

The Laurel Lake Ledger

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Panoramic View of Labor Day Ragatta on Laurel Lake. Mount Monadnock is in the distance.

Photograph by Anne R. Korjeff

TAX REVOLT ON SPOFFORD LAKE PAYS OFF

By: Elizabeth Crowley, Keene Sentinel

CHESTERFIELD - Tax rebates have been ordered for people who own property along Spofford Lake - which means higher bills for people who live elsewhere in town.

The town government must refund 35 percent of 1991 tax bills paid by the lake-front property owners who filed suit, challenging the town's tax policies, Judge Arthur D. Brennan ruled in Cheshire County Superior Court.

Brennan also ordered 2 percent reductions in their bills from 1992 through 1995.

In essence, the court found that taxes were artificially high around Spofford Lake.

That had the effect of lowering the tax bills of other property owners in town. Now, because of the court ruling, the town government - and, so, owners of other property - must make amends.

The rebates could total hundreds of thousands of dollars, and that money would have to come from the other property owners in town.

Specifics on how Chesterfield's tax bills - for lake-front owners, and those inland - aren't clear yet. Nor have town officials talked yet about appealing the judge's ruling, which was issued Wednesday.

"There is no comment yet. I haven't even read the decision," Selectman James E. Machleid said this morning.

Property along the lake accounts for more than 20 percent of the town's total of about \$253 million in taxable property.

Twenty percent of \$253 million is \$50.6 million. Using last year's tax rate - \$19.03 per \$1,000 of assessed value - the taxes on property worth \$50.6 million would have been \$962,918.

A 35 percent rebate on \$962,918 would be \$337,021; a 2 percent rebate would be \$19,258.

If divided equally among the 130 property owners who filed suit, the 35 percent rebate, based on last year's tax figures, would be nearly \$2,600 per landowner. However, the rebated money won't be split equally, because there's a big range of value for lake-front properties.

A four-year battle

Four years ago, 130 of the 240 landowners along Spofford Lake sued the town government, alleging that a 1989 revaluation of their property was unfair and that their property-tax bills had jumped 250 percent in 1991.

Brennan ruled that a sample of property

sales showed lake houses were assessed at 164 percent of their actual sale price in 1991, and 117 percent of fair market value in 1992.

Since the rest of the town's property assessments averaged 106 percent of market value, Brennan ordered the 35 percent reduction in 1991; because the lake-front property was assessed at an average of 102 percent of selling prices after revaluation in 1992, when the rest of the town was at 100 percent, Brennan ordered the 2 percent drop for the next three years.

Part of the tax problem stems from the go-go real-estate years in the 1980s. During that decade, the value of Spofford Lake property went through the roof. Today, even a relatively modest, seasonally used house that sits on the lake may be assessed at \$250,000.

Town officials labored to keep pace with the surging real-estate market, bumping up assessments on the basis of sales. However, when the market nose-dived in the late 1980s, they again had trouble keeping up with the changes - and that's how property assessments wound up exceeding actual market values.

About half of the property owners who filed the tax-challenge lawsuit live year-round in the Monadnock Region; the rest own vacation homes on the lake, but live most of the year elsewhere, some as far away as California and Florida.

Andrew R. Cay, president of the Spofford Lake-Front Taxpayers Association, said Wednesday, he was pleased with Brennan's ruling.

"It shows that we had a legitimate complaint here," Cay said.

Brennan's order on the 35 percent refunds was a victory for lake-front plaintiffs, Cay said.

But the 2 percent reductions for the following three years appear contradictory, he said.

State laws governing taxes say that if a town loses a tax appeal, as Chesterfield has, town officials cannot increase the rate of assessment on the winner of the appeal in subsequent disputed years.

And that's what appears to happen in Brennan's ruling.

The Chesterfield town government revalued property in town in 1992, lowering assessments along the lake by 24

THE LARGEST SUNFISH REGATTA TO DATE:

By: Jay McNamara

Fourteen Sunfish class sailboats (12 Sunfish, 1 Aqua Finn, and 1 Phantom) milled about the pre-start area. This is the largest fleet of boats for the Annual Laurel Lake Regatta. The colorful fleet was viewed by many spectators, both on shore and afloat.

With the starting line set at the South end of the lake, the fleet took the starting horn tightly grouped. Heading to the West side of the lake and the first mark, Rob Jackson led, with the fleet close behind.

The second mark, set in the cove on the East side, saw sailors taking different lines, as the wind shifted in many directions. Rob also led at the second mark, followed by Bill Chase and Patrick McNamara close astern. The last boat rounded the mark five minutes behind the leaders.

After rounding this mark, the fleet split with some of the leaders heading to the middle of the lake, others following close to shore. Many of the trailers saw the boats

that went to the middle of the lake had consistent wind and made big gains on the leaders, heading for the third mark, Sunken Island. At the third rounding, Rob was still in the lead, Gretchen and David Prunier made the biggest gain rounding in second, with Bill Chase in third.

The fleet then headed for the start/finish line at the South end of the lake. This reach/run proved very frustrating for many sailors, who had boats pass them, 10 - 15 feet to either side as they stood still. As the leaders closed in on the finish line, Rob and Bill were tacking to stay with each other and the wind. Rob was able to get to windward of Bill and cross the finish line a Bow Handle ahead. This was the closest finish in memory, remarked many of the spectators. In third was the youngest solo sailor, Patrick McNamara. With fourth place going to Gretchen and David Prunier, with fifth place going to the oldest solo sailor, Gardner Dresser.



Winners of the 1995 Labor Day Ragatta (left to right), Bill Chase 2nd place, Robert Jackson 1st place, Patrick McNamara 3rd place, Jay McNamara, Commodore of the race (behind Patrick).

percent.

Add on Brennan's 2 percent reduction, and lake-front owners' property assessments drop 26 percent - below the 35 percent

tax-bill rebate Brennan ordered in 1991.

Cay said the lake-front owners' attorney, Gary J. Kinyon, plans to ask Brennan to clarify the order.

WATER QUALITY IMPROVES ON LAUREL LAKE

By: Don Treat

THE 1995 REPORT OF THE LAUREL LAKE WATER TESTING COMMITTEE

Table I: Water Testing Results 1989-1995

Year	Clarity (ft.)	ph	ANC (mg/L)	Color	Phos. (ug/L)	Conduct (uMhos)	Cholorophyll-a (ug/)
1989	21	6.36	1.70	9	4	48.7	7.71
1990	19	6.50	1.40	11	6	48.6	4.21
1991	21	6.61	2.20	6	8	48.2	3.34
1992	22	6.52	2.66	9	5	46.6	4.82
1993	23 1/2	6.60	2.65	8	3.5	48.1	3.37
1994	17 1/2	6.43	2.30	10	9.5	50.2	4.50
1995	21 1/4	6.55	2.50	18	5.6	49.1	2.29

Table I displays the averaged results from monthly tests in each of the annually monitored parameters (clarity, ph, ANC, etc.). The water samples in this table were collected each year at approximately the same time (10-11AM), at approximately the same location (over the lake's maximum depth), at the same depths (2 meters except for Chlorophyll-a), and close to the same dates in June, July & August. Uncontrollable variables include wind, sunlight, tree pollination, and boating activity.

The Clarity or transparency of 21 1/4 ft. is exceptional when compared to the average of 12 1/2 ft. for New Hampshire lakes. The clarity is measured by determining the maximum depth at which a black and white reflective object (Secchi disc) can be seen. The disturbing 6 ft. drop in clarity in '94 was apparently due to transient problems.

The average pH this year of 6.55 is certainly an improvement over 6.43 in 1994, and we can hope the lake continues to become less acidic. A pH between 6.5 and 7.5 is ideal for the survival and reproduction of fish and other aquatic life. The average pH for N. H. lakes is 6.0.

Acid Neutralizing Capacity or buffering capacity, expressed as mg/L of calcium carbonate, refers to the ability of the lake to resist changes in pH by neutralizing acidic inputs.

The average ANC for N.H. lakes is 6.5. Although Laurel Lake water has low buffering capacity and remains vulnerable to additional acid, it is no longer at a critical level (ANC below 2.0).

Color is a visual measure, against standards, of the color of the water. Because the results are based on qualitative comparisons rather than quantitative ones, the values are not precise and observer variations of 5 to 10 points are not unusual. Therefore the apparent increase to 18 is not too trouble-

some. Lakes that appear clear generally have values less than 25, while those with values over 40 are tea-colored.

Phosphorus is the single most important determinant of lake water quality. The results displayed are from the upper layer of lake water (epilimion). In deep water lakes, a partial mixing of layers (inversion) takes place every spring and fall with the cooler, denser water falling and the warmer, less

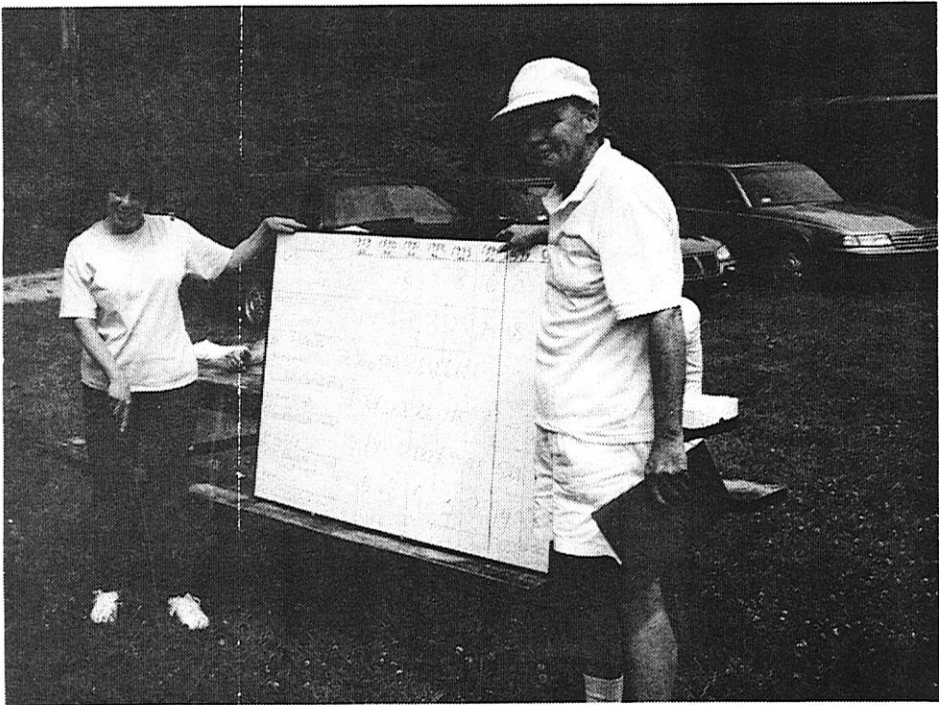
dense water rising. Phosphorus is the nutrient which algae utilize to maintain growth and reproduction. If we can control the phosphorus level we can limit algae and excessive weed growth. The median level of phosphorus in New Hampshire lakes is 11ug/L. The '95 result of 5.6ug/L is good and suggests that the '94 result was an aberration. Good news!

Conductivity is the numerical expression of the ability of water to carry an electrical current. High conductivity may indicate pollution from road runoff, faulty septic systems, shoreland erosion, etc.. The average conductivity of New Hampshire lakes is 56uMhos/cm. Values below 50 are considered good. The value for Laurel Lake this year was 49.1.

Chlorophyll-a is the green pigment found in plants. The average for N.H. lakes is 7.22mg/m3. This year's result of 2.29 is very good. In fact it is the lowest value in seven years, as shown in table I. More good news!

Samples tested for E. Coli were taken from shallow water near North Beach, South Beach (public area) and the Swimming Club. All nine tests were well within the range considered safe for swimming.

Members of the Association who participated in the water sampling process this year were George Graf, Bill Graf, Bruce Knight, Barbara Green, and Don Treat.



Don Treat and Barbara Green discuss 7 years of Water Quality Comparisons of Laurel Lake.

OBITUARY

Pauline K. (Gurney) Dolbeare, 96 Laurel Lake Summer Resident since 1937

KEENE, N.H. - A funeral service was held in the Covell Chapel of the First Parish Congregational Church in Wakefield, MA, at 2 p.m. Tuesday, July 26, 1995 for Pauline K. (Gurney) Dolbeare, 96, of Keene, N. H. formerly of Wakefield.

Mrs. Dolbeare, the wife of Cyrus M. Dolbeare, died on Thursday, July 20, at the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, N.H., following a brief illness. Interment is in the Lakeside Cemetery in Wakefield.

Mrs. Dolbeare was born in Boston on January 15, 1899, the daughter of the late George F. and Harriet B. (Kendall) Gurney.

The family came to Wakefield for three years at the turn of the century, then moved to Forest Hills, N.J., later returning to West Medford and then Wakefield in 1926, where they resided at 10 Crescent St. until their deaths, while in their 80's, in 1849.

Mrs. Dolbeare was graduated from Medford High School with the class of 1917. She was employed by an insurance company in Boston and later by the Charles River Trust Company in Cambridge prior to her marriage to Cyrus M. Dolbeare. She and her husband were married in the West Medford Congregational Church on October 7, 1922 by the Rev. Henry Francis Smith, her pastor, assisted by the Rev. Austin Rice, D.D., pastor of Mr. Dolbeare's church, The First Parish Congregational Church in Wakefield. The couple celebrated their 72nd wedding Anniversary in Fitzwilliam, N.H. in October 1994.

The couple established their home at 4 Eaton St. and in 1924 built the house at 35 Wave Ave., which they occupied for 36 years until moving to 33 Lafayette St., corner of Church Street in July 1960, which they sold in the fall of 1969, upon Mr. Dolbeare's retirement from the Wakefield Item Company after 47 years' affiliation, serving as editor and co-publisher of the Wakefield Daily Item following the death of his father, the late Harris M. Dolbeare, in January, 1938.

They took up residence in the Monadnock Region of New Hampshire, spending part of their time where they had vacationed summers, since 1937, at their cottage on Laurel Lake, Fitzwilliam and the remainder at the Colonial Village Apts. in Keene.

Mr. Cyrus Dolbeare has since sold his residence and cottage on Laurel Lake. He now lives at Langdon Place, 136½ Arch St., Keene, NH 03431

FITZWILLIAM INN SOLD

The Keene Sentinel - January 6, 1996

Members of the McMahon family liked their stays in the Fitzwilliam Inn. So, they did better than tell the management. They became the management.

Four of them bought the inn, right on the town common, from Barbara Wallace, on January 3rd. Her family had owned it for 22 years. Terms of the sale were not released.

The Inn has 21 guest rooms.

One of the new owners, Lois E. McMahon, said the inn's heritage - this year is its 200th in business - will be preserved. "There's no need to change," she said.

Bicentennial celebrations are planned at the inn later this year.

Before she sold the inn, Wallace said she was accepting offers only from applicants committed to keeping the building's historic quality intact.

The McMahons were friendly with the Wallace family, and had visited the inn off and on for 20 years.

Lois McMahon's father, James, brother Mark and brother-in-law August Rodrigues, also help to run the inn. James and Mark were last in the restaurant business near their previous home in Watertown, Mass.

Lois said her father had long pined for an inn of his own.

APPEARANCES

By: Kalen Dow

It was June, the summer of '87. I had decided to return for my second year at Fleur de Lis in Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire.

I got to camp and was given my cabin assignment. My parents and I drove down to the fields to unload my stuff. I met my counselor who was from England. She seemed very nice. I was first to arrive so I unloaded my things and said my goodbyes. I picked the bunk bed near the bathroom which seemed to be a necessity at the age of eight.

It was not long before another girl entered my cabin. She was big and looked like a tomboy. She was very snobby and started giving her mother all kinds of orders. She had her mother put all her things away. Her mother fussed over her, making the bed perfectly with all the shoes lined up neatly under her bed. Her clothes were folded neatly in her trunk. I began to think maybe she thought we were staying for a year not four weeks. I introduced myself and she gave me a weak smile and we sat in silence.

Another girl arrived. She was very tall and wore her hair in pigtails. She wore a sweatshirt with a moose on it. She was very quiet and shy. There were three people in our cabin. I was sure between the tomboy bossing me around and the pigtailed girl not saying anything that this was going to be the worst summer of my life.

I was wrong. The tomboy and the pigtailed girl are my best friends. We have been best friends for eight years. I have gone through a lot with them. They have always been there for me. I learned a very important lesson that summer. Never judge a person by appearance; it's what's within that counts. I had not even given them a chance before I decided I didn't like them. I have grown up with them for eight summers. Camp has taught us to be truly unique. Camp is a place where everyone is included, nobody sits out. No two summers at camp are alike but the lessons you learn stay with you. I've learned that everything can be accomplished and nothing is impossible when friends pull together.

Last summer was my first summer working as a counselor. No longer a camper, I had different jobs and responsibilities. There were times when I just wanted to go and hang out with my best friends but I knew I couldn't. For eight weeks I watched my campers grow and mature as I had. I realized how important I was to them and how much they looked up to me. It meant so much to me just to see smiles on their faces. I taught them what had been taught to me but they not only learned from me, I learned from them. On the last day of camp when we said our goodbyes, each one hugged me and I saw tears. I knew I had done my job. I knew the friendships they made and the memories they had, they would cherish forever. Each one of them holds a special place in my heart and the time spent with them I will never forget.

Kalen "J.K." Dow has spent the last 9 summers at Fleur de Lis, first as a camper and most recently as a Counselor in Training. At August Campfire she became Lady "J.K." and we hope she will spend her 10th summer at camp as a staff member.

BALANCE UP IN TREASURY

Prepared by Don Austin



Don Austin, Treasurer, addresses the membership at the 1995 Annual Meeting.

Laurel Lake Association Treasurer's Report September 30, 1995

	1995	1994	Change
Balance Oct. 1	3268.16	2879.52	388.64
Receipts:			
Memberships	1599.00	1525.00	74.00
Interest	58.71	52.45	6.26
Maps & T shirts	28.00	60.00	-32.00
Donations	10.00	30.00	-20.00
Canoe Race (net)	4.60	14.00	- 9.40
Flares (net)	402.49		402.49
Total	2102.80	1681.45	421.35
	5370.96	4560.97	809.99
Disbursements:			
Water Testing	251.00	161.80	89.20
Ledger	843.66	635.14	208.52
Postage	137.81	63.80	74.01
Annual Meeting	103.53	91.78	11.75
N.H. Lakes Assoc.	100.00	100.00	
Plaques	60.76		60.76
Sunfish Regatta	55.02	40.29	14.73
N.H. Corp. fee	25.00		25.00
Sign		200.00	- 200.00
Total	1576.78	1292.81	283.97
	3794.18	3268.16	526.02
Transfer to C.D.	1400.00		1400.00
Balance Sept. 30	2394.18	3268.16	873.98
C.D.	5404.01	5209.56	194.45
Trans. from chking.	1400.00		1400.00
Balance Sept.30	6804.01	5209.56	1594.45



Bright aquamarine street signs like this one, off West Lake Road, now have sprung up on the landscape. Each Laurel Lake access dirt driveway, from East or West Lake or Howeville Road, now sports an identifying "street" name. All this is part of the new 911 Emergency plan that will help emergency medical, police or fire personnel locate those in need efficiently.

LEGISLATORS AND SELECTPEOPLE SPEAK AT ANNUAL MEETING

By Jack Dumont

The annual meeting of the Laurel Lake Association was held on Saturday, July 8, 1995 at White's Field in the Laurel Lake Campground in Fitzwilliam, NH.

The meeting was called to order by President Phyllis Chase at 10:33 AM.

Jack Dumont, Association Secretary, read the minutes of the Saturday, July 16, 1994 Annual Meeting. On a motion by George Graf and seconded that the minutes be accepted as read, the motion passed unanimously.

Don Austin, Association Treasurer, reported on the financial status of the Association. On a motion by Pat Hersom and seconded that the Treasurer's Report be received as read, the motion passed and passed unanimously.

President Phyllis Chase asked the membership if they wished to continue membership in the New Hampshire Lakes Association as an Associate Member. The motion passed unanimously.

Jack Dumont, Association Secretary, reported that prior to today's meeting, 220 persons had signed up for membership to the Association.

Larry Friedman, Editor and Publisher of the Laurel Lake Ledger, reported on the status of the Association's publication and the need for more participation and varying types of articles by the membership. The membership gave him a round of applause for his efforts.

George Graf reported on the 4th of July Flare Celebration which he orchestrated. He received a warm round of applause from the membership.

Other people whose efforts assist the Association also received recognition. Barb and Jack Dumont for organizing the Annual Family Picnic and Cal Linkenhoker for providing the canopy for the membership.

Don Treat, Chairman of the Water Testing Committee, gave a report on this Spring's testing as compared to previous years (1989). He was assisted by Barbara Green, a member of the Committee. Blue/Green algae was present for the first time this spring. The Committee will continue to watch the findings. Also, the State of New Hampshire has issued a warning about the possible content of mercury in fish caught in New Hampshire lakes. A study is underway.

Barbara Green, who attended the New Hampshire Lake Congress this month, will report to the Board of Directors in September.

Charles Brackett, Chairman of the Canoe/Kayak Race gave information about this year's event. Bob White reported on concerns from last year's event. These were parking, portable toilet, and entrance fees. A committee will be appointed to

evaluate this year's event and meet with Bob White to discuss improvements.

Perry and Roberta Nadeau asked the membership to participate in a P.P.P.P. Party. The Pontoons and Power Boats on Parade Party will take place on Saturday, July 22 (rain date July 23) beginning at Proctor's Point at 5:00 PM. At 6:00 PM, a musical performance by Marc DelGreco, area's finest folk singer will take place. All lake residents and guests are invited.

Arnold Anderson, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented a list of persons to serve as officers and members of the Board of Directors. As officers for two year terms: Jack Dumont, President; Jim Baldwin, Vice President; Susan Wood, Secretary; and Don Austin, Treasurer. As Directors for three year terms: Bruce Knight, Cal Linkenhoker, Larry Friedman, and Don Treat. Phyllis Chase will serve on the Board as the past President. Also to be elected for a two year term, to fill the unexpired term of Susan Wood who will become the Association Secretary, is Liz Young. Charles Brackett will fill the unexpired term of Arnold Anderson which will expire in 1996. On a motion by Shirley Quinn and seconded that the Secretary cast one ballot for the entire slate of officers as presented by the Nominating Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

On a motion by George Graf and seconded that the Associates of Laurel Lake, here assembled, approve the actions of their Officers and Board of Directors since the 1994 Annual Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

On a motion by George Graf and seconded that with an ovation, the Associates, Officers and friends of our Association express their appreciation and gratitude to Phyllis Chase for the devoted and productive leadership she has provided us during her tenure as President.

On a motion by Pat Hersom and seconded that the Annual Meeting of the Laurel Lake Association be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:34 A.M.

President Phyllis Chase introduced a panel of distinguished state legislators and local selectpersons who spoke on state and local issues that effect lake residents. After the panel discussion a question and answer forum was conducted. The participants of this program were Katherine Metzger and Barbara Richardson from the New Hampshire Legislature and Joan Knight and Susan Link representing the Fitzwilliam Selectmen. Robert Jackson, Fire Warden for Fitzwilliam, also participated in the discussion by updating members of the Association on Emergency Services available.



Guest speakers at the Annual Meeting shield themselves from the rain with umbrellas.

CHEVY CHASE COMES TO LAUREL LAKE

Submitted by Anne Korjeff

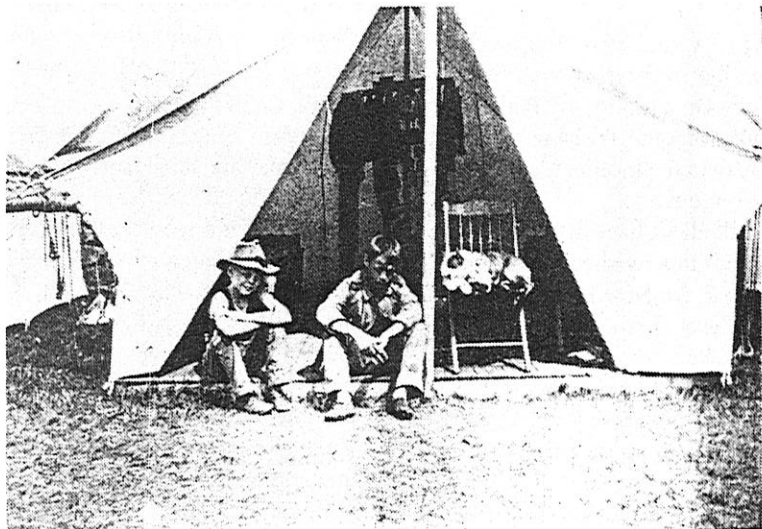
If you had opened The Monadnock Breeze on Friday, July 5, 1901, you would have seen a front page article about the first summer camp in Fitzwilliam: Camp Chevy Chase. According to the newspaper, "The camp (was) located on two upland farms comprising 136 acres ... in the southern part of Fitzwilliam."

The 25 khaki clad boys ranging in age from 12 to 17, lived in 14 regulation army officers tents. Meals were prepared and served at the nearby farmhouse. Activities

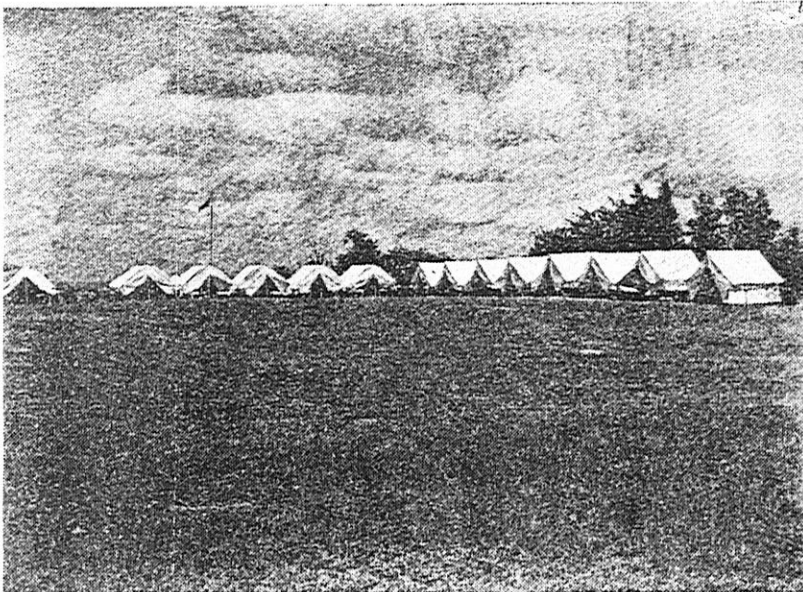
ranged from tennis and golf to fencing and gymnastics. It was a short walk to Laurel Lake where there were boats, swimming floats and a dressing tent.

Can you guess where this camp was located?

Answer: Camp Chevy Chase was located on what is now called Howville Rd. The two "upland farms" are now owned by the Jones family and the Korjeff family.



Boys, ages 12 to 17, live in regulation army officers tents.



Camp Chevy Chase



Opening day of Camp Chevy Chase, July 2, 1901.

SELECTMEN REDUCE PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS

The Town last reevaluated in 1989 at 100% of market value. Since that time, property values have decreased. Our current equalization ration is now 133% (properties are 33% below market value). In an effort to bring the assessed valuations closer to 100%, the Board of Selectmen contracted with their assessor to conduct a study of property sales over the last 3 years. After careful review of the sales study data and with the assessors recommendation, the Board has reduced all land values by 24%, manufactured housing by 15% and

stick-built buildings by 15%. In addition, all shore front property per foot values were reduced. The net result is that the town's total assessed valuation has decreased approximately 20 million dollars. Some taxpayers total tax bill will go up and some will go down. The tax rate per thousand, which has not yet been set by the State of New Hampshire, will increase due to the lower total valuation. If you have any questions after you receive your final 1995 tax bill, please call the selectmen's office.

THE WHITE'S OF FITZWILLIAM

By: Steve Sherman, Monadnock Home Companion

After stops at the Webb Quarry and the railroad depot, the Oct. 21 history tour continued to White's Beach and the Potter-White House.

Sponsored by the Fitzwilliam Historical Society, "The North End of South Pond 1775-1955; History Alive in 1995" tour led by Bob Corrette and Mary Lou Fuller will take town history buffs into the past.

Participants are limited to 30 on a first-come first-serve basis, with preference given to members of the historical society.

They will take a big step into history when the tour arrives at White's Beach and Grove.

"The Whites came over in 1624," said Vi White, sitting on the porch overlooking land near the South Pond (Laurel Lake) shoreline.

Her brother Si added, "William White came over on the Mayflower. His brother stayed in England to finish his college education and came over four years later."

The White family descends from Thomas White, brother of William.

The Whites had a relative in every war of the country, "including the War of 1812," said Mary Lou Fuller.

In 1761, she said, Stephen White was born in Douglas, Mass. At age 15, he ran away from home to join the Revolutionary War. "His old man," Si said, "caught him in a horse and buggy and brought him home. But the next year, when he was 16, he ran away again. This time he went to Vermont and that's where Burgoyne was coming down."

Fuller takes up the story with Ebenezer Potter of Fitzwilliam, who also fought in the Revolutionary War and marched to Quebec with Benedict Arnold. "There were seven men from Fitzwilliam who went on this march and all survived," she said. "Hundreds of men lost their lives."

Kenneth Roberts based his novel "Arundel" on one of the diaries by Ebenezer Tolman of Fitzwilliam.

Potter returned to Fitzwilliam, married and lived to 95 years old in the farmhouse that the White family has lived in for generations.

In 1781, Stephen White walked home to New Hampshire from fighting and received for his more than three years of soldiering a land grant in Fitzwilliam. He is buried in Benson's Burial Ground off Fish Hatchery Road in Richmond, which was once part of Fitzwilliam. His grave is registered with the Sons of the American Revolution.

Stephen's younger son, Silas, born in 1808, bought land on South Pond and exchanged his acreage on West Hill in 1861 for the Potter farm that bordered the South Pond property.

The original Potter farmhouse burned down in 1892. Si White's father rebuilt it and opened it as a guest house in 1905.

"Pop was 15 when the farm burned," he said. "I was born in a camp down there."

"I was born there too," Vi White said. I guess all of us were."

"This was Potter's land grant for fighting in the Revolution," he said.

Wyman White was born to Silas in 1841 and 20 years later ended up fighting in the Civil War. When he returned home to Fitzwilliam, he was suffering from malaria

and malnutrition. He walked a mile and a half through snow to the farmhouse and wrote about it in his Civil War diary. (The diary has been edited by Russell C. White, a distant relative, and recently published; it's available at the Fitzwilliam Town Library and for sale at the Blake House Country Store.)

Wyman White is buried in the Village Cemetery.

Wyman's younger brother Henry Clay White operated the Fitzwilliam Depot store, where he was also the postmaster. When the original Potter farmhouse burned in 1892, he rebuilt and opened it in 1905 as a guest house called The Potter Place.

Henry's son Stephen (born in 1877) helped run Potter Place, farmed and harvested ice from South Pond. He hauled vegetables and milk by flat-bottom boat to summer folk around the pond and became storekeeper and postmaster.

In 1922 he opened White's Grove to campers; 75 to 100 newfangled automobiles could park for a fee. Ice cream and cold drinks were sold, canoes rented.

Stephen had five children (Si, Vi, Grace, Robert and John). Si, the oldest son, bought out his sisters and brothers to develop the Laurel Lake Campground on the old farm property. His daughter, Ann, now owns and operates the facility.

The White family served in military conflicts of the Colonies, the Revolution, War of 1812, Civil War, Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam. The Military Room in the Blake House Museum was restored and decorated by the Whites.

This family, Fuller said, "played an integral part in the growth and development of the town of Fitzwilliam for almost 200 years."

Brutal march recorded

The following is an excerpt from the diary of Ebenezer Tolman of Fitzwilliam, written in 1775 when he was 27, regarding the march to Quebec under Benedict Arnold:

"We had to wade waist high through swamps and rivers, breaking ice before us. Here we wandered around all day, and came at night to the same place we left in the morning, where we found a small dry spot and made a fire; we were obliged to stand up all night in order to dry ourselves and keep from freezing."

Three days later he wrote: "We traveled all day very briskly, and at night encamped in a miserable situation. Here we killed a dog, and we made a great feast without bread or salt, we having been four days without any provisions; and we slept that night a little better satisfied. Our distress was so great that dollars were offered for bits of bread as big as the palm of one's hand."

"There is scarcely any one who has more than one day's provisions, and that small, and a great number none at all. Some have had none at all for two days."

"The small pox is very plenty with us." "This day I was taken down with the small pox."

PLEASE MAIL YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES TODAY.

AN APPLICATION HAS BEEN INSERTED WITH THIS ISSUE. IF IT'S MISSING, CALL PERRY NADEAU AT 603-673-6414 OR WRITE HIM AT

7 VINE STREET, MILFORD, NH, 03055

JUNE 17TH BOARD MEETING

By: Jack Dumont

The Laurel Lake Association Board of Directors' Meeting was held at the home of Jack Dumont on West Lake Road on Saturday, June 17, 1995.

In attendance were Don Treat, Phyllis Chase, Charles Brackett, Jack Dumont, George Graf, Ann Korjeff, Susan Wood, Don Austin, Bruce Knight, Arnold Anderson, Larry Friedman, Barbara Green, Jim Baldwin, Liz Young, and Eve Samuels.

Phyllis Chase, Association President, called the meeting to order at 9:15 A.M.

Jack Dumont, Association Secretary, read the minutes to the Saturday, September 10, 1995 Board of Directors' Meeting. On a motion by Liz Young and seconded that the secretary's report be accepted as read. The motion passed unanimously.

Don Austin, Association Treasurer, reported on the financial condition of the Association. On a motion by Don Treat and seconded that the Board of Directors accept the report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Larry Friedman, Laurel Lake Ledger editor/publisher, introduced Eve Samuels, his assistant, to the Board. He addressed the Board seeking assistance in acquiring a variety of future articles for the Ledger, including more from the general membership. He will also accept help in typing, proofreading, laying-out and mailing of the Association's newsletter.

Don Treat, Chairman of the Water Quality Committee, presented a report from the State of New Hampshire, summarizing its findings of Laurel Lake based on the water samples we had collected over the past few years. While the Chlorophyll-a and Transparency appear to be stable there is an upward trend in the concentration levels of total Phosphorus.

The Board of Directors agreed to send Barbara Green to the New England Assembly of Lake Leaders to be held on June 24, 1995. On a motion by Bruce Knight and seconded that the Association appropriate the sum of \$35.00 to pay for Barbara Green's registration fee at the conference. The motion passed unanimously.

This years Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, July 8, 1995 at White's Field in the Laurel Lake Campground. A panel discussion will be held to discuss important

issues effecting Association members.

These include new boating laws, the new Shore Protection Act and tax issues.

Members of the panel include, Barbara Metzger, Barbara Richardson, Joan Knight and Susan Link. Ed Mattson, town Road Agent, will be in attendance to discuss Enhanced 911 and house numbering. Arnold Anderson is in charge of the Nominating Committee whose job it will be to recommend persons to assume club offices, as well open Board of Directors' positions. Jack and Barbara Dumont will be in charge of the Association Family Picnic. Motion by Liz Young and seconded that Ann Pelkey and E. W. Blood Company be contacted to investigate the installation of a porta potti for two months in the Laurel Lake Campground area not to exceed the sum of \$150.00. The motion passed unanimously.

Phyllis Chase, Association President, made the following announcements.

1. Mary Lou Fuller will conduct a Historical Society Tour of the north end of Laurel Lake on October 14, 1995.

2. Vi Swenor and family would like to have a Laurel Lake get-together in August. This could be either a hamburg/hot dog cookout or a steak roast/lobster party. They will provide a Bagpiper or guitarist.

Commodore McNamara is in charge of the Annual Labor Day Sunfish Regatta. More details to follow later in the summer.

Liz Young has donated the use of Camp Fleur de Lis for the September Board of Directors' Meeting. At that time President Chase will invite Jack Calhoun from the New Hampshire Lakes Association to speak on the topic of taxation of properties on lakes.

George Graf showed a map of Laurel Lake which he is working on to depict ownership of properties. On a motion by Jack Dumont and seconded that George Graf continue to work on his map survey and update the information for future copyrighting and printing and that the Association reimburse him for his expenditures not to exceed \$100.00. The motion passed unanimously.

On a motion by Jack Dumont and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 11:12 A. M.



Bob White, owner of the North Beach, expresses concerns that the Annual Canoe Race may become too big.

LAUREL LAKE BAND CONCERT

July 4, 1996

July 4, 1996, promises to be a fun filled evening at Laurel Lake. The Nelson Town Band will present a band concert from 7 - 8:30 p.m. The concert will take place aboard pontoon boats on the lake. Three or four boats will be needed. Any pontoon boat captains who would like to volunteer with their boats for this event, may contact Don & Marion Austin, P.O. Box 73, Troy, N.H. 03465. Phone (Troy) 603-242-6267 or (lake) 603-585-7740 or Jim & Paula Baldwin, R.R. 2, Box 302, Keene Avenue, Fitzwilliam, N.H. 03447. Phone 603-585-9454.

The band concert will be followed by the lighting of flares. George Graf is responsible for this impressive conclusion.

ROSES' UNITE

Submitted by Barbara and David Green



Rose Family Reunion, July 23, 1995

A memorable Rose family reunion was held at Laurel Lake on July 23, 1995. The occasion for the get together was a long awaited visit by Barbara Rose who spent summers as a child and teenager at the lakeside cottage that her parents, Morty and Esther Rose, built in the early 1950's on the west side of the lake. Morty's sister Edith and her husband Ted (Dr. Edward Moses) shared the purchase of the lot and built an adjacent cottage at the same time.

Barbara settled in San Jose, California, where she has lived for more than thirty years. She often told her children and grandchildren stories about summers at Laurel Lake, and looked forward to some day returning for a visit with them. This year the dream came true. In July, Barbara made the trip to the lake for a vacation with

one of her three children, her daughter-in-law, and five of her seven grandchildren.

More than forty members of the extended family gathered for the reunion on one of those perfect summer days when Laurel Lake is at its best. Ages of the attendees ranged from nine months to ninety years, spanning four generations of Rose family members and their spouses, each with their own special memories of summer days at Laurel Lake. After a wonderful day was spent by taking part in favorite lakeside activities - visiting, swimming and trying to eat all the delicious food that everyone contributed - we all gathered for the family photograph taken on the lawn between the Rose's and Moses's cottages with Laurel Lake in the background.

WINTER ON THE LAKE

By: Reuel Walling

We strap on our snowshoes and plod atop two feet of snow, our trek made easier by the snowmobiler's who have been enjoying our driveway. Their tracks end as the narrow path begins it's headlong descent past the pump house to the cabin. At the door, we free our feet, and turn the key in the lock.

Yes, it is still real. This cottage, discovered as summer was changing it's colors to fall, is still a surprise; the red "FOR SALE" sign carted off to some other dwelling. According to Town Records, this one is ours.

We light a fire in the fireplace and wander like children, so much to see here, two rooms and a porch. There are floors to walk, cabinets to open, windows to look out, a woodstove, refrigerator and cookstove to peer into, as if they were new inventions. This could well be a mansion, overflowing with toys; toys like empty walls to fill with pictures, card tables to fill

with games, a porch to fill with couch and chairs to fill with kids, grandkids, friends, and still enough hours left for just the two of us.

Beyond the porch, most wonderful, the Lake! We go out to walk along the water that we will swim in next summer. Turning back to look at the cottage, we imagine the pier, a canoe moored to one side, a good sturdy fishing boat to the other. On our boot-skates, we skid to an ice fisherman's hole and measure ice, one foot thick. In the middle of the Lake, a gull soars and lands, scavenging what he can from this white world.

We go back to the fire, crackling by now, to warm our feet, eat our picnic of sandwiches, and drink from a thermos of steaming tea. The thermometer registers somewhere in the 30's, another storm is forecast for tonight, but we think we'll stay a little longer.



Board, Officers and Chairmen at the September 9, 1995 fall board meeting at Camp Fleur De Lis.

SEPT. 9TH BOARD MEETING

By: Susan Wood

The Laurel Lake Association Board of Directors' Meeting was held at Fleur de Lis Camp on Saturday, September 9, 1995. In attendance were Don Treat, Phyllis Chase, Charles Brackett, Jack Dumont, George Graf, Ann Korjeff, Susan Wood, Don Austin, Bruce Knight, Arnold Anderson, Larry Friedman, Barbara Green, Jim Baldwin, Liz Young, Jay McNamara, Cal Linkenhoker, Perry Nadeau and Marguerite Albertini. (see photo on page 5) Jack Dumont, Association President called the meeting to order at 9:10 A. M. Sue Wood, Association Secretary, read the minutes to the Saturday, June 17, 1995 Board of Directors' Meeting. The minutes were amended to note that George Graf had received permission from the selectmen to pursue the sale of flares for 4th of July. On a motion by Marguerite Albertini and seconded that the secretary's report be accepted. The motion passed unanimously. Don Austin, Association Treasurer, reported on the financial condition of the Association. On a motion by Don Treat and seconded that the Board of Directors accept the report represented. The motion passed unanimously. Charles Brackett reported that there was a \$4.60 profit from the Canoe and Kayak Race this year. Mention was made of the need to inform Bob White when the Porta Potty is to be delivered. Liz Young motioned that report be put on file with a "Thanks" to Charley for his efforts. George Graf reported on the success of the 4th of July flare sales. Distribution needs to be better organized. George will chair a Distribution Committee. Cal Linkenhoker and Liz Young offered their sites as distribution centers. George moved to place the report on file. Bruce Knight made a motion to have George Graf continue with plans for next year's flare sale and suggested an initial order of 200 flares be made. The motion was seconded by Don Treat. The motion passed unanimously. George Graf made a motion that surplus funds be earmarked for improved control of water level of the lake. After some discussion, the motion was defeated (For - 4, Against - 10). Jay McNamara reported on the sunfish Regatta. There was discussion requesting

that there be more races next year before the Labor Day weekend. Thanks to Jay and Perry for their efforts. Jack Dumont made a motion to change the meeting order so as to discuss a recent article concerning lake assessments. The motion was seconded by Don Treat. The motion passed unanimously. Jim Baldwin made a motion that a committee be formed to determine if the association should be directly involved. The motion was seconded by Don Treat and passed by a unanimous vote. Jim Baldwin made a motion that a committee be formed to determine if the association should be directly involved. The motion was seconded by Don Treat and passed by a unanimous vote. The committee is made up of Phyllis Chase, Don Treat, Sue Wood and Jack Dumont. Don Treat, Chairman of the Water Quality committee, presented a report from the state of NH, summarizing it's findings of Laurel Lake based on the water samples he collected for the past year. Thanks to Don for his diligence. The Board of Directors discussed the need to update the Laurel Lake Association Rules to include the updated Boating rules for navigation of NH waters. Barbara Green volunteered to write a summary. Jim Townsend is resigning as Committee Chair for the Lake Boating/Navigation Aid. Jim Baldwin and George Graf will assist/co-chair the committee. Larry Friedman, Laurel Lake Ledger editor/publisher, addressed the Board seeking more human interest and historical stories for the Ledger. Kudos to Perry and Roberta Nadeau for their organization of the "Parade of Boats". The next Board of Directors meeting will be held Saturday, June 15, 1996 at the home of Ann Korjeff. The Board discussed the possibility of a Band Concert at next year's annual meeting. A motion by Phyllis Chase to have the band perform after the annual meeting was defeated after some discussion. A motion by Jim Baldwin to authorize the scheduling and location of a band concert with the expenditure of up to \$500 was seconded by Arnold Anderson. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 12:40 P. M.

LAUREL LAKE ASSOCIATION
1996 Officers

Jack Dumont	President
Jim Baldwin	Vice President
Susan Wood	Secretary
Don Austin	Treasurer

Board of Directors

Dana Mullette	1997	Marguerite Albertini	1996
George Graf	1997	Charles Brackett	1996
Barbara Green	1997	Milt Posovsky	1996
Liz Young	1997	Anne Korjeff	1996
Don Treat	1998	Bruce Knight	1998
Larry Friedman	1998	Cal Linkenhoker	1998
Phyllis Chase	1998		

Committee Chairpersons

Larry Friedman	Editor/Publisher Laurel Lake Ledger
Don Treat	Water Testing Committee
Arnold Anderson	Nominating Committee
Jim Baldwin/George Graf	Lake Boating/Navigation Aid
Jack & Barbara Dumont	Annual Meeting/Family Picnic
Charles Brackett	Canoe/Kayak Race
Jay McNamara	Labor Day Sunfish Regatta
Jim Baldwin	Water Control Committee
Perry Nadeau	Membership Committee

1996 Association Meeting & Activity Dates

Board of Directors Meeting	Sat., June 15, 1996
Annual Meeting/Family Picnic	Sat., July 6, 1996
Canoe/Kayak Race	Sat., July 20, 1996
(Rain Date)	Sun., July 21, 1996
Labor Day Sunfish Regatta	Sun., Sept. 1, 1996
(Rain Date)	Mon., Sept. 2, 1996
Board of Directors Meeting	Sat., Sept. 7, 1996
Camp Fleur De Lis	

A FEW WORDS FROM PRESIDENT
DUMONT

Fellow members of the Laurel Lake Association, the summer of 1996 is rapidly approaching. I'm sure you feel like I do and cannot wait for June and July. Your association officers have been working with me during these winter months to carry-on the work of my predecessor, Phyllis Chase, and add a new wrinkle to our many successes. In 1995, youth participation in the canoe/kayak and sailboat races were at an all time high thanks to the efforts of Charlie Brackett and Jay McNamara. This year Commodore McNamara has informed me that he is planning to add additional races to the summer schedule to allow our sailors to develop their skills. This should be interesting. Roberta and Perry Nadeau have sure been a shot in the arm to the Association. Last year, they single-handedly organized the Parade of Boats and the lake front concert. I'm not sure what they have in mind for this year, but I've been assured that the tradition will continue. The 4th of July celebration, spearheaded by George Graf, was a tremendous success. This year, Don and Marion Austin, along with Jim and Paula Baldwin, will join forces to bring a live Town Band to our lake during the early evening of the 4th with the flare celebration to follow. Hopefully, you'll all join in. The Association has not forgotten the teenage members of our lake family. There's a questionnaire for them to fill out in this Ledger and it should be returned with your membership application. My daughter Cori is looking forward to working with other Association teenagers to develop some summer activities for them. Our efforts in the area of water quality will continue. Don Treat and his Water Testing Committee are committed to a two part program of periodic water testing in conjunction with the State of New Hampshire and public education and information to preserve the quality of water for all of us. Efforts are currently underway to carefully monitor water levels on our lake during various seasons of the year to see if there is an appreciable lowering of water levels.

Finally, on a more serious note, during the September Board of Directors' Meeting, I appointed a Committee, headed by Phyllis Chase, to investigate the matter of taxation of lake front property by the town of Fitzwilliam, NH. Currently she is contacting other lake associations and interested parties to obtain information as to what avenues are open to our Association. In early November. I received my Fitzwilliam tax bill noting a slight decrease. Apparently, the town has decided to decrease the evaluations on lake front properties. Unfortunately, these new evaluations are still not based upon realistic values. Also, there is the issue of the excessive taxes we have paid for past years. It reminds me of the old adage "too little, too late!" I have therefore directed the Committee to continue its efforts. We will keep the membership apprised of our findings. Finally, I am looking forward to seeing you all back at the Lake this summer and, of course, I am always interested in your concerns and comments.



Jack Dumont at the Sept. Board Meeting.

PARADISE FOUND

By: Phil Walling

One of the dangers of the real estate business is falling in love with the property you are showing. which is exactly what happened to me in September, 1995. As an avid fisherman, my wife and I looked for waterfront property when we initially came to New Hampshire in 1980, with no luck. We also told our realtor that we wanted privacy. You wouldn't believe where she was taking us. We would drive for miles and not see another sign of civilization. When we finally reached the various properties, we would always ask why the owners wanted to sell, and the realtor would answer "they are getting divorced". Now, I don't belong to Mensa, however, I can put two and two together, so decided that her definition of privacy didn't match ours. When we returned to our realtor's office, a brand new listing arrived from a place called Fitzwilliam. I didn't know where Fitzwilliam was, but my wife remembered driving through Fitzwilliam, as a school age girl, with her parents. on their way to visit her brother at Vermont Academy and Marlboro College. The sight of the common, and our 1830's cape, convinced us that we found what we were looking for. When we called the listing broker in Fitzwilliam, and stated that we wanted to come over to her home and put down a deposit, she stated that we couldn't. Upon

asking her why, she stated that she had a cake in the oven! With that statement, we laughed and realized that we had found a way of life we were looking for. My wife has a different story. When people ask me why we settled in Fitzwilliam, I give them my wife's answer, which is, "Look, I have been following that clown around the world for 27 years, while he was in the Air Force, now it's my turn to decide where we live. "

A FISHERMAN'S PRAYER

I pray that I may live to fish until my dying day. And when it comes to my last cast, I then most humbly pray: that when in God's great landing net, and peacefully asleep, that in His mercy I be judged, "BIG ENOUGH TO KEEP".

ATTENTION TEENS!

DON'T FORGET TO FILL OUT

THE ENCLOSED TEEN SURVEY.

QUALITY OF LIFE

By: Larry Friedman

It's so fast and easy to write my son Michael at college. My wife simply E-Mails him from our computer to his through the internet. When he turns his computer on he can quickly see that he has mail. I still write him with pen, paper and postage stamp. I know sooner or later I'm going to have to learn how to use the computer. I used one years ago but at one point we upgraded and I lost the desire to learn the new software. Furthermore there is too much competition as to who in our family gets to use it. Leslie, our 8th grader, does a lot of writing on it. Mark, our 10th grader, also uses it for homework and my wife Marilyn writes her graduate school papers on it and uses it to keep track of our personal finances.

This week I met with a potential customer who works for a major corporation. He told me most correspondence between employees in his company was through E-Mail. It saves a lot of time and it has increased productivity several fold. I say "great" but how about quality of life? One of the greatest pleasures in business is the interaction between me and my employees, customers and vendors. Are we headed for a society where no one presses the flesh, meets eye to eye or interprets body language?

Are we going to do all of our shopping through catalogs or the Home Shopping Network?

When I was about 10 years old, I used to help my Aunt and Uncle in a rural hardware store. I thought this was one of the greatest businesses. Customers really depended on "Lou's Greenville Hardware" for their needs and advice on how to build

or repair things. My Aunt and Uncle knew every customer by name and extended credit to many of them. There was no Visa, MasterCard or computers. There were no Super Stores or Power Retailers. The customer was greeted by the owner who really did care that you got what you needed.

In a survey to members of the Laurel Lake Association I asked if the person filling out the survey welcomed WalMart to the Fitzwilliam area. To my surprise most people said "yes"! They liked the low prices.

I have a prediction. In the future we will all be working for WalMart. That may be a bold statement but in theory if things keep going the way they are, there will only be a few extremely large corporations and if you are lucky enough to get a job with one, you probably won't speak to anyone except through E-Mail.

I love technological advances as much as the next person. Back in 1989 when I produced my first issue of the Ledger it was typed on a Wang Word Processor not much more advanced than a typewriter. Presently I am looking to buy a Scanner and OCR Software which will allow me to take the articles you send me and get them in the computer without typing. The scanner can read any typeface. The computer and printer can convert all the articles and pictures into a newsletter. We just eliminated two jobs. The typists and mine. Perhaps we can eliminate the offset printer, the people at the envelope factory and your mailman. I'll just E-Mail you the Ledger. You'll have plenty of time to read it because we will all be unemployed, except for our part-time job at WalMart.

SELLING OUR SUMMER HOME

By: Milton Posovosky



Milt and Anne's Laurel Lake Home

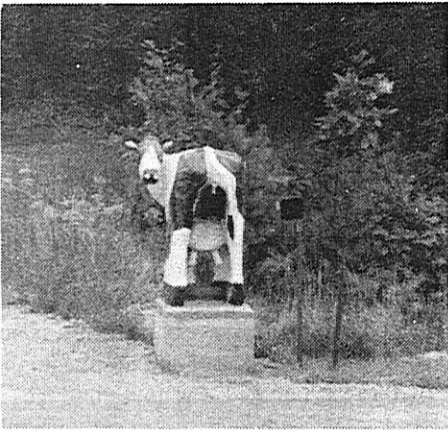
My first visit to Laurel Lake was in 1938. I was so impressed by the beauty of the lake and natural surroundings that I promised myself that one day I would have a place of my own on Laurel Lake.

My first opportunity came in 1950. It was the site of our present home. We were just getting started once again, recovering from four years of World War II, and trying to rebuild my business. It took two mortgages to pay for the place. That summer, I was recalled for the Korean situation. Upon returning, we once again picked up the pieces of our lives and my business. During all of these years, we have been upgrading everything. We have now reached a stage in our lives where we are considering a life care facility, where we will have a cottage for independent living and have future care available. To accomplish this, we have to let go of some of our holdings. This means selling the lake property. Our children are too scattered to use it and they also cannot afford to keep it up.

We put the property on the market for a short time, but found out two things. We would not come anywhere near selling it for what we had put into it over the years. This came as no surprise. However, what did surprise us was what potential buyers had to say when answering the question "how much are the annual taxes? Being

over four thousand dollars a year and with a season being ten weeks, that means taxes are over four hundred dollars a week. Considering this, we wouldn't be able to rent it out during the season, pay taxes and make mortgage payments. Thinking of it as a year round place, the taxes would represent three hundred and fifty dollars a month. Sorry, we'll spend the dollars on going to other places.

What I'm saying is that the annual taxes have had a disastrous effect on our selling our lake property.



A most unique mail box on route 12.

FITZWILLIAM DEPOT STORE

By: Phyllis Chase



Depot Store's new walk up window.

Where can you pick up a hot dog or live bait? Exchange your gas grill's propane tank? Buy the kiddies ice cream cones, or order a delicious pizza to be delivered? Register your boat or A.T.V.? The Fitzwilliam Depot General Store is the place! Owners Norm and Kristen Berube, now into their third year of proprietorship of the historic property that dates back to the 1800s when Henry White first had a store, are having a lot of fun managing this thriving neighborhood business. They can sell you a Powerball ticket, or make you a great sub with chips. They'll see to it you get your fishing or hunting license, or have your belly warmed with a great Hunters' stew. Need videos for a rainy night? Greeting cards, hardware supplies, bread and peanut butter? How about a good book or a magazine? A little wine or beer? It's all there for the asking at the colossal Depot Store!

Running a store that's open 364 days a year (Christmas excepted) takes a lot of dedication and hard work --- but listening to the Berubes tell about it, one gets the feeling it's a labor of love. It's also a FAMILY affair: 17 year old Jennifer and 14 year old Ryan, students at Monadnock Regional High School, work side-by-side with their parents after school and weekends. The kids get highest marks from their parents for all the responsibility they shoulder...and their cooperative spirits.

Seasonal lake people know the Depot Store as that welcoming landmark when they arrive at The Lake. They love it as a place with local charm and folksiness where they can browse the outdoor bulletin board for news, bargains, or notices of upcoming events. The Depot Store is the place to meet old lake friends, buy that Sunday paper, or a place where a kid can spend some of his allowance on a treat.

But the store is a year round enterprise, and its clientele runs the gamut from neighborhood folks to people from "uptown", travelers, salesmen, and truck drivers. Even large rigs can be accommodated in the parking areas around the store...a definite drawing card for tractor trailer drivers. Quite a few of them are regular customers, particularly those associated with the PLP Company situated around the corner on Creamery Road, maker of fiberglass flagpoles.

School kids are good customers, too. The morning bus stop is at the Store. A fact which contributes to a brisk business in breakfast egg muffins...one of the deli's hottest sellers. Popular anytime is the homemade pizza-now available for delivery. Grinders, too, are a regular special on Fridays - 50 cents off, and delicious.

Berubes employ three part-time workers in addition to the family. Shantelle Bartlett is the old-timer in the crew, having worked for the previous owners. Sue Bussiere and Theresa LaFave, lake and neighborhood residents, also help provide friendly service at the store.

Ever ambitious and talented, the Berubes have done most all the improvements on the buildings and grounds themselves, with a little welcome help from Dave Streeter. Norm comes by this naturally, coming from "another life", as a general contractor in the Pepperell and Townsend, MA areas. At the Depot, he's knocked down walls to create the deli, fashioned an outdoor ice-cream window, put in a septic system and a picnic area, and paved the old muddy potholes for smooth parking. He has other plans for exterior improvements when he gets the time!

The Berubes first fell in love with the area when they camped at Forest Lake in nearby Winchester. In 1987 they purchased seven acres of land in Richmond and built a home there. Norm joined the volunteer firefighters, and became acquainted with former store owner, Dick Webber, in that organization. When the store went up for sale, they jumped at the chance to own it, and also realized their dream of having their own family business. They couldn't be happier.

If they had any free time, the Berubes would be found being active outdoorspeople. Daughter Jennifer is a talented figure skater who dreams of teaching others the skill someday. Son Ryan is a guy who likes a friendly game of baseball, basketball, or soccer. All the family are avid 4-wheelers and snowmobilers. In addition, Norm is one mean waterskier--reputed to be proficient at barefooting it, too!

Dreams for the future of the Depot Store? Kristen and Norm's wish list includes turning the area where the yellow barn now exists into some kind of youth gathering place. They've been inspired by the tales of the healthy and friendly good times kids once had at Don Brackett's place. They envision some small building with games and other wholesome enticements.

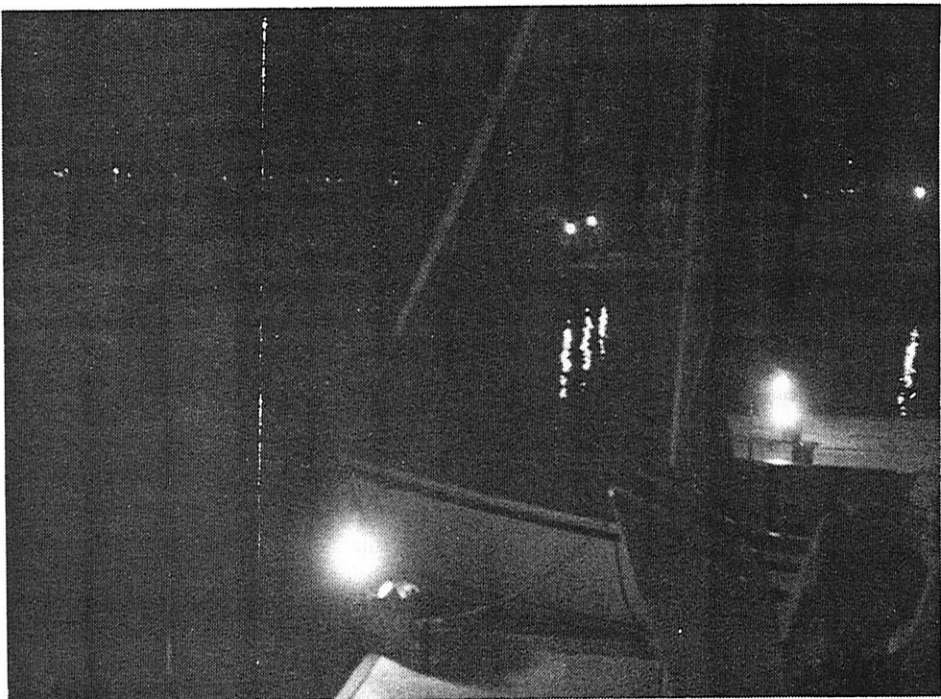
In less than 3 short years, Norm, Kristen, Jennifer and Ryan have built a bustling and thriving business at the Depot General Store. In the process, they've become a tremendous asset to the Fitzwilliam community and Depot area. They are a warm and welcoming stop for lake residents, seasonal and year round, and a host of other lucky people.



The Depot Store.....If they don't have it, you don't need it.

FLARES BRIGHTEN LAUREL LAKE ON EVE OF THE 4TH

By: George Graf



Over 100 Flares were lit at 9:30 P. M., July 3, 1995. George Graf's idea was a success! Members loved it.

At 9:30 P. M. on July 3, 1995, the shoreline of Laurel Lake began to sparkle with red pinpoints of light as more than 100 flares were ignited. The Laurel Lake Associates and others were celebrating the anniversary of the independence of our country. It was an impressive, heart-warming sight from whatever your vantage point, on shore or in a boat. How did this all come about?

In July 1993, I learned about a 4th of July celebration on a small lake in eastern New York which involved the display of lighted flares. This event was promoted and staged by a local volunteer fire company. The glowing comment on the event brought forth the idea, why not Laurel Lake? Some research was required.

A call to Atlas Pyrotechnics in Jaffrey revealed that this sort of celebration is not unusual. Over 1000 flares illuminate a causeway in Marblehead, MA every July 4th. Other lakes in New England have the same display. A check in the economics indicated that the Lake Association could get flares at a price which could result in a reasonable return to help support the Association's programs. A check with the Board of Selectmen revealed some "fireworks ordinances" which they felt covered such an event. This regulation clearly presented some problems. Approvals of the Chief of Police and Fire Wardens were required as well as a list of all persons displaying a flare.

With some positive thinking to support the project, a proposal was presented to the Board of Directors of the Laurel Lake Association at their September 1994 meeting. Questions were raised about the potential for phosphorous contamination of the lake waters and legal problems which might arise. The Board gave conditional approval contingent on satisfactory resolution of the two questions raised. We had about 8 months to clear this up and get approval from the Board of Selectmen.

The question of phosphorous pollution was settled with a call to a fusee (flare) manufacturer whose chief chemist provided a list of basic ingredients in the flare. The phosphorous in the flare was part of the ignitor and was present in a small amount comparable to that in a book of matches.

A conversation again with Atlas revealed that fusees are not considered fireworks but warning devices. This fact was later confirmed with the NH State Police by the Fitzwilliam Police Chief.

The legal aspects of the event were discussed with my local lawyer, Bill Prigge, who also happened to be the Chief Fire Warden in Fitzwilliam. His advice was helpful and encouraging. All was going well when the self-appointed celebration Chairman went south for the winter.

As required in the "fireworks ordinance"

of Fitzwilliam and with special instructions from the Selectman, a request for a permit for the event was submitted in April. However, we needed to get an order for flares to Atlas early in May. President Phyllis Chase, based on a reasonable presumption that no restriction would be imposed on our display, okayed the placement of an order for 6 dozen flares.

The Board of Selectmen approved our application on April 12, but written confirmation of the approval of our request wasn't received until June 14, just in time for the June 17 Lake Association Board meeting. In anticipation of approval, the flares were obtained and brought to that meeting. They were distributed to each Board member with requests to solicit purchases from their neighbors.

In an effort to cover any potential legal situations, as requested by the Board, an instruction/caution sheet was to be presented with each flare sold. It suggested how the flare should be handled and used. Further, it advised the user to read the instructions on each flare.

The display of flares was received enthusiastically by the lake associates and others vacationing around the lake. We needed more flares in less than two weeks after the distribution started. A census of lake front properties indicated about 100 owners. Hence, being a bit conservative, we purchased 24 more flares. They were sold in a week and more were needed. Another 2 dozen were gotten and that supply was exhausted by July 2. All 120 flares were sold. We shouldn't be so conservative next year and then hopefully calls would not be coming in on the morning and afternoon before the event.

The response to this new activity of the Association was good. At its September 1995 Board meeting, those assembled expressed their pleasure and approval. They want the flare display again in '96 but with twice as many flares. The proceeds of the sale - about \$400, was a welcome addition to the treasury.

It has been requested that the flare display be scheduled for the evening of July 4th in 1996. With the holiday falling on a Thursday, it was felt by Board members that most of the lake's part-time residents might take a long week-end from work and thereby be present for the celebration. We look forward to several lighted flares on your beach on July 4, 1996

Before closing out this essay, a thank you is due to all those who distributed the flares. Our star salesperson was Marguerite Albertini. She distributed more than 10% of all the flares. This helped make the display on the north beach the brightest showing of all. Then to top off the performance, she made sure the remains of

all the flares were removed from north beach on the following morning. What a good housekeeper!

If we are to have a bigger and better showing next year, we need help in covering 100 plus potential "customers" on the lake. We can't depend solely on Board members. Only a few of them are year-round residents who can go from cottage to cottage selling flares during the last two weeks in June. Please look for the coupon in this Ledger which you can use to volunteer your services. Fill it out and return it to me. I hope to hear from you. I'll look for your lighted flares in '96.

Again, thank you all.

George L. Graf

I would like to help distribute flares for the Laurel Lake Association 1996 Flare Affair

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel. No. Home: _____

Lake: _____

PLEASE SEND TO:

George L. Graf
2642 Longwood Dr.
Wilmington, DE 19810
or

Call me at the lake between
June 19-29 at 603-585-9428.

NEIGHBORS

By: Larry Friedman

It was a quiet Sunday morning on Laurel Lake. We had no guests for the weekend. My wife Marilyn was reading a book on the porch. My son Mike was still sleeping. I decided since the wind was mild it might be a good day to see if my dog Willy would enjoy a ride in our sailboat.

The boat was new to me. I bought it used from an ad I had seen in the Providence Journal. It was one of my better purchases because it was exactly the right size boat for Laurel Lake. It holds 4 adults and nobody gets wet.

I coaxed the dog into the boat and off we went. The wind was erratic (a sailor would call it gusty) long periods of mild wind followed by short intervals of heavy wind. The dog was not enjoying the ride. At one point the wind blew the sail toward the water causing the boat to heel on a 45 degree angle. I was riding the high seat and the dog was close to going into the water. I realized this was not the day to teach Willy how to sail. I decided to return to my dock. After about 10 minutes of tacking we reached the dock and the dog jumped off the boat and gave me a strange look. I decided since the boat was rigged to sail I would do just that. I sailed toward the center of the lake.

It was a gray day. Only 2 boats were out fishing. The wind was still mild with erratic gusts. I pulled the sail in tight to get as much speed as I could. The jib was out to catch its share of the wind. I was relaxed. It was surprisingly cool. All of a sudden a massive wind blew into the sails. The boat heeled 45 degrees. I leaned back to counter balance the boat. I tried to turn the boat into the winds. This usually will level the boat. However, the boat was now 20 degrees to the water and despite all that I tried to do, I knew I was going into the drink. The water was surprisingly warm against the cool air. I was wearing blue jeans and a long sleeve shirt, sneakers and

socks. The boat was on its side and the sails were floating. I remembered the previous owner telling me that there was buoyant material in the mast that would prevent it from turtling (going completely upside down).

I grabbed a life preserver and put it on. I was glad the dog was no longer with me. I grabbed the centerboard and pulled down on it expecting the boat to turn upright. It didn't. I figured I needed to turn the boat into the wind so that the wind could help me right the boat. Suddenly the boat turtled and the centerboard was sticking straight up like a fin from "Jaws". I sat on top of the boat which was quite slimy and waited until somebody noticed me. The local fishermen didn't pick up their heads.

I waved to four people in a fishing boat. Then I noticed a big party boat coming my way. I was going to be saved. Perry Nadeau had seen me in his binoculars and decided I needed help. He was a welcomed sight.

We tried all kinds of ways to right the boat. Mostly a combination of pulling on the centerboard with the power of the boat while I used my weight to put downward pressure on the centerboard. I was beginning to get tired. Fortunately the water was warm. We could get the sails to the surface but couldn't get them out of the water. We really needed a second boat. Just then a familiar face in a motorized Jon



Perry Nadeau, Chairman of the Membership Committee

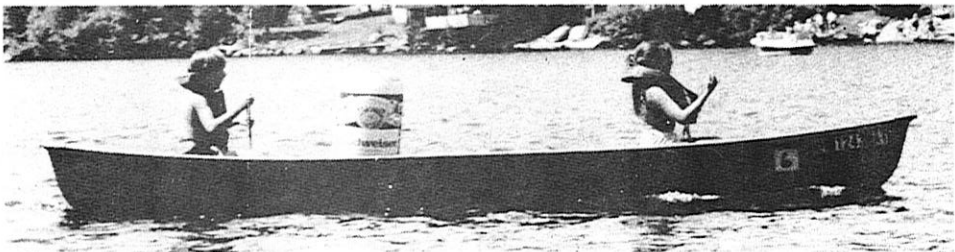
Boat came upon the scene. It was George Graf. He came to help. I suggested we pull the centerboard with the Party Boat to get the sails to the surface and George would grab the top of the mast so it wouldn't turtle again. Perry started pulling the boat and George chased us trying to get the mast but he couldn't go fast enough. I tried to yell to Perry but he couldn't see or hear me because I was now on the other side of my boat. Eventually he did stop and I grabbed the top of the mast. George motored over to me and moved the top of the mast into his boat. Even with two boats we couldn't right the small sailboat. I told George to bring the mast over to the Party Boat where Perry had more height. This was what we needed. As soon as Perry lifted the mast the sailboat turned right side up. At last I could sail home. Perry suggested he tow the boat to my dock. I was too tired to argue with him. We waved good-bye to George. I told him he could read about it in The Laurel Lake Ledger.

Perry and I exchanged backgrounds on the ride back to my dock. Marilyn and Mike were waiting for me wondering where I had been. "Breakfast is getting cold!" she said. I jumped back into the water to untie Perry's rope from the centerboard. I was too tired to unhook it before, but I regained my energy on the ride back. Perry gave me my second life preserver and rudder and then motored off.

Even sailboat owners like to see a motorboat now and then especially when we're capsized in the center of Laurel Lake.

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY LAUREL LAKE ASSOCIATION CANOE RACE

By: Kelly Desrevisseau



Natasha Michelson and John Jacobs

The fifth annual Laurel Lake Canoe Race, held on July 22, 1995, was a big success. One hundred four participants competed this year, a significant increase over last year's group of eighty participants.

The increase in popularity is certainly due to the creative work of Charley Brackett, the race coordinator. Throughout the year he works hard to organize the race, including gathering race officials and volunteers - to whom we owe a lot of gratitude. A special thanks goes out to the owners, Bob White, Ann Pelkey, and Vi Swenor, for allowing the race to happen.

As a Junior Race Official and a former participant, I can honestly say that this year's race was one of the highlights of my summer.

Participants and many spectators from around the lake enjoyed it very much.

The two and one half mile length of the race was a long strenuous stretch, but everyone had a good laugh!

The event not only focused on the races, but also included a raffle, a canoe

tug-o-war, and a barbeque - activities enjoyed by all ages.

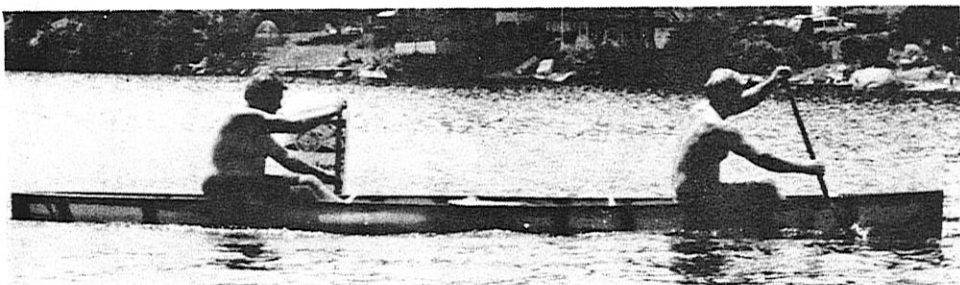
I believe the success of the race will continue to grow. People of all ages and skill levels are invited to participate. Volunteers are most certainly welcome. I hope to see you at the 1996 Laurel Lake Canoe Race!

My how we've grown!	
Participants	
1991	30
1992	60
1993	75
1994	80
1995	104

The race has been tentatively scheduled for July 20, 1996, but a definite decision has not been made.

Should the race continue? Send comments and suggestions to:

Laurel Lake Canoe Race
10 Morris Rd., 2nd Floor
Broadbrook, CT 06016



Dan Pelletier and John Bradley

RACE RESULTS

3/4 MILE CHILDREN'S FUN RACE

Boy's Canoe

1st	Jake Lyman/Nick Desrevisseau.....	10:26
2nd	Jeremy Jacobs/Ryan Williams.....	11:41
3rd	Ryan Flematti/Brian Cousineau.....	12:08
4th	Andy Williams/Josh Chapman.....	13:11
5th	Matt Glover/Tim Glover.....	13:23
6th	Brian Croteau/Tyler Croteau.....	14:08
7th	James Bergman/Shawn Bussiere.....	15:47

Girl's Canoe

* 1st	Lisa Klockars/Jessica Heglin.....	9:49	*
2nd	Corinne Dumont/Erica Burns.....	13:17	
3rd	Nicole Bourgan/Kelly O'Brien.....	14:27	
4th	Lauren Sanderson/Leigh Sanderson.....	16:30	

Junior Mixed Canoe

* 1st	Timothy Wood/Alana LeClaire.....	12:30	*
2nd	Matthew Stuckich/Jessie White.....	12:55	
3rd	Natasha Michelson/John Jacobs.....	14:52	
4th	Angela Michelson/Ryan Breen.....	15:30	
5th	Landon Dummar/Amanda Dummar.....	18:08	

Junior Kayak

1st	Thomas Dumont.....	14:22
2nd	Zachary Siano.....	21:38

2 1/2 MILE NOVICE RACE

Men's Canoe

1st	Damon Mahoney/David Wheeler.....	28:05
2nd	Tim Vogel/Travis Haddock.....	31:02
3rd	John Vogel/Jonathan Vogel.....	33:39
4th	Wayne Rigg/James Flaherty.....	33:57
5th	Mike Duggan/Sone Duggan.....	1:00:03

Women's Canoe

1st	Lisa Klockars/Jessica Heglin.....	31:06
2nd	Jacquelin Wood/Tricia LeClaire.....	39:45
3rd	Linda Lyman/Erin Mahoney.....	43:04

Couple's Canoe

1st	Lisa Cheney/Bruce Lyman.....	29:21
2nd	Cheryl Bradley/John Conly.....	32:03
3rd	Jacqi Woodruff/Doug Thayer.....	43:09

Kayak

1st	Randy Hull.....	34:58
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Aluminum Canoe

1st	David Harris/Stu Grey.....	29:56
2nd	John Larder/Ken Olejarz.....	36:32
3rd	Frank Dummar Jr./Frank Dummar Sr.....	38:23

Family Canoe - Jr./Sr.

1st	Todd Boucher/Todd Boucher Jr.....	29:45
2nd	Jason Pryor/David Arcaro.....	30:17
3rd	Mark Irvings/Ari Irvings.....	33:18
4th	Michael Dynia/Sarah Dynia.....	33:46
5th	Gary Lord/Nathan Lord.....	34:16
6th	Mike Bussiere/Jack Patnode.....	34:53

5 MILE EXPERT RACE

OC-1 Racing

1st	Marc Poulin.....	46:26
2nd	Tom Warner.....	47:35
3rd	Douglas Glover.....	48:12

OC-2 Racing

1st	Ed Halpin Jr./Tim Bailey.....	45:02
2nd	Dan Pelletier/John Bradley.....	47:08

Women's Recreation

* 1st	Tracy Schneider/Cammy Cusson.....	1:05:20	*
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Men's Recreation

1st	Mark Williams/Bob Mossey.....	46:02
2nd	John Bouchard/Bob d'Armagnac.....	53:12

PADDLEBOAT RACES

1/2 Mile Adult Paddleboat

* 1st	Jean Croteau/Faith Glover.....	7:18	*
2nd	Tricia LeClaire/Jackie Wood.....	7:27	
3rd	Randy Hull/Julie Hull.....	8:26	
4th	Tom White/Pete Stuckich.....	9:22	

1/4 Mile Children's Paddleboat

* 1st	Meghan Proctor/Allison Proctor.....	4:20	*
2nd	Amanda Heglin/Ryan Murray.....	4:25	
3rd	Jillian Croteau/Kristen Croteau.....	4:41	
4th	Katie Stuckich/Jessie White.....	4:45	
5th	Caroline Wood/Korey Dutton.....	4:49	

CANOE RACE COMMITTEE M.V.P.: Randy Courtemanche
YOUNGEST PARTICIPANT: Todd Boucher Jr. Age 3
OLD FART'S AWARD: Wayne Rigg Age 61

(new record for that class)



Jake Lyman and Nick Desrevisseau



Marc Poulin

PONTOON AND POWER BOAT PARADE

By Perry Nadeau

Last year saw the start of a new tradition on Laurel Lake with the first annual "Pontoon and Power Boat Parade". The theme for the parade was the letter "P". People prepared their pontoons and power boats in keeping with the PPPParty theme and proceeded to parade past spectators around the lake. There were Pirates, Peaceniks, Patriots, Petal Pushers, and Paradise (complete with Palms). A concert by Folk singer Marc DelGreco was presented after the parade and people partied and picnicked in front of Proctor's Point.

This year's parade of power boats will be held on Saturday, July 13 (with a rain date of Sunday, July 14).

CCCCelebrate!!! This year the event will be brought to you by the letter "C". Candidates should configure their craft (complex or common) concentrating on

conforming with this characteristic (Clowns, Cops, Criminals, Choirs, etc.). Contestants should congregate on the west coast near the center (sunrise rock) between 4:30 and 5:00 P.M. The cavalcade will commence it's circumnavigation of the lake at 5:00 P.M. As in the past, a concert will convene after the circumference has been completed (approximately 6:00 P. M.) The concertmaster again, will be Marc DelGreco, the competent composer and contributor of choruses and folk classics. Comrades are cordially invited to commune with companions and compatriots comprising the congregation. (Come for a chat, chip, chow or to chime in.) The ceremonies should conclude around 8:00 P. M.

So mark your calendars and contemplate your creations.

