

Lake Todd Times

Issue #26

July 2006



Lake Todd Picnic

When: Saturday, August 26th, 2006
Where: Warren's, 69 Rte 103, Newbury
Time: Noon
What to Bring: Chair, something to grill (just for your family), dish to share, a joke, and your sense of humor!
RSVP: Mary LaHoullier @ 938-2406
Rain Date: Sunday, August 27th, 2006
Parking: Plenty of parking down by the lake. As you come down the driveway, bear right and then take a left towards the shed.

Be A Weed Watcher!

Residents on Lake Todd began "weed watching" in 2002, when the milfoil problem in surrounding lakes came to light. Michael Beaton is currently spearheading our weed watcher's program. At the annual meeting he spoke about the importance of checking your boat and motor and making sure they are thoroughly clean before entering our beautiful lake. If you would like more information about identifying milfoil, as well as a number of other unwanted aquatic plants, please contact Michael at 938-6201. He will obtain a weed control kit for you from the NH Department of Environmental Services.

Norma Murphy

Annual Meetings

As you know, the annual meetings of the Lake Todd Village District as well as the Lake Todd Association were held on June 24th. The Annual Report of the Lake Todd Village District was presented and is incorporated as page 3 of this newsletter. Many other important items were reviewed as well, including the Treasurer's Report, The Budget (as well as the Proposed Budget), and the Dam Report.

Copies were distributed to those who attended the meeting. If you were unable to attend and would like copies of the reports, please contact John Warren at: jewarren@mcttelecom.com

Another issue brought up at the LTA meeting was the distribution of the newsletter. Several people expressed interest in receiving the newsletter via e-mail. If you wish to have the newsletter e-mailed to you, please contact me at normslake@yahoo.com and I will put you on the e-mail list.

* * * * *

Speaking of the newsletter, we are always looking for articles. If you would like to contribute something (reflections, memories, experiences, wildlife news, fishing expeditions, boating information . . .), please e-mail your contributions or ideas to me at normslake@yahoo.com. Thank you!

Norma Murphy

* * * * *

In Appreciation of Howard Klein 1927—2005



A good man has left us. Howard Klein died on Christmas Day, 2005, leaving all of us who knew him deprived of a good friend. Men often think that if they have to go, it might as well be when doing something they enjoy. He did. Howard delighted in skiing, and in having won the Mount Sunapee Over-70 Races last year, at the age of 77. The day before he died, he proudly showed off his 70-Plus pin which was his Sunapee pass. His dying on the slopes was probably the way he would have wanted to exit, but it was much too soon for him to leave us. Howard had a zest for life and was always ready to relish the delights of new experiences. He and Marion spent many summer hours at their boathouse on Lake Todd, where Howard continued to be an avid windsurfer. They thoroughly enjoyed the comforts and pleasures they had earned, but never forgot where they came from. They were — and Marion will continue to be — champions of social justice.

It is with a great lump in our throats that we say goodbye to Howard. We will miss his enthusiasm, good cheer, and many acts of kindness. Those of us who knew and loved Howard know how much Marion and their daughter, sons, and grandchildren will miss him.

John and Ruth-Ann Harris

Pickman Update

Newbury's Planning Board will continue with its review of the Pickman subdivision at its July 18th meeting at 8:00 p.m. No hearing was held in June, as the developer requested a delay. The Pickmans are seeking final approval for their major subdivision between Gillingham Drive and Old Sutton Rd (aka Gulf Road).

The Lake Todd Association's concern centers on the small stream that enters the lake at the inlet now crossed by Gillingham Drive. The stream drains the steep slope of the western portion, including about 20 of the proposed 37 lots in the subdivision.

When approved in Newbury, wetlands reviews by the State Dept. of Environmental Services will be required. Recognizing the state's final authority with wetlands issues, the Newbury Zoning Board has given conditional approval for numerous road crossings in wetlands, contingent on state review and final decisions.

Gerry Gold

✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧

What's New With The Dam?

With much effort from the usual cast of characters (Dave Paine, Bill Weiler), and a great big thank you to Steve Obermiller who donned his wetsuit and worked underwater, we managed to remove the tarps from the intake area of the dam. With the gate up, the penstock is now functioning.

John Warren

✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧

Lake Todd Village District — 2006 Annual Report

The past year has been a tumultuous one for the Village District, beginning with the repairs of the dam, followed by record rains shortly thereafter, and this year nearly a repeat performance. In September of 2005, when we went to open the gate in the intake area in order to draw down the lake for the work, it was a rude shock to discover that the gate was broken at the handle. With the construction slated for the following Monday, we put in a frantic call to Daniels Construction who responded immediately, as indeed they would do time and time again in the next few weeks.

The concrete work was more extensive than anticipated, but the condition of the penstock was another factor altogether, as we would need a new gate, frame, winching device, and attention to leaks at the trash rack and a plate on the lake side of the concrete. With a great deal of cooperation from Daniels Construction, we completed most of the job and managed to stay within budget and remain solvent — just barely.

The first storm of October 2005 was the worst of the lot, and seeing the water rolling over the dam at its height was an awesome spectacle. Most long-time residents had only seen it that high once in their memory, and it seems to be the general consensus from those with rain gauges that we had received 10" of rain in a relatively short period of time. Fortunately, the concrete had cured and the dam held up admirably. There was some concern that the water was actually poised to go around the dam, and this was indeed a very close call. Our budget request for the upcoming year includes a berm or barrier to prevent just such an occurrence.

Which brings up a major point: Were it not for the foresight of Carol Tonkin and the dogged determination of Gerry Gold in pursuing the concept of a Village District to its fruition, in all likelihood our beautiful Lake Todd would now be a great big mud puddle, and we as property owners would be looking down the barrel of multiple lawsuits.

We owe thanks, as well, to Daniels Construction, Kevin, Kurt, Matt and Mike, for the quality and timeliness of their work, all delivered with a smile, and particularly their willingness to work within our limited funds and offer varying solutions to the problems at hand.

To Dave Paine and Bill Weiler, you were there all during construction, and more importantly when the chips were down during the floods. Bill even went home and got his tractor to enable us to install the new gate with no damage to the Harris' fence.

To the Towns of Bradford and Newbury for their cooperation and assistance in this our first year of taxation. And especially to Dennis Pavlicek, Newbury Town Administrator, as he listened to the continuous bleating of your elected officials wandering aimlessly in the vast wasteland of municipal regulations, and guided us to the safety of compliance with the New Hampshire Department of Revenue.

Lastly, may we quote from a letter by Bill Gall written November 14, 1982:

"However, we cannot expect to sit back complacently for another 23 years without performing maintenance on the dam . . . Let us never again find ourselves in an emergency situation where the specter of not being able to meet contracted obligations can drive a project manager to near panic."

It is both prudent and imperative that we as a Village District set aside significant funds into the non-capital reserve funds to meet the uncertainty of the future.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth-Ann Harris, Commissioner
Robert Stewart, Commissioner
John Warren, Commissioner

Lake Todd Association
P.O. Box 169
Bradford, NH 03221