

# Lake Todd Times

Issue #38

June 2012

## Dam Improvement Project

Bill Weiler

The flood of October '05 threw quite a scare into us, that is, the Dam Committee. Water was starting to go around the dam and it was not even a "hundred year flood." We subsequently learned that State regulations require the District to keep the dam in a condition such that it can survive the hundred-year-flood without damage. After procuring plans and permits to meet that requirement, the construction was completed last November and December. The Dam Bureau has approved the work and says that the dam is in good shape for many years to come.

Since the dam improvements themselves are not very exciting, it might be interesting to find out what was going on behind the scenes leading up to the final event. In 2007 an engineer was hired to draw up plans to increase the height of the east wall to match the west wall and design a berm to prevent water from going around the dam. Then in early 2008 we submitted an application to the Dam Bureau for a permit to construct the improvements. As the engineering work dragged on, we were, at first, hopeful that we could do the improvements in the fall of 2009. When that was not possible, we hoped it would 2010. It was not until 2011 that the plans were ready.

Meanwhile, in early 2009, we started negotiations with the abutting land owners for permission to build the improvements on their land. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was agreed to by the east side abutter in June 2009 and an MOU was agreed to by the west side abutter in September. Also in September, a shoreland permit application was completed and sent to the Wetlands Bureau. It was approved in October.

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## Flare Night

By Carol Tonkin

Flare night on Lake Todd will be Friday, July 6, at 9:00 p.m. We hope everyone around the lake will light flares across the lake side of their property. It makes for a nice sense of community as we sit out and watch the flares, or maybe walk down the street to chat with a neighbor. Joyce Sinagra has ordered the flares and they will be in soon. She and I will be around house-to-house to sell them, and the good news is that the prices are the same as last year. In fact, they haven't changed for two or three years. The cost is: 3 for \$8.00, 6 for \$15.00, or 9 for \$21.00, which is a bargain. You can also order them over the phone from Joyce at 938-5302, or me at 938-2811. We'll save them for you when they come in, and will even deliver them to you. They will also be for sale at the annual meeting on Saturday, June 30, if they're not gone. Last year they were sold out, so be sure to order them now and be part of this annual Lake Todd tradition.

## ADOPT A HIGHWAY...HIGHWAY CLEANUP

By Steve Snyder

One down and two to go . . . the first of three clean ups are under our belt. The 1<sup>st</sup> cleanup took place on May 5<sup>th</sup>, and we had the weather on our side. Although it wasn't shorts, sunscreen & beach towel weather, it was comfortable for picking up the debris along Rt 103, Bradford Center to Fowler Mill.

The district just recently committed to another 2 years of the "Adopt A Highway" program. This is a state run program which provides us the tools necessary to perform the cleanup without impacting budgets to the various districts and organizations partaking in the program.

Thanks to those who participated in the cleanup: John & Elaine Warren, Susan Carl, Patty Dugdale, Thomas Rodd, Bill Weiler and Cyn & Steve Snyder. The amount of bags collected was down from prior cleanups done in the spring. This was attributed to those who volunteered their own time to get an early start on the cleanup...I don't know who you are but we thank you for your efforts.

We appreciate you for taking the time to help maintain the clean appearance along the route. The next cleanup is slated for the 1<sup>st</sup> week in August and the last one will be in November. I look forward to seeing all the regulars as well as some new faces.



## Neighbors on the Lake

Chuck and Kathi Kendall are new homeowners on Lake Todd. They are life-long residents of New Hampshire and live in Francestown.

Chuck and Kathi have three adult sons: Joe (married to Becky), Alex and Brian, who are also very much enjoying the lake. They have an 8-year old yellow Lab, Duke, as well as a 5-year old standard short-haired red dachshund named Sydney. In addition, they have recently adopted a cat, Miko, a grey domestic short-hair.

After a two-year search, Cathi and Chuck bought their home on Gillingham Drive this past December. On their way home from viewing another property in Newbury, they drove down Gillingham, saw a house for sale, made arrangements to see it, and here they are. Chuck and Becky are avid downhill skiers, with Chuck and Joe working at Mt. Sunapee ski area on ski patrol. They also enjoy hiking, fishing, kayaking, and just relaxing and reading by the lake. Welcome to paradise!

## Water Quality Testing

John Warren

One of the most important aspects of any Lake is its water quality and for many years the Lake Todd Association, now the Village District has tested the lake for various components which ultimately give us a report card on its condition. The bottom line on the wellbeing of the Lake is whether we can swim, fish, or boat with safety, and the health of plants, fish and the food chain endemic to the lake. Each year at the annual meeting we give you a brief overview of the testing results but we, at least during my time here, have not given residents any background info on the hows and whys of the testing, so this article is an attempt to do just that.

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## Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Lake Todd Village District will take place on Saturday, June 30th, at 9:00 a.m. We will meet at the Bradford Area Community Center, 134 East Main Street in Bradford. In addition to bringing everyone up-to-date on important issues, we will be electing the following positions: Commissioner (3 year term), Moderator, Secretary, Treasurer, and Auditor. As always, we invite the nominations and volunteers of anyone who can serve in one of these capacities. Descriptions of duties will be posted on the website ([www.laketoddvillagedistrict.us](http://www.laketoddvillagedistrict.us)), or mailed / e-mailed upon request. If you have any questions, please call Bill Weiler at 938-2892, or e-mail at [ltvd@iamnow.net](mailto:ltvd@iamnow.net). Please join us for the meeting and to socialize afterwards!



## Looking for Submissions

Do you have any news or ideas for articles that might be of interest to your Lake Todd neighbors? You don't have to be a writer or reporter to submit an article for the newsletter. We would love to hear from you! Anything from wildlife, fishing, boating, local history, reflections or observations of the lake . . .



If you have anything that you would like to submit, or if you have an idea for an article, please forward it to me at [normslake@gmail.com](mailto:normslake@gmail.com), or call me at 938-6206. We would love to hear from you, our Lake Todd community.

Norma Murphy

## IN MEMORIAM—SKIP TONKIN

As many of you know, Skip (Albert) Tonkin passed away in late November. Skip thoroughly enjoyed his life at Lake Todd, especially the many years he and his wife Carol shared together here. First and foremost, Skip's family was central in his life. Often he would sit down at our beach with Joanne and me and speak fondly about his children, David and Donna, and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He and Carol would frequently host extended family gatherings at the lake.



Skip had a quick wit and a great sense of humor. I recall how he would often have a humorous comment to make during our Lake Todd Association and Village District meetings. Most of the time his remarks were at Carol's expense. Skip also loved a good game of cards, especially cribbage. He was noted for his speedy counting of his points, and his witty repartees kept the game light and fun.

Skip also enjoyed sports. He played golf for many years and looked forward to his weekly match with two former Lake Todd heavyweights, Ray Hamilton and Roy Parsons. When Skip needed an easy victory, he invited me to make it a foursome. I have many fond memories of Skip but one of the most vivid is his sitting in his easy chair with his legs extended and listening to the Red Sox or the Patriots. He really looked forward to those games.

Thanks, Skip, for all the wonderful memories. We will miss your presence at the lake.

In Friendship,

Bob Doherty



## Dam Improvement Project (continued)

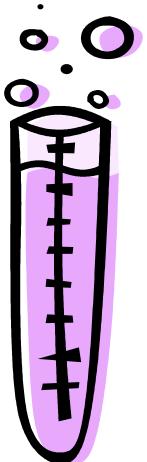
Bill Weiler

In November 2009, we received a letter from the Dam Bureau reviewing the engineer's plans, and also informing us that a few rocks has fallen out of the west side downstream wall, and that we would have to have plans and engineering specifications for the repair. Also in that letter was the advice that we secure easements from the abutters for the placement and access to the improvements. Immediately, a letter with an easement document was sent to the abutters with the request that they sign the easement as a supplement to the MOU. The east side easement was in place by the end of December. The west side easement was secured only after twenty one months of difficult and protracted negotiations.

There were not any milestones in 2010 as we continued to prod the engineer to give us some results. By March of 2011, we could see some hope that the job might get done that year. In spite of the fact that the plans had not received final approval and the west side easement was not secured, we put the job out to bid in April. In May we received five bids, two were not qualified and of the remaining three, we selected the lowest bid. Daniels Construction was awarded the contract in June. Also in mid-May we received approval of the construction plans. However a prerequisite for final approval for the permit was approval of a construction inspection plan.

With growing expectation that we would complete the improvements in 2011, we set our sights on beginning on the earliest possible day which was the day after Labor Day. We pressed harder for completion of a construction inspection plan which would meet Dam Bureau approval and for signing of the easement. In late August, some of the easement documents were signed. Then September 6 came and went.

As luck would have it, Hurricane Irene slammed into Vermont at the end of August, washing out roads and bridges. Both our contractor and our engineer were in demand to provide their services to the State of Vermont. Again, progress slowed, although the final easement document was signed by mid-September. Finally, a construction inspection plan was submitted and approved in early October. The dam construction permit was issued on the 21st of October and Daniels started construction on the 31st of October. It was with a great sense of relief that we were able to sit back and watch them do all the work.



## Water Quality Testing (continued from page 2)

John Warren

All the testers from the Lake are volunteers and trained by VLAP; they run regular sessions yearly and also provide other related items of interest such as the weed watchers program, and in this regard any residents of Lake Todd who want to attend these programs are more than welcome. Our current testers are Bob Doherty, Norm Lehoullier, and yours truly.

You need a boat with a motor as we do traverse a good portion of the Lake, starting at the “deep spot” about a 100’ southeast of the little island. There we drop a Kemmerer bottle to depths of 3 and 6 meters bringing up about a gallon of water which will indicate Conductivity, pH (acidity), Alkalinity, and Turbidity, and total Phosphorus. Samples from these depths are also mixed to get the results for Chlorophyll. We also use a Secchi disk to determine water clarity by noting how deep the disk is before losing sight of it. When the VLAP folks accompany us then

they also check dissolved oxygen and temperature at one meter intervals from a depth of six meters to the surface. Lastly they collect Phytoplankton and Cyanobacteria which are a general indicator of lake quality.

VLAP provides comprehensive instruction as to how to collect the sample, the proper bottles to store them in, and a questionnaire as to conditions of the Lake at testing, time of day, date, and who actually did the sampling. We also test Andrew Brook, Reservoir Brook, and the corner of Gillingham Drive where it meets the Weiler driveway as they are the prime feeders of the Lake as well as the outlet at the dam, essentially for the same tests as the “deep spot”. All the equipment specific to the testing is loaned to us by the lab at Colby College in New London, and we return these items as well as the samples promptly following collection as they are subject to deterioration over time. The annual overall cost of the entire program is approximately \$300 and is for the lab fees only.

VLAP provides us with a detailed Biennial Report which is available to any of the littoral owners on the Lake, and provides current as well as historical data. In general our results are consistent with the majority of NH lakes, with our numbers hovering around the median. Without being an expert in the field I think it is apparent that we are fortunate with our sources of water coming mainly from Mount Sunapee, Bald Sunapee, and the surrounding hills so that our water is generally clean while what is in the Lake is being washed out and replenished from these sources. There is year by year data also available on the village district website.

The testing is done three times a year usually during a period from June through October, depending on the schedule of the testers and a member of the NHDES who assists us with the final event. We do the testing in cooperation with the Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP), a division of the NH Department of Environmental Services, which provides overall guidance and the testing labs.

**Web Site: [www.laketoddvillagedistrict.us](http://www.laketoddvillagedistrict.us)**

Margie Weiler



Especially for those who don't have email addresses and can't receive urgent messages, there is a link “LTVD and Lake NEWS” on each page of our web site, which is updated periodically. This recently was used to post notices about the water level changes due to the dam work. This is also a place to look to see if there is any new information such as reminders for upcoming meetings or recent loon sightings.

There also are pages with a current calendar of events, news about water testing, back issues of the Lake Todd Times, and important documents, including the posted budget and warrants before the spring meetings.