

Lake Iroquois Association
2017 Annual Report

The Lake Iroquois Association (LIA) has spent this year on many projects that directly affect the water quality of the lake. An important project is the recent aquatic plant survey of Lake Iroquois and Sunset Lake, which was completed on September 12, 2017 by the Darrin Fresh Water Institute at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. This study, funded by the Richmond Conservation Commission, is key to identifying the native species that exist in the lake and to quantifying the Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) infestation. The study will be instrumental in determining control methods for combatting Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) next year. Though the infestation this year appears to not have been as bad as last year, EWM continues to be a major concern. As an invasive, it has a very deleterious impact on the health of the lake ecosystem as well as interfering with recreational uses of the lake.

The Board of Directors of the LIA and volunteers of the association have been extremely busy with water quality related projects this year. An Ecosystem Restoration Program Grant (ERP) was awarded to the association this year for streambed restoration and runoff remediation of the stream paralleling Pine Shore Drive and emptying into the southern part of the lake. This stream has been identified as one of the worst for contributing nutrient laden sediment into the lake. The project is a collaboration between the LIA, the Pine Shore Drive Road Association, and the Town of Hinesburg. The first part of the project, streambed restoration was completed in August. Work was done by the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps and LIA volunteers. The second part which involves reshaping ditches and proper crowning of the road is expected to be completed by the end of October 2017. Detailed information and pictures of the project are available on the LIA web site.

The LIA also received an Aquatic Nuisance Control Grant again this year. This grant, funded by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, supports the LIA Greeter Program and also provided funding for the Benthic mats (bottom barriers) that were placed at the fishing access. The mats prevent EWM and other weeds from reinfesting the channel which was cleared last year by the LIA using Diver-Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH). Both of these efforts are part of the battle against invasives in the lake. Another addition to this effort was the LIA boat wash station which was set up this summer. Boats were washed entering the lake to prevent invasives (such as zebra mussels) from being carried in and they were washed coming out of the lake to prevent EWM from being carried to other water bodies. The boat wash station was funded by a grant from the Lake Champlain Basin Program. The Hinesburg Fire Department was a huge help in implementing the program by providing clean water for the pressure washer operation.

One thing that did not happen this summer was a decision concerning the application that LIA submitted last year to treat the EWM infestation with the herbicide, Sonar. As of this writing, the staff of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation is continuing to review comments that were received. Our hope is that some decision will be made by the end of this year. No matter the outcome the LIA continues to be dedicated to improving the water quality of Lake Iroquois and the surrounding ecosystem and combatting invasives.

Much work is yet to be done on Lake Iroquois, and there is always room for more volunteers to help with projects. Don't hesitate to visit our website www.lakeiroquois.org and our Facebook page. And volunteer some of your free time. Lake Iroquois is a great resource for our community. Let's work hard to keep it clean and healthy for generations to come.

Chris Conant
President