



Newsletter 1993

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

For most all of us "Seymour people," whether year round or seasonal residents, the Lake holds a very special place in our lives. The beauty of its pristine waters and the diversity of the surrounding landscape provide us with both aesthetic and recreational enjoyment. Seymour Lake is one of Vermont's prime "natural resources;" and, as such, it is imperative that we protect the quality of its waters for our own future and for the generations to come.

In undeveloped and undisturbed areas, nature purifies the water that flows into our lakes, ponds and streams. However, when we build houses, clear land and disturb bottom sediments through surface use, we impair nature's purification process. In addition, as the number of people living in the watershed areas increase, so does the amount of contaminants that eventually enter the lake.

All of us must take an active role in preserving the quality of Seymour Lake and its surrounding environment. The Seymour Lake Association can, and I believe should, take the initiative in environmental preservation and protection.

The first step in this process will be to accurately assess the present water quality of the lake. This will involve twice-yearly testing of the water for organic, inorganic and bacterial contaminants. We need to get a clear base picture of the "health" of the lake at present, then continue testing so any changes or trends can be recognized in the future. By the time water quality decreases enough to be detected by our own five senses, the problem is often well out of hand. With a commitment to careful, long-term testing, we will be able to recognize in time to remedy them.

In order to actually INSURE the future quality of Seymour Lake we need to protect its watershed. A watershed consists of all the land which contributes water to a specific body of water. Any substance in the watershed area that can be transported by water will eventually reach the lake. We must first identify the watershed for Seymour Lake before we can protect it. As of this year, the State of Vermont has developed a program available to any interested persons/organizations that enables them to do their own watershed study. Instructions and advice are provided at no charge. The Lake Parker Association (in West Glover) is the first to take advantage of this program and have begun their study this year.

The final step will be protection. The Seymour Lake Association should become even more involved in educating our own members, as well as other members of the community, in methods of protecting the integrity of our watershed. Some of these areas include: minimizing shoreline disturbances, leaving naturally vegetated areas (buffer strips) along shores, streams, and roadside ditches, minimal or alternative use of herbicides and fertilizers, adequate and functional septic systems, prevention of surface water run-off into lakes and related streams from lawns, driveways and ditches, use of non-phosphate detergents and proper storage and disposal of hazardous materials such as oil, paint and other chemical products. We also need to become more active in local and state processes that are addressing environmental protection issues. The Town of Morgan Water Quality committee has recently submitted to the Town selectmen a proposal that would require higher standards for new septic installation and inspection of existing systems. The State of Vermont is currently involved in proposals, such as "Statewide" regulations regarding surface use of lakes and ponds. These are just a couple areas where the Association should become more formally involved.

We need to seriously start NOW on the the preservation of our water quality. If this is an issue close to your heart and you'd like to become actively involved in the launching of these goals, contact a Seymour Lake Association officer or write a brief note on your membership renewal form expressing your interest in becoming involved. A Water Quality/Testing Committee was formed at this year's annual meeting which needs people that want to help.

As your outgoing president, I'd like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to play a leadership role in the Association. I'll continue to be actively involved at the committee level (yes, you guessed it -- the Water Quality Committee!) and look forward to seeing the Seymour Lake Association continue to grow and reach for new goals. □

Jerri L. Potter

ANNUAL MEETING

August 1, 1992

The annual meeting came to order at 11:00 a.m. on August 1, 1992, with the Pledge of Allegiance. A prayer was offered by Rev. George Kern. The reading of the minutes of the 1991 Annual Meeting was waived.

Jerri Potter gave the **Treasurer's Report** in Charlene Bronson's absence. There was a beginning balance of \$1,507.56 with receipts of \$3,015.86 and payments of \$2,640.68, giving a balance of \$1,882.74. George Kern made a motion to accept the report. Bob Arnold seconded the motion. The report was unanimously accepted.

Craig Lefevre gave report on the **Auction**. Receipts from the auction totalled \$800. It was suggested that the next auction include donations of services and handcrafted items.

Craig Lefevre, the out-going president gave a synopsis of his term as president. He commended how the Association is now moving toward the community as a whole, not just the lake. He stated he was very pleased with the Clyde River Futures and the impact on the lake level. The beach incidents have been resolved. The beach has been improved and made safer with the placement of the buoys, the institution of the ordinance making the beach "alcohol free," and disallowing motorboats in the swim zone. He reported on the **Sugar-on-Snow Party** and congratulated all five groups who organized it on the fine job done. The Association has been active in helping with the Fish Hatchery. SLA was represented at the Federation of Lakes Meeting. He thoroughly enjoyed his term as president and thanked everyone for the cooperation and support.

Craig Lefevre reported on the **Iron Kettle** upkeep and the distribution of Milfoil signs. The Health Officer had the water in the kettle tested and found the water to be contaminated. The water has been treated with

Annual Meeting Continued...

chlorine and it is being watched and re-tested in an attempt to get it clean.

Newsletter Committee -- Jerri Potter reported for the committee which consists of Jerri, Bob Beaupre, and Kitty Sprout. They requested input and assistance. Jerri thanked Ruth and Roger Whitcomb for the great job they did on the newsletter.

Craig Lefevre reported on the **Fishing Committee**. The committee requested that fish surveys be filled out by all fishermen.

Bob Arnold reported for the **Water Quality Committee**. He has been testing the water for 10 years and he reported that the quality and clarity has never been better.

Jim Horler reported for the **Map Committee**. The new map has been traced from an aerial map. It is being copied and reduced. No estimated date of completion was given.

Ann Torpey reported for the **Membership Committee**. We now have 400 members. We still have more coming in and should probably end up with 450 to 475 members.

George Kern reported for the **Auditors** that all books were in good order.

Water Quality (Town Lake Use Committee) **Report** was given by Jim Horler. Jim reported that it is possible that there will be zoning changes to include a septic ordinance. Input on this subject would be appreciated.

Property Tax Committee consists of Vince Spozanza and Ken Jenness. No report was given.

Sugar-on-Snow Party was sponsored by the SLA, Morgan Church, Seymour Lake Homemakers, Recreation Committee and the Home/School Club. A total of \$560. was raised and divided by the five groups, each making \$112. It was a great meal. The Champigny family was thanked for the icehouse. There was extra food left over after the party and that was donated to the Lions' Club Camp. It was a great party and enjoyed by all who attended.

Morgan Swim Project. There were 108 participants with 45 coming from the Town of Morgan. The SLA funds the insurance for the program which amounts to \$590.00.

Nominating Committee Report was given by Betty Murphy. The following slate was presented:

President — Jerri Potter
Vice President — Jim Horler
Secretary — Jane Hall
Treasurer — Mary Ann Beaupre
Directors: David Benware, Donna Young, Roger Beauregard

Charlotte Kenney moved that the slate be accepted. Vince Spozanza seconded and it was unanimously voted to accept the slate. Volunteers to serve on the nominating committee were requested. The nominating committee serves at the will of the President.

OLD BUSINESS

Property Tax Meeting was held on July 20, 1992. Selectmen and two listers were present to answer any questions presented. It was publicized by flyers and in the local papers.

Vince Spozanza requested a tax re-evaluation.

Jerri Potter praised the listers for the job they did explaining that there were formulas they had to follow which were prepared by the State. It was felt that the board was apprehensive to lower anyone's taxes as it would encourage everyone to request a lower tax. If a committee is formed it should be a well-informed group. Vince Spozanza made a motion that the SLA enthusiastically support the property tax committee to secure lower taxes through consultation with the Town Selectmen. The motion was seconded by Mr. Combs. The motion carried.

It was suggested that the Selectmen not allow vendors to sell from the parking lots in town.

John Fraleigh made a motion at the 1991 annual meeting that the State and Town officials study the feasibility of banning motorboats from Seymour and report back in 1992. Craig Lefevre reported that the Selectmen chose not to comment. The Water Resources Board reported that a problem should be defined and corrections suggested and then, perhaps, laws could be passed to resolve those specific problems. Jim Horler reported that the Water Resource Board would not prohibit what is now being done. They will limit the use of the motors now on the lake by limiting the time of day that they would be allowed or the speed at which they are operated. John Fraleigh did not think it was feasible that this would pass but did think it would be ideal. John feels sorry for the fish!

NEW BUSINESS

Kay Horler requested that we move the annual meeting from the 1st Saturday in August to the 2nd Saturday. It was discussed but then realized that the meeting is set by the Bylaws. Kay withdrew her motion.

Charlotte Kenney requested that the Association not use styrofoam dishes at the Annual Meeting.

Ann Torpey discussed the number of pies we had received for the meal and thanked all who brought them.

Charlotte Kenney made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Motion was seconded by Carroll Cass and carried. □

Seymour Lake Association Officers 1992 - 1993

President Jerri Potter
Vice President Jim Horler
Secretary Jane Hall
Treasurer Mary Ann Beaupre

Directors:

Ken Mason
Kitty Sprout
David Benware
Joe Denning
Roger Beauregard
Donna Young

SEYMOUR NEW/OLD FISH HATCHERY

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Group is a conclave of sportsmen/women dedicated to maintaining and improving the nature of the fish and wildlife of the Northeast Kingdom in particular, and all of Vermont in general.

Their latest project concerned the planning and development of a replacement for the old Morgan Fish Hatchery located on the Elliot Acres Road. Through grants and through donations of materials and labor, the hatchery is back in operation. This past year the group distributed over 200,000 brook trout "frys" to Northeast Kingdom streams and ponds. The organization hopes to expand to other species in the future.

Anyone interested in becoming part of this active organization and/or contributing to the future endeavors of the hatchery, contact Maurice Jacobs (873-3456) or Byron Fish at (723-6385). □

In accord with a motion approved at the meeting of the Seymour Lake Association on August 14, 1993, the Tax Committee agreed on August 20, to submit to the Officers and Directors the following information and questions for inclusion in the next newsletter.

INFORMATION

1. In the 5 years 1988 - 1992, the Morgan Town Budget increased an approximate average of 14% per year.
2. Approximately 70% + — of the Town's budget is paid for by the taxpayers around Seymour Lake.

QUESTIONS

1. Do you feel that your property is appraised at present market value?
 Yes No
2. What suggestions do you have to give the Tax Committee?

Responses should be sent to the President of the Seymour Lake Association:

Homer Selby
R.R. 1 Box 333
Jeffersonville, VT 05464

SEYMOUR LAKE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Please fill in this coupon and mail today to:

Mary Ann Beaupre
Box 42
Morgan, Vermont 05853

ENCLOSED ARE DUES, \$3.00 PER PERSON (Amount of \$_____)

NAME(s): _____
SUMMER ADDRESS: _____
WINTER ADDRESS: _____
SUMMER PHONE: _____
COMMENTS: _____

SEYMOUR LAKE ASSOCIATION

Morgan, Vermont 05853

Newsletter