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## Lake Geneva Area Association

LAKE GENEVA/MNDOT MEETING FEBRUARY 14, 2020  
ALEXANDRIA MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

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## Agenda

- Introductions
- Meeting Goals
- Background
- Survey Results
- Homeowner/Commercial Impact
- Chain Collaboration
- Next Steps

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### 3 Meeting Attendees

- **State Senator District 8**
  - Bill Ingebrigtsen
- **Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT District 4)**
  - Shiloh Wahl – Transportation District Engineer
  - Brian Bausman – Project Manager
- **City of Alexandria**
  - Mike Weber – City Planner
  - Tim Schoonhoven – City Engineer



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### 4 Lake Geneva Board – 9 Active, committed members

- Doug Thompson - [dathompson58@gmail.com](mailto:dathompson58@gmail.com)
  - Founder of LG association – 40 years
- Craig Loos – [craig.loos@yahoo.com](mailto:craig.loos@yahoo.com)
  - President LG association, Chain committee – 29 years
- Tim Aarsvold – [tim.aarsvold@gmail.com](mailto:tim.aarsvold@gmail.com)
  - Treasure, former owner of Geneva Beach Resort – 25 years
- Jeff Wild – [jeffrey.wild@alextech.edu](mailto:jeffrey.wild@alextech.edu) – 14 years

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## Lake Geneva Board

- Jerrod Westphal – [jerrod.westphal@gmail.com](mailto:jerrod.westphal@gmail.com) – 14 years
- Mark Sponsler – [marksponsler3@gmail.com](mailto:marksponsler3@gmail.com) 12 years
- Mike Holte – [mholte1515@yahoo.com](mailto:mholte1515@yahoo.com) – 6 years
- Darren Cook – [darren.cook50@gmail.com](mailto:darren.cook50@gmail.com) - 4 years
- Craig Calhoun – [CCAL8@yahoo.com](mailto:CCAL8@yahoo.com)
  - Owner of Geneva Beach Resort – 3 year

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## Meeting Goal - Lake Geneva & the Chain

- **We are aware of the MnDOT Hwy 29 – Alexandria Corridor Study**
  - The purpose of your study is to identify....
    - Future roadway improvements (all travel types i.e. local vs regional)
    - Travel modes (i.e. cars, bikes, pedestrians)
- **Lake Geneva/Chain goals**
  - Ground you on what our LG/LHD channel problem is & hopefully get MnDOT to consider solving our problem when you make your final decision on the Hwy 29 corridor initiative.

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## 7 | Background

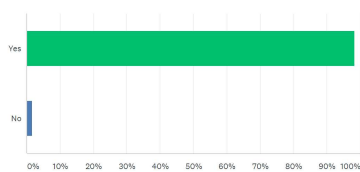
- Hwy. 29 Lake Geneva/Le Homme Dieu Channel was constructed in **1956**
- **Over 66 years significant changes have occurred:**
  - Chain population, increased boat size, restaurant start ups, erosion, water level fluctuation, increased tourist/recreational visitors, fishing tournaments etc
  - Boater safety and watercraft damage has become a major issue (i.e. boats getting stuck/wedged, boats meeting in channel – visibility impaired)
  - Boat dynamics have changed – “Grandpa’s Red Lund” has been replaced by larger watercraft including pontoon, wakeboard boats, & classic wooden boats (Legacy of the Lakes)
- As a result of the numerous changes over the past 66+ years, **navigation and access through the Lake Geneva/Le Homme Dieu (Hwy. 29) channel is extremely limited and dangerous**

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## 8 | Current Survey Results

Do you use the Alexandria Chain of Lakes for recreational boating? (includes personal watercraft)

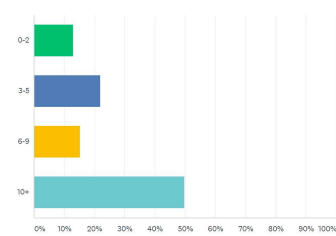
Answered: 177 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	COUNT
Yes	98.31%	174
No	1.69%	3
TOTAL		177

On average, how many times per month (May-September) do you boat on the Alexandria Chain?

Answered: 177 Skipped: 2

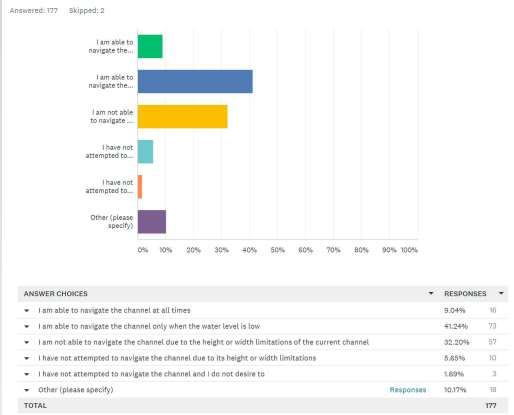


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	COUNT
0-2	12.99%	23
3-5	22.03%	39
6-9	15.25%	27
10+	49.72%	88
TOTAL		177

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## 9 | Current Survey Results

Are you able to navigate the channel between Lake Geneva and Lake Le Homme Dieu in your preferred watercraft?

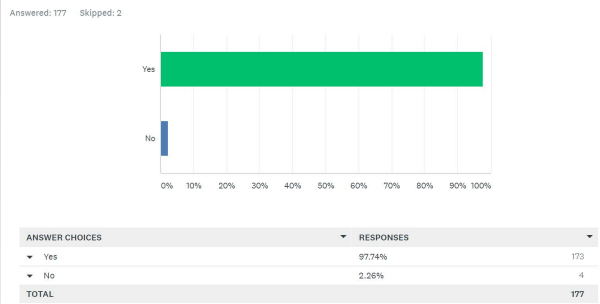


- “Other” Responses
  - I have never tried
  - I had to sell my pontoon as it would not fit thru the channel (2)
  - I have a smaller boat that we can use of the water is low (3)
  - We cannot get from Victoria to Geneva as that channel is too small (2)
  - When water is really low we can make it – navigating it against the current is especially difficult though due to the width
  - We currently do not own a boat (2)
  - If I remove my windshield I can make it
  - In 35 years on the lake I’ve only been able to get thru a few times
  - Issues with both depth and height based upon precipitation – either water depth too low to get boat thru or too high and hits top
  - Can’t get thru when water is high and also issues with visibility causing a safety concern
  - I can only make it thru on my jet ski definitely not my boat

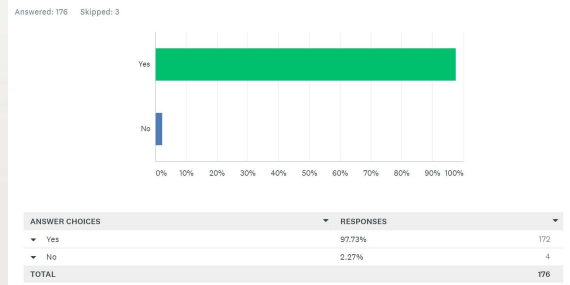
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## 10 | Current Survey Results

Would you support improving the channel connecting Lake Geneva to Lake Le Homme Dieu to allow greater watercraft access between the lakes?



If you answered “Yes” to question 5, would you agree to sign a petition to demonstrate your support for this project to be included by MNDOT when performing the planned MN Hwy 29 upgrades?



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## 11 | Channel Comparisons



GENEVA - LE HOMME DIEU CHANNEL (UNDER HWY. 29)  
APPROX. DIMENSIONS 8' 8" WIDE X 4' HIGH



LE HOMME DIEU - CARLOS CHANNEL APPROX. DIMENSIONS 20'+ WIDE X 8' HIGH

LE HOMME DIEU - CARLOS CHANNEL IS **DOUBLE** THE SIZE OF THE GENEVA - LE HOMME DIEU CHANNEL  
11'+ WIDER & 4' HIGHER

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## 12 | What value will improving the channel provide?

- Commercial/economic impact
  - Restaurants
  - Resorts
  - Parks and Camps
- Homeowner Impact
  - Improved access
  - Home values

Above all will be the value to the Alexandria community by further improving accessibility, enjoyment and experience of one of our greatest resources...

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## ALEX Chain Commercial Impact

- Arrowwood Deck Bar
- Zorbaz & Lure Restaurant's
- Lake Carlos Marina
- Lake Carlos State Park
- Lake Geneva Christian Center
- Luther Crest Bible Camp
- Mount Carmel Ministries



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## ALEX Chain Commercial Impact

- **Benefits 12 Resorts**
  - **Carlos:** Lake Carlos Villas, Lake Carlos Bay, Windjammer
  - **Darling:** Arrowwood, Shady Lawn, Lake Darling Resort, Val Halla Villa
  - **Geneva:** Geneva Beach Resort
  - **Le Homme Dieu:** Bergs Resort, Lake Le Homme Dieu Bed & Breakfast
  - **Victoria:** Broken Arrow, Lake Victoria Resort

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## Alexandria Chain Homeowners Impact

### HOMEOWNERS

- Carlos – 450
- Darling – 321
- Geneva – 168
- Le Homme Dieu – 450
- Victoria – 148
- Jessie – 50/75
  - Benefits 1,587 homeowners

### ALEX CHAIN OF LAKES



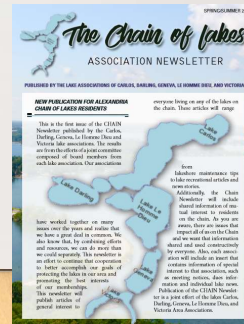
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## Alex Chain Lake Association Collaboration

- We have a joint committee composed of board members from each lake association, that have worked closely together to accomplish our goals which are **protecting our lakes, promoting the best interests of the chain homeowners, local residents, business's & tourism.**

- Chain Newsletter
- Aquatic Plant Management Eurasian Milfoil Eradication
- Channel Dredging Le Homme Dieu/Carlos
- Potential Hwy. 29 Tunnel Reconstruction



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## The Solution

- Lake Geneva/Le Homme Dieu Channel reconstruction

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## Thank You

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