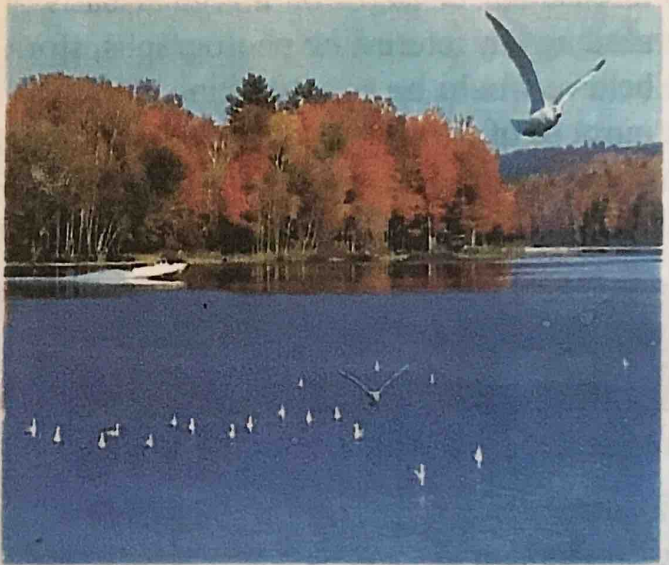


*Dexter Lakes
Association
Annual Newsletter
2004*

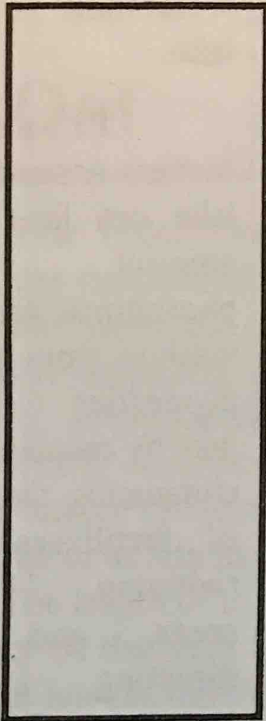
Dexter Lakes Association
c/o Peggy Kaufman
22 Turn In Lane
Dexter, Maine 04930



Lake Wassoqueag



Echo Lake



Dexter Lakes Association

From The President's Desk

We urge lake residents to keep in touch with our website. We hope you will find the website interesting, informative and up-to-date. We plan to change our pages on a regular basis. You could help us to do this by sending any interesting photographs, stories or articles on lake history you believe would be an interesting read for our website visitors. The further purpose of the website is to provide lake residents with useful information about marine water quality that lake association members learn about when attending state and volunteer type meetings around the state.

Dexter Lake Association Board of Directors

President, Steve Wintle	924-0003
Vice President, Ed Graham	924-7256
Treasurer, Peggy Kaufman	924-5123
Secretary-clerk, Jack Emory	924-3660
Bob Crawford	924-5549
Stan Russell	924-7852
George Sampson (Echo Lake)	924-6626
Al Tempesta	924-1059
Neil Crane	379-2641
Lois Richmond (Echo Lake)	924-5964

Finally, we will report (with residents' permission) using pictures and text, some of the projects they are doing around the lake — such as rip-rap protection and road work activity which are designed to prevent run-off problems that bring phosphorus into the lake.

Also, regarding phosphorus concerns, we hope to expand our secchi disk testing to include Echo Lake as well.

This is important to monitor because as phosphorus levels rise, overall water quality declines.

Protecting Lake Wassoogee from the

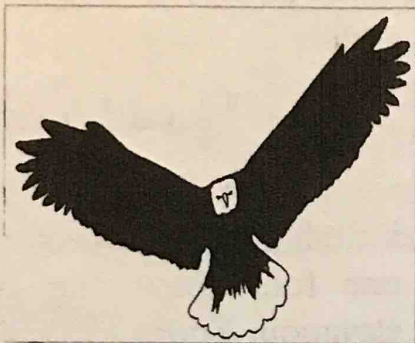
negative effects that have damaged some Maine lakes that have excess algae growth is a matter of reducing the amount of phosphorus that is exported from the watershed to the lake.

Property owners around the lake can limit the amount of phosphorus that is washed from their properties to the lake by reducing or eliminating the use of fertilizers, by reducing lawn areas, and by directing, storm water run off from buildings, driveways and lawns to vegetated areas.



Eagle Facts

According to the latest figures from the Department of Inland Fisheries, Maine has 309 pairs of nesting eagles. Eagles always nest early before ice is out. If you see eagles carrying sticks and branches it is a sure sign of nesting.



Ice Out

Year round Dexter residents get to witness the dramatic changes that take place on the lake when the ice melts and shining blue water reappears once again signaling (heralding) sunny and warmer days ahead.

Yearly records from a nearby lake indicate that ice can leave the lake as early as late March or as late as early May.

The length of the growing season has an impact on the plant and animal life in the lake. The ice-out date is the beginning of a more rapid growing season for the lake. When the ice-out date is late, the lakes growing season is short; when the ice-out date is early the lakes growing season is short. As a result of the longer growing season, the amount of oxygen in the water (dissolved

oxygen) becomes depleted. This is particularly significant for the water in the bottom of the lake where the cold water fish live. The oxygen in this layer of water is not replaced and oxygen measures in nearby lakes indicate that for the last several years oxygen levels have been below survival needs for cold water species.

Concerns about dissolved oxygen issues makes us aware of the importance of our not adding to the problem by allowing phosphorus run-off from roads and lawns which bring nutrients into the water which cause algae bloom. This in turn depletes more oxygen from the water. Several speakers at the annual meeting of the lakes association have remarked about the amount of green lawns around the lake that go right to the water's edge. They suggest buffer zones and diverting water from road run-off that reach the lakes.

—Maine Volunteer Lake
Monitoring Program



This fish was caught in January in Lake Wassookeag. Do you know what it is? Go to our website for information.



A PAGE FROM THE MAINE SHORELAND ZONING

Building Setback, Height, and Lot Coverage

Minimum Setback Requirements:

All structures, except those which are water dependent, must be set back from the normal high-water mark of a water body (including tributary streams) or the upland edge of a wetland. In most districts that are on a great pond or river flowing into a great pond, the setback is 100 feet. There are sections of some specially designated rivers in northern and Downeast Maine where the setback is 125 feet for new houses. A 75 foot setback applies on all other water bodies, streams, and wetlands. In the general development district, the minimum setback is 25 feet.

NOTE: Both perennial and intermittent streams can be tributary streams. Tributaries have defined banks, a lack of upland vegetation, a channel devoid of topsoil, or flow into a water body or wetland.

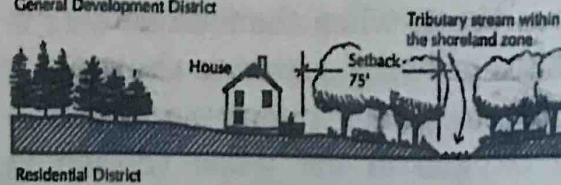
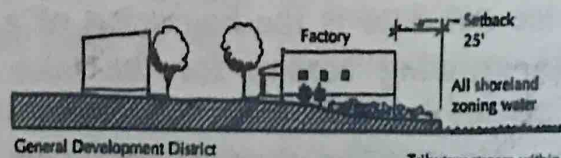
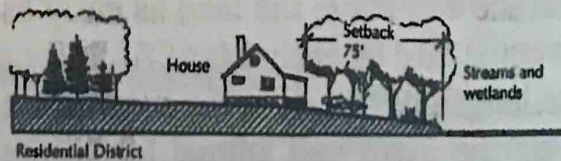
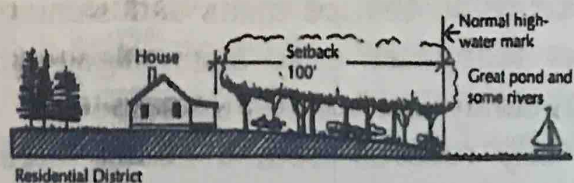


Height Restrictions:

The maximum height of a new or expanded structure in a resource protection, limited residential, limited commercial, or stream protection district is 35 feet (measured from the downhill side of the building to the roof peak).

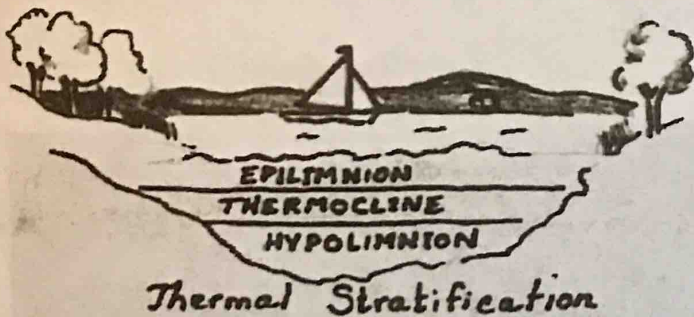
Flood Elevation:

The first floor of all buildings, including the basement, must be at least one foot above the 100 year flood elevation. Your town office should have the flood hazard maps on file, showing where the 100 year flood elevation is.



Website Up & Running

Visit the new Dexter Lakes Association website at www.dexterlakesassociation.org. Check it often as it changes on a weekly basis. You can see interesting articles and pictures taken throughout the year. Send in your pictures and articles and we will put them "up in lights" on the website. Send your articles and photographs to Peggy Kaufman at hammerdn6610@yahoo.com.



In late June or early July, the water in the lake separates into three layers. The surface layer (epilimnion) is about 10 meters and maintains a rather uniform temperature and oxygen concentration because it is being stirred by the wind and water activity.

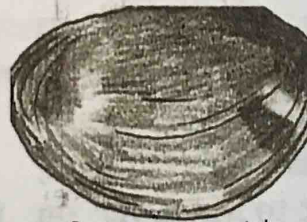
The bottom layer (hypolimnion) also maintains a fairly constant water temperature. However, oxygen trapped in this layer of stratification loses its oxygen concentration because of the various biological and chemical processes going on in the lake.

Divers who have gone down to this level have been surprised at finding how cold

and how this layer is so clearly uniformly separated from the layers above.

Articles on lake stratification and information about dissolved oxygen were provided by Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program. The organization is made up of hundreds of volunteers who work with professionals and the Maine government to keep our lakes clean and healthily. (For more information call 207-783-773).

Freshwater Mussels



Eastern Elliptio

Freshwater mussels are soft-bodied animals that are enclosed by a hinged shell. It is not uncommon to see a pile of empty shells in shallow water or on rocks in Lake Wassookeag or Echo Lake. These are a favorite of muskrats and raccoons.

They are often referred to as freshwater clams, but they are neither true mussels nor clams.

The type that is found in Lake Wassookeag is the Eastern *Elliptio*. It can be found in brooks and streams as well as the lake. It is found in gravel, sand, clay, or mud bottoms. They are an important part of the food chain.

Native Americans used some freshwater mussels as a food source.

They are sensitive to their biological environment and a healthy mussel population indicates a healthy water environment.

Is Puffer's Pond On Its Way Out?

In the Summer of 2002, the access point on the lake was closed to the public by Mr. Dyer (the owner of the property). The access had been open for public use for a number of years but it was not officially a public boat landing. For whatever reason, Mr. Dyer decided to take the action that has been generally detrimental to the area. The most adverse impact of Mr. Dyer's actions was to curtail the State's stocking of the lake because of the lack of public access. Mr. Simpson, Dexter Town Manager, went to Mr. Dyer on several occasions and extended an offer to acquire the property; however, the offers were unacceptable to Mr. Dyer. As a result, Puffer's Pond has received no fish for two years. On top of all of this, the pond is now open to ice fishing.

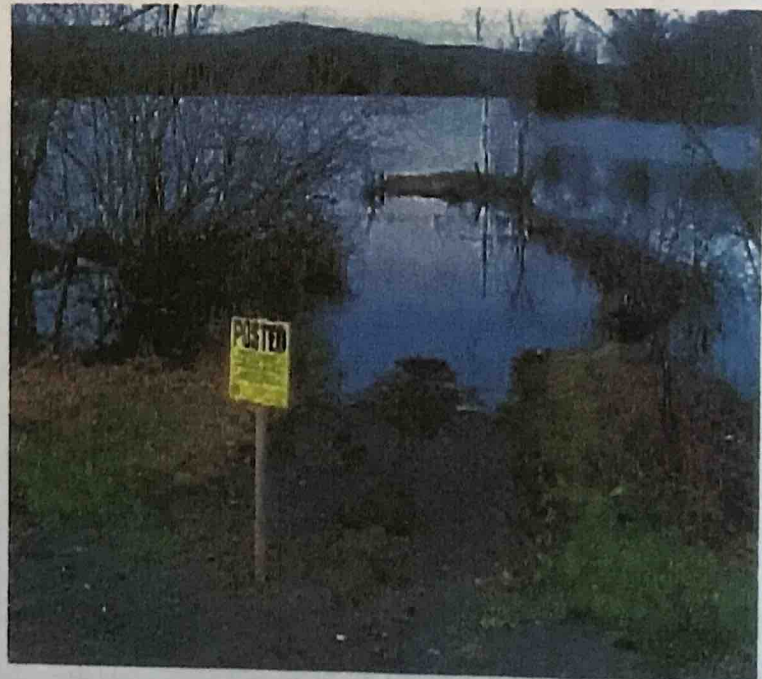
Even for those camp owners who don't fish or prefer to catch and release, this has an direct link to our property values. Who wants to purchase a camp on a pond that has no fish?! I know that some of us like the quiet stillness of our little pond, but between the loons, the summer fishermen and the ice fishermen, there will VERY soon be nothing left. The loons will leave and then the people.

What can we do, you ask. We can start

by calling the town office in Dexter and voicing our concerns. We need to let the Town Manager know that we do care whether or not there are fish in our pond. We need to call Bob Simpson, Town Manager at 924-7351 or e-mail him at Manager@DexterMaine.org and let him know we want fish. We need to ask how we go about getting a public landing. Of course, if Mr. Dyer would reconsider and re-open his landing, our problems would be solved. Unfortunately, that doesn't seem to be an option at this point.

If you care about your property values and you care about your pond, get on the phone and/or computer and get involved.

Lois Richmond





**Annual Dexter Lakes
Association
Meeting
Knights of Columbus
Hall,
Dexter
Wednesday, July 14th
7:00 pm**

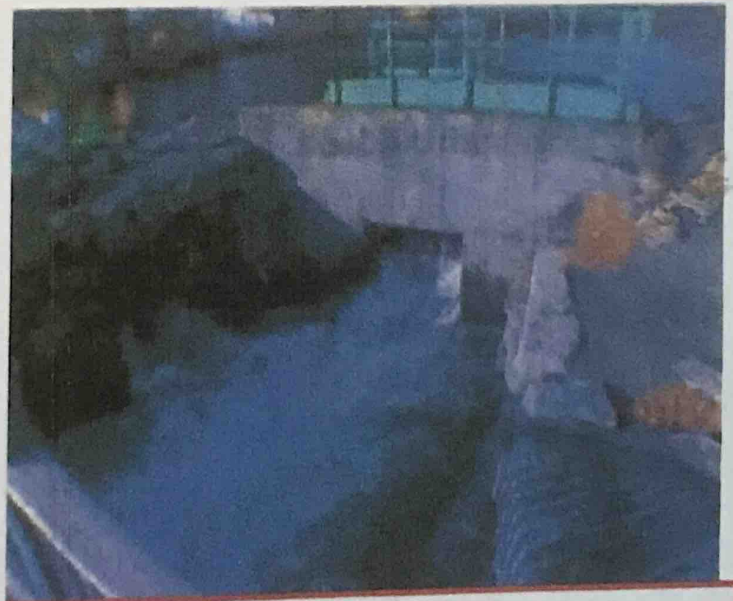
**“HIGH HAZARD”
DAM ON
LAKE WASSOOKEAG**

**Excerpt from Town Manager’s
Weekly Report for the week ending:
3/20/04:**

“The new classification primarily reflects the potential danger created by down-stream exposure to flooding in the event of dam failure. The ‘exposure’ includes most of the downtown business area as well as residential areas adjacent to the Mill Stream. The MEMA (Emergency Management Agency) information also included a copy of the latest inspection of the dam as well as levied a requirement for the

Town to develop an Emergency Action Plan to be used specifically in the event of the dam’s failure. We already have a general emergency plan; however, we now have to tailor it to mirror the MEMA model. That all has to be done within the next 120 days. Sometime this Spring, I intend to set up a meeting between the Board of Trustees for the Utility District and the Town Council to discuss the Wassookeag Dam and the role each agency should play in the maintenance of lake water levels and future enhancements to the dam itself.”

Bob Simpson, Town Manager.



Check out www.dexterlakesassociation.org

**Find lots of great pictures and fun articles
about our lakes.**

***Dexter Lakes Association
Membership Form***

The membership dues are \$10.00 per year

Name: _____

**Summer Mailing
Address:** _____

Winter Mailing Address:

Fire Lane: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Telephone:

**Mail checks to:
Dexter Lakes Association
c/o Peggy Kaufman
22 Turn In Lane
Dexter, Maine 04930**

