

Shoreland restoration lands first VLAWMO grant

by Karen Emanuelson

Editor

Philip Portoghese noticed the ducks had disappeared from his Oriole Lane backyard shoreland – and the muskrats had taken over.

Like the handful of other homeowners along the Pleasant Lake canal, Portoghese has a long bridge over the canal to connect to his property near the NOHOA trail around Pleasant Lake.

Over the years, Portoghese noticed the canal shore was eroding and was beginning to undermine the footings on his bridge.

Portoghese remembered a 2005 conversation with then City Forest Joe Walton about shoreland restoration. Portoghese called Walton last year when Walton was a restoration biologist with Kunde Consultants.

On initial inspection of the project, Walton noted several problems including the lawn that was mowed all the way to the shoreline. In addition to promoting soil erosion, this practice also discouraged the wildlife the Portoghese were hoping to attract.

“Ducks need cover for shelter and food,” said Walton. “Give them cover and diversity – that is what they really want.” Walton spoke with experts from the Department of Natural Resources Aquatic Division who recommended including sego pondweed in the project to attract ducks.

Deterring the muskrats proved to be an interesting challenge. Walton discussed ways to discourage muskrat tunneling with Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District officials. Together, they came up with a plan using chicken wire fence and silt snakes filled with wood fiber to follow the contours of the shoreland.

“The silt snakes soak up with water,” said Walton. “Plant roots grow in them and anchor them. They are really great and help prevent erosion. As the plant roots grow in, the whole things becomes one big mass.”

In addition to being muskrat-deterrent, the plants chosen are native, flowering and adapted to growing in shoreland where water levels will fluctuate, according to Walton. Tussock Sedge, New England Aster, Spotted Joe Pye Weed and River Bulrush in addition to a dozen other species were used.

Walton chose wildflowers that bloom at different times throughout the year to provide different foods throughout the year, plus it will be aesthetically pleasing to the homeowner.

In addition to consulting with others with shoreland restoration expertise, Walton also obtained the necessary permissions and permits from four different governmental agencies.

Stephanie McNamara, administrator of one of those agencies, the Vadnais Lakes Area Water Management Association (VLAWMO), encouraged Walton to apply for cost-sharing funds through her organization. Portoghese was subsequently awarded \$800, which was 50 percent of his materials cost. The Portoghese award was the first-ever cost-sharing money granted from VLAWMO for a project of this scope.

Homeowners who believe they are candidates for shoreland restoration projects in their yards should first make sure they own the shoreland. Trails and land immediately adjacent to Pleasant, Deep, Black and Wilkinson lakes are owned by the North Oaks Home Owners’ Association and may not be landscaped or restored



– Map courtesy of GIS Online Mapping, Ramsey County Web site

The Pleasant Lake canal runs through the Portoghese property (#17). A long bridge connects the backyard to land near the NOHOA-owned Shoreland Trail around Pleasant Lake.

by individual property owners. If an erosion problem is noticed along a NOHOA trail, contact the NOHOA office at 651-484-6005 or nohoa@comcast.net. NOHOA is currently

undertaking a major shoreline restoration project along the southwestern shore of Pleasant Lake and is reviewing other potential shoreland restoration project areas.



In the News



Voggeser earns round table distinction

Gary Voggeser of the Minnesota Business Center of the Principal Financial Group has qualified for the company’s Management Achievement Round Table (MART). MART is an exclusive gathering of top field management to exchange ideas and acknowledge

accomplishments.

McDermott produces inspirational DVD

Jan McDermott has produced a DVD featuring an original, inspirational song, “It’s Your Love.” “Last summer when I was hiking and praying along Lake Pleasant, a melody and words came to me,” said McDermott. The

single-song DVD is available from McDermott for \$10.

Local dentist attends scientific session

Dr. Steven Gorman attended the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry’s 24th annual scientific session, Excellence in Cosmetic Dentistry 2008 in New Orleans. Gorman is an active

member of the AACD, which is the world’s largest international dental organization dedicated to advancing excellence in the art and science of cosmetic dentistry.

Resident competes for Mrs. Minnesota

Denise Wood will be competing in the 2008 Mrs. Minnesota-America Pageant

Saturday, June 7 at the Fitzgerald Theater in St. Paul. Former Mrs. Minnesota and North Oaks resident Holly Ernst, along with a group of North Oaks friends, plans to attend to show their support. Tickets are available at the door. The pageant begins at 7 p.m.

FAIRWAY

COLLISION CENTER

Quality Collision Repair

We now offer complete mechanical services.



We don’t just promise quality, we guarantee it ... for life!

Hours: M-F 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Saturday - 9 a.m. - noon

651-483-4055

www.fairwaycollisioncenter.com

Fairway Collision Center
125 East County Road F
Vadnais Heights, MN 55127

EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCE LEADS TO EXCEPTIONAL CARE

- FELLOWSHIP TRAINED LASIK SURGEON
- CORNEAL SPECIALIST
- PERFORMED THOUSANDS OF PROCEDURES
- **FREE LASIK EXAM**
- 18 MONTHS INTEREST FREE FINANCING
- LASIK CENTER MINUTES AWAY FROM NORTH OAKS

LASIK

FAST
DEPENDABLE
INSURED



FREE
WOOD
CHIPS

BUCKTHORN REMOVAL TREE REMOVAL

STUMP & BRUSH REMOVAL
TREE TRIMMING • LOT CLEANING

• Bobcat Work • Landscaping
Licensed in North Oaks



651-426-8660



Now Two Locations to Serve you Better



**North Suburban
Eye Specialists**

3790 Coon Rapids Blvd. 11855 Ulysses Street
Coon Rapids, MN 55433 Blaine, MN 55434

763.421.7420

DR. LOBANOFF