

SPRING 2022

# THE LAKE IROQUOIS MONITOR

RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ACTION FOR A HEALTHY LAKE

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



I would like to dedicate this message and newsletter to all the incredible members and donors who contribute so generously with their resources in support of the Lake Iroquois Association. As an organization, we must never fail to remind ourselves that without the generous support of others, very little would be accomplished.

Last fall, I touched on a few priorities and would like to follow up with where we are:

### Membership expansion

Since fall of last year, we continued to see growth in our membership by adding 54 members to our organization. We also encourage you to spread the word to friends and neighbors about the Lake Iroquois Association and its work.

### Organizational collaboration

We worked collaboratively over the winter with the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District (WNRCD) and Lewis Creek Association to move our Lake Champlain Basin Program grant-funded Watershed Action Plan forward. The WNRCD released a Request for Proposal for engineering services in February, and by late March, SLR Consulting out of Waterbury, Vermont was selected to provide professional expertise in plan development. Literature review is in progress with field work and data collection to follow later this year.

### Restoration and land-based shoreline protection

We continue to partner with the Lake Iroquois Recreation District in seeking an implementation grant for stormwater improvements to Beebe Lane. Since completion of final design plans in late 2019, securing implementation grants to fund this project that would address flooding and adverse impacts to water quality has proven challenging. The two organizations plan to continue working together to seek future grant opportunities.

Finally, it is never too early to mark your calendar for **LIA's Annual Meeting planned for Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30 at Jane Clifford's camp** on 56 Dimmick Road, Hinesburg, Vermont. We would love to see you there!

**Shannon Kelly—LIA President**

## FIGHTING INVASIVES—IT TAKES EVERYONE!

We saw Lake Iroquois return to a clear, swimmable, beautiful body of water last year! The Lake Iroquois Association (LIA) is committed to water quality but this is a team effort, and an ongoing one! We need everyone who lives on the lake, uses the lake's recreational facilities, or values this community and Vermont natural resource, to join us in fighting invasive species!

We need volunteer help, as well as monetary contributions through LIA membership and donations. Here are the ongoing programs supported by the LIA:

- **Water Quality Monitoring**— Volunteers periodically sample the water in the tributaries to the lake to determine levels of sediment, phosphorus and other possible contaminants entering the lake. These contaminants create an environment friendly to invasives and cyanobacteria blooms.
- **Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH)** of invasive Eurasian Milfoil—Have you seen the DASH boat on the lake pulling out milfoil by the roots?
- **Greeter and Boat Wash Program**— At the Lake Iroquois boat launch, greeters wash boats that are en-

tering and leaving the lake to prevent the spread of invasive species between bodies of water. This is one of the most cost-effective programs for controlling invasives, but needs widespread participation and support!

- **ProcellaCOR treatment**— This treatment very specifically targets and eradicates Eurasian watermilfoil and was applied June, 2021. Where once were matted stands of milfoil by mid-July 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, breaking up pieces, and spreading it through the lake. The treatment had no apparent effect on native aquatic plant species or fish.
- **Ongoing planty surveys**—Plant surveys to determine if Eurasian Milfoil has returned and what strategies will be considered for addressing invasive species.

**Bottom line is it takes everyone becoming aware and reporting possible invasives. We welcome your support. Join us! [info@lakeiroquoisassociation.org](mailto:info@lakeiroquoisassociation.org)**

### 2022 Greeter/Boat Washer Program !

#### Another fun summer is here!

Our Greeter Program is up and running again, starting Memorial Day weekend and running through to Labor Day. We are again inspecting and washing boats to ensure none of those 50+ other invasive plants and animals enter our wonderful lake.

**All Greeters will be trained** by VT Dept of Environmental Conservation. We are looking to hire Greeters for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday shifts.

The LIA Greeter Program is funded in part with a grant from VT Dept of Environmental Conservation (VT DEC)

**Additional funding** comes from area towns, the Ice-Out challenge, and individual donations. The DEC grant program funding was



reduced this year, so we could use additional donations if you would like to help! We are so very grateful for all this funding to help keep our awesome lake free of additional invasive species. And a special thanks to the Town of Williston for managing the greeter payroll, and to the Hinesburg Fire Department for water for the boat washer.

**To apply as a Greeter, or to donate, please contact LIA board member Bob Donnis at [rdonnis@gmavt.net](mailto:rdonnis@gmavt.net).**

#### We need your help!

The boat wash program has proven to be one of the most effective ways to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species in Vermont lakes and ponds!

We look forward to meeting and greeting you at the access again this summer. Come and enjoy the lake!

## GRANT FUNDING FOR PLANTS!

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is awarding grants to individual lake shore property owners for the purchase of native plants to create a riparian buffer around the lake to control polluting run-off and shoreline erosion. Creating this buffer is one of the requirements of the Lake Wise Award program, so take advantage of this funding and achieve an award or certificate! The Lake Wise Program is a DEC initiative that awards lake-friendly shoreland property. Lake Iroquois already has six properties that have received the Lake Wise Award, and others that are part-way there! Nine more awards and Lake Iroquois receives the Gold Lake Wise Award!

There is a DEC Lake Wise Program that offers



technical assistance to shore land property owners who want to learn more about making their property as lake friendly as possible. Take advantage of free technical assistance!

Lakeshore owners who think they are or would like to become Lake Wise Award eligible, and would like to participate in the grant funding, please contact LIA board members Jane Clifford ([ejclifford@comcast.net](mailto:ejclifford@comcast.net)) or Suzanne Magee

([Suzanne.magee@gmail.com](mailto:Suzanne.magee@gmail.com)) and we will help you!

Properties are evaluated in four categories: Shoreland; Recreation Area; Driveway; Septic and Structure to earn the full award as a model for lake friendly living. But passing two of the four categories earns a Certificate!

### Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary FOVLAP!

The Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds (FOVLAP) is one of the oldest nonprofit stakeholders to promote Vermont water quality. Founded in 1972, it became a statewide organization by 2001, dedicated to fostering environmental quality standards and preserving Vermont lakes, ponds, watersheds, and aquatic ecosystems. Lake Iroquois Association Board member Pat Suozzi, is also President of the FOVLAP Board!

At a recent FOVLAP Lake Seminar, loon biologist, Eric Hanson, discussed threats to the loon population. Lead is a killer. While diving for food, loons pick up and swallow small stones and lead sinkers are among them. Abandoned fishing line is another. This summer the VT Center for Ecostudies (VCE) is setting up a program to address this issue and implement in 2023 All interested should contact Eric at his NEW email address: [loon@vtecostudies.org](mailto:loon@vtecostudies.org)

### Annual Meeting Save the Date!

LIA's Annual Meeting

Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup>

5:30-7:30 pm

at Jane Clifford's camp

56 Dimmick Road, Hinesburg,  
Oliver Pierson, Vermont Lakes and Ponds  
Program Manager, will be our speaker!

We would love to see you there!  
Contact [info@lakeiroquois.org](mailto:info@lakeiroquois.org)



## THE LOONS ARE BACK!



Photo by Lisa Angstman 2021

Eric Hanson and LIA board member Jack Linn set up the loon raft with some new nest material, added floatation, and redirected the cover. It was a GREAT session with a lot of lessons in loon lore. Lisa, who has religiously monitored the loons just happened to be off from work on Thursday joined us with her kayak. We are still a week to ten days from nesting. Eric says part of the courtship ritual is for the pair to hang around the nest. Listen closely you can hear the male whisper sweet nothings about this cute bungalow that he found for her. The loons are sitting on the nest! Twenty eight days from today, hopefully, we will have babies! *Audrey Linn and Jane Clifford*

## 2022 Ice Out Challenge—We Have a Winner!

**The Lake Iroquois Association (LIA) wishes to congratulate Daniel McDevitt of Williston,** Vermont, winner of the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Lake Iroquois Association Ice-Out Challenge, who selected the winning date and closest time of April 2, 2022 at 7:24 AM. The clock was officially stopped at 5:18 AM on the morning of April 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the margin between first and second place was only 12 minutes.

This year's break through was five days later than last year's ice-out date of March 27<sup>th</sup>. Unofficial ice thicknesses of 24" were observed by one ice fishing member of the Lake Iroquois Association at the peak of winter, leaving him to wonder if the pallet might drop a little later this year.

The proceeds after expenses will help support the

LIA Greeter and Boat Wash Program that works to prevent aquatic invasive species from entering Lake Iroquois. <https://www.lakeiroquois.org/water/actions-for-a-healthy-lake> Level grant funding by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation and increased numbers of greeter programs throughout the state have led to a steady decline in grant funding available to LIA.

**Many thanks to all the contest participants** We look forward to next year's contest, and hope you not only plan to participate again, but will continue to spread the word about the many Lake Iroquois Association programs that continue to protect and enhance the health of the lake.

## LIRD—WHAT IS IT?

The Lake Iroquois Recreation District (LIRD) is a unique entity in Vermont. It is a metropolitan entity established to manage and protect the recreational assets of Lake Iroquois. The district covers 150 acres of open land from Williston Road to the public beach, including Beebe Road, the boat launch area, the public beach, playground, pavilion, and walking trails.

The Lake Iroquois recreation areas have been around since 1958, and LIRD was formed in 1991 by the four towns of Williston, Richmond, Hinesburg and St. George, the first three of which border the lake. The voters agreed in all four towns to provide three cents tax on the grand list to raise money to fund the district. The purpose was "to provide safe, orderly and healthful swimming and recreational conditions for the inhabitants of the towns of Hinesburg, Richmond, Williston and St. George at the north ends of Lake Iroquois." In years past, the towns offered swim lessons, maintained the beach and a snack bar shed, and a house trailer for a beach custodian!

Today the beach area is host to birthday parties, individual and group functions, and summertime fun. Annual expenses include costs for septic maintenance and summer staff, Beebe road maintenance and operation, and water quality sampling. The beach area is open for the summer season from Memorial Day to Labor Day and continues to be a beautiful and affordable local recreation area. The beach and trails are open to residents and non-residents. During the summer season, a small fee is charged for use of the beach. Annual beach passes can be purchased at the kiosk at the beach entrance. **SEASONAL PERMITS** Residents of Williston, Hinesburg, St. George, Richmond \$30.00 per vehicle / \$14.00 2nd family vehicle Non-Residents \$60.00 per vehicle/Senior Citizens (Residents) \$15.00 (62 and older) **DAILY PASSES** (available at the beach) Residents \$6.00 / individual Non-Residents \$8.00 / individual resident Senior Citizens \$4.00. Children under 12 FREE.



**Board of Commissioners:** One resident from each member municipality make up the Board of Commissioners. The district exists for the purpose of owning, leasing, developing, maintaining, and managing its property located on Lake Iroquois and vicinity, for public park, conservation, and recreational purposes to serve its member communities. Current board members are:: Hinesburg - Jeff Davis, Chair; Richmond - Jack Linn; St. George - Harry Bowen; Williston - Sarah Francisco, Treasurer

The Commission normally meets the first Monday of each month at the Williston Town Office. If you have questions, ideas, suggestions for the LIRD, please contact one of the commissioners directly or the Lake Iroquois Association (info@lakeiroquois.org). If you want to share a personal story for the newsletter about the beach, boat launch or hiking trails, please contact LIA Board member Suzanne.magee@gmail.com!



### 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.

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

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



- Created a five-year lake management plan
- Began Lake Iroquois Ice-out challenge
- 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 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

*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)*

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