

he Thunderbird



November 2008

The Official Newsletter of Indian Lake Borough, Somerset County, Pennsylvania

## DAM REMEDIATION UPDATE

Phase II, Part 1 of our dam remediation is progressing well, and should be completed by December 1, 2008. This phase involves installing a complete new drain system, filling in the stilling basin that was located at the tow of dam, with stone and placing 1650 yards of roller compacted concrete to ensure a solid base for the new extended tow of the dam. After this preliminary work was completed, approximately 100,000 tons of aggregate material, (stone, sand, and ground) is being placed in the required layers to reenforce the downstream buttress and comply with the PADEP, Division of Dam Safety order of changing the downstream embankment from a 2 - 1 to a 3 - 1 slope. The bid price on this phase is \$1,392,301.

During our discussions with the PADEP, Division of Dam Safety, we were informed that it is necessary to remove all trees within 50' of the new tow of the dam, which requires us to acquire additional property. We have reached an agreement with all the effected property owners, and PBS Coal Co. has agreed to donate to us, the property that borders on Lake Stonycreek, directly across from our spillway.

We anticipate advertising Phase II, Part 2 in the spring of 2009. This involves grouting the existing tow drain to eliminate the seepage that presently exists. This will require the drilling of approximately 250 holes on the downstream embankment, (ranging in depth from 80' to 10') and filling with concrete under pressure. This work will require us to draw the lake down approximately 20-30 feet. **We plan on beginning this drawdown on <u>September 1, 2009</u>. The reason for this significant drawdown is to bring the water level down below the old drain, which will prevent the concrete from being washed out, and allow us to get an effective seal. We have also requested of the Lake Stonycreek Board of Directors, that they draw their lake down 5' to bring their pool level below our drain elevation. This is a critical aspect of the dam remediation process and will ensure the integrity of our lake into the future.** 

You can be assured that we will not draw the lake down anymore than is necessary to complete the grouting work effectively. Once the grouting process is completed (anticipated to be December 2009), the Borough will close the valve and bring the water level up to the 12' level from the normal pool level, until the ice clears from the lake in March of 2010.

We will continue to remind our residents of the <u>September 1<sup>st</sup></u> drawdown schedule, and make you aware of any changes that may arise.

## **UNSAFE ICE ON LAKE RESTRICTS ACTIVITIES**

Residents and the general public are prohibited from any activity on the lake including ice fishing, skating, walking, etc., due to the 2008-09 winter scheduled drawdown of the lake that was started on **September 22, 2008**. We will be maintaining a 12 ft. drawdown level in order to continue our program of attempting to freeze the root systems of the Elodea, Pond weed and Vallisneria weeds in the lake. Restriction of lake use is because of the potential ice weakening and movement that could occur as a result of the water being drawn away from the ice, possibly allowing the ice to give way. Signs warning of the potential danger are being placed lakeside throughout the Borough, and along the roadways to make anyone entering the area aware of the hazard. We will begin refilling the lake probably in early March 2009, once the ice has cleared from the lake.

We appreciate your continued patience and support as we continue to work toward controlling the problems that the weed population causes the boaters on our lake. This past years' drawdown was successful in effectively eliminating the Elodea and Pond weed, however, the late summer grower, Vallisneria, continues to be a serious problem for many of our lakefront residents. By freezing out the weed growth, it not only saves us a considerable amount of money, due to the lack of requiring the expensive chemical treatment, but it also eliminates the need to close the lake for 3 days in June.

## SERVICE CORPORATION PURCHASES BUCKET TRUCK FOR BOROUGH

The Indian Lake Service Corporation Board of Directors voted at their September 18, 2008 meeting to purchase a 55' Altec aerial device mounted on a 1991 International truck. This equipment is an upgrade that will replace the 32' McCabe Powers aerial device mounted on the 1967 Ford truck that we are currently using. The Service Corporation board authorized a maximum expenditure of \$17,000, and the bid price of the newly acquired bucket truck was \$16,900. The Borough Council had advertised the specifications for the bucket truck, as required by law, and received 3 bids. The borough employees inspected and operated 2 of the units and chose the one they felt would best serve the borough's needs.

The Borough Council would like to "Thank" the Service Corporation Board of Directors and "You" the members of the Service Corporation for purchasing this piece of equipment that will enable our employees to safely and more effectively clear our roads of low hanging limbs and dangerous trees.

## SHANKSVILLE MINISTERIUM HOLDS CROP WALK ON McINTYRE HIKING AND BIKING TRAIL

On Sunday, October 5, 2008, the Shanksville Ministerium held their annual "Crop Walk for Hunger" on the James W. McIntyre Hiking and Biking Trail. 35 participants hiked the 5 mile trail and raised \$2823.00 for Church World Service. There were 6 area churches represented, Unity United Church of Christ, Buckstown Lutheran, St Mark Lutheran, Horner Hoffman Lutheran, Shanksville United Methodist, and Shanksville Assembly of God. Jim and Dorothy McIntyre have been long time active members of Unity UCC, and the Unity team felt the McIntyre Trail at Indian Lake would be the perfect venue for this event. The participants were extremely complimentary about the trail and it's beauty and the ministerial has asked if they can hold this event on the trail the first Sunday of October in 2009. If you are interested in participating in next year's event, information will be available at any of these churches.

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