

Fall 2014



Province Lake Association Newsletter

Message from the President

Another summer at Province Lake has gone by all too quickly..... but very enjoyably. I hope that your lake experience these past few months has been as good.

Elections at our annual meeting this past July 19 resulted in the transfer of the presidency from Jon Samuelson to me. I am honored to lead the Province Lake Association (PLA) for the next two years with the help of a new and very capable board. We will do our best to continue down the path of Province Lake water quality improvement that has been created by our predecessors.

Water quality. This year we were fortunate to have no cyanobacteria blooms and the water clarity has been significantly improved over recent years. The high amounts of rainfall coupled with lower than normal average temperatures is believed to have had a significant positive impact. But make no mistake -- our water quality is still impaired due to higher than acceptable levels of phosphorous. It will take many years of improvements and conservation efforts by all lake users to get Province Lake to be removed from the NH state list of impaired waters. The final report of the Watershed Plan phase of our ongoing Watershed project was presented at the annual meeting on July 19, 2014. The complete document will be available on our website in the near future. PLA, with the crucial help of the Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance (AWWA), has applied for and will hopefully receive (Spring 2015) our first grant for the implementation of pollutant reduction projects.

How you can help. To keep moving our projects forward we need your help. One way is to be a member of the PLA. Your dues, contributions and volunteer work all contribute to long-term success. We are thrilled to report that nearly 40% of memberships included a donation significantly greater than their \$25 dues. This support helps us expand our Lake Host program hours, provides for additional water sampling/testing and provides some of our match funding which is a condition of the grant process. I am happy to report that we have more members than ever, attendance at our annual meeting is up and people from all of the communities around the lake are getting involved. Trends we will work to expand on.

You can help by encouraging your friends and neighbors to join PLA. In addition, we are in need of volunteer help – which I like to call “hands in the water”. We could use people who would like to volunteer for a few hours inspecting boats at the ramp, to be coordinators of next year’s golf event and everything in between. With your help we can make sure that our great-grandkids will enjoy Province as much as we do.

I hope to see you in the spring. Our 2015 annual meeting will be at Province Lake Golf on July 18th at 9 a.m.

Be part of the legacy,

Pete Dinger
President PLA

November 2014

Stay current on all happenings around Province Lake at www.provincelake.org.

Province Lake Watershed Management

Our Lake and Watershed Plan

by Jon Samuelson, PLA

The draft final Province Lake Watershed Management Plan had a final public presentation by FB Environmental at the PLA annual meeting on July 19, 2014. With the inputs from attendees and the steering committee, the final plan will be posted on the website in the near future. A detailed plan that identifies problem areas and conceptual proposed fixes will allow us to apply for grant funding to implement the fixes. As such, we are entering into phase 1 of implementation grants. For this phase, our partner the Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance (AWWA) has agreed to manage the next round of grant monies. With AWWA, the pre-proposal has been completed and submitted to NH DES and an interview was completed in September with AWWA and PLA Board representation. We now need to supply the full plan by November 14, 2014, for approval. Should it all get approved, we will then have a two year period to complete the tasks that are part of that grant proposal.

Our Lake and Watershed - Next steps for PLA!!

By Sally Soule, NHDES and Linda Schier, AWWA

Now that the Province Lake Watershed Management Plan is published we can focus efforts on installing improvements that fix problem areas identified via the first grant by means of the next phase of grant funding. Although not yet approved, we expect that the next grant (from United States Environmental Protection Agency and NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES)) will be approved in early spring of 2015. This means that you may see erosion control construction projects in your neighborhood or on the roads around the lake.

The partnership among the PLA, AWWA, NHDES, the ME Department of Environmental Protection, the towns of Effingham, Wakefield and Parsonsfield, the Province Lake Golf Club, the ME and NH Departments of Transportation, campground owners and YOU will make this project a success. The shoreline erosion projects, road repairs and septic system evaluations will reduce the amount of phosphorus pollution reaching the lake and will improve the water quality making fishing, swimming, boating, wildlife habitat and property values better for all.

There is something for everyone in this project phase:

- Be sure to attend PLA meetings and visit the PLA website at www.provincelake.org to stay on top of the latest news
- Call AWWA (603 473-2500) for a free landscape evaluation to see if there is anything you can do to make your property more lake friendly.
- Ask for a free septic evaluation if you have any concerns about how efficient your system is.

- Volunteer to help with monitoring and weed watching (email president@provincelake.org) – it is a great way to help the lake, a fun time playing citizen scientist and a critical element in understanding how the lake is doing.
- Join the PLA and AWWA for the annual beach clean-up in August.

As managers for the Province Lake Watershed project we are thrilled to be working with such a dedicated group of partners to improve the water quality in this beautiful lake. This team effort depends on the dedication of individuals like you. See you around the lake!

Open letter to the Province Lake Association: Catch Basin and Drain Line Project at the intersections of TFCC Road, Bonnyman Road and Boat Launch Ramp.

Towle Farm Community Corporation (TFCC) would like to thank the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES), Acton Wakefield Watershed Alliance (AWWA), Province Lake Association (PLA), Town of Wakefield, and the University of NH (UNH) for their coordinated planning, design and installation of the new drainage control system. This project made a huge difference by providing proper drainage that reduced the flooding and washouts in this area.

Fred Clough and his Wakefield highway crew were instrumental in getting this accomplished with the help from Jamie Houle (UNH) on the design layout and George Hawley and Ed Gaudet utilizing their personal equipment to help supplement the Wakefield Highway Department equipment. This project has been long overdue and is now doing its job correctly.

TFCC with support from NHDES, AWWA and UNH is looking at next steps for upper portions of Towle Farm Road that will provide additional erosion reduction to alleviate sediment being washed into the lake. This sediment contains phosphorus, which is the major contributor to lake pollution causing growth of algae and a deterioration of water quality.

Both Sonia and I would like to thank the PLA and AWWA for their support in getting this project underway and completed.

Sincerely;

Ronald A Freeman
Past President TFCC

Sonia Gauthier
President TFCC

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Other Province Lake Program Reports

Water testing Report, by Steve Craig

Samplings are being taken seven months of the year (April thru October) at four tributaries; Dam Outlet, the South River at Route 153, the Campground on Remick Road, and the Island Inlet, in addition to three storm water runoff locations. In addition, a deep water sampling is done each month. Nitrogen level and temperature have been added to the testing. All water samples are now tested by University of New Hampshire (UNH). We will get a comprehensive report of all test results for the year, but this information and the cost will not be available until sometime in 2015.

Lake Host Program Report, by Mary McLoughlin

The PLA, in conjunction with NH Lakes, had another successful year of keeping invasive species out of Province Lake. The program conducted 432 boat inspections. Two weed samples were sent to Steve for identification, but neither was invasive.

Our paid Lake Host inspectors, Jon and Julie Bachelder, have done an excellent job for the past 3 years. Through their diligent efforts, Province Lake remains free of invasive aquatic species of all types. They are at the ramp from 8-6 every Friday Saturday and Sunday from Memorial Day to Labor Day. They are never late and never miss a day. We are very lucky to have them as our first line of defense. A big thank you to all who launch boats via the Towle Farm ramp for making sure that your vessels of all types and sizes are clean and for cooperating with the inspectors. That keeps our lake clean and makes a tough job easier. A big THANK YOU also to the Towle Farm Association.

The PLA is investigating the prospect of increasing the number of hours that a paid staff member will monitor the comings and goings of all watercraft. Funding for this coverage comes from NH Lakes Association which manages and pays the Lake Host staff at lakes through all of NH. Additional funds come from the towns of Wakefield and Effingham.

There is always room for trained volunteers to fill the monitoring gaps – especially during the week in the spring when a lot of boats are launched. If you want to volunteer send a message to president@provincelake.org

Dam Report, by Tucker Vye

The lake level was good all summer due to enough rain at the right times. Dam logs were placed in May and no weather events required removal of logs. There is no beaver activity in the South River outlet at this time so the control of the lake level is currently unimpeded. The water level and beaver activity will be closely monitored in the spring.

Membership Report, by Mindy Schuman-Vye

This year has been another great year in regard to membership. There are currently 140 paid PLA memberships, an increase of 28 individuals/families over last year. We have collected a total of \$3,500 in membership dues and \$1,975 in extra donations for a total of \$5,475.



Third Annual PLA Breakfast

Fund Raising: Third Annual PLA Breakfast, by Carl and Donna Davis

This year's breakfast got off to a muddy, damp, cool start thanks to Hurricane Arthur. The skies cleared and people came, and then more cameand then some more!!!

We served 220 people (a fabulous turnout) and had plenty of food left. There were families from all of our lake "neighborhoods – From Bailey, Butler Field, Towle Farm, Bonnyman, Point, Sunset and Remick. Many walked down from Province Shores Campground, dodging the puddles along the way. There were kids wearing hand painted t-shirts everywhere, adding a very patriotic atmosphere to the morning. The different sized red, white and blue hand prints that decorated the shirts couldn't help but make people smile. We had a few more boats pull in for breakfast this year. With three docks and three available beaches, we had plenty of room for boaters.



Special guests included Sally Soule, from NHDES and Linda Schier, from AWWA. Both were happy to talk about the Province Lake Watershed Plan and future plans that they've been playing a major role in helping with for the past two years. In addition, Connie Twombly, representing the Wakefield Board of Selectmen, also came to support PLA, meet PLA members, and enjoy the delicious food.

We appreciate the support of our volunteers and guests that came together to make this a fun and very successful fundraiser for the Association! There were 32 volunteers this year, setting up, serving, cooking and cleaning up. The grant "match" for all those hours and food donations came to \$3,877.61. The cash taken in was \$1,820.00 so the total for this event was a whopping \$5,697.61!

Thanks everyone!!! We will see you again on July 4th, 2015.

Fundraising: Hats and Shirts

We hope to have a selection of *official PLA Province Lake shirts and hats* for sale in 2015. We will post photos of them along with prices and ordering information in the spring.



At the PLA Golf Tournament

Fund Raising: Golf Tournament, by Bob Demer

"The Second Annual Province Lake Association Golf Tournament was held on Saturday July 26, 2014. The golfers were greeted at the Province Lake Golf course gazebo that included a coffee and Danish bar. The weather was perfect. Low gross winners were the Mike Cerbone group, longest drive for the women was by Janet Murfey, closest to the pin for the men was done by Jim Murphy. Awards and raffle were presented after a barbecue lunch held in the main function room.

A special thanks to our corporate sponsors that included Poor People's Pub - beverage cart sponsor, and our tee sign sponsors: Blue Bay Restaurant, Country Goods and Groceries, E. F. Dolaher & Sons Contracting, Edwards Builders, Hayes Real Estate, Lightship Wealth Strategies, Lino's Restaurant, and the Wakefield Inn. Other sponsors of goods and services included: Free Range Fish & Lobster, The Mountain Grainery, New Balance, Seven lakes Provisions, Seven Lakes Real Estate, Sharper Image Salon & Spa, Wards Boat Shop and Woodman Corner Barber Shop.

Special thanks also go to Charlie Antonopoulos for donating a number of goodie bag items and raffle prizes, and Mindy Schuman-Vye for making a beautiful basket of New England products for the raffle. And to our wonderful volunteers, led by Donna Davis and the team of Paula Inglis, Joe and Pat Fleck, Joanie Samuelson, Joan Gatto, and Carol Demer. Thanks to our photographer Pete Dinger for capturing the event, and Thom Townsend for his assistance at the check-in and financial services.

Finally a special thank you to Patrick D'Angelo, the Province Lake Golf course pro for his assistance and Heather Milbourn from Mulligan's Tavern for the barbecue lunch.



Fund Raising: Year End Donations Will Help Our Lake

It is not too late to make a donation to or join the PLA for 2014.....

If you haven't already joined, we can use your support.

If you are a member, but did not donate additional money, or if you made a donation and would like to add to it, now is a good time! Membership fees and donations all go into a fund that helps the lake. This money is used to pay for water sample testing, expansion of the LakeHost program which checks boats at the ramp for aquatic invasive plants and organisms, and most importantly as match funds (in addition to volunteer time) required as a condition of the grants we receive. **PLA is a 501(c)3 charitable organization and as such all donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.** Our EIN is 23-7337832.

Treasurer's Interim Report, by Thom Townsend

As was reported at the annual meeting, our finances remain in good shape and the PLA has been able to accomplish many objectives, thanks to the fundraising activities, state grants, a private grant, contributions from the towns of Wakefield and Effingham, the increased number of dues paying families and the generosity of many of those families contributing more than the nominal dues.

All current bills are paid, and our combined balance of both long term and short-term funds is about \$39,000.

Beach cleanup report, by Jon Samuelson

On August 23, members of the PLA, AWWA, and concerned citizens in the area took to cleaning up the Rt. 153 beach and road verges at Province Lake. The cleanup began bright and early on Saturday morning as volunteers set out along the Rt. 153 beach, picking up every piece of trash and debris they could find. Items found ranged in size from cigarette butts to containers and signs. Over 2,400 pieces of trash were removed, totaling 273 pounds being taken to the Effingham Transfer Station.

Some of the more disturbing items found on the beach were the 19 soiled diapers, 10 pieces of animal waste (i.e., dog poop), and a used tampon. Sadly, we expected the hundreds (if not thousands) of cigarette butts picked up along Rt. 153. However, the most astonishing items we found were the hundreds of remnants of fireworks. Little bits and pieces of plastic, paper and cardboard littered the beaches from Fourth of July and other celebrations. The chemical issues with fireworks fired over lakes have been discussed before, however we were all surprised by the physical effect their casings leave on the landscape. The sheer amount and variety of trash on the beach is a sobering reminder of the need to increase the value of the lake in the minds of those who enjoy it.

The PLA beach cleanup was a resounding success this year, and we hope it becomes a lauded tradition on the lake every year. With a bit of hard work on an ongoing basis, we might just find ourselves picking up less and less trash each year.

Special thanks to volunteers: Loretta Campbell, Peter Campbell, Phil Colburn, Marylyn Colburn, Lorna Connelly, Ashley Connelly, Donna Davis, Carl Davis, Pete Dinger, Don Harrison, Kathi Healey, Larry Moody, Neil Rowe, Jon Samuelson, Linda Schier, Mindy-Schumann Vye, Tucker Vye, Sam Wilson, Rick Zani and Kathleen Zani. Thanks for coming out on a Saturday morning to make Province Lake a better place to visit and live!

Newsletter editor: Damaris Rohsenow