

Hidden Harbour Lake Association Survey – May 2019

Summary & Comments

1. In the Spring, the level of the lake is usually at its highest. With the lake at its current high Spring level, does your residence have any issues? For example: basement and crawl space dryness, sump pumps, docks, retaining walls, personal beach areas or “other”?

Response: Yes 19%

No 81%

- With the high water levels the soil behind my retaining wall has washed away shoreline causing the wall to move. I have had to rebuild the shoreline and restack the wall twice within the last 5 years.
- Boat rides high in the water. No issues with the house. Beach area is virtually gone.
- My dock is totally under water. The 20ish Years living here the water level has never been this high by my dock. We used to have a small beach, have not had one for years, water up to and sometimes even with wall, causing washing away under wall. Have had to have sink holes filled yearly in the yard next to the wall etc. Of course the sump pumps runs all the time in spring.
- Sump pump pipe is right at water level, dock is right at the water line, personal beach is completely covered by water
- Basement is currently dry but sump pumps kick on every minute or sooner. Lake is currently at top of dock and this dock was raised 8-10 years ago because it was always under water
- We have a shallow to start with. A winter lake freeze combined with a lower lake level results in less oxygen for fish and no additional oxygen availability from surface air.
- So far no issues this year, and I do not recall any issues last Spring.
- Our beach is under water but this is okay. I can live with higher now to avoid low level in the late summer.
- No problems as long as the lake does not get any higher than it is right now
- We would vote against anything that would raise the spring water level. Most of the docks in the Cove are only a few inches above water. That is true most every year. There are a few who get a little water over the edge of their docks.
- We do not have issues in the spring.
- Been here only two Springs but have no issue
- Water laying in flower beds and other low areas
- Moisture in crawl space is especially present at this time of year. Sump pump kicks on more often than usual

2. Conversely in the Fall, the level of the lake is at its lowest. Does the low lake level present you with issues? If yes, how are you impacted? For example: boating, docks, personal beach areas, sand bars, "other". How long are you impacted?

Response: Yes 52%

No 48%

- Our boat is sitting on the bottom and must be 'lifted' to get it out to where it will float. Even with no one on it.
- Last year we had difficulty at times getting the boat away from the dock, or easily docking on the way back. It seemed to be an issue of 3-4 inches; when people moved to place most of the weight to the side away from the dock we were able to push the boat away and get going.
- This may have been due to the fact that the lake bottom seems to drop off sufficiently 2-3 feet away from the end of the dock, while being shallow at the dock line.
- Level a little low for our dock, would like the water higher in the fall
- Low levels in the Fall exposes rocks along the shoreline that makes parking the boat difficult - mostly fear of the boat coming in contact with the rocks. Also, low levels exposes weeds and sand bars that the boat can come in contact with on the lake - assuming this part affects everyone.
- Yes, quite often over the years the lake level has been so low that it was hard if not impossible to get my boat away from the dock. We have been lucky in the last few years because the summer drought has not been as severe but when it is the lake is extremely low.
- Too many weeds due to shallow level. Docks too high off water; have to stoop too far down into boat. Sand bar too shallow for 2-3 months
- Large issues – my boat is grounded at my dock & I can't use it. I'm asking the lake committee to dredge the sand away from my dock and the boat launch area along with some of the other areas of the lake
- I used to be able to swim across the lake but the weeds are too high in the summer because of the low lake level. Also, weeds are a nuisance when lake level is low and get tangled on propeller
- Pontoon sometimes bottoms out at dock when level is low.
- Yes. Pontoon boat can't even get out of our dock many times. Typically impacted 1.5 months
- Not much impact at dock but Frog pond is especially low and the water is stagnant and mucky, seems to be filled with debris
- Sometimes have issues docking

3. Would you support a pilot/test program for raising the lake level? Yes or No?

Response: Yes 58%

No 42%

- If level can be raised in the fall that would be great. If it is permanently raised, not likely a good idea.
- Yes. I would expect that the cost would be reasonable. Get data from resident relative to flooding, dock issues etc from the current high level. And then explore conservatively extending the overflow pipe. Additionally, pressure should be applied to the Condo Association to make a committed effort to conserve lake water. "Please" doesn't work
- The lake is high enough for us. But we are only there a few months in the summer.
- Yes, as long as it was not raise by an excessive amount.
- The current levels work well for me
- Suggest looking into having a movable overflow pipe that could be raised or lowered as needed seasonally.
- We would need further information regarding raising the lake level before offering or not offering support. How is the level controlled? Are you considering raising it year round or specific times of the year? What is the environmental effect of manipulating the level?
- No, I do not want the level raised because we have no idea how that will effect us.
- Yes, but also think it would cause problems, What would be the cost of the programs and who pays for it

4. Would you like the lake committee to follow up with you to discuss the lake level or any other additional issues with you?

- No problem, in particular the reduction of water use that violates the deed restrictions.
- You are welcome to call me anytime 419-304-7969 below are my thoughts:
 - It would be nice to dredge the lake to get it deeper or at least get rid of the muddy feeling on the bottom but I understand this is not practical.
 - I know we need to control the weeds but don't like that by killing weeds we seem to also kill fish.
 - I think we should have a fine for homes that use fertilizer that has chemicals that increase the weeds
- There are a lot of guys in small boats (not pontoons) that fish real close to the docks. They are not following rules regarding approved distance from the shore.

- Based on my answers, if anyone on the committee feels that such a discussion would be constructive feel free to contact me.
- We would welcome looking into the overflow pipe adjustment for fall only.
- No need, but thanks
- We would need further information regarding raising the lake level before offering or not offering support. How is the level controlled? Are you considering raising it year round or specific times of the year? What is the environmental effect of manipulating the level?
- Perhaps if you could answer the questions in our response #3... However, thinking that most might be wondering the same, so if you address this to the group, that is fine!
- I would be happy to discuss the issue with anyone at anytime. Without the proper level of water in the lake all manners of why we live on the lake suffer.
- Yes. I have lived here since 1994. Linda Sabo
- Question on pumping water from the lake to water grass: I always thought the condos had a right to pump water. In reviewing the restrictions, I do not see an exemption for them. Does anyone have a right to pump water from the lake?
- Good morning Joey , in response to the request for info on the lake here are my thoughts. I have lived on this lake for over 25 years both in a condo and single family home . I too run out of deep water at my dock in August and September, I have had to blow the sand away with a pressure water hose , a lot of work . It is my understanding that the condos use the lake water for lawn irrigation, this just isn't ok to do anymore in my opinion. Too heavy a draw on the water resource. They could convert to city water and be done with the yearly controversy. I know it's a cost for them but the home owners paid for their water systems at construction. I would also look at the erosion that is going on for a long time on the West Bank of the lake and the north end of the lake where I live . The muskrats have several homes burrowed in and under the banks . The baha needs immediate attention in my opinion , it's time to bring in the stone and preserve that strip of land . The muskrats must be dealt with also , I see more every year . If you have any questions concerning this letter do not hesitate to contact me
- Scale back weed killer treatments – fish count (big and small down) and many fewer turtles. Long term effects need to be considered
- Keep trapping muskrats – thousands of dollars of damage over the years to dock, holes cause yard to cave in
- Too many geese. 10 new little ones hatched this year
- I would be very reluctant to start tampering with what nature has been controlling for the past 30 years.