

# Lake Todd Times

Issue #27

August 2006

## Watching for Weeds While You Paddle



The good news is that we have been fortunate and have no known infestations of invasive weeds at Lake Todd.

The bad news is that we are only one careless boat launch away from having to fight and eradicate a weed contamination like our neighbors on Lake Massasecum. In order to prevent this from happening, everyone must make sure that any boats being launched into our lake are weed-free. This doesn't take much of an effort and is an important preventive measure. Please make sure no weeds are allowed to enter the lake.

Are you willing to assist in keeping your eyes open for invasive aquatic plants? I have books and pamphlets that can help you recognize these species and the action to take if suspect plants are observed. Please feel free to contact Mike or Gayle at 603-938-6201 and we will distribute some literature that will assist you in identifying these weeds.

Mike Beaton

## Thank you . . .

to all those who have paid their \$10.00 dues to the Lake Todd Association. If you have not yet sent yours, please put a check in the mail to: Lake Todd Association, P.O. Box 169, Bradford, NH 03221. In addition, we would appreciate your filling out the membership form on page 3 of this newsletter and forwarding it to us as well. This will enable us to update our information and ensure you are on our mailing / e-mail lists, so we can keep you informed of issues and happenings around the lake. We appreciate your taking the time to do this, and for your contribution. It makes

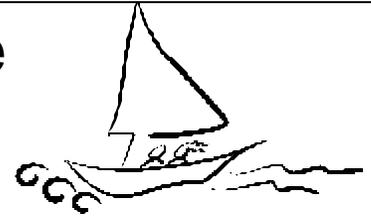
## Dam News

In order to complete the repairs to the intake area, which controls the penstock flow, it had to be sealed with poly to empty the water, allow pouring concrete and replacement of the gate with its frame. We would have liked to remove the poly last fall, but by the time the work was completed it was early winter, the water was cold and still abnormally high. Plan B was to do it this spring, but Mother Nature had not cooperated until recently.

So last Tuesday we moved sandbags, and with Steve Obermiller suited up in his skin-diving gear, attempted to hook up the poly on the bottom of the lake. Bill Weiler brought his tractor and rigged up a winch to pull the debris over the sidewall on the Harris' property. But given the size of the tarp and it being filled with sandbags, boulders, and pockets of water, the weight was just plain too much to lift over the sidewall.

We went at it again on Thursday, starting by loading a large dump truck generously provided by the Town of Bradford Highway Department. With six of us grunting and groaning we filled the truck, called Steve Lucier and kissed the sandbags goodbye. Next, after some thought, we decided to pull the tarps over to the High Street side and up through the Ormiston lawn to the street. However, the intake pipe to a town hydrant was smack in the way (in the lake) so we dragged them over to the corner of the dam, rigged up again and took the huge sheets of polyethylene, slimy, smelly and heavy, (continued on page 3)

## Neighbors on the Lake



Prior to moving to Newbury, Bill and Margie Weiler spent the previous 18 years in Belmont, MA. Bill's business career took three major turns along the route, with the first as an electronic technician, then as a physics researcher, and lastly in data processing. Margie simply calls herself a "Country Physicist," so the next logical question is: How do two married people in the same line of work get along? The answer is, very well. In fact, at one time while working for two different companies, they were both assigned the task of developing a carbon dioxide laser. So on the drive home each night to Londonderry, NH, they exchanged ideas and no doubt speeded up their respective projects.

Bill met Margie and her boyfriend while employed at the Harvard College Observatory in Harvard, MA. Apparently the relationship was on the shoals as the boyfriend suggested a double date, with Margie as *Bill's* partner. They picked blueberries, Bill made pancakes, and in July of 1960 they were married. At the wedding, Bill, an intern for Fred Astaire, put on a magnificent dancing exhibition, but on peril for my life I can't reveal the unspeakable details.

Margie and Bill would spend 2 1/2 years looking for property with the criteria being a

Newbury. There was no view, the fields had turned to shrubs, and the house was in tough shape, to the point where they had to make a list of pros and cons in order to make a decision. They bought in 1991 and placed a permanent easement on the property in 1996 to prevent future development. The house was in foreclosure in 1991 and the previous owner had plans for condos up and down the lake, so their purchase was a blessing to all who live on Lake Todd.

Bill has been extremely active in town affairs, having been on the Planning Board for 12 years, the Historical Society for 5 years, and the Conservation Commission for 12. He is a past President of the LTA and now is a Director of the Center Meeting House Restoration, a Village District Commissioner — the list is not complete.

When the Weilers were searching for their retirement home, the primary qualification was land, but in the end the most endearing and indeed surprising element of their odyssey has been the "community of wonderful people."

## Newbury Planning Board Approves Subdivision

The Newbury Planning Board, at its regular meeting on August 15, approved the proposed subdivision of the former Brown property at the northeast corner of Lake Todd. Newbury's approval is conditional on further review by state environmental officers of the proposed management of wetlands and environmental design. State review and permitting is expected to be completed before the end of this year.

To encourage preservation of open space within the total 165 acres, the town encouraged Pickman Development LLC to place the proposed 37 lots in a cluster configuration, which allows some lots to be smaller than Newbury's normal 2-acre zoning. A 125-foot sliver of littoral frontage along Lake Todd will be sold to a single lot owner. At that time, the Lake Todd Village District could petition to annex the littoral lot into the District.

Almost half the acreage will be in permanent conservation restriction. The conservation land eventually will be owned in common by the homeowner's association. Most of the property's substantial wetlands and streams drain eastward toward Old Sutton Road, with 46 acres in the Lake Todd watershed.

As part of this project, the developer will rebuild small portions of Gillingham Drive on the west side and Old Sutton Road on the east side. Roadways will be raised and box culverts designed to a 100-year flood standard will be installed.

Gerry Gold

Lake Todd Association - Membership Form

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

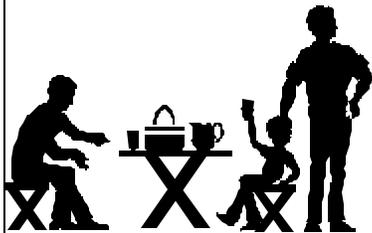
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Todd Address & Phone:  
(if different) \_\_\_\_\_

\$10.00 membership dues enclosed.

I have paid my membership dues.

We are in the process of compiling an e-mail listing in order to distribute the newsletter by e-mail as much as possible to save on the cost of postage. Please forward your e-mail address to Norma Murphy at: normslake@yahoo.com at your earliest convenience, or include it on the above form. Thank you!



## Don't Forget the Picnic!

Just in case you forgot to mark the date on your calendar, our annual Lake Todd Picnic will be on Saturday, August 26, with a rain date of the 27th. It will be hosted this year by John and Elaine Warren, 69 Rte 103 in Newbury, at noon.

Please bring a chair, something to grill (just for your family), a dish to share and your favorite joke. You can call Mary LeHoullier at 938-2406 to RSVP. There is plenty of parking down by the lake. As you come down the driveway, bear right and then take a left towards the shed. See you then!

## Water Testing

Norm LeHoullier, John Warren and I have been busy taking water samples of Lake Todd this summer. Norm and John attended a refresher course one Saturday morning in May and they were eager to complete three different samplings this year.

In the previous two years, we were only able to get one sample; this year we got one in June and another in July, and one more is planned for September 1st with our state biologist, Andrea Lamoreaux. These three samplings should give us adequate data to assess our lake's health this summer. The first report of June's testing indicated that all samples were within normal limits for Lake Todd.

## Dam News (continued from page 1)

around the corner of the sidewalk and out to High Street. Steve Lucier returned with the Bradford dump truck, we cut it up and loaded the whole mess.

A whole lot of your neighbors deserve an enormous "thank you," starting with Dave Paine, his son Robert and his friend Brad, Bill Weiler who brought his indispensable tractor, John Harris, who had just returned from Canada and was unceremoniously put to work, Steve Lucier and the Bradford Highway Department (without their trucks we would have another several days of effort ahead of us), and our MVP, Steve Obermiller who went through four tanks of oxygen as he swam around the lake hooking up the poly and sandbags, searching for obstructions on the bottom and willingly doing whatever was necessary.

I really don't think we anticipated the difficulty involved with this job (I most certainly didn't) but it is done, the intake area will work as it is supposed to, and let's hope it is a long time before we see another sandbag.

John Warren

Lake Todd Association  
P.O. Box 169  
Bradford, NH 03221