

Pond Committee Update October 18, 2024

Hi everyone,

This is just a short note to update everyone with what has happened this year with the pond committee and, what is currently in progress, possible plans for the future etc.

What we were able to accomplish this year:

We had 3 work bees.

2 at Evelyn's Pond – the first was quite successful. We had about 20 people out to participate in spreading sand and cleaning up the beach. The second one was basically rained out. We were able to get much of the weeds cleaned up so that people are now able to get in and float in the pond. There has also been a fountain installed. It has been great to see the increased number of people using the pond again.

One work bee at Angle Pond - we had approximately 26 -28 people attend and we able to get the paths around the pond cleaned up as well as removal of invasive water lilies and some weed raking which made a huge improvement to the pond.

Rick has also done some preliminary work to find out the cause of the prolific weed growth. He has received a quote which has been presented Brian and the board for review.

What we were not able to this year to date:

Unfortunately, we were unable to have the work bee for Larry's Pond as staff was unable to do the preliminary work for that pond this year.

During the summer months (July and August) it is difficult to do much pond work because raking the ponds stirs everything up and people want to be able to use it. Occasionally mid-week, if the campsite is quiet, we might be able to pull out a few more weeds.

I would like to schedule a SLS Pond Committee meeting on Sunday October 20th at 11:00 am to discuss what worked this year, and what we can do better next year and to begin to plan what and how we will do things next year.

Upcoming plans:

We have had a meeting with the board, are planning to move the playground to the center of the beach and turn it so that the playground is facing the beach. Bill and Kelly offered to build six picnic tables with holes for umbrellas placed strategically on the beach so that people could use them while watching their children play at the beach or on the playground. They have also offered to build a sand box and a toybox for the kid's toys. The board has accepted this proposal with a couple of changes. Instead of moving the existing playground they would like to replace it with something sturdier, solid metal as I understand it. As well they would prefer metal tables that do not require any maintenance and have decided to buy 3 which are the same as the ones that are currently by the store.

- Rick plans to pursue more information about the cause of the weed overgrowth in our ponds.
- Brian plans to:
 - Buy more pond rakes for the upcoming season.
 - Contact Steve Marshal to contract him to use excavator to clean out Evelyns Pond and Larry's Pond and to pull up the sand from Angel Pond back onto the beach. In Evelyn's Pond we will use a heavier grade gravel as a base in the pond so it will not float away and people won't sink up to their knees. They will also remove the broken-up boat launch so that people will not trip or hurt themselves on the rough edges.
 - Remove the fountain as we were informed that it actually increases the weed growth which has been evident this year.
 - In March Brian will test a product called Bluestone in Evelyns and Joshuas Ponds which is safe for fish and animals that helps stop weed growth and algae.
- Heather will reach out to someone who works with Canadian Goose Management program to see if we can come up with a solution for the geese invading and soiling our beaches, ponds and lawn.

The Pond Committee will follow up with Brian in January to confirm dates for the excavator.

We have booked pond work bees on May 17th at Evelyn's Pond, June 7th at Angle Pond and June 21st at Larry's Pond. Hoping that we will this year have everything completed before children get out of school and the park ramps up for the season.

Please jot down any of your ideas and put them forward at the next meeting. As well if you know anyone else interested in joining the pond committee, please let me know.

In closing I would like to thank everyone who helped out this year, our efforts have not gone unnoticed. There have been numerous people that have commented on the improvements to Evelyn's Pond and beach. We have seen more people floating and using the pond then we have seen in years, which in turn helps to alleviate some of the pressures on Angle Pond. Our efforts are a work in progress and we hope to keep making improvements to the ponds for everyone to enjoy. I look forward to speaking with all of you at our next meeting.

Best regards,
Heather Hall