To: Crystal Lake Members 1/3/2025

From: Crystal Lake Board of Directors

Subject: Avian (Bird) Flu at Crystal Lake

It as come to our attention that several geese that reside at the lake have died. The DNR was able to test one of the carcasses and it did test positive for the bird flu. Our assumption is that the other geese died of the flu also.

There is a lot of unknown information about bird flu, however, some of the following information has been researched and confirmed:

1. The bird flu can persist in water up to 150 days, even when no infected birds are present and can trigger an outbreak.
2. The virus contaminated water then can contaminate marine life, including mammals and fish.
3. The virus has been contracted by humans, mainly, people working closely to infected livestock.
4. Geese are one of the major carriers of the bird flu and spread it through infected droppings, nasal secretions, and feathers.

Since the lake has a rather large, long standing goose population, this is probably a long-term issue.

As we approach winter and people want to do some ice fishing on the lake, we would urge you to consider the above information and weigh your risks. We will not stop anyone from fishing if they decide to partake in the activity. We are simply making you aware of this information. The DNR recommends not handling the carcasses and not allowing your pets near them.

We will also, post a sign at the dam indicating the bird flu is present in the lake.

Beaver Trapping

We have experienced quite a bit of tree damage around the lake from a very active beaver population. The board has hired a professional trapper to attempt to decrease the beaver population. The traps are set below the water level and in the beaver den holes, so pets and people should be safe. If you see an individual around the lake edge, this is what he is doing. To date, he has eliminated two beavers.

We hope this information is informative and helpful.

Sincerely,

Lee Nichols, Board President