

THE LAKE IROQUOIS MONITOR

RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ACTION FOR A HEALTHY LAKE

MESSAGE FROM THE LIA PRESIDENT

Happy Fall and Greetings from the shores of Lake Iroquois,

During this past year we have been faced with many challenges and changes in our everyday life. There have obviously been more issues on our daily plates that have caused much anxiety and many unsettled times for everyone. And because of all this, we know this has been a unique summer at the lake, with limited family visits from out of town, limited neighborhood interaction, and even minimal gatherings around the bonfires. Thank goodness the weather has been so accommodating for our small gatherings outside and the quiet times each of us have had paddling around the lake. Honestly, normalcy in our daily lives these days seems to be the sighting of the loons each day, the bald eagle gliding about the water, or the blue heron hunting for the day's catch. These many welcome sightings have brought much pleasure to all of us around the lake.

With recent surges in Covid-19 cases elsewhere in the country and the potential for even more as the weather cools, we realize just how fortunate we are to reside in the beautiful foothills of the Green Mountains and just how important limiting social interacting has been recently. I am reminded, too, how fortunate I am to be able to welcome my west coast family here for a few months to escape the smoke filled air and to allow our beloved grandchildren to live a somewhat normal life, breathing clean Vermont air and enjoying our fall Vermont vibrant beauty despite the somewhat unsettledness of the pandemic surrounding our region. How lucky we are and how we should never take for granted living here on the shores of this beautiful paradise of Lake Iroquois!

As we head into the end of yet another beautiful season on Lake Iroquois, I want to take these few minutes to thank you for your support. The LIA Board of Directors continues to work hard to deserve your full support. We remain focused on protecting and enhancing the health of the lake and its surrounding ecosystem. We ask that you continue to help strengthen our mission and goals with a renewal of your membership. We recognize that these are difficult economic times for all but we hope that if you can, you will make an additional donation. The value of your support is more important than ever as we anticipate reductions in state and municipal budgets as well as reductions in grant funding opportunities due to the COVID crisis.

It takes the entire community to work together to protect and improve the health of this important ecosystem. Thank you all for your gracious support. We so appreciate your willingness to help the LIA as the LIA helps you and all who use and love the lake to continue to be able to enjoy this very special place. We are in this together. Let's stay strong as a group and work together.

Enjoy this beautiful fall season!

Be healthy, stay safe, and take good care,

Chris



KEEPING OUR LAKE FREE OF MORE INVASIVE SPECIES

2020 LIA GREETER PROGRAM

As in previous years, the 2020 Lake Iroquois Greeter Program was up and running from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day. We experienced a hefty increase in boaters. A total of 1606 boats were inspected, and 276 were washed with high pressure hot water. This is nearly double the number of boats inspected in 2019.

Our Greeters were trained by the Department of Environmental Conservation for their inspection duties and for safe COVID-19 procedures. They did an excellent job! Jim Johnson, our Greeter manager also did a wonderful job managing the Greeters and the boat washer. Jim has decided to retire. He will be greatly missed next year. We give him a huge THANK YOU!!

Almost all boaters were knowledgeable about invasive species. This has been a steady upward trend year to year. Note that washing boats at home is great as long as it dries for 5 days per VT DEC.

—Bob Donniss

MILFOIL CONTROL UPDATE

In early March 2020, the LIA submitted an application to the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation for a permit to use the herbicide, ProcellaCOR, on a small area of the lake to reduce and control the Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) infestation. This herbicide is targeted to EWM and is part of a comprehensive lake management plan to control and reduce the invasive EWM, prevent further infestations of invasive species, and to return and then maintain the health and natural ecology of the lake. Numerous public presentations were made by the LIA in the surrounding towns during the Fall 2019 and winter/spring 2020 prior to and after submission of the application. The VT DEC also held a

public meeting and opened a public comment period. The public meetings and written comment period concluded in early June. As of this writing, no decision has yet been made on the permit. In 2019 and 2020 several other lakes in Vermont used this herbicide and reported excellent outcomes in reducing their EWM with no deleterious effects on the non-target population. When a decision is reached, we will post it on Facebook, our website, and notify all on our email list. The permit application and other information can be found at: <https://www.lakeiroquois.org/invasives/milfoil-control-efforts>

BE LAKE WISE

The Lake Wise Award is presented to lakeshore property owners who take action on their property that reduces runoff and other property "problems" that could negatively affect water quality. The Lake Wise program is managed by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation who offer shoreland technical assistance for storm-water management and wildlife habitat enhancement. Lake Wise staff conduct assessments, according to the Lake Wise four categories: Driveway, Structure, Recreational Area, and Shorefront, and make suggestions for improving shorelands. Many of the Lake Wise solutions, or Best Management Practices (BMPs), are homeowner friendly and simple to act on, like creating "no-mow" zones. Other BMPs, like installing waterbars to control stormwater runoff from polluting the lake, may take more effort. Shoreland properties that exemplify lake-friendly management (and this can take a few years to reach, so don't worry if you are just getting started on the Lake Wise track) will be awarded with the beautiful Lake Wise sign. Join the movement to protect your lake by learning more about lake-friendly shoreland management practices in the voluntary Lake Wise Program. We have six properties on Lake Iroquois with the award. Nine more and the lake will receive the Gold Lake Wise award. Can you help the lake? For landscaping ideas and more Lake Wise information go to: <https://www.lakeiroquois.org/water/shoreline-health>

—Roger Crouse



LAROSA PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM LAKE IROQUOIS ASSOCIATION TRIBUTARY MONITORING PROGRAM

The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent loss of funding as a result led to a down year for the LaRosa Partnership Program (LPP). In 2020, the Lake Iroquois Association was unable to sample selected tributaries leading to the Lake as we have in past years dating back to 2011.

Under an internal mandate from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, the LaRosa Partnership Program pushed for consolidation of watershed partnerships that would effectively reduce the total number of grant applications in 2020. The Lake Iroquois Association joined the Lewis Creek Association to cooperatively submit a proposal for

the season. Twelve awardees were to be selected as part of the revised process. Prior to the program being shut down for the remainder of the calendar year in early spring, a total of \$100,000 was earmarked for distribution among the selected participants.

Although the LPP staff is optimistic looking ahead to fund availability for the 2021 season, it remains to be seen whether the LaRosa Program will receive priority consideration. If you are interested in seeing the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation continue to fund and support the great citizen science that has transpired across Vermont for many years, please reach out to Mr. Jim

Kellogg, Environmental Scientist and LaRosa program manager for the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation at 802-490-6146 or Jim.Kellogg@vermont.gov

—Shannon Kelly



WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

It takes a village to help and protect the lake!

Please join or renew your membership for 2021 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 and donate online through our website:

<https://www.lakeiroquois.org/help/donate>

NEW THIS YEAR! 2021 LAKE IROQUOIS ICE OUT CHALLENGE

The Lake Iroquois Association is excited to announce the all-new Ice Out Challenge for this winter. Tickets will go on sale on our website and elsewhere on January 1 and be available until March 1, 2021. Tickets will be \$1.00 each and for each ticket you buy, you select the date and time you think ice will go out on the lake.

Watch your email and our website for more information as we finalize the details for ticket sales this coming winter!



History of Lake Iroquois ice-out:
<https://www.lakeiroquois.org/enjoying/ice-out-dates>

CYANOBACTERIA (OR NO SWIMMING FOR OUR GRANDCHILDREN OR GRANDPUPPY!)

Formerly called "blue-green algae", cyanobacteria may contain several different toxins which can cause minor irritations or more severe illness. Blooms occur most often when the water is calm, and in mid-day when they rise through the water column and accumulate on the surface. Lake Iroquois has volunteers that report their observations weekly, on the same day of the week, from the same sites, at the same time of day. Reports are sent to the Lake Champlain Committee and the Vermont Department of Health (VDH). Photographs are included if any degree of "bloom" is seen. Reports are then included on the VDH Cyanobacteria Tracker, so anyone interested, especially those planning to recreate on a lake, can see the most recent updates.

The link to the Tracker is <https://ahs-vt.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=a46d42c05e864a198ab5dc152f9d09b9>. It would be very helpful if anyone seeing a bloom would report it to the VDH as a "supplemental" report, so a more complete picture of blooms on Lake Iroquois is

available. Training sessions are offered each spring by the LCC for those interested in learning more or in providing regular reports to the VDH.

We're not aware of any blooms occurring during the hot, still days we had this summer, but have had several blooms this September, all of which dissipated within hours. Blooms have been reported into October in previous years. Those using the lake must therefore learn to identify cyanobacteria blooms, as they can occur at any time, and must avoid any exposure to the bloom. Young children and dogs are particularly susceptible, so there were several days when we (sadly) had to tell our grandchildren and their dog that they could not go swimming.

These blooms also really emphasize the importance of reducing contributions of phosphorus and other nutrients to the lake. If we don't, we will likely have more frequent blooms and warnings about using our beautiful lake.

—Chip Wright

NEWS FROM THE LIRD

The Lake Iroquois Recreation District (LIRD) is a municipal district governed by representatives of four local towns: Williston, Hinesburg, Richmond, and St George. LIRD is responsible for the beach, the hiking trails, the road (Beebe Lane) and all the common land on the north end of the lake. It receives minimal funding from the towns and hopes that sales of beach passes from Memorial Day to Labor Day will cover the rest of the expenses. LIRD currently has an approved design to improve Beebe Lane from Oak Hill Road to the east end of the beach. The scope of the work is well beyond LIRD funding and grants are being sought. One of the major objectives of the road improvement is to control road run-off from directly reaching the lake.

LIRD has happily joined LIA as co-applicant for the ProcellaCOR treatment of the Eurasian Water Milfoil, the invasive plant that is a debilitating nuisance in the 100 acres of littoral zone of the lake. We hope to stay informed and involved in all the LIA efforts to keep a healthy lake. Keep up the good work, LIA!

—Jack Linn

SUMMER AT THE LAKE



LOON NEWS

We have all enjoyed the presence of loons on the lake for the last several years. Hearing the coyote-like wails, the tremolos and the occasional yodel, especially at night, are exciting. If close enough, one can hear the soft "toot" as they communicate with each other. As of this writing, it appears that the adults departed in mid-September, headed for the ocean where they will spend the winter. The two juveniles remained later, but have now left the lake as well.

The young have many obstacles to overcome, including bald eagles, which have been at the lake frequently this summer, snapping turtles, and "intruder" loons, which were here visiting on several occasions. It is especially appreciated therefore that boaters respected the nesting site, and then also gave the loons plenty of space to fish and raise their young.

Thanks to all, and let's hope we have a family again next year! And thanks to Eric Hanson, loon biologist with the Vermont Center for Ecostudies for his advice and help, and to Caleb Nye, who worked with Eric as part of his Eagle Scout project.

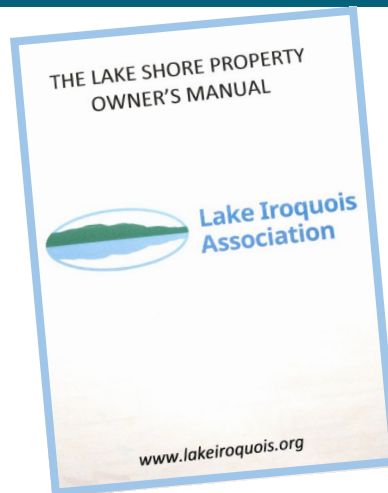
—Chip Wright



Photo by Jeff Davis

The Lake Iroquois Association is a 501(c)(3), tax-exempt, non-profit organization whose mission is to maintain and enhance healthy ecosystems and appropriate public uses of Lake Iroquois and its watershed.

www.lakeiroquois.org



The new 2020 edition of the Lake Iroquois Association Property Owner's Manual is now available on our website:

<https://www.lakeiroquois.org/water/shoreline-health>