

Lake Todd Times

Issue #18

May 2004

Our Newsletter

At my first Lake Todd Annual Meeting in June 2000, Carol Tonkin asked if anyone was interested in helping to establish a newsletter for the lake. My hand shot up without hesitation. It was partly the opportunity to write and partly the opportunity I saw of becoming part of the Lake Todd community. Our first Lake Todd Times was issued in July 2000, authored by Allene Hamilton, Carol Tonkin and myself. Since that first issue, we have been fortunate to have contributions made by Ray Hamilton, Skip Tonkin, Gerry and Jane Gold, Elaine and John Warren, Bob Doherty

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday morning, June 19, in the Senior Room at the Bradford Community Center on Main Street. Parking and entrance are in the back. We will have coffee and refreshments at 8:30 a.m. and the meeting will start promptly at 9:00. Come and visit with your neighbors while you enjoy a cup of coffee and some goodies! Our agenda includes and updated report on the village district, water quality, wildlife, dam and treasurer reports, the Emergency Action Plan, our summer cookout, and anything else you would like to bring up. Included in this newsletter is the Secretary's Report of last year's meeting for your review, so we may waive the reading at this year's meeting to save time. We hope to see everyone there!

Bob Doherty

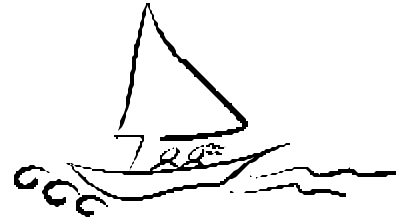
Gillingham Drive Revisited by Bear

Our bear returned three times (that we saw). The bear came in the daylight hours and mauled a couple of bed pillows on the line and looked for bird seed, now long gone. Otherwise it is a beautiful animal and we were able to get a picture. We stayed inside the door and reached around to snap the picture, just off our patio. Some excitement!!

Allene and Ray Hamilton



Neighbors on the Lake



Bill and Caroline Krummel live on the east side of Lake Todd on Gillingham Drive. Their year-round home is on Long Island, NY, but they have been in New Hampshire, visiting and renting, since the 1950's. They bought part of their present property in 1968 and the rest of it in 1972.

Bill and Caroline have four children, Linda, Cardan, Carl and Craig, five grandchildren and two adopted grandchildren. Some of their cottages are owned by their children and additions and changes have been made to some buildings.

Bill retired in 1985. He was a Trust and Estate Administrator at the Bank of NY, one of the oldest banks in the country located on Wall Street. Bill worked his way up through various positions in the bank and retired after 44 years of service. Bill is especially interested in world news and politics. He is very well-read and knowledgeable in many

areas. Bill is also a long time bridge player and has played in numerous tournaments in NY.

Caroline has brought up her family and is interested in all kinds of crafts. She is an accomplished seamstress and does volunteer work at organizations and churches, donating her time generously. Some years ago, she was employed at a school in NY. Caroline loves New Hampshire and perhaps sometime will live here full time.

The Krummels spend spring, summer, and fall on Lake Todd. Once in a while they sneak up in winter! We hope they will always continue to make Lake Todd their home.

Allene Hamilton

Sunapee Area Milfoil Attack Team Update

Area lakes have been active over the past year in sharing information about activities to identify and control milfoil. Working through the Sunapee Area Milfoil Attack Team (SAMAT), organized by the Lake Sunapee Protective Association, area lake associations have held workshops, organized weed watcher programs, posted teams of lake hosts to educate boaters, conducted weed surveys, and actually removed milfoil from lakes.

The New Hampshire Lake Association, with US government and state funds, provided grants to 38 New Hampshire lake associations for "Lake Host Programs" during the past summer. Typically, the funds were used to supplement volunteer observations of motor boat launch sites. Lake "hosts" provide literature to boaters and discuss the importance of cleaning boats before and after launching.

At Perkins Pond, the association purchased a 25-foot long weather-proof banner, bright yellow, with the message: Help Us Keep Milfoil Out, Please Check Your Boat and Trailer."

At Mascoma Lake, one of two in the state with invasive Asiatic milfoil, an active program of volunteer divers located a patch 100 feet by 200 feet and pulled over 800 milfoil plants during the summer. The divers seek to collect the entire plant with its roots in "dive bags" and deliver the plants to an accompanying pontoon boat. The collected plants are composted inland.

Lake Sunapee Protective Association sponsored a "lake host" program employing some high school students, but found more mature hosts were needed to speak confidently with boaters. LSPA's use of thick mats to suppress growth of milfoil plots seems to have had success stopping the spread of milfoil, although monitoring must continue and live plants are still present. LSPA has taken samples to the University of Connecticut for DNA testing.

At the urging of the Little Lake Sunapee Association, the infestation of milfoil at the pond of Hilltop Place in New London was treated with the herbicide 2,4-D. The treatment is needed every few years for this pond. It is suspected that milfoil in the pond originated with the emptying of a hobbyist fish tank. It is illegal in New Hampshire for pet stores to stock and sell variable or Asiatic milfoil as a fish tank plant.

Gerry Gold

Oil Over Untroubled Waters

During the week of July 29, the eastern side of Lake Todd fell victim to an oil spill. It drifted onto shore and mostly covered all beaches on the eastern water side with thick, black oil. We didn't know where it came from, but hope we don't get a repeat performance.

We used old mop handles and rags and took a lot of it out of the water. We were afraid it would go back out into the lake if the wind shifted if not removed. There is still a lot of spilled black oil next to the water and some in the water on 103 where people launch their boats. This should be checked.

If you see any boat with a leaky motor or oil source, please be sure to tell the owner about it. They could be unaware of the problem. If we all watch for this, perhaps we can solve it. We really don't need oil floating around our lake. It will require many watchful eyes to find the source!

Allene Hamilton



Safe Boating

Please remember to have one spotter for every person being towed. We have noticed several violations of this, and we don't want anyone on the lake to be hurt! Also, don't spoil an enjoyable day by getting a fine from the Marine Patrol Officer. He does check this lake!

Wild Fowl

We have ducks and geese on the lake that can potentially pollute the water and cause giardia. **PLEASE DO NOT FEED THEM!** When they eat anything other than their natural food, it makes the pollution worse. We love swimming in the lake; let's all try to keep it clean.

Carol Tonkin

Loon Attacks Swimming Deer

Continuous cries from an anxious loon drew our attention towards the northeast end of Lake Todd early one July morning. From a distance there appeared to be a large brown duck, but not quite shaped like a duck, swimming southward past the small northernmost one-tree island. There was a good reason for the unusual shape. By taking up our binoculars, the presumed duck was revealed to be the head and ears of a deer, well on its way towards the larger islands. In its path, however, was the loon family.

While the two chicks and one parent slowly moved away, the other loon parent angrily harassed the deer, circling it with wings flapping and feet splattering across the water as though taking to the air, but without ever lifting off. The deer turned several times, first to the north, then south, then north again. Each time the loon's harassing attacks caused the deer to change course. It appeared that the loon had a conscious strategy to tire the deer until it could swim no longer. And indeed, on its last turn to the north, the deer's head submerged for at least half a minute while the loon's cries quieted and the deer was left to reemerge, finally finding footing near the small island and disappearing from view over its bank.

Gerry and Jane Gold

Growing Awareness of Milfoil as a Threat to Local Lakes

Growing awareness of the dangers of milfoil to the health of New Hampshire's lakes, to the value of lakeshore properties, and thereby to the property tax structure supporting the state's education system, has resulted in several new state and local programs during the past year.

Late last year, the Lake Sunapee Protective Association (LSPA), looking beyond the milfoil invasion at Georges Mills to the need for broader public awareness, invited area lakes to participate in a Sunapee Area Milfoil Attack Team (SAMAT). Lake Todd is one of 13 lakes and ponds on the team. Also, Newbury, New London and Sunapee have designated a Selectman from each town as members. Three committees — Research, Education, and Legislation — have been formed. SAMAT has already acted as an advocate for planning and more informed actions by area towns, lake associations, and the public at large. SAMAT, assisted by staff of LSPA, is preparing a report on milfoil control actions taken to date by Sunapee and Massasecum lake associations. The report will describe methods, costs, and sources of technical and financial assistance. Little Lake Sunapee and the State Department of Environmental Services sponsored a weed watch workshop on June 8th in New London which was attended by Gerry Gold and Carol Tonkin as representatives from Lake Todd.

In April, the General Assembly passed HB592, a law to combat milfoil and other exotic aquatic plants. Effective January 1, 2003, the law increases the state boat registration fee by \$3.00. New funds, estimated to be about \$300,000 annually, will create a milfoil prevention program and a milfoil research program. The new fee supplements an existing \$2.00 boat fee that supports lake restoration and preservation and control of exotic aquatic weeds. State representative Beth Rodd of Bradford was an early sponsor of the legislation.

Locally, town meetings in Newbury, New London, Sutton and Sunapee passed warrant articles providing funds to control milfoil in town lakes. Newbury voted \$6,000 for research, education, and "other actions the Board of Selectmen may deem necessary related to milfoil." New London voted \$8,000 and Sunapee \$10,000 for similar general purposes. It is indicative of the high level of concern for the milfoil threat that these sums were approved even though no specific action program had been identified. The local stimulus for these actions has been the on-going battle to control milfoil in Lake Massasecum and the recently discovered milfoil in 12 scattered sites in the Georges Mills section of Lake Sunapee. But the problem is wider, reflected in the success of HB592. Milfoil contamination of varying degrees has been identified in 52 of New Hampshire's 800 largest lakes and ponds.

Milfoil has become a top priority of the New Hampshire Lakes Association (NHLA). NHLA has received a federal grant to produce an information video on milfoil and to sponsor pilot projects this summer. The projects are aimed at educating boat owners about milfoil contamination, both to report sightings and to maintain boat cleanliness, thereby trying to prevent the unintentional spread of milfoil. Both LSPA and Little Lake Sunapee Association will spend their own funds this summer for monitors at boat launches.

There are two types of invasive milfoil. Eurasian milfoil, an actively growing variety, has contaminated many Vermont lakes, as well as Lake George in New York since 1985, and is found in New Hampshire only in Lake Mascoma. Variable milfoil, less active but equally impossible to eradicate, is found in Maine and is the variety now troubling Lakes Massasecum and Sunapee. Milfoils are in lakes across the nation.

The Army Corps of Engineers has been involved in several projects — none with clear success — to control milfoil. Several state universities have milfoil research projects, and researchers at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center have recently begun a project to analyze the genetic DNA of milfoil to better understand variations among types of milfoil with a goal of finding ways to control the weed. Once milfoil is established, there are no quick answers. Much volunteer effort is required from lake associations, the costs can be substantial, and control rather than eradication is the most likely result of best efforts.

For more information, try these web sites:

<http://www.nhlakes.org>

<http://www.lakesunapee.org>

<http://www.des.statenh.us/wmb>

Gerry Gold