



NEWICHAWANNOCK NEWS

GREAT EAST LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION - 75th YEAR, Winter 2007

President's Column

By Linda Schier

On New Year's Eve my husband and I couldn't resist the 60 degree temps and warm sunshine and launched our little putt-putt for one more '06 cruise on the wide open waters of Great East.



A week later GELIA members in the Narrows jumped in for a winter dip.

I have no frame of reference for these activities as I'm usually chomping at the bit to ski on the lake at this point. I wonder what the ice fishermen are thinking and how all the folks in the Acton/Wakefield area who count on the winter industries are faring?

On January 18th the wind stopped and the entire lake froze over during the night. The winter enthusiasts are now on the lake.

These strange days on planet earth have heightened my resolve to do what I can to minimize my impact on the environment and work harder to protect the quality of life on Great East along with all the dedicated volunteers of GELIA.

As usual, the GELIA board is hard at work keeping the machine well oiled. Our membership committee is gearing up for the spring membership drive. Pat Theisen has the new edition of Newichawannock Reflections almost ready for publication. The new Activities Committee is

planning fun events for the summer. A number of GELIA directors continue to be very busy with the Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance planning and implementing programs to protect water quality in the two towns as well as working with the Town of Wakefield to develop a water resources chapter for the Master Plan. It is almost time to apply for the Lake Host grant again and we are always looking for more volunteers to get trained to join our crew.

Citizen action is a very powerful tool and we are fortunate to have many dedicated citizens in our membership. There are numerous opportunities to volunteer with GELIA including as a weed watcher, lake host or on the Board of Directors. I encourage you to contact me with any questions, interests or concerns.

I hope you find ways to enjoy this "winter" and I'll see you at the lake.

"Think globally, act locally."

Great East Lake Wins the Lovell Lake / Great East Lake Golf Tournament!

By Al Polmonari

The team of Bob Chipman, Jim Tobin, Dale Broach and Bob Sullivan posted an amazing 23 under par to win the Third Annual Lovell Lake / Great East Lake Golf Tournament held on September 16 at the Province Lake Golf Club.

Approximately 80 golfers representing Great East Lake and Lovell Lake took to the links on a beautiful September day. The golf tournament is held for the benefit of water quality initiatives undertaken by each lake. This year the golf tournament raised \$1,048.06 which will help with the costs of the water quality monitoring of Great East Lake.

In addition to the golf, participants enjoyed a wonderful meal, raffle prizes and the camaraderie of our fellow Lakers. Many thanks to all of the GELIA members who participated and a big thank you to Jimmy and Paula Good of Lovell Lake for all of their efforts in organizing this event.

**Great East Lake Improvement Association
Statement of Changes in Fund Balance for the Period
January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006**

Revenue:

Dues for 2006	\$15,435.00
Contributions – ISDF	\$4,650.00
Interest – Operating Reserve Fund CD	\$535.27
Interest – Money Market Account	\$95.66
Interest – ISDF Reserve Fund CD	\$715.64
Maine Grant	\$1700.00
Charts & Maps	\$450.00
Raffle	\$680.00
Yard Sale	\$89.00
GELIA Clothing	\$394.00
Maine Lake Books	\$160.00
Charitable & Matching Gifts	\$300.00
Golf Tournament	\$1,048.00
Adjustment	\$-2.90
Total Revenue:	\$26,249.73

Expenditures:

Winter Newsletter	\$332.38
PO Box for Membership Dues	\$74.00
Postage and Labels for Membership	\$105.08
2005 Financial Review	\$325.00
Membership Forms	\$28.00
Dues – Wakefield Chamber of Commerce	\$55.00
PO Box 911 Sanbornville	\$38.00
AWWA Contribution	\$500.00
300 Revised Maps	\$919.00
Membership Mailing	\$311.03
Food for April Board Meeting	\$59.03
59 Maine Lakes Books	\$335.95
Spring Newsletter	\$552.57
NHLA – Lake Host Program	\$2,384.25
Annual Donations (8)*	\$2,300.00
Treasury Stamps, Envelopes & Copies	\$26.61
Maine COLA Newsletters	\$110.00
Band for Lake Concert	\$480.00
Flairs	\$417.60

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Stickers & Mailing	\$346.48
Annual Meeting – Food	\$220.78
Annual Meeting – Portable Toilet	\$119.00
Water Quality Testing	\$665.00
Directors’ Insurance	\$744.00
Fall Newsletter	\$307.57
Website Annual Fee	\$107.40
Total Expenditures:	\$11,863.73

INCREASE: \$14,386.00

***Contributions for 2006**

Wakefield Ambulance Association	\$400.00
Acton Ambulance Association	\$400.00
New Hampshire Lakes Association	\$250.00
Maine Congress of Lakes Association	\$250.00
Loon Preservation Committee	\$250.00
Maine Audubon Society	\$250.00
Moose Mountain Regional Greenways	\$250.00
Three Rivers Land Trust	\$250.00

Balance Sheet – December 31, 2006

ASSETS

Invasive Aquatic Plant Fund – Money Market	\$4,947.96
Fish and Wildlife	\$1,292.63
Certificates of Deposit – Operating Reserve Fund	\$22,953.93
Certificates of Deposit – ISDF Reserve Fund	\$15,715.64
Cash – Checking Account	\$5,009.95

FUND BALANCE

Beginning 1/1/06	\$35,534.11
Increase during Period	\$14,386.00

Ending Balance: \$49,920.11

WAKEFIELD WATER RESOURCES GROUP

By Carol Lafond

In June of 2005, the Natural Resource Outreach Coalition (NROC) made a presentation, *Dealing with Growth in Wakefield*, and helped the attendees formulate their vision of a future Wakefield and identify what was important to conserve in the face of the inevitable growth facing the town. Over the course of the next few months, many Wakefield citizens and NROC representatives participated to identify goals and form action groups that developed and implemented specific actions to achieve those goals. Three action groups were formed to address *Water Resources Protection*, *Land Conservation* and *Managing Growth*, *Revising Zoning* and *Preserving Town Centers*.

The Water Resources Protection Group, headed by Peter Brown has been meeting regularly since its formation. Several GELIA members, Linda Schier, Chuck and Marcia Hodsdon, Carol Lafond, John Ciardi and Nancy Spencer Smith are active participants of this group. The group has been looking at ways to protect the water quality of both the surface waters and the extensive aquifers in town.

The Water Resources group held a public outreach event, "Wakefield's Fragile Treasures", in April 2006. The event provided education and information about Wakefield's many water resources, and provided a forum for discussion about efforts to maintain high water quality. Existing water quality monitoring data and maps have been compiled into a document describing the current state of Wakefield's water resources.

The group contracted with the Strafford Regional Planning Commission (SRPC) to look at how Wakefield's land use regulations, enforcement policies, and education/outreach activities affect our water resources. SRPC is using the information gathered to help the Water Resources Group develop a Wakefield Water Resources Planning Document and a Water Resources chapter for the town's Master Plan. The chapter is in its final revisions and will be discussed by the Wakefield Planning Board in upcoming meetings.

PASSAGES

By Pat Theisen

GELIA extends condolences to the families and friends of RON CAIN and MAGGIE GARVIN who passed away this past year.

RON CAIN first came to Great East Lake when he was a month old in August of 1926, as he recounted in his interview with Polly Clancy for Newichawannock Reflections in 1995. His grandparents owned "Woodhaven Lodge" which was built in 1908 on what is now Mann Road. Ron's grandfather, George Edward Coates, was the president of the Great East Lake Improvement Association from 1936-1941. Woodhaven Lodge and their hunting lodge "Top Notch" were torn down in the 1960's. Traveling from their home in Richmond, Virginia, Ron and Sue have been spending summers in their cottage on the same property as Ron's ancestors for many years. They were early champions of the Ambassador program (now the Lake Host program), spending many hours volunteering at the boat ramp and fund an annual grant for the program.

MAGGIE GARVIN was remembered by her relative and friend, Charlotte Raffensberger, in this note to Linda Schier: "Maggie loved Great East Lake and all that it stood for. She was very protective of the maintenance of its purity and peaceful surroundings. She and her family inherited the camp on the west shore from the Garvin family who had built it soon after 1890. She continued to spend summers there until she died. In her later years she gave several acres of land on Copp Brook to the State of New Hampshire to remain in its natural state for posterity. Maggie was a very special person." GELIA gratefully acknowledges the gift received in Maggie's memory.

GELIA is privileged to have had such ardent supporters and thanks the Cain and Garvin families for their many years of dedication to Great East Lake.

Membership News

by Jon Rouillard

Last year marked significant milestones for GELIA's membership committee. A number of new members joined GELIA for the first time, our total membership grew and average individual contributions increased as well. By many definitions, the 2006 membership drive was a great success.

In 2007 our goal remains the same. The membership committee is challenged with the goal of 100% participation from all property owners. To achieve this goal we will be sending out membership renewals and initiations in March, with the goal of following up in the middle of May. From that point forward we rely on our door-to-door campaigning as well as help from volunteers. All of this effort is very important and provides the financial foundation for GELIA.

From a financial perspective, your membership contributions help fund programs like our lake host program at the ramp and water monitoring designed to keep Great East Lake clean and pristine. GELIA also supports other organizations that focus their efforts on the protection of the local and regional resources including the Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance, the Loon Protection Committee, the Maine Audubon Society, the NH Lakes Association, the Maine Congress of Lake Associations, The Moose Mountains Regional Greenways and the Three Rivers Land Trust as well as the local ambulance services. Boating Safety and Loon Preservation are other examples of work done by GELIA that are fundamental to the lake's overall health. However, membership is more than just financial.

Along with supporting programs, our goal is to create a sense of community. The lake and its surrounding environment belong to everyone and as such it is everyone's responsibility to pitch in. With that in mind we hope that last year's members will renew your membership in 2007. If you were basic member last year, consider increasing your membership to "Supporter", "Sponsor" or "Benefactor" level. Make sure your neighbors are members too. And, if time permits consider giving back to something that has given you a lot of pleasure and enjoyment. We need more volunteers! In this way, we can ensure that the lake remains a natural preserved source of enjoyment for future generations.

Lake Host Update

In the Fall edition of the Newichawannock News volunteer Lake Host Diane Frithsen was omitted from the list of valiant volunteers who staff the Acton launch on weekends throughout the summer. Diane learned about the Lake Host program and quickly took herself to Concord for the training and monitored the launch on the times she was available. We regret the omission and hope that Diane will rejoin the team in the upcoming season. Thanks, Diane!

NEWICHAWANNOCK REFLECTIONS

By Pat Theisen

Responses to the invitation to contribute to the second edition of Newichawannock Reflections have continued to pour in. Contributions are no longer being accepted and the time has now come to get to work putting it all together. If all goes according to schedule, books will be available at the GELIA Annual Meeting in July. Many thanks to all of you who have contributed your reminiscences, updates, edits and photographs.

AWWA YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS TO CONTINUE IN 2007

by Carol Lafond

The Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance (AWWA) was formed to protect the water quality of the lakes and streams in Wakefield and Acton. The number one source of pollution in these lakes and streams is the soil, nutrients and other pollutants that flow into the water from properties in the watershed. While erosion is a natural process, we humans greatly speed up the process by altering the terrain and natural buffers along the shorelines of our lakes and streams.

In 2006, the YCC had a very successful season, installing projects that corrected erosion patterns and prevented about 15 tons of sediment from reaching the lakes.

Before



After



This beautiful and effective rain garden slows, catches and filters storm water runoff, correcting erosion patterns that formerly allowed the sediment to run into the lake.

The YCC projects will continue in the spring and summer of 2007. If you have property on or around the lake and storm water runoff is causing erosion into the lake, stream or wetlands, AWWA can help. The results of all of our efforts will help ensure a beautiful pristine lake for future generations to enjoy.

If you are interested in learning more, talking with the technical director about your concerns, and/or participating in this project, please visit the GELIA website: www.greastlake.org/Participate.html. To schedule a visit with the technical director, click on "[this form](#)", print, fill in and mail the form to the address on the form. Alternately, you can call (603) 473-2500 for more information.

New GELIA Activities Committee...Looking for a few good ideas

A new Activities Committee has been formed, chaired by Chuck Hodson, and we'd like your help. Some of the activities being considered are a sailboat regatta, pot luck supper/dance, kayak scavenger hunt, kids swimming race, and a photo contest. Look for more information in the spring newsletter, as well as on our website, www.greastlake.org. If you have any ideas for activities, or would like to volunteer to help organize any of the activities, please email Chuck at choddy@surfglobal.net

Boating Safety—New Hampshire Boating Certification

By Walter Neff

Heads Up—a change in requirements by the State:

Effective January 1, 2007 it will now be necessary to take an **in-person**, proctored exam in order to obtain a State Of New Hampshire Boating Safety Certificate. The State will still offer the three methods of preparing to take the exam: online, video, and classroom.

At the completion of any of these three methods of preparation you will be required to take a Course Completion Exam which, upon passing, will allow you to take the proctored Final Exam to then obtain your certificate.

Information regarding the online and video materials, and the dates, times and locations of the classroom training is best obtained by going to the State's boater education website:

www.boat-ed.com/nh or by calling 1-888-254-2125

There is also a link at this website to give you dates, times and locations for the proctored Final Exam.

Remember: In 2007 you are required to be certified to operate a powerboat in excess of 25 HP in New Hampshire waters if you were born after January 1, 1957.

Next year will be the end of the seven-year phase-in for this certification:

As of January 1, 2008 all operators of boats in excess of 25 HP must be certified.

There are some exemptions to this law: 1) Persons holding a current commercial license issued by the State of New Hampshire or the U.S. Coast Guard, and 2) any person who holds a certificate from any state that meets or exceeds the Boating Education Law (is NASBLA approved).

Also, it is possible to obtain 14 day temporary certificate by passing an equivalency test—this is a one-time use certification, primarily for visitors to NH. See the website or call the above number for more information.

When Beavers Attack

by Jon Rouillard

Around mid November I arrived at our camp in the evening. I took a walk down along the lake and I must have startled something. It darted from the shoreline into the water and then 4 seconds later it generated a big splash about 20 feet from shore. It sounded like a big flat board hitting the water. It was a beaver!

Several residents along the southern shore (Canal Road) have reported trees downed on their property by beavers. The trees range in size but most of them were small saplings, except one huge oak tree that was dropped into the lake.

One of my neighbors called the state because they were concerned for the protection of some birch trees they have on their shoreline. Their response was "at the moment this appears to be a one time strike-- too far from where they live. If that's the case it is unlikely that we could catch them".

In the meantime the suggestion was made that we wrap the bottom of any important trees with chicken wire or sheet metal. Apparently the beavers get caught up in the chicken wire enough to discourage them. If you have evidence of similar beaver activity on your property, please let us know. While we can not offer any permanent solutions other than protecting your trees, we do need to understand how widespread the problem is.

When Beavers Attack

Beaver Damage along the southern shore (Canal Rd) See article on page 7



To Contact GELIA

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