

Lake Todd Times

Issue # 5

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Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be held on June 23 at 9:00 a.m. in the Bradford Baptist Church. Come and have coffee and goodies at 8:30, and visit with your neighbors before the meeting. In addition to Secretary and Treasurer reports, the agenda includes water quality and dam reports, flare night, the Lake Todd sign on Rte. 103, the engineering project on Gillingham Drive, August social, loons, hydro-raking, nudity on Lake Todd, (not really - just wanted to get your

Flares!

Flare Night is Friday, July 6, at 9:00 p.m., the night before the big Bradford celebration which includes the church fair, race, chicken barbeque, parade and fireworks. Allene Hamilton (603-938-2318) will be selling flares at the annual meeting for \$3.00 or 3 for \$7.00. As many of you know, Flare Night is when everyone around the lake puts flares in the ground at the edge of the lake and lights them all at dusk (9:00 p.m.). We hope you will all participate!

attention) and anything else you want to bring up. A copy of the secretary's report is attached for you to review before the meeting. We need everyone to be there for a lively discussion of these issues. Volunteers are also needed for a committee to look into hydro-raking of the lake to get rid of some of the weeds. We encourage all of you to be active in this organization that helps take care of our beautiful Lake Todd.

Carol Tonkin

A LITTLE HISTORY

LIGHTS FROM Lake Todd

The Brick Mill on Lake Todd (now home of John and Ruth HARRIS), played an important role in the history of electricity in Bradford. In 1896, poles and wires were constructed and a small dynamo was installed, limited in power. In 1897, a large dynamo was installed in the Brick Mill. The lights were first switched on in Bradford in 1897 with very limited coverage.

Many difficulties followed this event. The channel near the bridge had to be blasted deeper for more power. The village was without lights for several months in 1917-1918 due to lack of water. Local Bradford residents say that when the lights in their homes went way down around 6:00 p.m., they were sure Ed Hadley, Keeper of the Mill and Lights, had gone home to supper.

In 1922, they were expanding power for wires between Bradford and South Sutton, and as a last resort, electricity had to be purchased elsewhere. At last, in 1923, 24-hour service was provided and lights were allowed to be on all day and night. Finally, on March 31, 1936, the local NH Power Co. was taken over by Public service. Much credit should be given to all the early companies and people involved in giving the town this illuminating miracle.

Allene Hamilton