



THE LAKE IROQUOIS MONITOR

RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ACTION FOR A HEALTHY LAKE

FROM THE LIA PRESIDENT

Do you think summer has finally arrived? As I write this, today seems like it is going to be a “lake day” on Lake Iroquois. Activity on the lake has increased tenfold just in the past few days!! Honestly, after last night’s sunset, I’m really not sure that I would rather be anywhere else except Lake Iroquois! I realize that many of you are just now opening your camps and getting a feel for the summer season on the lake. Although it was a difficult start for the summer season, we may have now just crested the threshold into beautiful weather. The number of lake users (motorboats, fishing boats, kayaks, canoes and beachgoers) has increased dramatically during these past few days. I love seeing the number of bikers, hikers and walkers on Beebe Lane each morning when I drive out to work. We are all so fortunate to have the “piece of heaven” that we do, tucked so close to

Burlington. Oh and how about those loons. What a beautiful sound in the morning added to our serenity! A huge thanks to Eric Hanson, Vermont Loon Conservation Project, Vermont Center for Ecostudies, (www.vtecostudies.org) for his efforts!!

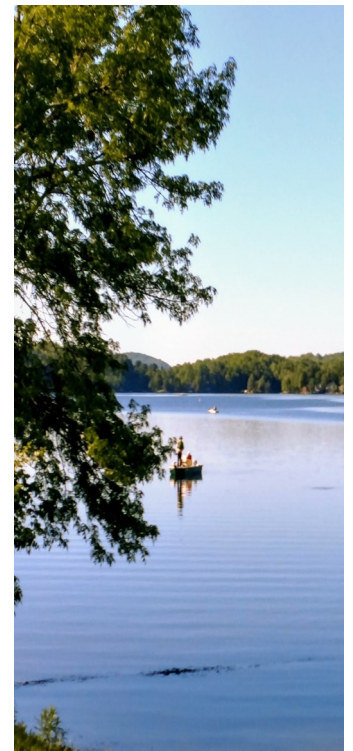
Speaking of summer, your LIA board of directors have been busy over the past several months preparing for our summer projects here on the lake. Although most people leave the lake during the winter months, the LIA work efforts continue year-round. We have been busy with a host of projects keeping everyone scrambling. We would like to be able to send a LIA representative to each road association meeting during the next few months to give an update what’s happening around the lake. This would be an opportunity to interact with a few board members and find out a little more of what’s happening with your asso-

ciation. I know that there may be road association meetings already scheduled, but if you have time on your agenda, let me know and I will try to attend or schedule another board member to attend.

Summer on the lake always reminds me just how fortunate we are to have good clean water to have fun in. Your association members have spent the past few decades educating and monitoring the water quality through the several programs that we conduct throughout the year. You will find more on those programs elsewhere in this issue.

And speaking of fun and lake programs, we have scheduled a “Celebrate the Lake” event on Saturday, July 27 at the Clifford Camp on Dimmick Road. The event will begin with a short LIS business meeting at 2 p.m. which will include an update of lake activities, and elec-

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CHIP WRIGHT RETIRES FROM THE BOARD

Chip Wright, one of the founders of the Lake Iroquois Association (2007), has stepped down from the LIA Board after 12 years of service. His contributions to



LIA and the lake are un-

paralleled. Here’s a short review. Since acquiring a seasonal place on Lake Iroquois in 1975, Chip and his wife Jo have been very interested in promot-

ing the health of the lake. In addition to coordinating many meetings to address the problem of Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) in the lake, they have regularly attended annual meetings of the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds, where Jo was secretary for many years, and the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Annual Lake Seminars. They helped establish and mark the boat channel at the fishing access to lessen fragmentation of Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) by boats entering the lake. For over a dozen years they also attempted biologic control of EWM by propagating weevils (provided by Ann Bove of the DEC) in tanks and introducing them into

the lake. While an interesting experiment, the weevils could not keep up with the proliferation of the EWM and so the experiment was abandoned.

After joining the LIA Board of Directors at its formation in 2007, Chip worked on the initial mapping of the tributary streams entering the lake and monitoring the streams for sediment, phosphorus, and other pollutants with the help of the LaRosa Laboratory. He was involved in researching and writing several grant applications to help mitigate erosion and runoff into the lake. He is currently involved with monitor-

ing for cyanobacteria blooms for the Lake Champlain Committee and the VT Health Department, participates in the VT Invasive Patroller program of the VT DEC, and the VT Loon Conservation Project of Eric Hanson and the VT Center for Ecostudies. And, as an avid birder, he is pleased to report that he has identified 118 bird species in the Lake Iroquois watershed. Fun!

He still has a very full schedule. The LIA Board and the entire lake community are so grateful for Chip’s many years of service. Thank-you Chip!

FROM THE PRESIDENT (CONTINUED)*(Continued from page 1)*

tion of new officers. This will be followed at 3 p.m. by a “Septic Social” led by Gianna Petito District Manager for the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District. Gianna will be talking about how to make sure the water we swim and play in is protected by explaining how to extend the useful life of your septic system, how to identify whether it has failed, and what to do about it. Following Gianna, Andrea Morgante, will talk briefly about lake shore planting and landscaping and will answer your questions on lake shore vegetation. Once again, we will also have a plant sale to benefit the association and we’ll top it off with a potluck and BBQ. This will be a fun afternoon and evening on the lake. Members and non-members are all welcome. **Mark your calendars for Saturday, July 27!**

As I have reported in the past and as I will continue to promote, your board is continuing to focus on protecting the health of the lake not only by preventing additional invasive species and pollutants from entering the lake, but also by continuing to find ways to reduce and control the invasive EWM currently present in the lake. If EWM is ignored and allowed to spread to the fullest extent possible in the lake, it will continue to choke out native species, reduce the ability of native fish and other aquatic species to

spawn and thrive, and reduce, if not eliminate, the ability of humans to enjoy the lake. An ecosystem is not healthy when overrun by an invasive species. We firmly believe as stewards of this precious resource, each of us has a responsibility to do everything we can to contribute to the health and well-being of Lake Iroquois.

All of this, however, cannot happen without your support. We need your input, your volunteer time, and your financial contributions. So, we ask once again for your generosity. If you are already a member, please renew your membership for 2019. If you have yet to join, please consider doing so. We hope that you will be willing to add an additional donation to support our many diverse projects.

We also hope that you will get involved. We have many volunteer opportunities, including joining the board, participating in water sampling, becoming a greeter, and we always welcome your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions. Please feel free to contact me via phone at 802.316.6714 or by email at lakeiroquoisassociation@gmail.com or my personal email at dmconant@aol.com.

Once again, on behalf of the Board of Directors of the LIA, I want to thank you for your continued support. We wish you and your family a happy and safe summer season.

Chris Conant

President

KEEP THE WATER CLEAN – SEPTIC SOCIAL

Vermont summers mean all sorts of water enthusiasts will flock to the shores of Lake Iroquois. Nestled in a quiet valley yet conveniently close to some of Vermont’s larger towns, Lake Iroquois welcomes boaters, swimmers, fishermen and women, and perhaps even a stray snorkeler or two, all eager to break the summer heat with a refreshing dip. Speaking of refreshing and clean water, have you thought about your septic system lately? Did you know the average life expectancy for a septic system can be as long as 40 years but as short as 15? A failed or near failing system could be sending unwanted bacteria into Lake Iroquois which makes for far less desirable and potentially unsafe swimming conditions. If you’re ready to learn about how to extend the useful life of your septic system, how to identify whether it has failed, and what to do about it, **join us for an informal septic social Saturday July 27th 3-5 pm** (immediately after LIA’s Annual Meeting and before the summer BBQ). Septic experts from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation will be there on the shores of Lake Iroquois to answer questions, walk us through Septic 101, and discuss best maintenance practices, and you’ll have an opportunity to see a neighbor’s newly installed unit. This event is supported by the Lake Champlain Basin Program and hosted in partnership with the Lake Iroquois Association, Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District, and the Lewis Creek Association. We hope you’ll join us so together we can keep Lake Iroquois waters safe and healthy for our families, friends, and future generations. Location: The Clifford Camp at 56 Dimmick Road.

NEWS FROM THE ROADS**BEEBE LANE DESIGN GRANT AWARDED**

In 2018 the Lake Iroquois Association partnered with the Lake Iroquois Recreation District (LIRD) to apply for a Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission grant for road rehabilitation design of Beebe Lane. The road currently discharges sediment loads during stormwater events and its largest tributary potentially contributes to the highest average phosphorus levels of any location across the Lake. The grant was successfully awarded in 2019 and the two organizations and the Town of Williston hope the design will lead to corrective action of the existing poor road conditions. Once the design is complete, the two organizations plan to pursue grant funding for implementation of the proposed corrective actions.

PINE SHORE DRIVE - ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM GRANT

In 2016, LIA secured a second grant for road rehabilitation of Pine Shore Drive and restoration of a stream channel serving this road. This stood as a defacto 'second phase' of restoration following implementation of a Low Impact Development (LID) feature in 2012 (the Pine Shore Rain Garden). LIA successfully completed the work from this second grant in the fall of 2018. This tributary was a major contributing factor to sediment deposition to the Lake and consistently higher levels of phosphorous. The sampling schedule in 2019 includes an additional site above the restoration work completed in the main stream channel to compare with historic water quality results from the original water sampling site located near the Lake confluence.

THE GREETERS ARE BACK!

We are happy to announce that the greeters are back checking and washing boats at the Lake Iroquois Boat Access. This year we have 6 greeters and a greeter manager. Three of our greeters are returning from last year and three are new to the program. Jim Johnson who did a great job last year will again be the greeter manager this year. And they are:

Emilie Bernier – 2018 Greeter
Zack Dubie – 2018 Greeter
Michelle Villeneuve – 2018 Greeter
Isaac Giles – new this year
Anna Iglar – new this year
Jeff Racine – new this year
Jim Johnson – Greeter Manager

Greeters will be on duty from Memorial Day through Labor Day. This year we are able to increase coverage. The schedule now is:

Fridays: 12 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Saturdays: 6:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Sundays: 6:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Memorial Day, July 4, Labor Day: 6:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

The aim of the greeter program is to ensure invasive species (plant and animal) do not enter the lake. The responsibilities of the greeters include boat inspection and boat washing. VT law, Act 67, enacted in 2018, **requires** that a boat be washed if a greeter is on duty, the washer is operating at the time, and the greeter determines that the boat needs to be washed. These conditions apply for boats entering AND leaving the water. The greeters have documentation that more completely explains this law. Our station has been designated by the state as an Approved Aquatic Nuisance Species Inspection Station, and all greeters have been trained in all duties by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation. Just one more step LIA is taking to protect Lake Iroquois.

The Greeter Program has made a difference for Lake Iroquois and all of its users. Of the 50+ invasive species found in other lakes in Vermont, only 2 are in our lake, Eurasian Watermilfoil and Curly Pondweed. The Greeter and Boat Wash Program is supported by an Aquatic Nuisance Control Grant from the VT DEC, by the members and board of the Lake Iroquois Association, and by the Town of Williston.

DATA COLLECTION AT THE LAKE

TRIBUTARY SAMPLING

Following careful analysis of the 2018 water quality sampling results and review of six years of water quality data collection, the Lake Iroquois Association (LIA) expanded its water quality sampling to include additional tributaries. Phosphorous remained elevated above state regulatory standards for medium high gradient streams in the majority of tributaries in 2018 and was retained to continue sampling for the 2019 season. Other constituents including chlorides, total nitrogen, and turbidity were eliminated from the sampling schedule based off data largely below state regulatory standards. LIA also sampled Patrick Brook for phosphorus and Total Suspended Solids in 2018. LIA has partnered with the Lewis Creek Association for their organization to pick up these sites as part of their sampling schedule in 2019. We look forward to seeing what this year's results hold for phosphorous levels in each tributary, particularly following restoration of a stream channel in the southwest shore area and road rehabilitation on Pine Shore Drive.

PLANT SURVEY 2019

LIA is once again sponsoring an aquatic plant survey of Lake Iroquois. The survey will be conducted by Darrin Freshwater Institute during the week of September 9th. These plant surveys allow us to track the incidence and spread of Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM), as well as to enumerate the presence or loss of native species. This data now collected for several years help to inform decisions about plans for maintaining and improving the health of the lake ecosystem. For results of the previous aquatic plant survey done in 2017 go to <http://www.lakeiroquois.org/home/announcements/2017aquaticplantsurvey-justreleased>

CELEBRATE THE LAKE!

Gather at the lake for a fun afternoon and evening of learning and celebrating all things Lake Iroquois.

Date: Saturday, July 27

Location: Jane and Eric Clifford's Camp, 56 Dimmick Road

Events:

LIA Annual Meeting: 2 p.m. – update & discussion of LIA activities, election of officers

Septic Social: 3 p.m. – learn about best practices in maintaining septic systems

Lake Shore Planting & Landscaping: 5 p.m. – learn about lake shore landscaping and vegetation

Plant Sale: All afternoon

Drinks & BBQ/potluck: 5:30 – LIA provides burgers/hot dogs, etc. bring a dish to share. This year featuring Ernie Rossi as the grillmaster!

Free, all welcome. Carpool over or, better yet, boat over. More details coming soon!



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