

Waukewan Shore Owners Association Newsletter

“Dedicated to Protecting the Waukewan Watershed”

Special Spring 2008 Edition

From the President

The Waukewan Shore Owners Association (WSOA) was formed in March, 1989 as an association of Lake Waukewan shore-front owners and those who have rights to the Waukewan shoreline. The mission of the association was protection of the lake, its environment and the water quality of the lake.

Last July the WSOA members approved a new set of By-Laws that affirmed these goals and recognized protection of the entire Waukewan watershed as part of our mission.

Last fall the Directors approved an application seeking Internal Revenue Service recognition of the WSOA as a tax-exempt charitable organization. We received approval from the IRS dated March 10, 2008 that states in part:

“We are pleased to inform you that upon review of your application for tax exempt status we have determined that you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to you are deductible under section 170 of the

Code. You are also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devices, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code.....Organizations exempt under section 501(c) (3) of the Code are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined that you are a public charity under the Code section(s) listed in the heading of this letter.”



Our Commitment

As a public charitable foundation we are committed to protection and enhancement of the whole Waukewan watershed. We will cooperate with all of the other environmental groups, municipal and state offices in protecting our precious heritage.

Our new logo in the center of the page is a symbol of our commitment to protecting all that makes our watershed a treasure.

We welcome the financial support and cooperation of everyone committed to protecting our New Hampshire and Lakes Region heritage.

This newsletter edition spells out some of the challenges we all face in protecting our watershed.

Our Challenges

Environmental challenges are nothing new to the WSOA. In the early 1990s someone apparently emptied an aquarium into the Waukegan canal. The aquarium had milfoil as a decorative plant. The milfoil thrived and spread to over an acre. For one full year WSOA member Betty Bjerklie enjoined, berated, begged and finally forced everyone in authority to agree on treating the milfoil infestation. The application took fifteen minutes.

Milfoil has not reappeared in the Waukegan canal. One win for the good guys.

Successes

We have many environmental challenges today. We also have many successes on our side.

First the Town of Meredith signed a contract with Plymouth State University's Center for the Environment for biomonitoring of permanent streams entering Lake Waukegan. Dr. Rick Van De Poll and his students documented critical information about water quality and potential environmental threats.

Center for the Environment J. S. Kahl and his student have also analyzed the surface areas affected by development. He and his recent graduate Melissa Madorma will speak on their work at our annual meeting at the Meredith Community Center on July 19.

The Waukegan Watershed Advisory Committee to the Meredith selectmen published a Management Plan for the Waukegan Watershed in 2005. This work has been expanded and updated and will appear on the WSOA web site when funding for this site is complete.

A recent analysis of the NH DES environmental database shows that the specific conductiv-

ity of Waukegan water improves when roads are not treated with salt in the winter--in the recent past because of three successive mild winters. This is an unexpected and very welcome development! High specific conductivity adversely affects fish habitat.

Thanks to the Waukegan Watershed Advisory Committee (WWAC), Meredith agreed this fall to reduce/eliminate the use of salt on Waukegan and Water Streets in Meredith.

The WSOA Board of Directors has also voted to lobby the NH Department of Transportation (NH DOT) to reduce/eliminate the use of road salt near Lakes Winona and Waukegan on Winona Road and Waukegan Road in Center Harbor and New Hampton.



This spring New Hampton adopted an zoning overlay district that covers the Waukegan watershed in New Hampton. Minimum lot size for future development is now a minimum of two acres. Several years ago Meredith adopted a Waukegan watershed zon-

ing overlay district with minimum equivalent 2 acre lot size for new development. Center Harbor has a 5 acre minimum lot size. Less intensive shoreline development is a major victory for all of us.

Meredith has also posted large signs on Waukegan Street at Main Street and at Route 104 prohibiting through transport of hazardous materials that would contaminate Meredith's water supply and Lake Waukegan in the case of an accident and spill near the Lake.

The WSOA Directors also voted to lobby the NH DOT on the same issue for Waukegan Road in Center Harbor and New Hampton.

Wildlife in the Waukegan Watershed is a source of joy and enrichment for most of us. Beaver lodges and a (damn) dam across the Snake River is definitely an exception. For at least several decades the dam across the Snake

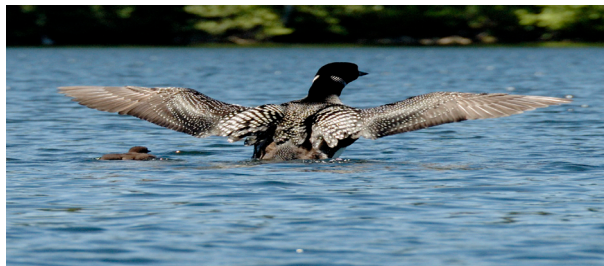
River has raised the water level in Lake Winona so high that serious shoreline erosion as seriously threatened residents' property. According to canoeists on the Snake River, the water level has been sometimes been two feet higher on the Winona side than on the Waukegan side.

Beavers reading this newsletter take note! Protection of Lake Winona shoreline is more important than your damn dam! The WSOA Directors can be just as single minded as you!



We wish we could be as clever in dealing with the raccoons who prey on nesting loons this time of year. But accolades go to the Loon Preservation Society for building and posting the loon nesting rafts that offer nesting loon protection from marauding raccoons.

Our Lake Host program is well and expanding, thanks to our friends at the NH lakes Association, contributions from the WSOA and WWAC/Town of Meredith. Thanks to WSOA member Tim Whiting, the Lake Hosts offer support for visiting boaters in keeping invasive hazards out of our lakes. We will try to expand the Lake Host program beyond the public launching ramp to private organizations and other lake access points in the watershed this year.



Thanks to the WWAC, and particularly WSOA member and pilot Randy Eifert, Meredith signed a contract with William Hemmel Lakes Region Aerial Photo to photograph and document with GPS coordinates the shorelines of all the water bodies in the Waukegan watershed: Hawkins, Otter and Bear Ponds, the Snake River, Lakes Waukegan and Winona--and one small pond between Winona and Fogg Hill.

These aerial records will serve as reference records for the future--and they also indicate

locations where lawns extend down to the lake....

Future Successes

Verdant lawns are appealing--and also threatening when they extend to the lake-side. Plant growth in our lakes is limited by the availability of nitrogen and, especially, phosphorus. Examination of the NH DES Environmental Database shows that Lakes Waukegan and Winona have generally low levels of phosphorus.

However, the bright green lawns that are becoming increasingly more extensive around the lakes--and the filamentous algae that was sometimes evident around these locations--send a clear signal that all is not well in paradise.

Lawn aficionados beware! Swimming and water activities are not consistent with nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizers. You can have a nice green lawn and a wonderful view of the rest of the lake--but you will not be able to swim, kayak, boat or fish when filamentous algae take over your shoreline.

If you think that walking on water--or rather filamentous algae is neat--keep on fertilizing. But someday soon your neighbors may be unhappy with your choice and the damage you have caused the shoreline. You may also be unhappy to see the value

of your shoreline property plummet.

Once established filamentous algae is permanent and destructive! Very permanent and very destructive. And very visible!

Many homes in the watershed heat with oil and store the oil supply in outdoor tanks or in basements. Few homeowners recognize the financial risk they face from improper siting of their heating tanks.

Tanks are often stored outside next to homes or garages, where falling ice or snow can break an oil line or tip over an improperly sited tank. Tanks on unfinished basement floors and even concrete floors can leak into the ground. Tanks corrode; fuel lines break.

Cleanup from a spill can easily wipe out the value of the house and property--not to mention the local water supply.



Additional information on this hazard will be available on the WSOA web site in the near future.

Septic tanks are--in common English--fragrant. Second-home owners with sewers at their primary residence don't want to smell, recognize, or take care of their septic tanks and leaching fields. However, septic systems in the natural course of their operation release nitrogen and phosphorus from the leach field. Nitrogen travels through the soil readily and can flow into nearby lakes.

Phosphorus also passes through soil, usually more slowly than nitrogen; the transport rate depends strongly on the type of soil.

But travel they do. And into the water they flow. That's why we have regulations on up-to-date septic systems. That's why we require certified designers, state approval of system design, inspection of the system during construction and encourage regular septic tank cleanouts.

Septic tanks abhor vegetable and--gasp--grease released as kitchen waste! These wastes burden the septic tank. Grease is especially effective in clogging the waste lines. Avoiding

their disposal into the septic system is a simple safeguard to protect your health, the quality of the lake water and for your wallet and your grandchildren's inheritance. And that's why we are the Waukegan Shore Owners Association. Dedicated to protecting the Waukegan Watershed.



The Waukegan Shore Owners Association

The WSOA is charitable not-for-profit organization recognized by the State of New Hampshire and the federal IRS. We welcome new Individual (family) members who own property or have property rights on Lake Waukegan.

We also welcome Associate members, those individuals and organizations with *bona fide* water quality or wildlife preservation organizations that share our goal of preserving water quality and health of the Waukegan watershed. Such associate members may join without dues as non-voting members.

We also welcome the financial support of individual and corporate sponsors. Please contact the WSOA president, Robert Wenstrup at 603-279-5657 (weekends/holidays and summer) or 508-655-5831 (weekdays). or treasurer, Deborah Corr at 603-279-6008.



Photo credits: WSOA Directors Douglas Steele & Robert Wenstrup

Logo design: WSOA Director Barbara Smyth

Aerial Photo: Bill Hemmel, Lakes Region Aerial Photo