



Message from the President

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As summer's fun and relaxation around the lake have become memories and photos, we have time to reflect on what has been done to help the lake.

This year's **fundraising** (Membership/Donations, Annual Breakfast and Logo Item sales) continued strong allowing us to proceed with our many projects.

An admirable and successful non-PLA fundraising event was 11-year-old Noelle Gregoire's third annual cross-lake swim to raise money for New England hospital pediatric patients. With the support of the Province Lake community as well as family and friends, Noelle has been able to donate over \$25,000 worth of toys to New England Hospitals in the past 3 years. She plans to continue her tradition next summer. Noelle's website is www.laps4backs.org. and her Facebook page "Laps 4 Backs Smile Spreaders" Noelle is the niece of our Lake Host Lee-Ann.

Our lake remains **free of invasive plants** thanks to everyone's diligence in making sure that your watercraft are free of any plant materials prior to launch and the dedication of our two new Lake Host people conducting courtesy boat inspections every day of the summer.

We are making slow but steady progress on **erosion control** on roads and private property – but have a long way to go. Our water sampling every two weeks showed excellent water clarity – due to some extent to the lack of rain, which reduced natural runoff pollution. There were no cyanobacteria blooms.

Thanks to those of you who **participated in PLA events** -- our annual meeting, attended the breakfast, helped with the beach cleanup or purchased a PLA t-shirt, hat or sweatshirt. We continue to need your help and involvement. All of the PLA Board members look forward to seeing you at a PLA event next summer.

Stay current on what is happening on your lake via our **website** <http://provincelake.org> or like us on **Facebook** – [Province Lake Association](#). If you have any questions or concerns or want to know how you can get more involved in the Province Lake Association programs, we want to hear from you. Email president@provincelake.org

Please see details of this year's work below.

Pete Dinger
President, PLA

2017 Save the Dates- hope to see you there!

PLA 6th Annual Breakfast- Saturday July 1, 2017

PLA Annual Meeting- Saturday July 22, 2017

2016 Annual Meeting, July 23, 2016- by Pete Dinger

This year's annual meeting minutes are posted on our website. The President and VP positions were voted to be extended for one year. All other officers and board members were elected for a two-year term. This will result in staggered elections for officers/board members each year, which will assure year-to-year continuity.

Province Lake Program Reports

Water Quality Testing - by Steve Craig

Our sampling program with the University of New Hampshire (UNH) Lakes Lay Monitoring Program, Action Wakefield Watershed Alliance (AWWA), and Cyanobacteria sampling team shows that our lake water had even greater clarity with no cyanobacteria blooms, milfoil or invasive weeds or fish kills this year. According to the US Drought Monitor, we are, and have been, in a severe to extreme drought situation that has reduced runoff and erosion into the lake. Due to these conditions, our last sampling at the end of September consisted of only the Dam Outlet. The three inlet tributaries could not be sampled (Campground, Island, and Route 153) due to lack of flow. Only one storm sample was taken this summer due to lack of measurable precipitation. Interestingly, rain gauge measurements indicated an inch of lake level increase per inch of rainfall. All deep samplings were taken and water clarity was the best in memory due to lack of rain and runoff. Given the drought conditions, the lake level is very low for the upcoming winter and monthly sampling will resume in the spring. We should receive the official UNH water quality report later this year.

Dam Report - by Tucker Vye

As a result of minimal precipitation, the lake level was very low this summer (lowest recorded since 2001) but outflow into the South River was maintained throughout. The dam was removed in mid-October and will be resealed to the lower concrete abutment when re-installed. This will correct the minor dam leakage that occurred during this summer.

Lake Host Program Report - by Pete Dinger

The Lake Host program is a critical component of protecting our lake water quality and we thank everyone for their care in checking their boats for invasive weeds and patience during the boat inspection process. Many thanks to Lenny Dodge and Lee-Ann Cammett, our official Lake Hosts, for providing extensive coverage at the Towle Farm Boat Ramp. They covered every weekday for 6 hours a day, as well as weekends. During 2016 our Lake Hosts inspected 586 boats and no invasive weeds were found. Dave Lajoie will be the 2017 Lake Host Point Person and Lenny and Lee-Ann plan to return next year when we intend to have even more hours of coverage.

Weed Watching Update - by Carl Davis and Tucker Vye

This was the second year of our organized weed watching. All areas of the lake were monitored. No milfoil or invasive weeds were detected which is a significant ongoing accomplishment. Thanks to you for keeping your eyes open and practicing good boating procedures when launching and removing your boats. Province Lake is one of the few lakes in the area that has not been invaded by exotic weeds, which can significantly degrade our water quality and property value. We can always use more watchers so please contact Tucker at tavye@msn.com or Carl at 112remickcd@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer for next summer.

The effort to promote invasive weed awareness was enhanced by the placement of two plastic imitation weeds around the lake each month. Boaters on the lake, who were rewarded with a stylish PLA t-shirt, found them all. We will continue this program next summer, so keep your eyes open as you enjoy the lake.

Membership Report - by Mindy Schuman-Vye

The Association has 132 members this year, which is down from 149 in 2015. However, more funds were raised as 60% of the members donated more than the \$25 membership fee. The total amount received from membership was \$6,649. Thanks to all who joined as members, and to those who donated additional funds in memory of Joe Benzing. We have listed all current members on the PLA website. If you love and enjoy Province Lake, please consider joining in 2017. Our membership year is from January 1 to December 31 and you can join at any time. For membership inquiries and question email us at provincelakemembers@gmail.com

PLA is a 501(c)3 charitable organization and all donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Our EIN is 23-7337832.

Fundraising- by Carl and Donna Davis; Mindy Schuman-Vye and Donna Luce

The 5th Annual Breakfast in July was a great success with many from around the lake in attendance, wonderful food, and perfect weather. Many thanks to the Davis's for graciously hosting our breakfast once again. 215 plates were sold and income was slightly lower as more children attended (future PLA members we hope). Approximately \$1500 was raised. The 6th Annual Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, July 1, 2017 and volunteers will be very welcome (more details closer the date).



PLA logo items: The Association was also very successful in selling PLA logo items at the Annual Meeting, Annual Breakfast and along the Route 153 beach during the July 4th weekend. There are many wonderful logo items including t-shirts, fleeces, hats, sweatshirts and bags available on the website. They make great gifts for lake lovers and we encourage you to order them online at our website (under the photos, ads, apparel dropdown).



Treasurer's Financial Report – by Thom Townsend

The Association's funds on balance with Profile Bank and Pay Pal account as of Sept 3, 2016, are \$48,615. This is a slight increase (~\$4000) over 2015. No additional income is anticipated in 2016. All bills received to date have been paid and there are upcoming expenses of about \$3650.



Special Reports

Watershed Plan - by Pete Dinger and Jon Samuelson

Erosion Mitigation:

The road erosion project on the part of Bonnyman Road in Effingham is progressing and is supported by PLA, AWWA, UNH, Town of Effingham Selectmen and the Effingham road contractor. The first installation of an erosion control device on this section of the road has been designed and should be installed in 2017.

Work is also underway in the Towle Farm Community Corporation Field area, to control the runoff from the roads above the boat ramp. This will serve to reduce the runoff and erosion along the road and at the ramp.

Work was completed along the Wakefield section of Bonnyman Road by the Town of Wakefield to mitigate the runoff from Silver Hill Road onto Bonnyman Road and then into the lake. The sections of Silver Hill Road are also being worked on by the owners of the private road.

During the lake erosion assessment of all properties around the lake in 2014, Pete Dinger and Chris Pongratz properties were found to have significant runoff problems. Corrective landscape designs and DES permit applications were obtained in the spring. Work on both areas should be completed prior to next summer.

PLA and AWWA along with the UNH Stormwater Center continue to explore means of reducing the amount of runoff along Route 153. Meetings have been held with both NH and Maine DOT. The goal is to develop a viable solution that minimizes erosion while providing for safety of those using the beach.

Septic Control:

A proposed multi-family septic system along Lakeshore Drive failed to gain sufficient support so a few individual septic installations will move forward. Homeowners who are considering updating their septic systems should be aware that the Department of Environmental Services is offering funding of 60% of the cost of a new system, not to exceed \$4,600. This is a great opportunity to improve your system as well as do a part in reducing septic runoff into the lake. If you are interested in applying or would like further information you can contact the following:

Linda Schier at Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance

[603-473-2500](tel:603-473-2500) or Linda.schier@awwatersheds.org

Sally Soule at the Department of Environmental Services

[603-559-0032](tel:603-559-0032) or Sally.Soule@des.nh.gov

3rd Annual Beach clean up

The 3rd Annual Beach clean up was done the morning of August 27, 2016. Fourteen volunteers collected seventeen bags of assorted trash comprised largely of spent fireworks, cigarette and food/drink wrapper/containers weighing 147 pounds. An additional 400 pounds of broken cement blocks were collected and all trash was taken to the Effingham Transfer Station. We appreciate the volunteers' efforts and all those that use the beach and 'pack out' their trash- it all helps keep our lake clean.



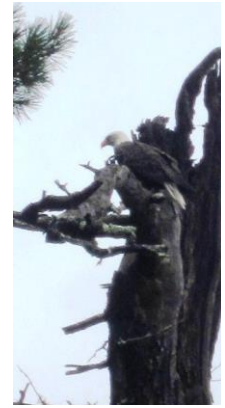
Loons and Our Wildlife- by Steve Craig and Thom Townsend

We have been very fortunate to have a variety of thriving wildlife around the lake including the bald eagles, foxes, porcupines, bear, deer, turtles and waterfowl. Enjoy them all and many thanks for not feeding them- in particular the waterfowl, which contribute to degrade our water quality.

Our loon pair produced eggs on two occasions (mid-June and late-June) but none were viable. The NH Loon Preservation Committee in Moultonborough collected the eggs and will attempt to determine the reason(s) for failure.

Eagles – by Damaris Rohsenow

The bald eagles on Point Road were said by residents there to have not had any young in 2016. However, I spotted one fledgling eagle on the lake, probably from the nest that seems to be up Hobbs Brook.



Moose Mountain Regional Greenways (MMRG) Conservation Action Plan

The MMRG is developing a strategic action plan, which includes the Wakefield portion of Province Lake. They held a first visioning session in September and topics included water, wildlife, education, trails and recreation, history and land usage. They will continue to reach out to solicit input from the PLA and other partners as they develop their plan.

Safe Boating Brochure

Province Lake now has our very own Safe Boating Brochure. It will soon be available on our website, as well as hard copy from our Lake Hosts next summer and at the Annual Meeting in July 2017.

Compiled by: Lorie Dunne

Newsletter Editor: Damaris Rohsenow

Links to websites and our partners:

Province Lake Association

<http://provincelake.org>

Action Wakefield Watershed Alliance (AWWA)

<http://awwatersheds.org>

Moose Mountain Regional Greenways

<http://www.mmrq.info>

NH Lakes Lay Monitoring Program

<http://www.cfb.unh.edu/programs/LLMP/nhlmp.htm>

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