

# Lake Todd Times

Issue #10

June 200

## Thank You!

Thank you to all who have paid their maintenance dues. If you haven't paid yet, please send \$25.00 to the Lake Todd Association, P.O. Box 169, Bradford, NH 03221, or bring it to the annual meeting on Saturday, June 29, at the Bradford Baptist Church. Come early to visit with your neighbors. Coffee and refreshments will be ready by 8:30 a.m. at the latest, and the meeting will start at 9:00.

Please review the attached Secretary's Report of last year's meeting so we can waive the reading of it at this year's meeting to save time. Corrections or additions will be requested at the meeting.

Carol Tonkin

## Flare Night

Flare Night on Lake Todd is Friday, July 5th, and we will be lighting our flares at 9:00 p.m. The Bradford celebration will be on Saturday, July 6th. Flares will be available at the Annual Meeting for \$3.00 each or 3 for \$7.00. If you want to pick up your flares early, or if you want to reserve them, you may call me at 938-2318.

LET'S LIGHT UP OUR LAKE!

Allene Hamilton  
147 Gillingham Dr.  
Newbury, NH

## Review of NH Boating Regulations

All motor boats (including electric motors) require:

1. A registration
2. Approved wearable flotation devices
  - a. One device on board for each person
  - b. Children under 5 years of age must wear one.
3. That proper lighting be on after sunset
4. A fire extinguisher
5. A sound-producing device
6. Headway Speed (6 mph or less) when operating within 150 feet of:
  - a. shore
  - b. swimmers
  - c. Docks or rafts
7. Ski craft
  - a. Operator must be at least 16 years old and wear a flotation device.
  - b. The skier must wear a flotation device.
  - c. An observer (age 13 or older) must be on board. If 2 skiers are being towed, there must be 2 observers in addition to the operator.

It is important that all boat operators read and understand ALL of New Hampshire's Boating Rules and Regulations!

Ray Hamilton





## Neighbors on the Lake

Roberta Tullis and Bob Lumibao have lived full time in their house on Gillingham Drive since last December when they winterized it. Before that, they came on weekends to their home that Roberta calls "our piece of heaven." Roberta and Bob bought their house in August of 1999, and their view from the hill is spectacular.

Originally from Manchester, Roberta and Bob had been looking for two years for a place on a lake. They found their spot on Lake Todd when they were on their way home from another exhausting day of searching, and came upon Gillingham Drive. "It was exactly what we were looking for," Roberta says, "the house, the acreage, the view." And here they are.

Bob is currently working at the Baker Hill Golf Course for the summer, and Roberta is an Office Manager for Beacon Technology Sales in Nashua. Although the commute to Nashua is long, it is worth it to her to be here on Lake Todd.



Bob and Roberta have six children and five grandchildren, as well as their 12-year old purebred beagle named Barney. Although Barney doesn't like the water much, he enjoys watching the view with Roberta and Bob.

Work on their home continues as Roberta and Bob transform their side porch into another room, add picture windows and an atrium door, and complete more winterizing. Their current focus is on building a deck, which they hope to have completed this summer.

"We are very fortunate to be here," Roberta says, a feeling I'm sure is echoed by everyone on Lake Todd.

Norma Murphy

## Lake Todd Wildlife

Our loons are nesting, but as in the past, it's tricky for them with so much rain. They build their nests very close to the water since they don't walk on land, and the eggs can easily drown. Please keep an eye out for them and warn people about going too close to their nesting site.

According to the Loon Preservation Commission, the number of nesting loons and surviving chicks is down slightly this year. We're lucky to have them on our lake. The loon is classified as a state threatened species under NH's Endangered Species Conservation Act. They need our help!

Allene Hamilton

By the way . . . Did you see the moose in Lake Todd last Saturday? Just taking a dip near the bridge.

## Lost

Two Old Town kayaks have been missing since we had the high winds and heavy rains a couple of weeks ago. One is a blue sit-on-top and the other is a yellow "Otter." If you have seen either of these kayaks, please call David or Ann Payne at 938-5169. Thank you!


## Corrections

In last month's newsletter, it was stated that dues have been \$25.00 per Lake Todd property owner since I have been here — 16 years, but it's actually been much longer than that. I have found correspondence dating back to 1982 that indicates the dues were \$25.00 then, and who knows how long before that. We are very careful with our funds and try not to spend more in any year than we take in and to add to our savings account when we can. However, we do have to tap our savings from time to time when repairs for the dam are more than usual, such as the new trash rack we put in a couple of years ago. We need to maintain a savings fund for unforeseen problems with the dam and to protect our lake from exotic weeds or anything else that threatens the quality of this lovely lake that we all enjoy. This is your lake and your dam. Please help support it!


Also, Gerry Gold's telephone number was listed incorrectly in last month's newsletter. The correct number is 938-6132.

Carol Tonkin





## Reflections



This was our first winter on the lake, and the single thing that stuck out for us was the ice skating. We have skated for almost 60 years and the ice on Lake Todd prior to New Year's was probably the best outdoor ice we can ever remember — black, smooth, and uniform.

A resident of Southgate Road caught a 6-pound pickerel ice fishing this winter. We heard of two 4-pound bass being caught as well.

Also, we will never forget the full moon on the ice in December—Spectacular!

Elaine and John Warren

## Emergency Action Plan

The notification system for our Emergency Action Plan (EAP) was tested on Thursday, June 20. It has been extremely frustrating getting the notification flow chart completed because we received incorrect information from the state. We had to revise it twice due to their error, recopy and re-mail to all the government agencies involved. I would like to thank Patty Dugdale for all her efforts in updating the EAP. Thanks, too, to Ken Barton, who did a remarkable job in writing the EAP originally. There were very few changes needed to the basic plan, only the notification section which was due to the 9-1-1 system and the new state requirements.

Carol Tonkin

## Weed Watchers

While we intend to start an official Weed Watcher Program, you can all be weed Watchers, starting immediately, to help us detect exotic weeds before they become established in our lake. Early detection of exotic weeds, especially milfoil, is extremely important in protecting our lake.

Attached is a chart that shows the difference between exotic weeds which are extremely harmful to the lake and native weeds, which are natural in lakes such as ours. If you see anything that looks like an exotic weed, call Gerry Gold at 938-6132 or Carol Tonkin at 938-2811 immediately. Try to mark where you saw it, but don't try to remove it. We will have someone come and verify the identification and proceed from there. It is impossible to eliminate exotic weeds if you don't detect them before they are established in the lake. They spread very quickly and destroy the recreational value of the lake and the value of your property. Prevention is the only effective method of ensuring that our lake will be free of milfoil and other exotic weeds.

We will be looking for Weed Watchers who will take a section of the lake and do a complete check of their assigned area once a month from June through September. If you swim and snorkel, it would be especially helpful, but volunteers in boats will also be needed. Gerry Gold will tell you more about this program at the annual meeting.

**REMEMBER TO WASH AND CHECK YOUR BOAT, MOTOR AND TRAILER BEFORE LAUNCHING THEM INTO THE LAKE! IT ONLY TAKES A SMALL PIECE OF MILFOIL FROM ANOTHER LAKE TO INTRODUCE IT INTO LAKE TODD!**



## Growing Awareness of Milfoil as a Threat to Local Lakes

Growing awareness of the dangers of milfoil to the health of New Hampshire's lakes, to the value of lakeshore properties, and thereby to the property tax structure supporting the state's education system, has resulted in several new state and local programs during the past year.

Late last year, the Lake Sunapee Protective Association (LSPA), looking beyond the milfoil invasion at Georges Mills to the need for broader public awareness, invited area lakes to participate in a Sunapee Area Milfoil Attack Team (SAMAT). Lake Todd is one of 13 lakes and ponds on the team. Also, Newbury, New London and Sunapee have designated a Selectman from each town as members. Three committees — Research, Education, and Legislation — have been formed. SAMAT has already acted as an advocate for planning and more informed actions by area towns, lake associations, and the public at large. SAMAT, assisted by staff of LSPA, is preparing a report on milfoil control actions taken to date by Sunapee and Massasecum lake associations. The report will describe methods, costs, and sources of technical and financial assistance. Little Lake Sunapee and the State Department of Environmental Services sponsored a weed watch workshop on June 8th in New London which was attended by Gerry Gold and Carol Tonkin as representatives from Lake Todd.

In April, the General Assembly passed HB592, a law to combat milfoil and other exotic aquatic plants. Effective January 1, 2003, the law increases the state boat registration fee by \$3.00. New funds, estimated to be about \$300,000 annually, will create a milfoil prevention program and a milfoil research program. The new fee supplements an existing \$2.00 boat fee that supports lake restoration and preservation and control of exotic aquatic weeds. State representative Beth Rodd of Bradford was an early sponsor of the legislation.

Locally, town meetings in Newbury, New London, Sutton and Sunapee passed warrant articles providing funds to control milfoil in town lakes. Newbury voted \$6,000 for research, education, and "other actions the Board of Selectmen may deem necessary related to milfoil." New London voted \$8,000 and Sunapee \$10,000 for similar general purposes. It is indicative of the high level of concern for the milfoil threat that these sums were approved even though no specific action program had been identified. The local stimulus for these actions has been the on-going battle to control milfoil in Lake Massasecum and the recently discovered milfoil in 12 scattered sites in the Georges Mills section of Lake Sunapee. But the problem is wider, reflected in the success of HB592. Milfoil contamination of varying degrees has been identified in 52 of New Hampshire's 800 largest lakes and ponds.

Milfoil has become a top priority of the New Hampshire Lakes Association (NHLA). NHLA has received a federal grant to produce an information video on milfoil and to sponsor pilot projects this summer. The projects are aimed at educating boat owners about milfoil contamination, both to report sightings and to maintain boat cleanliness, thereby trying to prevent the unintentional spread of milfoil. Both LSPA and Little Lake Sunapee Association will spend their own funds this summer for monitors at boat launches.

There are two types of invasive milfoil. Eurasian milfoil, an actively growing variety, has contaminated many Vermont lakes, as well as Lake George in New York since 1985, and is found in New Hampshire only in Lake Mascoma. Variable milfoil, less active but equally impossible to eradicate, is found in Maine and is the variety now troubling Lakes Massasecum and Sunapee. Milfoils are in lakes across the nation.

The Army Corps of Engineers has been involved in several projects — none with clear success — to control milfoil. Several state universities have milfoil research projects, and researchers at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center have recently begun a project to analyze the genetic DNA of milfoil to better understand variations among types of milfoil with a goal of finding ways to control the weed. Once milfoil is established, there are no quick answers. Much volunteer effort is required from lake associations, the costs can be substantial, and control rather than eradication is the most likely result of best efforts.

For more information, try these web sites:

<http://www.nhlakes.org>

<http://www.lakesunapee.org>

<http://www.des.statenh.us/wmb>

Gerry Gold



**LAKE TODD ASSOCIATION  
SECRETARY'S REPORT OF ANNUAL MEETING  
JUNE 23, 2001**

The Annual Meeting was called to order by the President, Carol Tonkin, at 9 A.M. at the Bradford Baptist Church.

Officers Present

Carol Tonkin, President  
Pat Dugdale, Vice President  
David Paine, Treasurer

Directors Present

Alex Azodi  
Ray Hamilton  
Joyce Sinagra

REPORTS

Reading of the Secretary's Report was waived because everyone received it in the mail. The report was approved as written. David Paine gave the Treasurer's Report. There was a loss this year of \$144 largely due to the purchase of a \$1,000 trash rack for the dam. The balance on 5/31/01 is \$17,504.27 including \$4,326.48 in a checking account, and \$13,177.79 in a CD.

David talked about the trash rack, and thanked Bill Weiler for arranging to have it built and installed. Carol Tonkin spoke of Peter Fenton, Dam Chairman, and how he had monitored the amount of snow and the level of the water and opened the penstock to avoid flooding when the snow melted. Peter has agreed to stay on this year as a trainer and advisor to the dam committee. David Paine will be the Chairman of the Dam Committee with the assistance of Jason Lessard. Another member of the Dam Committee will be selected later. Carol showed milfoil samples from Lake Massasecum, and urged everyone to be on the lookout for it and to report any sightings immediately. The Observations and Recommendations Section of the Dept. of Environmental Services Water Quality Report were passed out and Carol mentioned that it shows our lake as remaining fairly stable, with some improvement in transparency. She warned everyone to be careful not to add phosphorus to the lake through fertilizers, leaky leach fields, or detergents.

Allene Hamilton gave the Wildlife Report. The loon nest was washed out due to the high level of rain at the beginning of June. They have re-nested and we hope there will be a successful hatching. We are fortunate to have a nesting pair on our lake as there are only 33 nesting pairs reported in the entire State this year. If you see a wounded loon on a beach, do not get close to it as it's defense is to go for your eyes with it's beak. Call Allene at 938-2318 or the Loon Association. She and others reported seeing a loon with a bass on it's back. The loon was reaching around and eating the bass. No one had ever seen the loons act like that. She also mentioned all the Canadian geese landing on the lake. **Please do not feed them or the ducks as they pollute the lake and leave a terrible mess on the beaches and islands.**

OLD BUSINESS (Reported by Carol Tonkin)

An engineering grant was awarded to the Town of Newbury to design the repaving scheduled for Gillingham Dr. to prevent the runoff from the road from polluting Lake Todd. Bill Weiler brought this up at last year's meeting, and he is the contact person for the grant. He is in the process of hiring an engineering firm.

The State will not pay to install an identifying sign for Lake Todd on Rte. 103, however they said we could request the town to install a sign. The State is no longer installing signs on small lakes because of vandalism. After a vote it was decided not to proceed with this project.



The request for No Wake signs at the bridge and beyond, that was approved by the Dept. of Safety Services last August, has not been implemented because it is delayed in the State rule-making process. The best estimate that we can get is that it will be one to three months before the signs can be installed.

A letter was received last August from a Lake Todd resident requesting that we ask the State to not be so diligent in cutting down the growth on Rte. 103 in order to provide a buffer for the noise from the cars and trucks. Carol talked with a supervisor for our district and met with a representative to discuss the project. They are concerned with the line of sight and the possibility of lawsuits if there is an accident, therefore they will need to continue to keep the area cut down.

## NEW BUSINESS

Beth Rodd asked about water being drained from a property on Steele Rd. that has a great deal of water accumulated due to the heavy snowfall last winter and complete saturation of the property involved. The water is being drained into Lake Todd. A discussion followed, and the Executive Board will follow up with Dick Vitale, a Lake Todd Assn. member who is also a selectman for the Town of Bradford.

Allene Hamilton sold flares and reported that flare night will be Friday, 7/6/01, at 9 P.M.

A discussion on a time and date for the August social resulted in keeping the time as Sunday at noon on 8/12/01 at the Weiler's property on Gillingham Drive at the north end of the lake. There will be more information in the next newsletter.

A discussion on the history of a hydro-raking project that was attempted a few years ago, and the possibility of trying it again, resulted in a committee established with Eric and Debra Fuchs as Chairmen, assisted by Seddon Cooley, and Gerry and Jane Gold.

A majority of the members present voted to keep the annual meeting on Saturday at 9 A.M. at approximately the same time in June.

Other new business included a report of beavers in the lake again. This will be followed up by the Executive Board.

Allene Hamilton presented the nominations for the new officers: Carol Tonkin, President; Pat Dugdale, Vice President; Norma Murphy, Secretary; Daphne Lessard, Treasurer; Ray Hamilton, Director for the term ending 2005; and David Paine, filling in for Bill Weiler for the term ending 2004. Continuing Directors are Alex Azodi, term ending 2003; and Joyce Sinagra, term ending 2002.

There was a short discussion on when to lower the lake, and when to put in and take out the boards. The members voted to leave it to the Dam Committee with the approval of the Executive Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 A.M.

Carol Tonkin