

A Message from the President

After a very busy summer with many people enjoying the lake – boating, swimming, fishing, and generally having fun- Fall has arrived. The colors on the surrounding hills have been fabulous this year. The boats and docks are off the lake, and migrating waterfowl have started to appear. The lake takes on a quieter persona as we prepare for the winter season.

Reflecting back on our summer, I would like to thank the many of you who volunteer and participate in keeping our lake healthy- including NH Lake Host inspections, weed watch inspections, beach cleanup, water sampling, alerting the NH DES to possible cyanobacteria blooms, and contacting the PLA when there are questions or concerns. And a big thank you to our Board Members for their continued work. All these efforts are critical and greatly appreciated.

We hope you find this Fall issue of our newsletter to be informative. As always, we are open to input and ideas for future newsletters so please contact us at president@provincelake.org or provincelakemembers@gmail.com

And remember, it's never too late to join the PLA. Your membership makes all the difference and information can be found on our website provincelake.org.

Enjoy these beautiful Fall days,

Lorie for the PLA

And the Logo Winner Is

We had a very strong response of 78% of our membership voting to select our new logo. And the winner, with over half of the votes, is:



We will be considering how we want to utilize this new logo- decals, clothing, other merchandise. If you have any suggestions, please let us know at: president@provincelake.org

Remembering Luna

Each Spring, when the ice goes out, we anxiously watch the lake for the arrival of “our loons”. How they find out that the ice is gone and they have room to land (and take off, if need be) we do not fully understand. We are happy they come back, and look forward to those warm summer nights when their call to each other resonates across Province Lake. This year (2019) began remarkably similar to those of the past, with a pair of adult loons arriving shortly after ice-out, and a third adult showing up around that same time. Observations lead us to believe that the pair was probably the same two that were paired up in 2018, and that the singleton was the male that had previously been part of the pair that was banded by the Loon Preservation Committee in 2017, but was pushed out of the pair relationship in 2018, although remaining on Province Lake.

For many years, the property owners around the Lake have enjoyed the presence of loons, although no consensus has been reached on how many years that has been. We are confident that it has been at least 25 years.

The first record of loon chicks on this lake is only from 2015. The pair ignored our manmade raft-nest, and established a nest on a tiny tuft of grass near the inlet from Hobbs Brook. Two chicks were hatched and raised that year, even though the hatch date of July 26 was quite late for our area. Plans to identity band the parents did not materialize due to bad weather and the availability of Loon Preservation Committee (LPC) biologists.

In 2016, eggs were laid on the raft-nest, but failed to hatch.

In 2017, following the 28 day incubation period, a single chick whom we named “Indy” was hatched on July 1st, on the raft-nest. On a late evening in late July, a team from LPC arrived and successfully banded the two adult loons. This banding provides identification, but not tracking capabilities. In the Fall, the loons left for the open water of the coast, perhaps somewhere from southern NH all the way down to Maryland.

The summer of 2018 was similar to 2016, as again, eggs were laid and attended to for a short time, but failed to hatch. It is not known if the failure was due to the failure of the parent loons to properly maintain the nest and eggs or if the loons somehow knew that the eggs were not viable. During that summer there was a 3rd adult loon on the lake, which was identified by it’s banding to have been the male from 2017 pair, but no longer part of the paired couple.

This Spring, during late May and early June, the loon pair made frequent “drive-by” visits to the nest, occasionally hopping on for 5 or 10 minutes, but then would resume their fishing around the lake. Then beginning on June 13 one adult was consistently observed to be on the nest, taking

turns. Despite threats from snapping turtles, bald eagles and an occasional fisherman who just chooses to ignore the Keep Away signs, this year's single chick was hatched on July 11. Initially the adults were attentive, sometimes together and sometimes individually, and fed the chick, that we named "Luna",. Within a few weeks, the adults were observed leaving the chick alone for 30 or more minutes, but then coming back and resuming parenting duties. As Luna grew, they ventured further and further out into the lake and along western shoreline. This all made it shocking when at 5 weeks, the chick's dead body was found along the shoreline near the Bonnyman Road boat launch.

The LPC was called, and one of their staff retrieved the body. Initial thoughts were that perhaps Luna had been attacked by another loon, or an eagle, had a collision with a boat, but the possibility of internal organ failure (eg lungs) could also have been the cause of death. LPC is coordinating a necropsy, along with UNH, and if a definitive cause is determined they will inform the Province Lake Association. At the time of writing this (October 7) an adult pair is still on the lake.



Province Lake Invasive Weed Watch Program

Welcome,

Province Lake is one lucky lake! Besides being a beautiful lake, there are no other lakes that feed into Province Lake. This is important, since invasive weeds are carried through rivers, streams, and boats to other water bodies that they drain into. Province Lake is surrounded by many lakes that are experiencing invasive weeds to varying degrees and expense. The lake is presently invasive weed free because of the efforts of the Province Lake Association's Lake Host and Invasive Weed Watch programs. The Lake Host program does boat inspections for invasive weeds and other invasive life at the boat ramp during launching and retrieval. The Invasive Weed Watch program involves volunteers from around the lake to visually inspect all shorelines and the lake in general for invasive weeds.

The Province Lake Association has an active weed watch program that presently has 19 volunteers covering visual inspections on all areas of the lake monthly from May to September, each year. Each volunteer is offered training in invasive weed species identification and reporting any suspicious looking weeds to the weed watch coordinator, who will get a clear identification as a native weed or invasive weed from an expert in the field.

The weed watch volunteers use canoes, kayaks and boats to patrol their assigned areas monthly looking for unusual looking weeds. The methods used are a zig zag from the shore to the main lake body and back to shore or a back and forth along the shore going deeper out into the lake. We have found that visual inspections are easier in low sunlight and best in early morning or late afternoon.

The Invasive Weed Watch program always needs more volunteers to keep Province Lake invasive weed free now and into the future. Please feel free to volunteering to be a weed watcher by email to tavye@msn.com of your interest.

Enjoy our beautiful lake!!

What's this green cotton candy stuff in the lake?

While we are on the subject of weeds, check out this link to an article done by Andrea LaMoreaux, Vice President, NH LAKES.

<https://nhlakes.org/wp-content/uploads/4-Lake-Concerns-Water-Quality-Green-Cotton-Candy-Like-Growth-NH-LAKES.pdf>

Province Lake Dam

The dam at Province Lake is operated by the Province Lake Association through guidance from the State of New Hampshire, Department of Environmental Services. A dam was installed in 1995 to reduce the impact of low lake level after road culverts under the Bailey Road bridge were reconstructed. The dam is located on Bailey Road, where the lake drains into the South River. The dam is the only physical asset of the Association. The operating plan is based on always allowing flow from the lake into the South River, while enhancing lake use and not harming our lake ecosystem. The dam itself is comprised of a concrete abutment and sill, which accommodates the placement of stop boards which are added or removed to adjust the lake level. New boards were installed in 2018 as the previous ones had degraded.



Flow regulation is achieved through dam board installation during the summer (May to mid October) and removal in mid October to mitigate potential shoreline ice damage in the winter. 2019 has seen a large amount of fluctuation in lake level, in excess of two feet. During the spring, the lake level was quite high, although not as high as in 2005 (photo below). Over the summer and early fall, the water level fell significantly due to better flow out the South River, reduced tributary inflow into the lake and low rainfall.



Your PLA at Work

We had another successful **NH Lakes Host Program** with no invasive species found on boats. Fewer boats than last year were inspected, possibly due to a late season start related to weather. This year our four volunteers covered their shifts when changes needed to be made. A field app was used very successfully this year to put the information online. The PLA would like to have 5 inspectors in 2020, with coverage to continue on weekends until Columbus Day. We thank the Towle Farm Community Corporation for their

continued support in allowing the NH Lake Host Program inspections at their boat ramp.

The **Phosphorous Study** with DK Water Resource Consulting LLC is wrapping up. Sampling of water and sediment, and a wind event is done. The modelling is being completed to understand the sources of phosphorous in Province Lake and how we might mitigate its effects on the lake. We hope to have the wrap up meeting late this year, and to report the findings in 2020.

Please feel free to utilize our **PLA Ad Board** as you look to sell or find items. You must be a 2019 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 and deliver a Welcome Pack 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- Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. 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**](mailto:provincelakemembers@gmail.com).



PLA Facebook Page



PLA Website

Links to our partner websites,



[Acton Wakefield Watershed Alliance \(AWWA\)](#)



[Moose Mountain Regional Greenway](#)



[NH Lakes Lay Monitoring Program](#)



[NH Lakes](#)

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.

Our mailing address is:

Province Lake Association, PO Box 24, Effingham, NH 03882
Phone (207) 200-3234

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

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