



Short Ears, Long Tales

Courte Oreilles Lakes Association

Issue #30 August 15, 2018

Shouldering public service in the Town of Bass Lake: three gentlemen reflect

By Kathy Hanson
Contributing Writer

The Town of Bass Lake provides many services—some easily visible and others not so much—but all critical. In this issue of Short Ears, Long Tales we want you to meet several of the main support employees and leaders who are a part of the team that makes your neck of the woods a lot safer and enjoyable in which to live and recreate.

Justin Hall, Town Chair

Justin is exactly the kind of person you want as town chair in a diverse rural community like Town of Bass Lake, with a population (2000 census) of 2,244. With premier lakes, bridges, boat landings, parks, businesses, restaurants and lakeshore properties, there is much demanded of the town board.

Hall, 69, spent 39 years in law enforcement, 35 as Chief of Police and 27 of those as City of Hayward Police Chief. He attended UW-Madison and has many law enforcement and investigation credentials as well.

He said he moved to the area in 1971 when he married Janet, his wife of 47 years. He began working for the Sheriff's Department that same year. They have three children—Lisa, Janet Lynn and their son Adam. They enjoy nine grandchildren and seven greats as well.

Hall said when the Town of Bass Lake went to a five-man board he decided to run for supervisor. After several years of that he became the town chair.

"I still hold that position today and am very proud to serve the people of Bass Lake Township," he said, adding that he oversees the running of the town along with the other board members.

"I chair all the meetings and handle situations as they come up. I coordinate with our town clerk and treasurer and I work closely with the road supervisor and fire chief."

Hall said in the past several years they have improved the park systems, added new facilities for the fire department and road maintenance, and have kept the equipment in good shape.

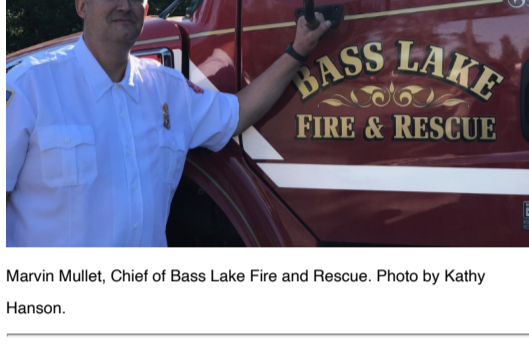
"We have progressed with things of need with the help of all involved—the board, department heads, clerk, treasurer and planning committee. He also includes input from the taxpayers as critical in that process.

"We have done a lot of improvements in the town while striving to keep the taxes down."

Marvin Mullet, Chief of Bass Lake Fire and Rescue

Raised in North Carolina, Mullet moved to the area in 1985 and has extensive background experience in farming, heavy equipment repair, property maintenance and logging.

He married his wife Dorothy, who ran Hickory Hill Bakery for 10 years, and they have six children.



Marvin Mullet, Chief of Bass Lake Fire and Rescue. Photo by Kathy Hanson.

"I joined the Bass Lake Fire Department in June 2005 and became Chief in January 2008. My main responsibility is operation of the department. This includes equipment readiness, firefighter training, special hazard awareness, weather events/awareness, special events, and insurance issues," he said.

When asked what his typical day looks like, Mullet said it always starts with a quick walk-through of the building, noting air brake pressure on the trucks, and making sure everything looks normal. He does a mental checklist of available firefighters and EMRs for the day and checks wild land fire danger.

He is the purchasing agent for the department so he often deals with vendors and studies the best deals. Fire and safety inspections have to be performed twice yearly on commercial facilities and businesses in Bass Lake Township and Mullet is in charge of that, as well as having the truck fire pumps tested and certified. There is fit testing for breathing apparatus, ladders, hoses and instrument calibration.

The entire department has been trained in Basic Life Support and certified in AED and CPR, according to Mullet, who said they all carry high visibility vests in their personal vehicles so they can be immediately identified as fire department personnel and be operational wherever they are.

Mullet said that one of their ongoing problems is access to emergency situations—namely, driveways with lots of trees, curves, hills and overhanging branches.

"This works out well for a Subaru or Tahoe but when it is the middle of the night and you have firefighters converging on an emergency it is extremely difficult to have an efficient response. Some places have a row of mailboxes right in the apex of the corner turning into the lane and our wheelbases are too long to make the turn," he said.

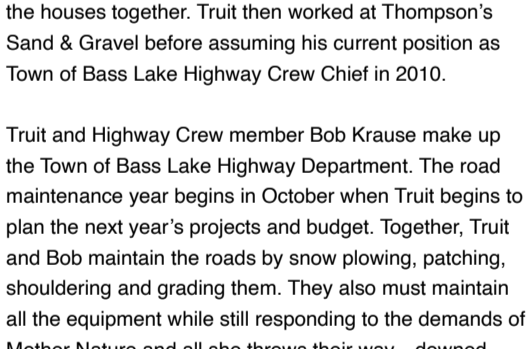
Mullet encourages people to contact him if they feel they have access problems. He will come out and provide recommendations.

This is a man grateful for the work he does and the people who rely on him. He pointed out that the people of Bass Lake are generous and provide support, including businesses like Trails End Resort and The Steakhouse and Lodge that have donated to their department functions.

"I am honored to serve as your fire chief and am blessed with a crew that shares my passion for excellence," said Mullet.

Truit Campbell, Highway Crew Chief

Truit describes his job simply: "Maintenance of all public roads in Town of Bass Lake." Imagine what a job that is when you look at 84 miles of roads—52 miles of blacktop and 32 miles of gravel—all of it requiring planning, rebuilding, mowing and just plain fixing in an endless circle.



Truit Campbell, Bass Lake Highway Crew Chief, with his children, Kaydee (L) and Sadie and Brady. Photo submitted.

Just 42, Campbell, who is married to three children, moved here at age six from Texas. He graduated from Hayward High School, later moved to Menomonie where he worked at the Walmart Distribution Center, and then returned to Hayward where he worked on the cranberry marsh of Jean Skille and then for Pinewood Homes, hauling manufactured houses, prepping sites, and putting the houses together. Truit then worked at Thompson's Sand & Gravel before assuming his current position as Town of Bass Lake Highway Crew Chief in 2010.

Truit and Highway Crew member Bob Krause make up the Town of Bass Lake Highway Department. The road maintenance year begins in October when Truit begins to plan the next year's projects and budget. Together, Truit and Bob maintain the roads by snow plowing, patching, shouldering and grading them. They also must maintain all the equipment while still responding to the demands of Mother Nature and all she throws their way—downed trees, snowstorms and flooded roads.

The department must also collaborate with the Planning Committee and Town Board to create and maintain the parks and boat landings.

Some of the projects Truit has been instrumental in creating are the reconstruction of Highline Road, Windigo park and boat landing, Grindstone Scenic Overlook, improved boating and restroom at Spring Lake, Harvey Park, reconstruction of William's Resort Road and, most recently, the new addition to the Fire Department.

The current project is Hens Park, Truit said.

[View this email in your browser](#)

Town of Bass Lake, Sawyer County

Town Hall:
14412 W County Highway K
Hayward, WI 54843
Phone: 715-634-8469

Town Website:
basslakewi.gov

Established: April 3, 1917

Current Population: 2,410

Town Board:
Justin Hall (Chairman)
Ralph Meixner
Doug Mrotek
Dave Aubart
Don Adams

Town Treasurer: Kari Aderman

Town Clerk: Erica Warshawsky

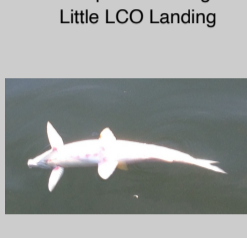
Departments:
Highway Department – Truit Campbell, Highway Crew Chief
Fire Department – Marvin Mullet, Fire Chief

Opportunities to Participate:
Town Board Meetings are generally held on the 2nd Monday of the month at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall. Planning Committee Meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall.

Opportunities to Volunteer:
Fire Department – Please contact the Fire Chief, Marvin Mullet at 715-634-4291.
Election Inspector – Please contact the Clerk at 715-634-8469.

Transfer Station: 7816 N Highline Road

Parks and Boat Landings:
Town Hall Park
Grindstone Shallows
LCO Boat Landing
Windigo Boat Landing
Spring Lake Boat Landing
Hens Park
Harvey Park
Grindstone Scenic Overlook
Durphee Landing
Little LCO Landing



HELP MONITOR WATER QUALITY BY USING COLA'S LAKE OBSERVATION FORMS

The steady decline in water quality (phosphorus levels continue to inch higher) of big LCO taken together with increasing temperatures are trending towards a situation that could cause problems for cisco and lake whitefish, [similar to what we saw in 2016](#).

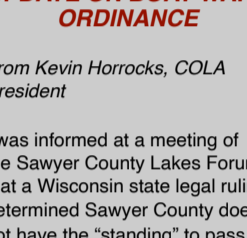
If you observe dead fish or other notable events on the LCO Lakes, please report your observation using the [forms provided on COLA's website](#).

UPDATE ON BOAT WAKE ORDINANCE

From Kevin Horrocks, COLA President

I was informed at a meeting of the Sawyer County Lakes Forum that a Wisconsin state legal ruling determined Sawyer County does not have the "standing" to pass the Boat Wake Ordinance. So, at this time there is no further plan for a County ordinance regarding this issue.

The authority to take on an issue like excessive height boat wakes apparently resides with the towns and townships. We have not heard of interest at the township level as regards a boat wake ordinance affecting the LCO Lakes.



JULY 4TH BOAT PARADE A NEAR MISS DUE TO WEATHER CHALLENGES

We would like to thank all those who participated in the 2018 July 4th Boat Parade. Although the attendance and the weather did not cooperate this year to our advantage, we will still continue to have the yearly parade.

Our 2019 Boat Parade will be held on July 4th. If you would like to be part of the committee that works to plan and communicate about the parade to the lake community please contact Elainepardi@gmail.com.

ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR INSTALLING SHORELINE BUFFERS

COLA will assist property owners with shoreland restoration plans including design, bulk plant purchases, and arrangements for construction and installation services from area landscapers. **For those looking to restore or enhance their shoreline... but don't want to go the full blown WDNR 35 foot route...try the new "COLA Lite" approach.**

For questions and details, email Kris Sivertson (krisw3690@gmail.com) or call 715-210-0818.

DO YOU WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

COLA NEEDS YOUR HELP

COLA is recruiting new members for its Board of Directors. Please [let us know](#) if you can lend a hand - it's fun and rewarding work.

THE LAC COURTE OREILLES LEGACY FUND

Many families have enjoyed LCO's pristine beauty for generations. Your generous donations over the past eight years have helped preserve the lake and remain the essential funding for current activities. But now we have another opportunity to protect the lake far into the future by putting the Lac Courte Oreilles Foundation into your estate plans.

The LCO Foundation teamed up with the Eau Claire Community Foundation to create the [Lac Courte Oreilles Legacy Fund](#). Endowment gifts include: planned gifts such as a bequest in a will, charitable remainder trust, or outright gifts, such as of cash, or stock.

SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS

If you have friends or family on nearby lakes who would enjoy Short Ears, Long Tales, [let us know](#).

Help COLA by sharing this newsletter with friends.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR COLA MEMBERSHIP FOR 2018!

COLA membership is a pretty good deal. For only 25\$/year, you help COLA protect LCO, and you get a picnic in return!

[Renew your membership](#) today in one of Wisconsin's most active and respected lake associations.

Are your neighbors and extended family members of COLA? If not, please ask them to [join](#).

[ARCHIVED ISSUES OF SHORT EARS, LONG TALES](#)

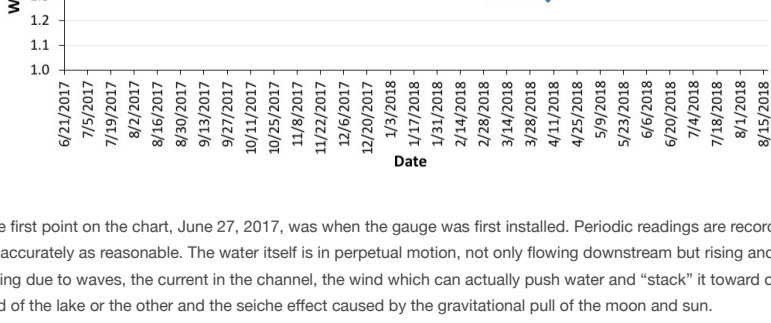
MANY THANKS TO ALL INVOLVED WITH COLA'S PICNIC!

The annual COLA Picnic in July gave members a stunning summer day to talk it up with familiar pals, make some new friends, have some else do all the picnic cooking and prep (hosted by Trails End Resort), cool off with ice cold soft drinks (our apologies...next year we'll have bottles of water, too), show their affection for Spotted Cow beer, have a great lunch. And, for the lucky ones, have the winning raffle numbers for generous Gift Certificates from our six LCO Lakes' meal and drink establishments. Hope to see you at next summer's Picnic.

Gift Certificates provided by (alphabetical order):

- Angler's Haven Resort
- The Boulevard Firehouse and Bar
- The Fireside
- Italia! Ristorante Italiano
- Trails End Resort
- Trailways Inn

LCO Water Depth Recorded at Thoroughfare Bridge Gauge



The first point on the chart, June 27, 2017, was when the gauge was first installed. Periodic readings are recorded as accurately as reasonable. The water itself is in perpetual motion, not only flowing downstream but rising and falling due to waves, the current in the channel, the wind which can actually push water and "stack" it toward one end of the lake or the other and the seiche effect caused by the gravitational pull of the moon and sun.

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COLA Mission: 1) to protect, preserve and enhance the quality of Lac Courte Oreilles and Little Lac Courte Oreilles, their shorelands and surrounding areas, while respecting the interests of property owners and the rights of the general public; and 2) to consider, study, survey and respond to issues deemed relevant by COLA's membership.

The eNewsletter Editor can be reached at:

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