

New Website



The Lake Todd Village District web site is up and running. The site is graciously being hosted by

IAMNOW.net. They have also given us an e-mail address, which can be accessed through the web site. Please take the time to visit the site and forward any comments and/or suggestions on how to make the site as informative as possible. Also, please note this is my first web site and it is not fancy or pompous. It is quite plain, as my mission in putting the site together was to keep district residents in the loop. To save postage, please let me know if you are willing to have the *Lake Todd Times* e-mailed instead of mailed.

Web Site:

www.laketoddvillagedistrict.us

E-Mail Address:

ltvd@iamnow.net

Elaine Warren
Web Master (love this title!)

Gillingham Drive Project

In September 2001, an effort was begun to find ways to reduce the sand and phosphorous pollution going into Lake Todd from Gillingham Drive. In February of the following year, the town received a grant for an engineering study that would evaluate

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Lake Todd Social

On the warm and sunny day of August 7, the residents of Lake Todd gathered for our annual ritual to share good food and friendship at the beautiful home of Bill and Margie Weiler, and Tasha, who acted as maitre 'D. Governor Lynch sent regrets, as did Michael Jordan and Angelina Jolie, but there were some thirty or so stalwarts who attended.

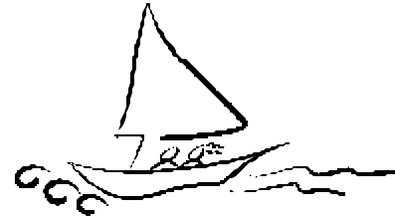
The buffet was awesome as always, with Bill at the grill doing hamburgers and hot dogs, and most of the faithful making multiple trips to the fare. The eats were followed as expected by Carol Tonkin's games, one of which actually had the nerve to force each and every one to stop eating, get out of their chair, and actually learn the names of their neighbors.

The annual drawing this year, an all expense paid trip to Hawaii (including airfare), was won by Gerry and Jane Gold. Unfortunately, they were not in attendance and bylaw A-65c of the Association clearly states you have to be there to claim the prize. Too bad, but better luck next year when the rumor has it Bora Bora Island is the featured destination!

There was plenty of lively conversation, and after listening to Norm LeHoullier and Mark Lausten describe in detail their fishing exploits, it's a wonder there are any fish left in the lake. How about it, guys—give the



Neighbors on the Lake



We interviewed the Ormistons — Kasey, Lee, Tucker, Andie and Meg (their English Mastiff “puppy”) in truly relaxed style, with the family arriving by boat to chat. They are both originally from upstate New York, met at Saint Lawrence University, and moved to the Boston area where Lee has toiled since 1991 as a municipal bond fund manager for State Street Bank.

Their current home is in Holliston, MA and they had been searching for a vacation home within a two-mile radius that was old, had charm and character, and was on the water. They found just that on High Street, down by the dam in Bradford on Lake Todd.

The past several months have seen them working feverishly restoring the house, with the added novelty of sleeping on a deck overlooking the lake. They were awakened very early one morning by a mother Mallard quacking non-stop to her ducklings who had been swept over the falls. The next morning they were swimming around at the base of the falls.

Like many of us, the Ormistons have been overwhelmed by the beauty and serenity of the lake..

John Warren

Wildlife News

Why didn't Lake Todd have any nesting loons for the second year in a row? No one knows for sure. The entire state is in the middle of a two-year declining trend in loon production and survival, according to the Loon Preservation Committee (LPC). Possible reasons include shoreline development, boat wakes which can swamp low lying eggs, mercury, toxic algae, or weather that produced high water levels and may have prompted many loons to nest in nontraditional sites where the eggs could be destroyed by flooding, chilling, or predators.

Our loons have always nested on the north side of the southernmost island, where the water is shallow and reasonably calm. Their eggs have drowned in the past when their nest was too low and it was swamped by heavy June rains, so nesting on higher ground is safer for them here. When the eggs drowned early in the summer a few years ago, they re-nested successfully. We can tell when they nest even though the nest is somewhat camouflaged, as one loon always sits on the nest while the other one swims around alone. They switch every two to four hours and provide excellent examples of co-parenting.

Recently we visited the Loon Center, headquarters of the LPC, and talked to someone about the loon situation on our lake. She suggested that one of our loons might have a new mate, and if so they probably would not mate in the first few years. Unlike people, they are never too old to reproduce, but they may be too young. Also, we have had three loons together much of the time, which might have kept them from mating. The 20 to 21 pairs of loons on Lake Winnepesaukee produced just four chicks that survived this year and on Squam Lake (“On Golden Pond”) 10 to 11 pairs of loons produced only five surviving chicks. On Lake Umbagog, the second largest lake in the state, the number of breeding pairs has declined sharply for the past two years. The Loon Preservation Committee holds a loon census on all the lakes in July each year, when volunteers count the loons at the same time on each lake. The census figures have not yet been verified for this year, but are expected to be released soon. The census volunteer on Lake Todd is Allene Hamilton.

The Loon Preservation Committee is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. It was created in 1975 in response to concerns about a dramatically declining loon population and the effects of human activities on loons. As loons are indicators of the health of our environment, this decline also marks the degradation of many of our pristine lakes and streams. It is the LPC's belief that loons can thrive in the company of people if we value them and respect their needs. Their success in more than doubling New Hampshire's loon population has been attributed in large part to the research, management and educational activities of LPC staff, members and volunteers. They also successfully lobbied the state to ban the use of lead sinkers and jigs which is the number one killer of loons. The Lake Todd Association made non-lead sinkers available to all people who fished on the lake after the law was passed in 2000.

PLEASE DISPOSE OF YOUR LEAD TACKLE RESPONSIBLY AND REPLACE WITH NON-LEAD ALTERNATIVES. THE LOONS AND LOON LOVERS AROUND THE LAKE THANK YOU.



Carol Tonkin

Gillingham Drive Project (continued from page 1)

the situation and recommend control measures. That became Phase 1.

The engineering study was completed in 2002, and the recommendations were used to apply for a grant to implement them. In general, the recommendations were for berms of earth or wood chips to be placed between the road and the lake. Where storm water was flowing into the lake in a concentrated way, stone check dams were specified. The work area for the second grant was defined to be from Tonkins' to the Weilers' driveway. In January 2003, the town received a grant for the implementation, which was called Phase 2. In 2004, the Highway Department installed the control measures called for in the specification.



In late 2004, the town applied for a grant to specify and implement control measures in the area between Murphys' and Tonkins'. The grant was received early in 2005 and is called Phase 3.

This area is a difficult one in which to implement storm water controls. The road slopes steeply from both Murphys' and Tonkins' to the low spot in front of Chamberland's. Since the lake level, and thus the water table, is so close to the surface at Chamberland's, it is difficult to get the storm water to infiltrate the ground. In addition, the area available for treatment structures is very small.

This summer, the engineers have been studying the area and thinking about possible solutions to the problems. At one point, a team of surveyors came and mapped the area. At another time, pink ribbons were tied to some of the trees and bushes. They were put up to delineate the wetlands. It appears at this time that the implementation will not take place until next year. When we have a plan, it will be reviewed with abutting landowners, and any concerns will be addressed.

Bill Weiler