

Lake Todd Times

Issue 29

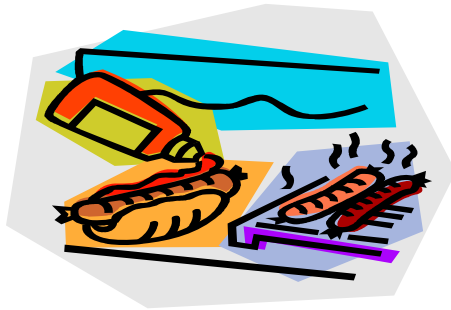
August 2008

Annual Lake Todd Social

We look forward to seeing you and your family at our annual social, this Saturday, August 16th. It will be held at the home of John and Elaine

Warren , 69
Rte. 103, Newbury at 1:00.
The rain date is Sunday, August 17th. As you may know, each year our Lake

Todd community gets together to share great food and fun. The Warrens will be grilling hamburgers and hotdogs, as well as providing paper goods, water, lemonade and rolls. Please let Elaine know by Friday noon how many will be attending and what side dish you would like to bring. You may reach her at 603-938-2960 or e-mail at LTVD@iamnow.net. Bring a chair, your favorite beverage and your family for a day of relaxation and socializing!



Village District Annual Meeting

The Lake Todd Village District held its annual meeting on Saturday, June 28. The following officers were elected: Mike Beaton, Commissioner for a three-year term; Carol Tonkin, Moderator for a one-year term; Susan Carl, Clerk for a one-year term; and Elaine Warren, Treasurer for a one-year term. In addition, articles were accepted to raise and appropriate the following funds: \$1,738 for General Government Expenses-Administrative; \$300 for Water Distribution & Treatment; \$7,750 for Dam Repairs and Improvements; \$3,000 for the Non-Capital Reserve. John Warren explained that the impact these articles will have on taxes is that taxes should go down. He also noted that the lake water quality report and engineering report are available for review.

Loons on the Lake

Most of us have been anxiously watching the loons nesting on the small island all summer. They started nesting at the very end of May and their original nest was just a few sticks on the sand. When the water came up in June, they built a new, much more substantial nest a little further back and to the left. Loon eggs normally hatch in 29 or 30 days, and the original eggs should have hatched by the last week in June or the first week in July. We don't know if they lost the original eggs and re-nested or if they were sitting on dead eggs. I kayaked by their nest almost every day in July to check on them. Unfortunately, the first chance I had to get out there after a weekend of heavy rain, I found the rain had swamped the nest. The loon eggs had drowned and were floating. I called Emily Bastian, who is the biologist assigned to Lake Todd by the Loon Preservation Committee. She was unable to get here for a few days and asked me to pick up the eggs, double wrap them in plastic and put them in our freezer. It made me really sad to do this, but it's necessary as the Loon Preservation Committee does testing on all unhatched eggs. Emily picked up the eggs about a week later. I also took pictures of the flooded nest and the drowned eggs that I e-mailed to her. We have asked the Loon Preservation Committee to put a floating island on the lake where the loons could safely nest, but they only do that after losing the nests for 3-5 years in a row.

(Continued on pg. 3)

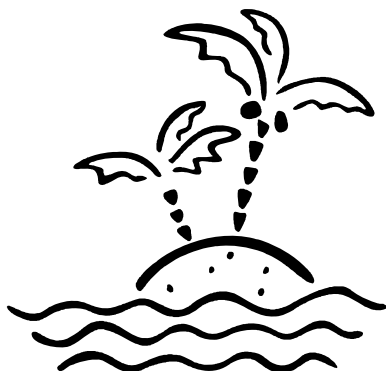
Neighbors on the Lake

Tom and Michelle Gerhan and their children are enjoying every minute of their time on Lake Todd. Tom is a Financial Analyst and Michelle is a homemaker, busy with their three children, Charlotte (6), Eliza (4), and Paul (1). Tom attended the United States Naval Academy as well as the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business, while Michelle attended LeMoyne University. When not on the lake, they live in Hollis, New Hampshire. They purchased their home on

Lake Todd not only because it is beautiful and peaceful, but it is only about an hour from their home. The Gerhans love fishing and swimming in the summer, and skiing in the winter, and of course just relaxing. They are impressed with the sense of community among those around the lake, and their children love the loons. Tom and Michelle are also looking forward to meeting more of their Lake Todd Neighbors!



Law Enforcement on Lake Todd Islands



What do you do if someone is being a nuisance on one of the islands? Dial 911 for the police. In a recent conversation with Chief Robert Lee of the Newbury Police Department, he assured me that the police do have jurisdiction on the islands and that an officer will respond, regardless of ownership. The only hitch is that someone with a boat will have to transport the officer to the island. Do not offer the use of a boat to the officer, as that creates a liability problem. Chief Lee was unable to acquire a boat and trailer for enforcement on all the lakes.

Chief Lee drafted new noise and fireworks ordinances which have been approved by the Selectmen. The police now have strong tools to deal with any untoward behavior on the islands. Here are the relevant excerpts from the ordinance:

Definition: Noise disturbance means any sound created or allowed to continue within a real property boundary or public right-of-way or public space, which can be heard across the boundary in the confines of another or adjacent real property boundary or a public right-of-way or public space which annoys or disturbs a reasonable person of normal sensitivities.

The rules:

It shall be unlawful to cause a noise disturbance:

Between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Monday through Saturday, and 10:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. Sunday, created by operating, playing or using any radio, television, phonograph, drum, musical instrument, sound amplifier or similar device which amplifies sound.

During any time such that any person causes or allows to be caused any noise disturbance not otherwise governed by this chapter where such disturbance is allowed to continue once notice has been given by a duly authorized police officer to desist from the offending action.

The building of a campfire requires a permit at any time. Please remind anyone who is thinking about camping or picnicking on an island of that fact. The permit application will alert the police that there are people on the island. Also, please remind campers to carry out all waste.

Here's to happy and quiet summers on Lake Todd!

Bill Weiler

Loons on the Lake

(continued from pg. 1)

Our son is a wildlife photographer and he took some excellent pictures of the loon on the nest. If anyone would like to see them, I will bring them to the Lake Todd social on Saturday, the 16th. There have been 4 and 5 loons on the lake swimming around together this year, but we only had one nesting pair. Lake Todd is not large enough to support more than one nesting pair, but others sometimes visit. It is so enjoyable to watch the mom and dad loons care for their baby loons and teach them to dive for food and to fly. Hopefully, they will have better luck next year.

Carol Tonkin



Looking for Articles

If you have anything of interest you would like to share with your neighbors on Lake Todd, I would love to hear from you. Any wildlife sightings, experiences on the lake, memories, reflections, or news would be most welcome. You can e-mail articles to me at normslake@yahoo.com, or call me at (978) 458-3097. Thank you!

Norma Murphy

The Brick Mill House of Bradford, NH

By John Warren

(Part 1 of 4)

John and Ruth-Ann Harris had been looking for a weekend place with the criteria of a small farm, in reasonable condition, and two hours drive from their home in Boston. They saw an ad in the Boston Globe which struck them as rather funny, as it featured “water in the basement.” Thus, on a dreary, rainy October afternoon, they first laid eyes on the Brick Mill House.

It was located on Main Street in Bradford at the very end of lake Todd, and in fact, the back end of the property rubbed elbows with the dam, a picturesque waterfall, and the headwaters of the Warner River. What they saw was, charitably, distressing. The building had been constructed sometime between 1803 and 1805 along with the dam. It was a mill using the main source of power back then, namely water, and had many commercial uses over the years, including the manufacturing of toys during WWII, specialized wooden boxes for industry around Route 128, Cuban (fat) shoe heels, a pioneer in the providing of local electric power with a large dynamo installed in 1897, and home to a commune for a short time. When Lyndon Johnson came to town, the commune folks hung a quilt out the front window, which the town fathers took down, thinking it was a Vietcong flag. The old Route 103 actually ran straight down Main Street, over the bridge at the mill, and then took a sharp right turn and crossed the Concord and Claremont Railroad track at the Lakeside Restaurant.

Derelict was the best way to describe its condition. As if 200 years of hard use were not enough, it had been vacant for the last several years. Graffiti adorned the walls and several of the window frames had been burned; vines grew inside. And, yes, there was water in the basement — not standing water, but actually running through a penstock from the dam, into a turbine and then out the far end of the cellar. John and Ruth-Ann were too tired to look elsewhere, so they took a room at the Bradford Inn across the street and, armed with a sketchpad and a bottle of wine, they began talking. They flipped ideas back and forth until four in the morning when John broke back into the property for another look (statute of limitations applies here). Their verdict was, “It’s a loony idea but possible,” and in 1976, they took possession.

Lake Todd Village District
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