

# Lake Todd Times

Issue #35

June 2011

## A Reminder . . .

Our Annual Meeting for the Lake Todd Village District will take place on Saturday, June 25th at 9:00 a.m. at the Bradford Area Community Center. Please join your neighbors on Lake Todd and keep up to date on important issues. We hope to see you there!



## Flare Night

Flare night this year will be on Friday, July 1, at 9:00 p.m. For anyone who has forgotten or is new to the lake, Flare Night is always the night before the Bradford Independence Day Celebration, when almost everyone on the lake lights flares along their shoreline starting at dusk. Right now, the flares are on order, but as soon as they arrive, Joyce Sinagra and I will be going house to house selling them again for your convenience. You can purchase them elsewhere, but our flares are priced to cover our costs only and not to make a profit. If there is any money left over, it is given to the Lake Todd Village District, which benefits all of us.

Prices this year are the same as last year: three for \$8.00, six for \$15.00, or nine for \$21.00. If you would like to reserve flares, please call me (938-2811) or Joyce (938-5302). Hopefully we'll have good weather so we can all enjoy the sight of the many lights around the lake on July 1st. Happy 4th of July!

Carol Tonkin

## The Winning Bidder

The question arose during the budget hearing on May 28th as to the qualifications of the contractor selected to perform the project on our dam, a very legitimate question. Daniels Construction, who specializes in bridge and dam work, did the job on our last project in the fall of 2005. The chief engineer then was Matt Beldin and he will head up this year's efforts as well.



From the very first, we encountered problems, and none more unexpected than when we tried to open the penstock and found that the gate was broken and couldn't let the water out to lower the lake. We called Daniels and they came right away and jury-rigged the gate to open it; otherwise, everything would have ground to a halt.

The concrete repairs on the spillway were much more significant than we expected and between that and needing a new gate, it put a real squeeze on our financial resources, but Daniels worked closely with us to come up with workable and financially doable solutions. The quality of the finished product on the spillway was put to the test almost immediately with the record floods of October 9th and held up superbly. If it hadn't, our lake might have been history.

I was there day in and day out throughout the construction and you can put your mind at ease — they are a quality company and quality people.

John Warren



## Neighbors on the Lake

Garry and Norma Murphy have owned a home on Lake Todd since November 1999. They were both born and raised in Lowell, MA and celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary last year with a trip to Ireland. As beautiful as Ireland was, however, there is nothing more breathtaking or relaxing, than their deck overlooking Lake Todd, where they have a spectacular view of the sunsets.

They are blessed with two sons and their

wives, as well as four grandchildren, ages one, two, three, and four. Garry is a retired school Superintendent, and when he isn't working on a project around the house or spending time with their grandchildren, he is an avid golfer. Norma teaches writing at the Daley Middle School in Lowell and writes fiction.

We would love to get to know our neighbors on the lake. If you would like to be featured in our newsletter, please contact Norma at 938-6206 or e-mail her at [normslake@yahoo.com](mailto:normslake@yahoo.com).

## Update on the Dam

The following summarizes information on the dam project to date:

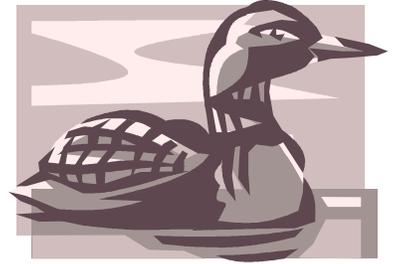
- ◆ The engineering was finally approved by the NHDES Dam Bureau in May. The reason for the many delays was a change in regulatory requirements, as well as staff changes at the dam bureau.
- ◆ The Wetland Permit is still pending.
- ◆ The commissioners had numerous meetings over the past six months to ensure that there were no issues overlooked during the final stages of preparing the bid package for the contractors.
- ◆ We met with Dave Eckman in May to go over the final construction plans to ensure we had a clear understanding of the entire scope of the work.
- ◆ Commissioner Weiler and Dave Eckman met with seven contractors, five of which submitted bids for the dam work. The first two choices of contractors were eliminated due to performance bonds and lack of experience, which led us to choose Daniels, who performed work back in 2005.
- ◆ On May 28th we had the Budget Hearing & Bond Article meeting. Although attendance was light, those who did attend had little to no reservations about the expense of the dam reconstruction. The general consensus was to extend the loan over a 10-year term, which will reduce our existing tax rate by a few percent. This will be further discussed and voted on during the June Annual Meeting, where the funding will need to be passed by a 2/3 margin.
- ◆ Commissioner Weiler has been dealing with the banks to ensure the LTVD gets the best construction loan terms available. We are trying to wrap up the last of the easement issues by July 1st so we can ensure that there are no delays with the construction schedule.
- ◆ We will begin the lowering of the lake Labor Day weekend, as the work will begin immediately after that weekend. Opening the sluice gate/penstock during the Labor Day weekend will not have any impact on the activities, since it will take several days for the lake level to drop.

On behalf of the LTVD, I would like to thank Bill Weiler and the past Commissioners for their efforts and diligence in bringing this long overdue process to a final chapter.

Steve Snyder

## Good News!

We have nesting loons on the lake again this year. I'm not sure exactly when they nested, as I hadn't been out in my kayak until the 8th, but it usually occurs in late May or early June, and the eggs will hatch the end of June or early July. We have been checking on the loons for over twenty years now, and Allene Hamilton reports to the Loon Preservation Committee to assist them in monitoring the progress of the loon pair and participate in the loon census. Except for a couple of years, the loons have nested each year. When they didn't nest, I asked the Loon Conservation Committee if the loons were too old, and was told that loons are never too old to have babies, but were probably too young. Aren't you glad you're not a loon?



Hopefully we will have two healthy baby loons again this year and we can enjoy them as they learn to dive for food and eventually to fly. Please watch them from a distance and with binoculars if you want a closer view. Don't get too close; it is not only illegal, but they can get very upset if they are disturbed. They may even be dangerous if the parents are protecting their young. If you want to know more about the loons, or if you see something unusual about them, please call Allene Hamilton (938-2318) or me (938-2811).

Carol Tonkin



## Web Site Update

On our home page ([www.laketoddvillagedistrict.us](http://www.laketoddvillagedistrict.us)), there is a new box, "LTVD and Lake NEWS" which is a link to a page updated periodically with the latest news, such as upcoming meetings and when the dam work starts. The Lake Todd Village District info page now has links to the official posted documents (right now the 2011 Warrant and Budget), as well as previous minutes, annual reports and water quality reports. I still would like pictures to add to the Photo Album page, which hasn't changed for a long time. If you have any new loon pictures or just pictures of having fun on the water, please forward them to me and we'll add them to the site for everyone to enjoy!

Margie Weiler

## Call for Submissions

The Lake Todd Times is published monthly, from June to approximately October. If you have any articles that would be of interest to our Lake Todd community, please forward them to me. Articles can include anything about wildlife around the lake, boating, fishing, as well as our (hopefully) continuing column, "Neighbors on the Lake." You need not be a writer to submit an article; I am happy to help you write something if you have an idea, or do any editing / revising necessary. Also most welcome would be any articles about the history of Lake Todd. If you have any questions or ideas, please feel free to call me at 938-6206, or send me an e-mail to [normslake@yahoo.com](mailto:normslake@yahoo.com). I hope to see you at our Annual Meeting and to receive your submissions. Thank you!

Norma Murphy

