



SEPTEMBER 27, 2014 POST ANNUAL MEETING EDITION A Publication of the Canobie Lake Protective Association

Annual Meeting

On July 27, 2014, we held the Annual Meeting at the Searles School and Chapel, a beautifully restored, historic building in Windham, NH. Thank you to all the members and other interested neighbors who attended. We are so pleased that the Sunday evening time allowed more to attend and participate. Next year we will be more prepared for the larger than expected turnout and promise to have lots more refreshments and more time to socialize.

The meeting/social began with a half hour of socializing. President, Bill Schroeder called the official meeting to order at 7 PM and reviewed some points of interest/concern addressed by the CLPA board through out the past year. These included; VLAP water testing, I-93 widening project, weed survey, snails, chloride, fishing, and loons and wild life. Elections were held and the treasurer's report and minutes of 2013 annual meeting were approved.

CLPA Membership

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!! We have a new record high number of 117 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 passes to use in our membership drive. This was the first year that every single pass was gone before our annual meeting!

Thank you VLAP volunteers

Armed with the new equipment made available through grant money our volunteers were out in force to collect water samples for testing and evaluation.

Thank you; Sarah Steiner (NHDES VLAP Coordinator), Bill Schroeder, Scott Buttram, Suzanne Moore, Sheri Coldwell, and Eric Rioux.

HELP!!!!...We need help with the website (www.canobiela.com)!

We need help to create and publish interesting stories and articles on our website. Our website is based on the WordPress software. If you or anyone you know is familiar with WordPress and has a few hours a month to update our website please let us know. Please contact any one of the board members.

Loons on Canobie Lake

Another year of enjoying "our" loons...but, again, no chick. We have concern that our pair of loons may be too old to produce a viable egg. Or it may be that the 3rd loon is hampering the process. We will be providing a second nesting raft next year in hopes that another nesting location might make a difference and help produce a loon chick in 2015.

We continue to **THANK the lake residents and boaters for giving the loons the space needed to survive on our lake.**

Buoy(s) on Canobie Lake

It has been brought to our attention that the buoy near the rocks off of Lakeside Street seems to have moved and is no longer marking the end of the rocky ledge properly. The New Hampshire Fish and Game department is responsible for buoys on Canobie. They have told us that they will send someone out this fall to look at the buoy and reposition it if necessary.

We've learned that we can request addition buoys on the lake, to mark other navigaion hazards, with a petition signed by 25 residents. The CLPA board is considering requesting a buoy to mark "Rocky Point". We welcome input from members and neighbors regarding any other buoys that should be requested. Also, please let us know if you would help collect petition signatures.

Why are Weeds Increasing in Canobie Lake?

Long-time residents of Canobie Lake are reporting that there are more weeds in the lake. They report seeing weed beds where there were none in previous years. And weeds seem more dense in the traditional locations. A survey done by DES in August 2013 confirms this. The map from the survey may be seen here: (http://www.canobiela.com/blog/?page_id=490).

In the letter summarizing the plant survey DES states: "Overall, plant abundance in the pond has changed over the last 13 years according to data we have on file. There is an increased abundance of floating pondweed throughout the majority of the shoreline areas." and "This new growth did not seem to be hindering the health of the lake as a whole, and it is a natural process for aquatic plants to expand over time in waterbodies."

We believe the increase in weeds is much more rapid than would happen naturally, and is due primarily to human activity in the lake's watershed. The growth is due primarily to increased nutrients and increased sediment. Here are the leading causes and things we can do about

it:

When people fertilize their lawns and gardens, some of the fertilizer runs off into the lake. Green lawns next to the lake are a sure indication that aquatic plants are being fertilized, too. Unfertilized borders of native bushes and groundcover reduce the nutrients reaching the lake.

Another source of excess nutrients reaching the lake is leaking or overloaded septic systems. We recommend having a professional pump your septic system at least every three years, and replace failing systems with new ones.

A third source of excess nutrients is stormwater runoff. In an undisturbed landscape, rain and snow infiltrate into the ground and the nutrients are taken up by the local trees and plants. With human development impervious surfaces replace natural ones and, in many cases, stormwater runs off rapidly into drains and pipes, and is conveyed quickly to the lake. That is why it is so important to direct runoff back into the ground and minimize impervious surfaces, generally.

Stormwater runoff also tends to deposit sediment in our lakes. We've all noticed muck accumulation near the outfall of storm drains. Weeds grow in soil and muck, much more than on the natural rocky bottoms of our lakes.

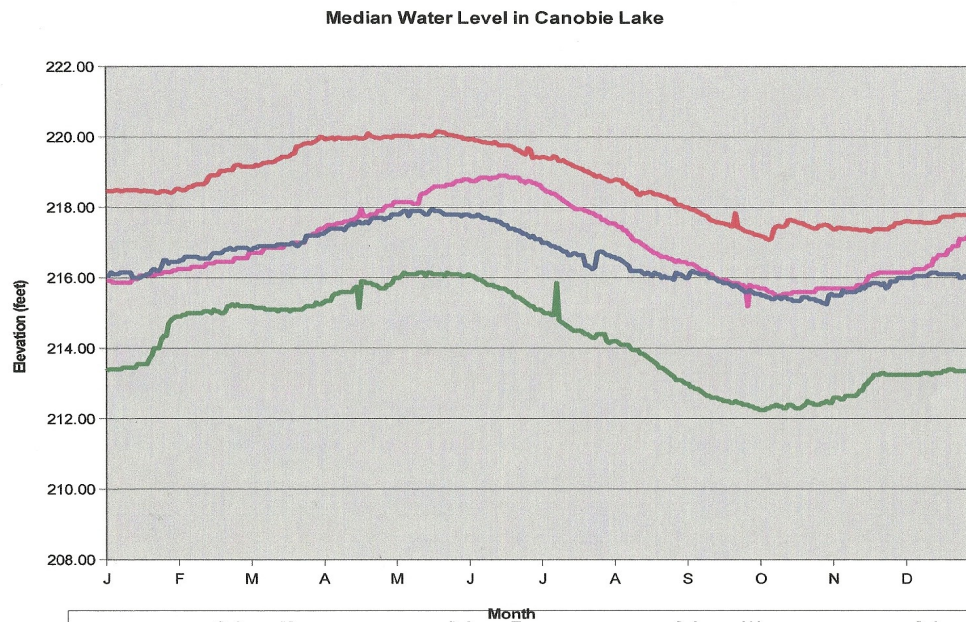
When we are aware of the things which cause excess weed growth in the lake, we can work together to reduce them and keep our lake beautiful for years to come.

Water levels in Canobie Lake - FYI...

In 2011 Brandon Kernen (NHDES) did a study of Canobie Lake water levels. He found that, historically, the levels do fluctuate by 2 to 3 feet annually. Most significant is his finding that since Arlington Pond was brought on line the median water level is generally 2 – 2.5 feet higher. The findings are documented in the graph below.

The 4 curves for water level versus month are not for any particular year. They are “averages” for a number of years. Prior to 1997 Canobie Lake was the only source of water for the Town of Salem, since the pipe from Arlington Pond to the water treatment plant had not yet been built. The blue curve is the median water level day-to-day through the year, for the period 1983 – 1996. The green curve is the minimum water level, for the same period.

In 1997 the pipe was completed and for most years since then Arlington Pond water has been used as the source water in the winter months, and Canobie Lake from May 1 to October 10, approximately. This allowed Canobie to recharge during the winter months and reach higher levels. The red curve is the median water level for the period 1997-2010. The pink curve is the minimum level for the same period.



Swimming in Canobie Lake - The History and the Reasoning for the Prohibition

From time to time there are questions regarding the laws, the logic and the reasoning for the ban on swimming in Canobie Lake. While there is no doubt, especially on a hot, humid summer day, most residents adjacent to the lake would enjoy a dip, the fact is human contact with the water is prohibited.

Swimming in Canobie Lake has been prohibited since 1903, by state law. The first question everyone has is simple----“Why is swimming banned”? The shortest, most straight forward answer is because Canobie Lake is the primary source of drinking water to the Town of Salem. Municipal water supply professionals recommend that human body contact with the source water not be permitted, even if it is treated

afterward. There are many reasons for this recommendation but it boils down to this: maintain multiple levels of protection. If you keep the source water as clean as possible in the first place, subsequent treatment will be less demanding and less expensive.

In addition, swimming brings the potential health hazard of an organism or parasite called “cryptosporidium”. Cryptosporidium is a parasite that infects humans and can cause acute lower intestinal infection which can become very severe lasting up to five weeks. Humans are a major source of cryptosporidium contamination. Cryptosporidium is highly resistant to chlorine disinfection, and therefore difficult for any water treating facility to remove.

The prohibition of swimming in Canobie Lake is not unique to this body of water. At last count of the 57 surface source water bodies in the state of New Hampshire, 28 banned swimming and of the 29 not banned the vast majority are streams or rivers. And this action is not unique to New Hampshire. Several states have similar bans on lakes that provide drinking water.

In 2006 the swimming ban was challenged by a local resident who resided on Canobie Lake. Both the City of Salem and the Department of Environmental Services vigorously defended the ban and the ban was subsequently upheld.

The Canobie Lake Protective Association supports the swimming ban for all the reasons noted above and encourages folks not to swim in the lake. If you see someone swimming, you could politely remind them of the ban. Or you could report the incident to either the Salem or Windham Police departments.

Yes, the downside of these statutes is that residents live alongside a wonderfully, clean body of water that they cannot enjoy cooling off in on a warm summer's day. But think of the advantages. Because of this ban, there is no skiing, no jet skis, and no large motor boats. This makes for a very quiet, safe environment. For those who kayak, take leisurely cruises, or fish the lake, it provides a quiet, calm environment. And most important, it provides the residents of Salem with clean, safe drinking water.

Has your bank required you to purchase flood insurance?

It has come to the board's attention that the shoreline properties on Canobie Lake are in FEMA's “Special Flood Hazard Area” (SFHA) (<http://map1.msc.fema.gov/idms/IntraView.cgi?KEY=88421589&IFIT=1>) This means that your property is included in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

As a result, if you were to apply for a mortgage or loan using your property as collateral you would be required to purchase flood insurance.

We have done some research and found that at least 20 Canobie lakefront property owners have applied and been granted a “Letter of Map Amendment determination Document (Removal)”. Essentially this removes the structure of their house and any other structures that can be shown to be at an elevation greater than (for Canobie Lake) 221 feet. Thus eliminating the requirement to purchase flood insurance.

The application process consists of filing proof that your structure is above the “1% Annual Chance Flood Elevation (NGVD29)” which is 221 feet on Canobie Lake. Anyone can apply on line at (<http://www.fema.gov>). However, it has been recommended that a certified surveyor be hired to document the elevation and file the application. One quote received from a local surveyor for this service is \$750. This seems like a good investment in insuring that no flood insurance premiums will have to be paid for years!

Sewer and Road Update- South Shore Road

The residents of South Shore Road are concerned with the condition of South Shore Road. The CLPA board is also concerned. There are 3 major issues with this road: 1. The poor condition of the road results in the application of large amounts of salt during the winter months; 2. Improper drainage from the road causes improper runoff; and 3. The potential for installing sewage during road reconstruction, thereby providing improved septic control.

The CLPA is encouraging all concerned neighbors, members, and concerned residents of Salem to follow closely and help to insure that the Town of Salem's construction plans protect the quality of water in Canobie Lake.

The following is more information provided by one of the residents of South Shore Road...

The town of Salem recently announced that it plans to resurface and rebuild South Shore Road in 2016. Installing sewer (as it has done on Lake Shore Road with Canobie Phase I), however, is not currently in the plan. Several South Shore residents will be asking the selectman to reconsider the decision to install sewer because a town conducted survey of South Shore residents showed that a majority of residents have voted in favor of it.

The Engineering Director, Robert Puff, indicated that the decision to install sewer on South Shore would need to be made by the town selectman. Installation of town water along with sewer may not happen since there is a problem with water pressure in that section of town and extending water to South Shore resident might exacerbate the problem.

On a 2013 town PCI Index, South Shore road was given a score of 38 on a 100 point scale. That makes the road the worst road of its size in Salem. Reconstruction of South Shore Road has been an ongoing issue for over 20 years. After a site visit, one selectman indicated that he would not drive more than 10 miles per hr. down that road in winter. Because of the road condition, the plowing of the road has become ineffective resulting in the need to salt the road in winter. As guardians of the southern water shed area for the lake, residents of South Shore feel that using salt on the road surface is detrimental to the water quality of the lake.

Securing selectman support may be difficult since one selectman reported “...roads are reviewed based on the PCI Index and volume and basically high use roads are higher on the plan.” South Shore Road may not be a high use road, but to the 43 houses using this dead end road, it is our only option.

A meeting with town selectman is being requested and plans are being drafted to submit a citizen's petition seeking sewer installation on South Shore Road. Support from residents in the surrounding area and the Lake Association will be needed in order to solicit a speedy resolution.

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 the beauty and the many winter activities on Canobie Lake.

We will be back with our spring newsletter and 2015 membership drive.