

FALL 2021



# THE LAKE IROQUOIS MONITOR

RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ACTION FOR A HEALTHY LAKE

## MESSAGE FROM THE INCOMING PRESIDENT



Photo by Pat Suozzi

**Welcome once again to the fall season!** It is hard to believe that summer is giving way to changing colors and an eventual blanket of white.

First, I would like to thank Chris Conant, our outgoing President, who served for four years. Chris guided the Lake Iroquois Association (LIA) through some challenging times during his tenure, including the last two beneath the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, Chris moved the organization forward and continued to lay an even stronger foundation for the future.

Following four years of service on the LIA Board, I am honored to be leading the Lake Iroquois Association as your new President. I have outlined priorities for the next few years, but none are possible without the Board's spirit of volunteerism and resources provided by our membership, surrounding towns, and many benefactors who believe in our mission!

**Membership expansion** The heartbeat of any organization is its people, and the Lake Iroquois Association is no different. Increased membership and participation in organizational initiatives will serve to strengthen awareness and protection of lake health.

**Organizational collaboration** Cooperative efforts with other watershed organizations, municipalities, and non-governmental organizations are key to leveraging existing resources more efficiently and effectively. Fostering new and strengthening existing relationships will lead to Lake sustainability.

**Restoration and land-based shoreline protection** The Lake Iroquois Association, in partnership with the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District and the Lewis Creek Association, were recently awarded a grant to develop a Watershed Action Plan for Lake Iroquois and Patrick Brook to its confluence with the LaPlatte River. This Plan will include inventory of existing areas in need of restoration or rehabilitation and identify new ones, addressing these areas through grants and other sources of financial support. Increased participation in the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's Lake Wise program (<https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/lakeshores-lake-wise/what>), Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District's Storm Smart program (<http://winooskinrcd.org/stormsmart/>), and Lewis Creek Association's Ahead of the Storm (<https://www.lewiscreek.org/ahead-of-the-storm>) will protect the health of the lake and continue to reduce sediment and nutrient inputs.

It is a privilege to serve the Lake Iroquois Association and you as our valued partners for the next three years. Please join with us in continuing to honor the legacy of so many volunteers across the decades who worked tirelessly to protect the health of Lake Iroquois. **Shannon Kelly—LIA President**

## WHAT A DIFFERENCE!

The ProcellaCOR treatment, carried out on June 28, has made a huge difference this summer on Lake Iroquois. Where once we would see matted stands of milfoil by the middle of summer, especially at the north end of the lake, by mid-July this year we enjoyed clear water. Better yet, the removal of the milfoil, also meant that boaters entering the lake at the public access were not churning through stands of the weed, breaking up pieces, and aiding the spread through the lake. This will make a real difference in controlling this invasive. Pieces of milfoil take root very easily. Each piece you see floating in the water is another potential plant, and once rooted, as we know from our experience here at Lake Iroquois, it will spread very, very quickly. In further good news, the preliminary report from the September plant survey shows that the treatment had no apparent effect on native aquatic plant species and, if the number of fishing boats spotted around the lake are any indication, the fishing this year has been pretty good, too. The success of this project was made possible by the generous support of LIA members and donors and the many hundreds of hours of work by our intrepid volunteers. —Pat Suozzi



Photo by Pogo Senior

**Lake Iroquois 2018 before treatment**



Photo by Pogo Senior

**Lake Iroquois 2021 after treatment**

### Thanks to our Summer 2020 Greeter/Boat Washers!

Many thanks to Greeter Manager Mark Kinsley and his team of greeters: Emilie Bernier, Rowan Dunlop, Erica Hirschhorn, Anna Igler, Hannah Kay, and Josh Kinsley. They were on duty each weekend from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

And a special thanks to the Town of Williston for managing the greeter payroll, and to the Hinesburg Fire Department for supplying water for the boat washer.

The Greeter and Boat Wash Program is funded in part by an Aquatic Nuisance Control Grant from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation and by the members and donors of the LIA.

	2021	2020
Kayaks	526	651
Motor Boats	326	407
Paddle Boards	240	70
Canoes	100	130
Row Boats	8	12
Sail Boats	3	2

## GOING FOR THE GOLD!



East Shore and two on Pine Shore.) Nine more and the lake will receive the Gold Lake Wise Award!

The Lake Wise Program offers technical assistance to shore land property owners who want to

The Lake Wise Program is a Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) initiative that awards lake-friendly shore land property. The goal of the Lake Wise Program is to help property owners create lake shore landscaping that protects the lake. Lake Iroquois already has six properties that have received the award (three on Beebe Lane, one on

learn more about making their property as lake friendly as possible. Take advantage of free technical assistance through the Lake Wise Program and have your shoreland property assessed for controlling runoff and preventing erosion. The Lake Wise Program offers [Best Management Practices](#) for managing shoreland property and making it lake-friendly for all.

***Nine more and the lake will receive the Gold Lake Wise Award!***

Lakeshore owner who think you are or would like to become Lake Wise eligible, please [contact the Lake Wise Program](#) at DEC or contact LIA at [info@lakeiroquois.org](mailto:info@lakeiroquois.org). Any lakeshore owner can participate in the Lake Wise Program. Eligible properties are evaluated in four categories: Shore land; Recreation Area; Driveway; Septic and/Structure to earn the full award as a model for lake friendly living. Passing two of the four categories earns a Certificate, — Jane Clifford

## LIA DIRECTOR ELECTED AS FOVLAP PRESIDENT

Pat Suozzi of Pine Shore Drive, former president and current secretary of the Lake Iroquois Association, was elected on September 9th to a three-year term as president of the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds. FOVLAP's mission is "To preserve and protect Vermont's lakes, ponds and their watersheds for the benefit of this and future generations." The entire board of LIA congratulates her.



## HOW ARE WE DOING?

***We want to hear from you! Drop us an email and tell us what you think of our work so far and what you'd like to see us work on in the future.***

***Email us at:***

***[info@lakeiroquois.org](mailto:info@lakeiroquois.org)***





Lake Iroquois Tributary

## LAROSA PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM TRIBUTARY MONITORING PROGRAM

The LaRosa Partnership Program (LPP) was not funded in 2020 due to the COVID-19 emergency. However, in 2021 with support and input from the regional Basin Planner, the Lake Iroquois Association was able to select 10 tributaries best representing inputs to Lake Iroquois. This number was down from 24 tributaries sampled in 2019. Sweeping changes to the LaRosa Partnership Program in 2020 and limited funding, combined with an increase in participants, forced reductions in sampling for all LaRosa watershed partners.

Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) staff remain optimistic about fund availability for 2022, but it remains to be seen whether the LaRosa Partnership Program will receive priority consideration. If you are interested in seeing continued funding and support of the great citizen science carried out across Vermont for years, please reach out to Mr. Jim Kellogg, Environmental Scientist and LaRosa program manager for the Department of Environmental Conservation at 802-490-6146 or [Jim.Kellogg@vermont.gov](mailto:Jim.Kellogg@vermont.gov).

## 2021 Ice Out Challenge

**We have a winner! Congratulations to Valarie Patten** of Hinesburg who won the inaugural Lake Iroquois Association Ice-Out Challenge, by selecting the winning date/time of March 27th, 2021 at 1:41 PM.

Participants purchased a ticket to guess the date and time when a concrete block would break through the ice on Lake Iroquois. The winner received 50% of the pot!

Lake Iroquois Association (LIA) plans to make the Ice Out Challenge an annual fundraiser, January 1-March 1, 2021. This year 2,262 tickets were sold. The robust participation also brought awareness of LIA's shoreline management efforts.

**LIA extends a heartfelt thank you to all the contest participants.** We hope that you plan to participate in years to come for some mid-winter fun and a chance to win some money, but most importantly, for the health of the Lake Iroquois!

**Proceeds of the event support the Lake Iroquois Lake Wise Program initiative.**

For more information about Lake Iroquois' prior Ice Out dates, visit our website at: <https://www.lakeiroquois.org/enjoying/ice-out-dates>. To learn more about participating in the VT DEC's Lake Wise program visit <https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/lakeshores-lake-wise/>.



## OUR PUBLIC BEACH—A COMMUNITY GEM

So you don't live ON the lake? You're still in luck! Zip up your jackets, grab the kids and come enjoy a fall picnic and the panoramic views. Breathe in the beauty, hear the waves gently lapping the shore, hike the nature trails—and I'm sure you'll agree that this is a cherished gift that we want to preserve and pass on to the generations to come!



Photo by Suzanne Magee



Photo by Suzanne Magee



## WE GET BY WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS!

**We need volunteers!** Test water (we will train you!), send photos or newsy notes for the newsletter, help write a grant—get involved and join a fun team!

Lake environments are dynamic, and the impacts of new development and stormwater run-off, cause increases in sediment, phosphorus, e-coli, and invasive species like milfoil!, threatening the health and safe enjoyment of the Lake.

**The Lake Iroquois Association is a volunteer group, committed to the sustainability of Lake Iroquois.**

Monitor

Manage

Maintain

\$\$No time?— make a donation through the LIA website: <https://www.lakeiroquois.org/help/donate> \$\$

**The Last Word...** Happy Fall Everyone! The past four years have been an amazing experience, and I have had the sincere pleasure of working with some of the finest board members during my tenure; but honestly, I am ready for a little break! My colleague Shannon Kelly who resides with his wife Kate and their two daughters in Hinesburg, took over as President in July. Shannon has contributed much as a board member for several years and brings specific experience in Water Quality and Environmental Mitigation.

It is crazy how much we as a volunteer board have tackled! Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) mitigation has been our biggest project, made possible with the support of our wonderful membership and our surrounding communities. This summer we cleared a significant

EWM remediation hurdle by applying the herbicide ProcellaCOR in part of the lake, with amazing results! (Article/photos on page 2).

I will remain on the board as Vice President to assist Shannon and the board. It is critically important that we protect our lake against invasive species, and we will continue to focus on identifying threats and Implementing strategies. Ernie Rossi and I will co-chair the fundraising committee. You will be seeing us walking the lake soliciting your involvement and donations. We look forward to sharing how LIA projects benefit all of us!

Thank you all for your generosity these past four years, and we so appreciate your continued help and support!! **Chris Conant LIA VP**

## What the Lake Iroquois Association is doing for you!

- Began annual Lake Iroquois Ice-out challenge
- Created a five-year lake management plan
- Authored new property owners manual
- Reduced the Eurasian Watermilfoil invasion
- Coordinates/supports the Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) boats to remove milfoil from Lake Iroquois
- Continues tributary sampling
- Manages the Greeter and Boat Wash program
- Educates/supports property owners re: Lake Wise award/certificate
- Works with LIRD on the Beebe Lane Drainage and Water Quality Improvements implementation grant application process
- Performs plant surveys (continuing since 2014)
- Supports the Vermont Center for Ecostudies Loon Conservation Project

*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 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](http://www.lakeiroquois.org)*

LIA, Inc.

P.O. Box 569

Hinesburg, VT 05461

