

THE LAKE IROQUOIS MONITOR

RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ACTION FOR A HEALTHY LAKE

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to yet another fall in Vermont! We have many positive things to report as we leave Summer 2022 in our rear view mirror.

Membership

I would like to extend a huge welcome to our two new Board members—Karen Villanti and Michael Sommers! We are very fortunate Karen and Michael have joined our Board, and look forward to their valuable contributions in the coming years.

Aquatic Invasive Species Management

We are happy to report it has been a quiet year on the Aquatic Invasive Species management front! Our aquatic plant survey in June and visual observations detected no Eurasian watermilfoil. Consequently, for the first time in many years the Association did not need to perform Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH), put out benthic barriers, or emplace channel markers for watercraft nor was any herbicide used. A very small amount of milfoil was detected in the shallower southern section of the Lake where hand pulling addressed the issue. We know this invasive will always be a threat. In future years as we did in 2022, we plan to conduct a spring survey for early detection, with a follow-on survey in early fall to monitor for late summer growth.

Beebe Lane Stormwater Improvement Project

We submitted a successful implementation matching fund grant on behalf of the Lake Iroquois Recreation District and were awarded \$50,000 towards the Beebe Lane Stormwater Improvements project. Securing implementation grants to fund this project will address poor road design that contributes to flooding and subsequent adverse impacts to water quality from erosion and sedimentation. The Lake Iroquois Association additionally submitted a \$320,000 Congressionally Directed Spending request for FY23 to Senator Bernie Sanders' office. If approved, this funding would allow much needed improvement to lake water quality, upgraded road conditions, and increased access to recreational opportunities for beachgoers and hikers.

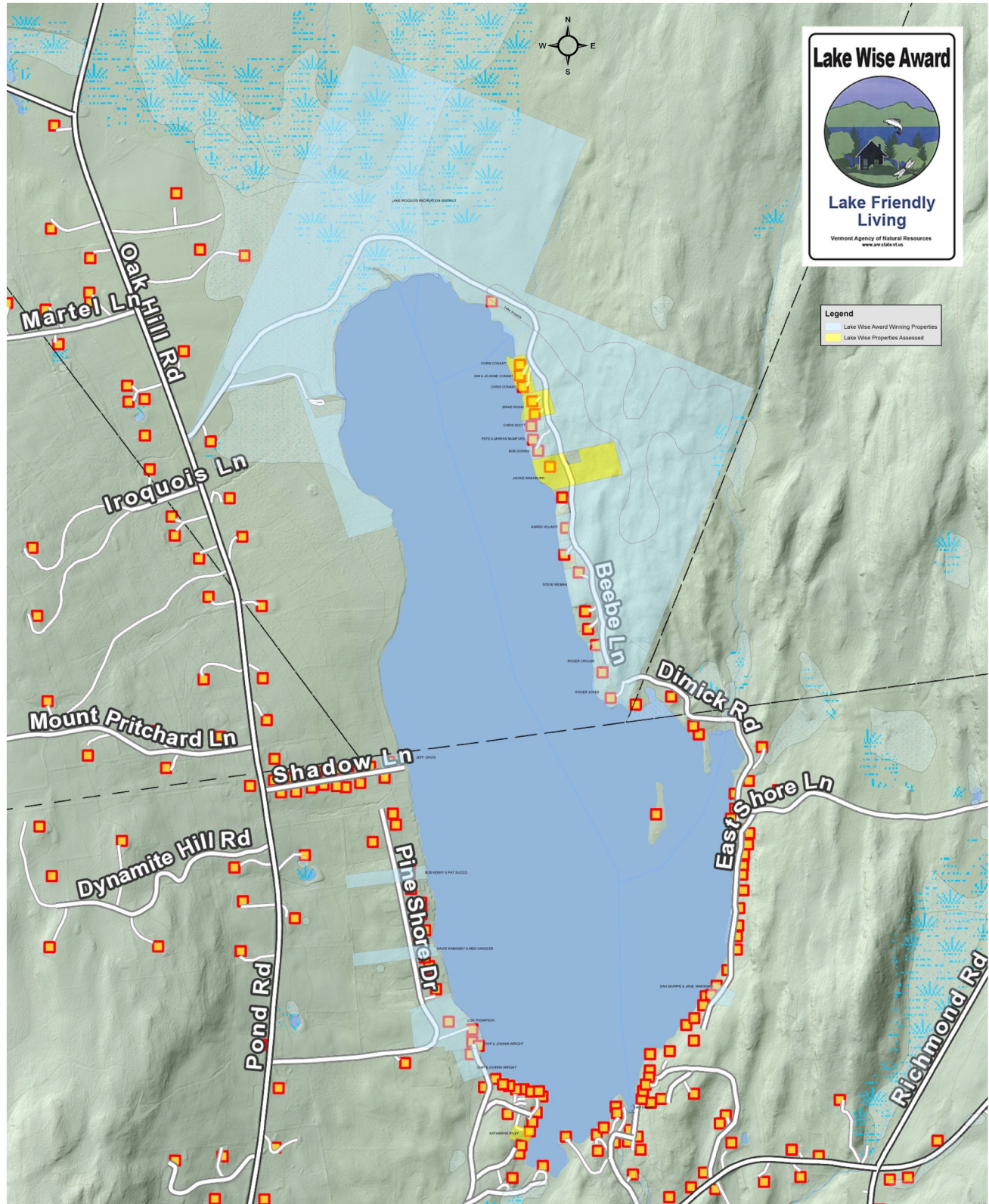
Shoreline Protection

If you've paddled around the lake recently, you just might notice a few more Lake Wise signs posted. We are thrilled to announce seven residential properties and the Lake Iroquois Recreation District property received the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's Lake Wise Awards! (See story on page 3) If you are a shoreline property owner and wish to have an assessment done on your property, please contact Alison Marchione, Lake Shoreland Coordinator, to schedule a visit. She may be contacted at Alison.Marchione@vermont.gov or call at 802-490-6128. For more information on exactly what is Lake Wise, please go to <https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/lakeshores-lake-wise/what>.

See you out on the ice this winter!

Shannon Kelly—LIA President

Lake Wise Award Properties Map



Lake Iroquois Association
Author: Patrick S. Kelly
Coordinate System:
NAD 1983 State Plane Vermont FIPS 4400
Projection: Transverse Mercator Datum:
North American 1983

CONGRATS 2022 LAKEWISE AWARDEES!

Congratulations and thank you to Lake property owners Marian Mumford, Chip and Jo Wright, Lisa Thompson, Bob Donnis, Roger Jones, Karen Villanti, Jeff Davis and The Lake Iroquois Recreation District who received the Lake Wise Award in 2022. Not only is this a personal achievement, but also a contribution to the overall health of the lake! Lake Iroquois currently has a total of 15 Lake Wise Award recipients, with others part-way there, which should qualify for a Lake Iroquois Gold Lake Wise Award! Stay tuned!

Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Lake Iroquois Association (LIA) can help! The Lake Wise Program is a DEC initiative that awards lake-friendly properties. DEC offers free technical assistance to shoreland property owners who are interested in the program.

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!



Shoreline property owners who want a property assessment, please contact Alison Marchione, Lake Shoreland Coordinator, to schedule a visit.

Alison.Marchione@vermont.gov or at 802-490-6128. For more information on Lake Wise, please go to <https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/lakeshores-lake-wise/what>.

DEC is also awarding grants to individual lake shore property owners for the purchase of native plants to create a riparian buffer to control polluting run-off and shoreline erosion, which is an award criteria.

Save the Date! Ice Out Challenge Begins

Tuesday, November 29th

We plan an early start this year!
Ticket purchases make a great gift-giving
opportunity for the holiday season!

<https://www.lakeiroquois.org/news/ice-out-challenge>

Funds raised by the Ice-Out Challenge are used to improve water quality, protect the lake from invasive species, and to support the LIA Greeter and Boat Wash Program

CONSERVATION CORNER



Photo 2022

It was yet another year of nesting success by our loons! The Association continues to work with Erik Hanson of the Vermont Center for Ecostudies by maintaining and deploying a floating loon nest constructed in 2018. Reports are submitted by residents and visitors to Lake Iroquois and recorded in a Loon Watch spreadsheet. The reports are submitted to VCE as part of the statewide Vermont Loon Conservation Project: <https://vtecostudies.org/projects/lakes-ponds/common-loon-conservation/vermont-loon-conservation-project/>

**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, the website, and our Facebook page or 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. Your help makes a difference!

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

LAKE IROQUOIS ECOSYSTEM

Great News from the Fall Plant Survey

The Lake Iroquois Fall Plant Survey was just completed and the news could hardly be better. The survey found only one small clump of milfoil in the south bay and none at all anywhere else in the lake. Adding to this is the way that native plants have sprung back. We are now seeing native species, such as pondweed (*Elodea canadensis*) and muskgrass (*Chara* sp.) as the most common aquatic plant species in the lake. Compare this to the 2019 plant survey, done before the ProcellaCOR treatment, where Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) was the most common aquatic plant in the lake. Once the EWM was gone, native plant species quickly filled in restoring a much more natural aquatic habitat. This is very important for the health of the lake. Invasive species, like EWM, provide neither habitat nor food sources for fish, amphibians, and other native wildlife. You might also have noticed the clarity of our water. Without EWM forming dense, rotting mats on the surface of the water, our lake has been cleaner, clearer, and healthier than **ever**. Full text of the Fall Plant Survey is found at: <https://www.lakeiroquois.org/water/plant-surveys>



A Big One that Didn't Get Away!

Wondering how the fishing has been in Lake Iroquois this summer? Take a look at what Mike Sommers recently caught in the south cove! This pickerel measured two feet. Reports from around the lake are that the fishing has been good this summer. We have certainly seen plenty of fish in the clear waters of the lake. Send us a note and a picture and let us know what you have seen around the lake this summer. You can contact us at: info@lakeiroquois.org.

A commentary from the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds (FOVLAP) President, Pat Suozzi appeared in VTDigger, Monday, October 24th, 2022.

Vermont's lakes and ponds are facing a serious and growing threat from the spread of aquatic invasive species. While Vermont can still boast some of the cleanest and most pristine surface waters in the country, our public waters are under increasing pressure from the spread of aquatic invasive species.

<https://vermontlakes.org/lakes-and-ponds-news/commentary-funding-cuts-jeopardize-vermonts-lakes-and-ponds/>

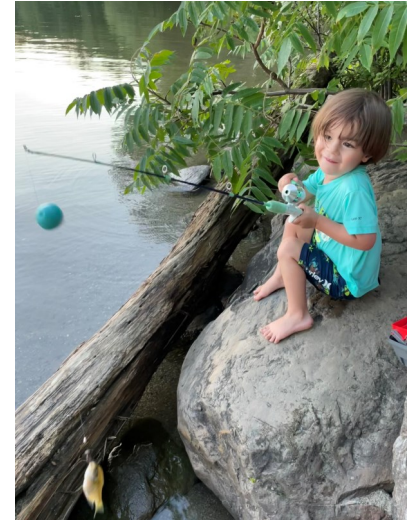
Pat Suozzi, of Hinesburg, is President of FOVLAP and member/past president of the BOD of Lake Iroquois Association.

LIRD 2022 SEASON—BEACHGOER AND BOAT NUMBERS INCREASE!



The Lake Iroquois Recreation District (LIRD) is a unique entity in Vermont. It is a municipal 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.

LIRD reports that they sold \$20,000 in beach passes this year as compared to \$10,000 in 2021. The increase is attributed to Milfoil removal and resultant water clarity.



Watershed Action Plan

A collaborative partnership with the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District and the Lewis Creek Association led to the successful awarding of a Lake Champlain Basin Program Watershed Action Plan (WAP) grant in 2021. The purpose of the grant is to assess the watershed, identify areas requiring restoration, and develop project sheets prescribing corrective actions. In 2022, the engineering firm SLR was chosen to conduct this work. A Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) is complete with field work to follow. To learn more, please go to VT DEC's website: <https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/lakeshores-lake-wise/LWAP>

ANNUAL MEETING

The LIA Annual Meeting was held at Jane and Eric Clifford's Camp on July 28.

President Shannon Kelly led the meeting. Guest speaker Oliver Pierson, Vermont Department of Conservation, Lakes and Ponds Management and Protection Program; gave an enlightening and comprehensive update on their programs, funding opportunities and answered questions!

Officers and Directors for 2023 were elected,

Re-elected Directors: Chris Conant, Jack Linn

Elected new Directors: Mike Sommers, Karen Villanti

Re-elected President: Shannon Kelly

Re-elected Vice President: Chris Conant

Re-elected Treasurer: Roger Jones

Elected Co-Secretary: Jane Clifford, Suzanne Magee.

2022 GREETER AND BOAT WASH STATION SUCCESS!

The summer of 2022 was another wonderful and successful greeter summer. Our team greeted 2,474 boaters, about 1,000 more than 2021. The huge reduction of milfoil has brought more boaters back to our wonderful lake.

Greeters inspected boats and trailers on their way in and out of the lake. When required, they washed boats and trailers. They also informed boaters about invasive species, and how to wash their boats at home.

Greeters/boat washers have

again prevented additional invasive species from entering our lake! Lake Champlain has more than 50 invasive species and there were 140 boaters who came to Lake Iroquois who were last in Lake Champlain! In addition, boaters came from 30 other water bodies, many of which have invasive species.

Mark Kinsley did another outstanding job managing the program: scheduling shifts, ensuring washer was operational, submitting time sheets for wages, providing water and snacks, and more.

Many thanks to our six Greeters, all trained by the Dept of Environmental Conservation (DEC): Anna Iglar, Emilie Bernie, Erica Hirschhor, Sara Terr, Hannah Kay, Luke Kinsley.

Most frequent boaters were kayakers, second were paddleboarders and third were motor boaters.

We are again very grateful for the grant from VT DEC which covered about 36% of the costs of the program. We are also grateful for the funds from the towns of Williston, Hinesburg, and Richmond; to all the individuals who donated; and to the Ice-Out Challenge proceeds of which supported the greeter program. The staff of Williston Town did a great job managing the VT DEC grant and greeter payroll

Look forward to greeting you in 2023! By Bob Donnis, LIA Greeter Program Administrator

2022							
Memorial Day Weekend to Labor Day Weekend							
Month	Launches	Retrievals	Total	Washes	%		
May	134	68	202	11	8%		
June	294	164	458	34	12%		
July	666	392	1,058	59	9%		
August	431	227	658	65	15%		
September	73	25	98	10	14%		
2022 Totals	1,598	876	2,474	179	11%		
2021 Totals	1,264	217	1,481	139	11%		
2020 Totals	1,341	253	1,594				
2019 Totals	799	133	912				
Watercraft	Canoe	Inboard	Kayak	Outboard	Row	Sail	Paddle
Number	116	96	818	319	11	5	449
30 Different Waterbodies		Invasive Species					
Iroquois	912	2					
Champlain	139	51					
Waterbury Res	61	1	116				
Shelburne Pond	25	3					
27 Others							

What the Lake Iroquois Association is doing for you!



- Created a five-year lake management plan
- Runs the Lake Iroquois Ice-out challenge
- New edition of the property owners' manual
- Reduced the Eurasian Watermilfoil invasion
- 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
- 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

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