

# The Lake Report

An Update from the Lake Winona Improvement Association

Summer 2009

## Shore Owners Await DES Results on Lake Levels

Since last summer's flooding, the lake's water level has been a topic of interest for LWIA members. In recent years, the steadily rising lake level has seriously affected some families - in some cases causing damage to and submersion of shrubs & trees along the shoreline, and in some cases inundation of lower lakefront property.

At the August LWIA meeting a Lake Level Management committee, comprised of Dave Reilly, Don Thibeault, Shirley White, and Lee Gardinier, was formed to address the situation. The committee sent a letter to DES Commissioner, Thomas Burack requesting an evaluation of watershed stewardship practices and related factors affecting Lake Winona's water level.

A response from DES was received late October stating evaluation and study work was being referred to the DES Dam Bureau. The letter also noted a focus on Lake Waukewan levels and the management of the dam at Mill Falls in Meredith.

DES did make a formal survey of the Mill Falls' dam, the upper and lower ends of Lake Waukewan, and at the outlet near Lake Winona's boat launch. This will provide an ongoing reference for measuring actual elevations, which will enable management practices based on factual data.

However, after nearly a year of data collection, research, modeling and analysis, DES findings on Winona/



Photo provided by Lee Gardinier

Surveying was conducted along Lake Winona launch ramp. Additional photos are available at <http://www.anchoragetechnicalconsulting.com/winona/survey/>

Waukewan Lake Levels and operational review of the Mill Falls dam have yet to be presented for public review and comment.

Lake Winona residents Dave Reilly, Don Thibeault and Dean Sena, along with Waukewan owners came before the Center Harbor Board of Selectmen on June 16, asking for their help and support in facilitating a meeting to address concerns about the lake levels.

The Waukewan Shore Owners Association plans to discuss shoreland protection along the Snake River and water level management at its upcoming meeting, July 11 at 9 am at the Meredith Community Center. Lake Winona residents are welcome to attend.

The committee will continue to stay on top of the issue and keep LWIA members informed.

## New Sign Planned for Boat Launch

Lake Winona's boat launch is about to get a facelift thanks to local residents. Bill Griffith is applying his craftsman skills to create a beautiful, new, larger sign, which will present lake visitors with more information and a nicer first

impression of the lake. Bill is using design input from Nora Foster and Lee Gardinier, and incorporating a Lake Winona plaque hand-painted by Marilyn Dawber (similar to the one at the entrance to West Shore road).

## About the LWIA

The Lake Winona Improvement Association (LWIA) was founded in 1947 by a group of families on the West Shore Road. Over the past six decades, the LWIA has developed into a lake-wide membership devoted to:

- preserving the water quality and the land's natural beauty;
- promoting the safe, courteous and sensible use of the water;
- encouraging friendly relations among members through social activities

Water quality analysis has been a top priority for the LWIA. This testing shows whether the lake's water quality has deteriorated, improved or remained the same, and helps identify the location of specific problems so corrective action can be initiated.

In addition, the LWIA has accomplished several major projects, including the purchase of the 53-acre York Conservation Area to be preserved and protected for future generation, and the banning of ski crafts (jet skis) on Lake Winona. In 2005, the association pooled contributions to purchase a 20-acre conservation parcel known as Fogg Hill, situated along the southeast end of the lake overlooking both Winona and the Snake River.

On-going programs include beaver population controls and removal of dams to maintain the normal lake level, participation in the New Hampshire Lakes Association, annual support of the Loon Preservation Committee, and periodic distribution of informational and educational publications regarding lake issues.

We need to continue to build and maintain a strong and active lake association, and we invite you to join us. It's a small investment to make to ensure a healthy lake.

Annual membership is \$15. Members meet twice during the summer: using mid-July and mid-August.

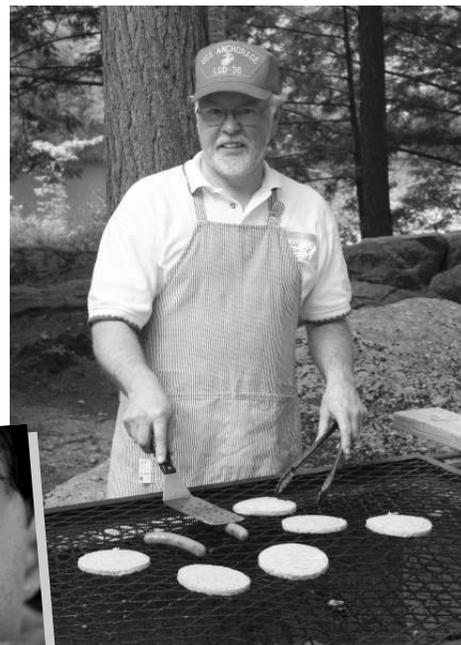
## Food and a Great View Help Bring Lake Residents Together

The Winona Summer Social, hosted by the LWIA on August 30, was a huge success. Winona residents enjoyed delicious potluck dishes, grilled items prepared by LWIA president, Lee Gardinier (shown below), and a spectacular lake view from the Anchorage Lodge.

The event was designed to help bring together the lake's small owner community, and plans are underway to repeat the event again in August 2009.

For many residents this was their first view of the new Anchorage Lodge. The Lodge was destroyed by fire in 2004 and was still under construction during most of the

summer. More work is still underway to complete the interior. To make a contribution to the restoration, contact Peter Bartlett at pm82@comcast.net or send to 4 Elm Place, Loudon, NH 03307.



Photos provided by Nora Foster

### August '08 Flood (continued from back)

bridge have been repaired. The four property owners who paid for the replacement of the bridge received some FEMA relief through efforts of the Town of New Hampton. One resident whose property was severely damaged has secured aid from the

Dept. of Agriculture to make needed repairs to his land. Also, in exchange for granting the railroad access to West Shore Road to make repairs to the tracks, the railroad made repairs along the brooks that go under West Shore Road.

# Lake Sampling Shows Water Quality Still High

The 2008 Interim Report from the Lake Winona Water sampling was issued by NHDES Water Division in late February 2009. The sampling was conducted in September 2008 by Art Dunscombe, Penny Burke and Lee Gardinier at the deep spot of the lake, plus 4 key inlet points around the lake. Additional samples were taken around the North cove where elevated bacteria levels had been observed in spring 2008.

Analysis results are available for chlorophyll (an indicator of algae or cyanobacteria), microorganisms (Cyanobacteria and Phytoplankton), transparency (Secchi disk), pPhosphorus, pH (acidity), acid neutralizing capacity, conductivity, dissolved oxygen and turbidity. Bacteria (E.coli) and chloride samples were also taken at certain tributaries.

The results continue to be generally good. Transparency continues to be exceptionally high, while dissolved oxygen was low. Low dissolved oxygen in the hypolimnion layer (deep water) is a sign of a lake's aging health and can lead to release of phosphorus into the water column, a process referred to as internal phosphorous loading. Another sampling to monitor oxygen levels is planned for July 9. Volunteers and a boat are need. Please contact Lee Gardinier at 603-279-2504.

Results will be presented in more detail at our July Association meeting. The full report is available on our website [www.lakewinonanh.org/water.html](http://www.lakewinonanh.org/water.html).



Please Recycle This Newsletter

# Renters' Guide Created as Tool for Preserving Lake Quality

At the Association's July 2008 meeting resident's expressed interest in creating a renters' guide that would include details on protecting the lake, as well as skiing and noise etiquette. Resident Linda Heminway volunteered to develop the guide, which will be a 3-ring binder owners can add their own renter rules and tourist information to.

Copies of the guide will be available at the July LWIA meeting, or by contacting Nora Foster at 603-677-6281.



## Auction Item to Benefit LWIA

Local artisan Penny Burke has created this hand-painted adirondack chair depicting a scene from Lake Winona. The chair, along with others, will be available through a silent auction at the Lakeside Living Expo, July 17-19 at Gunstock Mountain. Proceeds from Penny's design will be donated to LWIA. Prior to the Expo, all chairs will be on display at Country Cottage Furniture on Rt. 104, July 1-16. To learn more, visit [www.lakesidelivingexpo.com](http://www.lakesidelivingexpo.com).

### Lake Owner Contact List

Having accurate contact information for owners ensures that when problems arise, neighbors and year-round residents can notify you.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Invest In Your Lake

Your LWIA membership is a small investment to make to ensure a healthy lake. Join (renew) today!

ENCLOSED (please circle) \$15 LWIA DUES

\$115 LWIA + WEST SHORE ROAD DUES

Make Checks Payable to: **LWIA**

Mail to: LWIA, 31 Anchorage Road, New Hampton, NH 03256

Lake Winona Improvement Association  
31 Anchorage Road  
New Hampton, NH 03256

**LWIA Meeting**  
**Saturday, July 18**  
**10:00 am**  
**21 Anchorage Road**  
(please bring a lawn chair)

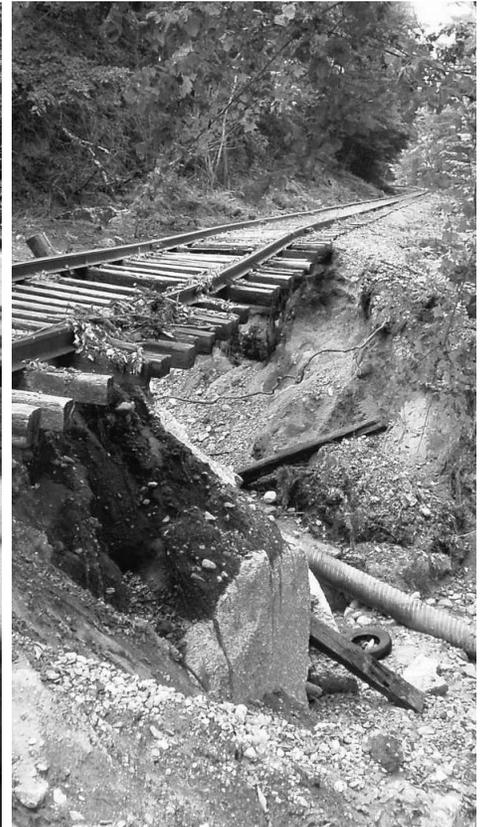
## August '08 Flood Damage a Distant Memory

The heavy rains that hit the Lakes Region in August 2008 caused an estimated \$2.5 million in damages, including \$1 million in damages to the Concord-Lincoln rail line. One of the most heavily damaged roads was a section of Winona Road (photo at right), which required a \$700,000 contract (Weaver Brothers, Bow, NH) to fix.

Our own West Shore Road suffered considerable damage, including washout of the bridge over Noah's Brook, which left many owners unable to access their homes for several weeks.

Today, newcomers to the area would never know what Winona Road looked like less than a year ago. The state worked quickly to provide the funds and get repairs underway.

Thanks to funds from West Shore Road owners, the private road and  
*story continued inside...*



Photos provided by Nora Foster