



PROVINCE LAKE THIS MONTH

A Message from the President

Well, I think we are all feeling the end of summer has arrived; we have already experienced a preview of the cooler days to come. The busy days of summer are certainly past, but it's nice to see people enjoying the solitude of being alone on the lake. Boats and docks are gradually disappearing and homes and cottages are closing up. We have included in this newsletter some tips, from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, which may be helpful for those closing up a seasonal home.

This is a time to thank our Lake Hosts for staffing the boat launch and inspecting boats entering the lake, our water monitors who sample the lake rain or shine and our Weed Watchers who inspect our lake. These programs provide an invaluable service to our lake. *We will include details of these programs 2018 activities in a future newsletter.*

Province Lake this Month, our way of communicating information about Province Lake, is winding up its first year of distribution. We hope you have learned ways you can contribute to keeping Province Lake healthy and what the PLA and its many volunteers are doing. We are committed to our Watershed Plan and continue to implement programs and projects to do so. If there are topics you would like to know about please let us know. Just a note: upon reflection and review of this past year, Province Lake this Month will continue as a quarterly newsletter with issues in March, June, September and December.

I would like to acknowledge the 8 property owners who took advantage of the Septic System Improvement project, available through our partners AWWA and the NH Department of Environmental Services, and upgraded their septic systems. This is a great way to keep our lake healthy!

Enjoy the beautiful days of fall!

Mindy

President

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Rt 153 Annual Beach Clean Up

On Saturday, August 25, the Fifth Annual Province Lake Beach Cleanup took place. Twenty people participated and in the course of an hour and half, they collected 2,134 separate items weighing 160 pounds with cigarette butts and firework debris the most numerous items. This debris was disposed of at the Town of Effingham Transfer Station. Once again, a successful clean up will go a long way to helping keep the beach clean.

A special thanks goes to the owners of the Donville and Butler Field beach areas. You are doing a fabulous job in keeping your beach areas clean and healthy. Your hard work is greatly appreciated and the lake is benefitting from all your efforts.



Many thanks to all who help to keep our beach clean

Cyanobacteria Update

Province Lake experienced a cyanobacteria outbreak from August 6 to August 16, when the DES lifted the Advisory. Please stay vigilant and if you suspect a cyanobacteria bloom is occurring, please call the NH DES CYANO hotline immediately at **(603) 848-8094**, or (603) 271-0698 (Amanda McQuaid), or email beaches@des.nh.gov. You can also use the bloomWatch app to send a photo. **Please also call the PLA at 207-200-3243 so a sample can be obtained. Advisory signs will be posted when the NH DES issues an Alert.** You can find more information on cyanobacteria at the NH DES website https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/beaches/cyano_bacteria.htm

<https://cyanos.org/> is an EPA website where you can find additional pertinent information about cyanobacteria and how to download the bloomWatch app.

Phosphorus Study

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 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. A monitoring plan has developed and sampling is ongoing.

Core samples of the lake bottom sediments will be taken. These samples will then be analyzed 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.



Steve Craig and Tucker Vye taking water samples for the phosphorus study

Preparing Your Lake Property for the Winter

Thank you to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection for providing this useful information.

Yes, sadly the time is coming to prepare your lake property for the winter. The summer months have flown by. It seems like just yesterday you were opening up your cottage for the summer. It is now time to get the cottage ready for the harsh fall and winter months ahead. When going through this yearly winterizing ritual, it is important to consider possible impacts to lakes and wildlife from these activities. The following are some tips to help you in doing this:

- **Drain Pipes** - Winterizing a cottage requires preventing pipes from freezing. Drain the water system to ensure that it won't freeze, **do not** use anti-freeze to protect plumbing. Antifreeze is toxic and it poses a threat to ground and surface waters, not to mention the danger of it being ingested by pets. Adding *antifreeze to plumbing fixtures is not necessary* provided all the fixtures are completely drained.
- **Protect from rodents** - Damage from rodents such as mice and squirrels are also a concern for cottage owners. Refrain from using pesticides or poisons. To prevent these unwanted guests, inspect the cottage inside and out to make sure there are no openings for rodents to enter. Remove all food sources from the cottage before you close it.
- **Check for erosion** - To make sure that shorefront areas will not succumb to ice or wave damage, inspect the shoreline thoroughly. Stabilize any eroding areas with plants or rock riprap if necessary. If using riprap, patching a retaining wall, or doing anything more than minor maintenance and repair, state and local permits are required, so plan accordingly. This is also a good time to inspect parking and landscaped areas for signs of erosion.
- **Remove dock** - When removing docks and boats from the water try to store them in an area that will not kill vegetation. A stable shoreline and healthy vegetation are important in keeping eroding soil from harming water quality.
- **Boats** - Do not try to drain gasoline from fuel tanks of outboard motors or other power equipment. Instead, use fuel stabilizer (available from your dealer or auto parts store) to keep fuel fresh for next season. Winterize your engine(s) away from the water. When changing lubricating oils, collect the oil and bring it to your dealer or a recycling facility for proper disposal (see [oil recycling](#) list for locations). Wash boats away from the water, preferably at a commercial car wash. Many detergents and motor oils contain chemicals that can pollute the lake and harm fish.

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

Sept, Oct & Nov 2018 Enjoy fall at the lake

Dec 2018

Dec newsletter

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/nhllmp.htm>

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

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

The PLA Board

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A September day on the 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