

## ***Twin Lake Waterway Facts/Band Aides Explained for the 57<sup>th</sup> LNID AGM May 2023 by C. Brown***

- **In 1948** a dam was built on the Upper Twin Lake (UTL) to store and flood the grassland just N. of the old barn so that a productive, grazing hayfield was formed for the cattle in the spring into early summer. All BC waterways are managed by, and subject to, water licences. The earthen dam was licenced to store 320-acre ft. of water until June 30 & then the water would be released to the Lower Twin Lake (LTL). In wet years water overflowed from LTL through the deep gully of Lower Horn Creek near the present-day pump.
- **In 1950** flooding occurred on the Twin Lakeside Trail where there was an overflow outlet of Lower Horn Creek. The Ministry of Transportation provided a solution by putting a culvert in the overflow outlet attached to an 800 ft. gravity feed concrete pipe to make the Lakeside Trail was once again passable.
- **In 1962** a new owner of the Middle Twin Lake Ranch did not understand the waterway & saw a lake with low water, so he pulled the 1952 Ministry of Transportation culvert with its concrete pipe, then filled the Lower Horn Creek gully with 20 ft. of fill (this history is from the 1973 Botham Report). Power had come to Twin Lake, so Wassman put a pump in LTL and pumped water to irrigate the N. field of DL 280. This event was approved by the BC Ministry. The Twin Lake Waterway was **no longer a waterway but functioned like a reservoir without an overflow outlet.**
- **In 1965** water conflicts occurred with the newly created seasonal lakefront properties & the Middle Twin Lake Rancher, Mr. Wassman. The province had a solution and created the Lower Nipit (Twin Lake Land) Improvement District with a mandate to operate a works.
- **In 1971** a wet year occurred with 10 ft. of freshet, but the lake had been pumped so low by the middle Twin Lake Rancher in 1970 that this large freshet did not cause any flood.
- **In 1971 to 1986** after Wassman's untimely death, the new owners, Thelma & Art Krieger managed the store /release water successfully in UTL & LTL until 1987 when Kriegers put the Middle Ranch up for sale. Krieger's stopped ranching/managing the water & the Twin Lake Golf Course opened an 18-hole course causing increased water use or traded the ranch irrigation water for Golf Irrigation.
- **1996 to 1999** was the next wet year water cycle with large freshets of about 13 vertical ft. The LNID obtained a Horn Creek diversion water licence and was able with the help of Si Sieben's to divert ½ of the freshet water above UTL to a large hollow along the S. White Lake Rd. This hollow is now developed with several houses. Without the ranchers' pump to irrigate the DL 280 field the LNID obtained a water licence to divert water from LTL & residents volunteered much time to dig/excavate a pipe 4 ft. deep by 2000 ft. long.

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A newly acquired LNID pump (this took the place of the 1950 culvert, pipe, and closed overflow outlet of Lower Horn Creek) was attached to the 2000 ft. 6 in. pipe.

- **In 2000 to 2009** dry years occurred with evidence of the Twin Lake waterway being overtaxed in dry years. Many residents lost water in their lake &/or well intakes and the Turtle Pond was completely dry by 2009. Many meetings occurred and letters were written to the RDOS & Ministry offices attempting to find a solution.



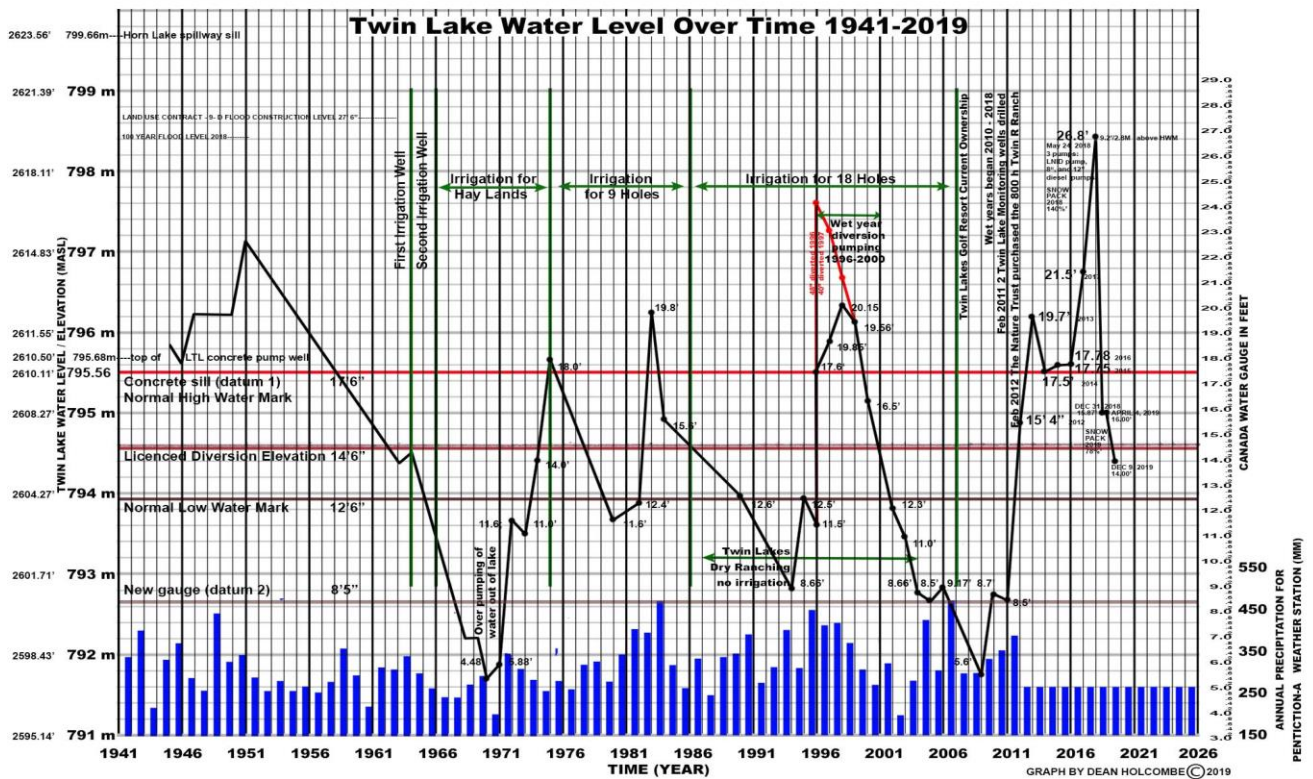
By July 2009 the Turtle Pond had no water in it. Cows walked in & ate the grass without marking the bottom



After the wet years 1996 to 1999 Twin Lake steadily lost water each year until by July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009, Lower Twin Lake peaked at only a high of 8.5 ft. & at ice on was at **5.6 vertical ft.**

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- **2010** began a wet year water cycle ending with **the 2017 & 2018** costly Twin Lake flooding. The LNID had been working with a special water engineer, Don Dobson, who helped us understand the waterway and the ‘one Lake’ which man had altered so that it no longer functioned naturally. Don Dobson attended meetings, wrote reports & supported the Twin Lake and LNID in a volunteer capacity because he thought Twin Lake to be worthwhile. He often commented about the obvious ground & surface water connection in the Twin Lake Area.
- **2018 to 2021** the LNID attempted to follow the recommendation of the province & become a service area of the RDOS. The RDOS had an excellent Report completed by Ecora and voted to not accept LNID into a “drainage service area”.
- In 2021 Don Dobson passed away so we no longer have his support, but we have the knowledge that he gave us.
- **2020 to 2022** were COVID years which made Ministry offices contact almost impossible.
- In **2023** the LNID realizes that there is a possible solution to mitigate the flood & drought water cycle.



- **The waterway & wetland must be restored so to have sustainable water in the Twin Lake Area.** This will take money, a focused effort, and the support of the province. Grants and funding must be obtained. We must work in a selfless, cooperative manner, if we expect Government officials to listen to us. If you value your property, this beautiful lake, and your water, please gain an understanding of the waterway so that you can be a helpful citizen of the Twin Lake Area. **There is value in having a Land Improvement District. We can work together, and we have a voice.**

