

Dexter Lakes Association

OK



volume I



July 2002

President's Message

It wasn't that long ago that the idea of forming a Lake Association seemed unnecessary. However, with the changing times, lake issues have to be addressed for the good of our town.

In recent years, there have been more year-round homes built on the lake, boats are bigger and more numerous (the count last year was 154), more lawns surround the lake with smaller buffer zones between land and water and more new threats such as invasive Milfoil. All these facts need to be addressed in order to maintain the quality of our lake.

The main concern of the Lake Association is to maintain water quality particularly since this is the reservoir for 5,000 plus people. Clean water is necessary for drinking, recreational purposes and the economy of our town. It is much easier to maintain a healthy water system than to try to restore a polluted or algae ridden lake. East Pond and China Lake are good examples of this disaster.

The Lake Association has gotten off to a good start since being formed last summer. We have 81 members, held two informational and organizational meetings, selected a board and officers and will establish by-laws at our July 11th meeting.

Water clarity testing was done throughout the summer season and, with volunteer help, we hope to expand our monitoring ability. Town management officials have been a part of our coordinating efforts.

The Lake Association has become involved in a network of resources which will help us respond to questions and concerns that people may have, as well as deal with the dangers of Milfoil and other invasive plants that have caused serious, and perhaps irreparable, problems in neighboring lakes.

We need your help and input to make our organization successful in maintaining the good health and safety of our lake.

Lawns and the Lake

Every year, more natural vegetation disappears along the edge of the lake to be replaced by green lawns. If these lawns are fed with chemical fertilizers that run into the lake, they will cause algae blooms, which then deplete the water of oxygen necessary for the aquatic life.

Last season, based on informal Lake Wassoogee inspection, it was noted that our lake has a small amount of algae bloom. This is a serious concern in some lakes. Therefore yearly monitoring is necessary.

Lake property owners can help by using alternative methods of lawn care. An organic lawn care system provides longer-term results and ultimately, lower maintenance even though chemical fertilizers may show more immediate, although dangerous, results. It is important to maintain a vegetative barrier between lawn and lake.

The Loon

Loons are the oldest birds in North America and are symbolic of a clean lake environment. They swim faster than most fish and can dive down 200 feet. Loons are not always popular with fishermen because they eat salmon and trout. However, they also eat the fish that prey upon the salmon and trout.

North American Loons are endangered because of human encroachment, high levels of mercury in lakes and streams, acid rain and other pollutants that come from China and the Midwest. The fish they eat daily contain elevated levels of mercury.

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This year a state law has been enacted which bans the sale of lead sinkers weighing ½ ounce or less since these lost sinkers are responsible for the poisoning of the Loons that have ingested them.

The Lake Association, working with the Inland Fisheries Dept., has placed markers on the east and west ends of the lake encouraging boaters to travel at no-wake speed. There is a state law against boats traveling above wake speed within 200 feet of land. This law is very important to our

lake because of the Loon nesting areas, as well as other wildlife activity on the ends of the lake. The annual Loon count is taken the third Saturday in July.

The Dexter Boy Scout Troop #151, led by Andy Mitchell and assistant Scout Masters Ted Nokes and Nancy Pepin, built two Loon nests that are presently in place at both ends of the lake. The Lake Association paid for the materials.

Officers and Board of the DLA

Bob Crawford	President
Steve Wintle	Vice President
Peggy Kaufman	Treasurer
Jack Emory	Secretary
George Sampson	Board
Ed Graham	Board
Al Tempesta, Jr.	Board
Stan Russell	Board

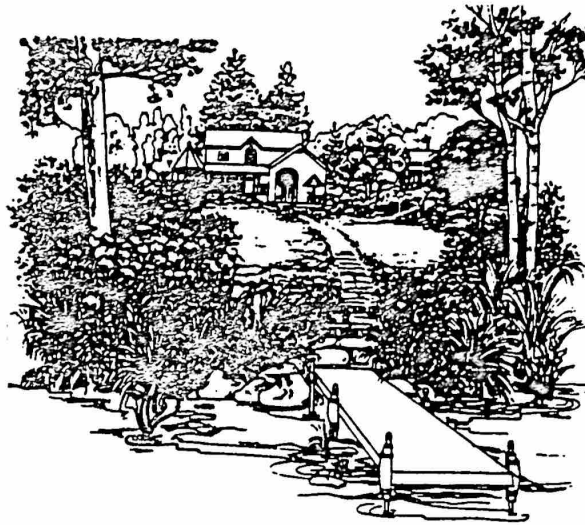
Upcoming Events

Annual meeting

Thursday July 11th, 2002

Knights of Columbus Hall

7:00 PM - Speakers



The Last Word



Do not feed the ducks or seagulls!!

Ducks, and their ducklings, are very capable of getting their own food at an early age. We do NOT need to feed them, and must NOT because of what they leave behind. Their droppings result in swimmers itch, which is a most uncomfortable and painful skin irritation that has infected many lakes and been responsible for people being unable to swim in them. Through education and coordination with our town officials, the Lake Association would like to be helpful in preventing any such problem from occurring in our Dexter lakes. PLEASE do not feed the ducks or seagulls on your shoreline or the town beach.

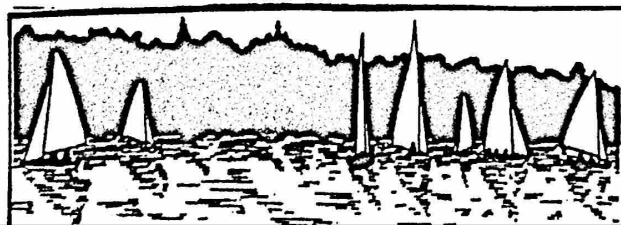
Lake Musings... Fall hung on for dear life in 2001 and live she did until December... Still no snow and temperatures unseasonably warm so Lake Wassookeag remained open water. When the Lake did begin to freeze, there was still open water so the Beavers could come up and eat their greens on the edges of these holes. The week before New Year's, we invaded their privacy with our binoculars and watched as they disappeared from one opening and came up out of another. On one particularly bright day after Christmas, my daughter and I saw two of them, on the west end of the island, appear from a hole at the edge of the ice. At about the same time, a Bald Eagle began to circle above them, coming lower and lower with each turn. On the last turn around the hole, he swooped down, hit the ice, and skidded away from the Beavers. He came to a screeching halt, took a look around to make sure no one saw his indignity, pulled himself together and flew away – once again, majestic. Of course the Beavers were long gone and, if I were to guess, had a good laugh.

New Year's came and went and still, the Lake was not ready for the ice fishermen. Deer and Foxes ventured out, the Beavers came and went and it snowed on the largely unfrozen surface. It is hard to say when there was ice because of the layer of snow but it was largely frozen by the end of January. It was been a very strange winter. On my way out to a class in early February, something caught my eye at the end of a driveway on the Shore Road and I saw it was a Great Horned Owl sitting on and pecking at its large furry prey. My first reaction was amazement and my second was that hopefully, the prey was not someone's pet cat. I backed up, put my lights on the owl and it did not move, but watched me while he grabbed at its treasure. I watched for a few minutes more determining that the prey was a rabbit, then a car came along and the owl retreated to the safety of a tree. The prey was still there when I returned home but was gone in the morning. That rabbit was too good a catch for that owl to leave for another predator!!

We have had very few days of hard winter, many 40 degree days and in general, a winter that resembles March. The Lake is slushy around the edges as we found out when we tried to skate from our shore and the end result was frustration and wet feet. Is this weather a teaser or is more winter on the way? Stay tuned.

Late February – Raining! And so far, no real winter is on the way. The snowmobiles are sending up spray and the ice houses are sitting in slush. For a few days, there was a layer of water on top of the ice. A few days later, we had some freezing temperatures and the layer of water froze so skating was possible again and the few ice houses froze onto the surface of the lake. The days are noticeably longer and more thawing. Our roof is no longer host to a foot of snow and there are more walkers on Shore Road. Such a welcome sight and a harbinger of sights to come with this seemingly early Spring. Jack saw a weasel running along the edge of the Lake. We have seen no Fishers, but keep the cats inside since we have had hawks and owls in our yard.

March brought more gray days, as did April and May. This year was more like a mid-Atlantic winter – certainly not a typical Maine winter.



DEXTER LAKES ASSOCIATION 2002 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership entitles one to vote at the annual Meeting. (address information for newsletter mailings).

Please enroll me as a member

New _____ Renewal _____

Name _____ Spouse _____

Summer Address _____ Firelane _____ Lot# _____

Town _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____

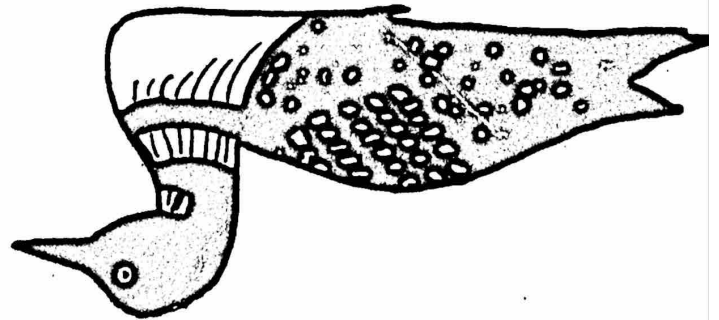
Home Address (if different from above)

Town _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____

Membership dues are \$10.00. Please make check payable to Dexter Lakes Association and send your remittance along with this form to:

**Peggy Kaufman
22 Tern In Lane
Dexter, Maine 04930**

Annual Meeting
Knights of Columbus Hall
July 11th
7 p.m.



Dexter Lakes Association