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A Message from the President

Summer is coming to the lake!

We are excited for another summer season on beautiful Province Lake. It's been a challenging year again and time at the lake is a welcome tonic through it all.

We hope you will find this issue of our newsletter to be informative. We have selected articles which we think are timely and pertinent as related to our wildlife, drought conditions and the lake water level. And historical as well as in Natalie Prentice's article 'Province Lake- A History.' We particularly appreciate her family allowing us to 'publish' it and it makes us reflect on how many people have loved this lake over the decades.

At this time, we are planning for our usual activities related to keeping Province Lake healthy such as the NH Lake Host program, Weed Watchers, water sampling, and Rt 153 beach cleanups. This year we are trying something different and will have the beach cleanups the second Saturday of each month starting at 10:00 am. We will meet at the Donville Campground entrance as always and will provide gloves and collection equipment. Please join us, meet your neighbors and help keep that stretch of beach clean and beautiful for all to enjoy.

You may have already received our annual Spring membership drive information. We once again invite you to be a PLA member in 2021. Your membership makes all the difference and information can be found on our website provincelake.org. And you can always contact us at president@provincelake.org or provincelakemembers@gmail.com.

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, July 17, 2021. We hope it will be held at Edge Lake Farm pending any COVID restrictions but will update you when the details are finalized.

In the meantime, enjoy your time at the lake and thanks for your support.

Lorie for the PLA



Your PLA at Work

Save the Date:
Annual Meeting: Saturday, July 17 at Edge Lake
Farm, hopefully we might be able to meet face
to face.



It seems that everyone loves loons.

The loons have returned to Province Lake after the winter somewhere along the seashore, where they find open water and sufficient food.

Ice went out - and then within a few days the loons arrived in late March this year. A mature pair, as well as a single loon have been observed during April.

The pair has been cruising around the lake, feeding, and perhaps looking for a nesting location. We wonder if one or both of them are from the pair that was identity banded here by the Loon Preservation Committee in the summer of 2017.

As we have for the past few decades, our loon nesting raft has been placed in the north-west corner of the lake, near where Hobbs Brook enters the lake.

Please respect their nesting territory by staying a few hundred yards away, observing them from a distance if they are in this area.

Seen below are Steve C and Thom T, as they put the nest out on April 27th. Within a few hours the loons visited to check it out.

Articles



The PLA Dam and Water Level in 2020

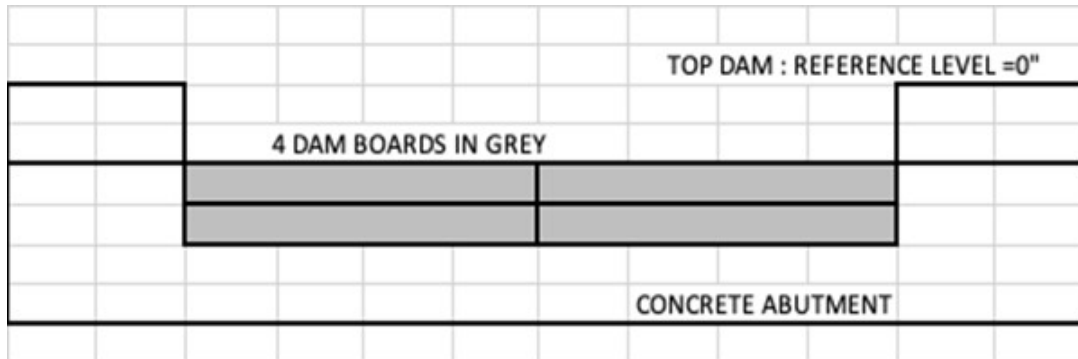
Mark Hempton
PLA Dam Master

In 1994 the PLA installed a dam at the South River outlet near Bailey Road.

This was an attempt to control water level: ensure higher levels in the summer dry season and lower levels in the winter to prevent shoreline ice damage.

The dam is a small and simple concrete structure with 4 boards (4" x 6" x 7') that are typically installed in the spring to maintain higher water levels and then removed in the fall to allow lower water levels.

This is a cross-section diagram of the dam:

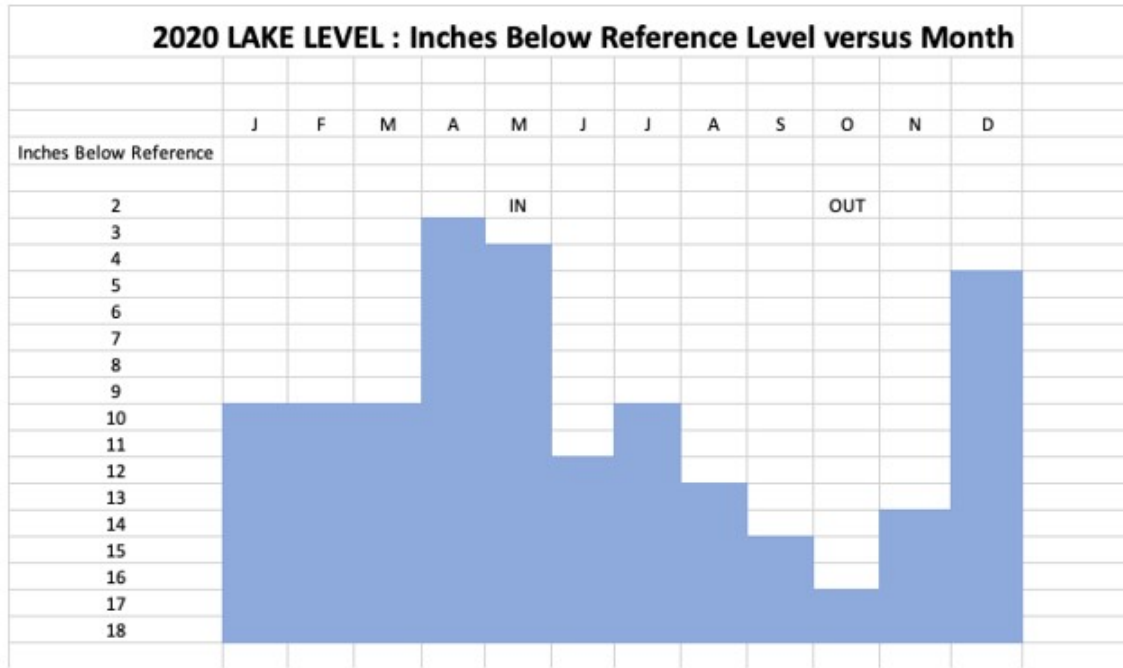


The dam master regularly measures water level from the reference level at the top of the concrete abutment. We have water level records going back to 1994.

A typical water level at the beginning of summer is typically 7 inches below the top of the abutment reference level. During summer droughts it sometimes drops to 13 inches below the abutment – a level where there is no longer any flow over the dam boards. The record low is 18 inches below the abutment reference level in September of 1995.

Water levels over the top of the abutment reference level are rare but sometimes happen in spring with big rains and snowmelt. The record high was measured at 9 inches above the abutment in April of 2019.

The water level record for 2020:



Water levels for August through November 2020 were abnormally low because of the drought. Big rains in December raised the water level to a more normal 5 inches below the abutment reference level before Ice-In on December 17.

Help Keep Wildlife Wild — Leave Young Animals Alone

Date: [04/23/2021](#)

Author: [nhfishandgame](#)

CONTACT: Dan Bergeron: (603) 271-2461

April 23, 2021



Concord, NH – With the arrival of spring, many species of wildlife are giving birth to their young. Seeing young wildlife can be exciting, but in most cases, even if it appears abandoned, the mother is not far off. If you encounter young wildlife, even young animals that appear to need help, the kindest and safest thing to do is to leave them alone. Many

adult animals will intentionally leave their young for extended periods to eat and to lead predators away from them, returning later to feed their offspring where they left them.

“Young wild animals, including mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians, typically have their best chance of surviving when they are in their own natural environment,” explains New Hampshire Fish and Game Department Game Program Supervisor Dan Bergeron.

Only qualified people with special rehabilitator permits, issued through the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, may shelter and care for injured or orphaned wildlife. Improper care of injured or orphaned wildlife often leads to their sickness or death. It is illegal in New Hampshire, unless you have rehabilitator credentials, to remove a wild animal from its natural environment and keep it in captivity.

The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department and local wildlife rehabilitators have been taking numerous reports from people who have picked up young animals, often mistakenly thinking they are orphans.

“Picking up young animals is an error in judgment,” says Bergeron. “People think they’re doing a good deed, but they are often removing the animal from the care of its parents and potentially exposing themselves to the risk of disease. Your actions may result in the animal having to be euthanized for rabies testing. Give wildlife plenty of space and leave them alone and in the wild, where they belong.”

If you find a young animal that is injured or has not been visited by its mother in over 24 hours, report the location of the animal to the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department by emailing wildlife@wildlife.nh.gov or calling (603) 271-2461.

To learn more about young wildlife in the Granite State visit www.wildlife.state.nh.us/wildlife/deer/fawns.html.


Drought Guidance for the Public

Persistent drought conditions in New Hampshire have led to residential well failures and public water supply problems. Cutting out non-essential water use and using water more efficiently during a drought are significant means of mitigating drought conditions. [Check out these tips from the Department of Environmental Services.](#)

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The PLA recently obtained copies of a short history of Province Lake. With the permission of Alan Prentice, [Province Lake - A History](#), 'Province Lake - A History' published in 1995 by Natalie Prentice is available for your enjoyment (link here and posted on our website). Please note that this document is presented as it is. We believe that the work is of interest to our membership and anyone else who is acquainted with and loves Province Lake. Enjoy!

 [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](#)
-  [Green Mountain Conservation Group](#)

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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