the Portage Lake Association. We invite you to participate by purchasing a light to be placed on the beautiful spruce tree near Farr Center in Onekama. The lights will represent tributes to your family members and friends, or will honor the memory of your loved ones.

The lights will be on every evening for 6 weeks during the holiday season. Your contribution of \$5 or more per name will provide a light for our tree. A card to acknowledge your gift will be sent to the person you specify when your contribution is received.

The members of the PLA hope that the Celebration of Lights will be enjoyed by all the residents and guests of the Onekama area. We thank you for your generous support.

Your Name _____

Phone number if we have questions _____

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____ (\$5 minimum per name)

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Please send acknowledgement(s) to: _____

From: _____

Please print & fill out this form & make your check out to : Portage Lake Association
Send to: PO Box 493, Onekama, MI 49675

STATE OF THE LAKE - PORTAGE LAKE 2013

Summary of a report by Herb Lenon for Invasive Species Committee of the Portage Lake Watershed Forever

We must recognize that Portage Lake has several physical factors in its favor and only a few of detriment: 1.) It has a relatively **small watershed** relative to the surface area of the lake which is mostly forested, and thus, has less run-off and lower lake productivity. 2) The **soils** of the watershed are mostly well-drained sand or sandy loam so that, in general, surface runoff is minimized by the permeability of the soils. 3.) It has a moderately **good mean depth** (average = 19 ft.) which implies a lower fertility. 4.) It has a relatively **short water residence time** of 3.5 years due to the outlet to Lake Michigan which results in a greater flushing of the lake. 5.) The **orientation of the lake relative to the prevailing wind** has both benefit and adverse results. The strong west and east winds and wave action cause a greater movement (exchange) of water in and out of the lake through the outlet. At the same time, the heavy wave action at times causes more mixing of the nutrients into the water from the shallow bottom in the east end of the lake and increases productivity of the lake. 6.) The relatively large littoral zone (shallow area out to the edge of plant growth), approximately 55% of the lake surface, would imply a greater area of plant productivity but due to the sandy, **wave-swept bottom** of much of the littoral zone this limits plant invasion of the shallowest part of the shelf and decreases the total production somewhat. 7.) The relatively low ratio of hypolimnion-to-epilimnion (**lower water-to upper water areas**) tends toward greater productivity, especially of phytoplankton, but also aquatic macrophytes (plants). 8.) **Groundwater** is an important resource for Portage Lake and for the streams, and may be more significant to water quality of Portage Lake than runoff, due mainly to the short length and low flows of the tributaries which are primarily ground water inputs.

With stratification of the lake in summer, the **dissolved oxygen** (D.O.) in the two deep basins consistently goes to very low levels, very near zero. This has been evident from the earliest historical data (1974) to the present. It continues to be a major concern for the lake, for if it does go to zero, phosphorus that is bound up in the substrate is changed in form and becomes soluble and released into the water column which increases the fertility of the lake. This would lead to greater "weed" production in the lake. Low oxygen levels (below 5 mg/L) in the hypolimnion are also a concern for the health of warm-water fishes. It is therefore important to continually monitor this D.O. level since it comes very close to 0 mg/L most years and we should do all that we can to prevent that.

One of the greatest changes that has occurred in Portage Lake over the years has been in the **increased transparency** of the water- it has gone from 8-10 feet in earlier years to 20-27 feet more recently. This corresponds with the appearance of zebra mussels and then quagga mussels which efficiently filter the water. The major impact of the increased transparency has been an expanded littoral zone - the shallower area of the lake that supports aquatic plant growth. In earlier years plants would grow out to about 12-15 feet of water. Now we have plants growing out to 20-25 feet due to greater light penetration with increased transparency of the water. This means there is less plant-free area of the lake.

Phragmites (giant common reed) was found in 2008 becoming a monoculture in the shoreline and adjacent wetlands. The phragmites population has been significantly reduced around the lake which has helped to protect the diversity of the shoreline marsh area. The **Eurasian water milfoil** population was initially greatly reduced and then rebounded due to miscalculations of the population and consequently, incomplete treatment, but now should come under better control. To complicate this, it has hybridized with the native northern water milfoil and become more resistant to herbicide as a result of hybrid vigor. **Purple loosestrife** is another invasive exotic plant of the wetlands that can quickly become a monoculture, eliminating all diversity of the wetlands. We have been treating it along with the phragmites and will now begin some biological control of it with beetles which looks promising and will reduce the herbicide application. In the extensive study of 1991 by the Snell Environmental Group only 10 native aquatic plant species were identified. During our four year study and treatment, 18-24 native species were identified along with the three exotic species. So it appears that **plant diversity has increased**, and even more so with treatment of the invasive species, the desired result.

Chlorophyll-a is a parameter used to determine the eutrophic state (enrichment or age) of the lake. Our values for the deep basins (open waters) fall mostly in the range for a mesotrophic lake (mid-range of enrichment - 2-6 ug/L). Only on a few occasions does it move up into the eutrophic (enriched or aged) state (>6 ug/L). Hence, Portage Lake has been fairly consistent over the years but needs to be continually monitored to prevent premature aging (enrichment).

Phosphorus loading in Portage Lake comes possibly from both the lake and from the watershed. Internal loading is due to wave and boat churning of sediments, especially in the east end and by anaerobic (lack of oxygen) release of phosphorus from sediment in the deep basins. External loading from the watershed is by tributary inflows and runoff from the land (e.g., fertilizers) along with inadequate septic systems. The current phosphorus loading to Portage Lake from upland areas of the watershed via tributaries does not appear to be above a level which the lake can assimilate at its existing state. However, we must realize that some proportion of the phosphorus loading is cumulative and wherever it can be controlled it must be done to avoid the potential for future water quality problems. This is even more important if the watershed continues to be developed.

STATE OF THE LAKE - PORTAGE LAKE 2013 CON'T

pH is the measure of acidity or basicity with a pH of 7.0 being neutral. Historically, Portage Lake has been primarily consistent in the range of 7.7 - 8.9. In our studies from 2009 – 2012 the pH has ranged from 8.0 – 8.5. thus, Portage Lake is classified as a hard water lake with a moderate calcium carbonate content. The presence of numerous flowing artesian wells around the lake indicates that carbonates are entering the lake dissolved from underlying limestone bedrock.

Closely related to pH are measurements of **alkalinity** which evaluate the buffering capacity (less change in pH) of the lake. The higher the alkalinity the greater the buffering capacity and, hence, the greater ability to accept acid inputs from acid rain or runoff without significant impact. Based on alkalinity, as with pH, Portage Lake moderately well-buffered with only minor variations occurring from time to time.

Phytoplankton, the microscopic algae in the water column, is an important component of any lake ecosystem, for it is the major base of most food chains in the lake. There are many different species possible and there are good ones and some bad ones. The blue-green algae are undesirable, capable of forming unsightly algal scums on the surface and producing microtoxins that can cause neurologic or hepatic (liver) dysfunction in animals or humans if ingested in large quantities. They tend to appear more in late summer. Nutrient levels in the lake are still low enough to prevent excessive blue-green algae blooms (scum).

Over the past four years (2009-2012) a limited number of **E. coli** samples have been taken at various sites around the lake and all have been low or below detection levels.

Although Portage Lake contains a healthy biodiversity of plants, fish, and other organisms, it does have a moderately high general productivity and nutrient level, and with continual inputs of nutrients. Thus, the system must be monitored continually to avoid impending problems in the future.

Portage Lake Watershed Forever UPDATE OF ACTIVITIES

The Watershed has been very busy this summer with efforts to increase awareness of the watershed and educate folks on ways that to preserve and protect it. Literature was placed at display booths during Onekama Days and at the Manistee County Fair, PLWF participated in the Onekama Days parade and volunteers took part in the Clean Boats Clear Water demonstration at the Village Boat Launch on September 7th.

The invasive species committee of the Watershed and Township has continued to put data into the new gps ciBioBase program throughout the summer. This equipment allows for constant monitoring of the weeds on the bottom of the lake. Maps and data are posted on the display board at the village boat launch. Call Chuck Reed if you would like more information on the surveying done this summer (231-889-3781).

A program on the State of the Lake will be presented at the October 29th PLWF annual meeting. Watch for more information on this (a summary of the state of Portage Lake is included in this newsletter).

What Can YOU Do to Protect Portage Lake?



Do not feed the ducks and geese.

Remove dog, geese and duck droppings from lawns, docks, etc. Excess feces will increase nutrients within the lake.

Create a natural buffer close to the water's edge and remove grass/turf touching the water's edge. A natural setting consisting of native plant varieties of shrubs, flowers or trees that do not shed their foliage into the water will filter excess nutrients from entering the water and decrease erosion. Natural buffers are also an excellent way to deter geese from making a stop on your beach front. Geese do not like areas where they cannot see the predators coming towards them.

If you fertilize, make sure you are using phosphorus free fertilizer. One pound of phosphorous may produce over 775 pounds of algae - "the slimy green stuff".

If you must fertilize, apply nitrogen fertilizer when the grass is actively growing to minimize loss of nutrients to nearby waters. Begin fertilizing in the spring when temperatures are warm and discontinue before the grass ceases to grow in the fall. Avoid application of fertilizer prior to rainy days.

Perforate lawn periodically and seed and mulch exposed soil (to prevent erosion).

Remove aquatic plants, leaves/branches and other debris that wash up along the lakeshore so less decomposition occurs in or near the lake.

Always use silt fences when building a new home or doing any yardwork that would cause erosion.

Keep all burn piles and debris piles away from lake. Do not burn near the water. The ash is concentrated nutrients!

Encourage the use of stone, brick and similar porous materials when building a landscape to minimize urban water collection.

Harbor Commission
Update



On August 22nd Representatives from the Township, Harbor Commission, Nordlund Engineering and MCM Dredging met at the Township Office to sign the final State documents guaranteeing payment for the dredging work which will be done this month.

Being part of the process to make the dredging possible, there was an amazing amount of paperwork required and hundreds of hours spent to reach the final goal. From attending multiple meetings to submitting Corp of Engineers and DEQ permits, to working with engineering studies and security bonding of the Dredging Company, the paperwork required was huge but the cooperation by all parties was outstanding and facilitated the process.

The dredge "cut" in the channel will be 120' wide and 2100' long, going the full length of the Channel. Depth is scheduled at 12 feet, or more and the dredging sand will be deposited on the Lake Michigan beach, approximately 2000' south of the Channel.

If anyone has questions regarding the Dredging process, or would like more details on the work, feel free to call at anytime.

Jim Mrozinski, Chairman
Portage Lake Harbor Commission

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE

It was a very busy summer with many visitors to Onekama, particularly the lake front. A number of events were held at the Village Park and Farr Center including: graduations, reunions, weddings, showers and of course, Onekama Days and PLA Monday night concerts. We are sorry to see our visitors leave and hope they will return to enjoy our colorful fall and bracing winter before next summer. We really are a 4 Season 2 Lake Community. There is always something to enjoy.

The Explore the Shores project for the Village Park beach area is still scheduled to happen, but a bit later than planned. We expect to be enjoying our new beach next summer with improvements which will enhance access to the lake for everyone. More information will be available as plans progress.

Speaking of our lakefront, many residents are aware of the efforts to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species in Portage Lake. With that in mind a demonstration of a boat cleaning system was held the Village Park boat launch on a recently. Boats go through a boat washing process prior to entering Portage Lake and again as they exit. The process takes less than 5 minutes per boat. The system was made available by Manistee County for test runs and Onekama was one of the first communities to give it a try.

Help is always needed when it comes to keeping our lake healthy. An important thing property owners and renters in the Village along Rt. 22 can do is to make sure the storm drains along the road are not blocked with leaves, sticks, branches, paper, sand, dirt and other debris. If the drain becomes clogged at least two things can occur. In a heavy rain or snow the water cannot drain to the lake and the result is flooding or the debris can get washed down the drain and into the lake. Neither situation is good. This is a continuing problem but it is worse now that the County Road Commission funds are limited so they have not been cleaning our streets and drains. Therefore, we are asking your help to keep the drains in front of your property (homes and businesses) clear. Thank you!

With school in session, reminders about safety when walking, driving and bicycling are appropriate. Here are a few situations to think about:

Driving in school zones and throughout the village – everyone slow down, please.

Stop signs and speed limits are not suggestions, they are laws. Sliding through "STOP" signs is not stopping.

In the Village, passing on the right is against the law...as it is elsewhere.

Bicyclists are not exempt from obeying traffic laws - ignoring stop signs and riding alongside another cyclist put the cyclist in danger as well as drivers and pedestrians.

Requests to Village Taxpayers ...

Have you recently bought or sold property within the village? If so, the Village Clerk, Ruth Hudson requests you notify her in order to keep records up to date. This will also assist our treasurer in sending sewer and tax bills to the correct owners.

If you, or members of your family own lots in either of the Village Cemeteries ... please contact the Village Clerk in order to update records.

Cemetery lots are available in the Village Cemetery II, our Village Clerk can assist you.

Brush Pick-Up in the Village ... is scheduled twice a month on the first and third Fridays from April through November. This service is included in the village taxes you pay annually. Brush IS considered dense brush and shrubs, broken branches, yard and garden debris. Brush IS NOT large quantities of old trees, old arborvitae etc., which have been cut down, cut into smaller pieces and left at the curb to be hauled away. Disposal of aforementioned is up to the property owner. We appreciate your help!

Enjoy the fall colors! Submitted by Alice Hendricks, Village of Onekama

WELCOME

When you are in Onekama on Main Street, check out the new shop called HANDSTAND.

Several local artists have their work available for sale in the shop which is located across from the PNC bank.

Oct. 12 in the Onekama Village Park - FALL FESTIVAL - Fun for all ages

Onekama School Welcomes Foreign Exchange Students

Onekama Consolidated School is fortunate enough to welcome eight foreign exchange students this year. These new students are from all over the world and are staying with local families in Onekama.

Sunniva Skurtveit, a senior from Norway, is staying with the DeWitt family. In Norway she played handball, but now in America she is a cheerleader and plans to play basketball and softball. Her school is much different from ours in many ways. For example, they have no school spirit and school sports are separate from the school. She has been studying English for five years. She says American food is not as healthy as her home food. This is her senior year and she says we have been a very welcoming school and she can't wait to see what this year will bring.

Elisa Niero is a junior from Brazil and is staying with the Lenz family. She is a cheerleader and is really enjoying her time in America so far. She loves Starbucks in America. Back home she loves rice. Elisa wants to try to ski this winter because she has only seen snow once and thinks it will be a great experience. She has one sister in Brazil and a host sister here. She has been studying English since she was seven and wanting to come to America since she was very young. This is her junior year and will be going back to Brazil to finish her senior year. She loves how friendly and welcoming everyone is and is excited for her year in America.

Vanessa Van Eyckels is a senior from Germany who is also staying with the Lenz family and Elisa. Vanessa is also in cheer and thinks everyone is very nice. Vanessa says her school is much more strict than ours and that they have different classes everyday. You also have to bring your own lunch and school gets out at 1pm, so Onekama is definitely a huge change for her. Her favorite American food is pizza. Her favorite food back home is Rotkohl with kartoffeln.

Anna Gjerstorff is a senior from Denmark who is staying with the Barnard family. She is on the Onekama cheer team and has been in gymnastics for eight years. She also plans to dance. What she likes the most about America is how friendly the people are. In her school they went from 11:30am to 2:20pm, they also call the teachers by their first names. She has been studying English for seven years. Her favorite American food is pizza and her favorite food back home is lasagna.

Simon Malm is a 17-year-old senior from Sweden and is staying with the Laws family. He enjoys singing, playing guitar and riding his bike. So far in America he likes the school buses, sports, nature, our people, and he thinks our money is cooler than Sweden's money. In his school, he has different classes everyday and every student specializes in something, which is really unique. He also says he has more homework here than back home. He likes his host parents so far, he thinks they're laidback, but also thinks they have more rules than his actual parents do. In Sweden he has a 19-year-old sister. His favorite American food so far is sloppy joes and his favorite food back home is pasta and homemade Swedish meatballs. He has been speaking English for nine years and says he isn't homesick at all.

Lukas Belovsky is a 17-year-old senior from the Czech Republic who is staying with the Kinn family. He enjoys playing soccer, skiing, cycling, and rollerblading. He also likes music. So far he has liked everything about America. At his

school back in his country they also have different classes everyday; having the same classes everyday is something that he has to get used to. He is an only child and he says it's nice to have two host brothers, one of them being a foreign exchange student, and a host sister. His favorite American food is hot dogs and his favorite food from his country is chicken with rice. He has been speaking English for 9-10 years and says he is a little homesick but not much.

Sondre Huseby Oren is a 16-year-old junior from Norway and is staying with the Kinn family along with Lukas. He enjoys playing soccer and likes to ski. His favorite part about America so far is the cars and the food. His school has more students than ours so getting to know everyone in our school shouldn't be too hard. Back home he has two older brothers and here in America he has two host brothers and a host sister. His favorite American food is anything from Kentucky Fried Chicken and his favorite food from his country is pancakes. He has been speaking English for 10 years and is a little homesick.

Dessi Park is a junior from South Korea. She likes to watch movies, read books, and write. She really likes the people here and thinks they are very nice. Something that she says is different compared to her school is that in her school they have to wear uniforms and in Onekama we do not. She has one older brother and thinks her host family is very nice. Her favorite American food is pizza and her favorite food from home is called Bibimbob. She has been speaking English for six years and can't wait for what this year in America will bring!

We hope all the exchange students will have a great time here at Onekama and will make lots of new friends and enjoy the new experiences yet to come.

Submitted by: Braden Hagen and Emma Putney

****The PLA welcomes our new student reporters for this year and our 8 foreign exchange students!****

Onekama School Golf Scramble A Success



Onekama Consolidated School has a big heart- the students are known for putting on concerts to raise money for the Food Bank at St. Joseph Church. Students also volunteer to carry or wheel boxes of food to the cars of those attending the monthly food bank distribution.

Now the middle school student council has created the Portager Pride Pack Golf Scramble to raise funds to purchase backpacks and fill them with food. The packs are given to students by teachers who know that the family may not have food to serve their child over the weekend.

The golf scramble had a great turn out for the first year. There were 14 teams and all of the golfers thought it was a great event. Prizes were awarded for the longest drive and putt, and raffles tickets were sold for a number of great prizes. Congrats to the students of OCS for their big hearts! The community is proud of you!

Portage Point Inn and Marina, LLC- Plans for Reopening

Residents of the Portage Lake area, as well as fans of the Portage Point Inn are excited about the prospect of the Inn reopening under new owners. Robert Gezon and Jeremy Bernhardt are planning to develop the Portage Point Inn and Marina as a 4 star resort. White Lake Dock and Dredge, Inc. in Montague, MI is the business that Gezon has owned and operated since 1978. His firm does dredging, contaminated sediment removal, underground work (sewers etc.) and marina builds.

Others participating in the resort re-development include:

Mike Corby, a summer resident on the Point and owner of Integrated Architecture, a LEED certified firm in Grand Rapids, is the architect in charge of the design plans;

Nyal Deems is the attorney handling all of the real estate and related legal issues- he is with the Grand Rapids firm, Real Estate Practice Group;

Steve Loftis will be developing the plans for the restaurant and bar- he has owned several restaurants in Grand Haven including The Khardomah Lodge;

and, Ken Lahey is the business manager with experience operating resorts/hotels for Amway Corporation.

Bob also credits Tim Ervin of Michigan Economic Development Corp and Dave Meister, Township supervisor, as significant members of the team working to secure grants and assist with regulatory bodies.

Crystal Mountain Resort is offering consulting services to the effort, as well.

The process for receiving funding/approvals for infrastructure work (sewers, etc.) starts Dec. 2 of this year and will take a minimum of 4 months. April of 2014 is the earliest possible start date for the work. Sewer lines are proposed to be run from Little Eden out to the Inn, with the expectation that they will also cover Andy's Point.. Planning and steering committee grants may be available from the USDA's rural sewer development project. Additional governmental grants will be sought for road improvements from the village to the pierhead to address safety issues and improved bike lanes.

The owner's plans include hiring close to 100 employees. A smaller crew will be needed off season, but the intent is to offer executive retreats and conferences during the shoulder seasons (fall & spring). The restaurant and bar will also be open year round with reduced hours. The pool and exercise areas will be open to the public on a pay per use basis during the off season, as well.

Plans include a public fishing platform with parking for 8-10 vehicles near the charter fishing area. The owners envision using classic motor launches to convey guests around the lake. The State of Michigan has harbor transit grants for water taxi services to facilitate visitors and residents getting around Portage Lake, thus reducing the number of vehicles operating on the roads surrounding the lake. Guests will be encouraged to leave their cars with the staff of the Inn and instead use water taxis, Inn limo service and bicycles during their stay. The budget for the renovations and infrastructure work on the Inn and Marina is \$13.5 million.

The PPI condo association has been meeting with the owners and team members, Lahey and Deems. The condo owners have concerns, given past problems, but are also optimistic. If anyone has questions, or concerns, Gezon can be contacted via email at Robert@WLDDI.com. Watch the www.Onekama.info website for more information and drawings as they become available. The Onkama community is understandably excited to see this wonderful Inn resuming its place in our history as a great place to live, play and stay.

(Information in this article was obtained from Robert Gezon on Sept. 9, 2013)



OCTOBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

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MONDAY NIGHT CONCERTS IN THE PARK

Over 3,000 people attended the 8 concerts in the Onkama Village Park this summer. About 300 to 450 people came each week with generous donations by the majority. Many thanks to committee members- George and Margaret Panches, Al Taylor, Steve Szilvagy and those who helped with bucket brigade each week. Work begins on the 2014 season this fall with performer selection, scheduling, sending out contracts and applying for grants from Michigan Arts and Humanities. If you have suggestions for the committee, reply to the newsletter editor at planewsed@gmail.com

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