

Lake Todd Times

Issue #16

July / August 2003

Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting on June 28 was well attended. It began with coffee and refreshments made and served by Allene Hamilton. Marion Hall also helped serve refreshments. Everyone was having a great time socializing when at 9:00 the mean President said, "No more fun," and called the meeting to order. Roberta Tullis took notes as our Secretary was unable to attend. Thanks, Roberta! Before the business portion of the meeting, a lively and knowledgeable presentation was given by Amy Smagula from the Department of Environmental Services. She showed a slide presentation, pictures, and actual samples of exotic weeds that can take over a lake. There are 55 lakes and ponds in the state that have problems with exotic weeds, and it is extremely important to watch our lake for any signs of them. She also discussed the major plant zones of weeds in a lake. Gerry Gold on Gillingham Drive is heading up our Volunteer Weed Watching Group. If you are interested in helping, call him at 938-6132. Protecting our lake protects our property values.

Jason Lessard read the dam report and explained the work that is needed to be done this year. Fortunately, we have the savings to finish the work, barring any unforeseen problems. Ray Hamilton gave a report on the water quality testing that he and Norman Lehoullier did last year. The small changes in water quality appear to be going in the right direction. Allene Hamilton talked about wildlife on the lake and also sold flares for Flare Night, which was Friday, July 4th. Flare Night was beautiful all around the lake, and several people also shot off fireworks to add to the excitement.

Margie Weiler brought two posters with pictures — one with work on the dam and one with the annual August picnic. Hopefully they will be displayed at this year's annual picnic.

Bill Weiler mentioned that the Brown's pond site, on Gillingham Drive, north of Lake Todd, has been investigated by the Department of Environmental Services. They had ordered the beaver dam to be removed and the pond drained by July 1st, but an exception was granted in the interest of Lake Todd and they now have until November 30 to complete. It is being scheduled for some time after September, and will be drained slowly, with little impact. Mr. Brown's intention is to repair the dam.

New officers were elected as follows:

President	Bob Doherty	Director	Alex Azodi
Vice President	John DeStefano	Director	Elaine Warren
Secretary	Norma Murphy		(filling John DeStefano's term)
Treasurer	Gerry Gold	Continuing Director	Dave Paine

The board will fill the Director's position held by Ray Hamilton.

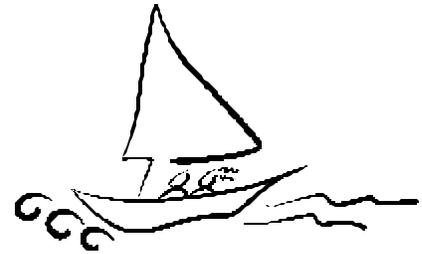
This is a brief overview of some of the topics discussed at the meeting. The Secretary's report will be sent out in the spring, but is available sooner by request

Carol Tonkin

Neighbors on the Lake

After extensive negotiation and a promise not to reveal any dirty laundry, we managed to interview our neighbors, the Robies. El was born in NJ and John in PA, and even though their parents knew each other through work, they had never met until John's sister's wedding. They married in 1951 and settled in Wilton, CT, where they raised their daughter and two sons. John was an architect, and as he puts it, they followed the baby boomers — building homes, schools, fire and police structures. In short, the infrastructure. El has worked in many capacities, for architects, in advertising at Young and Rubicon, for Vogue in New York City, as secretary to the headmaster of St. Luke's School, and a few others along the way.

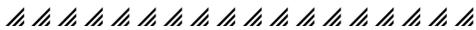
When one son, Bradford, moved to Hampstead, NH and suggested his parents move north, they contacted a friend of El's in New London who told them, "they would love it up here." On a weekend in 1987, John and El bought a house in Bradford, NH, where the in-town location and small town ambiance proved to be everything they hoped for.



John and El have been very active serving on the library board of trustees (during the expansion), working at the voting polls, delivering the Bradford Bridge, and acting as co-founders of the Soonipi chapter of the Audubon Society. El is an avid reader and in the summer can be found indulging her passion for swimming at French's Park. John teaches chess at the local schools and is always looking for a match, provided you promise to let him win (just kidding, John). He also enjoys wind surfing.

Both El and John love Lake Todd, and the people of all ages who make it special.

John Warren



Annual Dues

Thank you for those of you who have paid your annual dues of \$25 this year. Your dues help pay for the registration and maintenance of the dam, the cost of any repairs, as well as annual water tests by the Department of Environmental Services. We also will need each homeowner's contribution this year to help pay for the legal fees incurred as a result of the Village District formation. If you have not already done so, we ask that you send your check to Gerry Gold, Treasurer, Lake Todd Association, P.O. Box 169, Bradford, NH 03221. Thank You!

The Lake Todd Association



Lake Todd Social

Once again, our annual Lake Todd Social will be held at Bill and Margie Weiler's. It will take place on Saturday, August 23, at noon, with a rain date of Sunday, August 24. Mary Lehoullier is coordinating the food, so please give her a call at 938-2406 and let her know what you would like to contribute. Maybe Carol Tonkin will come up with another innovative and interesting game to challenge our thinking, and perhaps you have a game or activity we can enjoy as well. Bring your chair and your beverage of choice and be ready to have a great time!

Norma Murphy

A Note of Appreciation

On behalf of the Lake Todd Association, I would like to thank both Carol Tonkin and Daphne Lessard for their significant contributions to the association for the last few years as President and Treasurer, respectively. They have given unselfishly of their time and talent and we sincerely thank both of them. We deeply appreciate their work on our behalf. Fortunately, we will continue to be the beneficiaries of their efforts on behalf of the Lake Todd Village District. Even though progress has been interminably slow with the attorneys, Carol and Daphne have agreed to continue to spearhead this important project. We will update you more as further information becomes available.

Bob Doherty

Many Thanks

First of all, I want to thank the Association for the lovely gift of a "Yesterday's Child" collectible which was presented to me at the annual Lake Todd Association meeting on June 28. Also, a special thank you to Allene Hamilton for the poem she wrote to go with it. There are many people to thank for all the help and support they have given me over the past three years, starting with Ray and Allene Hamilton. Unfortunately, Ray is no longer with us and will be sorely missed by everyone who knew him. He was the voice of experience and reason for the Lake Todd Association and most of all he was a dear friend. Bob Doherty has expressed it better than I can in the "memorial" in this newsletter.

Thank you to Norma Murphy for putting the newsletter together, and to Allene Hamilton who has contributed so much for the newsletter. Allene also provides most of the refreshments at our annual meeting, as well as selling flares and calling people for the meetings.

Also, thank you to John Warren for his contributions to the newsletter (hopefully he will continue to be a regular contributor!). Thanks to Patty Dugdale for the Emergency Action Plan charts and the map of the people on the lake. Thank you to Daphne Lessard for being our liaison with the attorney on the Village District. Thank you also to the other Executive Board members who have attended meetings and made excellent suggestions, as well as supporting me with my direction for the board. Thanks to all of my wonderful Lake Todd friends! I have appreciated your support. The fondest memories of my past three years are of all the people I have met that share this wonderful lake.

Carol Tonkin

To Carol

Carol has worked hard for all of us,
 Made lawyer connections with little fuss!
 She's made calls, many meetings, visited dams,
 One of her major concerns is to protect the land.
 She worked on the village to complete it by fall,
 Always concerned about Skip through it all!
 To her, the Lake Todd Times fills an important place
 Keeps us all informed whatever the case.
 Her love for animals you may not know,
 Her tender heart towards them continues to grow!
 She's rescued turtles, given squirrels and chipmunks
 new homes,
 Tried to warm up a drowned loon egg
 With her own bones!
 She moved a loon's nest to higher ground
 To keep the eggs from being drowned.
 Her latest conquest is a Lake Todd snake,
 Now slithering peacefully in a different lake.
 So, Carol, here's a little remembrance from us to you,
 Always keep your tender heart towards all animals,
 Whether four legs or two!

Allene Hamilton

Update on the Loons

Our loons nested really late this year, probably because of the cold, rainy weather in May and early June. Usually, they nest before the first of June and the babies are born the last week of June. This year, they nested around the 10th of June and two babies were born around the 6th of July. People around the lake were so delighted with two babies! Unfortunately, however, one disappeared after about a week. Still, we looked forward to watching the other baby grow up, learn to dive for food and eventually learn to fly. We were not to have that privilege this year, as the second baby disappeared also. We can only guess that it may have been one of our large turtles, a maverick loon, or some other predator. It is too late for them to nest again, so we look forward to next year, when, hopefully, the adult loons will return again as soon as the ice is out.



Carol Tonkin



In Memoriam



It is with a sad and heavy heart that I inform you that Ray Hamilton passed away on Wednesday, July 23, after a brief hospitalization at Concord Hospital. Our condolences and supportive thoughts and prayers go out to Allene and her two sons, Jere and Wade, and their families. Ray and Allene have given much of their time and talents to the Lake Todd Association over the years. Ray served as President many times and was currently a Director of the association. We could always count on Ray and Allene to do the big job or the little one with the same humble and gracious approach that served as a beacon for the way in which they live their lives. Ray was one of the first kind faces I met when Joanne and I arrived here over 30 years ago. I can recall Ray and I making the trek up from Massachusetts to the statehouse in Concord one late wintry day in the early eighties to meet with the “dam” people over some emergency repairs that had to be made. Ray was always well prepared and his incisive mind and quick smile served the association well. It saddens me to think he won't be around as I begin my retirement. He would always ask me if I was going to retire soon. It probably was helpful that we shared a common career in education and that our wives were both librarians that we found it easy to develop a good friendship. Roy Parsons, Skip Tonkin, and I will miss our golfing buddy. Ray is truly a man who will be missed. The way in which he lived his life is a good model to us all. Thank you, Ray, for all you've given us.



Bob Doherty



in memory of my father

We remember him watching the loons, listening to them, observing them.
 Those mysterious birds who dip and fly,
 Whose plaintive cries fill the night
 Like a breath of air rippling the lake, smooth in the dusk.

Loons have such a hard time coming into existence.
 They must nest just at water level,
 And defend their eggs against all sorts of predators;
 Even then they often lose their young to dangers lurking below.
 The adults dive and disappear beneath the lake,
 Only to reappear half a lake away
 As though they were everywhere at once
 Their lives seem somehow courageous, and impossible

and yet there are loons.

Jere Hamilton