

WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU

We need your help today more than ever. Join the LIA in enhancing and protecting the health of Lake Iroquois and the surrounding ecosystem. If you are already a member, please renew your membership for 2020 and if you have not yet joined, now is the time. Dues are just \$50/year for a family. Of course, we always hope that you will consider an addition to that as well.

We also need your help on a number of projects that are now in the works. We guarantee that you won't be disappointed. If you are interested in understanding water quality, lakeshore landscaping, grant writing, education and outreach, preventing the spread of invasive species, developing project grants and budgets, protecting lake wildlife, or monitoring water-related legislative initiatives, we have a project you could be involved in. Plus, we have a great and fun group of people working with the LIA. Get to know the Lake Iroquois community, other Vermont lake communities, and

the many folks in local and state governments as well as nonprofits working on water quality and watershed issues. You don't have to live on the lake to be part of protecting this precious natural resource and you don't have to be a water scientist either. All you need is some energy and enthusiasm and interest in protecting our surrounding ecosystems.

Some of our current projects are discussed in this newsletter, but there is a lot more going on. To learn more, get the details, and join the LIA, please contact us at Lakeiroquoisassociation@gmail.com

TO JOIN AND DONATE ONLINE GO TO: [HTTP://WWW.LAKEIROQUOIS.ORG/HOME/MEMBERSHIP](http://WWW.LAKEIROQUOIS.ORG/HOME/MEMBERSHIP)
OR SEND YOUR CHECK TO LIA, PO BOX 569,
HINESBURG, VT 05461.

lakeiroquoisassociation@gmail.com
Website: www.lakeiroquois.org
Follow us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/>

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The Lake Iroquois Monitor

Research, education and action for a healthy lake

Fall 2019

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am excited that the cooler days are upon us and that foliage colors will soon be prominent reflected in the beautiful lake that we so love. I am not excited about the early darkness or the cooler night temperatures. I still marvel how the lake virtually becomes a ghost town right after Labor Day as I constantly remind myself that it is one of the most spectacular times around the lakes and question why everyone heads home or to the sunny south! Oh well, I guess my tolerance gets shorter as I age, and one day I am certain that I will do the same.

It certainly has been a busy summer season, with many boaters, skiers, kayakers, canoeists, and paddle boarders using the lake. I think the “user” population of the lake has grown over the past few seasons by two fold. Despite the Eurasian Watermilfoil population in the water, I feel that the weather was conducive to enjoyment of users and lovers of water.

Nevertheless, the EWM has caused a heap of trouble for everyone boating and paddling the waters of Lake Iroquois. I can only imagine what the swimming has been like. Our experience also has been that

the layer of weeds has been significant enough on the northern end of the lake to cause not only a crusty appearance on the water, but has caused a foul rotting smell at the beach swimming area. Not a very pleasant way to spend a hot afternoon in July or August. I have been told by the board members of the Lake Iroquois Recreation District that the attendance numbers at the public beach have dropped considerably, and I can certainly understand why!

The bottom line here as we write this fall newsletter is that the LIA Board is committed to finding ways to mitigate the EWM problem that currently plagues our lake. We are not going to sit by and let this lake die. We have been told by the DASH contractor that worked on the lake, that this is one of the worst lakes that they have seen this summer. This is a lake that has seen a significant increase in the EWM population during the past two seasons; a lake on which boaters and swimmers are increasingly watching the weed population take over the waterway; a body of water located in the largest population center in the state, Chittenden County,. At this point, are we not going to sit back and watch this

amazing resource turn into a swamp or are we going to do something about it!!

As I write this, I want you to know that we as a board are committed to moving forward to protect this resource. We are committed to working once again with state officials, our town officials, state representatives, and community members to make this effort come to fruition. In order to accomplish this goal, the LIA Board is creating a Milfoil Mitigation Committee to research the new EWM targeted herbicide recently approved for use in the state of Vermont and to create an integrated lake management plan to reduce and control the EWM infestation. If you the love lake and would be interested in working on this project, I would love to hear from you. We would very much like several members of the community who are not on the LIA Board to either join this committee or to provide input to the committee as it begins its work. If you have an interest, please contact me as soon as possible. I can be reached by phone at: 802-316-6714 or by email at: cconant@claussens.com

Christopher J. Conant, President
LIA

DASH AGAIN!

Once again the DASH (Diver-Assisted Suction Harvesting) boat was on the lake in August. This year we were only able to have them working here for a week. During that time they were able to pull approximately 2000 gallons of milfoil. That may sound like a lot but the milfoil was so thick that didn't make even a slight dent in the milfoil. DASH is good for spot clearing milfoil, such as maintaining a clear boat channel, but given the infestation on Lake Iroquois it is not the most effective solution for the entire lake.

BEEBE LANE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

A Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission block grant was awarded in early 2019 for a Beebe Lane road improvement design. The next step once the design plans are finished is to pursue an implementation phase grant to complete the road improvement work. The intended outcomes are improvements that will mitigate nutrient and sediment runoff into the lake from the existing road conditions.

Shannon Kelly

LAKE IROQUOIS GREETER PROGRAM 2019

The summer of 2019 was another very successful season for the Lake Iroquois Greeter Program. There were 5 greeters, staffing shifts Friday through Sunday, and Holidays, from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

The greeters did an outstanding job, greeting boat owners, educating about invasive species, inspecting,



and washing boats and trailers. Lake Champlain has over 50 invasive species, some of which are mostly invisible. Other water bodies have many invasive species as well. The greeters have a list of all Vermont water bodies and the invasive species they contain. Our thanks go out to greeters Emilie Bernier, Zack Dubie, Isaac Giles, Anna Iglar, Jeff Racine.

The greeter manager (Jim Johnson) again did a great job facilitating the greeters and ensuring the equipment was in great shape throughout the summer.

A total of 857 boats were greeted/inspected. Of these, 189 were washed. The focus again was preventing invasive plants and animals from entering the Lake, and for preventing Milfoil from leaving on boats/trailers to other water bodies.

The boat washing would not be possible without the assistance of the Hinesburg Fire Department,

who weekly provided the water needed. A huge thank you to them! Another summer of great support!

Now that the season is over, a great thank you goes to Pete Mumford for taking the boat washer to his business (Perfection Motor Sports and Trailers) for safe winter storage. Pete designed and provided the trailer for the washer, without which this program would not be possible.

And another great thank you to VT Department of Environmental Conservation for the grant funds that made this program possible, and for training the greeters.

We hope your summer was enjoyable on the Lake. Sure wished we had this program in place before Milfoil arrived.

Thank you all!

LOONS

As many of you know, we have had the privilege of hosting a loon family on Lake Iroquois this summer. After several failed attempts to nest over the last few years, the loon pair that has been summering on the lake successfully nested and hatched two babies in early July. Folks living on the lake or visiting have had a wonderful opportunity to watch this family grow and thrive. By the time you read this, the babies will be about 11 weeks old. By November they will be ready to migrate with their parents. Vermont loons spend the winter on the Atlantic Ocean (loons only go on land to nest), returning to fresh water lakes each spring. Having loons living and successfully nesting here is a tribute to all the work that has been done to insure good water quality on Lake Iroquois and to the work of the Vermont loon restoration project which has successfully brought this species back from near total disappearance in Vermont. For more information about loons and the Vermont loon restoration project, go to: <https://vtecostudies.org/projects/lakes-ponds/common-loon-conservation/vermont-loon-conservation-project/>

LAKE MONITORING

Several trained volunteers have monitored Lake Iroquois for cyanobacteria ("blue-green algae") throughout the summer. Reports are emailed weekly to the Vermont Department of Health for posting on their cyanobacteria tracking website. Fortunately, in spite of many long warm spells with little wind, there have been no blooms until recently. A "low alert" bloom was reported on Sept.18 in spite of the cooling water



temperature, and persisted until the next day. Monitoring will continue through October.

In addition, three lake residents attended a training session on identification of native and invasive aquatic plants and have monitored Lake Iroquois this summer. There are many invasive plant and animal species already in neighboring lakes, especially Lake Champlain, and these could readily be transported to Lake Iroquois. Our greeter program

and wash station will hopefully stop the spread into Lake Iroquois, but early recognition of new invasives in the lake would also facilitate a better chance of control or elimination.

The Lake Iroquois Association would be very grateful to have other volunteers join us in these endeavors. If you are interested in learning more about lake monitoring, please email us at lakeiroquoisassociation@gmail.com