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A Message from the President

We trust you and your loved ones are well and meeting the challenges of COVID-19. It has been such an unusual time for us all. And rest assured, the PLA has been working diligently to protect Province Lake.

Our Lake Host Program has been operative since late May and will run through early September. We are lucky to have four excellent hosts who check all boats entering and exiting the lake for invasive species while following COVID protocol. Province Lake remains invasive free largely due to their efforts and our weed watching crew. Although we are unable to do water quality sampling at this time due to NH State COVID restrictions, we continue to keep a watchful eye out for cyanobacteria blooms. We are planning physically distanced Rt 153 beach cleanups on behalf of the beach owner as the beach appears to be getting more use this hot summer.

In an abundance of caution and following state guidelines, we did not do a 'live' Annual Meeting in July. We did record an Annual Meeting and Reports <https://provincelake.org/news-2/annual-meeting-minutes/> which is posted on our website with the agenda. We hope you have the opportunity to view it and please send any questions you have to president@provincelake.org or provincelakemembers@gmail.com. We certainly hope to see you in person at our Annual Meeting next summer.

We have a number of articles in this issue we think you will find of great interest- everything from Permits to Septic Systems to Birds.

The PLA continues our mission to protect and improve the quality of Province Lake and the surrounding area. With your support we are able to support programs for our lake. If you haven't yet joined please consider joining and volunteering for one of our programs.

Enjoy the rest of summer at the lake. Be well!

Lorie for the PLA



Your PLA at Work

Beach Along Rte 153: You may have noticed an email from our President Lorie Dunne inviting you to a socially distanced beach cleanup along Rte. 153 this Saturday August 1st, as well as Saturday, September 12. Members noticed a more than typical amount of trash and fireworks debris along the beach this year after the July 4th weekend and a small group did get together the following week to pick up a bit. It is traditional that we do this cleanup once a year in the late summer but we are realizing that we may need to have more frequent events to stay ahead things. Our hope is to schedule a cleanup the first Saturday of the month during the spring, summer and fall. In the past we can usually do a good job in less than an hour and the more hands the lighter the work. We will be meeting near the entrance to the Donville Campground on Rte. 153. sanitized gloves, buckets and bags will be provided. Bring your own face covering if you prefer to wear one.

We all need to remember that the stretch of "public access" beach along 153 is actually private property that the owners have graciously allowed us to enjoy. We need to spread the word to make sure this area is respected and protected. For example we should encourage people not to park on the lake side of the road as it breaks down helpful vegetation that lessens runoff into the lake during heavy rains. Our lake is particularly susceptible to this type of pollution as we have roads along much of our shoreline. The runoff that occurs introduces phosphorus that is a big factor in causing cyanobacteria blooms.

We appreciate your help in keeping our lakeshore clean and healthy and hope to see you down there

Bailey Road Bridge and Culverts: The dam is located off Province Lake Road on Bailey Road at the outlet of South River. It is a small dam where boards are placed to maintain the Province Lake water level. In the late spring the boards are put in to maintain a sufficient water level for the summer and in the fall the boards are removed to allow water to flow out and minimize ice damage along the shore. The dam was installed by the PLA, in agreement with the State, in the early 90s when culverts were installed too low and partially drained the lake. The Town of Effingham, working in conjunction with NHDES, is looking to replace the bridge culverts and has hired an engineering company (CMA) to do a study. An additional study on stream crossings in our area by the Green Mountain Conservation Group will provide supporting data. If the culverts are replaced properly there would no longer be need for the dam and lake water quality could be improved, along with the movement of aquatic life. We are grateful for the support of our partners in helping to improve Province Lake water quality and the watershed in general.

Cyanobacteria

The NH DES is the responsible party for issuing cyanobacteria alerts and actions. As an educational and information organization, the PLA does not create or enforce any rules, codes, or laws. We strive to educate the users of Province Lake on current conditions. It is the responsibility of each lake user to make his/her own decision regarding utilization of the lake at any time. The PLA accepts no responsibility for conditions that cyanobacteria exposure may cause.

[You can find more information and photos on cyanobacteria on the NHDES website.](#)

Articles



2020 Lake Host Program at Province Lake

by Dave Lajoie

Working to keep Province Lake free from aquatic invasive species is the critical goal of our Lake Host program.

Sponsored by NH Lakes, Lake Hosts can be found at many of the NH boat ramps around our State. Here on Province Lake, we work the Towle Farm boat ramp on Bonnyman Rd. Our paid lake hosts (inspectors) cover the ramp 50 hours per week. Lake hosts provide a courtesy boat inspection, checking boats for hitch hiking aquatic invasive species and providing boaters with valuable information about the "Clean, Drain, and Dry" method. This method is the approach to preventing invasive plants and animals from entering our lake. Identification pamphlets referencing these invasive species are also provided to the boaters. Province Lake is grateful to our four inspectors who cover the various shifts for our ramp inspection program.

- LeeAnn Cammett is our inspector with the most experience, serving 4 years with our program. She and her family reside on the lake.
- Melissa Dorsey joined our team last year, and is a music instructor during the school year.
- Joshua Lowton is a 3rd year college student at Keene State, also joined our team last year and lives in nearby Ossipee.
- Aaron Canoni is the newest inspector, joining us this summer. Aaron and his wife are members of the Towle Farm community.

This is our team and we are thankful for their dedication, commitment and time in helping preserve our precious lake for generations to come... So next time you are near the ramp, stop by and introduce yourself to our very valuable 2020 Lake Host Team!



DO YOU NEED A PERMIT FOR THAT?

by Jon Samuelson

Did you know that if you are within 250 feet of almost any lake in New Hampshire, including Province Lake, and you want to do almost anything to your property, you need a permit from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NH DES). Things like building a shed, putting on an addition or deck, cutting down trees, building a retaining wall, etc. all will more than likely require a permit. [The Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act](#) first went into law in 1991 and was later updated and modified in 2008. So, why were these laws put in place you ask? ... they were created to help protect and maintain the lakes, ponds and rivers of New Hampshire for generations to come. Due to a process

called [Eutrophication](#), all lakes naturally age and slowly fill in and become marshes. In the natural world that process takes centuries ... with human impact, like having a cottage on the lake, that process is shortened to decades.

So, how do you find out if you need a permit or not? Well, NH DES has several assistance tools to help you determine that. First, there is the NH DES “Got Permits” poster which you can access under the heading [“Publications”](#). It is pretty self explanatory and has links to other information to help you. Second, there is the NH DES online permit decision tool available at this [link](#). When you get to the page, look under the “Technical Assistance” section and click on the tool you want to use ... like “Determine if a Shoreland Permit is Required”. Links to both of these tools, as well as other interesting information for homeowners on a lake can be found on the PLA website at this [link](#) and also at the Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance website at this [link](#). If you still have questions or concerns, you can always ask DES at the “contact us” portion of the Shoreland Protection part of their [website](#). Finally, if you are in need of a new septic system or a new well, you can get a list of certified septic installers [here](#) and well and pump installers [here](#).



The Call of the Loon
by Thom Townsend

Again this summer (2020), those of us associated with Province Lake have been privileged to hear the Call of the Loon, most frequently in the evening hours, and occasionally at other times (like 3am!)

We have had a pair traveling about the lake this summer, and a third loon was observed a few times. The nesting raft was put out in the Northwest corner of the lake in early May, and the pair visited it often, for about 6 weeks. Finally, on June 27, they laid an egg, and proceeded to spend most of the time with one adult loon incubating, or nearby. Sadly, however, during the overnight of July 2 – 3, something happened to the egg, and the next morning the loons were no longer sitting on their nest, or in the vicinity. Speculation about what happened is that either they left the egg unattended for a while and a predator (e.g. muskrat, turtle, 3rd loon) was involved, or the egg lacked shell integrity and just broke. But that is speculation. We will never know.

As happened in 2016 on Province Lake, sometimes a pair of loons will have a second egg laying, but it is unlikely, as this egg was already relatively late in the summer. Since we had no reports of sightings of leg banding, we do not know if the adult pair (or one of the pair) is from the adult pair that were banded here in 2017.

For those unfamiliar with our history, we had a pair of chicks hatched and fledged in 2015, a single chick hatched and fledged in 2017, and a single chick hatched (but died from wounds) in 2019. “Based on long-term monitoring ... 43% of females produce at least one hatching and 38% of females produce at least one fledging.” (Source LPC)

The loons are still traveling about the lake as a pair, perhaps visiting your shoreline. For now we will continue to enjoy their awesome calls for the rest of the summer, until they decide to head to the beach this Fall.



SPRINGTIME and SEPTIC SYSTEM

by Donna Luce

David and I enjoyed watching the lake as the ice dispersed and at one point a large piece of ice in front of our house resembled the outline of NH. The official date of "ice out" this year was March 27. On March 31, David heard the loon and the next day we saw the loon (and that's no joke). Soon after that we enjoyed seeing the pair of loons on Easter, common mergansers, hooded mergansers, wood ducks and buffleheads. To comply with social distancing, we visited neighbors from our kayaks while they sat on their patio or deck and talked with people from opposite sides of the road. Around mid-May the hummingbirds came to enjoy the sweet nectar in their feeder and then the Baltimore orioles came to enjoy the grape jelly that we put out for them.

In early spring, we knew that we needed a new septic system. We also knew our property would be a challenge because of our location on a rocky hill. It was important to us to have the work completed by July 1st in order to be ready for summer visits from family and friends and so that I could go back to doing the laundry at home. First we needed to have a site plan done which included a permit from the state. A few weeks after the site plan was completed we received a call on June 2nd saying a septic company would accept the challenge of doing our septic system, would put us to the top of their list and begin the work in a few days. Our neighbors gave permission for the trucks to go through their property to do the work. The work began on June 4th, a road was created between the two properties, boulders were moved, holes were dug, a holding tank, pump and alarm were installed, a distribution box and pipes were placed in the leach field, and finally loam was put down and grass seed was planted. The work was completed by June 15, we now have a state approved system and our property looks much better! It's a good feeling to know that our septic system is not hurting Province Lake and that we are now ready for visits from family and friends...so let the good times roll!!



“Neighborly Boat Trading”
by Donna Davis

While living near the lake is always nice, being out on the water makes it better. I have recently noticed the amount of boat trading that goes on around our lake. My husband and I purchased our place here 14 years ago. That September we arrived with two kayaks and a canoe. The following spring a "neighbor" offered us a nice jet ski for a good price. Knowing that it had been well cared for, we bought it. It was a hoot to get a daring 80 year old friend to take her first ride! That summer we also added a used bowrider to our fleet for skiing and tubing.

One of my husband's comments through those first few years on the lake was, "I'll never have a pontoon boat". Seeing the practicality of a pontoon boat when the grandchildren started to appear, I bit my lip. A few years later a great opportunity came along. A "neighbor" on Lake Shore Drive was selling a pontoon boat. With a little convincing, and the fact that it was a great boat and in good condition he agreed to try it, so we bought it. Within that first year it was clear my husband was eating his words. He loved having the floating living room!

Our family was growing and at times the boat was a bit small for everyone, because even the dogs loved it! Soon, I learned a "neighbor" was selling their home on Leland Road. I asked for first refusal on their bigger pontoon boat, if the new owners were not interested. The following Spring we received an email offering us the boat. The boat was in storage with no way to get an up close look. We took the chance and have no regrets, it just fits better!

Fortunately, we had a "neighbor" two doors down, that had told us if we ever saw another "smoking deal" on a pontoon boat they would be very interested. Boy, did we have a deal for them! This seems to be what happens quite often around our lake. We sold our original pontoon to our "neighbors", who then sold their bowrider to a "neighbor" further down the road.

Last summer a "neighbor" purchased a pontoon boat from a place on Moody Corner. So again, the boat stayed on Province Lake. This summer our "neighbor" sold a beautiful deck boat to his "neighbor" five houses down.

So, when you see familiar boats on the lake from year to year, don't assume the same people are in them! There is a lot of "neighborly" boat trading going on around Province Lake!

Province Lake Eagles and Chick-a-dees
Lorie Dunne and Amy Landers

As you know our baby eagles made an unexpected landing earlier this summer. They were rescued and rehabbed successfully by an Audubon Bird Specialist, Maria Colby in Henniker, NH. The two babies have thrived and were released on Thursday, July 30 at Reflection Pond on the Androscoggin River in Shelburne, NH. Both babies weighed eight pounds at release. They both have black bands numbers - C/C and C/D -that people should be able to see. Let's hope they decide to return to Province Lake at a future date.



For more information on eagles check out this link https://www.nhnature.org/visit/animal_info_sheets/bald_eagle.php

How can you not love a chick-a-dee? The Landers had another successful year with six baby chick-a-dees. They hatched around July 3 from a hole in their dock post. They have now left the nest and are flying around Province Lake. We are so fortunate to have this great wildlife at our lake.



Photo by Garrison



Happy 4th of July
Uncle Sam (Rick Greene) lead the parade in Province Lake Spirit!



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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