

Lake Todd Times

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Dam Improvement Project

Our project to upgrade the dam to withstand a 100-year flood is rapidly coming to fruition. Starting September 6, we began attempting to lower the water level to no more than two and a half feet below the normal summer level. This limit is to prevent wells from going dry. If your well goes dry, please call one of the commissioners immediately. Because of the recent rains the level has actually been steadily rising since we opened the gate! We will continue to focus on keeping the trash rack clean in order to maintain good flow through the pipe.

The contractor will arrive September 26 to start work. This will be a very intense effort with work progressing on both sides at the same time. Planned completion is November 14th. The contractor will return in the spring to plant grass and complete any other site work needed.

The work will involve extending and raising the heights of the walls which guide the water over the dam. In addition a berm will be constructed on the east side and a concrete wall will be built on the west side to prevent flood waters from going around the dam. This work will ensure that the district complies with State regulations and that the lake will be here for us to enjoy for many years.

Bill Weiler

A Great Time

On Saturday, August 13, we held another Lake Todd Social, which was attended by approximately 20 people. The weather was warm and clear, with temperatures just right for enjoying our beautiful lake and great company. The food was excellent, highlighted by Marion Hall's homemade ice cream pie concoction. We did get one phone call from someone who missed the occasion, bemoaning the fact that their newsletter arrived a week after the social. Please be sure to keep us up to date with any address / e-mail changes so you don't miss anything!



Bad News / Good News

Many of you know "The Running Lady," Patty Dugdale, but you may not know that while running on 103, she jumped to avoid a truck travelling in the breakdown lane and broke her wrist in two places. The good news is that anything even remotely chocolate seems to ease the pain. Donations are more than welcome.

John Warren



Neighbors on the Lake

The Montanaris, Federico, Sarah, and their daughter Sophia (7), have lived full time on High Street at the lake for some three years. Sarah is originally from Claremont, while Federico is from Italy. He was working in Peru when he came to Claremont for a job interview and was being introduced to the area by Sarah's mother's sister, a Century-21 agent, who volunteered, "my niece could show you around," that niece being Sarah, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Sarah is a full-time nurse working from home for a company based in Maryland, and although her duties can involve projects, her main responsibility is claims integrity or, put another way, to ensure that doctors bill for what they actually do. She has, by necessity, become very computer-literate, but has excellent IT support and the court of last resort, her husband.

Federico's office is in Lebanon at a company called Ansys, whose specialties include fluid dynamics, structural engineering and electromagnetics. They have morphed from consulting to technical services or problem-solving using company-written software.

Federico's background as a mechanical engineer brings with it a mindset or methodology of thinking which he applies to his duties as a Commissioner for the Lake Todd Village District, especially as it relates to the dam project. He has found the government aspect of the Village District very interesting, trying to make things happen for the common good within a framework of specific rules and regulations.

Are they happy with their choice of Lake Todd? "Yes" and "yes" and above all, it's a wonderful place for Sophia to grow up.

John Warren

Thoughts on Irene

By John Warren

It would seem timely to update the status of the lake after our visit from Tropical Storm Irene. As most of you are aware, the dam project is scheduled to begin in September, and in preparing for it Commissioner Steve Snyder has spent many hours down at the penstock cleaning it out. Having been there myself, I can tell you this is not an easy task and at times rather unpredictable. Clearing out the trash rack involves shutting the gate to remove the trash and then opening it to flush it out, but what can and did happen this time is that it refused to shut; it can be very temperamental. So, Steve spent hours there and finally got it to cooperate and close. The unintended result was the lake being lowered more than desirable for late summer.



In the meantime, there was plenty of advance notice of possible trouble from a hurricane, so your Commissioners decided to be safe rather than sorry, and lowered the lake significantly. The storm began in earnest in the early morning hours of Sunday the 28th and lasted until mid-day with torrential rains and tropical force winds. Elaine and I went down to the dam and were surprised that the water level was hardly a problem, sort of coming leisurely over the spillway. In making a tour of the area, we then went up Fairgrounds Road which was blocked due to flooding by the west branch of the Warner River. Where it joins the outflow from Lake Todd, it was again mean and nasty, almost up to the bottom of the bridge on Warner Street. In fact, we talked to one concerned homeowner on Water Street who had been watching the river rising hour by hour, and was afraid it would overrun the bridge and threaten her house. (continued on p. 3)

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We then rode to Andrew Brook, our main feeder stream, and to my eyes the water levels appeared worse than they were in 2005, with the road blocked off and a rather large pond from Sutton Rd. almost backing up to Route 103. This was at 4:15 PM, but by that time Andrew Brook had begun to recede. It was only later that I heard that Commissioners Federico Montanari and Bill Weiler had spent the hours from 7:00 to 10:00 PM watching the Lake rise at the dam to within a foot of the levels of October 2005, only to finally crest at 10:00.

This brings up a point that in 2005 as well as this past storm, there is a delay from the time the worst of the storms are over until the lake stops rising. The smaller rivers and streams under favorable conditions can rise very quickly and cause all sorts of mayhem. On Todd in 2005 and again in 2011, sandbars were clearly visible the night before and then under water within 12 hours of the worst of the action; it surprised me then and surprises me now.

Western NH all the way into the White Mountains was hit very hard, with major bridges washed out on 302 over the Sawyer River, and the East Branch of the Pemigewasset River at Loon Mountain. Locally the Sugar River inundated McDonalds in Newport and literally tore through Claremont. Pictures of Bellows Falls on the Connecticut are downright scary. And Vermont has been declared a major disaster area with damage virtually all over the state.

The long and short of the whole deal is that we were a combination of lucky that Irene wasn't worse for us, and good in that your Commissioners took every precaution necessary, which was the right call.

N.B. WMUR on its website has hundreds of photos from people who caught the action in person. <http://local.wmur.com/Old-Dam-on-the-Warner-River-in-Davisville/photo/14884009/63455.html>

