



SEPTEMBER 24, 2013
POST ANNUAL MEETING EDITION
A Publication of the
Canobie Lake
Protective Association

Annual Meeting

On July 20, 2013, we held the Annual Meeting at the Searles School and Chapel, a beautifully restored, historic building in Windham, NH. Our sincere thanks to all the many members who attended.

The meeting began with a fun activity directed by Director Odie Odierna where all members attending had a chance to meet and get to know more about one another. Thanks to Odie for a new and comfortable way to start our annual meeting. The CLPA recognized and thanked our volunteers. President, Bill Schroeder reviewed some of the year's accomplishments which include: VLAP water quality testing, I93 construction monitoring, and the annual 4th of July Boat Parade. The treasurer's report was reviewed and the election of officers was held.

Thank you to Robie Parson, coordinator of the New Hampshire Lakes Conservation Corps 2013 grant program. Her presentation about the 2 year grant program to improve best management practices of water front was very informative. Three projects were selected and completed this summer along with the stenciling of storm drains in the watershed. Next year the corps will reach out to all property owners in the watershed and ask that they take a pledge to protect the water in Canobie Lake. Thanks to Robie and New Hampshire Lakes Association for their help in protecting Canobie Lake.

We had a signup sheet for anyone interested in volunteering in CLPA efforts/events. Thank you to: the 3 who would like to help with weed watching, the 6 who would like to help with log removal, the 4 who expressed an interest in serving on the board of directors.

CLPA Membership

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!! We have a current record high number of 104 members of the Canobie Lake Protective Association. Our membership has been growing in recent years and we hope that you and your neighbors will continue to recruit so that we will grow in numbers and strength of solidarity to protect our beautiful lake. We continue to be grateful to our friend and neighbor, Canobie Lake Park for providing us with 200 passes to use in our membership drive. This was the first year that every single pass was gone before August. In fact, the last pass was a door prize at the annual meeting!

New CLPA Board Member

We are pleased to welcome Dale Valvo as our new director from Windham. He was appointed by the president and approved by the CLPA board of directors. Dale will be replacing Deborah Tipton. Thank you and WELCOME, Dale!!

ALERT – reported theft of fishing equipment from fishing boat on Lake Shore Rd

The residents of 61 Lake Shore Road, Salem filed a police report fishing equipment was stolen from their boat. They observed 2 kayaks with young men in the vicinity of their boat and would like to determine if they were involved. If you have any information regarding this incident ***please*** contact the Salem police. At the very least, PLEASE, be diligent in protecting your fishing equipment and property as these potential thieves may have stolen in the past and may continue if they are not stopped.

Loons on Canobie Lake

As usual, we all enjoy watching and hearing a pair of loons residing on Canobie Lake this summer. We know that the male is "our" loon since he has an original band from 2002. The female has no band so she may be a new mate. For much of the summer other loons came and went. We didn't have a nesting loon or egg on our raft and no chicks this year. We will continue to provide the nesting raft in hopes of a growing family next year. We thank all of the boaters for their concern for the fragile nature of the habitat and respect the need for distancing so as not to infringe on the loons comfort and safety.

Get The “Lead” OUT

The state of New Hampshire previously banned the use of lead weights one ounce or less. Now legislation has passed to ban the use and sale of lead jigs one ounce or less. The banning of lead weights etc should prove to protect the loon population in the state since lead has proven to be the largest known cause of New Hampshire adult loon mortality. The new regulations will go into effect June 2016. But that doesn't mean we can't start now to rid our tackle boxes of lead. Already many stores (including Wal-Mart) are selling tackle made from bismuth/tin alloy rather than lead. The new alloys are not as soft as lead which will help differentiate. Please take the time to discard (appropriately) any old lead tackle so as to protect our beautiful loons.

I-93 Construction update

Your association continues to attend erosion control meetings for the I-93 construction taking place near Exit 3. There was a discharge on July 18 about which we sent an email. It was an accidental discharge that smelled but was “natural” water and dark from tannins and natural organic matter. It was not contaminating.

In the near future work will begin near South Shore Road. Two detention basins and a sound wall are going to be constructed as part of the E contract. The area has been flagged with ribbons. Many trees will be removed to make way for the detention basins.

Sometime in September, DOT will host an informational meeting where South Shore and other concerned residents will get an explanation as to what is planned. The meeting will probably be held on a weekday at the DOT field office on Rte 111. Members of your board of directors plan to attend to keep abreast of the situation and advocate for the protection of Canobie Lake. The CLPA will support the concerns and protection of the Cobbett's Pond watershed.

The proposed “Park and Ride” is now back on the table for construction in 2015 (per Windham Independent article 8/29/13). Although it will not be in the Canobie Watershed we are concerned because it will be in the Cobbett's Pond watershed. It is to be located on the existing state right-of-way in the existing North bound on ramp loop area.

DOT is finalizing the drawings for the (H contract) which will go out for bid this month. This contract will “finish” the construction at Exit 3. This includes removing the old (present) northbound lane. The new northbound lane will then flow on the new road that is currently the southbound lane. The new southbound lane will be complete and open for traffic. Within this contract DOT is planning to fill and provide drainage in the area of the proposed park & ride at the 111/Exit 3 location.

Also, when the new southbound and northbound lanes are completed, DOT is planning to remove the pavement and bridge of the old northbound lane near the Range Road crossing, and leave the earth bank at its present elevation. We are pleased about that because removing the bank would damage the wetlands (and cost a lot of money). And the bank has the potential to act as a sound barrier for highway noise.

Weed Watching

Your CLPA board of directors was looking into hiring a consultant to determine if we have a weed problem and what might have to be done. Fortunately we called at just the right moment because DES had a summer intern who had one more day to do such a survey. Ginny Campiola was available to drive her (Angela Piemonte, of Canobie Lake's South Shore Road) around the lake to conduct the survey. It took more than 2 hours of slowly motoring all around the lake to find and analyze the many many weeds that exist this year. The good news is that there were no invasive species found. Yes, we have a large amount of weeds but they are all native! Later in the fall Amy Smagula (DES) will generate an official report of the findings.

We welcome those interested to volunteer next year to be trained by DES to become official weed watchers. This would help to maintain a continuous recording of the amount and variety of weeds in Canobie.

Canobie Lake Phosphorus readings

The July epilimnetic phosphorus levels were slightly above average for Canobie Lake. Since June was among the 10th wettest in New Hampshire's history, some lakes did experience elevated June phosphorus concentrations due to storm water runoff. The CLPA will continue to monitor the levels as part of the VLAP program that we participate in annually.

A New Directive for CLPA

On the Volunteer Lakes Assessment Program (VLAP) 2012 Data Summary for Canobie Lake there was the following “RECOMMENDED ACTION” - “Address elevated conductivity and chloride levels with local and state road agents, and watershed residents. Implement salt reductions strategies where possible. Continue working with local towns to implement watershed district ordinances. Keep up the great work!”

We are pleased that our new board member, Dale Valvo, has volunteered to lead this effort and take on this challenge. He is going to research what levels of salt are dangerous to the health of the lake and aquatic life. He will also research possible sources of salt (such as water softeners and rock salt) that could be controlled by reduction strategies.

A Bit of the History of Canobie Lake

Quoted from Leonard Allison Morrison's "History of Windham", published in 1883.

"Origin of the Name of Policy Pond"

"This name is said to have come from a Mr Poliss, or Polliss, who in early times owned land bordering it. The pond was then called Polliss's Pond, which in time degenerated into the corrupted and sickly name of Policy Pond. The author received this information of Hon. Joseph S. Howe, of Methuen, Mass, who discovered some such record in Salem, Mass. This name is now happily superseded by the appropriate and sententious Scotch name of Canobie making it Canobie Lake."

Canobie Lake Protective Association
www.canobelake.org

A 501 – (c) 3 non-profit Charitable Trust
In the State of N.H.

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THANK YOU to all of our members and supporters. Once again we were blessed with another wonderful summer on Canobie Lake. Wishing you and yours a safe winter with good health and happiness. Hope you continue to enjoy both the beauty and the many winter activities on Canobie Lake. We will be back with our spring newsletter and 2014 membership drive.