

Lake Todd Times

Issue #15

June 2003

Welcome Spring

For those of you who stayed for the winter, any reminder may be less than pleasant. The season came early and was snowy, cold and long. Perhaps the most noteworthy aspect was the deep snow by the turn of the year which hardly moved until early spring. January thaw? Forget about it; never happened. As always, any event can be a double edged sword, and while the snowmobilers had superb conditions, the ice skating was nil. The bobhouses were out early and the fishing was quite good. A twelve-year-old boy caught a bass over seven pounds on an unnamed lake in Newbury. The fish was an absolute horse!

Spring finally arrived and with it came the loons and Canadian geese. There has been an interesting confrontation occurring on the small island, where the loons and geese have been squabbling over nesting rights. Two geese have stood their ground on the shoreline while the loons have adopted an "in your face" attitude, alternately diving and surfacing directly in front of their rivals. The message is quiet clear: Get out of town! But the geese are still here with five chicks and nothing as yet from the loons.

We have also been watching a resident muskrat motoring up and down the lake. Have to admire his industry — he is a very busy guy.

John Warren

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday morning, June 28, in the Senior Room at the Bradford Community Center on Main Street. Parking and the entrance are in the back. We will have coffee and refreshments at 8:30 a.m., and the meeting will start promptly at 9:00. Come and visit with your neighbors while you enjoy a cup of coffee and some goodies! We are fortunate to have Amy Smagula from the Department of Environmental Services joining us. She will show us how to identify exotic weeds (especially milfoil) in our lake, and I expect she will have samples of both good and bad weeds for display. She can only stay for a short time, so we will ask her to start the meeting. Bring samples of any weeds you have found in the lake, and she will identify them for you. In addition to exotic weeds, our agenda includes further discussion of the Village District, water quality, wildlife and dam reports, the Emergency Action Plan, and our summer cookout, as well as anything else you would like to bring up. Attached is the Secretary's Report of last year's meeting for your review, so we may waive their reading at this year's meeting to save time. We hope to see everyone there!

Carol Tonkin

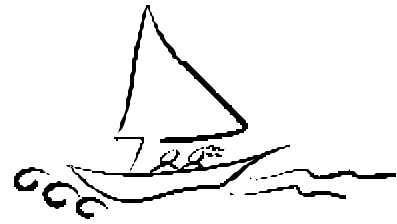
Let's Light Up The Lake!

As most of you know, it's a Lake Todd Tradition to light our flares around the lake on Friday, July 4th, the night before the July 5th Bradford celebration. Our lighting time is 9:00 p.m. Flares will be on sale at the annual meeting, or you may pick them up at our house at 147 Gillingham Drive, Newbury. They are \$3.00 each, or 3 for \$7.00. We have an extra box this year, so there should be enough for everyone.

Allene and Ray Hamilton



Neighbors on the Lake



We would like to welcome and introduce Peter and Sue Carl, who will become year-round residents as of June. Peter grew up in South Sutton, so residing on Lake Todd is a dream come true. They, together with Sue's mom and dad, are in the final stages of renovating the old music shop on Route 103 that will become their home. As an aside, Peter owns a private investigation firm, so try and stay on his good side.

Sue is a self-employed electrologist working out of Derry. Both she and Peter love to swim and enjoy the peace and serenity of our beautiful lake. The only exception is the persistent and crafty geese that are enamored of their shoreline. Sue and Peter have tried without a great deal of success to discourage the birds,

but even as recently as Saturday, May 31st, there were 12 adults and five goslings munching down on the grass on their beach. Peter launched a precision counterattack the next day at 6:00 a.m., much to the loud squawks of protest from the intruders, but at this point we seem to have a draw. Perhaps it's time to call Dr. Phil for some mediation.

In the meantime, we look forward to their (Peter and Sue, that is, not the winged pests) full time presence in the Lake Todd Community.

John Warren

Want to Get Involved?

We are looking for people to run for Vice President and Treasurer of the Lake Todd Association (LTA). Also, if the Village District is established, we will need officers, including three Commissioners, a Clerk, Treasurer, and Moderator. Village District officers must be registered voters in Bradford or Newbury, but LTA officers can be anyone on the lake. We want our out-of-town seasonal homeowners to be involved. There is very little time required of any of these positions; we are a small group. Please call Carol Tonkin at 938-2811 if you are willing to help out with any of these positions.

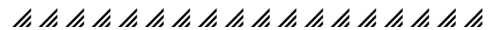
Carol Tonkin

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Annual Dues

We are now collecting Annual Dues, which are still \$25.00. Your dues help pay for the registration and maintenance of the dam as well as the cost of any repairs, and the water tests at the Department of Environmental Services. Please make out your check to the Lake Todd Association and bring it with you to the annual meeting on June 28, or mail it to P.O. Box 169, Bradford, NH 03221. Thank you!

The Lake Todd Association



Boating Reminder

This is the first year the Marine Patrol will fine boaters driving a boat in excess of 25 horsepower, unless they have the required Safe Boater Education Certificate. The law requiring the certificate was effective last year for boaters 16 to 19, but the Marine Patrol chose to issue only warnings. This year the law is also applicable to boaters age 20 to 26. The law is being phased-in over seven years with compliance for all boaters by January 1, 2008. Boaters under 16 must be supervised by a boater over 18 who has a valid Safe Boater Education Certificate. Boaters 27 to 31 must be certified by 1/1/04; ages 32 to 38 by 1/1/05; ages 39 to 43 by 1/1/06; ages 44 to 50 by 1/1/07; and ages 50+ by 1/1/08. There are three ways to complete the course required to earn your certificate:

1. In a classroom: call 1-888-254-2125
2. Over the internet: visit www.boat-ed.com/nh
3. By video: call 1-800-830-2268

The certificate costs \$20.00 and is valid for life. The fine is \$50—\$250, and the marine patrol does check this lake frequently.

Carol Tonkin

Village District Meeting

On Saturday, May 24, a large group turned out for our meeting with our Attorney, Kevin Gordan, regarding the proposed Village District. There were many questions for Mr. Gordan, and some answers are still being researched. We will continue to keep you informed every step of the way.

Twenty-one people signed the petition to the Selectmen in Bradford and Newbury to request the establishment of the Village District for the purpose of the "impoundment of water" in accordance with RSA 52. We are only required to have ten registered voters sign the petition, so we are ready to move forward. I have finished the list of the lot numbers of properties around the lake to be sent to the Selectmen with the petition.

In case we have new residents who aren't familiar with this project, the formation of the Village District will allow us to transfer the liability and ownership of the dam to the Village District and we will then be able to obtain affordable dam insurance. Currently, any or all lakefront property owners could potentially be held liable for accidents or damage related to the dam. By establishing a Village District, we will be able to purchase insurance through the New Hampshire Municipal Association for less than \$1,000. We will also be able to contract with the State for major repairs to the dam at a much reduced cost. Costs of the Village District will be funded by a very small tax on every homeowner's property. We now pay the costs of the dam with our \$25 annual dues, but we have no insurance and not everyone contributes.

As homeowners on the lake, we want to continue to protect the dam and the lake. If there are any questions, please call Daphne Lessard at 938-5087 or Carol Tonkin at 938-2811.

Carol Tonkin



The Lake Todd Times is published monthly from May through October. If you have any news of interest to our lake community, reflections, observations, or anything you would like to see in our newsletter, please call one of the Publishers / Editors of the Lake Todd Times:

Allene Hamilton 938-2318
Norma Murphy 938-6206
Carol Tonkin 938-2811



Growing Awareness of Milfoil as a Threat to Local Lakes

Growing awareness of the dangers of milfoil to the health of New Hampshire's lakes, to the value of lakeshore properties, and thereby to the property tax structure supporting the state's education system, has resulted in several new state and local programs during the past year.

Late last year, the Lake Sunapee Protective Association (LSPA), looking beyond the milfoil invasion at Georges Mills to the need for broader public awareness, invited area lakes to participate in a Sunapee Area Milfoil Attack Team (SAMAT). Lake Todd is one of 13 lakes and ponds on the team. Also, Newbury, New London and Sunapee have designated a Selectman from each town as members. Three committees — Research, Education, and Legislation — have been formed. SAMAT has already acted as an advocate for planning and more informed actions by area towns, lake associations, and the public at large. SAMAT, assisted by staff of LSPA, is preparing a report on milfoil control actions taken to date by Sunapee and Massasecum lake associations. The report will describe methods, costs, and sources of technical and financial assistance. Little Lake Sunapee and the State Department of Environmental Services sponsored a weed watch workshop on June 8th in New London which was attended by Gerry Gold and Carol Tonkin as representatives from Lake Todd.

In April, the General Assembly passed HB592, a law to combat milfoil and other exotic aquatic plants. Effective January 1, 2003, the law increases the state boat registration fee by \$3.00. New funds, estimated to be about \$300,000 annually, will create a milfoil prevention program and a milfoil research program. The new fee supplements an existing \$2.00 boat fee that supports lake restoration and preservation and control of exotic aquatic weeds. State representative Beth Rodd of Bradford was an early sponsor of the legislation.

Locally, town meetings in Newbury, New London, Sutton and Sunapee passed warrant articles providing funds to control milfoil in town lakes. Newbury voted \$6,000 for research, education, and "other actions the Board of Selectmen may deem necessary related to milfoil." New London voted \$8,000 and Sunapee \$10,000 for similar general purposes. It is indicative of the high level of concern for the milfoil threat that these sums were approved even though no specific action program had been identified. The local stimulus for these actions has been the on-going battle to control milfoil in Lake Massasecum and the recently discovered milfoil in 12 scattered sites in the Georges Mills section of Lake Sunapee. But the problem is wider, reflected in the success of HB592. Milfoil contamination of varying degrees has been identified in 52 of New Hampshire's 800 largest lakes and ponds.

Milfoil has become a top priority of the New Hampshire Lakes Association (NHLA). NHLA has received a federal grant to produce an information video on milfoil and to sponsor pilot projects this summer. The projects are aimed at educating boat owners about milfoil contamination, both to report sightings and to maintain boat cleanliness, thereby trying to prevent the unintentional spread of milfoil. Both LSPA and Little Lake Sunapee Association will spend their own funds this summer for monitors at boat launches.

There are two types of invasive milfoil. Eurasian milfoil, an actively growing variety, has contaminated many Vermont lakes, as well as Lake George in New York since 1985, and is found in New Hampshire only in Lake Mascoma. Variable milfoil, less active but equally impossible to eradicate, is found in Maine and is the variety now troubling Lakes Massasecum and Sunapee. Milfoils are in lakes across the nation.

The Army Corps of Engineers has been involved in several projects — none with clear success — to control milfoil. Several state universities have milfoil research projects, and researchers at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center have recently begun a project to analyze the genetic DNA of milfoil to better understand variations among types of milfoil with a goal of finding ways to control the weed. Once milfoil is established, there are no quick answers. Much volunteer effort is required from lake associations, the costs can be substantial, and control rather than eradication is the most likely result of best efforts.

For more information, try these web sites:

<http://www.nhlakes.org>

<http://www.lakesunapee.org>

<http://www.des.statenh.us/wmb>

Gerry Gold