

# Lake Todd Times

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## Your Newsletter is Back

If you have missed your Lake Todd Times this summer, you'll be glad to know it's back! In addition to providing you with the latest Lake Todd Village District information and articles of interest, we welcome any items from you. If you have any information, dates, reflections, items for sale, lost and found, etc., you may send them to the LTVD at P.O. Box 169, Bradford, NH 03321, or e-mail them to me at [normslake@yahoo.com](mailto:normslake@yahoo.com). We would also like to continue introducing people in our Lake Todd community through our *Neighbors on the Lake* column. Any volunteers?

Whether you are heading somewhere warm for the winter or enjoying it on our beautiful lake, I wish you a healthy and restful winter season. Look for your next newsletter in May.

Norma Murphy

## Lake Levels

We will begin drawing down the lake to winter levels on Columbus Day weekend. As much as possible, we will adhere to our customary dates of Memorial and Columbus Day weekends for installation and removal of the flash boards respectively.

## Highway Cleanup

Our last highway cleanup is scheduled for 8:30 on Saturday, October 27, meeting at the Warrens. If you can join us, please call to let us know at 938-2960

## Meeting Minutes

Attached are the minutes of the Annual Meeting, which we hope you will read, especially those who were unable to attend. We would like to remind you that we welcome all comments, input, and ideas relevant to the budget and annual meetings, whether you are a voter or not, seasonal or year-round. Our only goal as your elected officers is the well-being and preservation of our lake.

John Warren

## Lake Todd Association Dissolves

After forty-eight years, the Lake Todd Association is no more. It was born out of the distribution of shares in the dam to the littoral owners. Now it is being dissolved with the transfer of the shares from the littoral owners to the Lake Todd Village District.

The Lake Todd Association was formed for the preservation and development of the private mill pond, as well as to regulate water levels, regulate boating, and propagate fish. In essence, these responsibilities and others have been taken over by the Village District.

In 2005 and 2006, an effort was made to keep the Association going after the transfer, but with most activities being taken care of by the district, people began losing interest, and soon there were not enough volunteers.

At this year's annual meeting, the members discussed dissolution and voted to dissolve; however, some felt since the issue was not specifically noticed, a special meeting should be called. After notifying all paid-up members, the members who attended the special meeting voted to dissolve the Lake Todd Association on August 11, 2007. Also at the meeting, the members voted to transfer the financial assets (\$1,245.89) to the Village District, and to deposit the records with the Newbury Historical Society.

LTA RIP.

Bill Weiler

## Dam Update

The dam is an unceasing source of news, with this summer being no exception. We completed the annual meeting with the go-ahead to modify and improve the dam. We had some difficulty with the application and were shunted between the Wetlands and Dam Bureau, neither of which gave clear guidance as to the appropriate form to use. Finally, Commissioner Mike Beaton visited both departments and was told we needed an engineering study to ensure that any changes would not cause unexpected problems with water flows, and ultimately the dam itself.

To further complicate matters, we received a letter from the water resource section on August 10, outlining new fees to construct or reconstruct a dam, the net result being a \$4,000 outlay just for the application. This was completely unanticipated and disruptive to our plans. I complained bitterly to Grace Levergood of the Dam Bureau during our annual inspection, and although she was sympathetic and asked her boss for a waiver, it was denied.

The bottom line for this year is that we are proceeding with the engineering study and the application, but we do not have sufficient funds to go ahead with the work this year. One final word on the permit fee; if this were based on a percentage of the estimated cost, your Commissioners would be more receptive, but to charge a small body of water with relatively minor work the same as dams much larger, seems totally unfair.

John Warren

### How to Keep In Touch

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### Mark Your Calendar

- ◆ 10/27/07 Sponsor a Highway Cleanup
- ◆ 05/31/08 Budget Meeting
- ◆ 06/28/08 Annual Meeting
- ◆ 08/23/08 Annual Picnic  
(Rain date, 24th)



## Exotic Plants

Another season is quickly coming to an end, and I am pleased to report that no exotic (invasive) plants have been found in Lake Todd. Early this summer we were fortunate to have a State Biologist, Ms. Amy Smagula, visit us at the Warrens and show us actual specimens of plants to be on the watch for. After our informative session, we then toured the lake by kayak, and Amy pointed out the various species of plants, all native to this region. She gave Lake Todd a clean bill of health.

We can all help to keep Lake Todd exotic-free. Please do not hesitate to report any unusual looking plants to me by phone at 938-6201, or e-mail at mbeaton@hcnh.com. I can bag a sample and send it to the state lab for their analysis. Also, please don't forget to clean all vegetation from any boats entering Lake Todd. We are fortunate that public access is limited.

We will be scheduling Amy back again next year and invite anyone interested in watching for weeds to join us and help keep Lake Todd exotic-free.

Mike Beaton

## Wildlife News

**Lake Todd Loon Family** ~ All seems well with our family of loons. We can spot them somewhere nearly every day. The chick is growing and now can dive and fish on his own. The next big challenge will be to see if the loon parents can teach the chick to fly out of here before the lake is iced over. This is quite a process and takes a month or two to accomplish. Keep watching for the flying lessons, which will start soon. Their new home will be somewhere on the ocean.

**Turkey Trot Road** ~ I call Gillingham Drive the "Turkey Trot Road" because it is almost impossible to drive the length of Gillingham Drive without seeing turkeys somewhere! According to neighbors, they like tomatoes on the vine and flowers in the garden, among other things. They are beautiful birds, and there are lots of them everywhere.

**Mink** ~ A new face on our beach! We've seen a young mink running along the shore and are watching for a family living nearby. There used to be a whole family living under the bridge up by the (now extinct) beaver dam. Now that the brook is dry, they have had to move elsewhere, so keep watching for them.

**Eagles** ~ Many people on the west side of Lake Todd have been lucky to see eagles flying over and around the area. John and Elaine Warren have seen them several times and report that the loons are not very pleased to have them flying near them and are very vocal about it. Donna and Dick Matte have seen the pair of eagles several times. They say they often perch in the dead trees on the islands and they stay there a long time. Tom and Pat Dugdale have also seen them several times, and the Beatons have had a good view from their house. I'm sure the eagles are happy near the mountains and lakes. They are beautiful birds and I hope they can live in harmony with our loons and other wild creatures.

Please give me a call at 938-2318 if you have other "wild tales" to tell our Lake Todd friends.

Allene Hamilton

### Thoughts on Water Skiing

When I was able to purchase some Lake Todd property a little over six years ago, I dreamed of making this place my permanent home someday. Little did I know that only a few short years later I would be able to make that dream come true.

My family and I have been fortunate to call Lake Todd home now for over three years and have found that, for me, there is no more enjoyable time of year than the early fall. Although it is sad to see the summer residents take their boats out of the water, remove their docks and board-up their places for the winter, these activities also mean that the glassy surface of the lake is all mine. No more needing to share the lake with other boaters, skiers and tubers. No more having to wait my turn to disrupt the lake's surface. With the exception of the occasional kayaker or people fishing, who I hope will accept my apology for disrupting their solitude, the lake is all mine, with the smooth, glassy surface perfect for water skiing. As the temperature gets cooler, the number of boaters gets less and less, and as long as I can endure that initial shock of cold water, the skiing just gets better and better. Thank you for leaving the end of the boating season all to me.

As we wait for the start of next year's season, a friendly reminder that the Marine Patrol does visit our lake frequently, and certainly will issue citations for any violations. Please visit <http://www/nh.gov/safety/commissioner/adminrules/lawsandrules.html> for all the boating rules. Here are a few items I need to constantly remind my family of:

- As of this year, most power boat operators do need to have a boater's certification.
- Power boats and some other types of boats need to be registered.
- Life jackets must be on board and accessible for all boaters. Children must wear theirs at all times. This includes pedal boats and kayaks.
- A separate spotter must be in the boat for each person being towed behind a power boat.
- Lake Todd has a "no wake" zone on the Bradford side of Rte. 103, starting at the bridge.
- Never run your power boat between the buoy and the first island from Bradford (Loon Island). There is a rock wall.

Mike Beaton