

The Laurel Lake Ledger

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SPECIAL DOUBLE ISSUE

Winter 1991

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MASTERS WINS REGATTA BY A FEW INCHES

by Rob Prunier

The third Annual Laurel Lake Regatta was held on September 2, 1990. As the well known beer ad states, "It doesn't get any better than this." There was a record number of contestants who sailed away under blue skies and light to moderate winds. Along with many participants, there were many spectators, both on land and on sea.

The race got off to a fast start with all of the boats bunched together at first. The boats started separating before the first buoy, which was located 500 feet south of Sunrise Rock. Diane Masters and Eric Ross headed towards the second buoy, across the Lake, located south of the camp grounds, jockeying for position. The other boats were fighting for position behind the leaders.

It was evident as the race turned the third and last buoy, which was at Sunken Island, and headed towards the finish line, located at the south end of the Lake, that Eric Ross and Diane Masters would battle for the win. Eric was leading this whole time. The finish was as exciting as anyone would want. At the last second, Diane Masters nosed out Eric Ross to win the race. After conferring with judges Don Garland and Jack Dumont, I decided that Diane Masters had won in a photo finish. Nancy Garland finished third.

Other participants in the race were, Tom White, Mike Friedman, Bill & Aaron Samuels, Bill Chase, John White, Bev Snow and Gretchen Prunier, Dave Dewhurst, Scott Ellis Dumont, and Bud Stone.

No mention of this race can be complete without thanking the members of the Leith and Snow household. They annually have beverages and light snacks at their cottage for contestants and spectators, and give the association a place to award the trophies. Their cooperation is much appreciated by all.

Also, the help given by Don Garland, John Dumont, Larry Friedman, Heather and David Prunier before, during and after the race is immense.

I have been spending summers at Laurel Lake for thirteen years. All of the summers have been filled with much fun, especially now that we have such a grand race to call our own. There is much satisfaction in helping to run this race. I sincerely hope that all of the races in the future can be as much fun as this one was. Also, we hope that we can get even more contestants for future races. Fix your sails, wax your hulls and get ready for next year.



Diane Masters begins to overtake Eric Ross just before the finish line. This race was a photo-finish.



From left to right: Diane Masters (First Place Winner), Eric Ross (Second Place), and Nancy Garland (Third Place).

MEMBERS VOICE OPINIONS AT ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Laurel Lake Association was held on Saturday, July 21, 1990 at White's Field in the Laurel Lake Campground in Fitzwilliam, NH. The meeting was called to order by President Bruce Knight at 4:00 p.m.

John Dumont, Association Secretary, read the minutes to the July 22, 1989 Annual Meeting. On a motion by Rob Prunier, the minutes were accepted as read.

Don Austin, Association Treasurer, reported on the financial status of the Association. An explanation of an expenditure for appraising fees to evaluate lake front properties was discussed. On a motion by George Graf, the report was accepted unanimously.

Don Treat, Chairman of the Water Testing Committee, reported on the results of the 1989 testing program and explained the significance of the information received. On a motion by Don Austin, the report was accepted unanimously.

President Bruce Knight introduced Gus Hoyland to Association members as the Chairman of the Laurel Lake Association Boating Rules Enforcement Committee. A discussion of boating rules and regulations followed.

Don Garland, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented a list of persons nominated for a two year term as Board of Directors. They were Larry Friedman, Gus Hoyland, Midge Deyo, Phyllis Chase, Virginia Nevins and Don

Treat. George Graf made a motion to accept the slate of officers as presented by the Nominating Committee and have the Secretary cast one vote for the entire slate. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Robert Prunier, Chairman of the Laurel Lake Labor Day Sunfish Regatta, reported on this year's event scheduled for Sunday, September 2, 1990 with a September 3, 1990 alternate date.

Larry Friedman, Editor and Publisher of the Laurel Lake Ledger, addressed the membership on the need for Association and Town news for his publication. He sought volunteers to distribute the latest edition of the newsletter around the lake. Members of the Association suggested columns dealing with classified ads and want ads.

A question arose on the removal of the pump from the spring on the Meyer's property on East Lake Road. Don Treat addressed the membership with background information relating to the matter.

A discussion on the speed of motor vehicles around the lake was initiated by Jim Rogers. On a motion by Don Garland to send a letter to the Fitzwilliam Police Department and the Town Selectmen informing them of our concern at the rate of speed of motor vehicles around the lake; the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

President Bruce Knight brought up the question of the Annual Chicken Barbecue

to the general membership. He explained some of our previous successes and some of our recent shortcomings. The membership participated in a lively discussion on the topic, ranging from location, to planning, and needed workers. On a motion by Rob Prunier that the general membership be informed and allowed to discuss the Annual Chicken Barbecue at each year's Annual Meeting; the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

On a motion by Judy Moreira that the Barbecue Committee, headed by Karl Anderson, meet and make all the decisions regarding the operation of this years Annual Chicken Barbecue; the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John H. Dumont

Secretary, Laurel Lake Association



Don Treat discusses water quality with Laurel Lake Association members at the 1990 Annual Meeting. President Bruce Knight stands to the right.



Windsurfing on Laurel Lake is becoming a popular sport. View is looking South toward the Girls' Camp.

LAKE QUALITY GOOD, BUT ... !

by Don Treat

During last spring and summer, the Laurel Lake Monitoring Committee continued to sample the quality of the lake's water by determining the water's clarity and by obtaining samples from 24 specified depths and locations, for testing by the State Laboratory for Environmental Services. Some interesting preliminary results are available:

The pH of the water is trending toward a neutral 7, which is good news. Ideally, the lake water would have a pH between 6.5 and 7.5. The mean pH for 1990 was 6.52, which is an improvement over 6.36 in 1989 and 6.1 in 1977. One reason for the change may be less acid rain. We can hope this trend continues. Incidentally, the mean pH for NH lakes is 6.6.

Water clarity, as measured by seeing at what depth one can just discern an object (siccki disc), has decreased slightly: 19 ft in 1990, 21 ft. in '89, and 23 ft. in '77. Results may be influenced by conditions at the time of the test, such as the amount of light, wave activity, etc. as well as by suspended material in the water. Other tests to measure the suspended material - chlorophyll-a and electrical conductivity - showed slight improvement, so I think we can say there has been no significant change in water clarity between '89-'90.

The committee remains concerned about the phosphorous which enters the lake primarily from detergents and fertilizers. Although the total phosphorous (6 mg/L) is relatively low for NH lakes, it increased on average of about 20% during the year. The leaking of phosphorous into the lake is one problem property owners and renters can control to a large extent.

The committee is also concerned about the apparent steady decline in the lake's ability to neutralize acids, referred to as buffering capacity or acid neutralizing capacity. Although the results of this year's test are incomplete, one test of 0.7 mg/l in July is of real concern. (Median for NH lakes is 6.3 mg/L). The committee is trying to ascertain if the state has any remedial programs, such as liming for lakes with very low buffering capacity.

Tests for fecal contamination showed that the lake remained safe for swimming.

Committee Members:
James DeGo
Don Garland
George Graf
Barbara Green
Jim Townsend

EDITORIAL:

EAGLETON SCHOOL CONTROVERSY

by Larry Friedman

On November 14, 1990, I received a certified letter from the Fitzwilliam Board of Adjustment. This made me a little nervous because I didn't know what this board adjusted. Upon opening this letter, it became clear that the Board was informing me of my right to speak for or against a proposed private boarding school to be located on Ashley Fletcher's property across the road from my summer cottage. The idea of creating a commercial venture in my little rural paradise sent chills down my back. The meeting was to be held Monday night, November 19, at 8:30 p.m. in the Town Hall. I called Bruce Knight, President of the Laurel Lake Association, and asked what he knew about this meeting. It turned out that he was not notified because he was not an abutter. Bruce met me at the meeting that Monday night. He understood the precedent that would be set if a commercial venture was allowed to be put in a rural district.

The meeting got underway. Bruce

Bona, the owner of the Eagleton School of Great Barrington, explained what his school was all about. His attorney, Tom Hanna of Keene, gave a last minute legal brief to the Board and expected that they would act on it at that meeting. The cautious board would not comment without legal counsel.

Not being a lawyer, I really don't know what happened, but I sense that the young lawyer from Keene tried to pull the wool over the eyes of the board. Everyone in the audience became upset when the Board Chairman announced that no one would be allowed to comment that night. At that point, Bruce stood up and remarked that the notices were sent out and people had traveled all the way from Rhode Island to comment at this hearing. The Chairman then said he would allow those who lived at least 20 miles away to comment. I stood up and gave about 6 good reasons why the school should not be located in this rural district. The owner admitted that

some of my questions could not be answered.

After I sat down, the local residents were angered that only out-of-towners could comment, so the meeting was opened to all to comment for or against. It was probably the biggest controversy since the quarry. At the time of this writing, I have serious doubts that the school will ever be allowed to operate in this rural part of town, but that is not the point of my story.

The tax payers at Laurel Lake own a little piece of paradise. Nobody but the property owners will fight for our right to keep the area strictly residential. If we don't fight to keep the quality of life at the lake at today's standards, who will?

I have not lived at Laurel Lake long enough to know if others have tried to bring commercial or non-residential facilities to our area. I don't know if this will be a test case or not, but I do know if we don't take a stand now, we may regret not taking action.

I think what upset me most was that summer residents are at a disadvantage. If you own land and you are mailed a notice during the off-season and you live in California or Florida, it is very difficult to get information about a proposed development. In my case, it seemed that nobody was available to discuss the hearing over the phone so I was forced to make the

two hour drive to protect my rights. I don't blame the town for this. By law, they only have to post a notice on the bulletin board and mail notices to abutters. If this only affected seasonal residents from far-away states, there would have been no opposition. Fortunately, that was not the case. Several of my neighbors attended the hearing and all were against the appeal and the variance. Whether or not Mr. Bona will pursue this will remain to be seen.

I believe the Laurel Lake Association members should find a way to remain informed about what is going on in Fitzwilliam that could affect the rural quality of our properties. The Laurel Lake Ledger is one vehicle, but one or two issues a year won't be effective in cases similar to the one above. I had less than a week to react. I propose that a telephone network be established to send information or require the town to give more notice in situations that concern out-of-town residents. I also feel that the organization should take a position on land use in our area so that we can take a stand when the need arises. Neither Bruce nor I could represent the views of the organization because we really don't know what those views are. Perhaps this will be discussed at the next annual meeting. In the meantime, if you have an opinion on this subject, I would appreciate hearing from you.



A canoeist paddles by a lakefront home on the west side of Laurel Lake.

MEMORIES OF OUR LAKE

by Anne Posovsky

We like to think of ourselves as old-timers on Laurel Lake because it has been an integral part of our lives since 1950. That year in February, we saw an ad for our cottage. We had been married four years and were expecting our second child. We took a deep breath, two mortgages and became a part of the Lake.

Many happy years and many more great memories. We've missed one summer - 1951 - when Milt was recalled for Korea. Lots of "whens":

When our neighbor was Mr. Webb -- a kindly man -- and his housekeeper, Mary Gordon -- a dear friend. Both so very nice to our two girls. We see Mary in Florida every fall, and she is still very dear to us.

When Walter G. Perry would roam the area and keep everything and everybody in place.

When I would walk the kids to Spicer's Ice Cream Stand and chat with Thelma.

When Lyn and I would watch Vi Sweenor teach Jane how to swim at Sandy Beach.

When the McGuire Sisters would arrive and cause traffic jams and, fortunately, slow-downs on our curve.

When Wayne or Berniece Cobleigh would row beside their daughter Faye while she swam the Lake.

When Doris Townsend, our kids and I were picking blueberries and Mrs. Jones asked us to leave. We had wandered onto their property. Wish we could have picked at Stuart's!

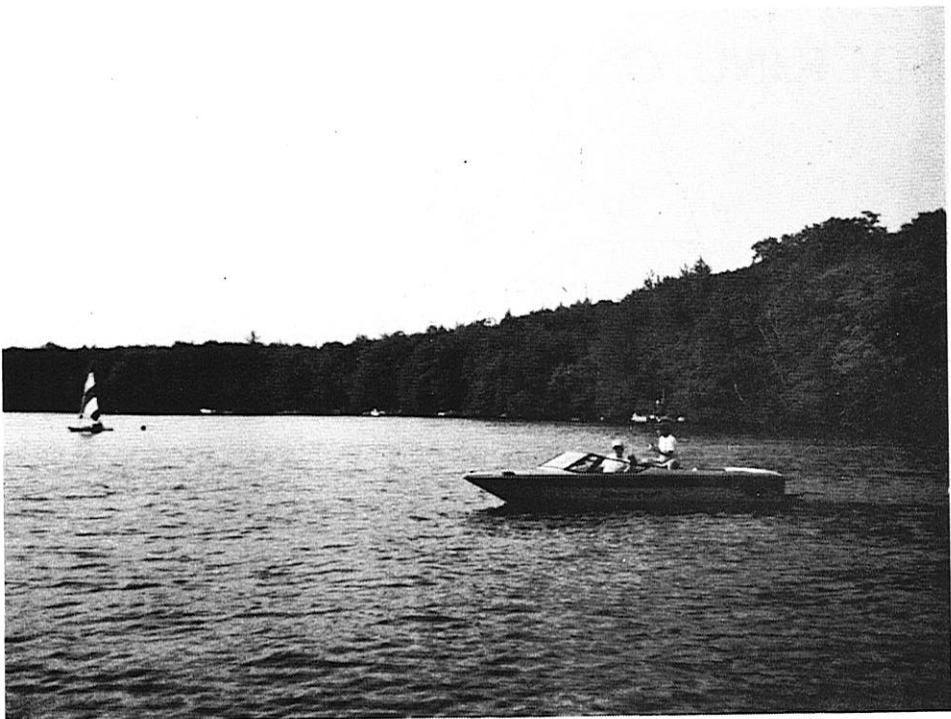
When lightning struck the Rec Hall at Fleur-de-Lis (fortunately, the girls had just left the building), and our trusty Fire Department couldn't save the building, but kept the fire from spreading.

When the Greeleys finally had a baby girl.

When the cook from South Pond Cabins (Boys Camp) would shout "A-a-a-l Up" and we would all arise!

Could go on and on. Trust others have memories to share.

Must congratulate Larry Friedman and his staff for the "Laurel Lake Ledger" -- our hats are off to you, along with many thanks. Let's make it an all-out effort!



Bruce Knight, President of the Association, and his wife, Joan, relax in their Master Craft ski boat.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Bruce Knight
President, Laurel Lake Association

My first year as president has been a very rewarding and enjoyable experience. Not only was I involved in activities to maintain and promote Laurel Lake, I also met many more of you, my neighbors, in the Laurel Lake Association.

We now have a large active membership that is not only dealing with the serious issues, such as water quality, but we are also continuing a tradition of having fun. The Association membership goal for 1990 was 200 members. Through the efforts of a well-organized membership committee headed by Milt Posovsky, we reached a total of 210 memberships. That's a great achievement and this number is significant because without 200 members, we would have needed to increase our dues to \$6.00 or higher. As it stands right now, the Laurel Lake Association is just about at the breakeven point financially. Our goal is to see 230 members in 1991.

1990 also showed a significant expansion in the size, scope and quality of the Laurel Lake Ledger. I'd like to thank Larry Friedman for single-handedly spearheading this effort. All of the comments you have made about the Ledger have been positive ones. Note: In an effort to save postage, we handed out the second issue of the Ledger at the annual meeting. Unfortunately, we missed a number of members, so future issues will be mailed.

I would also like to thank Karl and JoAnn Anderson and their hardworking crew for putting on a great chicken barbecue. Over 200 people enjoyed a beautiful summer day, complete with good food and good company. Also, thanks again to Mrs. Polkey for the use of her field. If anyone is interested in heading up the barbecue committee next year, please let me know.

Rob Prunier's great organization abilities were realized on September 2, 1990 with the Annual Sailboat Regatta. It's a fun event for the whole family and it gets us where we want to be -- on the Lake!

Taxes were certainly an issue this year, and concern was expressed by some members. Our efforts focused on attempting to keep you informed about deadlines and official avenues of complaint. I hope this helped some of you.

I look forward this next year to continuing our efforts to maintain Laurel Lake as a healthy, beautiful and fun place to live or visit.

KENLOCH

by Larry Friedman

Marion Wheelock Kendall wanted a summer home on Cape Cod but her friend Helen Howe convinced her to buy a 75 ft. X 200 ft. lot on Laurel Lake. The year was 1935. Marion and her husband, H. Clayton Kendall, lived in Worcester, Massachusetts and they felt the hour and one half drive to Laurel Lake made more sense. The Kendalls purchased lot #6 on East Lake Road for \$500 from Alice G. A. Burbank of West Boylston. What makes this story interesting is that 55 years later, three generations of Kendalls are still living in the same camp. I have assembled this information from an audio cassette sent to me by the Kendall's two daughters along with photocopies of letters and invoices relating to their camp.

Clayton and Marion built their camp in 1936. The house was designed by their brother-in-law, Happy Bradley, who was a structural engineer. The house has a balcony in the main room to assist in the circulation of air on hot summer nights. The Kendalls had 3 children: Lorna, Barbara, and Maynard. During the construction of the camp, Lorna married Warren Snow. Lorna had just graduated Pembroke College (Brown University) with a degree in Sociology. Warren was educated at Worcester Poly-technic Institute. After their honeymoon, they came up on weekends. Warren helped the electrician and plumber finish the house. Barbara was unmarried, studying economics at Wheaton College. Maynard, at the time, was 12 years old.

Three carpenters constructed the house with Canadian lumber. Waldo Byam was the general contractor. His foreman was paid 75 cents an hour and his 2 helpers received 50 cents an hour each. The total cost of the house was \$3,500.

Today, if you travel north on the Lake from the boat launching ramp and pass the camps on East Lake Road, you will see one with the name KENLOCH on it. KEN comes from Kendall and LOCH comes from Wheelock (Marion's maiden name). The LOCK was changed to LOCH which is Scottish for LAKE.

On East Lake Road, the sign reads "The Leiths and the Snows" or "The Snows and the Leiths", depending upon which direction you are traveling.

Much of their first summer was spent finishing and furnishing their new summer home. Barbara and her college roommate Phyllis Garland (of West Lake Road) used the Kendall's automobile to pick up furniture from Sears Roebuck at the

Fitzwilliam Depot. Back then, the Depot Station was very busy with trains going from Boston to White River Junction, VT. Barbara recalls 2 to 5 trains came through a day. Many freight trains unloaded at Fitzwilliam Depot and lots of passengers came to Fitzwilliam by train. Station Master Charley Williams was an extremely friendly fellow who loved to talk. Barbara would deliver the furniture and Warren Snow would help assemble it.

I must say I enjoyed going through the various invoices and ledgers relating to the original purchase of the land and the construction of the house. Space does not allow for copies of those articles but here are a few highlights.

ITEM	COSTS
Legal Expenses	\$ 8.95
2 Loads of Gravel	\$ 8.00
2 Hours Labor	\$ 1.00
58 Hours Labor to Build Wall	\$29.00
3 Loads of Cut Granite	\$ 9.00
Cartage for above	\$ 3.75
Labor to Cut Trees on Lot	\$ 7.25
Labor to Cut Firewood	\$ 3.25
Taking in Wharf	\$ 2.50
Painting Windows & Strips	\$.75
Labor to Fit Windows	\$ 1.50
Canadian Spruce	\$.36/ft.
1 X 7 Spruce Boards	\$.28/ft.
Native Oak	\$.60/ft.
Redwood	\$.85/ft.
Fir Flooring	\$.48/ft.
Wall Shingles	\$3.40/sq.
Asphalt Felt	\$2.05/roll
French Door	\$ 5.10
Windows	\$1.98 ea.
Storm Sash	\$1.64 ea.
Interior Doors	\$2.90 ea.
Stained Shingles	\$2.69/bundle

As you can see, labor and materials were relatively inexpensive yet very few people had money back then to build a summer home. Clayton Kendall had a good job at Rockwood Sprinkler Company. He was vice president of the company. He also had inherited some money from his father. The Kendalls had 2 automobiles and they were one of the few to have a phone at the lake. Almost everything you needed was delivered to your camp. There was a vegetable man, a kerosene man, Cushman's Bakery delivered bread, milk was delivered from Keene. One year, the milkman was killed when his truck hit a tree on East Lake Road.

A few years later, Barbara married David Leith, who also worked at Rockwood Sprinkler Company. They had 4 children: Deborah, Donald, Duncan and Gretchen (the commodore's wife). Lorna and Warren had 3 children: Kendall, Marshall and Beverly. Maynard married Elsie and had 2 children: Sanford and Janet. (Maynard passed away in 1949 from polio at age 25. Dave passed away in 1988 after a long illness.)

Barbara and Lorna told me that the character of the Fitzwilliam area really has not changed much in the last 55 years, especially the Inn, Library, Town Hall and Churches. The store in town was called Parker's instead of the Fitzwilliam Market, or Roy's as I remembered it. The depot store was to the west of the Pottery Works.

Days were usually spent on the lake in a canoe that they purchased in 1939 from the Thompson Brothers of Wisconsin for \$35. Their rowboat cost \$10 and was purchased from the boys trade school. At night, they would play cards, charades, listen to the radio or go to Keene to see a movie. Lorna says that the most memorable event she can remember is when an executive from La Touraine Coffee landed a seaplane on the way to visit his son at SOUTH POND CABINS, which was an exclusive boys camp on the west side of the lake.

Barbara's most memorable moment was in the late 1930's. "My brother, Maynard, started to have weekly sailboat races. The boats were handicapped because they were all different sizes and manufacturers. One windy Sunday, Maynard asked me to go out with him because he needed me for ballast. As the race continued, the wind died down. At the point of land, almost directly across from your house (Girls Camp Boat Landing & Water Skiing Depot), Maynard said, 'Beez, you'll have to jump out and swim across the lake because you're too heavy!' I was sort of mad, but I jumped in and swam to our dock and Maynard won the race."

"We discovered about 3 years later, when we studied the rules for racing, that what Maynard and I did was illegal and he should have been disqualified, instead of winning, because of changing the ballast!"

The 3 generations of Snows and Leiths share the camp by splitting the summer season. June and July for the Snows; August and September for the Leiths. The following year, they reverse it. Holidays and early and late season days are open for all. It seems to have worked well.

I can't help but think what would have happened if Jerome and Helen Howe did not convince the Kendalls to buy lot #6 at Laurel Lake. Not only would the Leiths and Snows have missed 55 years of good times on Laurel Lake, but I suddenly realize, I would have never found out about Laurel Lake either. My introduction to Laurel Lake was a Columbus Day visit in 1984. I was visiting Emil and Pearl Vaida's daughter and son-in-law. The Vaida's learned of Laurel Lake through the Snows and the Leiths.

If Jerome Howe, Marion Wheelock and Clayton Kendall had not been friendly at English High School, I probably would have missed out on a wonderful place known as Laurel Lake.

1991 CALENDAR

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Saturday, June 15, 1991

ANNUAL MEETING/PICNIC
Saturday, July 20, 1991

CHICKEN BARBECUE
Saturday, August 17, 1991

LABOR DAY SUNFISH REGATTA
Sunday, September 1, 1991 or
Monday, September 2, 1991

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Saturday, September 7, 1991

1991 OFFICERS
Laurel Lake Association

Bruce Knight	President
Cal Perry	Vice President
John Dumont	Secretary
Don Austin	Treasurer

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Don Treat	Water Testing Committee
Don Garland	Nominating Committee
Larry Friedman	Editor-Laurel Lake Ledger
Gus Hoyland	Enforcement of Lake/Boating Rules
Jack Dumont	Annual Meeting/Family Picnic
Robert Prunier	Labor Day Sunfish Regatta
Milton Posovsky	Membership
Karl Anderson	Chicken Barbecue

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE BREAKS ALL RECORDS!

by Larry Friedman

The Laurel Lake Association stands for many good things, but no matter how good your organization is, without membership it is meaningless. One person, Milt Posovsky, almost single-handedly increased our membership threefold. Milt really believes in the Lake Association, and in a recent interview with him, I found out why.



Milt Posovsky
Membership Chairman

Milt has summered on Laurel Lake for 43 years. During that time, he has seen a lot of changes at the lake: a public boat landing that brought many more boats to the lake, a public beach (if you can call that a beach), a big increase in non-residents using the lake, increased litter etc. at the boat landing and in the woods. Milt also says there are a lot more people living at Laurel Lake year round.

On the more positive side, Milt feels that the town and the state are more responsive to the Lakers. He also remarked that newcomers and young people are getting more involved in committee work. Milt has utilized these people to help him increase the Laurel Lake membership to 210 for 1990. "With the new membership structure, I think we will see a 15% increase in 1991. That is,

if those that solicit membership use the right approach and parents are committed to seeing their children carry on what we have already achieved."

I asked Milt what motivates most people to join the organization and he told me that all are committed to maintaining the quality of the lake, they welcome information on ecology, they know we do a good job with the water testing and monitoring, and they especially like being represented as a large group rather than as individuals.

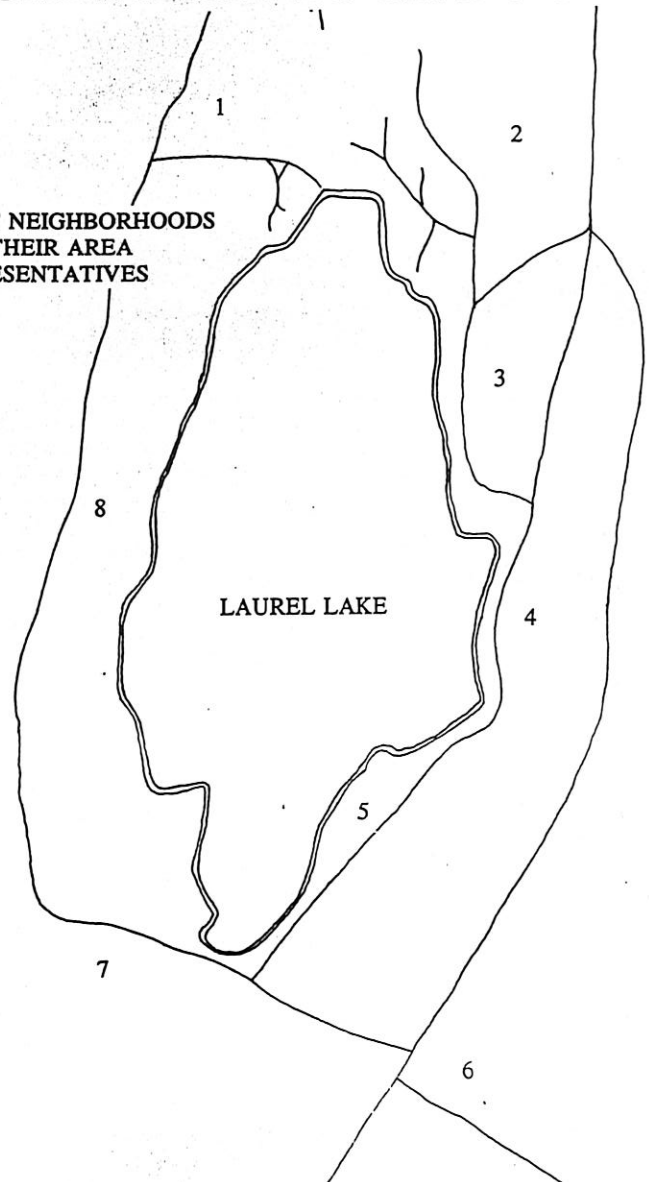
There have only been a few objections (or rejections) to joining the association that Milt has come across in his years of knocking on doors: one person complained that the association did nothing about leaves in the brook that ran through his property. Another told Milt, "You are only telling me what I already know."

Milt explains the new dues structure (which was approved by the board) like this: The dues year is from May 16, 1991 to May 15, 1992. Individuals 18 and older can join for \$5, couples are also \$5. A couple can be a married couple or any two people living together, such as two sisters or a mother and daughter. A new category of individual under 18 has been added. Membership in that category is \$2 each. These \$2 members have to be part of a \$5 membership. Naturally, signing your kids up as members is strictly voluntary, but then again, so are all the other memberships. The Board saw this as an opportunity to expand membership without really raising dues. Milt felt if the kids actually were members, then they would be more apt to get involved in the association. He also reminded me that if more than one family uses a cottage, then both families should join the association. "It's the best \$5 they could ever spend!"

This summer, expect to see one of your neighbors soliciting for memberships in your area. A diagram of the various neighborhoods, showing who will cover each area, is in this issue. Readers are advised to use the enclosed form and mail their membership in now, so that the job of going door to door is made easier for our volunteers.

VOLUNTEERS WILL BE KNOCKING ON YOUR DOOR

EIGHT NEIGHBORHOODS
AND THEIR AREA
REPRESENTATIVES



by Larry Friedman

This year, several members volunteered to go door to door to speak to residents and renters about joining or renewing their memberships in the association. This is a great opportunity to voice your opinions about anything having to do with Laurel Lake. Their neighborhood representatives will forward all information to the Board of Directors. Please refer to the map showing the 8 neighborhoods.

Area 1: Sandy Beach Road and Rosseau Road will be covered by Dave Streeter.

Area 2: Whites Grove, Harston Road, Bridle Path and Webb Hill will be handled by Gus & Sue Hoyland, Bill & Brenda Hoag, and Tom White.

Area 3: Keene Ave., Nutmeg Lane and the campground will be solicited by Karl & Joann Anderson.

Area 4: East Lake Road will be covered by Milt Posovsky.

Area 5: Lower East Lake Road by Larry Friedman.

Area 6: Sandy Hollow Road by Ed Carey.

Area 7: Howeville Road will be solicited by George Graf.

Area 8: West Lake Road will be handled by Phyllis Chase, Shirley Quinn, and Don Garland.

Please welcome these volunteers and remember a stronger Lake Association means a cleaner lake!

FITZWILLIAM TAX RATE JUMPS 19.3 PERCENT

by Catherine Pritchard
Keene Sentinel Staff Writer

FITZWILLIAM, NH -- Increases in teachers' salaries and special education costs, coupled with a drop in state foundation aid provided for education and a significant drop in Fitzwilliam's total tax base, caused a 19.3 percent jump in the town's tax rate this year.

The N.H. Department of Revenue Administration has set the town's 1990 tax rate at \$17.46 - up \$2.82 from last year's rate of \$14.64.

Though the tax rate is up, the town's ratio of assessment dropped slightly. Last year, all town property values were reassessed at 100 percent of their market value; this year, the ratio of assessment fell to 99 percent.

That means the owner of a house that could sell for \$100,000 on the open market will be assessed for \$99,000 in property value. The ratio of assessment changes each year in response for inflation in property values.

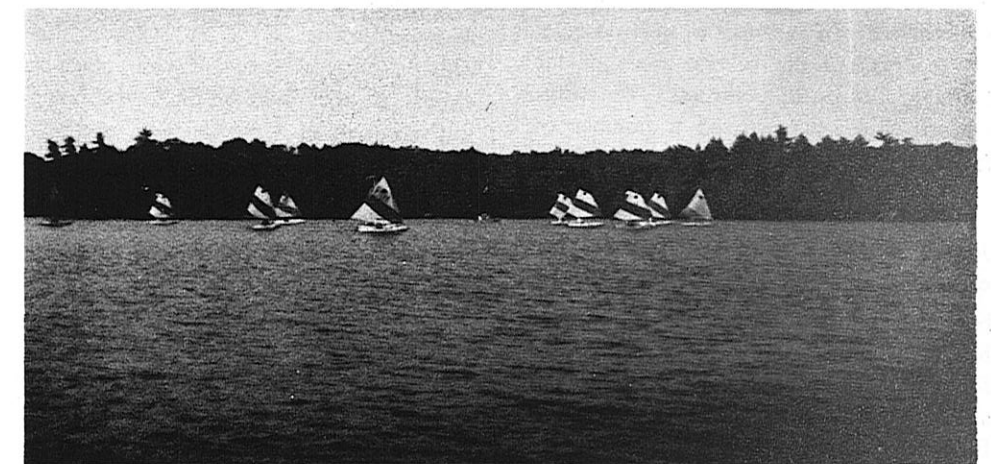
With the 99 percent ratio of assessment, the owner of a \$100,000 house would pay a tax bill of \$1,728.54. That's up from \$1,449.35 last year.

Of each \$17.46 collected:

■\$11.04 - the majority - will go to paying for Monadnock Regional School costs. That's a 21.7 percent increase over the \$9.07 that Fitzwilliam collected last year.

Monadnock Superintendent William V. Wheeler said \$291,000 in unexpected special education costs last year are pushing up taxes in the district's eight towns this year. Also, he said, the teachers' contract called for their salaries to rise about 11.7 percent this year.

And, he said, the state unexpectedly provided about \$100,000 less foundation aid this year than it did last year. He said he's trying to find out why, and he suspects it's because the district's equalized valuation went up at a faster rate than the rest of the state.



Laurel Lake Regatta Labor Day weekend. Eric Ross leads for the entire race until the last few feet.

■\$4.78 will go to paying town costs, up 16.8 percent from \$4.09 last year.

■\$1.64 to pay county costs, up 10.8 percent from \$1.48 last year.

Fitzwilliam taxpayers are bearing a greater brunt of the tax burden than last year because the town's total base decreased.

That's largely because of the more than 30 people who put property into current-use tax status. That status, which requires a property owner to promise to keep 10 or more contiguous acres undeveloped, provides a substantial tax break, though there are big penalties if the land is taken out of current use.

The town must collect \$2,508,999 in all, up from the \$2,131,551 it took in last year.

LAUREL LAKE

by Bill Chase

Laurel Lake is a relaxing place to be. In the morning, the birds are chirping and the woodpeckers are continuously pecking away at the trees. Down at the lake, fish of all kinds jump, hoping to catch a water strider. Occasionally, a bull frog can be heard letting out its fog horn sound. In the morning, the lake is as calm as can be.

The lake looks like a fragile piece of glass that could be broken at any instant by the slightest breeze. The sun's rays break the surface, penetrating into the depths of the lake. A few fishermen are visible putting along in their tiny ten horsepower boats. The boats break the surface sending out tiny waves, disturbing the otherwise still lake. Seeing that it is a good day for boating, I decide to go for a canoe ride.

I get the canoe and start paddling towards the boat landing. Today, there is not a single person visible at the landing, but on a weekend all that will change. People from all around bring their big power boats and turn the lake into an endless group of waves. The lake is not a good place to take a canoe ride on when it is a weekend, but today the lake is great for canoeing and a good day to explore.

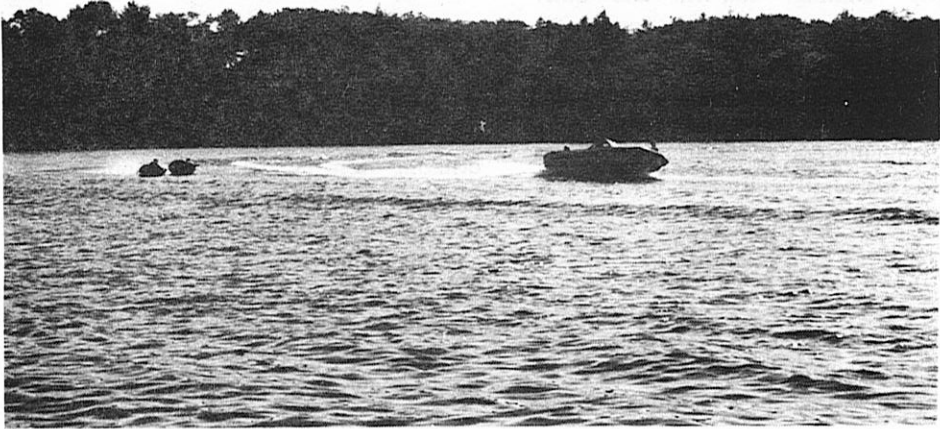
Once I reach the boat landing, I start to head towards the other end of the lake. As I'm paddling, I notice a large mountain in the distance. The name of the mountain is Mt. Monadnock. It stands over the rest of the surrounding hills because of its smooth "bald looking" top. Its rocky peak makes

it different from the other hills which have trees right up to their tops.

I pause from paddling for a moment, and become aware of the unique shoreline that Laurel Lake possesses. On one shore, it appears to be endless trees; while on the other side, it appears to be endless houses. The houses are right on the water and not much separates the houses from each other, or the road just beyond them. On the other shore where it appears to be endless trees, there are houses, but they are far back in the woods. These houses are larger, but are not visible because of the trees isolating them from the rest of the world.

As I start to near the end of the lake, the sunken island becomes apparent. The sunken island is a place that is just a few feet under the water. It is marked by four buoys that warn boaters of its presence. When I'm above the sunken island, the sandy bottom is visible, and fish too. The fish swim gracefully through the water and go deeper, looking for something to eat. I spend a while exploring this underwater world and then I decide that I'd better head back.

When I arrive home, it is already dusk and my dog is waiting patiently by the shore for my arrival. I pull the canoe up on shore and put the paddles up against a nearby tree. The moon is now visible, shimmering on the placid lake, making it appear sort of eerie. To add to this, bats become visible flying over the water and occasionally swooping down at the shadows. Another day has passed and a different one will start tomorrow.



Speedboat pulls two tubers. Tubing has become one of the most popular forms of recreation on Laurel Lake.

RULES OF THE LAKE

by Gus Hoyland

Dear Larry:

I received your request for information re: Laurel Lake Boating Regulations. Your correspondence arrived at the peak of my busiest season and this is the first chance I've had to sit down and respond.

I am enclosing the Laurel Lake Boating Rules as I know them to be. I received no phone calls reporting any accidents or infractions. I did receive a few verbal complaints for some safety infractions, and I believe these were resolved by talking to the individuals involved. In many cases of minor infractions, I believe that ignorance of the safety rules is the issue rather than a direct intent to violate the rules. Perhaps this coming season, we should post some Rules posters around the lake to educate the newcomers (and refresh the memory of others) in regard to Safety Rules for Boating.

Although I was recently made aware that Sunfish need to be registered, I have not yet received a copy of the state regulations.

In the interest of time, I am mailing this much to you now. I will gather additional information relative to your questions and forward that to you.

Cordially,

Gus Hoyland

LAUREL LAKE ASSOCIATION RULES

1. No High Speed Power Operations after 8:30 p.m. or before 8:00 a.m.
2. Keep 500 foot distance from swimming beach.
3. No High Speed operation within 150 feet of shore; when operating within this distance speed shall not exceed 5 miles per hour.
4. When operating after dark, all boats shall have lights as prescribed by the State of New Hampshire.
5. Water Skiers will travel in a counter-clockwise pattern; making all turns of over 90 degrees to the left, leading North on East side of lake and South on West side.

6. No Power Boat shall go between any swimming float and shore.
7. Power boats shall not be operated by children under 12 years of age.
8. Keep all obstructions (boats, moorings, and rafts) out of traversed waterways. (Not over 50 feet from shore.)
9. All skiers shall wear an approved life preserver and the observer shall be 12 years of age or over.
10. All non-power boats have right of way over power boats.
11. Boats meeting head on, pass to the right.
12. Give the fisherman a break!
13. All distance swimmers should be accompanied by boat.
14. Keep Laurel Lake clean. Throw no trash in water or on beaches. Avoid pollution.
15. Obey all signs erected by association.
16. All constructive suggestions or complaints should be forwarded to the governing board.
17. Observe skin divers' flags.

LAKE GEORGE DEATH MARCH LOGGED

Excerpt from The Times Union

LAKE GEORGE -- A researcher said Wednesday that 10 years of testing show that this once pristine lake is edging toward death while local officials obscure the problem.

"When I travel in the international scientific community, they can't believe what we're doing to this lake," said Carol Collins, a limnologist, or specialist in the study of freshwater lakes. Trained as a chemist at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, she has coordinated research for the last five years of the Lake George Association's decade long testing of pollutants and the algae they feed.

The association is a private environmental organization with a land conservancy and a fund to finance projects such as the water testing in Lake George. The 32-mile stretch of mountain-bound water, Collins said, is a "lake under stress."

"There's a serious effort to cover up the problem," she said before her talk at the annual meeting of the association, held in the timbered gentility of the Lake George Club. Guilty of either understating or ignoring the problem, Collins said, were local town supervisors, business and tourism interests.

Her remarks come just a month before the state is expected to adopt new wastewater regulations. The control of pollution in Lake George is an egalitarian affair, since the major sources are individually owned septic systems made necessary by the absence of municipal sewer systems. Residents and politicians have bitterly fought as unaffordable and intrusive the recommendations of the Lake George Park

Commission, a state organ that has called for comprehensive restrictions on sewage disposal.

With the lake sparkling under a bright sky, Collins ran down the chemical and natural indicators of its decline.

Since 1980, she said, chloride has increased yearly. Feeding such marine plant nuisances as milfoil is the phosphorous from substandard septic systems and municipal sewer systems. The lake had three sites of milfoil in 1985; four years later the association reported 66.

Collins said her research found indications of "major and possibly irreversible increases in phosphorus."

A first remedial step could be the recommendations of the Lake George Park Commission, Collins said. The executive director of the commission, Michael White, predicted adoption of a revised set of waste water regulations on Sept 5.

Still, Collins faulted the package for including households only within 1,000 feet of the lake; permitting substandard systems to continue unaltered for three years; and allowing towns to do their own inspections.

"I would like to see the ultimate authority with the commission," she said, calling for a basinwide approach to cleaning up the lake.

Another culprit was the state, Collins said, for failing to control storm water running off from roadways and into the lake.

Collins also suggested a curb on motorboats, which can leave behind residues or even spills of gas and oil and often invade sensitive wetlands.

Note to readers

The Laurel Lake Ledger is the official newsletter of the Laurel Lake Association, Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire (a non-profit organization). Membership is open to anyone who has an interest in maintaining the quality of Laurel Lake and its surrounding areas. For information on how you can join and receive free copies of this publication, write for a membership application:

Laurel Lake Association
John Dumont, Secretary
20 Surry Lane
Chicopee, MA 01020

Members and their families are encouraged to mail in articles of interest to be published in upcoming issues. These articles can be personal experiences, news stories, or articles from other publications that pertain to Laurel Lake or lakes in general. Mail this material to:

Larry Friedman, Editor
Laurel Lake Ledger
265 Freeman Pkwy.
Providence, RI 02906

Photographs will be returned if requested. Every attempt is made to report accurately. Mistakes will be corrected in subsequent issues if brought to our attention.

GIARDIA LAMBLIA

from Rensselaer Fresh Water Institute

A tiny parasite that inflicts stomach cramps, vomiting, diarrhea and other gutwrenching misery on its victims is wreaking havoc nationwide. This one-celled creature, called *Giardia lamblia*, has been invading tap water, day-care centers and swimming pools, resulting in several thousand cases of giardiasis, the disease caused by this bug, each year. Some researchers believe that the true figure is much, much higher -- and rising.

Equally alarming: Because the symptoms of giardiasis are similar to those of other diseases, the condition may be misdiagnosed for years before the real culprit is found. But luckily, you can protect yourself and your loved ones from this enemy.

When the parasite strikes

Giardia lamblia is a microscopic parasite that inhabits human and animal feces. These infected wastes can contaminate rivers, lakes and reservoirs used as public drinking-water supplies. The organism also finds its way into uncooked food through poor hygiene, or because the food was washed in contaminated water. Once these microbes are ingested, they live primarily in the upper part of your small intestine, says Lawrence Horowitz, M.D., associate professor of clinical medicine at the New York University School of Medicine in New York City. *Giardia* uses an adhesive disc to stick to the intestinal wall, where the parasite can multiply and absorb nutrients from its victim.

Eventually, some of these giardia cells release their hold on the intestines and travel through the digestive tract and out of the body in the victim's stool.

Symptoms usually show up a week or two after giardia has invaded the digestive tract, with the effects varying widely. Some people become infected but experience no symptoms at all (though they can still spread the disease), and the parasite mysteriously vanishes in a couple of months.

Others may suffer symptoms ranging from mild intestinal discomfort to abdominal cramps, bloating, flatulence with foul-smelling gas, diarrhea, vomiting, fatigue and weight loss. For many of these victims, if the infection is left untreated, it may last one or two months. But in some untreated cases, the microbe hangs on, causing recurring attacks over many years.

Fortunately, "the giardia parasites do not invade other parts of the body or cause permanent damage," says Dennis Juranek, D.V.M., chief of epidemiology and the parasite diseases branch at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta. That means giardiasis is rarely dangerous, although it can prove life-threatening to small children and the elderly, who are especially prone to severe dehydration from the diarrhea and vomiting the infection causes.

Scientists say one reason giardia causes intestinal problems may be that the parasite interferes with chemicals the body needs to digest certain foods, including dairy products. The patient then develops an intolerance to those foods that lasts as long as the organism lives inside his intestines, says David Peura, M.D., chief of gastroenterology at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

Because of the multitude of problems giardiasis can cause, some doctors mistake the disease for other ailments with similar symptoms, such as irritable bowel syndrome (caused by spasms in the

intestine), duodenal ulcers or lactose intolerance (the inability to properly digest a type of sugar found in milk). As a result, patients may suffer for years before the true illness is identified.

A widespread worry

Just 15 to 20 years ago, giardiasis was diagnosed mainly in international travelers drinking from tainted water supplies and campers and backpackers sipping from streams contaminated by infected forest animals or raw sewage, according to David Addiss, M.D., a medical epidemiologist at the CDC. But now, the number of urban cases reported by physicians is on the rise. In the New York City area alone, there were 227 cases confirmed in 1987, and 278 the next year. And while there were almost 1,200 confirmed cases of giardiasis throughout the entire state during 1987, it's estimated that the figure rose past 2,000 in 1989, according to the New York State Department of Health.



George Graf supplies the Ledger with most of the articles regarding lake management.

However, it's difficult to know how many cases of the disease occur nationally each year. The actual figure may be as high as 120,000 if the number of ignored or misdiagnosed cases is included, according to the CDC. To get some idea of how many giardiasis cases go unrecognized, 197 patients suffering from chronic intestinal problems were tested by Leo Galland, M.D., a New York City internist and senior research consultant at Meadowlands Clinical Laboratory in Rutherford, New Jersey. He found that almost half were infected with the parasite, and that 31 of these patients had previously been misdiagnosed with irritable bowel syndrome.

How do you catch it?

Researchers are becoming increasingly aware of the many breeding grounds for the giardia parasite. These include:

Tap water. Perhaps 50 to 60 percent of all giardiasis comes from the tap, and when it does, whole communities can suffer. Last year in Johnstown, New York, for example, infected tap water caused 260 confirmed giardiasis cases, although, it's estimated that five times that number may have gone undiagnosed there, notes Jack Dunn, a senior sanitary engineer with the New York State Department of Health's Bureau of Public Water Supply Protection. About 25,000 confirmed giardiasis cases were transmitted this way nationwide between 1971 and 1985, according to a survey by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

And the problem may be growing. With continued development of recreational facilities for swimming, boating and fishing along reservoirs that supply our drinking water, those who harbor the parasites and use these facilities have a greater chance of infecting what comes out of our faucets, predicts Dunn. A big hazard may be infected vacationers residing in lakeside cabins equipped with faulty septic systems, says Dr. Peura.

The EPA is working to prevent future waterborne outbreaks. Under its new Surface Water Treatment Rule, public water supplies drawing from surface water, such as lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs and some using ground water (water that's pumped from beneath the Earth's surface) will have to cut levels of giardia, as well as viruses and the harmful bacteria causing Legionnaire's disease, almost to zero. (Previously, there were no Federal water regulations specifically concerning giardia, says Stig Regli, an environmental engineer with the EPA's Office of Drinking Water.) This means that, in at least some cases, filter systems will have to be installed. All affected water supplies will have to be in compliance within the next 15 years.

Day-care centers. Giardiasis can also be spread through direct contact with infected feces. And a day-care center -- filled with curious toddlers poking into dirty diapers -- makes an ideal setting. In addition, giardia may survive for short periods of time on drinking-water faucets, toys and other objects that frequently come in contact with kids' hands and mouths. "We see the parasites in up to twenty percent of diaper-age kids in some centers," says Dr. Addiss. And the CDC has estimated that 18,000 giardiasis cases per year are contracted at day-care centers.

An infected youngster can pass the disease to anyone who comes in contact with the child's dirty diapers. Dr. Juranek says that roughly 20 percent of parents caring for an infected child become infected themselves.

Swimming pools. It's easy for swimmers to inadvertently swallow a mouthful of water tainted by soiled diapers. Chlorine can kill the parasite, but the colder the water, the longer it takes to put the bug out of commission. Dr. Juranek estimates that, considering the amount of chlorine normally added to a heated, Olympic-size pool, the organism could live for about 30 minutes to an hour. But in a warm, chlorinated wading pool, the organism may only last about ten minutes, he says. However, sunlight can cause chlorine to break down and evaporate, so unless more chemical is added from time to time, it will become diluted, enabling giardia to survive longer.

Streams. While camping or hiking, a sip from a stream or lake is an excellent invitation to giardia. Certain animals, including beavers, are able to deposit the organism in these water supplies, just as infected campers can.

Food. Bouts of food-related giardiasis are not common, but they do occur. An infected person who fails to wash his hands after using the restroom can spread giardia through uncooked food he prepares.

Pets. Dogs, especially puppies, can become infected with giardia, and their fur can pick up the organisms from contact with contaminated water or an infected animal's waste. Not washing your hands once you've petted your animal or cleaned up after it, could allow the parasite to pass to you.

Sexual contact. Anal-oral sex with an infected partner also puts you at high risk of contracting giardia.

Diagnosing the disorder

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A physician will first attempt to diagnose giardia by testing a patient's stool samples for the parasite.

If nothing turns up, but a doctor still suspects giardiasis, he can analyze a mucus sample from the intestines or insert an instrument down your throat to take a sample of the intestinal contents, says Dr. Horowitz.

Fighting an infection

Giardiasis is usually easy to treat with antibiotics. Metronidazole (sold under the brand name Flagyl) is most often prescribed, although quinacrine (Atabrine) and furazolidone (Furoxone) are also used. Treatment can last seven to ten days, and cures the infection at least 90 percent of the time. When it doesn't work doctors may try an increased dose of the antibiotics.

Beating the bug

Here's how to protect yourself and your family from this disease:

- If you have reason to worry about your tap water -- for example, a giardia outbreak has occurred in your community -- contact your local health department, which will tell you how you can have your tap water tested for the parasite. If it's present, home water-filtration units can be installed, but the filter's pore diameters must measure three micrometers or less to be effective. Write for a filter information booklet from the National Sanitation Foundation, P.O. Box 1468, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.
- Make sure your child's day-care center practices good hygiene. Staffers should wash their hands and fingernails after using the bathroom and after changing a baby's diaper. Children, too, should be taught to wash their hands. Water faucets and toys should be kept clean. And children with diarrhea should remain at home.
- Diaper-changing surfaces -- both at home and in day-care -- should be nonporous and easy to wipe clean. Use bleach, but follow this with soap and water to eliminate any bleach residue that could irritate a baby's skin. Keep in mind that a cloth-covered counter may allow giardia to hide. In addition, diaper pails should be childproofed and tucked away.
- Never drink straight from lakes, streams or rivers. Instead, bring along tap or bottled water. Iodine tablets (available at camping stores) kill giardia and can be added to water found along the trail, but boiling the water will probably work better. Portable filtering systems, through which river or lake water can be pumped by hand, are also available for camping trips. Be sure, however, to request one that is effective against the giardia organism.
- Water in developing countries may be contaminated with giardia, as well as a host of other infectious microorganisms, so while traveling stick to boiled or bottled water. Also, avoid eating raw or unpeeled fruits and vegetables or other food that may have been washed in tainted water.
- Be aware that giardiasis can be transmitted sexually by hand or mouth contact with the anal area.
- Never touch the soiled portion of a shovel or waste container while cleaning up your pet's feces. Always wash your hands after handling your pet.

ANDERSONS RUN A GREAT BAR-B-QUE



Colonel Sanders would be proud of our Chicken Bar-B-Quers: (Left to Right) Gus Hoyland, Bill Hoag, Butch Streeter, Art Rousseau, and Chairman Karl Anderson

by Larry Friedman

The annual Laurel Lake Chicken Bar-B-Que was held at White's Field on Saturday, August 18. A decision to move this event back to the campground was made at the annual meeting. Last year's event was held at the Sportsman's Pond Rod and Gun Club.

Weather this year was sunny and extremely hot. Over 220 tickets were sold.

The day started with games for the kids organized by Kim and Joan Knight. All our favorite races, including 3-legged race, wheelbarrow race, water balloon toss and a clothes relay kept the kids entertained while Art Rosseau, Butch Streeter and others barbequed the chicken on a brand new grill built by the committee.

This year's event was co-chaired by Karl Anderson and his wife, JoAnn. The Andersons have been coming to Laurel Lake for 22 years. They live next to White's Field during the summer and have a permanent home on Route 12 in Fitzwilliam during the off-season.

This year's menu featured 1/2 chicken, potato salad, cole slaw, watermelon, rolls, and pot luck dessert.

After the meal, the kids participated in the traditional Pie Contest and face painting.

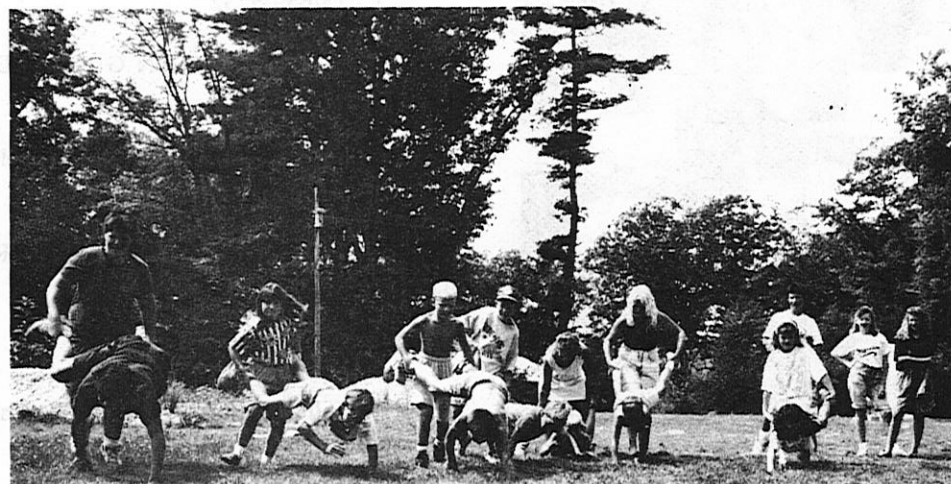
It's always nice to see so many familiar faces. We would like to thank all of those who made the Bar-B-Que a success:

Karl & JoAnn Anderson
Gus & Sue Hoyland
Judy & Tony Moreira
Marguerite & Ed Albertini
Marilyn O'Donnell
Bruce, Joan & Kim Knight
Bill & Brenda Hoag
Jayne Nevins
Karen Marchetti
Art Rousseau
Butch Streeter

And the many others that also helped.



Volunteers made the Bar-B-Que a great success.



The Wheelbarrow Race kept the kids occupied while the chicken was cooking.

"DON'T FEED THE DUCKS"

Page 7

by Reginald Soracco
Rensselaer Fresh Water Institute

Why *not* feed the ducks? What seems like a harmless pastime may have some unpleasant side-effects for swimmers. One type of rash that develops as a result of swimming in water heavily populated with ducks can be directly related to a common infection of these duck populations by a parasitic flatworm (*Schistosoma*).

The rather complicated life cycle of Avian (bird) *Schistosoma* is shown in the accompanying diagram. A specific type of snail serves as an intermediate host which harbors the disease organism and sheds the form of this parasite (the cercariae) that can cause "swimmer's itch" in humans. When the cercaria infects an appropriate avian host by burrowing through the skin, it continues its life cycle in the tissues of this host. However, when the cercaria infects an "inhospitable" host (e.g. humans), it dies just after burrowing through the skin, but does cause a sometimes severe rash. There is some evidence that this burrowing into the skin of a non-specific host occurs after the person emerges from infected waters and as the residual water on the skin evaporates. Therefore, a brisk rubdown with a towel immediately after emerging from the water may help to prevent successful penetrations by cercariae. This

procedure, however, may be impractical for small children that dabble at the shoreline or for bathers who are continuously in and out of the water.

Much more permanent solutions are available, and have been used with varying degrees of success. Studies of outbreaks of swimmer's itch have led those with a narrow perspective of the life cycle of this parasite to conclude that the problem can be solved by eliminating the snails that produce the cercariae. This has been accomplished by applying a heavy dose of copper sulfate to lake sediments inhabited by the snails.

A more enlightened view of the parasite's life cycle suggests that the root of the problem is in the size of the duck population. Thus, it would seem sensible to not establish a duck population in the first place. This logic brings us to the dictum, "Don't feed the ducks." In most cases, ducks are migratory animals and should be encouraged to migrate. We should be able to take pleasure in their short visits to our lakes, or in very small populations (one or two nesting pairs) that choose to grace our lakes in the summer. We should not entice large numbers of these animals to linger and contaminate our lakes and ourselves.



The potluck desert table was a big success.



Co-chairmen of the Bar-B-Que, Karl and JoAnn Anderson, enjoy a chicken dinner.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

**Laurel Lake Association
Saturday, September 8, 1990**

In attendance were Bruce Knight, Phyllis Chase, Jack Dumont, Karl Anderson, Don Austin, Tom White, Shirley Quinn, Milt Posovsky, George Graf, Rob Prunier, Larry Friedman, and Andy Anderson.

The Meeting was called to order by President Bruce Knight at 8:10 a.m.

Secretary Jack Dumont read the minutes of the June 16, 1990 Board of Directors Meeting. On a motion by George Graf and seconded by Don Austin that the minutes be approved as read; the motion passed unanimously.

Jack Dumont then read a letter the Association had received from Police Chief Scott Ellis regarding the speed of motor vehicles on town roads.

Don Austin, Association Treasurer, reported on the financial status of the Association. On a motion by Tom White and seconded by Rob Prunier that the Treasurer's Report be received, the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of the Association Newsletter, The Laurel Lake Ledger, followed with Editor/Publisher, Larry Friedman, explaining publication costs and the need for current information.

On a motion by Rob Prunier and seconded by Tom White that Association volunteers be given the option of charging the Association 15 cents per mile or donating any travel expenses, the motion passed unanimously.

On a motion by Shirley Quinn and seconded by George Graf that expenses incurred by volunteers on behalf of the Association be reimbursed upon authorization of the President and upon presentation of documentation, the motion passed unanimously.

On a motion by Milt Posovsky and seconded by George Graf that Association membership dues structure be set at \$5.00 per couple and \$2.00 for individuals under 18 years of age, the motion passed with one opposition vote from Karl Anderson. On an amendment to the above motion by Rob Prunier and seconded by Milt Posovsky that couples have the option of single \$5.00 memberships, the motion passed unanimously.

On a motion by Phyllis Chase and seconded by Don Austin that each \$5.00 membership carry with it one subscription to the Laurel Lake Ledger, the motion passed unanimously.

Jack Dumont reported on the dates for the 1991 Association Meetings and Activities. They are as follows:

Board of Directors Meeting; Sat., June 15
Annual Meeting/Picnic; Sat., July 2
Chicken Barbecue; Sat., Aug. 17
Labor Day Sunfish Regatta; Sun., Sept. 1
or Mon., Sept. 2
Board of Directors Meeting; Sat., Sept. 7

George Graf, a member of the Water Testing Committee, reported on the status of Lake dams and uncontrolled outflow of water on the Pratt and Treat properties. On a motion by Tom White that the Board of Directors recognize the uncontrolled outflow of water from Laurel Lake as a problem and a committee be formed to oversee the situation, motion passed unanimously. President Bruce Knight appointed George Graf to head up the committee.

On a motion by Tom White and seconded by Don Austin that the Association spend an amount of money, not to exceed \$200, to make a sign to house Boating Rules and Lake Contaminant Information for the boat launching area, the motion passed unanimously.

On a motion by George Graf and seconded by Tom White that the Association investigate any water quality problems associated with Laurel Lake and report back to the Board of Directors on various solutions to any problems

encountered, the motion passed unanimously. President Bruce Knight appointed George Graf to serve as chairman.

Milt Posovsky, Membership Committee Chairman, reported on 1990 memberships and coordinated the 1991 membership drive.

On a motion by Phyllis Chase and seconded by George Graf, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John H. Dumont
Secretary, Laurel Lake Association

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Karl Anderson	1991
Marguerite Albertini	1991
Robert Prunier	1991
George Graf	1991
Shirley Quinn	1991
Tom White	1991
Milton Posovsky	1991
Don Garland	1991
Larry Friedman	1991-1992
Gus Hoyland	1991-1992
Midge Deyo	1991-1992
Phyllis Chase	1991-1992
Virginia Nevins	1991-1992
Don Treat	1991-1992

WELL TESTING

by Donna L. Trask, Laboratory Supervisor
City of Keene

Dear Water Testing Customer,

As you may already have heard, the City of Keene will no longer be testing well water for coliform bacteria. We are forced to discontinue this service due to increased demands being made upon our time by our regulatory agency, the EPA. We apologize, in advance, for any inconvenience this may cause, and offer the attached list of certified labs available for water testing.

In the event that you are unable to use all of your prepaid bottles before August 1, you may return them for a refund. Please return them to me before August 15. You will be issued a check from City Hall for the amount of refund.

I encourage you to take advantage of the packages of tests offered by these labs in order to get a better picture of the true quality of the water. These more comprehensive water tests can be sent through the mail in mailing containers available from the labs.

Sharon and I have enjoyed working with you in the past years and wish you well in the future. If we can be of further assistance, please contact me at 357-9836.

WATER TESTING INFORMATION

CERTIFIED LABORATORIES WHERE MORE COMPLETE TESTING CAN BE PERFORMED:

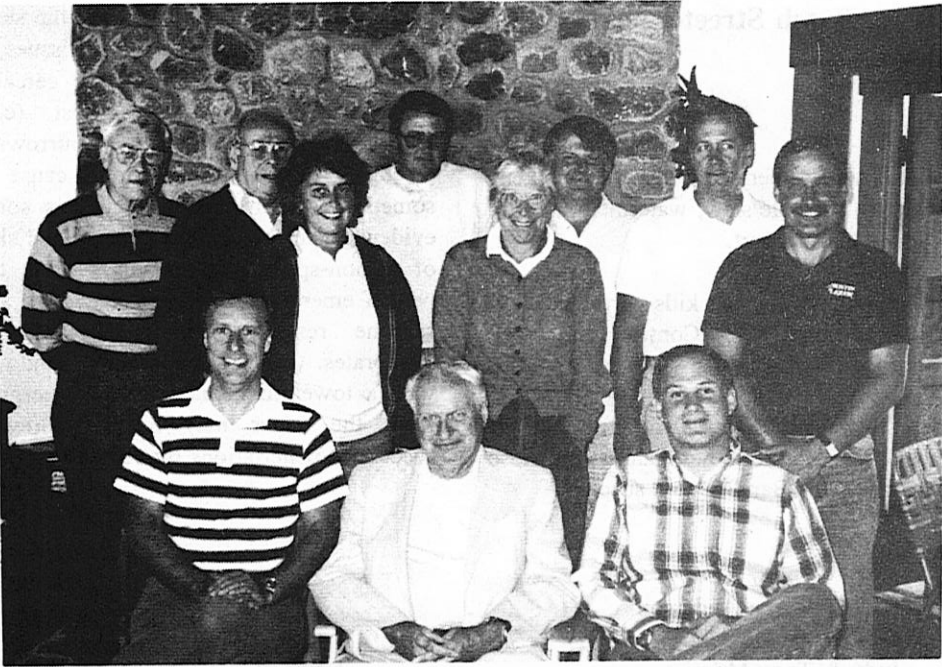
1. N.H. State Lab in Concord; 271-3445
2. Chemserve in Milford, NH; 673-5440
3. Water Test, Inc. in Manchester 526-6616
4. Biological Services, Charlestown, NH; 826-5519
5. J & W Laboratory, Northfield, MA; 413/659-3732

RADON TESTING AND INFORMATION:

The Radon Company, Inc., David Tkatch in Keene: 352-5319

FIRMS SPECIALING IN WATER TREATMENT:

1. Culligan Corporation; 357-2366 or 242-7943
2. Aqua Filter Technology, Inc., Steven Carolus; 899-5055 or 899-6318
3. Water Care Corporation in Brattleboro; 802/254-6087
4. Water Chemistry, Inc. in Concord; 637-3761



Board of Directors Meeting. Front row: (left to right) Jack Dumont, Don Austin, Larry Friedman; Back row: George Graf, Milt Posovsky, Phyllis Chase, Karl Anderson, Shirley Quinn, Tom White, Bruce Knight and Robert Prunier.



The Three-Legged Race at the Bar-B-Que requires skill and cooperation.



Robert Prunier, Commodore of the Regatta, holds up Proclamation making him an Honorary Member in the North End Yacht Club, while 3 winners look on. Tom White presented the certificate.

URBAN POLLUTION

by J. Samuel Cope
Worcester Sunday Telegram

Millbury's Dorothy Pond is dying.

All ponds eventually do.

The natural process can take thousands of years as a watershed slowly turns a clear lake into a warm, shallow, muddy pond.

Urban development in the upper Blackstone Valley has aged Dorothy Pond in just 25 years.

The pond is polluted with urban runoff from a landfill and sand and gravel operation. Leachate from surrounding septic systems have fed the weeds and algae that choke the water.

Dorothy Pond is a somewhat extreme example of a problem affecting many ponds in the region, said Robert Kubit of the state Water Pollution Control Division.

While advances have been made on controlling pollution from single point sources such as factories and wastewater treatment plants, little has been done to control the more diffused kind of pollution that typifies human settlement.

Biggest Problems

Failed septic systems and runoff from streets and lawns are the main culprits polluting the state's ponds and lakes, environmental engineers said. Runoff from farms is an occasional, but generally minor problem.

Water pollution from diffuse sources such as urban development and agriculture is called by the specialists "non-point source pollution." Other categories of non-point source pollution are commercial forests, boat discharges, siltation from dams and other watercourse changes, building and highway construction and landfills.

It's something that came home to people living around Baker Pond recently.

Town officials in Dudley and Charlton closed the pond to human use shortly before the July 4 holiday because of a bloom of toxic, blue-green algae.

Charlton Health Agent Cynthia B. Cobb brought in a group of state and federal experts to Baker Pond, also known as Gore Pond, July 2 to examine the problem there.

As Bad As It Gets

Eben J. Chesbrough, the Division of Water Pollution Control's expert on non-point source pollution, said the contamination of Baker Pond with blue-green algae was about as bad as a pond gets.

Chesbrough and his colleagues tramped around the shore during their visit, looking at the water lilies and a blue-green scum that looked like a thick paint had been spilled into the water.

"You don't see it that bad, with the bright green sheen on the bloom. Algae blooms like that are not common," he said.

The jury is still out on the cause of Baker Pond's pollution -- although leakage from failed septic systems is considered a likely cause.

Rain brings much of the non-point source pollution to bodies of water, Chesbrough said.

In general, non-point sources cause about 75 percent of all water pollution and overwhelmingly cause pollution in lakes and ponds, he said.

Rivers, for example, are most affected by urban uses, such as street runoff.

Urban and Septics

Ponds, on the other hand, are most affected by urban uses and by contamination from failed septic systems.

Much of the move to prevent non-point source pollution must come from individuals and local communities, said Arleen C. O'Donnell, assistant commissioner of the state's Resource Protection Division.

People can reduce pollution by using fertilizers more sparingly, pumping out their septic systems once or twice a year, and reducing or eliminating the use of phosphorus-containing detergents, she said.

Homeowners should not pour solvents and other chemical solutions into their septic systems, she said.

"Some folks who have failing septic systems will go out and buy a septic tank cleaner that contains very strong acids. But dumping acids into the septic tank really doesn't work and they can cause even more serious problems," she said.

Bylaws Can Help

Communities can revise their zoning and health bylaws to require construction of catch basins that will capture and filter street runoff into the groundwater before it reaches surface water.

There are many resources for individuals and groups who want to take action, Ms. O'Donnell said.

The state Department of Environmental Protection, Massachusetts Audubon Society, Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions, University of Massachusetts Co-operative Extension, local watershed associations and regional planning agencies are all good sources of information and advice, she said.

MY ROMANCE WITH LAUREL LAKE

by Virginia Nevins

My romance with Laurel Lake began when I was a child, and I have been at the Lake for at least part of every summer since 1930. My parents, Clarence and Marguerite Brackett, "pitched" tents in what was then called White's Grove that year, for the minimal amount of \$10.00 per season.

In 1938, after the New England hurricane, the White brothers set up a sawmill and turned the fallen trees into lumber, and the majority of campers changed from tents to cabins, many of them put on the tent platforms. At first,

we didn't have electricity or running water but made do with kerosene lanterns and propane gas stoves. My dad commuted every day to work in Athol.

In 1949, my husband and I picked out our spot and built our camp. All my children and grandchildren love the lake as much as I do and Frank did. Many a happy summer has been spent there over the years; and now, when they can, they come with their families from all over the country and one daughter comes from England to visit. I have visited many lakes in the world but Laurel Lake will always be my favorite.

BIOLOGY NEEDED IN LAKE MANAGEMENT

by Rensselaer Fresh Water Institute

The goals of lake managers and fisheries managers sometimes appear to be in conflict. The lake manager typically sees nutrient reduction as the answer to controlling algae, while the fisheries manager is interested in producing quality fish. However, these differing goals have something in common: both result in the control of algae and improved water clarity.

Food Web Considerations in Lake Management

There are two contrasting views of how food webs behave and how they can be managed. One view is that nutrients form the base of the trophic food web and regulate interactions from the "bottom up." The other view is that fish are able to restructure the species and size structure of good webs from the "top down." Lake management strategies have traditionally focused on "bottom up" approaches. However, if we are to adopt a more comprehensive view of lake management, we must recognize the importance of "top down" forces in achieving biological balance in lakes.

The primary goal of "top down" lake management is to increase the abundance of piscivorous gamefish through stocking and regulating harvest. Such an approach appeals to anglers and is compatible with the goal of algae reduction. In New York state, Oneida Lake is an example where

gamefish stocking and harvest restrictions have been incorporated into lake management and where studies have documented trophic level responses to "top down" predator control.

Although nutrients entering Lake Oneida have been reduced, there have not been any clear trends in algae reduction. However, dramatic water clearing events occur seasonally, and these are tied to the success of the yellow perch hatch. When young yellow perch are abundant, a predator-prey imbalance occurs in the food web. Large numbers of yellow perch feed on *Daphnia* to the point of exhausting the supply of this organism. When *Daphnia* numbers are low, algal density increases and water clarity declines because *Daphnia* are excellent grazers of algae. Thus a high biomass of walleye tends to suppress abundance of yellow perch and other planktivorous fish and indirectly enhances the *Daphnia* population and water clarity. Consequently, the strategy for managing the Oneida Lake fishery happens to coincide with the goal of enhancing water quality, and illustrates the need for developing partnerships with those interested in water quality improvements.

Clearly, there is an increasing emphasis on the importance of biology in lake management. Along with this has come a need for more effective communication. Partnerships between managers, professionals, and lake users need to be encouraged, if we are to more effectively manage New York's lake resources.

OBITUARY



REV. EUGENE MEYER

The following obituary of Rev. Eugene Meyer was sent to me by Milt Posovsky. Milt comments that Gene Meyer first came to Laurel Lake by car from St. Louis, MO, in 1922 at the age of six. He seldom missed a summer at Laurel Lake.

The Rev. Eugene W. Meyer of Newton and New Hampshire, former minister at the Auburndale Congregational Church, died Tuesday at Newton-Wellesley Hospital. He celebrated his 74th birthday Sunday.

Born in Indiana, he was educated at Washington University in St. Louis, Eden Theological Seminary and Chicago Theological Seminary.

A fourth-generation Protestant clergyman, Rev. Meyer served at churches in Rochester, MN, where he was ordained; in Richmond Hill, NY; and established a new church in Webster Groves, MO, called the Church of the Open Door.

Between 1956 and 1972, Rev. Meyer served as minister at the Auburndale Congregational Church.

He went on to serve for eight years at Briarcliff Manor, NY, where he was awarded the B'nai B'rith Humanitarian Award by the Westchester Tri-Community Lodge.

Rev. Meyer was committed to working for peace and traveled to the Netherlands and Tokyo to attend conferences of the International Association for Religious Freedom.

He was a member of the Fraternity Masonic Lodge.

He is survived by his wife, Betty H. (Herndon); two sons, Eric H. of Wayland and Kirk D. of Boston; and three grandchildren.

DON'T CALL 911

by Bruce Knight

Fitzwilliam does not use the 911 emergency number that you may be used to. The number to use for Fire and Medical Emergency Services is 352-1100. The Fitzwilliam Police Department number is 585-6565.

Make a note of these numbers and post them on all your phones. It could save you precious seconds if an emergency occurs.

BAN ON CONVERSIONS WILL AFFECT LAKEFRONT COTTAGE OWNERS

excerpt from The Providence Journal

NORWAY, MAINE -- When Roger Timmons heard that the state of Maine planned to ban the conversion of summer homes into year-round dwellings in certain environmentally sensitive areas, he was plenty worried.

He had built his rustic "camp," as the state's residents call lakeside cottages, in this small town in western Maine, about 50 miles northwest of Portland, nearly 20 years ago thinking he would retire beside picturesque Sand Pond.

But he never installed the amenities needed to live there year round.

"I called the town immediately," said Timmons, who is the code-enforcement officer in Windham, 30 miles south of here.

As it turned out, Timmons' house was not within a resource protection zone and therefore not affected by the new law.

But hundreds, if not thousands, of people are, and code-enforcement officers are hearing from them and others with lakefront homes.

The law requires that by Dec. 31, 1991, all Maine towns ban conversions in resource protection zones - waterfront areas that have steep slopes, poor soil or that are within a flood plain. Since the mid-'70s construction of new homes has been banned in such zones.

The Department of Environmental Protection, which administers the new law, estimates that about 10 percent of the state's shoreline is within such zones.

"These are areas that should not have been built on in the first place, and it is the department's feeling that we should not make things worse," said Richard Baker, the department's shoreland zoning coordinator. "Greater use of a home brings more stress to the environment."

Maine, with some 5,000 lakes, has one of the toughest laws on developing shorefront lots.

It is one of a handful of states, including Michigan and Minnesota, that has a shoreland zoning ordinance, which regulates everything from how many trees can be cut beside a lake to the setback for houses.

Maine's law, passed in the mid-'70's, set up the resource-protection zones, where new construction was banned, and other zones where development was limited.

But in the '80s construction of second homes and conversion of seasonal dwellings caused state environmentalists to take a second look at the law. What they saw prompted the Legislature to pass a general revision.

No one knows how many second homes have been built or seasonal homes converted to year-round use in the last few

years, but planners say the number is easily in the thousands. Many Maine lakes, including China Lake near Waterville and Sebago lake near Windham, are developed virtually all the way around.

"The years 1989 and 1990 are different from 1974," Baker said. "The development pressures were not there as they are now. We're seeing a much greater intensity of shoreland development

and our rules were not proving to protect the wetlands. Wetlands protection is becoming the issue of the day."

The conversion ban was part of the revision. The new law also increased the distance a home must be from a lake to 100 feet from 75 feet, prohibited "clear-cutting" - the cutting of all trees to afford a shore view - and set standards for the slope, ditches, drainage and culverts of shorefront roads.

"We found that roadside runoff is a significant cause of phosphorus in lakes," Baker said. "Driving rain on a camp road will send sediment into lakes and streams."

A relatively small number of Maine lakes have problems with phosphorus, which causes algae blooms that deplete the oxygen, killing fish.

But Baker said the state wanted to step in before the problem worsened. "You go out there on some of these lakes and the top quarter-inch looks like pea soup and once it starts to decay, it smells," he said.

But while most people support environmental protection, some question whether the ban on the conversion of summer homes was poorly conceived.

Before it was passed, the state's only restrictions on seasonal conversions concerned whether a septic system was adequate for the size of a house.

Tom Gordon, the executive director of the Cobbossee Water District, which includes seven lakes in central Maine near Augusta, the state capital, said 75 to 100 homes in his district would be affected by the new law.

He does not think the Town of Winthrop, where he is code-enforcement officer, will enact its conversion ban before fall. And he wonders whether a ban is necessary.

"The problems we've had with seasonal conversions are caused by the initial development - construction of the building itself rather than whether it's used year round," Gordon said. "Pollution comes from runoff from the roof, the driveway."

Gordon's primary residence is in a resource protection zone on Wilson Pond in Winthrop. If he had not converted to year-round use years ago, he would not be able to, once Winthrop adopted the ban.

"This law is likely to be contested," he said.

Timmons also wondered whether property owners who were not allowed to convert to year-round use, would apply for reductions in property taxes, based on the assumption that the ban decreased the value of their property.

"This will have a tremendous effect on values," he said. "If they can't convert, why should they pay all these taxes on it?"

Other states have had similar problems with seasonal conversions.

In Michigan, especially in the northern Lower Peninsula and the Upper Peninsula, second-home development has increased dramatically, said Martin Jannereth, the director of the shoreland management division of that state's Department of Natural Resources.

"We have everything from lavish homes to tar-paper shacks," he said. "Usually a cottage is made more and more livable over time and evolves into a year-round home for folks who retire from the city."

Michigan does not ban seasonal conversions in sensitive areas, but has several laws relating to sewerage, erosion and natural hazards, which can make such conversions difficult, he said.

Similarly, Minnesota, with 15,000 lakes, does not ban conversions, but has a set of strict laws on sewerage, said Peder Otterson, the shoreland program manager in the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Dealing with buildings that existed before the laws were passed, and are therefore excluded from them, is often the most difficult task of shoreland managers.

"The worst development is the stuff that was grandfathered in," Otterson said.

DONN'S COKE ROOM

by Donn Brackett

After a recent Labor Day closing, it was my decision and mine alone, to cease operation of Donn's and the Coke Room, on Laurel Lake Road. This was the Labor Day of 1986. My plan was to turn the main building into two apartments. It was clearly important, at the time, to make changes to obtain "year-round" revenue from the building. For one thing, the property tax picture, as we all are aware, took a turn upward. This was an important factor. But, as many Lake customers are unaware, there were more reasons than the above tax situation, which made changes necessary. No one was more aware than I that the closing of this "institution" would be felt strongly and the services missed greatly.

The grocery section of the business was closed a full summer before the final change. Vendors and wholesalers stopped service to places "off the beaten path," and I was forced to buy many items retail and to buy product in a greater quantity than wise. After much outdated milk poured down the drain and bread piled up beyond sale-use, it was time for the change. I gave up the beer/wine permit in 1985 and carried only non-perishable items during my final year. It was forced down to a "rec-room" service and a snack bar business; a step backward from all of my growth accomplishments.

It was a necessary closing, but the lake people are not alone in missing the place and not having the services after all of those 29 years. I, too, miss it still. But there were many reasons for the change, and we all have to bend with the times. I am thankful for those years, and I sincerely hope that the many townspeople as well as the summer residents whom I served, will understand and be equally thankful.

ON THE TRAIL

A photograph clipping of Randy Ewalt and Sharon Reidy was sent to me by Milt Posovsky. It appears a friend of Milt's clipped the picture out of a Hoosick Falls, NY newspaper. The picture (which I could not reproduce) shows Randy and Sharon on a cross-country horseback ride beginning in Fitzwilliam, NH, and ending in Phoenix. The photograph taken in Bennington, NY, shows Randy walking his packed horse with his right hand and his 2 dogs with his left hand. Sharon follows behind him on horseback. The couple are on their way to visit relatives. Randy Ewalt said it was a trip he always wanted to take.



A pretty little girl wears layers of winter clothes in a Clothes Relay Race. The temperature was over 90 degrees at the Annual Bar-B-Que.