



PROVINCE LAKE THIS MONTH

A Message from the President

Hi All,

It seems that winter has made an early arrival, with ice reported on the lake during Thanksgiving, pretty early for us!

With Thanksgiving behind us and the holiday season gearing up I'm sure everyone's busy as ever. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our membership for your continued support of the PLA's efforts to keep our lake healthy and the many volunteers who have made these projects happen. We look forward to continuing these efforts in 2019 to help keep Province Lake the special place it is.

Just a note to all you skaters, ice fisherman, snow mobilers and kite skiers who are preparing for some great days out on the ice- be safe and enjoy! Looks like you may be out there before you know it!

Have a wonderful winter season

Cheers!

Mindy and the PLA Board

In This Issue

A Message from the President

Page 1

A Newcomer's Perspective

Page 2

Membership Lake Host Weed Watch

Page 3

Phosphorus Study Ice in- Ice Out

Page 4

Your PLA at Work Calendar of events

Page 5

About the PLA and Partners

Page 6

A Newcomer's Perspective

Jim Aiken

On Labor Day 2018 we started back to our house in Manchester, NH in the late afternoon. We observed some activity related to the end of the season; docks being removed, boats being pulled, etc. A little bit of panic started to set in and I felt like getting out of the car and lobbying a bit for them to reconsider. This isn't over, get that stuff back in the water! The truth did set in though, the days were getting shorter and our first summer at Province Lake was coming to an end.

I can't say exactly how many weekends of calendar year 2017 were spent driving around southern Maine and New Hampshire but let's just say it was quite a few. The criteria for the right place was kind of simple. We wanted a small place on a medium sized lake that we could get to in under 2 hours. A place we could go to get away, relax, find some peace and enjoy the company of friends and family. As we rolled down the hill on RT 153 in the late fall what would certainly qualify as the proper setting appeared, Province Lake.

We closed in early 2018 and waited for our 3 season house to defrost and the ice on the lake to melt away. We were not only new to the area but also new to lake life in general. At the urging of the previous owner we joined the Province Lake Association and gained access to this newsletter. I never realized to what extent a body of water like ours is affected by so many different conditions and foreign substances. Our eyes were opened to things like phosphorus and its ability to trigger cyanobacteria blooms, and invasive species that could quickly cripple a lake like ours. We found it comforting that there was a group of folks that were committed stewards of this wonderful and fragile environment. Groups like AWWA, our Lake Hosts and Weed Watchers on point as sentries to ensure our lake stays as healthy and as clean as possible.

Through my neighbor I was introduced to a group of 5 or 6 other home owners that got together each year to put out and take in their docks. This was most fortuitous for me as I had no idea how the eleven heavy pieces of metal in the side yard were to go together and form a platform. Zillow could confirm that such a structure did exist not more than six months earlier so I had a picture that we could work off of. When the crew arrived at the house they asked, "so how does this one go together." After about an hour and some gnashing and grinding of teeth, the dock was on the water. When leaving our house to go to the next I made the mistake of mentioning that I didn't even own a boat yet. Some audible groans were cast about but everyone got a little laugh out of it.

I wanted to share that story because it embodies the spirit of the Province Lake community. In one short year my family and I have made some great friends and have felt truly welcome. Whether it be the patient team at the transfer station trying to train me to sort my recyclables correctly or the friendly neighbor explaining how to access a hiking trail through their land, we have been shown what a great community should be. We came here looking for a place to have fun, rest and recharge. We never expected such a genuine sense of being part of something so very special and we will do our part to keep it that way. Counting the days till spring.

Membership

Thanks to all our members! We have had another successful year of active members with 146 members, of which 134 are returning and 12 are new members. This level of membership is similar to 2017. Our members have been very generous in contributing more than the basic membership dues.

Basic (up to \$25)	61 members
Protector (\$26- 49)	11 members
Defender (\$50-74)	28 members
Champion (\$75-99)	10 members
Hero (\$100+)	36 members

The total membership amount raised is \$9,038.00. These funds are used to support our Watershed Plan (septic improvement, erosion and lake buffer projects), Water Quality (monitoring, testing, phosphorus study) and the Lake Host Programs.

Our membership runs January to December, renewable every year. It is never too late to become a member so if you haven't joined in 2018, please consider joining now at provincelake.org/about/membership-2/

We thank you for helping to support all our efforts to keep Province Lake the gem that it is.

Lake Host

Our PL Lake Hosts performed 562 inspections this year, up slightly from last year. No issues were found here, but there were 25 major saves at boat ramps across the state, some at lakes where milfoil is not yet present. We have a healthy balance of funds at NH Lakes that will roll over to our 2019 payroll expenses. The PLA will need to hire a couple of additional lake hosts (paid positions) for 2019 so stay tuned if you are interested. We will conduct that search this coming spring.

Weed Watch

Sixteen people served as weed watchers this year and many thanks to their diligence in helping to keep our lake invasive free. No invasive or problem weeds were identified. We will develop a more deliberate attempt to utilize our glass bottom boat in 2019 and perhaps use it to also locate trash items on the lake bottom, which could then be removed if warranted. We will be looking for our 2019 weed watch volunteers this coming spring. Please volunteer again, or consider volunteering if you haven't in the past. The PLA will provide support information to assist you in identifying nasty invasives.

Phosphorus Study Update

As we mentioned in previous newsletters, the PLA with the Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance (AWWA), NH Department of Environmental Services and DK Water Resource Consulting LLC, with support from Steve Craig, is conducting a study through 2019 to collect and analyze data to better understand the phosphorus loading in our lake and how it may be impacting our water quality. Phosphorus is thought to be a trigger nutrient for cyanobacteria and algal blooms and loading is a measure of how much phosphorus is available to feed these blooms.

Core samples of the lake bottom sediments have been taken and sent off for analysis to ascertain the levels of phosphorus and other constituents in the bottom sediments.

Water samples are being taken at 7 stations around the lake. The samples will be evaluated for soluble reactive phosphorus and total suspended solids. Deep (14ft) and shallow (5 ft) samples will be taken. Water sampling will be done after busy boating periods on the lake to understand how that activity may resuspend phosphorus-bearing sediments into the water column. Water sampling will also be done after significant wind events, again to see if the wind is resuspending bottom nutrients.

Once the sediment and water samples and their analyses are complete, the data will be incorporated into a model that should help quantify how phosphorus is impacting our water quality. The model may help determine what actions could be taken to mitigate phosphorus resuspension and potential cyanobacteria blooms in the lake. We hope to have the study results available in 2019 for our membership. Please contact us at President@ProvinceLake.org for more information on the study.

Ice In – Ice Out

Declaring Ice In and Ice Out on NH lakes is a historic activity dating back to the 1800s for some lakes. Ice In is typically when ice covers a lake in the fall. Ice In can be a bit problematic to determine but is when the lake is completely or nearly completely covered with ice. A thin skim of ice is not considered Ice In. Based on this definition, Province Lake Ice In this year was Black Friday, Nov 23, which is at least a week earlier than in the previous six years.

Some consider Ice Out to be when the ice has melted and broken up enough to navigate a boat from one end of a lake or pond to the other, or when the lake is completely free of ice. Although ice-out definitions may vary slightly from lake to lake, the important thing is consistency and utilizing the same method to determine ice-out for your lake each year. For Province Lake, Ice Out is when a boat can navigate east to west across the entire lake.

For more general information, check out the NH DES page <https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/vlap/ice-in-out.htm>

Your PLA at work

- ❖ Please feel free to utilize our PLA Ad Board as you look to sell or find items. You must be a 2018 member to post any item on the site. The link is <http://provincelake.org/photos/adboard/>
- ❖ We have compiled WELCOME PACKS for new owners around the lake. Please let us know of any new owners near you, or that you are aware of, so we can reach out to them. We are happy to provide Welcome Packs as well to anyone who leases their property and would like to have a copy available for their renters. Please email us to request a pack at <mailto:provincelakemembers@gmail.com>
- ❖ We have added an *Important Info* link to our website dedicated to supplying helpful information to the residents and visitors of Province Lake
- ❖ We will publish our newsletter quarterly- March, June, September and December. If you have a topic you would like to see addressed or if you would prefer to opt out of receiving the Newsletter please let us know. You can always contact us at provincelakemembers@gmail.com.

Calendar of events and items of interest

Enjoy your winter holidays!

About the PLA

Membership in the PLA is open to anyone who has a love and concern for Province Lake. The PLA has an active membership and we encourage all to become members by completing a brief membership form and paying annual dues. Click here to [join](#) and to see membership information. 100% of PLA membership fees and donations go into projects and related work focused on Province Lake water quality.

Links to our partner websites:

Acton Wakefield Watershed Alliance (AWWA) <https://awwatersheds.org/>

Moose Mountain Regional Greenways <http://www.mmrg.info/>

NH Lakes Lay Monitoring Program <http://www.cfb.unh.edu/programs/LLMP/nhlmp.htm>

NH Lakes <http://www.nhlakes.org>

Province Lake Association, PO Box 24, Effingham, NH 03882

Phone (207) 200-3234

www.provincelake.org and follow us on Facebook at [Province Lake Association](#)

The PLA Board

Mindy Schuman-Vye (President)

Lorie Dunne (Vice President)

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Donna Luce (Secretary)

Directors:

Jim Aiken

Barbara Burns

Carl Davis

Peter Dinger

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Jon Samuelson

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Winter on Province Lake

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



Yes, the lake level is extremely high right now due to very rainy fall. This is the South River outlet with the dam boards removed.



Winter sky and the south shore of Province Lake