

The Laurel Lake Ledger

Volume 7 Number 1

A PUBLICATION OF THE LAUREL LAKE ASSOCIATION

February 1994

THIRD CANOE & KAYAK RACE DRAWS 75 PARTICIPANTS

By: Charles Brackett



With little confusion, the kids prepare to start.

Every spring, hundreds of paddlers from all walks of life brave the cold water to participate in the River Rat Canoe Race.

Growing up in Athol, Massachusetts meant watching from the river banks year after year; but that wasn't enough. By 1987, I had to be part of it, so I purchased a Mohawk canoe and asked a buddy to do it. We came in 74th, not bad considering there were 400+ canoes and we started 177. Even though it was our only race that year, my canoeing addiction had begun.

As of 1990, the year I started the Laurel Lake Race, I was up to five races a year. This past season I competed in 28 races, including the National Whitewater Championship. Next year, I will be co-

running a whitewater canoe race in Farmington, CT and starting a New England Downriver point series. I am hoping my past experience with the Laurel Lake Race will help with the organization of these events.

I remember that early in the summer of 1990, it seemed we would never have our race; now we are preparing for Race #4. The first year we had 30 participants; we have grown to 75, including 33 children.

Kevin Dynia, age 4, received our youngest participant award, he earned his trophy for paddling with his older sister, Sarah, and his dad, Mike, in the family class.

To further encourage participation of children, there will be a free canoeing



Joan Snaith and Holly Scheuhing, both age 14, took first in the girl's and the women's divisions.

basics lesson on July 16th from 5-8 p.m. at Sandy Beach; this is on the same day as the annual meeting/family picnic - adults are welcome to attend too.

We will be adding more five mile expert classes in '94; the 2 1/2 mile novice course should be reserved for the inexperienced beginner. A change in the awards system will also be made. We will not have trophies for the top three best times; instead we have decided to keep competitions within each individual class so you will be competing against equal paddlers.

I would like to thank Ann Pelkey and Bob White for the race site. Also, a special thanks to the following race committee members, race officials and

volunteers: Judy Moreira, Cheryl Mahoney, Trish LeClaire, Marguerite Albertini, Chris Brackett, Bruce & Joan Knight, Randy Courtemanche, Cindy Kenny, Scott Derosé, Bruce & Maria Wells, Steve & Kathy Olsen, Jim Baab, Alana LeClaire, David Brackett, Mike Foley, David Pouliot, Patricia Hersom, Noel Vianey, Wendy Moreira, Roberta Brackett and Dana Mullet.

- Support this and all of our events.
- Renew your Laurel Lake Association membership today.
- Summer of '94 Race Date: July 23rd
Raindate: July 24th

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McNAMERA SAILS TO VICTORY

BY: MICHAEL FRIEDMAN

The 1993 Laurel Lake Regatta began as it does every year: with no wind. As the ten o'clock starting time approached there was little sign of even a slight breeze. With barely a noticeable hint of wind on the lake, the 1993 Regatta began on time at 10:00 am the Sunday before Labor Day. There were six entries in a smaller heat this year, but touted as a favorite in this year's race headed up an energetic pack of sailors.

The six sailors that competed for the three prizes were McNamera, Mark Friedman, Aaron Samuels, David Prunier, David Garland and an entry from the Procter Family. The course began at the south end of the lake in front of the McNamera house, where the cheering section was located. It continued along to a buoy in the east cove, then across the lake to a buoy along the western shore. Then the sailors had to tack their boats upwind around Sunken Island followed by a down wind run to the finish line.

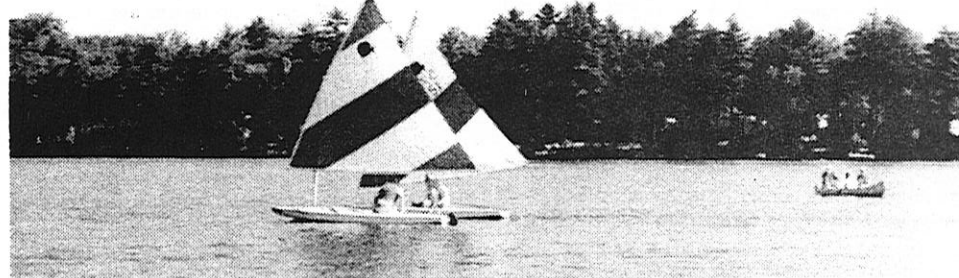
Even though the horn sounded to start the race at ten, the first did not cross the starting line for 30 seconds. Aaron Samuels took the early lead by catching a hidden wind to escape from the other boats. but after four and one half minutes the lull ended and the wind picked up and Samuels' lead shrunk. Bill McNamera caught up and passed Aaron as he rounded the first buoy in nine minutes,

never looking back.

Leading the whole race, McNamera passed the second buoy 13 minutes after the first, then took only nine minutes to circle Sunken Island. Closing up the lead was David Garland. Garland trailed Bill McNamera by only a minute and a half around Sunken Island. As the wind died for three minutes, the two locked up neck and neck across the middle of the lake. Distance proved deceiving as McNamera's lead of only a few yards gave him a four minute margin of victory. Bill crossed the finish line in a time of 55 minutes, 3 seconds. In a battle for third place, Mark Friedman and Aaron Samuels duelled along the down wind run. Friedman edged him out by another close margin of only a few feet, finishing with a time of 1 hour, 10 minutes.

This year's Regatta, although smaller than last, showed a core of sailors that support the event and the Association. If each and every Sunfish was out racing it would be a sight. To accomplish this, every family should get another new family to join in and race. We could easily double the size of the race and all the fun that everyone has with it. I would like to thank my officials: Jack Dumont, Capt. Don Garland, Bruce Knight and Rob Prunier. I hope everyone will come out to next year's race.

Until then, pray for wind!



Bill McNamera and David Garland lock up neck and neck after passing Sunken Island buoy.



Back row left to right: Mike Friedman, Commodore of the Regatta; David Garland, 2nd Place; Bill McNamara, 1st Place. Front row: Mark Friedman, 3rd Place.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By: Phyllis Chase

I appreciate the opportunity to serve as your new President. I will do my darndest to fill those big shoes left by Bruce Knight, who so ably served the Association these past years. Bruce will still be on the Board, so we'll continue to have the benefit of his active participation.

The Fall Board Meeting was interesting and lively. Anne and Mike Korjeff were hosts in their historic family home, "Spoonwood" (the old-fashioned name for "Laurel", Anne related!) on Howeville Road. A house tour and a chance to see a collection of historic photos of the Lake and environments made the meeting day all the more interesting.

On my recent fall visit to the Lake, I noticed a petition at the Depot Store and other area marketplaces for people to sign, who want to have the State erect a traffic light at the corner of Rtes. 12 and 119 in Fitzwilliam. The proposers cite the congestion at the intersection due to the burgeoning traffic flows that seem related to the development in next door neighbor, Rindge, with the Market Basket shopping center and the new WalMart. This served as a reminder that things are changing in this idyllic, unspoiled little corner of New Hampshire, and that we can expect some changes at the Lake to follow, no doubt.

Some evidence of emerging issues was evident at the Board Meeting. Arnold Anderson brought us the concerns of East Lake residents about some problems with boisterous lake users, which we are now working to resolve. In addition, board members voiced concerns about trash and bathroom manners at the end of the lake where the public boat landing and beach are located. There are presently no facilities for either trash or toilets there, and some have been acting irresponsibly in that regard. The closing of the town beach a few days this past summer raised concerns about water quality with increased public use, but in general the quality so far remains quite excellent, we are happy to report.

One of the best things about this Lake Association is finding that folks at the Lake truly care about each other and the quality of the Lake. Don Treat continues his conscientious leadership in leading water quality monitoring teams. Liz Young, Director of Fleur de Lis Camp is actively involved with other Board members in meeting with State officials to keep an eye on the water flow situation at the south end of the lake near where the dams exist. She gave an excellent update to the Board. George Graf had attended the first annual "Congress of Lake Associations" with 100 other lake conservationists, and returned in enthusiastic support of the parent organization, the New Hampshire Lake Association. Through George's efforts, the head of the NH Lake Association was contacted and gave the informative program at our Annual Meeting and Picnic of the entire Lake Association membership at White's Field in July. Your Board has since voted to become one of the 125 lake associations in the state who participate in the NHLA. (See related article.) This seems to be an important step as new legislation about new rules regarding shoreland protection, water quality protection, docks, watercraft and boating rules is proposed. We aim to keep us all informed and educated about the issues which may be affecting us at Laurel Lake.

This message would be incomplete without a word of sincere thanks to all of you who made the Lake a pleasant place to be in the Summer of '93. We are particularly indebted to Charlie Brackett and crew for another great Canoe and Kayak race, raffle and hot dog feast. Marguerite Albertini and Milt Posovsky

went extra miles garnering new members. High school student Michael Friedman deserves praise for his outstanding leadership in organizing and hosting the Labor Day Sunfish Regatta. Outstanding seems to run in his family, it seems, as we all know from his Dad's superb work as Ledger Editor and Publisher. (Thanks, Larry, for another great issue!)

To Barb and Jack Dumont, Don Garland, Jim Baldwin, Barbara Green, Shirley Quinn, Karl and Joanne Anderson and all those previously mentioned in this article, THANKS for your work and your voices this past year in the Lake Association.

In conclusion, I'd like to urge anyone who might wish to help with one of the summer events, or to serve on the Board when openings appear, to not be bashful about your desire! Also, let us know what concerns or opinions you have as a lake resident on anything at all, from water quality and taxes, to the disappearance of Howard the Duck. Your voice can be expressed through articles you submit to the Ledger, through contacting one of your Board members, or by speaking up at the July Annual Meeting and Picnic at White's Field.

Hope you all have a happy winter and spring and the Summer of '94 will be one of the best.

SPOONWOOD

By: Anne Korjeff

It's called "Spoonwood" - the old gray farmhouse southeast of Laurel Lake - and it has been owned by the same family since it was built in the early 1800's. Mike Korjeff, the present owner, is the 3x great-grandson of the builder, John Burbank. (His father, also John Burbank, settled in Fitzwilliam in 1803.)

The original foundation is of large granite slabs, nearly two feet thick and up to eight feet long. The central chimney, which serves three fireplaces, is supported by six stone slabs resting across two stacks of granite. It must have been quite a challenge to move them to the site and set them in place. Thick hand cut beams form the basic structure, which had three rooms on the first floor and two under the eaves.

Succeeding generations have added to and modernized the house. The porch was added on the east and north sides. A summer kitchen and shed became the present dining room and kitchen. More additions have turned into a workroom and garage. After World War II, plumbing moved indoors, electricity replaced kerosene and central heating augmented the fireplaces.

During World War I, the farm grew produce to "support the war effort." In the early 1900's, the first Fitzwilliam summer camp for boys, Camp Chevy Chase, was located here. Run by Charles E. Burbank, Mike's grandfather, it attracted boys from the Worcester, Massachusetts area. Occasionally, the farmhouse was rented to friends for summer vacations. Don Treat remembers spending some time there as a young boy.

For years it was used by the family only in the summer. Then in 1962, Alice Burbank Korjeff and Gregory Korjeff retired there for the next 23 years. Now, their son and his family continue to enjoy the charm and natural beauty of Fitzwilliam and Laurel Lake.



Fall Board Meeting at Spoonwood.



Larry Friedman, Editor of the Ledger, with Anne Korjeff, owner of Spoonwood.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

By: George Graf, Jr.

At the June 12 meeting of the Board of Directors, with a misconception of the magnitude of the task, I brashly volunteered to work on or work up a list of potential Laurel Lake Association members for use in our 1993 membership campaign. Closer examination suggests this is not a simple job. I regret that it will not be possible for me to give you a finished package. I would like to summarize what I have found, make some suggestions for the future and provide partial lists of members or potential members for the 1993 campaign.

My first observation of the membership list in the January 1993 "Ledger" is that it is a very diverse population. Some of the members are lake property owners, some are related to these owners, some are owners of land not abutting the lake but in the vicinity of it and some are renters or campers. Canvassing such a diverse group, especially renters or campers or friends of the lake, can be a challenge. It appears to me that a committee needs to formalize what I sense is a loose membership structure. This step would also be necessary if we are to consider becoming a part of the New Hampshire Lakes Association.

I believe predicting and maintaining our membership would be easier if it is organized into categories. Campaigning and soliciting should be easier. And, it will prepare us for the day when our roving membership chairman, Milt Posovsky, who has done such a fantastic job, finally retires.

My study of property ownership encompassed Town Maps 2, 3, 6, 7, 20 through 25. In addition, a list (hopefully complete) has been prepared of all persons in the '92 Town Report who have properties on these maps, that abut the lake or are in close vicinity to it.

I estimated that there are 123 shore (?) properties and perhaps 30 properties in the vicinity which should represent potential members. With this data, some idea of the objectives of our Association for '94 and the associated expenses, we should be able to establish a budget and a proposal for a membership fee structure. Frankly, this looks like a committee (of 5) job which should be undertaken this summer. However, a membership drive could be mounted this summer. Each map or area property listing could serve as a membership canvassing list.

If there are any questions, or if I can be of further help, please let me know. Let me emphasize that this sort of project ought to get under way now.

Anyone interested in joining this committee should please write:

George Graf
P.O. Box 123
Hillsboro, NH 03244
or
Phyllis Chase
54 Nutting Road
P.O. Box 1487
Westford, MA 01886

1993 MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

By: Larry Friedman

I would like to thank all of the 91 people who took the time to fill out the 1993 Laurel Lake Survey. "Taking the Time" is what this survey is all about. Let's face it, for most of us, 24 hours in a day is just not enough and those precious hours at the lake are difficult to part with.

In the fall of '92, I decided to utilize the blank side of the membership form that goes out with the Ledger. I needed to know what the members wanted to read in the Ledger, were they actually reading the paper and if so, how many people read each issue? I wanted to know how members felt about the Association and the water quality of the lake. Did they want to become active in the organization or did they know of any good candidates for office. To my knowledge, this is the first poll of the Membership since the establishment of the organization in 1950. I am sure some of you will find the results interesting and perhaps future generations will look back on the compilation of data and find the information useful. The conclusions I draw are my own opinions; you may find the results have a different meaning to you.

I mailed 273 issues of the Laurel Lake Ledger at the beginning of 1993. About 20 were returned as non-deliverable, so let's say we reached 253 households. Of those 253 we reached, 187 joined. That's 73%. (It should be noted that not all 187 joined because of the Ledger, the canoe race and other activities and efforts are also responsible.) Of the 187 households that joined, 91 took the time to answer the survey. That's a 48% repsonse, which I am told is excellent. For the purpose of this survey, I am going to assume that the 48% is a good cross section of our membership.

1. We asked each household how many years they were a member of the Laurel Lake Association. The answers were as follows:

# of		# of	
Answer	Members	Answer	Members
1 yr	6	18 yrs	1
2 yrs	7	20 yrs	3
3 yrs	7	30 yrs	2
4 yrs	10	35 yrs	1
5 yrs	10	40 yrs	1
6 yrs	4	41 yrs	1
7 yrs	3	43 yrs	5
8 yrs	4	Many	3
9 yrs	1	?	7
10 yrs	5	Blank	6
14 yrs	1	2000"	1
17 yrs	1		

* (Touch of Humor)

As you can see, most of our membership have been members 10 years or less and most of those have been members less than five years. This was probably due to a personal effort made by Milton Posovsky to recruit members door to door. It is important that we identify non-members and convince them to join. I have tried to do this leaving space on the front side of the application for members to write in prospects for new memberships. Several were written in on this last application form. Those people will be contacted about joining in 1994. There is no substitute for face to face solicitation. If you enjoy this type of volunteering and have the time to do it, please make yourself known to our President, Phyllis Chase, 54 Nutting Road, Westford, MA 01886.

2. In my second question, I was trying to determine why people are or are not active in the Laurel Lake Association. The answers are as follows:

Those that choose to be involved do so because:

a) They want to preserve the lake and its surroundings and the character of the area (most common answer).

b) Other reasons: If you want a clean lake, you have to get involved; to meet people; power in numbers; to keep the organization going; and concern.

Those that choose to be members, but not get involved:

- a) Most left this blank.
- b) Not there much (most common answer).
- c) No time (second most common answer).

Other answers:

Health not well; too old; just fish there; live too far way; active at home; vacation time is too valuable; don't use the lake; not a joiner; don't know the people; was active when I was younger; must work; lack of interest but appreciate work done by others; not a home owner; not available weekends; being too organized takes the fun out of the group; young children and entertain guests every weekend; too busy; and, have not been asked.

I am sympathetic to those who value their vacation time. I, too, never volunteered to join until Milt Posovsky

asked me several years ago. I did volunteer to take on the newsletter when Jack Dumont told me he did not have time to do both the Ledger and be the Secretary of the Association. I think there is a need for our organization and, just like national and local politics, we cannot be judgmental if we are not willing to get involved. (As a Rhode Islander, I am not involved and I am suffering because of it).

It is true that only a small core group does most of the work (which is true in any organization). If you are not presently active and want to be, call me Toll Free 1-800-776-6640, Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and we will discuss some of the things you could do to help.

3. We asked those filling out the Survey if they lived within walking distance to the lake:

Yes	87%
No	12%
Blank	1%

Although walking distance means different things to different people, I think it's safe to say that most of our members own (or rent) homes near the lake.

4. We asked the person filling out the Survey if they wanted to be an Officer or take on a Chair in the Association. Their response was:

No	77%
Yes	14%
Blank	6%
Maybe	3%

I think there is a perception that this organization takes a lot of valuable personal vacation time. This is not true. I also think that people do not get to the lake as much as they would like to because the season is short and life has so many other commitments. Personally, I found that it does not take a lot of my summer time to put the Ledger together. I attend three meetings a year during the summer. I only get to the lake 30 days a year at the most. Being part of the Association makes the lake that much more special to me. I would have never met the people in our community if I did not become active. 14% active is probably typical for many organizations.

5. It was rewarding for me to find out that most people read the entire issue of the Ledger and pass it on to two or three other people who also read it.

93%	Read the entire issue
5%	Skim it
2%	Left answer blank

6. The average Ledger is read by 284 people. (Three people left this question blank.)

7. The Ledger articles most enjoyed (in order of priority) are:

Historical	36%
"All" Articles	22%
Water Quality, Environmental Testing, & Preservation	22%
Left Answer Blank	22%
Local News, Current Activities	10%
People, Neighbors, Human Interest	9%
Boating/Swimming	4%
Fishing	2%
Wildlife	2%
Safety/Regulations	2%
Points of Interest	1%
Gardening	1%
Camping	1%
Future Plans	1%

Note percentages add up to over 100% because most people polled gave multiple answers.

8. Probably the most significant statistic from this survey was the response to the question: Do you feel the Laurel Lake Association has a positive effect on the quality of life at the lake?

Responded Yes	93.5%
Responded No	0.5%
No Definite Answer	6.0%

Although there were some critical comments about what was happening around the lake, over 93% of those who filled out the survey felt the organization has a positive effect on the quality of life at the lake. This is probably why so many pay their dues yearly, even though they are not active.

9. Most people could not identify a member who they felt would be a good candidate for a leadership position. Nineteen people were suggested as good candidates. Of those 19, seven were people volunteering their services. I think people just don't know their neighbors, rather than feeling their neighbors are not qualified. I will forward the list of candidates to our President, Phyllis Chase.

10. Question 10 asked if people would like to attend a social event to meet other members and, if so, when would be a convenient time.

29%	Left the answer blank or said not interested
16.5%	Prefered July
12%	Prefered August
15.5%	Prefered July or August
5.5%	Prefered June
1%	Prefered September
1%	Prefered Not Summer
17%	No Preference

More people prefered late afternoon or night, rather than at noon.

I personally think the day of the Chicken Barbecue is over. Probably the best we can hope for is to reserve a restaurant some evening. Our problem has never been getting volunteers to work an event; our problem has been getting an individual to Chair the event. Any Volunteers?

11. Most people are in favor of publishing a list of Homes for Sale or Rent in the Ledger:

77%	In Favor
12%	Not in Favor
11%	Left Blank

If you are planning to sell your home (or rent it out), send details of what you are selling, along with your name and address (price and phone number are optional). Send them to:

Laurel Lake Ledger
265 Freeman Parkway
Providence, RI 02906

12. Most members were not willing to pay higher taxes in exchange for being connected to a Sewage Treatment Plant (if there was a choice):

42%	Elected not to be connected
21%	Were willing to pay higher taxes
17%	Were not home owners
20%	Left this answer blank

13. Most home owners were not victim to vandalism in the last five years:

Vandalized	24%
Not Vandalized	61%
Not a home owner	12%
Left answer blank	2%
Boat Stolen	1%

14. Asked if they were satisfied with the Water Quality of the lake as described in test results printed in the Ledger, the responses were as follows:

Satisfied	68%
Not Satisfied	20%
Left Answer Blank	12%

15. We asked all of those polled if they had any other comments and we had several comments - some positive, some negative.

My favorite: "Laurel Lake is the source of my fondest childhood recollections. I visit every time I get to the East Coast. The years go by and we change, but the Lake doesn't seem to."

Other Positive Comments

- "Monitoring Water Quality is Vital";
- "Band concerts or summer theater needed";
- "Would get more involved if we were here more";
- "Like articles about the way people help each other";
- "No complaints";
- "Enjoyed latest Ledger, excellent content and format";
- "I would like to see the 4th of July Sunfish Race".
- Concerns
 - "Would like to see reasonable boat hours and speeds";
 - "Concerned about effect of campgrounds concentrated in watershed area";
 - "Taxes are too high for amount of time spent at the lake";
 - "People still wash in the lake. I have spoken to them, but they still do it."
 - "Concerned about noise pollution from boats and possible airport expansion";
 - "Water quality could be better."
 - "Many lake shore land owners curse and despise the public access boat launch and town designated swim area."
 - "The local people do not feel welcome on their own lake during the summer months."
 - "Transplanting fish from one lake to another is illegal."
 - "Why connect to waste treatment plant; we are not a city."
 - "Taxes too high!"
 - "Seasonal properties too high compared to year round properties";
 - "Taxes are too high, we get nothing in return."
 - "Lake shut down a few times due to some kind of pollution";
 - "More police patrol to curb parking at end of East Lake Road so emergency vehicles can get through";
 - "Need events more festive than Chicken Barbecue ... willing to pay more";
- "I worry about effects on water from outsiders using powerboats on the Lake."
- "Water stagnant at swim club with much plant life";
- "Color of brook through campground looks terrible";
- "Can anything be done to minimize plant growth?"
- "Conversion of lake houses to permanent residences with inadequate sewerage systems is a threat to our lake."
- "Don't have events when historical society has antique show"...

I hope this survey gives you an idea of what your neighbors are thinking. All of our members share one thing in common: "concern" about the future of a body of water we call Laurel Lake.

WATER IS CLEARLY BETTER

By: Don Treat

Table I: Water Testing Results 1989 - 1993

	Clarity (ft.)	pH	ANC (mg/L)	Color	Phos. (ug/L)	Conduct. (uMhos)	Chlorophyll-a (ug/L)
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	23½	6.60	2.65	8	3.5	48.1	3.37

Table I displays the averaged results from the monthly samples in each annually monitored parameter (Clarity, pH, ANC, etc.). The samples were collected each year at approximately the same time (10-11 a.m.), at approximately the same locations and depths, and close to the same dates in June, July and August. Uncontrollable variables included weather, tree pollination and boating activity.

The Clarity or transparency of Laurel Lake is "exceptional," according to the N.H. Department of Environmental Services. The average transparency for New Hampshire lakes is 12½ feet. Conditions on the surface of the water can easily affect the depth at which the reflective Secchi disc remains visible by a foot or two.

The average pH for N.H. lakes is 6.0. A pH between 6.5 and 7.5 is ideal for the survival and reproduction of fish and other aquatic life. Laurel Lake's pH moved into that range in 1990.

Acid Neutralizing Capacity or buffering capacity refers to the ability of a solution to resist changes in pH by neutralizing acidic inputs. The ANC values in Table I are expressed in mg/L of calcium carbonate. Unfortunately for New Hampshire's lakes, their bedrock is granite; and therefore their ability to neutralize acidic input is relatively low as contrasted with Vermont with its limestone bedrock. The average ANC for N.H. lakes is 6.5 mg/L. As can be seen from Table I, Laurel Lake water has very low buffering capacity and remains very vulnerable to acidic input. More encouraging is the fact that the values have shown an improving trend, and the ANC is no longer characterized as being at a "critical" level (ANC below 2.0).

Color is a visual measure, against standards, of the color of the water. Lakes that appear clear have values less than 25; those with values over 40 are tea-colored. Laurel Lake's color value is excellent and appears to be stable.

Phosphorus -- THE MOST IMPORTANT PARAMETER MEASURED -- is expressed in micrograms of phosphorus per liter. The values shown are from the upper layer of lake water (epilimnion). New Hampshire lakes average 10-20 ug/L of phosphorus; the median concentration is 11 ug/L. The Water Testing Committee is encouraged to see the 1993 value of 3.5 ug/L, which suggests that Laurel Lake residents are taking steps to stop/avoid the introduction of phosphorus into the lake. Increased phosphorus levels promote excessive weed and algae blooms.

Conductivity is the numerical expression of the ability of water to carry an electric current. High conductivity may indicate pollution from faulty septic systems, road runoff, erosion of shoreland, etc. The average conductivity of N.H. lakes is 56.0 uMhos/cm, and values below 50 are considered good. For Laurel Lake, the values were trending in a favorable direction until 1993 when an apparent reversal occurred, which may be significant.

Chlorophyll-a is the green pigment found in plants. The average level for N.H. lakes is 7.27 mg/m³. As can be seen from Table I, since 1989 the values for this parameter have remained below 5, and indicate that algae growth is not increasing.

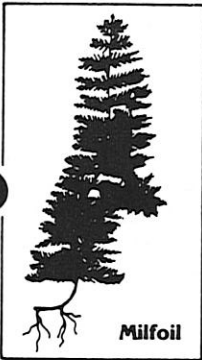
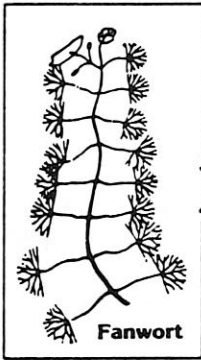
Samples tested for fecal contamination (E. coli) were taken from the three most used swimming areas: North Beach, South Beach (public area) and Swimming Club. All nine tests were either negative for E. coli or were well within the range considered safe for swimming. The Public Beach, however, was closed by town officials for a few days in July when contaminated backflow of stagnant water in the outlet apparently entered the lake. Until the problem of inadequate flushing of water from that congested area is corrected, similar incidents are likely to recur. The absence of toilet facilities at the Public Beach also contributes to the danger of lake contamination.

Members of the 1993 Water Testing Committee were: James Deyo, Don Garland, George Graf, Barbara Green, Jim Townsend and Don Treat, Chr.



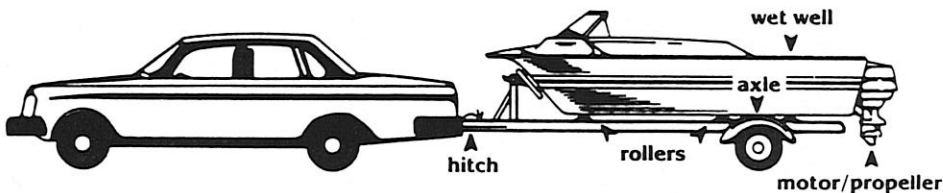
Unknown plane lands on Laurel Lake - 9 a.m., August 4, 1993.
Photo by Marguerite Albertini from Sandy Beach.

BOATERS! WEED OUT STOWAWAYS



STOP NUISANCE WEED SPREAD

Aquatic weeds are often found



Remove & Dispose

NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
BIOLOGY BUREAU
P.O. BOX 95 — HAZEN DRIVE
CONCORD, NH
Tel. 603-271-3505

LAKE PROTECTION TIPS SOME DO'S AND DON'TS FOR MAINTAINING HEALTHY LAKES

By: NHDES Technical Bulletin

Activities that increase the input of phosphorus and sediment erosion into lakes are not good; however those that decrease these inputs will greatly help prolong the health of lakes. Listed below are activities that lake residents and others can do to help reduce phosphorus and sediment inputs.

1. Pump out your septic tank every three to five years, or whenever the sludge level exceeds one-third of the tank capacity.
2. Maintain your septic system properly. (Contact the NHDES to obtain several free informational brochures.) Be sure your system is designed to handle the load it receives. A leach field should be increased in size whenever the frequency (seasonal to year-round) or volume (additional people, washing machines, etc.) of use increases.
3. Check your leach field for soft or wet areas or septic smells. Replace faulty systems.
4. Do not bathe, shampoo or wash boats, pets or other objects in the lake with soap or phosphorus-containing detergents. Do not wash automobiles near lakes where the detergent can run into the water.
5. Use low or non-phosphate detergent. Take your clothes to a laundromat located outside the lake's drainage area.
6. Keep land clearing to a minimum. Revegetate bare areas to minimize erosion to the lake. Roads and paths leading to the lake should be curved to reduce erosion.
7. Maintain a buffer zone of natural vegetation along the shore to contain

- erosion and assimilate nutrients before they reach the lake.
8. Do not use fertilizer near the lake shore. Encourage shore fronts with natural vegetation, rather than green, manicured lawns.
 9. Do not burn brush or leaves near the shore; the nutrients remain behind to be washed into the lake during the first rain. Do not dump leaves or grass clippings in or near the lake. They also add nutrients to the water.
 10. Do not urinate or defecate in the lake, and don't allow pets to do the same. Cows, horses or other groups of animals should not be housed near the lake where the phosphorus in their manure can be washed into the lake by rain.
 11. Do not feed ducks or other aquatic organisms; there is plenty of natural food available. Nutrients in the feed material, which is produced outside the lake's watershed, will be added to the lake through the organism's feces. Also, by discouraging the duck population, you can reduce the risk of swimmers' itch in your area.
 12. Do not use powerful outboard motors in shallow areas. The nutrient-laden bottom sediments can be churned into the overlying water to support increased algae growth.

JUNE BOARD MEETING

BY: Jack Dumont

The Laurel Lake Associates held their Board of Directors' Meeting on Saturday, June 19, 1993 at the home of Director Milt Posovsky on East Lake Road.

In attendance were Phyllis Chase, Jack Dumont, Bruce Knight, Milt Posovsky, Karl Anderson, Don Garland, Don Austin, Arnold Anderson, George Graf, Don Treat, Ann Korjeff, Barbara Green, Jim Baldwin, Liz Young, Charles Brackett and Larry Friedman.

The meeting was called to order by President Bruce Knight at 9:14 a.m. Secretary Jack Dumont read the minutes of the September 12, 1992 Board of Directors' Meeting. On a motion by George Graf and seconded by Liz Young that the minutes be accepted as read; the vote passed unanimously.

Association Treasurer Don Austin read and presented a written report on the current status of the Association finances. On a motion by Don Garland and seconded by Ann Korjeff that the report be received as read; the motion passed unanimously.

The Board of Directors reviewed Distinguished Service Award as prepared by Association Secretary Jack Dumont.

The Board of Directors discussed the Chicken Barbecue scheduled for August 28, 1993. On a motion by Don Garland and seconded by Jim Baldwin that the Chicken Barbecue be discussed at the Annual Meeting; the Motion passed unanimously.

Association Treasurer Don Austin reported to the Directors on the status of the Association as it relates to the Internal Revenue Service.

Jack Dumont discussed plans for the Annual Meeting scheduled for July 17, 1993 at White's Field, Laurel Lake Campground.

Charles Brackett discussed plans for the Annual Canoe and Kayak Races,

scheduled for Saturday, July 24, 1993. On a motion by Larry Friedman and seconded by Milt Posovsky that the efforts of Charles Brackett and the operating expenses incurred by the Canoe and Kayak Races be supported by the Board of Directors; the motion passed unanimously.

Don Treat, Chairman of the Water Testing Committee, reported on the EPA's plans to discontinue funding for the Clean Lakes Program and our testing plans for the 1993 season.

Larry Friedman reported that his son, Michael, will continue to chair the Annual Labor Day Sunfish Regatta.

Unfortunately, there was no representative from the Membership Committee in attendance at the meeting. The Board of Directors assist the Committee by obtaining a listing of property owners around the lake and comparing them to our membership listings.

The Board of Directors wish to recognize the efforts of Ken and Terry Cavadini in preparing a sign, noting boating regulations, at the boat launching area.

The Board discussed the lack of progress in acquiring assistance to prevent further seepage of water through the Pratt property. Don Treat volunteered to follow-up with the State of New Hampshire.

Bruce Knight reported to the Board on the defeat of an appropriation of \$10,000 at the Town Meeting for the construction of a dock at the town beach.

The Board supported the attendance of George Graf at the New Hampshire Lake Congress on a fact finding mission.

On a motion by Larry Friedman, the meeting adjourned at 12:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Dumont

ACCORDING TO GEORGE

By: George L. Graf, Jr.

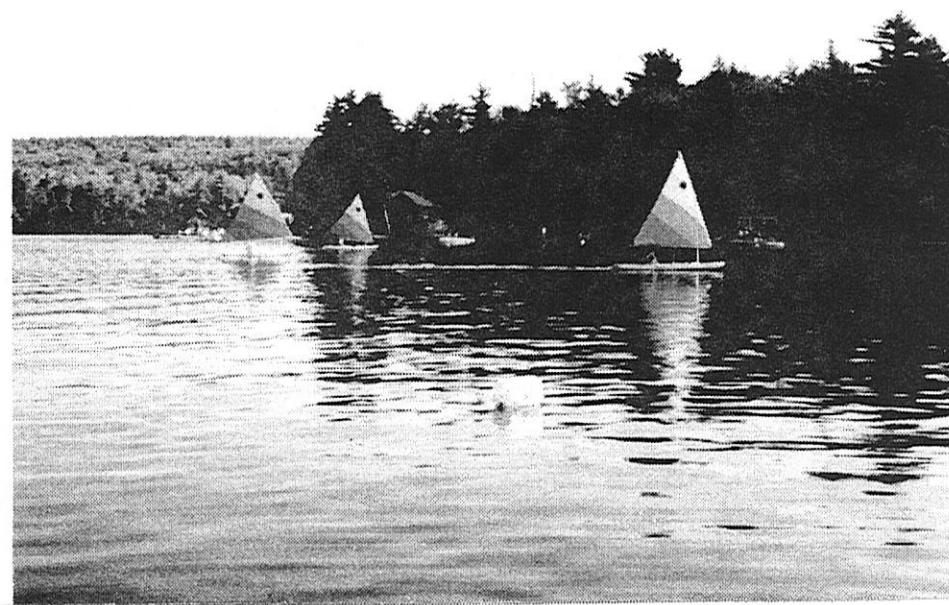
At the request of Bruce Knight, President of Laurel Lake Association, I attended, as an observer, the New Hampshire Lakes Congress on June 26, 1993 at the St. Paul's School in Concord, NH. The scheduled program started at 10:00 a.m. and adjourned at approximately 3:45 p.m.

The program consisted of welcoming and introductory remarks by Sidney Lovett, President of NHLA and Jack Calhoun, Executive Secretary of NHLA. These comments were followed by four formal presentations and a review of legislative activities of concern to lake property owners. The NHLA, sponsor of this first Lakes Congress, has 125 lake association members and 2000 individual members. About 100 members and observers attended the meeting. The State of New Hampshire has 300 lake associations. Since Jack Calhoun will be our annual meeting speaker, I will not dwell on further facts about NHLA.

The first speaker, Paul Grevstal of Sunapee, discussed "Building and Sustaining a Strong Lake Association." He believes the New Hampshire lakes are a major economic resource for the state. He suggested that protecting the quality of lake waters and the quality of our lake experience should be the basic function of our lake associations. Education of our members and the community is needed to get regulations adopted and enforced to achieve protection of the quality waters and experiences. Five operating committees are suggested to accomplish the objectives of associations. They are: Water Quality, Shoreline and Watershed, Membership, Public Awareness and



Board of Directors at the June Board Meeting. Home of Milt and Anne Posovsky.



Mark Friedman crosses the finish line for 3rd Place in the Labor Day Regatta.

MOSES REMEMBERS

By: Edward Moses

Dear Larry:

Sorry to foul you up with home listings, I do have two addresses and a third, if I include Laurel Lake. Legally, Florida is my address, and this coming Monday we will be flying down for the winter season. I follow the sun like a professional golfer (which I am not).

If a subject comes up, I will be glad to oblige for an article in the Ledger. At present, all I can think about would fall under the category of "I Remember," which would go back 45 years, with very much the same situation you people are facing now.

I remember a half dozen men or so got together to form Laurel Lake Association - at that time, we got together to raise some money. Milt Posovsky was there, along with the elder Perry. I also remember when we met to get started on a recycling program and its feasibility for the Lake. This was held shortly after the new fire station was built in the back room.

I can also remember when we used to drink the lake water and found it very satisfying.

I can also remember when there were only four families on our side of the Lake (west side).

If anything comes up which might be interesting, I will let you know.

Have a good winter.

Hope to see you next season.

Edward Moses, M.D.

Boating.

The problem of establishing "Shoreline Protection Ordinances for Lake Communities" were reviewed by Nancy Marachio of Newbury. She highlighted the problems encountered in developing ordinances to protect Lake Sunapee where more than one town has jurisdiction over the shoreline. It was emphasized that ordinances are not helpful, but prone to be circumvented, if understanding through education is not achieved. Further, the educational process must be a continuing one.

"Developing a Watershed/Lake Management Plan - Getting the Data and Working With It" was the topic discussed by Change Parker of Newfound Lake and Jeff Shloss of New Hampshire - Cooperative Extension Service. The process and scope for a study of Newfound Lake, which included location of "hot spots," determination of land protection needs, recognition of the decision processes required and initiation of seasonal management were reviewed.

The fourth topic highlighted the initiatives for control of exotic weeds and the NEW aquatic problem Zebra Mussels. This nuisance aquatic life will probably be in our area soon.

The final discussions directed attention to the legislation past, current and future which can impact on lake property owners and the general enjoyment of lake waters. Jet skis, operation of boats when intoxicated, and dock regulations and taxation were legislative activities reviewed. NHLA maintains surveillance of legislative activities on the behalf of its members.

The meeting was very informative and

interesting to me. As for our association's problem of uncontrolled outflow of water from the lake, an opportunity was provided during the lunch period to contact other attendees who might have similar situations. No similar problems were uncovered, but discussions of dam ownership and control were covered. I strongly suggest that on the basis of this meeting and my positive reaction to the NHLA objectives and activities, LLA should become a member of the umbrella association. By such an action we can be kept aware of developments in New Hampshire and other states. It also can serve as a source for printed material which will assist in our committee activities.

As for the question of renewed Federal funding of water sampling and testing programs, at the time of the meeting, funds had not been allocated. NHLA plans to keep a close watch on these activities.

**DON'T FORGET TO
MAIL YOUR
1994 MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION AND
DUES TODAY!**

Application enclosed
with every issue.

ANNUAL MEETING

By: Jack Dumont

The Annual Meeting of the Laurel Lake Association was held on Saturday, July 17, 1993, at White's Field in the Laurel Lake Campground in Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire.

The meeting was called to order by President Bruce Knight at 10:32 a.m., at which time he introduced Jack Calhoun, Secretary of the New Hampshire Lake Association. Mr. Calhoun spoke on the role of his Association and some of the concerns local lake associations should have regarding water quality and natural elements threatening our lakes.

Jack Dumont, Association Secretary, read the minutes of the August 1, 1992 Annual Meeting. On a motion by Liz Young 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 Don Treat and seconded that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as read, the motion passed unanimously.

Don Garland, 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: Phyllis Chase, President; Jim Baldwin, Vice President; Jack Dumont, Secretary; and Don Austin, Treasurer. As Directors for three year terms: Marguerite Albertini, Arnold Anderson, Milt Posovsky and Anne Korjeff. On a motion by George Graf and seconded that the Secretary cast one ballot for the entire slate of officers as presented by the Nominating Committee, the motion passed unanimously.

President Bruce Knight presented the new Association By-Laws to the membership for approval. On a motion by Don Garland and seconded by George Graf that the By-Laws be approved as presented, the motion passed unanimously.

Larry Friedman, representing his son, Michael, who is Chairman of the Labor Day Sunfish Regatta, gave upcoming details of this year's event.

Larry Friedman, Editor/Publisher of the Laurel Lake Ledger, thanked the membership for past articles submitted and assured the membership that he had received the survey questionnaires they completed. The results will be printed in the Ledger.

Charles Brackett, Chairman of the Canoe and Kayak Race, informed the membership of his plans for this year's activities which are scheduled for July 24th or July 25th.

President Bruce Knight fostered discussion on the Chicken Barbecue by seeking a commitment on the part of the membership. Since no interest was shown, the matter was dropped.

Don Treat, Chairman of the Water Testing Committee, gave his report by comparing the water tests taken in June of 1993 with that of previous years. Comparisons showed slight improvements in clarity, color, pH, Chlorophyll A, acid neutralizing capacity and total phosphors. Coliform count remains well under the state levels for swimming. Discussion followed on the closing of the town beach due to high coliform levels and the water seepage at the Pratt property due to the erosion of the dike. Don Treat explained both conditions to the membership and informed them that he was meeting with the State of New Hampshire Lakes Coordinator to view and discuss the dike problem.

President Bruce Knight reported on the membership of the Laurel Lake Association and encouraged non-members to join. Jack Dumont spoke on the need for members to renew by mail.

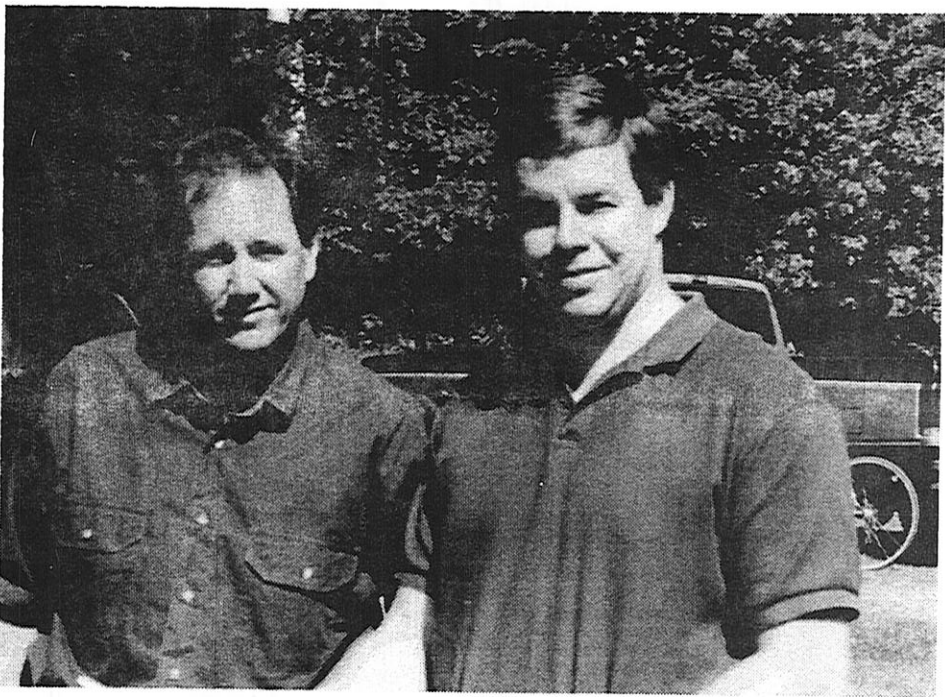
On a motion by George Graf and seconded that the actions of the Board of Director for the past year be approved by the general membership, the motion passed unanimously.

President Bruce Knight thanked the general membership, chairpersons of committees and Association Officers and Board of Directors for their assistance during his tenure as President.

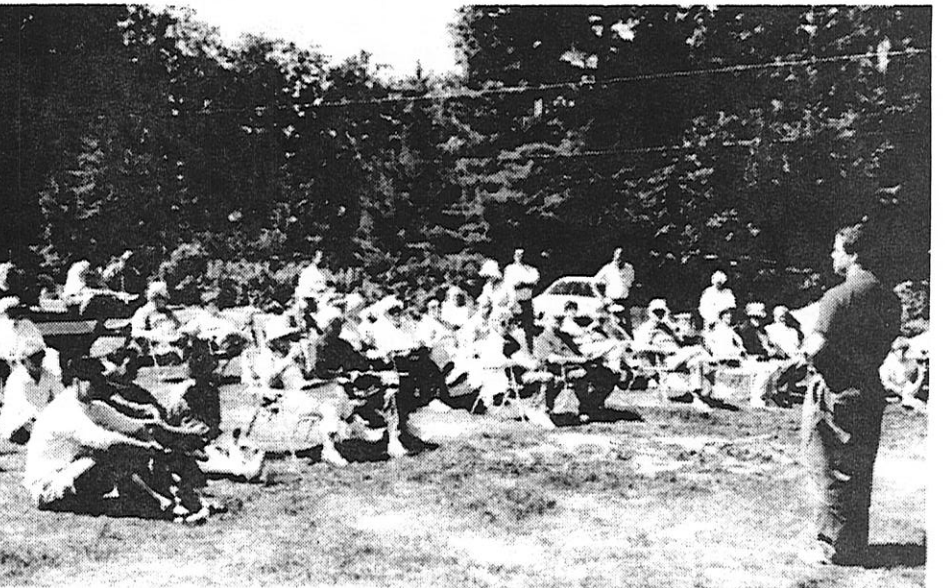
On a motion by George Graf and seconded that the Association membership show their appreciation for the splendid job performed by Bruce Knight as Association President, the motion passed unanimously.

On a motion by Don Treat and seconded that the meeting be adjourned, the motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 12:21 p.m.

Respectfully yours,
Jack Dumont
Association Secretary



Past President, Bruce Knight, and Jack Calhoun, Secretary of the N.H. Lake Association, guest Speaker at the Annual Meeting.



Jack Calhoun speaks to members of the Laurel Lake Association about natural and man-made elements threatening lakes in N.H.

PROPERTY TAX ON THE RISE

By: Bruce Knight

If you are a property owner in Fitzwilliam, I'm sure that you noticed an increase in your December tax bill. This increase was caused by a tax rate increase of \$.92 per \$1,000.00 of valuation. As you know, the tax rate is made up of three components: the town, county and school shares. The rates for last year and this year compare as shown:

	1992	1993	Difference
Town	4.40	4.73	+ .33
County	1.00	1.00	+ .00
School	11.65	12.21	+ .56

In Fitzwilliam taxes are collected in June and December of the year in which the money is appropriated and spent. The exact tax rate is not calculated until the end of each year. This is done by the NH Department of Revenue Administration. Because the town has semi-annual billing and because the rate is not set until the Fall, the amount of the June bill is an estimate based on one-half of the previous year's taxes. Therefore, if your real estate is valued at \$100,000.00, your June tax bill was \$884.00 (1/2 of your 1992 tax) and your December bill was \$986.00, making your total tax bill \$1,860.00 (18.60 tax rate x \$100,000.00 valuation). Incidentally, the town estimates that property valuations are actually 127% of today's market value.

Clearly, the school share had the greatest impact on your tax increase (61% of the increase).

How does Fitzwilliam stack up to other towns in the Monadnock region. Here is a comparison that appeared in the Keene Sentinel:

Comparing 1992-93 property-tax bills on a house worth \$100,000

* based on town government calculations, adjusting each town's property-tax rate to put all of them on a comparable basis.

Town	'93 Bill	'92 bill, Ranking
1. Antrim	\$3,938	\$2,921 (5)
2. Marlborough	\$3,665	\$2,769 (7)
3. Keene	\$3,558	\$3,175 (2)
4. Sullivan	\$3,482	\$2,417 (14)
5. Charlestown	\$3,423	\$3,262 (1)
6. Bennington	\$3,321	\$2,868 (6)
7. Winchester	\$3,031	\$2,976 (4)
8. Greenfield	\$2,976	\$2,581 (9)
9. Alstead	\$2,869	\$2,722 (8)
10. Langdon	\$2,753	\$2,276 (17)
11. Gilsum	\$2,735	\$3,121 (3)
12. Marlow	\$2,638	\$2,464 (13)
13. Jaffrey	\$2,617	\$2,575 (10)
14. Richmond	\$2,584	\$2,295 (16)
15. Swanzey	\$2,540	\$2,344 (15)
16. Hinsdale	\$2,534	\$2,538 (11)
17. Troy	\$2,520	\$2,520 (12)
18. Peterborough	\$2,490	\$2,155 (19)
19. Fitzwilliam	\$2,362	\$1,966 (24)
20. Rindge	\$2,239	\$2,104 (20)
21. Hancock	\$2,261	\$2,028 (21)
22. Acworth	\$2,112	\$2,009 (22)
23. Walpole	\$2,000	\$1,988 (23)
24. Surry	\$2,086	\$1,896 (25)
25. Westmoreland	\$1,968	\$2,172 (18)
26. Chesterfield	\$1,926	\$1,867 (26)
27. Roxbury	\$1,909	\$1,668 (29)
28. Nelson	\$1,790	\$1,829 (27)
29. Dublin	\$1,777	\$1,619 (30)
30. Harrisville	\$1,733	\$1,806 (28)
31. Stoddard	\$1,106	\$ 988 (31)



Don Austin (seated) and Jack Dumont (right) collect dues at the Annual Meeting as Gardner Dresser looks on.

FITZWILLIAM'S FIRST SNOWMOBILE

By: Jim Quinn
JAFFREY-PETERBOROUGH LEDGER

When Winfred T. Bosworth and his friend Roger A. ("RAP") Putney hauled a bizarre-looking contraption out of Bosworth's garage one winter day in 1922, neighbors were only slightly surprised. The two men were always tinkering around with machines and what not.

When they edged the device onto the main road, a few more eyebrows rose. For right there on West Lake Road was the strangest-looking machine they'd ever seen: lots of nuts, bolts and chains, it seemed, supported by four good-sized skis, with a long propeller blade at the front and two large wooden bucket seats in the rear.

But when Bosworth strode to the front, wound the propeller pilot-style and set in spinning with a loud roar, passersby stopped in their tracks and watched intently. Quickly he took his place in the first seat, adjusted his goggles and gripped the steering wheel. With Putney seated behind as co-pilot, the machine edged forward slowly at first, began gradually to pick up momentum, then eased into a steady ten mile-per-hour gait. Up the road it went, headed toward the village, its passengers waving politely to passing vehicles.

Fitzwilliam had its first snowmobile.

The unique device had been a long time in the making. Bosworth and Putney had gotten the general idea for it from mechanics magazines, but from there on the process had been completely their own brain-child. Wanting "good performance without spending much money," they culled nearby junkyards for parts and cajoled Bosworth's grandfather for permission to use his garage as a workshop. Working evenings over a period of several months, the men saw their dream begin to take on real dimensions.

A sturdy propeller was needed to haul what would eventually be about 900 pounds of men and machinery over the snow. So the pair sent for a five-foot section of White Ash and eagerly fashioned ("in one evening") it into a propeller blade. The propeller shaft was the rear axle from a Model-T Ford.

For a motor, Bosworth lifted the two-cylinder engine from his Harley Davidson motorcycle. The steering wheel came from an old Stanley Steamer. The runners, fashioned from White Ash donated by Bosworth's grandfather, were five-foot lengths much like those people skied on, with strips of sheet metal affixed to the bottom to insure roadworthiness.

The frame was devised "from pure imagination," recalls Bosworth. So was the steering mechanism: a series of chains running criss-cross, through pulleys and around a wood drum, and finally connecting to the Stanley Steamer steering wheel. Somewhat like an automobile, turning the wheel one way turned the two front runners in that direction. "It was a practical setup," said Bosworth.

So was the brake. Since General Motors had not yet invented power discs for them to lift from junk cars, the men took a piece of cold steel one-half by one-quarter foot in size, which they attached to the bottom of the sled and controlled by a handle near the seat. When they wanted to stop, a pull on the handle sent the steel gouging into the earth and pulled them to a stop.

Since the Harley Davidson engine wasn't powerful enough to do the job, the two friends "souped it up." This meant rebuilding it somewhat to provide more power. Without knowing it, Bosworth and Putney were also probably pioneers in the art of what is now called car "customizing."

"We knew we wanted a propeller-driven machine," said Bosworth. "We didn't think of the traction-type snowmobiles of

today ... We probably couldn't have built that type of thing back then anyway."

Flushed with pride at their accomplishment, the pair brought their ungainly invention to nearby Wilson Pond for a test-run. With plenty of ice and open space, the lake seemed an ideal spot for the experiment. Rooooaaarrrrr!!!! went the engine, onto the front seat hopped Bosworth and they were off!

Well, note quite. A patch of snow got in the way, flipped the sled over, and only seconds after takeoff the young pilots were sprawled on the ice, looking at the pieces of their smashed propeller blade and wondering what went wrong.

"Actually, the pitch of the propeller was too steep," confessed Bosworth, able to regard the catastrophe philosophically today.

Undiscouraged, they trekked back to the drawing board, put their heads together and came up with a propeller which was "not as pretty" but would not dash them overboard either.

The two men had also discovered that the two-cylinder engine wasn't powerful enough after all. So they returned to the junk yard and removed a four-cylinder one from an old car and bolted it into place. Now the machine which Bosworth calls an "air-propelled snow sled" worked as it should.

In its eight-year lifetime, the power sled was rebuilt several more times, each time with engines and parts picked up wherever

Bosworth and Putney could find them.

"I don't know which was more fun," said Bosworth, "building or running it."

Though ominous-looking, the machine averaged only 10 miles per hour and was quite safe. The department of motor vehicles sanctioned it for road use with the condition it bear a regulation number plate. So Bosworth attached the plate belonging to his motorcycle, and a strange new happening appeared on the Roaring Twenties scene. Bosworth still recalls that first ride to Fitzwilliam Village with a mixture of joy and terror.

"We went right up the hill with no difficulty, into the village and around the Common. But on the way back we ran into a problem ... A motorist approaching from the opposite direction caught sight of this thing with a massive propeller and oversized skis for tires and "was scared speechless," recalled Bosworth, with the hint of a giggle. "We pulled off the road, right into someone's yard, then circled back onto the road when he'd passed. Didn't even have to stop."

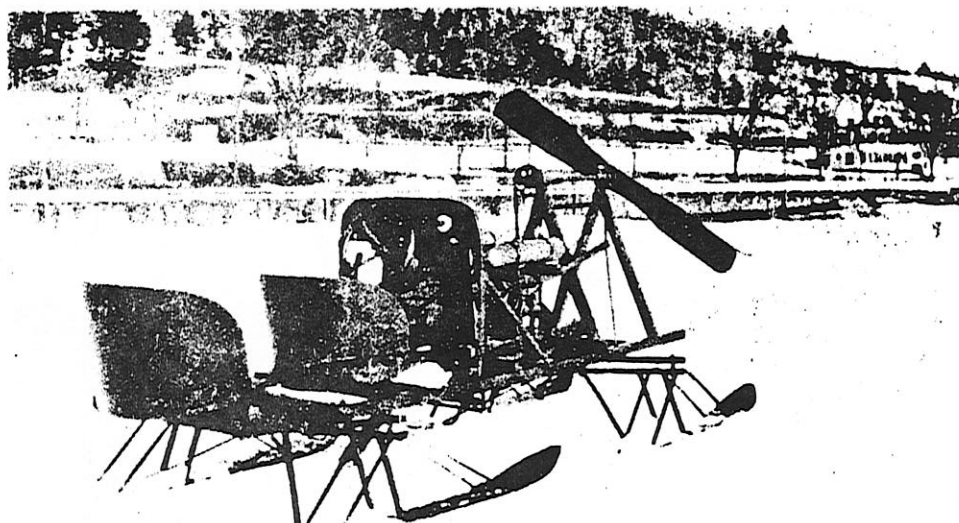
Another time the two navigators found themselves caught in a deep road rut while headed down the same road toward home. A pedestrian plodding head-down toward them did not heed their urgent screaming to remove himself from their path. "At the last second he finally looked up and got out of the way just in time," sighed Bosworth.

In spite of the near misses, no one ever was hurt by the snowmobile, he affirms. "And starting that propeller was a tricky operation. You had to crank it, then jump out of the way before it took your arm off."

Residents gradually took to requesting rides on the vehicle, and their wishes were always granted, free of charge. For nearly a decade Bosworth's and Putney's snow sled graced the streets, fields and ponds of Fitzwilliam and surrounding towns.

Now just a memory in the form of a splintered wood runner and several faded photographs from fifty years ago, the invention remains more like a favored son to Bosworth than a peculiar event buried in the past.

Bosworth has been around machines most of his life. As a young man he



AIR-PROPELLED snow sled, built in early 1920's by Winfred Bosworth and Roger Putney of Fitzwilliam, had a propeller made of White Ash, a Harley Davidson engine and several smaller parts gathered from local junkyards.

worked handcutting the tiny bits of silver used to make silver soldering wire. He was also an engraver for nine years at the Markem Company in Keene. Later on, he moved to nearby Kingsbury's, where he assembled tools for 16 years.

In his off-work hours, he found time to indulge his appetite for inventing things. Doubling up once again, this time with Howard Homan, presently a Fitzwilliam Selectman, Bosworth devised a novel wind-driven generator for charging batteries in a neighbor's home. A windmill device, consisting of a twelve-foot wheel, three large blades and a "backbone" made from the rear end of an automobile performed the service. Governed by the wind's pressure, the wheel enabled the Dodge generator the men had installed to increase its voltage output from a mere 12 volts to 32 volts of electrifying, direct-current power.

As an engraver, Bosworth, this time acting alone, attempted to make a brass "dye" from a photograph of Charles Lindbergh. The year was 1927, and the dye would undoubtedly have been a huge success. But for some reason Bosworth managed only to fashion Lindbergh's hair and sketch a tentative outline of his face. The piece still rests in Bosworth's home, unfinished.

Bosworth also claims to have envisioned the principle of "overdrive", a method of changing the gear ration in automobiles to conserve gas, years before it was put on the market.

"I've had several wild ideas which I never implemented," he said.

And a few others which he did manage to bring to life. Upon leaving Kingsbury's in 1956, he "bobbed around" for a while, working in machine shops in several Massachusetts towns "for a month or two at a time."

This was the way he liked to live, independent enough to work when he wanted, and for whom he wanted. With enough skill to back up those desires, Bosworth spent the major portion of the ensuing years re-roofing neighbors' houses, and doing carpentry, plumbing and electrical tasks in the area.

Presently, he divides his work time between taking temperature and barometer readings for the National Weather Service and canvassing subscriptions in his home town of Fitzwilliam for the JAFFREY-PETERBOROUGH LEDGER. With his spare cash, he frequently hires out a small plane and tours the Monadnock area, most of which he's seen on foot at one time or another. He occasionally dabbles at piloting also.

"I guess you could say I'm a little bit out of the ordinary," he said.

His property is a fitting testimony to that self-evaluation. Spread in well-contained piles behind his garage and shed, and

reaching several more yards beyond a tenuous-looking wooden fence out back, is a kind of Bosworthian homage to things past.

At various points thereon, an observer can study: the remains of a concert pavilion, supported at a delicate angle by two long boards; an old-fashioned roller-type washing machine, coated with a generous supply of brown rust; a room stove, also quite rusty, apparently long out of service; several large power lawnmowers and other types of cutting machines; a small section of an old sleigh runner; a dozen oversized wash basins; three goodsized stacks of wooden house doors, neatly piled; two large buckets, one filled with empty medicine bottles, the other with used baby food jars; several stacks of roof shingles; an imposing collection of old bedsprings; an "S and H Green Stamps" sign, slightly dog-eared; twenty bald automobile tires; a semi-rusted tricycle, and a two-wheeled bike missing its seat; two enormous oil drums; a large pile of bricks, and many piles of commercial wood planks. And yes, Matilda, the kitchen sink is there too.

He lives in the house built by his grandfather in 1891. Bosworth was born in a second-floor bedroom there 11 years later and has called it home ever since. A small room between the garage and house serves as his workshop, and a large barn set about twenty-five yards away is his "catch-all."

Indeed. This faded wood building, where many of his odd jobs are still performed, provides only a spare amount of walking space. Lawnmowers, power machines, tools and piles of lumber fill it like an unyielding battalion of somber soldiers. Announcing to the outside world who is located therein are large white letters spread across the street side of the building, grown slightly yellow now with age, and spelling "W.T. Bosworth."

He married Jessie Ferren in 1927, a girl he'd known in school for many years but who "never spoke to me." Finally together, Bosworth initiated their marital life with his special flair for the unusual. The minister was brought to the ceremony on a one-horse sleigh, while the bride and groom were swept off to their honeymoon on the rear of a logging truck.

"It was snowing that night too," he recalls.

As his dog Buffy and cat Smokey vied for pieces of his coffee roll, Bosworth regarded the morning rain, which was fast becoming heavy snow, beyond the kitchen window.

"I'd have to say I've had a full and valued life," he said.

Additional picture on Page 9. This article was submitted by Violet Swenor.

SEPTEMBER'S BOARD MEETING

BY: JACK DUMONT

The Laurel Lake Association held its Board of Directors' Meeting on Saturday, September 11, 1993 at the home of Anne Korjeff on Howeville Road.

In attendance were Phyllis Chase, Don Garland, Charles Brackett, Don Austin, Larry Friedman, Karl Anderson, Jim Baldwin, Jack Dumont, Marguerite Albertini, Arnold Anderson, Anne Korjeff, Bruce Knight and Liz Young.

The meeting was called to order by President Phyllis Chase, with welcoming remarks at 9:16 a.m. Jack Dumont, Association Secretary, read the minutes of the June 19, 1993 Board of Directors' Meeting. On a motion of Liz Young and seconded that the minutes be accepted as read, the vote passed unanimously.

Association Treasurer, Don Austin, presented a report on the current status of the Association finances. On a motion by Don Garland and seconded that the report be received as read, the motion passed unanimously.

Arnold Anderson reported on the concerns of North Cove residents regarding activities and conduct of the Swim Club members and non-members. On a motion by Don Garland and seconded to have a committee formed to meet with the Swim Club Officers and Directors and state our memberships' concerns, the motion passed unanimously. President, Phyllis Chase, appointed Bruce Knight, Don Austin, Arnold Anderson and herself to the Committee.

Charles Brackett gave a report on the 1993 Canoe/Kayak Race. On a motion by Anne Korjeff and seconded that the report be accepted, the motion passed unanimously.

Larry Friedman reported for his son, Michael, on the 1993 Labor Day Sunfish Regatta. On a motion by Bruce Knight and seconded that the report be accepted, the motion passed unanimously.

Larry Friedman briefly discussed the results of the survey questionnaire contained within the last edition of the Laurel Lake Ledger. The full results will be printed in the Ledger's next edition.

Larry Friedman reported on Ledger operations, including expenses. Several suggestions were made to reduce expenses.

Jack Dumont reported on the 1993 membership information. On a motion by Bruce Knight and seconded that the current policy on membership fees be changed to \$5.00 per adult beginning with the 1994 season, the motion passed unanimously.

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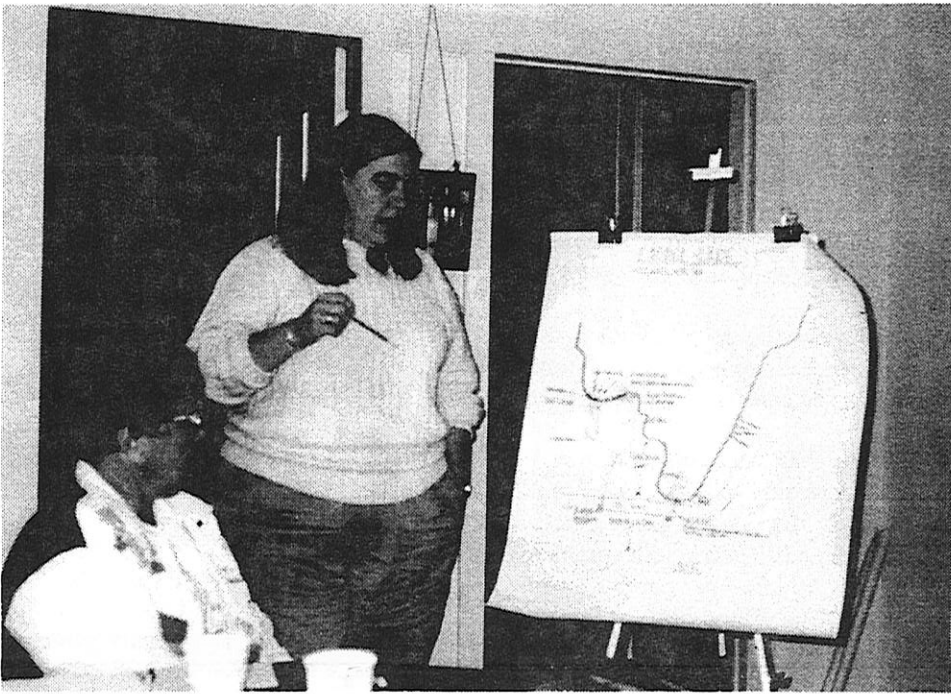
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If you would like to donate your boat for the race or you would like to race and you do not own a boat, write:

Commodore Michael Friedman
265 Freeman Parkway
Providence, RI 02906

TREASURER'S REPORT

By: Don Austin

Laurel Lake Association
Treasurer's Report
Year Ending
September 30, 1993

Revenue - Expenses = Deficit

Revenue:		
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Interest	62.21	
Maps & T-shirts	160.00	
		\$1,382.21
Expenses:		
Water Testing	\$182.25	
Ledger	920.05	
Postage	82.22	
Annual Meeting	192.79	
Canoe Race	93.32	
Regatta	34.19	
N.H. Lakes Assoc dues	100.00	
		\$1,604.82
		<\$2226.61>

Starting Balance - Deficit = Ending Balance

Balance October 1, 1992	\$3102.13
Deficit	<2226.61>
Balance September 30, 1993	\$2,879.52

Does not include:

Certificate of Deposit	\$5,031.12
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OFFICERS

Phyllis Chase	President
Jim Baldwin	Vice President
Jack Dumont	Secretary
Don Austin	Treasurer

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Karl Anderson	1994
George Graf	1994
Barbara Green	1994
Don Garland	1994
Charles Brackett	1995
Don Treat	1995
Larry Friedman	1995
Bruce Knight	1995
Liz Young	1995
Marguerite Albertini	1996
Arnold Anderson	1996
Milt Posovsky	1996
Anne Korjeff	1996

LAUREL LAKE LEDGER

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Laurel Lake Ledger
265 Freeman Parkway
Providence, RI 02906

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Meeting

Annual Meeting/
Family Picnic Sat., July 16, 1994

Canoeing Basics Sat., July 16, 1994
Lessons 5-8 p.m.
Sandy Beach

Canoe/Kayak Race Sat., July 23, 1994
(Rain Date Sun., July 24, 1994)

Labor Day Sunfish Sun., Sept. 4, 1994
Regatta (Mon., Sept. 5, 1994
Rain Date)

Board of Directors' Sat., Sept. 10, 1994
Meeting



Only six entries in the 1993 Laurel Lake Labor Day Regatta.

FITZWILLIAM'S FIRST SNOWMOBILE

By: Jim Quinn
JAFFREY-PETERBOROUGH LEDGER

When Winfred T. Bosworth and his friend Roger A. ("RAP") Putney hauled a bizarre-looking contraption out of Bosworth's garage one winter day in 1922, neighbors were only slightly surprised. The two men were always tinkering around with machines and what not.

When they edged the device onto the main road, a few more eyebrows rose. For right there on West Lake Road was the strangest-looking machine they'd ever seen: lots of nuts, bolts and chains, it seemed, supported by four good-sized skis, with a long propeller blade at the front and two large wooden bucket seats in the rear.

But when Bosworth strode to the front, wound the propeller pilot-style and set in spinning with a loud roar, passersby stopped in their tracks and watched intently. Quickly he took his place in the first seat, adjusted his goggles and gripped the steering wheel. With Putney seated behind as co-pilot, the machine edged forward slowly at first, began gradually to pick up momentum, then eased into a steady ten mile-per-hour gait. Up the road it went, headed toward the village, its passengers waving politely to passing vehicles.

Fitzwilliam had its first snowmobile.

The unique device had been a long time in the making. Bosworth and Putney had gotten the general idea for it from mechanics magazines, but from there on the process had been completely their own brain-child. Wanting "good performance without spending much money," they culled nearby junkyards for parts and cajoled Bosworth's grandfather for permission to use his garage as a workshop. Working evenings over a period of several months, the men saw their dream begin to take on real dimensions.

A sturdy propeller was needed to haul what would eventually be about 900 pounds of men and machinery over the snow. So the pair sent for a five-foot section of White Ash and eagerly fashioned ("in one evening") it into a propeller blade. The propeller shaft was the rear axle from a Model-T Ford.

For a motor, Bosworth lifted the two-cylinder engine from his Harley Davidson motorcycle. The steering wheel came from an old Stanley Steamer. The runners, fashioned from White Ash donated by Bosworth's grandfather, were five-foot lengths much like those people skied on, with strips of sheet metal affixed to the bottom to insure roadworthiness.

The frame was devised "from pure imagination," recalls Bosworth. So was the steering mechanism: a series of chains running criss-cross, through pulleys and around a wood drum, and finally connecting to the Stanley Steamer steering wheel. Somewhat like an automobile, turning the wheel one way turned the two front runners in that direction. "It was a practical setup," said Bosworth.

So was the brake. Since General Motors had not yet invented power discs for them to lift from junk cars, the men took a piece of cold steel one-half by one-quarter foot in size, which they attached to the bottom of the sled and controlled by a handle near the seat. When they wanted to stop, a pull on the handle sent the steel gouging into the earth and pulled them to a stop.

Since the Harley Davidson engine wasn't powerful enough to do the job, the two friends "souped it up." This meant rebuilding it somewhat to provide more power. Without knowing it, Bosworth and Putney were also probably pioneers in the art of what is now called car "customizing."

"We knew we wanted a propeller-driven machine," said Bosworth. "We didn't think of the traction-type snowmobiles of

today ... We probably couldn't have built that type of thing back then anyway."

Flushed with pride at their accomplishment, the pair brought their ungainly invention to nearby Wilson Pond for a test-run. With plenty of ice and open space, the lake seemed an ideal spot for the experiment. Rooaaaaarrrrr!!!! went the engine, onto the front seat hopped Bosworth and they were off!

Well, note quite. A patch of snow got in the way, flipped the sled over, and only seconds after takeoff the young pilots were sprawled on the ice, looking at the pieces of their smashed propeller blade and wondering what went wrong.

"Actually, the pitch of the propeller was too steep," confessed Bosworth, able to regard the catastrophe philosophically today.

Undiscouraged, they trekked back to the drawing board, put their heads together and came up with a propeller which was "not as pretty" but would not dash them overboard either.

The two men had also discovered that the two-cylinder engine wasn't powerful enough after all. So they returned to the junk yard and removed a four-cylinder one from an old car and bolted it into place. Now the machine which Bosworth calls an "air-propelled snow sled" worked as it should.

In its eight-year lifetime, the power sled was rebuilt several more times, each time with engines and parts picked up wherever

Bosworth and Putney could find them.

"I don't know which was more fun," said Bosworth, "building or running it."

Though ominous-looking, the machine averaged only 10 miles per hour and was quite safe. The department of motor vehicles sanctioned it for road use with the condition it bear a regulation number plate. So Bosworth attached the plate belonging to his motorcycle, and a strange new happening appeared on the Roaring Twenties scene. Bosworth still recalls that first ride to Fitzwilliam Village with a mixture of joy and terror.

"We went right up the hill with no difficulty, into the village and around the Common. But on the way back we ran into a problem ... A motorist approaching from the opposite direction caught sight of this thing with a massive propeller and oversized skis for tires and "was scared speechless," recalled Bosworth, with the hint of a giggle. "We pulled off the road, right into someone's yard, then circled back onto the road when he'd passed. Didn't even have to stop."

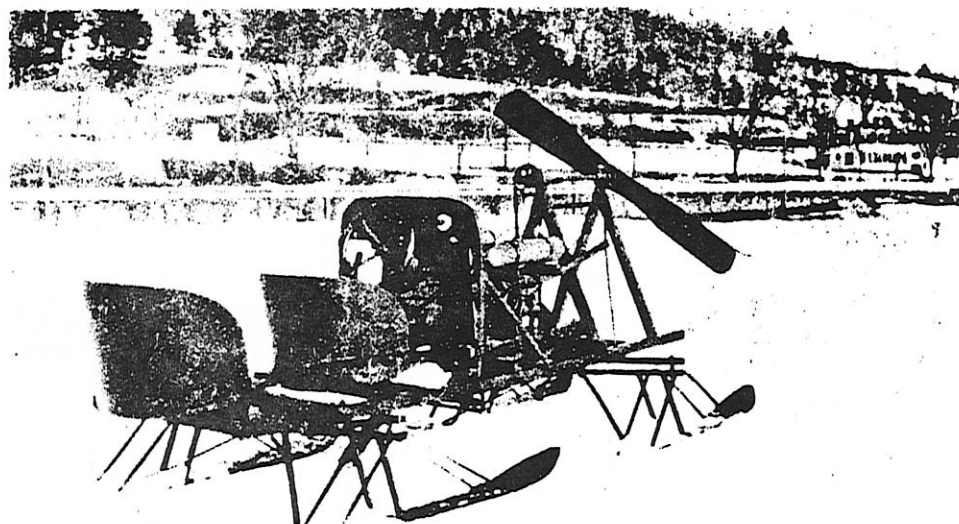
Another time the two navigators found themselves caught in a deep road rut while headed down the same road toward home. A pedestrian plodding head-down toward them did not heed their urgent screaming to remove himself from their path. "At the last second he finally looked up and got out of the way just in time," sighed Bosworth.

In spite of the near misses, no one ever was hurt by the snowmobile, he affirms. "And starting that propeller was a tricky operation. You had to crank it, then jump out of the way before it took your arm off."

Residents gradually took to requesting rides on the vehicle, and their wishes were always granted, free of charge. For nearly a decade Bosworth's and Putney's snow sled graced the streets, fields and ponds of Fitzwilliam and surrounding towns.

Now just a memory in the form of a splintered wood runner and several faded photographs from fifty years ago, the invention remains more like a favored son to Bosworth than a peculiar event buried in the past.

Bosworth has been around machines most of his life. As a young man he



AIR-PROPELLED snow sled, built in early 1920's by Winfred Bosworth and Roger Putney of Fitzwilliam, had a propeller made of White Ash, a Harley Davidson engine and several smaller parts gathered from local junkyards.

worked handcutting the tiny bits of silver used to make silver soldering wire. He was also an engraver for nine years at the Markem Company in Keene. Later on, he moved to nearby Kingsbury's, where he assembled tools for 16 years.

In his off-work hours, he found time to indulge his appetite for inventing things. Doubling up once again, this time with Howard Homan, presently a Fitzwilliam Selectman, Bosworth devised a novel wind-driven generator for charging batteries in a neighbor's home. A windmill device, consisting of a twelve-foot wheel, three large blades and a "backbone" made from the rear end of an automobile performed the service. Governed by the wind's pressure, the wheel enabled the Dodge generator the men had installed to increase its voltage output from a mere 12 volts to 32 volts of electrifying, direct-current power.

As an engraver, Bosworth, this time acting alone, attempted to make a brass "dye" from a photograph of Charles Lindbergh. The year was 1927, and the dye would undoubtedly have been a huge success. But for some reason Bosworth managed only to fashion Lindbergh's hair and sketch a tentative outline of his face. The piece still rests in Bosworth's home, unfinished.

Bosworth also claims to have envisioned the principle of "overdrive", a method of changing the gear ration in automobiles to conserve gas, years before it was put on the market.

"I've had several wild ideas which I never implemented," he said.

And a few others which he did manage to bring to life. Upon leaving Kingsbury's in 1956, he "bobbed around" for a while, working in machine shops in several Massachusetts towns "for a month or two at a time."

This was the way he liked to live, independent enough to work when he wanted, and for whom he wanted. With enough skill to back up those desires, Bosworth spent the major portion of the ensuing years re-roofing neighbors' houses, and doing carpentry, plumbing and electrical tasks in the area.

Presently, he divides his work time between taking temperature and barometer readings for the National Weather Service and canvassing subscriptions in his home town of Fitzwilliam for the JAFFREY-PETERBOROUGH LEDGER. With his spare cash, he frequently hires out a small plane and tours the Monadnock area, most of which he's seen on foot at one time or another. He occasionally dabbles at piloting also.

"I guess you could say I'm a little bit out of the ordinary," he said.

His property is a fitting testimony to that self-evaluation. Spread in well-contained piles behind his garage and shed, and

reaching several more yards beyond a tenuous-looking wooden fence out back, is a kind of Bosworthian homage to things past.

At various points thereon, an observer can study: the remains of a concert pavilion, supported at a delicate angle by two long boards; an old-fashioned roller-type washing machine, coated with a generous supply of brown rust; a room stove, also quite rusty, apparently long out of service; several large power lawnmowers and other types of cutting machines; a small section of an old sleigh runner; a dozen oversized wash basins; three goodsized stacks of wooden house doors, neatly piled; two large buckets, one filled with empty medicine bottles, the other with used baby food jars; several stacks of roof shingles; an imposing collection of old bedsprings; an "S and H Green Stamps" sign, slightly dog-eared; twenty bald automobile tires; a semi-rusted tricycle, and a two-wheeled bike missing its seat; two enormous oil drums; a large pile of bricks, and many piles of commercial wood planks. And yes, Matilda, the kitchen sink is there too.

He lives in the house built by his grandfather in 1891. Bosworth was born in a second-floor bedroom there 11 years later and has called it home ever since. A small room between the garage and house serves as his workshop, and a large barn set about twenty-five yards away is his "catch-all."

Indeed. This faded wood building, where many of his odd jobs are still performed, provides only a spare amount of walking space. Lawnmowers, power machines, tools and piles of lumber fill it like an unyielding battalion of somber soldiers. Announcing to the outside world who is located therein are large white letters spread across the street side of the building, grown slightly yellow now with age, and spelling "W.T. Bosworth."

He married Jessie Ferren in 1927, a girl he'd known in school for many years but who "never spoke to me." Finally together, Bosworth initiated their marital life with his special flair for the unusual. The minister was brought to the ceremony on a one-horse sleigh, while the bride and groom were swept off to their honeymoon on the rear of a logging truck.

"It was snowing that night too," he recalls.

As his dog Buffy and cat Smokey vied for pieces of his coffee roll, Bosworth regarded the morning rain, which was fast becoming heavy snow, beyond the kitchen window.

"I'd have to say I've had a full and valued life," he said.

Additional picture on Page 9. This article was submitted by Violet Swenor.

SEPTEMBER'S BOARD MEETING

BY: JACK DUMONT

The Laurel Lake Association held its Board of Directors' Meeting on Saturday, September 11, 1993 at the home of Anne Korjeff on Howeville Road.

In attendance were Phyllis Chase, Don Garland, Charles Brackett, Don Austin, Larry Friedman, Karl Anderson, Jim Baldwin, Jack Dumont, Marguerite Albertini, Arnold Anderson, Anne Korjeff, Bruce Knight and Liz Young.

The meeting was called to order by President Phyllis Chase, with welcoming remarks at 9:16 a.m. Jack Dumont, Association Secretary, read the minutes of the June 19, 1993 Board of Directors' Meeting. On a motion of Liz Young and seconded that the minutes be accepted as read, the vote passed unanimously.

Association Treasurer, Don Austin, presented a report on the current status of the Association finances. On a motion by Don Garland and seconded that the report be received as read, the motion passed unanimously.

Arnold Anderson reported on the concerns of North Cove residents regarding activities and conduct of the Swim Club members and non-members. On a motion by Don Garland and seconded to have a committee formed to meet with the Swim Club Officers and Directors and state our memberships' concerns, the motion passed unanimously. President, Phyllis Chase, appointed Bruce Knight, Don Austin, Arnold Anderson and herself to the Committee.

Charles Brackett gave a report on the 1993 Canoe/Kayak Race. On a motion by Anne Korjeff and seconded that the report be accepted, the motion passed unanimously.

Larry Friedman reported for his son, Michael, on the 1993 Labor Day Sunfish Regatta. On a motion by Bruce Knight and seconded that the report be accepted, the motion passed unanimously.

Larry Friedman briefly discussed the results of the survey questionnaire contained within the last edition of the Laurel Lake Ledger. The full results will be printed in the Ledger's next edition.

Larry Friedman reported on Ledger operations, including expenses. Several suggestions were made to reduce expenses.

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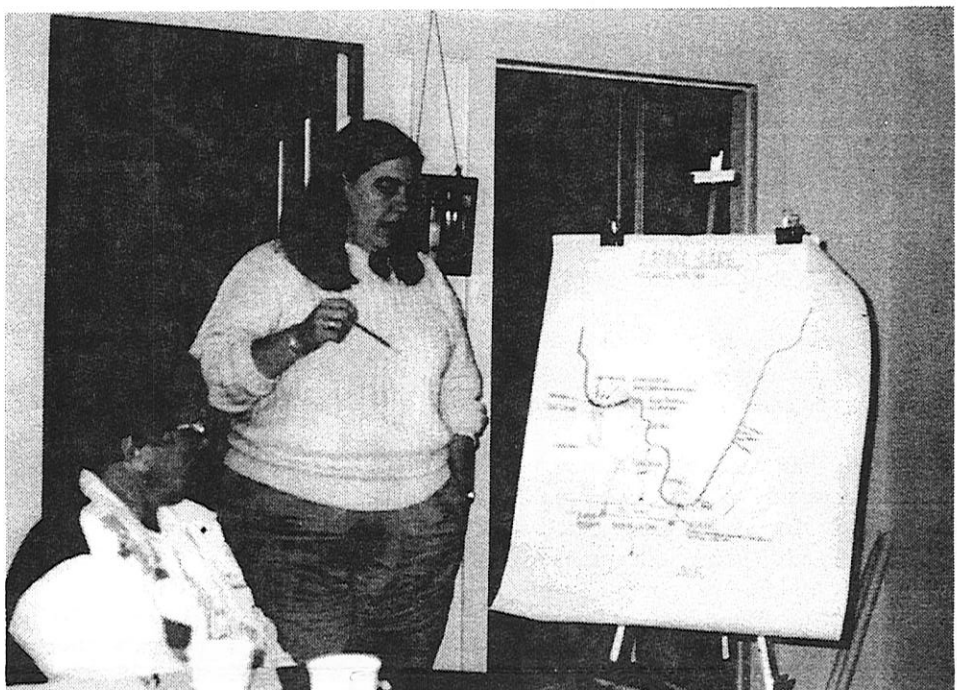
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Motion by Bruce Knight and seconded that the meeting adjourn at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Dumont



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Jim Baldwin	Vice President
Jack Dumont	Secretary
Don Austin	Treasurer

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SIXTY YEARS AGO

By: Cyrus Dolbeare

In response to your editor's most recent request that I contribute an article for the Ledger, I am finally granting him that favor by writing a few paragraphs that motivated my family and me to write what Laurel Lake was like when we first saw it nearly sixty years ago.

My wife's aunt and family of Albany, New York maintained a large summer home facing Mt. Monadnock on Frost Hill, Marlborough. They entertained, for short periods of time, numerous friends from Albany and elsewhere, some with several children about the ages of their four. She invited her brother (my wife's father) who lived near us in Wakefield, Massachusetts to visit her and, not having an automobile, she suggested that my wife and I, with our two children, drive him up "to join the family, etc." Accordingly, we made the trip up, (and several thereafter) in the early 1930's, one during which "Grandpa" was asked to stay a while to help with the kids and build an outdoor fireplace for "the young campers' cookouts".

It was on one of those visits that she suggested that we all go over to Laurel Lake in nearby Fitzwilliam for a swim at the (then) public beach on the north end of the beautiful lake, surrounded by trees and a few large summer cottages (in the days before smaller cottages, trailer park camping, etc.). On arrival there, and after our swim, it dawned on the writer that THIS was the Lake where a Wakefield resident, town official and Boston businessman, whose lawn I cut while a student and for whom my family's printing firm did business, had built a summer cottage (in 1928). (He was Willis C. Robbins.) In 1934, after one of those swims, we got up our courage to find the Robbins' Cottage (near the south end of the lake), which we did. He and his wife were there and after showing us around during the pleasant call, we asked if he ever rented it, and if so, we would like to be considered. He said he/they would take it under advisement.

In the summer of 1935, he offered the writer use of the cottage for the long Columbus holiday weekend so, with two other couples, we occupied and greatly enjoyed a beautiful fall weekend. We rented the cottage for two weeks in July 1937 (vacationed in Maine in 1936), then for the month of August in 1938. Then came the devastating hurricane of Sept. 21, 1938, which destroyed some 40 trees, large and small, on the Robbins 70x250 foot lot -- a sorry looking sight. Mr. Robbins contacted a local handyman, who, with a chainsaw, cut the fallen timber into stove and fireplace sizes during that late fall and winter. Our children and guests helped gather and pile it on and around a large rock formation near the cottage. We had a wood supply for the next few years, through the late 40's or so.

We had earlier remarked to Mr. Robbins that if he/they ever decided to sell the place, we might be interested. In the fall of 1939, on returning the keys to Mr. Robbins after our August occupancy, he said he would sell the place to us, provided we would pay the 1939 taxes as

of August 1, the start of our annual vacation there. (We had to borrow money to accomplish the transaction, and have

never regretted it.)

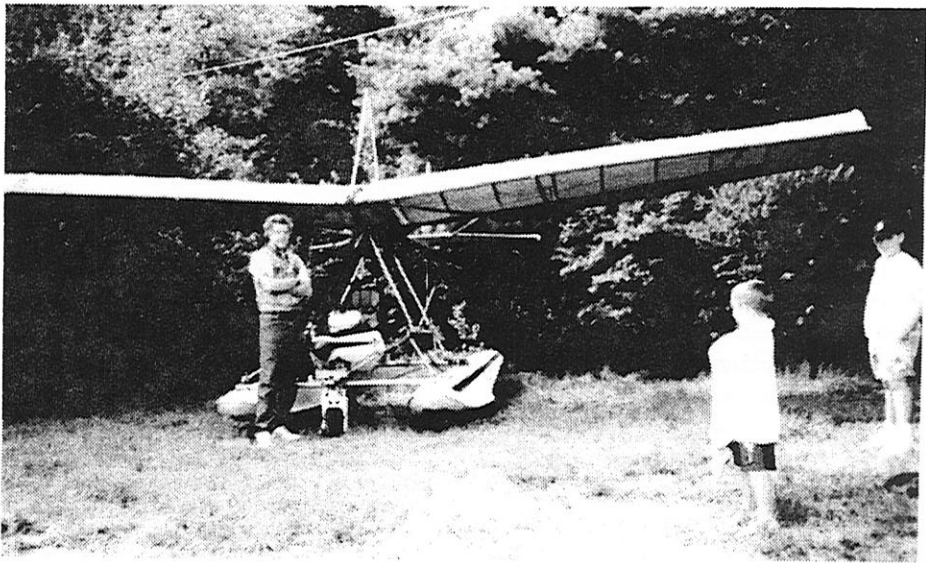
Our family and various guests enjoyed summers there, after school closed. We purchased a second car and my wife and children spent the summers, with my driving up on weekends. During World War II, the writer had to curtail gasoline so he rode up on the train from Boston to the Fitzwilliam railroad station weekends. (Those were busy times there, especially for the arrival and departure of the Fleur de Lis girl campers each season.) With the war ended, we resumed normal summer activities, particularly boating. We had, at various times, a small sailboat which we brought up from Wakefield, a kayak, and Mr. Robbins had a rowboat and canoe. Later, we purchased a motorboat and our son and grandsons learned to water ski. Soon, a larger motorboat was obtained and we all kept the watercraft in full use. Our guests and family members also partook of some of such activity during those "good old summer days."

In the meantime, we had written our neighbor to the north, Platt Smith, that if, as and when he might decide to sell his small cabin-like camp, we might be interested (for our family's eventual use). Come June 1, 1954, Mr. Smith decided to sell his place, which we immediately acquired. We added what is now the living room, with fireplace and dining area; kitchen with wood stove and gas (now electricity); and a small bathroom with shower and septic tank. We hooked up an electric supply and used an outside well for utility water for the plumbing system. (The previous owner had literally "camped out" with the original structure (now a bedroom), he having lived more or less with a tent, outdoor fireplace and having to use what is now a woodshed for a bedroom for guests, etc. (We later added a modern one-car garage with ample wood storage space.)

From 1954 until the summer of 1970, we rented the small cottage to friends for short periods, then our late daughter, Barbara Fuglestad, husband and two children occupied it until her death in February 1988, since which time my wife and I have been the owner-occupants.

Our son, Kendall M. Dolbeare and wife, Rita, formerly of Wakefield and Lynnfield Center, moved to Green Valley, Arizona in 1988, but return to Laurel Lake for a month or more each summer, occupying the larger cottage #92, now owned by their elder son, Scott and his wife, Mary E. Ryan of Lynn, Massachusetts. They took the title in late November 1987.

Our "log" tells of our neighbors' friends and group guests' visits over the nearly 60-year period of time which we have been summer residents and voters (since our winter quarters are in Keene, at the North Swanzey line). Our old photo snapshot albums corroborate only some of the good times, special events and happenings in Fitzwilliam as we frequently "look back" in our 90's (ages).



Pilot Walt (Bob) Hadank landed his ultra-light plane on Laurel Lake August 6, 1993. Flight originated in Palmer, Massachusetts. Photo taken at Sandy Beach.

SAYING GOODBYE TO 1993

By: Phyllis Chase

... More From Your President...

It's Thanksgiving week as I write this and I've just returned from a pilgrimage to the Lake. Had to do some final closing chores before the snow flies. To my surprise, the snow had already been flying in Fitzwilliam, and the granite boulders around the Lake bore marks of Nature's dustings. The air was brisk and chilly, not a day for skinny dipping, for sure!

The forests are feathery gray now, though the ever green presence of the pines reminds one that life still pulses in a world that looks dormant. The waters are placid, and on the ride up some lakes bore a skim of ice. A hunter's shots could be heard, replacing the summer's sounds of trolling fishing boats or water skiers. I pulled up some carrots I had experimented growing in a tiny garden in one of the woods' few sunny spots. I had almost forgotten they were there! There was one lonely beet, too.

As I took in the last remnants of lawn furniture and covered the sofas with sheets for the winter, I was filled with memories of another wonderful season of lake life. Already my mind was whirring with expectations of life here next

summer. I called a few folks: one wasn't at home; another was out chopping wood. The dog romped and played in the crisp autumn leaves, dug holes in the near frozen mud of a little brook, and delighted in finding sticks in the woods, which it treated like great trophies. I cut some small branches of laurel to include in the holiday greens that will grace our winter home, and packed them carefully in the car.

I finally said a fond farewell to the season of '93, knowing it wouldn't be long until we would be unable to negotiate our steep lakeside driveway once ice and snow arrive, except by sliding down the hill on the kids' blue plastic toboggans. I drove home to the strains of Handel with the sun setting what seemed like much too soon. The sky turned a rosy pink. Wood ducks formed elegant silhouettes on placid ponds I passed on 119. Once again my soul felt renewed and refreshed after even this brief and solitary lake experience. This Thanksgiving, I reminded myself, I will say special thanks for the beauty of Laurel Lake and the relationships and good times that flourish there.

I'll bet it's the same for you. I hope so.
Until we meet again...
Phyllis



Unusually beautiful cloud formations over Laurel Lake during summer of '93, one of the best summers on record.

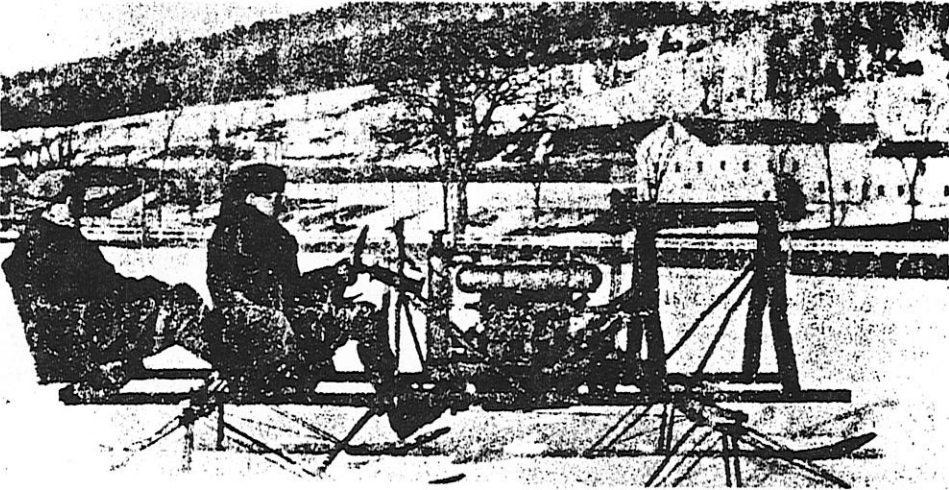
THANKS FROM THE EDITOR

This issue is the product of several people's efforts. I would like to thank all of our members who contributed articles and those of you who took the time to fill out the survey. Special thanks to Suzanne LaBrecque, who typed every article and Angela Shaw Burns, who proofread and made corrections. Photographs were computer-scanned by Justin Monti of Painless Windows Consultants using the Wheeler Computer Center at the Wheeler School, Providence, R.I. Printing by Art's Printing Center,

Warwick, R.I.

If you own an IBM Compatible Computer with the program "Word Perfect" and would like to volunteer to type some or all of the next issue, I would very much appreciate the help. If you want any involvement in the newsletter at all, be sure to contact me during business hours (toll free) at 1-800-776-6640.

Larry Friedman
Editor, Laurel Lake Ledger



BOSWORTH (front) and PUTNEY (rear) take the sled out for a trial run in Keene, circa 1922. Story on Page 7.

THE GRAND DAME OF FITZWILLIAM THE INN PLACE TO BE

By: Mary Lou Fuller

Dear Mr. Friedman:

Thank you for your kind letter. As you well know from our previous correspondence, my late husband, Enoch "Red" Fuller and I owned and operated the Fitzwilliam Inn from 1963 to 1973 when Red passed away.

Widowed at 44, with two children ages 4 and 8, made attending to the Inn singlehandedly an insurmountable task and, rather than see its excellent reputation diminish, I sold the Inn to Charlie and Barbara Wallace in November 1973.

Charlie and my husband were friends from years back and I knew the standards set by Red Fuller would be maintained. And so they were.

I appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the Laurel Lake Ledger and enclose my review of the Fitzwilliam Inn.

Sincerely,
Mary Lou Fuller

Since 1796, the Fitzwilliam Inn has occupied its position across the common from the town hall. It has been welcoming travelers and offering "food for the hungry, drink for the thirsty and bed for the weary" for almost 200 years.

Serving three meals a day seven days a week, 365 days a year, the Inn is owned and operated by the Wallace Family.

The dining room is open to the public for all three meals. The Inn also has approximately 30 guest rooms in the main building and additional sleeping quarters in the Annex, Stone's Throw, just across Richmond Road from the Inn parking lot.

All comers are treated to the Inn's special blend of old world ambiance and gracious hospitality, whether it is a bride and groom with a reception of 100, a camera club on bus safari from New Jersey, or a couple of high school seniors dining out before the big prom. Young or old, all are made to feel that they are the most important customer in the Inn.

After you climb the old granite steps and enter the main entrance, you find yourself in a charming hallway with the office and gift shop on the left and the library with its famous Olde English Rebus on the right. No one should visit the Inn without trying to solve this clever puzzle. Straight ahead down the hall is the parlour. This is the room in which the free Sunday afternoon concerts are held in the winter months. The early stencilling on the walls is unique and has been carefully preserved by innkeepers down through the years.

To the left at the end of the hallway you come to the dining room entrance, but a stop in the Pub just to the right is worth the time. This intimate little room boasts the original fireplace on which all the Inn meals were prepared in earlier times. You will see the ovens and the cranes that held the cook pots over the open fire. The wallpaper is a clever pattern of liquor labels. A light lunch can be ordered here as well as all manner of libation.

Continuing on into the dining room, depending on preference and size of your party, you can be seated in either of the two inside rooms or on the enclosed

dining patio which is heated in winter and delightfully cool and comfortable in summer. The patio looks out on the Inn's swimming pool and the lovely north lawn and flowering shrubs. Each of these already charming dining areas has been enhanced by the workmanship of a local artist and craftsman.

Menus for all meals are presented on wooden replicas of Horn Books used at one time in the early school rooms in town. In addition to standard items, there are always daily specials printed and offered separately. This latter menu describes the soups of the day, as well as Barbara Wallace's delectable desserts - home made cakes, cobblers, pies and puddings. She bakes the breads also.

During the evening meal, you are treated to cheese and crackers while you enjoy wine or a cocktail and peruse the menus. My personal dinner favorite is the sliced sirloin tips with garlic butter served on toast points. Along with the main entree - all for one price - comes a choice of appetizer, salad, potato, vegetable, home made breads and desserts and beverage. The menu offerings range from Prime Rib of Beef to Seafood Newburg, chicken in several guises, lamb, fish and usually some pasta items with shrimp.

The Inn is one of the few places I know that offers a complete dinner - literally from soup to nuts - for one price, anywhere from \$12. to \$20., depending on what one orders. There are à la carte prices for both lunch and dinner for

lighter eaters, but I enjoy all the offerings so much that I never consider à la carte!

The service is prompt, courteous and efficient, but one still feels comfortable to linger over coffee and dessert without being pressured to vacate the table.

Reservations, especially at dinner, are appreciated and carefully honored. But, there's always the Pub, parlour or library in which to wait if you have not reserved. I would definitely call ahead on a Saturday night.

Smoking is limited to the Pub and Library only.

An Inn, when kept properly, has to be all things to all people, and the Wallaces have kept up this tradition. The Fitzwilliam Inn is not only famous world-wide as reported by the Christian Science Monitor some time ago, but is part of many local activities such as the swimming pool used by the kids attending the Summer Recreation Program, the Sunday afternoon concerts and the many contributions to town holiday celebrations.

I highly recommend that anyone who spends any time in Fitzwilliam should visit this grand old establishment.



The Fitzwilliam Inn ... Feeding the hungry traveler for over 200 years.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Ledger:

I would like to make a comment as to how many people read the Ledger. I pass mine on to my children to read. They have spent their summers at the lake since they were born.

Then I send it along to Japan. Bill and Louise Woodruff's son Robert married my daughter Robin and they now live in Sasebo, Japan. Robert works for the Navy and is their MWR Officer (Morale, Welfare, Recreation) at the base. They miss the lake very much. There are hoping to get a MAC (Military Air Com) flight here this summer so they can spend time at the lake.

My mom and dad spent their honeymoon at the lake in the summer of 1923, when tents were used on White's property. Groceries were bought after walking to the depot. I was born in the spring of 1924, so I feel as though I had my start at this lake.

Margarite Keith

Dear Ledger:

I'm sitting here in my house in Athol on Friday morning, March 19th, wondering what has happened to Spring. It was 4° below zero when I got up. I have a furnace going downstairs in this house and another one going in Fitzwilliam ... I hope, if the place hasn't turned to a skating rink by now with broken pipes and all.

Anyway, I would like to see some short articles in the Ledger from Lake people who have found a nice place(s) to hang out in the winter, preferably in the Southwest of U.S.A. I'm not interested in foreign travel, which I have done all my life, nor in glitzy places in Florida, the Caribbean or Hawaii. Would just like to know about small towns or cities, perhaps an hour or two drive to a ski area. I've written to a place called Durango, Colorado and did get some information.

I would like to see the Association have one or two simple cook-outs during the summer with only hot dogs, 'burgers, salad and soft drinks, rather than the complications of a chicken bar-b-que, which involves so much work and cleaning up. Even simple get-togethers can get too complicated on their own volition without anyone trying. (Just ask the people who plan covered dish get-togethers; they end up with enough food to serve the 32nd Airborne.)

There are surely people from all walks of life in the Association and people with all sorts of questions. Wonder if Camp Fleur de Lis wouldn't allow us to use one of their common buildings for afternoon discussion meetings. It would be interesting to have two or three speakers talking on their expertise at an informal get-together.

I was very much impressed with George Graf's presentation of water quality that he

gave in White's Field last summer. He dotted all his i's and crossed all this t's and made it very interesting and informative. Imagine all we might learn from other members' expertise.

Maybe members would be interested in taking short trips. Petersham Harvard Forestry Museum has a very interesting presentation, both indoors and in trails through its land. The presentation changes every month.

Then there is the Peabody Museum in Salem, for those interested in ships and early Americana. In summertime, there are lots of places to go in New England.

As I expressed in the application form, there is a danger of making fun into work by over-organizing. (Of course, that's only my opinion.) But just for example, suppose a trip was planned to a museum, it would be more successful if those who went were those who were really interested.

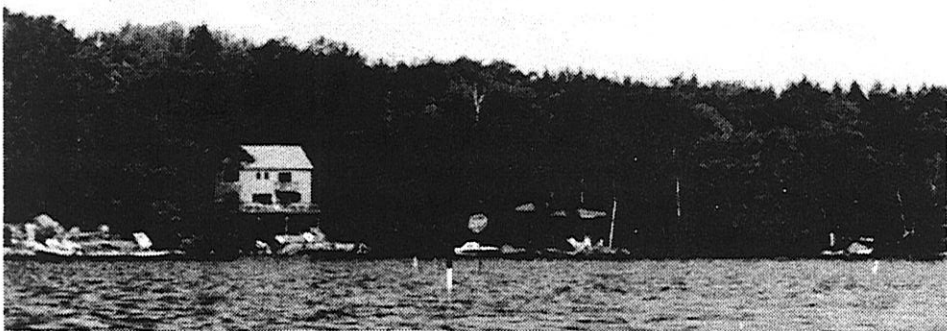
How to inform members of events? Well, no one wants to spend the summer answering telephones, so how about having a couple of small bulletin boards installed, one at each end of the Lake, where members could sign up for some event or another. Maybe Don Brackett would allow a board on his land. He has room for a car to stop without blocking the road. Anyone wanting to sign up could put their name on a list and meet at such and such a place at the agreed time.

I'm afraid I'm beginning to sound too organized, so enough.

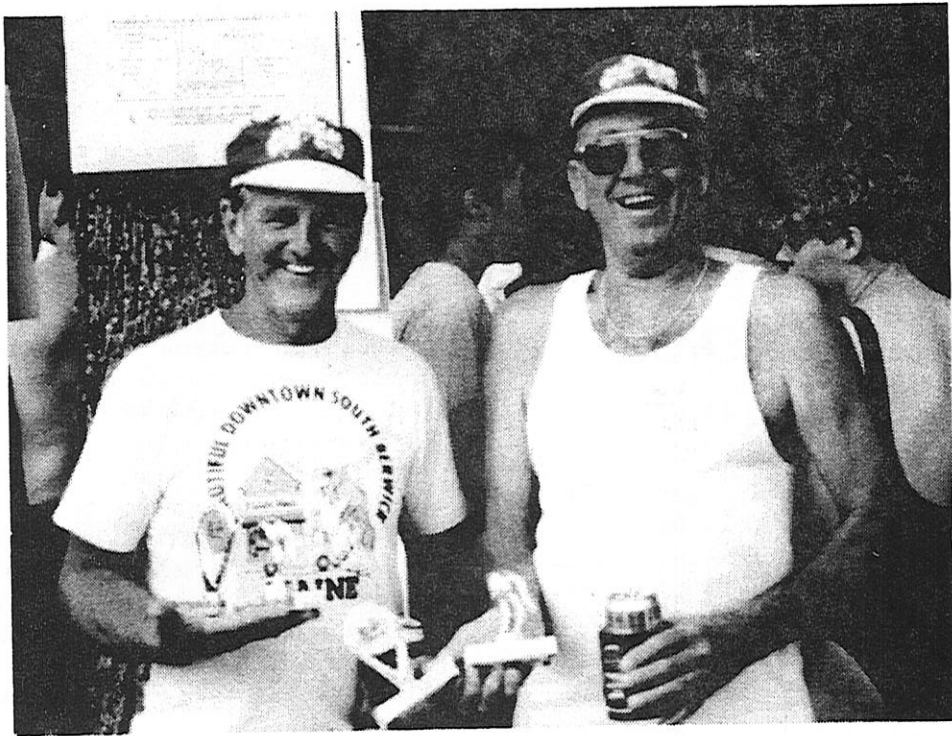
My best,
George Farnum



Can you guess who this child is? Photo taken Laurel Lake 1931. Extra points if you can guess the dog's name too!



Stop sign on Sunken Island? Not a bad idea!!!



Gerald Tonks and Wayne Rigg, Sr.



Race meeting being conducted.

PICKING A CANOE PADDLE

By: The Editors/CANOE Magazine

Canoe paddle designs can be as specialized as the canoes they are meant to propel. But four types of paddles prevail.

GENERAL RECREATION - For casual daytripping. Look for a paddle with a comfortable top grip that provides adequate control (consider the merits of a soft T-grip or generously sized pear grip), and a mid-sized or smaller-sized blade, possible synthetic for low cost and durability. Although more specialized paddles can be used for casual recreation, recreational paddles aren't your best choice for racing or heavy whitewater.

CANOE TRIPPING - These paddles are for moving a loaded canoe at cruising speed for hours on end, so durability and light weight are important. Find a blade that's a little smaller than average if you anticipate a lot of flat water or wind. A blade with a rounded end will enter the water more cleanly from any angle and so will be more quiet.

Popular designs include the long, narrow beavertail paddle (so excellent for subtle steering maneuvers), which can be used sitting, standing or kneeling; the rectangular or tulip-shaped blade with a T-grip; and the bent-shaft paddle.

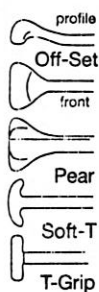
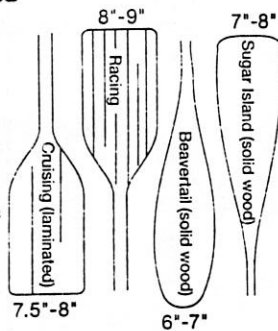
MARATHON CANOEING - Flatwater racers use 14- to 15-degree bent-shaft paddles. Most are made of ultra-light,

synthetic materials and have rounded pear-shaped grips. Typically, the lighter and stronger the paddle, the more it costs.

WHITewater CANOEING - In whitewater, top-grip control is more important than comfort, and a bulky T-grip is a good choice. The top grip should be reversible, as should the blade. Upper and lower shafts should have minimal flex for quickest response under stress. Choose a paddle with a wide, tulip-shaped or rectangular blade for power and added stability when bracing in aerated water. A good wood-laminate whitewater paddle has a blade with tough edges and additional tip protection. Some synthetic blades have a protected tip, but the best synthetic blades can withstand abuse without one.

MORE ABOUT BENT-SHAFTS - Bent-shaft paddles set the blade at an angle of up to 15 degrees to the shaft, allowing for a more efficient stroke because the blade stays vertical until almost the end of the stroke. Technically, the greater the bend at the paddle's throat, the more effective the power phase of your stroke. A 10-degree bend is a pleasant compromise for all-around canoeing.

While you can use a bent-shaft paddle in most any situation, it is not ideal when you need precise control. And since the bent-shaft paddle is predicated on using the same blade face for all your paddling, reversing the blade (for a low brace, for example) is often clumsy. When maneuverability is key, straight shafts are best.



1993 LAUREL LAKE ASSOCIATION CANOE & KAYAK RACE RESULTS JULY 24, 1993

5 MILE RACING RECREATION

- * 1st Ed Halpin/Tim Bailey.....47:03 *
- 2nd William MacDonald/David Thorp.....51:18
- 3rd Kevin Kennedy/Charles Massin.....54:43

2.5 MILE CLASSES

RECREATION

- 1st Dan Pelletier/Bob Miller.....24:57
- 2nd Wayne Rigg/James Flaherty.....32:02
- 3rd Ken Schlierf/Ed Moran.....32:55
- 4th Kevin Parker/Jason Pryor.....35:21

ALUMINUM

- 1st Jeff Pitcairin/Bobby Burke.....29:20
- 2nd Gerald Tonks/Wayne Rigg Jr.....30:27
- 3rd Ken Olejarz/Steve Mancuso.....30:28

FEMALE

- 1st Joan Snaith/Holly Scheuhing.....33:07
- 2nd Phyllis Chase/Virginia Blake.....37:07
- 3rd Cheryl Mahoney/Tricia LeClaire.....39:55

MIXED

- 1st Martin Fey/Jamie Swift.....29:33
- 2nd Tony & Judy Moreira.....36:30
- 3rd Bob Grout/Shelly Pontoon.....42:46

FAMILY (Jr./Sr.)

- 1st Daniel & Damon Mahoney.....28:05
- 2nd Austin & Justin Killeen.....34:07
- 3rd Gary & Nicholas Lord.....37:42
- 4th Winthrop & Chris Brown.....40:10
- 5th Kevin, Sarah, & Mike Dynia.....41:08
- 6th Vinny & Andrew Kenney.....42:11

MEN'S KAYAK

- 1st Michael Lavigne.....42:55

1/2 MILE 2 PERSON PADDLE BOAT

- 1st Randy & Julie Hull.....9:28
- 2nd Betty Wildman/Dick Belber.....10:06
- DNF Tina Parker/Janice Flaherty.....NO TIME AT ALL

1/2 MILE 2 CHILD PADDLE BOAT

- * 1st Ryan Murray/Amanda Heglin.....4:38 *
- 2nd Krisy Hull/Kate Mason.....5:44
- 3rd Kim Klockars/Carrie Marinelli.....6:10

3/4 MILE CHILDRENS FUN RACE

BOYS CANOE

- * 1st Jeremy Thorp/Justin Bergeron.....10:55 *
- 2nd Christopher Brown/Ryan Killeen.....13:41
- 3rd Jeremy Mohr/Ryan Williams.....18:53

GIRLS CANOE

- * 1st Holly Scheuhing/Jean Snaith.....10:45 *
- 2nd Lisa Klockars/Jessica Heglin.....11:20
- 3rd Melissa Kenney/Erin Mahoney.....12:31
- 4th Whitney & Sarah Burton.....15:42

JUNIOR MIXED CANOE

- * 1st Alana LeClaire/Timothy Wood.....13:25 *
- 2nd Jamie Parker/Thomas Dumont.....16:46

JUNIOR KAYAK

- 1st Cori Dumont.....12:18
- 2nd Kennon Shain.....13:03

CANOE RACE COMMITTEE M.V.P.: David "Fido" Brackett

* **YOUNGEST PARTICIPANT:** Kevin Dynia age 4 *

* **1993 OLD FART'S AWARD:** Gerald Tonks age 60 *

1991 OLD FART'S AWARD: Wayne Rigg

(new record for that class)



Lightning strikes twice at the Dresser Camp.

It's not nice to fool Mother Nature!

NHLA UPDATE - July 19, 1993

By: Jack Calhoun, Executive Director

The past year has marked the emergence of the New Hampshire Lakes Association as an important voice in the debate focused on the protection of New Hampshire's Lakes. Many individuals have volunteered their considerable talents and time to help with this effort. They received no compensation for their work on behalf of the New Hampshire Lakes Association. The Association has only two full-time staff members, the executive director and an office administrator. Our lobbyist is paid for the time that he spends working on behalf of the organization during the session of the legislature.

There have been several important accomplishments for the organization during the past year. These include:

- Successfully turning back a ski craft industry effort to change the definition of ski craft. This would have opened up many lakes that have worked in good faith through the hearing process to restrict ski craft.
- Effectively organizing opposition to rule changes that were proposed to the New Hampshire Wetlands Board for docks and other shoreland structures. None of the matters to which the NH Lakes Association and its member association most strongly objected are being proposed as new rules.
- This past June 26th the New Hampshire Lakes Association sponsored the first annual N.H. Lakes Congress, attended by over 100 people representing lake associations and other conservation organizations from around the State of New Hampshire. The program featured several sessions intended to assist lake associations to be more effective in their efforts to protect their lake.

In addition to the above issues, the New Hampshire Lakes Association continues to work hard on other issues important to lakes, including legislation to implement the shoreland protection act, limiting phosphorus in household detergents, and boating while intoxicated. Along these lines an *ad hoc* committee appointed by the Chairman has developed a *Sample Shoreland Protection Ordinance* for consideration by lake communities.

This summer we are fortunate to be able to hire a college intern. Rebecca Cady from Wolfeboro is preparing educational materials on a wide range of lake protection issues. If you would like to receive samples of the available materials, please call the toll free number at the bottom of the page and we will gladly supply them to you for distribution to your membership.

In order for the New Hampshire Lakes Association to continue to be able to provide the coordination and leadership for the types of effort highlighted above, we must depend more than ever on the support of lake associations for part of the support we receive.

To continue to offer the level of services and educational materials to lake associations, we must have your support. Please consider increasing your association's contribution to the New Hampshire Lakes Association this year. Only with your association's financial support can we continue to build upon the achievements of the past year and strengthen the organization as the primary advocate for lake protection and stewardship in New Hampshire.

Please do not hesitate to call us with any questions that you have at 1-800-750-0299, or write:

New Hampshire Lakes Association
Seven South State Street
Concord, NH 03301

necessarily pass through the feces of the infected individual. Just as you may catch a cold by being in the same room as an infected individual, you may catch an ear infection by swimming in a lake with an infected individual. This can occur, even though no sewage is being discharged to the lake. Fortunately, these organisms generally do not survive very long in the water.

LAKE FOAM

BY: NHDES Technical Bulletin

Lakeshore property owners sometimes complain about lake foaming. However, most foam observed in lakes and streams is a product of nature; foam is not necessarily an indicator of pollution. Small trout streams, for example, often have naturally-occurring pools of foam where fish will hide.

• What causes it?

Foam is created when the surface tension of water (attraction of surface molecules for each other) is reduced and air is mixed in, forming bubbles.

Soap and detergents will reduce surface tension. So too will organic compounds, which will act like soap and detergents.

Natural Compounds

Natural organic compounds are released by decomposing aquatic organisms (such as algae or fish) or leached from the soil.

Native Americans were known to have used various natural materials, such as bark and plant roots, to cleanse items. In a lake, wind, currents and boats mix air with the organic compounds present to produce foam.

Man-made Compounds

In the late 1950's and early 1960's, many communities experienced tremendous foam problems in lakes, rivers, sewage treatment plants and even drinking water from contaminated wells. This foam was caused by the use of synthetic compounds which came on the market after World War II. These detergents were only slowly degradable (broken down by bacteria). By law, the sudsing agent of all detergents now on the market must be biodegradable. This means that they quickly lose their ability to cause foaming and are unable to produce the long-lasting foam found along many shores.

• Where is it found and what is it like?

The foam will frequently form parallel streaks in the open water, caused by wind-induced surface currents. It will also collect in large quantities on windward shores, coves or in eddies. Natural foam has a somewhat earthy fishy aroma. Detergent foam in contrast will have a noticeable perfumey smell.

BACTERIA IN SURFACE WATERS

BY: NHDES Technical Bulletin

• What are coliform bacteria?

Coliform bacteria are a large assemblage of various species of bacteria that are linked together because of the ease of culturing as a single group. They include both fecal coliform bacteria, or bacteria that are found naturally in the intestines of warm-blooded animals, and non fecal coliform bacteria. Fecal coliforms include both pathogenic or disease-causing species and non-pathogenic species.

• What is Escherichia coli?

Escherichia coli (*E. coli*) is one species of fecal coliform bacteria. It is a normal component of the intestinal flora of healthy warm-blooded animals and generally does not cause disease. Because it is present in human sewage in high numbers, and because it is easily cultured, *E. coli* is used as an indicator organism. Its presence in defined amounts INDICATES that sewage MAY be present, and if sewage is present, disease-causing bacteria may also be present.

• Why do we measure bacteria?

Typhoid and cholera epidemics in the mid-19th century led to the discovery that certain gastro-intestinal diseases of humans are transmitted via water. The disease-causing organisms leave the infected individual via the feces, are discharged into surface waters and are then consumed by and infect downstream users of the water. These water-borne diseases include typhoid, cholera, enteric fevers, and bacterial dysentery. It is not feasible, however, to test waters for each possible type of disease-causing bacterium. *E. coli* is used to indicate the possible presence of these pathogenic bacteria. We measure *E. coli* in waters to determine, on a statistical

basis, the likelihood of contracting a disease by consuming or recreating in such waters.

• What level of *E. coli* is acceptable?

The acceptable level of *E. coli* is determined by risk analysis based on statistics to protect human health. Drinking water should have no *E. coli* after treatment. *E. coli* levels at designated swimming beaches should not exceed 88 per 100 milliliter (ml) in any one sample, or exceed a three sample average over a 60 day period of 47/100ml. Recreational waters that are not designated beaches should not have more than 406 *E. coli*/100ml in any one sample or more than 126/100ml in a 60 day, three sample average. Occasional higher numbers are not unusual, particularly after storm events and where urban or agricultural runoff occurs. These levels are generally not considered unsafe unless investigation indicates the source to be sewage.

• Can I drink my lake water?

Because *E. coli* are present in all warm-blooded animals, including ducks, beaver and sea gulls, it is highly unlikely that your lake will have zero *E. coli* without treatment. Even with no *E. coli*, the lake is still not safe to be used directly as a source of drinking water. Without adequate treatment, there can be no guarantee concerning the safety of the water.

• Do low *E. coli* levels in a lake ensure against ear infections?

No. There are a number of illnesses, particularly related to the eyes, ears, nose and throat, which may use water as the medium of transmission but in which the disease-causing organism does not

MILDRED WORKS BARTON REMEMBERED

By: Phyllis Chase



Mildred's Great-Grandchildren

Family reunions are a feature of Laurel Lake life. Pictured are the family of Mildred Works Barton who died in the Spring of '93, at the age of 97. In her honor and with many fond memories, most all her family gathered together in reunion on the anniversary of her birthday at the summer home of her granddaughter, Barbara Dumont. Mrs. Barton left 3 children, 10 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren.



Mildred's Children and Grandchildren