



SHORES OF LAKE SUPERIOR SLIDE INTO THE LAKE

Some shallow bays on the shores of Lake Superior are inhabited by old tree stumps which make one pause to consider their history. Until 1921, the level of the lake was not controlled. At that time a structure called the Compensating Works was constructed on the St. Mary's River in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan to control the amount of water flowing from Lake Superior into the lower lakes. The International Joint Commission (IJC) determines the amount of water to flow out of the lake. They also concluded that only slight losses of water front property would occur if more water were retained in Lake Superior. The shipping industry would benefit significantly from higher water levels as would the lower lakes.

So the stump mystery may be solved but the water level in our bays has increased by a number of FEET in order for the stumps to be covered by that much water. In the mid-1970s clay banks along the North Shore began sliding into the lake during big storms. Early settlers built their homes and fish houses close to the lake. These buildings began sliding into the lake with the clay banks in response to the huge size of the waves on the swollen lake. Nick Anderson, there since the 1920s in the Gooseberry area, had to move his home three times as the erosion progressed.

The South Shore of the western end of the lake has huge clay banks but fewer homes built close to the lake. But those that were built on banks have been steadily eroding over the years. The lake level has risen significantly over the past few years as part of its cyclical behavior. One resident near Port Wing, Wayne Jensen, has steadily lost hundreds of square feet each year and reported to us that these losses are not sustainable in protecting his property. His photos show trees, earth and structures sagging into the lake with the clay banks.

So the mystery of the drowned stumps on the North Shore has been solved. However, we may be creating more mysteries as the lake continues to rise and fall. Water removal, precipitation due to climate change, development and other factors will continue to affect us, especially if we continue with our total disregard for the environment. We are stuck with the "trash" while those making the decisions get the "cash" in most cases affecting lake levels. Economics trumps the environment.



South Shore Erosion Damage



North Shore Erosion Damage Decades Ago

WHO WILL SAVE THE COMMONS?

“Who will save the Commons (our land, air and water) if you don’t? And what will your constituents do when corporate interests own all the rights and control the access? Please consider the outcome we are rapidly heading toward and your culpability in just standing by and letting it happen. “

Please read Arlene Lehto’s poem below and think of those who come after us, and the sulfides that will be polluting our waters. Arlene uses the BWCA as a metaphor for all public lands and waters. She was the first President of Save Lake Superior Association when it was formed in 1969 amidst the turmoil and hostility against even trying to stop the dumping of 67000 tons of taconite tailings per day into Lake Superior and now is deeply concerned about the specter of billions of tons of sulfide ores being ground up with residue leaching out into the Boundary Waters and Lake Superior.

The BWCA

Come Soon!

Traverse my beauty

Feel my peace

Allow my mysteries to

Comfort and nourish

Your bodies, your souls

Drink in my beauty

Come soon!

For I am to be despoiled

Gutted

Pocked for decades, centuries

Virginity lost

Prostituted

Drained

Barren

Embanked

Come Soon!

Before construction chaos

*Drowns my solitude
Before machines
Replace the splash of paddles
Come soon!
Bring your children
To tell your children
There was once a true wilderness
Where humans came to know
Their hearts*

Arlene Lehto (former State Representative, 8A, Duluth 1977-'82)

Membership Dues

Please check your Newsletter mailing label for expiration date. If the year is not current, it needs to be updated.

Repeat of new dues structure:

ALL EXCEPT LIFETIME ARE PER PERSON PER YEAR

\$10 Fixed income	\$50 Sustaining	\$200 Lifetime
\$20 General	\$100 Benefactor	(per person)
\$30 Family		

The Lifetime option is only available to new members or members whose label is currently up-to-date.

Please designate your choice when you renew

We appreciate your interest as well as your support.

LAKE SUPERIOR DAY 2017 A SUCCESS

On Saturday, July 15, SLSA members and directors, Tom Opfer, Dan Rau, Gary Glass and Nancy Olson handed out information material and membership cards to visitors at the Duluth waterfront near the ship canal. Subjects such as water quality, erosion, ordinance barrel dumping, fishing, invasive species and pollution from mining waste were discussed with respect to their current and potential threats to Lake Superior, its inhabitants and visitors. Water quality is not discussed as much as economics when Lake Superior is the subject. Water's value increases when you don't have it.

Our mission is to prevent further degradation of Lake Superior and to promote its rehabilitation. We work to accomplish these goals through education and distribution of informational materials. Your memberships assist us in advertising, joining in legal actions with other groups, participating in seminars and conferences and general exposure of these issues.

We hope that you all have participated in the past and will continue in the future where ever you are. Today's politics make it difficult for this message to be heard. Be Vocal!



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