

To All Oak Hills Lake Association Members,

2016 is the planned year for the scheduled drawdown of the lake (see attached timeline). The 2016 drawdown is slated to begin in late October and last until late January or February 2017 depending on the amount of rain received during the drawdown. The following is a recap of what was discussed at last year's annual meeting and authorized by a vote of the general membership and OHLA board.

Lake drawdowns are slated to occur every three years as recommended by our lake consultant. The primary purpose of the drawdown is to expose the lake bottom to air/oxygen aiding the natural decomposition process of leaves and accumulated silt. The increased organic activity also enhances water quality, fish health, fish reproduction and helps kill resistant algae blooms. The planned drawdowns are also beneficial because they allow members to plan for property improvements such as the addition or maintenance of bulkheads or the removal of debris and leaves in front of their property.

During the 2013 drawdown, the board authorized \$2,500 to clean out underbrush and debris which impeded navigation down the "finger" part of the lake. For the 2016 drawdown, the general membership and the board voted and authorized up to \$15,000 to address the worst of the current problem areas in the various coves and by the weir.

After the lake is drawn down, the major areas of concern around the various "coves", which silt up more than other areas, will be surveyed and a plan of action will be discussed with our lake consultant. Since we have limited resources all problem areas identified will be prioritized. Once the area is identified, homeowners will be contacted regarding access points for machinery that might be required and areas where debris can be curbed for city or paid removal. The drawdown committee will get at least three bids for the labor of any project related to this effort. **Please understand that you are responsible for any removal of silt and leaves in front of your yard. The allocated funds are for the prioritized problem areas of the lake only.**

One last item to note is that the 2013 drawdown lowered the lake approximately three to four feet. Our lake consultant recommends lowering the level by six feet this year in order to allow sunlight and oxygen to reach a larger area and provide a bigger benefit.

The first lake drawdown proved to be a successful tool in managing our wonderful resource. While there's a short lived period where the lake is inaccessible and not quite as beautiful as usual, the realized benefits to its overall health will make us all quickly forget.

Please try to attend the Oak Hills Lake General Membership Meeting for more discussion and details! Mon. Oct. 10th – 6:30 at Mary Dunbar's home, 822 E. Lakeview Dr.

Thank you for your support of our beautiful lake!

Oak Hills Lake Association Board & Drawdown Committee