

# Province Lake Association Board Annual Meeting

## July 23, 2011

**Welcome:** Carl Davis, President, called the meeting to order at 9:28 AM and welcomed everyone to the 38<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the PLA. Carl Davis thanked the owners of the golf course, Dave and Cynthia Porter, for the use of the facilities and refreshments. We thank the Knotty Pine Restaurant for generous donations to today's raffle. He announced that Amy Smagula, limnologist, exotic species coordinator, will provide training to interested members in identifying invasive lake/pond weeds at the end of the meeting. He announced that after last year's meeting, Damaris Rohsenow volunteered to serve as Secretary and was accepted by the Board.

**Secretary's Report:** Carl Davis moved to accept the 2010 meeting minutes as published in the Website. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Marion Chouinard reported that we took in \$3828.57 (\$285.57 of which was interest on our accounts) and had expenses of \$2489.20 for a net increase of \$1339.37. We have two CDs that total \$21,694.24. Today's raffle raised \$235.

**Audit Report:** Joe Fleck reported that Thom Townsend had audited the books recently and found them to be in good order; all accurate and well reported. The motion to accept the report was seconded and passed unanimously.

**Water Control and Lake Level:** Dennis Derby reported that the logs were installed on June 3. The level is 7.5", 1.5" below the culvert. It is still flowing over the top log but the South River is full which means the beavers are blocking up the river again. Rainfall to date has been about 2.5" inches. We sometimes hire a trapper if we think dams will harm the lake level, or break up the dams.

**Membership Report:** Jon Samuelson, Membership Chair, reported that in 2009 we had the most members by doing mass mailing to property owners. Last year we had only 76 members, reducing funds available for the functions of the association. In July, we did a membership drive on some of the roads and went from 71 to 82 members, with more added today. We plan to update the database of lakeside landowners this year. Our goal is to get 50% membership, in order to strengthen our weed control fund.

**Acton Wakefield Watershed Alliance (AWWA):** Dues also cover membership in AWWA. Linda Schier explained the erosion control projects they do and are engaged in on our lake.

**Weed control report:** Carl Davis reported that Balch Lake has had to raise ¼ million dollars so far and have not eliminated the invasive weeds, so it is important to be proactive. Steve Craig reported that he has not seen or had reports of any invasive weeds in our lake to date. He has received certification by the states of Maine and NH in invasive lake/pond weed identification, and several other members have received the NH state training. He told us that he is starting a Weed Watch Committee after this meeting to formalize reporting each month to the state.

We're trying to get the Lake Host Program running. Towle Farm does watch the boats arriving at the ramp at Towle Farm Road, but we need a dedicated person on the ramp.

**Guest Speaker:** Amy Smagula, limnologist, exotic species coordinator, talked about factors that affect water quality in NH lakes (see water quality report below). While cyanobacteria can give

people and animals a bad case of gastroenteritis, the green/brown algae that occurs is safe. Use a pool skimmer and put it on your garden as fertilizer. Invasive weeds are rampant in the nearby Belleau and Balch lakes. Vigilance allows early identification for easier removal at lower cost.

**Erosion Control:** We are getting involved in a watershed plan with several groups to manage erosion.

**Website Report:** Carl Davis thanked Jack and Barbara Wilkins for all their work in maintaining the website. He encouraged members to submit more items: information, stories, photos, announcements, etc, and to ask questions if they need information. There is no one who volunteered to produce a newsletter. A volunteer would be welcome.

**Water Quality report:** Norman Dudziak reported that 2010 was the 20<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of water testing, and the water quality was very good; with two exceptions seen last year:

a) We had a bloom of cyanobacteria in the first half of September. New Hampshire DES said it was found not to be toxic upon testing in December. Norm thanked people for reporting the bloom and reminded them to keep their pets and children out of the water if there appears to be a bloom.

b) August water quality found *E. coli* almost twice state standards in one downstream inlet location, which the state DES said could have been artificially high due to the low water flow and high temperatures that month. We have conducted several repeat tests this year to identify the source and extent of the problem, if any. So far, the water at the most downstream end of that inlet have been below the state's limits and monitoring at multiple locations along the stream and times indicated that the source may have been wildlife.

c) Members are reminded to operate boats slowly in the shallow areas and not to use fertilizer near the lake, as both increase weed growth. Don't use lead sinkers; they kill loons.

Carl Davis said it is important to educate anyone we see damaging water quality, and educate owners of rental property.

**Loon report** by Steve Craig: Steve Craig thanked the Townsends for all their help with the loon signs and nest, and reported that a new report came out that changes the way loon nesting needs to be managed. This year a muskrat invaded the nest where it is at. There is no confirmed sign of baby loons this year.

**General Discussion:** Topics brought up by attending members.

1) What is the effect of sunscreen on water quality? Amy Smagula said that question is under investigation.

2) Is it acceptable to control weeds in front of your property? Amy Smagula said that is against state law but cutting some to clear an area would not be a problem.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Damaris J. Rohsenow  
Secretary, Province Lake Association