



A Little Spot of Heaven

The Laurel Lake Ledger

Laurel Lake Association

23rd Annual Newsletter Spring 2010

WORLD WAR II



On December 8, 1941, the United States entered the Second World War and this would have a significant impact on the Town of Fitzwilliam and Laurel Lake for the next four years. To support the war effort on the home front, rationing of durable goods was immediately put into effect. Items rationed included gasoline for automobiles, food goods (eggs, sugar, beef) and certain types of clothing material. Unlike the urban areas, there was little local transportation. People walked to their destinations whether it was Fitzwilliam Center or Fitzwilliam Depot. In the summers, the townspeople would plant victory gardens to augment their food supplies. Salvage drives were organized to recycle or reuse paper goods, tin foil, rubber, and 78 r.p.m. records. Civilian defense was an ongoing activity for the town. Unique to the area was the sky watch which was to observe planes in transit. An observation tower was constructed at Stone's Mill on Templeton Turnpike. The Hurricane of 1938 had taken down all the trees and created a 360 degree view. Volunteers would man the tower and make their reports by telephone to Army Air Force's headquarters in Keene.

Another activity was the weekly air raid drill and during the drill all lights in the town had to be extinguished. As well, houses and camps had heavy dark curtains over the windows to prevent the leakage of light at night. For many years after the war's end, it was not unusual to find these curtains still hanging in the camps around Laurel Lake.

THE DURATION

Even before the United States entry into the war, Laurel Lake was playing a pivotal role in "the duration." The English government had arranged with Canadian and American families on the East Coast to host English children from the cities which were being mercilessly bombed by the German Luftwaffe. Michael Henderson was one of the evacuees who recalls the summers spent at South Pond Cabins on Laurel Lake in his book, **See You After the Duration**. Michael's host family in Milton, MA, were friendly with the owners of South Pond Cabins at Laurel Lake in Fitzwilliam, NH. Arrangements were made for the English children to spend the summer at the lake.



This achieved two purposes - the children could experience a summer camp in New England and the host families had a couple of months to enjoy their lives without their adopted charges about. As Michael recalls, the main activities at the camp were the variety of sports available to the boys. It was here that he learned to love the games of tennis and baseball. Even today, 68 years later, the remains of the old tennis courts are visible from West Lake Road. He also remembers the water sports which were part of the SPC experience. Apparently the large dock spiders were as prevalent in the 40's as they are today. There were boating and swimming competitions among the boys. There were many canoes, rowing and sailing dinghies, the Dickie B (a large sailboat) and an outrigger canoe from Pago Pago. Still other learning activities included carpentry, nature studies, leatherwork, and even basic automotive repair, with which he couldn't understand why the American boys were fascinated.

There were other experiences that remained with Michael from South Pond Cabins and one was the campfires and songs the boys would sing. These were a big feature most nights. Included in their harmonies were Harvard and Brown University songs as well as service songs ('Army Air Corps', 'Cassion Song', 'Anchors Away', and 'Marine Hymn'). The other and most anticipated part of the summer camp experience was the 20 mile hike from Laurel Lake to Mount Monadnock. The boys would make their own backpacks out of blankets and ponchos which held the food, clothing, and sleeping bags. The three day trip was hiked on dusty back roads. One highlight was stopping at a store to drink a "pop". Once on the mountain, the boys would scramble to the top and enjoy the view. The nights were spent sleeping under the stars and having a campfire on which the evening meal (usually hash) was cooked. Then it was time to hike back to South Pond Cabins and Laurel Lake. For the English boys, the war was far away and they were having an experience that they never would have had in England. It left a life-long impression on Michael Henderson. As he would write in his recollection, he recalls how the owner's daughter, Annie Gallagher Putnam, said "it gave the boys a great summer and a chance for their families to relax".



South Pond Cabins
1942—1943



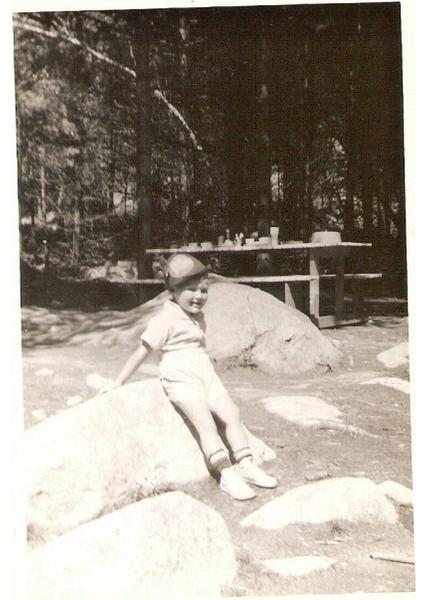


WEEKEND AT THE LAKE - 1944

The summer weekend activity at Laurel Lake during World War II was no different than a weekend in peace time. Where the adventure lay was how one got to the Lake to enjoy that weekend. For most lake-goers, the railroad was the way to go. There were regular stops at Fitzwilliam Depot from Keene, Fitchburg, and Boston. Once at the depot, people could either walk to the lake or hire someone local to deliver luggage to their camp. Both Fleur de Lis (the girls' camp) and South Pond Cabins (the boys' camp) had summer sessions and ran throughout the war. Both camps had their own railroad cars and the children would be delivered to the Depot. Fleur de Lis had their own bus and the girls were driven to camp while their luggage was delivered by horse and wagon. Both camps were in operation for eight weeks and during the war, most of the children stayed for the entire session.

Of course gas rationing limited the travel distances for private automobiles. As well, government inspectors were around and were known to inquire why a vehicle was being used. Still, there were some ingenious schemes that were incorporated in getting people to their destination. The most daring one occurred in the Summer of 1944. Campers from Massachusetts drove a car to Laurel Lake. Because government inspectors were in the area, it was decided that the car not be parked near the campsite but further away. So the car was driven to the furthest point of passable road on the "Bridle Path" (now known as South Pond Road) in White's Grove. Once parked and secured, the car was covered from top to bottom and all around with cut pine boughs. This accomplished two purposes: it was hidden from the government inspectors and sun was not reflected by the car's paint finish and bumpers. Of course, the downside was that the vehicle couldn't be used other than going back home.

The typical weekend was a quiet one. Cooking was done on campfires although some of the older and bigger cottages did have coal burning stoves. The daily activity would include swims in the lake, walks around the lake, and fishing. Boating activity was primarily a physical task with rowboats and canoes dominating the water surface. There were also a number of sailboats on the lake. Evening activities were gatherings around campfires, card playing, and singing songs.



White's Grove 1944

WAR'S END

By May, 1945, the war in Europe was over and in September, 1945, Japan surrendered. The Second World War was over. As the GIs gradually returned home, they reclaimed their civilian lives and began life anew.

For a few of the men and their families, some discovered Laurel Lake and brought a new vitality to the area that has continued since the war's end.

Steve Olson

Fitzwilliam Inn Update

The Fitzwilliam Inn reopened last fall, much to the delight of everyone! It has 6 guest rooms available and a restaurant, the Cheshire Tavern. The Tavern's hours are Thursday, Friday, Saturday 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. and they plan to be open Wednesdays and Sundays later in the summer. They have live music on Saturday nights. More Inn information is available on their website: www.FitzwilliamInn.com. Let's all welcome the Inn back and give them our business.



2010 SUMMER EVENTS—LAUREL LAKE ASSOCIATION

JUNE

5th - 9:00 AM - The Board of Directors will meet at the house of Anne Korjeff on Howeville Road.

5th - 6:00 PM - The 13th Laurel Lake Association Pot Luck Supper will be held at Camp Fleur de Lis dining hall. Enjoy an evening with friends and neighbors by starting the summer season off at Laurel Lake. Bring your own drinks and a dish to share. Coffee, silverware, and paper goods will be provided.

JULY

4th - 9:30 PM - Celebrate the Fourth of July with the traditional lighting of flares around Laurel Lake. Flares are available for purchase at the Depot Store.

10th - 10:30 AM - The Annual meeting and family picnic will be held at White's Field, Keene Avenue. Children's games will be held.

31st- 3:30 PM - Boat Parade (All boats invited). Theme: The letter 'F' (football, fish, Frisbee, Fenway franks, fools, etc.). Music with Rick Kumpu & Robert Allwarden will be held at Sunrise Rock (West side of Lake) at 5:00 p.m.. Motor, paddle or sail over for it.

AUGUST

14th - 11:00 AM - The **20th** Annual Canoe/Kayak Race at Sandy Beach. Registration at 9:30 AM.

September

4th- 10:00 AM - The Dresser-Friedman Regatta . Rain date is Sept. 5

11th - 9:00 AM - The Board of Directors will meet at Camp Fleur de Lis.

12th - 10:30 AM - The 14th Laurel Lake Association Pot Luck Brunch will be held at Camp Fleur de Lis to celebrate the finale of the 2010 Summer season.

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF LAUREL LAKE ASSOCIATION**

Spring has finally come. It seems to come a bit slower in Fitzwilliam, but with Memorial Day just around the corner, we have to start getting ready for another year at Laurel Lake. I cannot imagine a Summer without the Lake! It's a very different place than it was 50 -60 – 70 years ago. Better or worse – not sure, but clearly different in many aspects excepting the Lake itself. That remains the center focus for most of us during our stays there and is essentially unchanged. Our Association is devoted to keeping it just that way. The quality of the Lake water is good, well above the average of the State's many lakes. We must all be diligent in our concern. The use of **ANY** chemical products near or on the Lake; soaps, fertilizers, chemicals used on the lawns and "what have you" all end up in the Lake **AND** degrade it! The folks at the Depot Store have volunteered to carry a line of "Green" products and a sub-committee of the Association has studied the problem and made suggestions as to what would be appropriate products in those categories. I hope to see some basic products there this year. We can talk more about that at our Spring Board meeting (9 o'clock on 5 Jun) as the season really gets into swing. The schedule of events has been, and will continue to be low key, designed to enhance, but no intrude upon our family schedules. I do look forward to seeing you all again at the meeting and associated pot-luck or brunch. The brunch last year was a variation and seemed very well received by the membership

Cal Perry and Mary Ann

IN MEMORY OF

Marguerite Albertini

Marguerite Albertini, 82, passed away in August, 2009. Marguerite was a long time volunteer and member of the Board of Directors of the Laurel Lake Association. She and her husband Edmund and their children, grandchildren and now great-grandchildren have summered at the lake for over 30 years. She and Edmund helped at barbeques, membership drives and selling of flares for the Fourth of July. Marguerite was a daily fixture at Sandy Beach, even when she was supposed to stay out of the sun. She greeted everyone with her beautiful smile, generous welcomes and made our days brighter. She delighted playing in the water with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren and enjoyed seeing others' children playing. Before fully retiring, Marguerite had her own businesses, selling square dancing costumes and making flower arrangements for weddings and other special events. Her presence will be missed. (Kathy Olson)

Robert C. White

Robert White, 94, died peacefully in his sleep at home May 5, 2010. Bob was born in Fitzwilliam NH and lived most of his life in Springfield MA. He attended Northeastern University and was a member of the Carpenters' Union. Bob still had strong ties to "Whites Grove" in Fitzwilliam and has family and friends in NH. Bob will be missed by his only child, Richard White, his grandchildren Cara White-Edwards, Corey White and Gabriella White, step granddaughter Alexis Dimanche, great granddaughters, Grace and Ella Edwards, his friends Lauralyn and David Gurski and several nieces and nephews. Bob was predeceased by his wife, Hazel (Worrell) and his four siblings, Silas, Grace, Violet and John. Bob lived a good, long life. He loved to travel and talk! There will be no calling hours; however a memorial service will be held for him over Memorial Day weekend at Whites Grove, Laurel Lake, Fitzwilliam, NH. (Lauralyn White Gurski)

IN MEMORY OF

Henry Whipple, Sr.

It is with sadness that I report that the town of Fitzwilliam, Laurel Lake, and Fleur de Lis Camp have lost a treasure. Henry died on March 30th just short of his 94th birthday. Henry was born and spent his entire life in Fitzwilliam in the house where he was born. Henry thought that Fitzwilliam was the best town in the country, although he wasn't always sure that the changes that were happening were in the town's best interest. I believe that Henry knew every square inch of the town. He was forever telling me the exact spot that was always the coldest or the warmest in town. He could tell you the exact spot that had the best view of anything. He could tell you where every group of deer was living and traveling around town. He could tell you the spot where all the old mills had stood, who owned them and all the stories that went with them.

One of Henry's Lake responsibilities that he didn't enjoy as much was the management of the run off of the lake which is controlled by a board on Fleur de Lis property. He would tell many stories of the struggles of keeping that board and lake level regulated as someone on the lake always thought that they had a better plan. But he was diligent about trying to stick to the state's plan.

And Henry has been an integral part of Fleur de Lis Camp since camp started in 1929. At age 15 he was given the responsibility of keeper of the keys to Fleur de Lis. And you should see the size of that key ring now. Of course Henry was more than the keeper of the keys for Fleur de Lis. He was so much to Fleur de Lis that I can't even begin to tell it all. He certainly was the protector of all things Fleur de Lis. He will be so missed! (Liz Young)

Virginia Nevins

On January 30, 2010, the Laurel Lake, White's Grove family lost a long time summer resident and matriarch, Virginia Brackett Nevins. Virginia was 89 years old when she died and had been a summer resident or visitor to Laurel Lake since the age of 9...first camping with her parents and siblings in a canvas tent and later visiting them as a young bride and a new mom in their simple cottage which still stands in Whites Grove and is currently owned by her youngest brother, Donn Brackett. In 1949, with 4 children, her husband Frank Nevins along with her 2 brothers Robert and Donn and her father Clarence built the cabin which became the "Full House" and still stands as the Nevins camp. Virginia grew up at the lake and then raised her 8 children there. As one of the youngest of eight I knew only a life which included summer at the lake, swimming, canoeing or sailing, hikes to the quarry, singing round the campfire, going to Donns for icecream, and all those poker games! Virginia reveled in her summers in New Hampshire and was best known for her daily swim from White's beach to Turtle Rock...everyone recognized her strong rhythmic crawl and her bathing capped head as she made her daily swim and then sat on the flat brown rock to rest and meditate before returning to the beach. Virginia served for several years on the Laurel Lake Association Board and contributed her famous coleslaw to the annual chicken barbecue. Many members of her NH "family" attended her funeral services in Athol as a tribute to "The Queen of Turtle Rock" and the Nevins family was very touched by your attendance. Laurel Lake has lost another dear friend and advocate...she will be missed. (Jaye Nevins)



2008 Photo of Virginia Brackett Nevins & Donn Brackett
courtesy of Dorothy Hobson



CLEAN LAKE, CLEAN US

We all want a healthy, clean Laurel Lake. If we didn't care about that, we probably wouldn't be members of the Laurel Lake Association. In addition to excessive nitrogen, excessive phosphorus (usually in the form of phosphates) is also deadly to lakes and rivers. Excessive phosphorus can accelerate plant and algae growth. This can make lakes weedy and unpleasant to swim in and use water craft. Additionally, as the plants and algae die, the bacteria residue consumes oxygen, leaving less for fish and other aquatic life that need oxygen to survive. This can turn lakes and rivers green and cloudy and smelly. Laurel Lake is a healthy lake with little algae, clear water and balanced phosphorus levels. However, the clarity of our water is degrading. (See water monitoring report on page 11.)

Phosphorus is a naturally occurring element but also added to detergents and cleaners to make them more effective. It is also a component of fertilizers and use of low or no phosphorus fertilizer is strongly urged, especially in New Hampshire where there is little need to add phosphorus to ground soil. But what about cleaners for the home and for us? Many cleaners contain phosphorus and the residue of the cleaners go straight into our ground water and eventually percolate into lakes, rivers and the oceans. What you use for cleaners at Laurel Lake and at home, if you don't live here year round, impact your water supply. Maybe you've seen photographs of the mouth of the Mississippi River or Chesapeake Bay with large swaths of dead zones which once held shellfish beds and great fishing areas. These dead areas are due to the outflow of water hundreds of miles away that is loaded with nitrogen and phosphorus. Our tax dollars and water bills go towards clean up of these types of areas and filtering of our drinking water.

So, we know phosphorus (and nitrogen) is bad for water. Every article I've read about this topic has said to use phosphorus/phosphate free cleaners/detergents. That's a great idea but most of the articles never say which products are phosphorus/phosphate free. Many products proudly label their clean and environmentally safe status but what about shampoo? What about hand soaps? How many hundreds of types of cleaners and personal cleaning products are on the shelves of stores? Unless you are willing to spend significant time reading the labels on all the products you buy, you're likely to pick up whatever you've been buying and maybe feeling a little guilty about not being 'greener'.

Thanks to the vast information you can get from the Internet, I've researched a lot of products to find those that are at least phosphorus/phosphate free. I also contacted three major beauty product manufacturers to ask about phosphorus in their products. Below is a list of products I've found that are phosphorus free and reasonably easy to obtain. There are many other products that sound great but can only be bought on the internet or are only available overseas. This list isn't all inclusive and I can't personally vouch for all the products. (I'm not a 'Consumers Report' grade tester.) But, some of the products are recommended by Consumers Reports, credible bloggers and other sources. And, some products are 'greener' than others. Many phosphate free products still contain chlorine, dyes, and other chemicals so the greener and healthier you want to be, the more you need to read product labels. If the label says not to use around children or pets, then you probably don't want to use it all. Some of the best known of greenest products are Seventh Generation, Ecover, Method, Nature Clean, Mrs. Meyer's. Martha Stewart has a line of cleaning products available at Home Depot. Proctor & Gamble told me that none of their shampoos, conditioners, personal cleansing bars or body washes contain phosphorus. I recommend you at least switch to phosphorus free products, to protect Laurel Lake's water and your water at home.

Phosphorus/Phosphate Free Products:

Laundry Detergent: All brands sold in the U.S., as phosphates in laundry detergents were banned in 1993.

Dish Detergent: Seventh Generation, Method, Palmolive ECO+, Dawn concentrated liquid, Dawn botanicals, Ecover, Mrs. Meyer's, Martha Stewart, Trader Joe's, President's Choice, Nature Clean, Earth Friendly Products Ultra Dishmate.



Automatic Dishwasher Detergent: Seventh Generation Auto dishwashing gel & pacs, Mrs. Meyer's Automatic dishwashing pacs, Method Smarty tabs, Ecover, Palmolive gel, Martha Stewart, Cascade, Sun & Earth, Simplicity, Wave.

Note: In August, 2009 New Hampshire passed a bill that bans the sale of automatic dishwashing detergents that contain phosphorus. The law goes into effect July, 2010. Many other states, including Massachusetts, Vermont, Minnesota, Virginia, Maryland and Washington, have also banned these products.

Liquid Hand Soap: Method Natural Moisturizing hand wash, Aveeno Ultra Calming foam cleaner, Ecover hand soap, Mrs. Meyer's liquid soaps, Martha Stewart, Nature Clean liquid soap.

Bar Hand Soap: Tom's of Maine, Savon Goat's Milk soap bars, Method Natural Moisturizing body bar, Nature Clean bar soap.

Shampoo & Conditioners: Burt's Bees; Dr. Bronners; any Proctor & Gamble products including Olay, Pantene, Head & Shoulders, Herbal Essence, Aussie; Suave; Aveeno baby wash & shampoo; Herbal Choice; Tea Tree.

General Purpose Cleaners: Clorox Green Works spray cleaner; Seventh Generation; Bio-Kleen; Dirtex; 20 Mule Team Borax powder; Ecover; Mrs. Meyer's Surface Scrub & all purpose spray cleaner, Martha Stewart, Nature's Source, Fantastik Orange & Heavy Duty, 409 Cleaner.

Glass Cleaner: Clorox Clear Works, Windex (regular), Nature's Source Windex, Martha Stewart, Mr. Clean.

Kathy Olson

* * * * *
 * To encourage the use of these products, the Laurel Lake Association has joined *
 * with the Fitzwilliam Depot Store to stock a small supply of hand soaps (liquid & *
 * bar), general purpose cleaner and dish detergent that are phosphorus free. If you *
 * run out at your camp or lake house, stop by the Depot Store to replenish. *
 * * * * *

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The current membership numbers for the 2009 membership year are:

269 Adult

14 Children

7 Youth

285 Total members in 154 Households

The final numbers for 2008 were: 216 Total members in 114 Households.

As always, thanks for your continued support.

Perry Nadeau



THE REGATTA IS A WINNER!

The annual Dresser-Friedman Regatta, which had been rescheduled from August, was rescheduled for Labor Day weekend due to the small field of entries. Beth Samuels circulated flyers about the change of dates, and it was listed in the Fitzwilliam Newsletter.

The race was held on Saturday, September 5th at 11:00 am of Labor Day weekend. The field included five sunfish with Joe Pagano acting as Commodore for the event. The bright sunshine and brisk breeze made it a perfect day for sailing. Spectators enjoyed following the colorful sails as the boats wove their way around the lake. The firm, northerly wind ensured that there would be a fast pace. Patrick McNamara came in first with a time of 37 minutes. Bill Samuels placed second and was followed by the third place-winning duo of Harrison Wasserbauer and Harry Heyman. A new entry, name unknown, but a resident of Spicer Point Road, was lured from his first day of sailing into participating in the race. He valiantly gave it his all, but this was too challenging a day for a first-timer. Bravo to all who participated!



Following the race refreshments were served at the Dresser cottage and Jay McNamara presented trophies to the winners. It was a convivial gathering with much discussion about the scheduling of the race. There seemed to be a consensus that it is beneficial to keep the Saturday of Labor Day weekend as the consistent calendar spot for the regatta. Anchoring the date would be particularly beneficial to families who share cottages and for students who wish to participate but have college or school events around which the regatta could be scheduled. Of note, many of the families who initiated the regatta have children who have grown up and/or relocated. We encourage all of those who are interested in sailing to hone your skills and bring the kids and grandkids back to the lake for this annual tradition.



By Beth Samuels

Photos by Caitlin Pawlowski

Left to right: Harry Heyman, Harrison Wasserbauer, Patrick McNamara, Bill Samuels and Jay McNamara



FITZWILLIAM'S NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

Did you know:

- There are 7 ponds and 1 lake (Laurel) in Fitzwilliam that range in size from 20 acres (Stone Pond) to 155 acres (Laurel Lake). They also range in depth from 10 feet (Scott, Sip and Sportsman ponds) to nearly 48 feet (Laurel Lake). Laurel Lake's depth makes it the only body of water in town that supports trout.
- Laurel Lake and Rockwood Pond are classified as oligotrophic, characterized by low phosphorus, clean water and low algae and rooted plant population. The other ponds have high phosphorus, low clarity of water and an abundance of algae and plants.
- 34 mammal species have been identified in Fitzwilliam, ranging from raccoons, deer, coyote and skunk to black bears, moose, opossum and otter. 9 types of amphibians and 14 types of reptiles have been identified.
- The bird population identified in Fitzwilliam is extensive – 85 species, including bald eagles, osprey and loons seen on Laurel Lake and woodpeckers, orioles, hawks and hummingbirds seen around it.

All of this information and more is in Fitzwilliam's Natural Resources Inventory. The inventory is the first step in development of a plan to preserve the rural features of the town. The inventory is a treasure trove of information about Fitzwilliam: geology, topography, wetlands, soils, wildlife, aquifers, and conservation land. The report also includes recommendations on land conservation and next steps for open space planning. As stated in the report, Fitzwilliam will likely grow but by planning growth in areas that do not heavily impact natural resources, soil and water are protected.

Here's more:

- Fitzwilliam's population in 2009 is approximately 2292 people.
- There are 75 miles of road in town
- There are 14 dams in town and the one at the south end of Laurel Lake is owned by Fleur de Lis camp.
- There are 1,159 acres of state and town conservation lands in town and an additional 478 acres that are private easements, most of which allow hiking, cross country skiing, snowmobiling and are good sites for wildlife viewing. A listing and map of all the conservation land is in the inventory.
- Laurel Lake is surrounded by Brigham Hill South on its east side, Webb Hill of its north end and Hayden Hill on its west side, which may explain the lack of TV antennae reception from places by the lake!

The Natural Resources Inventory is an informative document about the town with 14 maps detailing geological, aquatic, topographical and land use information. Extensive effort from numerous volunteers went into researching and compiling all this information which supports the interests of the Laurel Lake Association. A copy can be bought for \$20 from the Land Use Administrative Assistant (Sandra Gillis) at Town Hall and a copy is available for review at the town library.



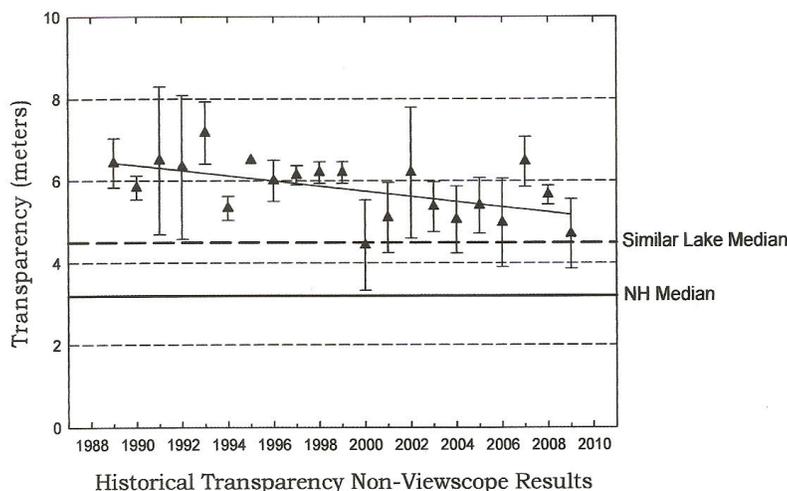
Kathy Olson



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2009 LAKE MONITORING RESULTS

Our lake monitoring group that participates in the NH Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP) collected water samples at the lake's deepest spot (about 45 ft.) and at three swimming areas in June, July and August of 2009. Additional samples were collected at tributaries that flow into the lake to look for sources of nutrients and coliform bacteria. Samples were analyzed in the state's DES laboratory in Concord for a number of biological, chemical and physical parameters.

Transparency: A key finding was that the transparency of the lake, although better than the NH median for all lakes **declined (worsened)** relative to the prior two years and continued to be significantly less than it was 10-20 years ago. The graph below shows the average historical transparency of the lake from the time monitoring began in 1989 to 2009. The sloping trend line shows the decreasing transparency during that period. These data show that the lake's transparency has **significantly worsened** in the past decade related to the prior decade.



A key contributor to decreased transparency is storm water runoff that washes soil particles, contaminants and the nutrients for the growth of algae and microorganisms into the lake. Since 2005 New Hampshire has had an increased number of severe storms. Also, May to September 2009 was the 4th wettest summer on record for Concord, NH in 140 years. Clearing, disturbing the soil, construction, and steep driveways and walkways to the shore (all of which we continue to see around the lake) also increase runoff into the lake. Natural events like the 2008 ice storm that damaged or felled many trees also surely impacted on the water quality.

Chlorophyll-a: Although all that rain also increased the nutrients that were carried into the lake, the significant decrease in the transparency of the lake in recent years does not appear to be due to an increase in algae and cyanobacteria. This conclusion is based on the finding that Chlorophyll-a, which microscopic plants and bacteria use by photosynthesis to make food, has **decreased** in Laurel Lake since sampling began in 1989, and the overall concentration in 2009 was **slightly less** than both the state and similar lake medians.

Although no increase in chlorophyll-a was detected last year, more cyanobacteria than usual were found in August in the deep spot sample, and the VLAP biologist noted high concentrations at several locations along the shore. Some cyanobacteria can be toxic to humans and animals when they are present in high numbers. Last summer there were some public beach advisories or health warnings at nearby lakes because of cyanobacteria blooms. This microorganism produces a blue-green pigment that may impart a blue, green or pink color to the water. The wind and currents can cause the cyanobacteria to form a scum that accumulates in one area. Everyone should watch for these blooms, especially later in the summer and fall. Please report a suspected bloom to one of the volunteer monitors who will see that DES is contacted. The scum will be tested to determine whether it contains toxin producing cyanobacteria. DES strongly advises against using lake water for consumption, since in-home water treatment systems and boiling the water will not eliminate cyanobacteria toxins if they are present.

(continued on Page 12)



(Lake Monitoring results continued from page 11)

E. coli concentrations (an indicator of fecal contamination) in all routine VLAP samples collected at the north beach, south beach and swim club were very low and ***much less than*** the state standard for safe swimming. DES also monitors public swimming beaches. On two occasions during the summer *E. coli* concentrations above the state standard for swimming were found at the public beach and a beach advisory was posted. Both events followed heavy rain and *E. coli* concentrations soon returned to safe levels.

Please note that any nutrients added to the lake will result in more growth of algae and bacteria. It is very important for shore residents to actively reduce the amount of nutrients washing into the lake by not using fertilizer on lawns, keeping the shore line natural, replanting cleared areas within the watershed, and properly maintaining septic systems and roads.

It is important to stabilize the shoreline to prevent heavy rain from carrying sediment into the lake. Not clearing to the lake edge and keeping those trees and shrubs will help to protect water quality. There is a very helpful article about minimizing the impact of storm events on the VLAP website:

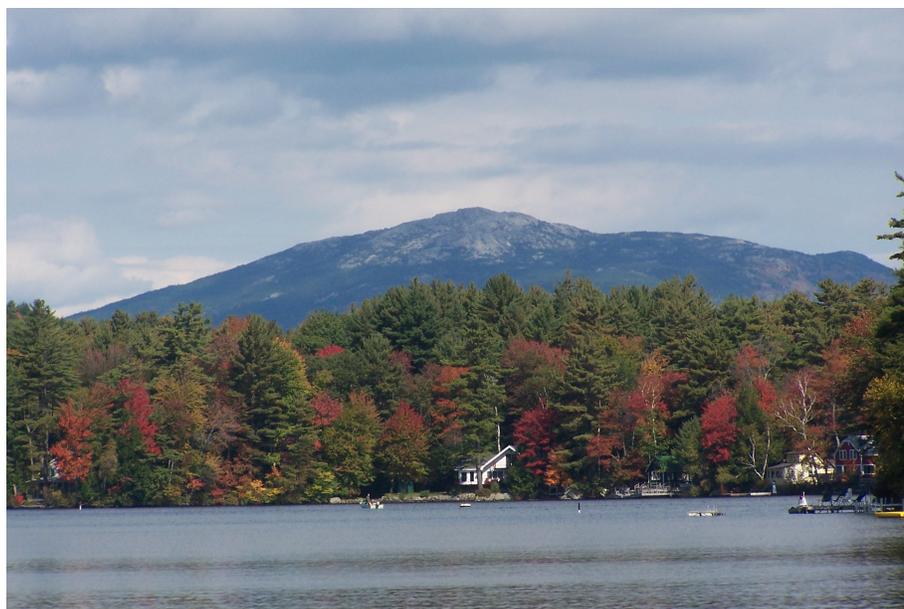
http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/vlap/annual_reports/2008/documents/appendix_d.pdf

Volunteer lake monitors in 2009 were Linda Anderson, Barbara Green, Fred Krompegal, Phyllis Lurvey, Perry and Roberta Nadeau, Kathy Olson and Daniel Shrives.

Note: Information in this report was included in the 2009 Interim Report for Laurel Lake, Volunteer Lake Assessment Program NH Department of Environmental Services. The full report is available on the web at:

http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/vlap/annual_reports/2009/index/htm

Contributed by Barbara Green





2009 WEED WATCH—LAUREL LAKE

Once again this year the weed watcher volunteers have reported NO exotic weeds in Laurel Lake. Ten of us did surveys on different sections of the lake in July and then again parts of the lake were done in August. The weather this year did limit the days on which we could do a survey.

On each report the watchers reported more weeds than in the past years but again nothing to be overly concerned about. We did find many more pond weeds, some of which were quite prolific. They had lots of grassy like growth from the bottom with small leaves floating on the surface. Also they were in deeper water. There also were some new species found around the inlet by lot 106 and others found by the inlet near the Anderson's house and in the area around the girl's camp pier. Also we noticed many more lily pads near the 3 markers out from Barbara Green's house.

All in all we are in good shape. Amy Smagula from DES in NH was very helpful in identifying some of the weeds which were new to us. I also want to thank all the weed watchers who have done such a wonderful job – Linda Daigle, Bill Townsend, Beth Samuels, Kathy Olson, Linda Anderson, Mary Ann Perry, Greg Gardner, Catherine and Brad Greely, and Barbara Green.

Respectfully submitted, Debby Nance

LOON REPORT— 2009 to 2010

Last year was the first year that the Loon Preservation Committee invited the Laurel Lake Association to participate in the Annual Census of the Loon population in New Hampshire. As well, the Committee visited the lake several times to observe the birds. What they discovered were a mature pair of Loons and an immature bird feeding on the lake. The loons also seem to spend their time flying between Laurel Lake and Sportsman Pond. On July 18, 2009, the Census was conducted by five observers. One mature bird was spotted at the South end of the lake while the other bird was found sleeping at Sportsman Pond. The immature Loon was not seen at either location. This year, the Loon Census will be conducted on July 17, 2010 between the hours of 8:00 and 9:00 A.M. at Laurel Lake and Sportsman Pond. Volunteers are welcomed to observe and record all activity by the birds. Reports can be submitted to the Loon Preservation Committee, 183 Lee's Mill Road, P.O. Box 604, Moultonborough, NH 03254. Their phone number is 603-476-LOON and their website is www.loon.org.

Steve Olson



2009 - 2010 OFFICERS

Cal Perry - President	Perry Nadeau - Vice President
Liz Young/ Anne Korjeff - Secretary	Jeannette Gardner - Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jack Dumont	2010	Charley Brackett	2011
Rob Prunier	2010	Open	2011
Terry Silverman	2010	James Baldwin	2012
Phil Walling	2010	Barbara Green	2012
Phyllis Lurvey	2011	Kathy Olson	2012
Steve Olson	2011	Jeffrey Prunier	2012
		George Graf	Honorary

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Steve Olson	Editor Laurel Lake Ledger
Barbara Green	Water Testing Committee
Debby Nance	Weed Survey
Barbara Dumont	Nominating
Jack & Barbara Dumont	Annual Meeting/Family Picnic
Charley Brackett	Canoe/Kayak Race
Rob Prunier	Dresser-Friedman Sunfish Regatta
Jacqui Woodruff	T & Sweatshirts & Hats
Perry Nadeau	Membership/Boat Rules
Terry Silverman	4th of July Celebration
Maureen Kennedy	Swim Club Representative

Visit our Web Site at: www.LaurelLakeAssn.com



LAUREL LAKE ASSOCIATION TREASURER'S REPORT

Year Ending November 15, 2009

<u>Expenditures:</u>		<u>Income:</u>		<u>Difference:</u>
T-shirts	\$1,170.44	T-shirts	\$1,736.00	\$ 565.56+
Membership	\$ 221.77	Membership	\$2,650.00	\$2,428.23+
Canoe Race	\$1,143.25	Canoe Race	\$ 991.00	-\$ 152.25
Donations	\$ 100.00	Donations	\$ 275.00	\$ 175.00+
Flares	\$ 0.00	Flares	\$ 735.00	\$ 735.00+
Water Testing	\$1,100.00	Interest	\$ 3.92	
Conference	\$ 288.15			
Band Concert	\$ 200.00			
Ledger	\$ 312.39			
NH Lakes Ass. dues	\$ 300.00			
Regatta	\$ 48.00			
Annual Mtg.	\$ 268.92			
Bank Fee	\$ 10.00			
Misc.	\$ 47.04			
Total	\$5,209.96		\$6,390.92	\$1,180.96+

Checking Account

Beginning Balance	\$9,882.72
Carryover	<u>+1,180.96</u>
New Balance	\$11,063.68
Withdrawals for CDs	<u>- 6,500.00</u>
Current Balance	\$4,563.68

Certificates of Deposit

	<u>Maturity Date</u>	
\$12,044.63	9/17/2011	previous CD
1,000.00	6/28/2010	new CD
1,000.00	4/8/2011	new CD
1,000.00	9/8/2011	new CD
1,500.00	11/28/2011	new CD
<u>2,000.00</u>	10/26/2011	new CD
\$18,544.63		

Total Assets: \$23,108.31

**Respectfully submitted,
Jeannette Gardner, Treasurer**

2009 CANOE & KAYAK RACE RESULTS

The 19th annual canoe and kayak race was held on yet another beautiful day. The race drew 27 boats with 59 participants and many more spectators. 10 children participated in the children's race, with 8 being girls from Camp Fleur de Lis. The 5 mile race drew 11 participants and the 2.5 mile race had 22 participants, with over 50% being Association members or family of members. Reversing last year's race, there were more canoes than kayaks.

This year will be the **20th** annual race. Charley Brackett instituted the race and ran all of them, devoting endless hours and boundless energy into them. He is planning some special things for this year's landmark race so plan on participating or watching. He would welcome new volunteers.

2009 Race Winners:

5 Mile Race

OC-1 Racing—John Kazimierczyk
 Recreation—David Arcaro & Daniel Arcaro
 Men's Canoe—Steve Nyman & Chris Nyman
 Mixed Canoe—Tom Warner & Kristin Warner

Children's Race—3/4 mile

Girl's Canoe—Callie Towles & Katie Livingston
 Girl's Kayak—Lauren Micou
 Boy's Kayak—Ryan Carr

2.5 Mile Race

Women's Canoe—Katie Geldart & Julie Arcaro
 Men's Canoe—Evan Woodruff & Zac Gardner
 Men's Solo Canoe—Dan Corey
 Jr/Sr Canoe—Jerry Whaland & Mike Mattson
 Mixed Canoe—Cheryl Mahoney & Dan Mahoney
 Women's Kayak—Danielle Hill
 Men's Kayak—J.R. Geldart
 Double Kayak—Chad Hill & Ethan Hill

Tug 'O' War Winner:

Glenn Pierce & Dan Corey

1st Annual Canoe/Kayak Race Winners—1991



1st place canoe Bryan Bradley, John Bradley
 2nd place canoe Damon Mahoney, Dan Mahoney
 3rd place canoe Wayne Rigg, Jim Flaherty
 1st place kayak Daniel Jackson
 2nd place kayak Bob Courtemanche



Kelly Desreuisseau, age 12, and Erin Mahoney, age 11, crossing the finish line of the children's race with a time of 15 minutes, 8 seconds.



Fitzwilliam Town Library is 2009 New Hampshire Library of the Year



Fitzwilliam’s town library was voted the 2009 Library of the Year by New Hampshire’s Library Trustees Association. This is probably no surprise to those of us who use the library but is an honor nonetheless. The honor is based upon programming, activities in the previous year and the support the library receives from the community. The library saw their patronage increase by 12% in 2008 and added hours and programs to their schedules. The library is strongly supported by the town and over half of the funds needed for the addition built five years ago came from donations from the town. The library also added wireless Internet service – free! – that is accessible within the library and from the outside porch and parking lot when the library is closed.

The library offers a wealth of resources: a good collection of books with monthly additions of new releases, an up-to-date selection of DVDs, children’s books and children’s programs, public access computers, magazines and local newspapers, art and historical exhibits, a local history archive and community information. Town residents are well aware of this gem but summer property owners may not realize they can also get a library card, available to any Fitzwilliam taxpayer. You don’t have to bring in a tax bill to prove it; they’ll check a copy of the town report.

The library is staffed by library director Susan Massin and assistant librarian Kate Thomas. Hours are Monday, 2-8 p.m.; Tuesday, 2-6 p.m.; Wednesday, 9-12 a.m. and 2-8 p.m.; Thursday, 2-6 p.m.; Saturday, 9-12 a.m. It is closed Friday and Sunday. Stop by to visit the library and see what it has to offer. You’ll probably run into someone you know.



Boat Parade



Five boats participated in the August 1 Parade of Boats around Laurel Lake. The boats were decorated to the theme of the new slogan for the Association: “Laurel Lake– A Little Spot of Heaven”. The theme was interpreted as:



*Knocking on Heaven’s Door (with a decorated door)

*Angels (a boat of angels from Camp Fleur de Lis)



*A lot of \$\$\$ - A Bit of Heaven

*Heaven Can Wait—We’re at Laurel Lake



Lots of spectators lined the shore and applauded the boats as they slowly went around the lake twice.



But, a lot more boats are out there and can participate this year. Our theme this year is based on the letter ‘F’. Fishing, football, flying, fruit, flowers, frozen drinks (?), fun in the sun....





ELLIOT INSTITUTE
CONCERTS ON THE FITZWILLIAM COMMON
SUMMER 2010

Table with 2 columns: Date and Band Name. Includes entries for July 22, 29, August 5, 12, and August 19.

All events are free, begin at 7:00 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m. Bring a lawn chair or blanket. In case of rain, the event will be held on the 2nd floor of Fitzwilliam Town Hall.

For further information, contact Susan Massin at the Fitzwilliam Town Library. The Elliot Institute is an organization devoted to providing cultural events to the town, thanks to an endowment in the 1920s from a summer resident.

Support Our Local Merchants!

Activities of the Laurel Lake Association have been supported over the years by donations of goods and services from many of our local merchants and families. The annual canoe/kayak race has a popular raffle with many of the prizes donated from local businesses.

- List of local merchants: Depot General Store, Dragon Palace, Bottoms Up Discount Beverage, Casey J's, Camp Fleur de Lis, Bullocks Farm Stand (#4 Road), Birds & Things, Pelletier's Sport Shop, Harvest Thyme Herbs.

Do you have articles or ideas for the Laurel Lake Ledger? We would welcome them. Please send them to: Steve Olson, email is: ksolson@bigplanet.com.



2010 Laurel Lake Association Membership Form

Membership Dues are \$10.00 for Adult Memberships and \$5.00 for children under 18

Each Household of paid-up members will be mailed a copy of the **Laurel Lake Ledger**

Members

Last Name	First Name	Membership Type	Amount
_____	_____	A C	_____
_____	_____	A C	_____
_____	_____	A C	_____
_____	_____	A C	_____
_____	_____	A C	_____
If you wish, you may also include an additional donation to help support the association		Donation Amount	_____
		Total	_____

Permanent Address

Street _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone Number _____ E-Mail Address _____

Summer Address

Same as above

Street _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone Number _____

All Applications and checks should be mailed to: Laurel Lake Association
 Perry Nadeau
 5 Sunrise Lane
 Fitzwilliam, NH 03447

Solicitor Laurel Lake Ledger Canoe Race Other _____

Thank you for your contribution
 Visit us on the world wide web at <http://www.LaurelLakeAssn.com>

Laurel Lake Association
5 Sunrise Lane
Fitzwilliam, NH 03447

