

Annual Report of the Lake Todd Village District

2006 – 2007

As we now approach the third anniversary of the inception of the LTVD a lot has transpired, most notably a dramatic change in the weather, which has produced three hundred year storms in a little over 18 months. The work that was done on the dam by Daniels Construction in 2005 has held up admirably; however the water has been insidious in seeking to bypass the dam, consequently creating new challenges that must be addressed. We will be instituting new guidelines to lower the water during off-season in anticipation of spring storms, coupled with snow melt which were the prime ingredients of the 2007 freshet.

We have added a few safety adornments to the dam with a cable running across the spillway for the safety of those installing and removing the flashboards, and at the head of the dam we will provide fluorescent floats to warn boaters and swimmers of danger ahead. In the late fall of 2006 a huge willow fell into the Lake and floated down to the spillway, completely blocking it. We immediately removed it as it presented a major winter hazard. And lastly in May of 2007 we bid good riddance to a monster stump, which had taken up residence at the base of the falls.

You should also be aware that a claim for damages occurring during the record storms of 2005 and 2006 has been made by one of the littoral owners on the Lake. This owner has retained counsel and alleges negligence in the operation of the dam. Your commissioners have instructed the insurance company that they are not to pay any portion of this claim, and that the LTVD will dispute it with every means at its disposal.

In early 2007 Bob Stewart resigned as commissioner and was replaced by Mike Beaton whose engineering skills were promptly put to use. We have always suspected that there are differing heights of the East and West sidewalls at the dam; with a transit and a number of observations we confirmed that there is a 20'' elevation change between the sidewalls on the Harris property vis a vis the Ormiston's. This means that the Brick Mill House side is far more likely to sustain damage and, indeed high water has made a few threatening attempts to bypass the dam on that side. This is a serious risk that must be addressed, the sooner the better. We are proposing with all due sensitivity to you, the owners and taxpayers, that these concerns be alleviated by raised concrete sidewalls plus a barrier across the Harris backyard.

We continue our vigilance of water quality with our weed watchers program headed up by the Beaton family, while Bob Doherty and Norm Lehoullier conduct the water testing for a variety of contaminants, clarity, plankton, and hot fishing spots.

The fall of 2006 saw our initial Sponsor a Highway cleanup with the LTVD now responsible for the stretch of highway from the intersection of Main Street and Rt. 103 to Fowlers Mill Rd. This piece of road runs right along the Lake and keeping it clean has to be a priority.

The Town of Bradford fire and rescue team has also seen the necessity to sandbag the dam during two of the last three major storms. Those doing the grunt work have been all volunteers from the Town with very little contribution by members of the LTVD. We strongly urge anyone who physically can do this sort of work to join our volunteer emergency team and we will notify you if the situation demands it. It is our Lake and our responsibility to protect it. Even if you are unable to do the actual work a show of support would be appreciated. While we are on the subject we could use your help with the highway cleanup (four times a year) and the weed watching.

This past year has seen some of our friends and neighbors leave the Lake, most notably Gerry and Jane Gold; Gerry was the driving force behind the formation of the LTVD. Dave Paine also has moved on; I am hard pressed to think of anyone who was more willing to monitor the dam, install the flashboards, clean the trash rack, and enlist additional bodies for the installation and removal of sandbags- Dave we will miss you.

On our list of “thank you” recipients we owe a great deal to Steve Lucier and the Bradford Highway Department who are always there when we need them. And year in year out Dennis Pavlicek of Newbury keeps us on the straight and narrow with the intricacies of town government.

I don't think it is a reach to say that those of us who own property on the Lake have been blessed, and that for many of us this is a little piece of heaven. And with this privilege comes a responsibility to work together to nourish, protect, and do whatever it takes to keep it our beautiful Lake Todd.

LAKE TODD VILLAGE DISTRICT

For the Commissioners,

Respectfully,

John Warren