

THE LAKE IROQUOIS MONITOR

RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ACTION FOR A HEALTHY LAKE

MESSAGE FROM THE LIA PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of Lake Iroquois,

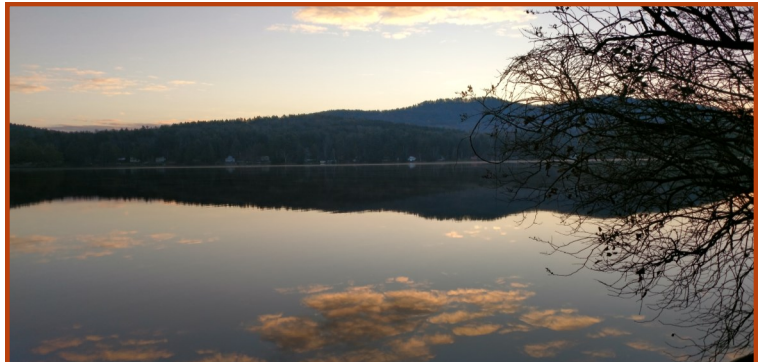
This letter is more important today than ever. I hope that each and every one of you is safe and healthy, as the world continues to spin around us out of control. Your Board of Directors of the LIA send all of you good wishes and hope as we move into the next (and hopefully final) phase of this deadly disease, which has certainly changed the world's landscape possibly forever. We are seeing a glimmer of hope here in Vermont with the lower numbers of cases and one of the lowest numbers in the nation of deaths, even though over fifty Vermont families have been affected by the horrifying results of this virus. Let us continue to reach for strength and hope in maintaining our health and the wellbeing of our families and communities. We are Lake Iroquois Community STRONG!!

We have included in this newsletter information about the COVID-19 situation in Vermont along with the restrictions ordered by Governor Scott. We have also included some information about the current situation with our greeter program, prevention of invasive species, and our milfoil control permit application. There is information about lake-friendly landscaping, wildlife spotted around the lake, and yes, a friendly reminder to join or renew your membership if you have yet to do so. Finally, I want to remind you to take a look at our new website. Thanks to board secretary, Pat Suozzi and the terrific web designers at Ecopixel, we have a completely redesigned website which is much easier to use and is a great source of news and information about Lake Iroquois and the Lake Iroquois community.

Enjoy this newsletter and keep up-to-date with happenings at the lake on our website and our Facebook page. We look forward to seeing you soon here at the lake. We'll be on the shore and walking around the lake, smiling and waving at a safe distance and happy to see all of you back on the beautiful lake that we all so love and appreciate even more today than we ever have. Thanks again for all of your support!!

Take good care, and be well.

Chris Conant
President LIA



THE 2020 LIA GREETER PROGRAM

As we have in the past, The Lake Iroquois Association (LIA) hopes to start the Greeter Program on Memorial Day weekend and end on Labor Day weekend. Greeters inspect and wash boats and trailers to prevent additional invasive plants and animals from entering the Lake, and from being carried out of the lake to other water bodies.

This year, because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Greeter Program to prevent invasive species spread may be delayed by the VT Department of Environmental Conservation (VT DEC). Even so, we are still looking for greeter candidates, and hope to interview in early May so that when VT DEC has a virtual greeter training they will be ready to participate to get set for the actual greeter start date. If you would like more information or if you are interested in participating in the greeter program, please email us at lakeiroquoisassociation@gmail.com

MILFOIL CONTROL UPDATE

The LIA has applied for a permit to use the milfoil targeted herbicide ProcellaCOR to reduce and control the milfoil infestation in Lake Iroquois. The permit application was submitted at the beginning of March to the VT DEC and is currently being processed. Once the application is deemed complete it will be posted to the DEC Environmental Notice Bulletin (ENB) at <https://enb.vermont.gov/> where you may register to receive notifications to stay informed as the application moves through the review process.

The process does include a public comment period which will be announced when the application is posted.

The text of the application along with additional documents can be found on our website at <https://www.lakeiroquois.org/invasives/milfoil-control-efforts>

We will be posting additional information on the permit process as it becomes available from DEC on the website and on our Facebook page



WHY ARE YOU MOWING INSTEAD OF ENJOYING THE LAKE?

Want better water quality with less nutrient runoff and sediment entering the lake? Want more time to enjoy the lake? Then stop mowing! Creating a no-mow zone that is planted with native species along the water's edge will not only save you time but it is much better for the health of the lake. Grass with its shallow roots does not absorb runoff very well. Native species with their deeper roots when planted along the waterfront will absorb runoff and improve water quality. In addition, native species provide habitat for pollinators and beneficial insects and wildlife. But creating no-mow areas doesn't have to mean blocking your view of the lake or creating an obstacle to water access. Using best management practices for waterfront property allows you views and access and time to enjoy it all without the hassle of mowing.

Over the past several years, the LIA has held events where we invited people to tour lakefront gardens that are part of the Vermont Lakewise Program and that illustrate the many different landscaping options. This year, due to COVID-19, we will not be holding this event. However, there are many resources available on our website that will give you lake-friendly landscaping plans and suggestions: <https://www.lakeiroquois.org/water/shoreline-health>.

Another good resource is the webinar sponsored by the New England Chapter of the North American Lake Management Society on living shorelands which featured two staff scientists from the Vermont DEC. The webinar can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z130xp56VTA>.

Finally, we hope you will consider joining the Lakewise program. For information and details: <https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/lakeshores-lake->

VERMONT'S COVID-19 NEWS AND RESTRICTIONS

Travel/Rental Restrictions:

On March 30, Governor Scott ordered residents and non-residents coming from outside the state for anything other than an essential purpose to home-quarantine for 14 days and strongly discourages travel to Vermont by those located in COVID-19 "hot spots" designated by the CDC. At this time this order is in effect until May 15, 2020. In addition, the Governor has ordered that no premises may be rented or leased before June 15, 2020. As everyone is aware this is a changing situation. The most up to date orders from Governor Scott can be found at: <https://governor.vermont.gov/covid19response>

Outdoor Recreation

Under the terms of Gov. Phil Scott's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order, Vermonters are encouraged to get outside provided they can do so while meeting social distancing and other guidelines. In addition, to the greatest extent possible, outdoor activities should take place within 10 miles of home to minimize travel and potential risk of exposure to COVID-19. The enforcement order by the Attorney General would not preclude those activities, provided they can take place in ways consistent with the "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order.

Fishing & boat launch access areas

According to the VT Department of Fish & Wildlife, the fishing and boat launch access areas are open 24/7 as they always have been. In keeping with the Governors COVID-19 restrictions, social distancing must be maintained for the safety of all boaters. This applies to parking, launching, and boating on the lake. You should only recreate with people that you have been self-quarantining with. Please note, to reduce the potential exposure of Covid-19, portable toilet services will not be provided and docks will not be installed at any of the access areas.

Here are guidelines on the use of fishing accesses from the VT Department of Environmental Conservation (VTDEC):

- Don't leave the house if you are feeling ill.
- Only travel and fish with those in your immediate household.
- Maintain at least a six-foot distance at boat ramps (about the length of a fishing rod when held out at arm's length).
- Avoid congregating in congested areas like fishing platforms, ramps and docks, and popular shore fishing locations like bridges or culverts.
- Don't pull your boat on shore next to another boat while loading and unloading.

Avoid unnecessary stops on the way to and from fishing or boating. Further details can be found from the Department of Fish and Wildlife at <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/covid-19-related-information>

Prevention of Invasive Species

Invasive species are still a big concern. None of us wants more milfoil or the introduction of other invasive plants or animals into Lake Iroquois. The Greeter and Boat Wash Program will likely be delayed, so boaters are reminded to inspect their boats and trailers for invasive species before launching, and after use. In addition, if a boat was last used in another water body, you should not launch it in Lake Iroquois until it is cleaned and dried for a minimum of 5 days prior to launch. There are very tiny invasive species that are very difficult to spot. If the Lake Iroquois boat wash station is not open, the Vermont DEC sponsors a cooperative boat wash program. Information on this program can be found on the LIA website: <https://stopaquaticinvasives.org/prevention/>.

Remember: Clean, Drain, Dry to keep Lake Iroquois healthy!

2020 Ice-Out Date: April 1.
History of Lake Iroquois ice-out:
<https://www.lakeiroquois.org/enjoying/ice>

WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

If you haven't already, please join or renew your membership for 2020 and, if you can, add a little extra to support our work for the health of Lake Iroquois and the surrounding ecosystem.
It's easy—join or renew online through our website:
<https://www.lakeiroquois.org/help/donate>

WILDLIFE NEWS

Everyone is hoping the Common Loons will nest again this year on Lake Iroquois. Last year they nested in early June, on a raft constructed for them, and two chicks fledged in early July. We enjoyed listening to the adults' wails and "tremolo" calls, and seeing the young grow through the summer. They were last seen in early October before migrating to the ocean, where they spend the winter.

We appreciate that everyone stayed outside the signs placed to protect the nest, and also gave the loons plenty of room when out on the lake. Although 4 loons have been seen on the lake already this year, we haven't spotted them in the last week or so. It appears that these may have moved on.

We're looking forward to seeing more of these beautiful birds again soon!

Also spotted on the lake in the last several weeks were common mergansers, horned grebes, mallards, and lots of geese. If you spot interesting wildlife in, on, or around the lake, send us an email (lakeiroquoisassociation@gmail.com), with a picture if possible, and we'll post to the website.



The Lake Iroquois Association is a 501(c)(3), tax-exempt, non-profit organization with the mission to maintain and enhance healthy ecosystems and appropriate public uses of Lake Iroquois and those aspects of its watershed which impact on the health and well being of the lake. This will be achieved through monitoring, preventive and management initiatives, research, education, advocacy and other actions, involving the cooperative efforts of property owners, town, State and federal officials and other interested parties.

www.lakeiroquois.org

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