

Lake Todd Times

Issue #34

June / July 2010



New Officers Elected

At the Lake Todd Village District Annual Meeting on June 26, the following officers were elected:

Steve Snyder — Commissioner (3-year term)

Carol Tonkin — Moderator (1-year term)

Cindy Snyder — Clerk (1-year term)

Margie Weiler — Treasurer (1-year term)

On behalf of all the Lake Todd residents, thank you for your time and commitment on behalf of our beautiful lake.

Lake Todd Social

Greetings, neighbors! Come join us for the Annual Lake Todd Village District Picnic/Social on Saturday, August 14th at noon. This year, the gathering will be held at Margie and Bill Weiler's, 192 Gillingham Drive. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided. Please call Margie at 603-938-2892 and let her know whether you are planning on bringing a salad, a side dish, a dessert, or an appetizer. As always, bring your chairs and whatever you would like to drink. Hope you can make it!



Loon Family

The good news is that we have two apparently healthy loon babies! I started watching the nest from my kayak with my binoculars on May 29. The incubation of the eggs is usually between 27 and 30 days, and I hoped they would be born by the annual meeting so we could announce the happy news then, but no luck. Sometimes they are on the nest for a day or two before they lay eggs, so it can be a little longer before the eggs hatch. The loon parents take turns sitting on the eggs and caring for the babies. The eggs usually hatch several hours apart, and we know they were both hatched on Tuesday, June 29, because there was a huge ruckus at the nest, and later, the two adult loons were swimming around on the north end of the lake. The staff member from the Loon Preservation Committee was here that day, but unfortunately she was a little too early. She has been back to see them. At first, we couldn't see any babies, even though Allene Hamilton watched the adult loons with her binoculars for about an hour, and no babies peeked out from under the wings of the parents. It appears they had stashed the little ones on the edge of the shoreline, possibly because the water was rough that day. Then, on Thursday they were swimming around on the backs of the parents, which was such a happy surprise! Enjoy watching the loon family, but please do not chase them or go too close! Use binoculars for the best view.

Carol Tonkin

Water Quality on Lake Todd

As you probably know, Lake Todd's water is tested on a regular basis. If you are interested in seeing the water quality results for 2009, here's the link:

http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/vlap/annual_reports/2009/observations/index.htm



Island Clean-Up

On Wednesday, June 30th, four dedicated people paddled out to the islands on a windy day to clean up the accumulated debris. Actually, three people did most of the cleaning, since I arrived late and they were already on the last island which mostly had little pieces of glass, but not much else. Thank you to Beth Rodd and Elaine and John Warren for the work they did. It was actually fun to take on a project like this, and I hope we can have a Cleanup Committee every year so families can enjoy the islands. Please plan to join us next year!

What's New on the Web Site

The web site (www.laketoddvillagedistrict.us) has been updated to include the new officers, and the LTVD info page, under Archives, now has links to the 2006-2009 water testing reports, as well as a document on the interpretation of the results and maps of the lake showing the testing stations. Under Miscellaneous, there's a link to a long report about aquatic and exotic plants (not found on our lake). Recent documents such as Annual Reports, will be added as time permits. Some time ago, the Lake Todd Times pages were updated to include the older issues. The Links page has a new link to the DES web page about exotic species. If you put "Todd Lake" in the search box, you'll get links to the same water testing reports and graphs already available on our LTVD info page, but there may be other information of interest there. The Photo Album page hasn't changed for a long time — new pictures would be welcome, as would be suggestions for other additions and improvements!

Margie Weiler

DES Releases "A Shoreland Homeowner's Guide to Stormwater Management"

Concord, NH - The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services has released a new document to assist landowners entitled *A Shoreland Homeowner's Guide to Stormwater Management*. If you are a shoreland homeowner, your property may produce stormwater runoff that directly impacts the quality of our waters. *A Shoreland Homeowner's Guide to Stormwater Management* provides several simple and cost effective practices shoreland homeowners can use to reduce and prevent polluted stormwater runoff from roofs, patios, lawns and driveways. These practices can be used to meet the provisions of the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act (CSPA), which helps protect the state's surface waters by placing limits on development that contribute to stormwater runoff. The guide also includes general information about what state environmental permits, if any, are necessary for incorporating these practices.

The guide consists of an introductory document and nine guidance sheets for the installation of: dripline trenches, drywells, new infiltration steps, retrofit infiltration steps, infiltration trenches, paths and walkways, rain barrels, rain gardens and water bars. A copy of the guide can be found online at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/publications/wd/documents/nhdes-wd-10-8.pdf>.

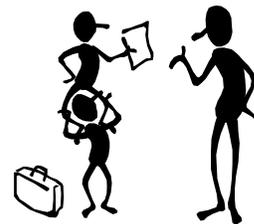
The guide was prepared by the DES Shoreland Protection Program and the DES Lakes Management and Protection Program in partnership with the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission. Funding for the guide was provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act under Section 604(b) of the Clean Water Act. The guidance sheets contained in the guide were provided by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

For more information on *A Shoreland Homeowner's Guide to Stormwater Management*, please contact Laura Weit-Marcum at 603 271-8811.

Annual Report of the Lake Todd Village District for the year ending June 30, 2010

It would seem like we just had our 2009 Annual Meeting and yet the clock waits for no man and here it is 2010. By and large the functions of the District have remained the same with very little change, but the elephant in the room is still the dam with many modifications to the planning, the design, and the permitting process.

Essentially, the State has given us a moving target of requirements both for the needed permit and the construction details. By November of 2009 we had a short list to complete the application for the permit only, to see the State engineer in charge get a promotion and then we had to deal with a new person and a fresh ballgame; more designs, more engineering fees, more negotiations with the abutters; the list goes on. As of now, we think we are in the final stages of the design which will allow us to complete the initial phase and move on to the bidding and lastly to bring our proposals to you, the littoral owners.



Where there is most certainly cost involved to all of us, perhaps you may be thinking “why do we have to do this”? Well, we don’t, but the state has tightened all aspects of their regulations and maintenance of dams, largely because of the disasters of 2005 and 2006, and the ultimate answer as far as they are concerned is that non-compliance is cause for pulling the plug on the dam and ending Lake Todd as we now know it.

An idle threat? I think not, especially in the light of other states such as Massachusetts which are doing exactly that; don’t meet our standards then see you later. Your commissioners want you to know that we take both your interests and the success of this project extremely seriously and are committed to its eventual success.



The weed watchers this past year were led by Mike Beaton, and so far so good in terms of invasive species; to the best of our knowledge we are still free of the nasty stuff. Bob Doherty and Norm Lehouillier are back for another enlistment as water quality samplers and the news here is positive; the cleanliness of the lake continues to provide excellent fishing, swimming, and boating.

Our Sponsor a Highway program continues three times a year to pick up the trash along Route 103; this is most certainly a worthwhile endeavor and I for one am very grateful to the core group who does the work.



Norma Murphy makes time from her growing number of grandchildren to spearhead the newsletter and as always your offerings are more than welcome. Margie Weiler has done a fine job keeping the website up to date and here ,too, your contributions will find a home.

By the time you read this several new officials of the LTVD will have been elected (see page 1); they can use your input and assistance, and we can use a few willing volunteers. Lastly, hail to all the new folks on the Lake and a fond farewell to those who will no longer grace our shores.

Respectfully,

John Warren