

The Lake Report

An Update from the Lake Winona Improvement Association

Summer 2010

Shore Owners Express Mixed Emotions Regarding New Lake Levels

Floodings over the years have caused the lake's water level to be a topic of interest for many owners, particularly those who have seen rising water levels damage shrubs and trees along the shoreline, and in some cases cause inundation of lower lakefront property.

Concerns from both Lake Winona and Lake Waukewan residents reached DES. In October 2008, the DES Dam Bureau conducted 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.

After much review and several public hearings a decision was reached in April 2010. The final report, a 13-page synopsis of extensive data collection and analysis done by the DES Dam Bureau, is available on our website www.lakewinonanh.org.

The specific decision on lake level for Lake Waukewan (and indirectly for Lake Winona) is presented on page 13 of the report and calls for a Waukewan lake level for the "recreation season" (mid-May through November 1st) of 539.5 with a gradual lowering of the Waukewan level after November 1 to 538.0.

Winona levels typically run a few inches higher than the Waukewan Canal Gage level, but sometimes are significantly higher depending on weather events and the Snake River beaver dam status.



Photo provided by Lee Gardinier

As a reference, the elevation of Lake Winona the last week in May 2010 was about 539.7 feet. This time last year our level was 540.5.

The new level has generated mixed reactions from residents. A discussion of the lake level will be on the agenda for the June 26 LWIA meeting.

Meanwhile, if you're interested in

getting some background information or reviewing guidelines for providing additional feedback to DES, check the top two Hot Topics items pertaining to the 2010 Lake Waukewan/Lake Winona Interim Operating Decision on the DES website at des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dam/index.htm

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.

Residents Asked to Help Secure Snake River Parcel

Some Winona residents may have received a letter this spring from Bob Wenstrop, President of the Waukewan Shore Owners Association.

Bob is coordinating the purchase of a parcel of land along the Snake River and encouraging residents to join with the Waukewan Shore Owners association, as well as the towns of Meredith and New Hampton conservation commission, to fund this purchase. Once purchased, the title of the land will be transferred to the town of New Hampton and be marked as conservation land.

The purchase and sale agreement is complete, however financial contribu-

tions are still needed to meet the purchase price and complete the sale by the end of June.

The shoreline parcel is an 8.5 acre strip along the Snake River being sold by Jacqueline Spear. The Waukewan Shore Owners Association, which is a qualifying 501 [c] 3 charitable organization, is spearheading the purchase and contributions to the fund will be tax deductible.

For more information about this project visit the project web page at <http://waukewan.org/spear>, or contact Treasurer Duncan McNeish at 603-279-6629 or secretary K. Anderson at 603-279-7252 to arrange a donation.

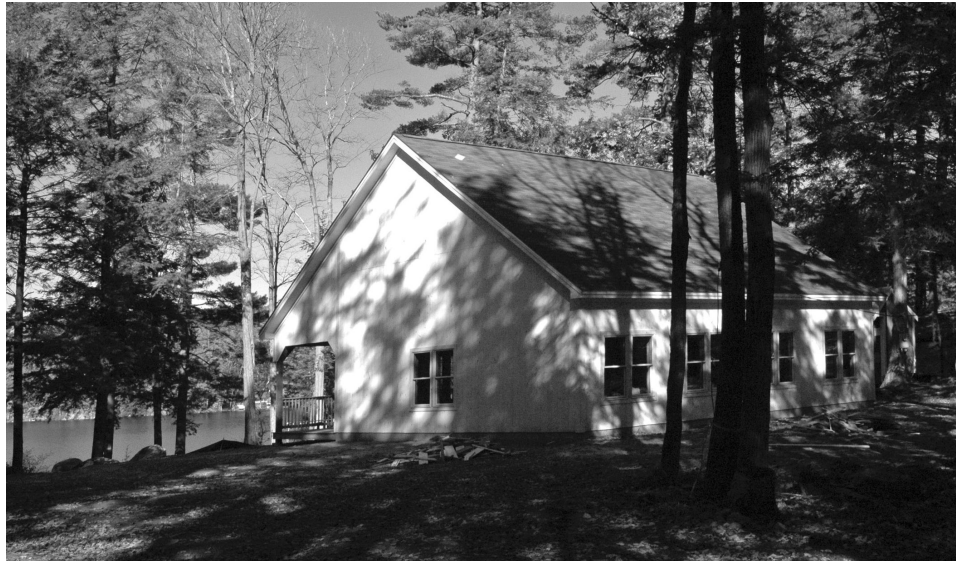


Photo provided by Lee Gardinier

Anchorage Opening Access to Lake Residents and Guests

According to Russ Berry from the Anchorage Lodge, Winona residents can now make reservations for friends and family to stay at the Lodge. Previously only Mason members could use the facility.

The Lodge, which was originally destroyed by fire when lightning struck in June 2004, was rebuilt in 2008. The

new structure features sleeping quarters, bathroom facilities, kitchen and dining area.

A speaker will be on hand at the June 26th LWIA meeting to describe new provisions at the Anchorage Lodge.

For additional information contact Russ Berry directly at 413-563-7640 or at russberry@cox.net.

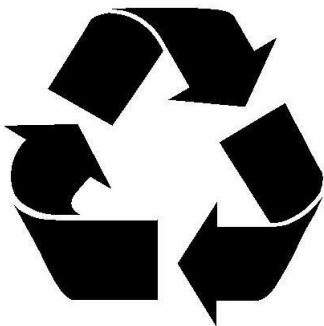
Lake Sampling Shows Water Quality Still High

This past March we received the DES summary report of water quality testing from a water sampling taken in August 2009. Art Dunscombe, Penny Burke and Lee Gardinier assisted the DES intern. Samplings were taken at the deepest spot of the lake, plus 4 key inlet points around the lake.

The results continue to be generally good. Transparency slipped lower again to 4.1 meters from recent readings near 6 meters. A few parameters of the test results indicated slightly elevated readings, namely chlorophyll, turbidity, and conductivity. Phosphorus and PH level tests were essentially unchanged. E-coli and chlorides were not tested in the 2009 sampling. A summary data sheet with more details will be provided at the June 26th meeting. The full report is available on the website www.lakewinonanh.org/water.html.

Going forward, DES strongly recommends we collect samples three times throughout the summer - once in June, July, and August.

Ongoing monitoring and evaluating lake water quality is critical to the long-term protection of our precious Lake. Winona sampling in July and August will utilize the DES Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP). Volunteers to collect the samples and a boat are needed. **Please contact Lee Gardinier at 603-279-2504 to help with this effort.**



Please Recycle This Newsletter

Low Rainfall, High Temps Warm Lake

Residents and visitors to Lake Winona will find the water temperature quite pleasant. A Memorial Day weekend reading at the center of the lake was 74 degrees. Eight degrees higher than last year's weekend temperatures.

The warmer waters have been helped in part by low rainfall levels. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), New Hampton had 2.19 recorded inches of rain in May 2009. Rainfall for this year has reached only .5 inches in May.

High temperatures, including several days in May that reached into the high 80s, have warmed local lakes and encouraged many residents to hit the beaches earlier than years past.



Photo provided by Nora Foster

Two of Winona's residents enjoy some water play on an unusually warm May day.

Residents Make Winona Home

Winona residents have traditionally come to the lake for summer weekends or stayed through the summer.

However, this year several residents have made (or have plans to make) Winona their year-round residence.

Don't be surprised to hear construction sounds around the lake as new homes, additions and winterization projects continue and get underway. More than two dozen residents will live year-round on the lake.

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
\$140 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, June 26
10:00 am
900 Winona Road
(please bring a lawn chair)

LWIA Seeking New Officer Nominations

As noted in the LWIA bylaws... “the presiding officer at the July meeting in each even numbered year shall appoint a nominating committee of three members who shall present a slate of candidates for election at the regular meeting in August.”

“After serving 10 years as president and four as treasurer, Bridget and I feel the time has come for us now to step down,” said Lee Gardinier, current LWIA President.

Please be thinking of possible nominating committee members and potential candidates for new officers.

Renters’ Guide Available

Copies of the renters’ guide, a 3-ring binder including details on protecting the lake, as well as skiing and noise etiquette are available. Owners who rent are encouraged to take one (they are free) and add their own renter rules and tourist information to the binder. Contact Nora Foster at 603-677-6281.



Thanks to the woodworking skills of Bill Griffith and the painting talents of Marilyn Dawber we have a new sign at the boat launch. Hostas were donated by Barbara Quigley.