



Seymour Lake Association Newsletter

Spring 2004

Notes from the President

In this issue we are changing the format of the newsletter.

Two years ago we instituted a new format in order to reduce printing costs and send copies to a wider population of Morgan residents, property owners and Lake Association members. As a result, we provided information to a greater audience and have gained new members.

With this issue, we are adding four pages and including advertising. The board feels that three issues a year is about correct to keep everyone informed of the status of the important issues facing the Association and property owners around Seymour Lake. Postage and copying for a single mailing approaches \$500. Association members at the 2003 annual meeting approved advertising in the newsletter to cover these costs.

I would like to thank our supporters for their ads and urge our Association members to use their services whenever possible. Whenever you are in contact with them, or in their establishments, please thank them for their support of our Association.

The current objective of the Association is: to preserve the purity of our lake and promote safety for all residents and those who use it for recreational purposes.

The Association and its Board monitors a wide range of interests that affect Seymour Lake.

In the past few years, the Association

has dealt with two major issues: the dam/lake level and eurasian watermilfoil. This year we are adding the quality of the water to our major issues list.

Our lake has a history of being one of the purist lakes in the region if not the country. The board considers this an important issue and one we want to monitor to insure that clarity and quality are maintained at a high level. These issues are of vital interest to members, lake property owners, and every resident of Morgan and the surrounding towns.

There is a detailed letter, on page 6, from the project engineers associated with the building of the new dam on Seymour Lake. I urge everyone to read the letter and the Dam/Lake Level Committee's comments. The level of the lake will be lower this summer because of the construction. The engineering firm began lowering the lake on the First of June and anticipate that it will be at low pin level by the First of July. I have already noticed a considerable difference in the lake level.

On page 4 there is information regarding the water quality monitoring project. Tom Emery is our chairman and is enthusiastic about the project. He will be providing a detailed progress report at the annual meeting. The board has directed him to survey four additional sites in addition to the two that have been surveyed in conjunction with the State's Agency of Natural Resources.

We were pro-active in our fight to keep

milfoil out of Seymour. We need to be equally pro-active to insure that the clarity and quality of our lake remains high.

This issue contains a survey slip which the board will use to assess the sentiments of the Association Members.

We have been asked to survey members about personal watercraft. The State Police inform us that these craft are allowed on the lake. Asking that the Association be involved in removing them is not an option. If one of these craft is observed doing something wrong, we should note the registration and call the State Police.

Rather than conducting a survey on only one issue, we are using the survey to request Association member's assistance in determining future direction. Please take a few moments to fill out the survey and return it. I would like to have the survey data available by the Annual Meeting on July 24th.

Thanks for your continued support and have a great summer.

—WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT—

Every Association member is requested to please renew your membership and I would urge all Seymour Lake property owners to join with us in working to protect this natural treasure that is so important to all of us.

Further Notes

The above note from the President outlines the costs of sending the newsletter to members of the Association. The publishing is done on a desktop computer so the only expense is the paper, labels, copying and postage. Postage is the majority of the expense.

I am associated with a number of other organizations that have started using e-mail to send monthly publications. Mail copies are sent to only those who do not have e-mail or do not wish e-mail versions. The reduction in postage has been substantial.

The Board has requested that we explore the use of e-mail to send our newsletter.

If you would care to participate in an e-mail version of the newsletter, please e-mail me: jmcwain@earthlink.net

Aquatic Nuisance Prevention Project

We have begun another exciting year in our efforts to monitor milfoil and other aquatic nuisance elements in our lake.

We have received another grant from Vermont's Department of Conservation which, with matching support from the Town of Morgan, provide the major source of funds.

Last year we had two full-time monitoring employees at the fishing access. Their vigilance resulted in detecting 36 instances of milfoil on 804 boats.

This year we have hired three employees to monitor the fishing access, check boats and talk to fisherman and boaters explaining the importance of keeping milfoil out of

the lake. They will also conduct weekly searches via kayak and motor boat to search for milfoil and make certain the invasive plant is not growing in Seymour's waters.

We will again monitor the fishing access in September. Boaters and their vessels are still prevalent on the lake at this time, particularly weekend mornings, and our monitor's presence greatly assist in keeping everyone aware of the milfoil menace.

Last year we found a large increase in milfoil occurrences. This is a cause for continued concern. Many lakes and ponds in the Northeast Kingdom are experiencing milfoil and its devastating re-

sults. An increasing number of boats leaving infested waters are lending themselves as the ideal vehicle for its movement.

The project staff would like to thank the many members who generously donated funds to assist in the purchase of our new boat. It will be a great assistance in our monitoring efforts.

Please stop by and say hello to our staff and tell them how much we appreciate their good work.

If you have a day or even a few hours that you can donate to the Aquatic Nuisance Prevention Project's cause, we can put you to work and would love to hear from you.

Survey ??????

As your Board of Directors goes about its business associated with the objectives of the Association, we frequently ask ourselves the age old question of many organizations, "What should we be doing in the future?"

In the immediate past we have been heavily involved with the Seymour Lake Dam and Lake level controversy with the State Agency of Natural Resources. With great effort on the part of the Dam/Lake Level committee, association members and state representatives, we were able to be heard. Simultaneously, we were thrust into the aquatic nuisance business when Beth Torpey, our previ-

ous President became concerned about the level of milfoil in surrounding lakes and its devastating effect. As a result we have an excellent program which is used as an example in the State.

At last years annual meeting it was requested that the Association conduct a survey of members regarding the personal watercraft issue.

Rather than conducting a survey on only one issue, we are requesting the Association member's assistance in determining future direction.

The Seymour Lake Association is currently

oriented on a number of areas germane to the objectives of the Association. Listed alphabetically they are: A) Aquatic Nuisance/Milfoil, B) Boating, C) Dam/lake level, D) Fishing, E) Ice Out, F) Loon Watch, G) Maps, H) Membership, I) Newsletter, J) Personal Watercraft, K) Swim Program, and L) Water Quality. Each of these has a committee head listed in the officers section of the newsletter.

This is extremely important. Please complete the survey and mail to PO Box 33, Morgan, VT 05853 or email me at jtmcwain@earthlink.net

Survey

*Spis protected by sand blocker
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1. Indicate your order of priority (1 to 12) for the above 12 Association Objective Areas.

(A) 1, B) 4, C) 3, D) 5, E) 10, F) 7, G) 11, H) 6, I) 9, J) 12, K) 8, L) 2

2. Are there other areas which the Association should address????

3. Indicate, using a scale of 1 (low) to 5 (high), how you feel the Association is doing in the above areas.

N/A
A) __, B) __, C) __, D) __, E) __, F) __, G) __, H) __, I) __, J) __, K) __, L) __

4. Using the same scale, indicate your perception of the personal watercraft problem on Seymour Lake _____

5. Recognizing that Dam/Lake Level, Milfoil and Water Quality have been high priorities, indicate the level of effort priority you would have the Board place on personal watercraft _____

Join the Association—Help Us Keep the Lake Great

If you are a property owner on the lake and do not belong to the Association, we need your support.

The three major efforts this year are: our continuing fight to keep milfoil out of Seymour Lake ; the dam reconstruction and its affect on the lake level.; and an expanded

water quality monitoring of the Lake.

Please fill out the membership application form below and mail it in as soon as you can. Association creditability is based on the percentage of property owners that belong to the organization and is critical in discussions with State Agencies.

Swim Program

Our swim program this summer will be July 12-23, at the public beach on Seymour. There will be three sessions: 9:30-10:10 A.M. , 10:15: 10:25 A.M., and 11:00 11:45 A.M. all for children 4-13 years.

Last year we had over 70 children from Morgan and surrounding towns each day for lessons offered by the Red Cross.

Penny Thomas-Kezar is the swim program director for the Association. She can be con-

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Seymour Lake Association will be on Saturday the 24th of July in the Morgan Community building at 9:00 A.M.

Reports will be given by all the committee chairs. Coffee and refreshments will be served.

tacted at 895-9917 for more information.

Registration forms can be picked up at the Morgan Country Store.

Rain or shine—bring a towel.

Advertising

You will see ads in our newsletter for the first time this issue.

The Board of Directors discussed this and it was brought before the membership at the last annual meeting.

The Board explained the costs associated with the newsletter which only involve paper, mailing labels, copying and postage as the

editor uses his own computer, database, label and publishing programs to assemble the information provided by the various committee chairman.

The newsletter is sent to the association members. Occasionally it is sent to all property owners around the lake as a means of informing them of the value of the association and to request that they join

and assist us in our efforts to keep the lake and local environment in a pristine condition.

We have also coordinated with the First Selectman and Town Clerk to include information which effects both the town and Seymour Lake property owners.

Please note the ads and when using these businesses comment that you appreciate their support of our Association.

Ice Out/Block Down Contest Winners

The Ice Out contest will be used this year to support milfoil and water quality efforts.

A wooden pallet supporting a cinder block was placed on the ice in late winter. When the ice became non-supportive, the tethered pallet and block sunk, setting off a timing device on shore.

The block went down at 7:43 P.M. on

April 18, 2004. The winning entry was within 17 minutes of the down time.

The closest entry was that of Jack Claussen, Dave Augustoni was second and there was a five way tie for third place—Peter Seymour, Edward Manley, Earle Holland, Gretchen Maxwell and Carl Hendrickson.

The Association thanks Janet and Homer Selby for running the contest. Janet spends

many hours collecting and arranging the guesses submitted. Homer has the difficult task of making sure the pallet, cinder block and timing equipment are okay and then retrieving them from the lake.

The contest generated \$1195 which will support milfoil and water quality monitoring.

Checks for this years winners will be presented at the Annual Meeting July 24, 2004.

Seymour Lake Association—Membership Application 2004

Please Clip, Fill Out and Mail today

To: Janet Selby
Seymour Lake Association, P.O. Box 43, Morgan, Vermont 05853

Type of Membership— Family (\$15) ____ Individual (\$5) ____ Amount Enclosed ____

Names (s) _____

Seymour Lake Address _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address (if different than above)

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Clip and send with check payable to SLA

Fishing

Seymour Lake was stocked by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife in 2003 as follows:

Brook trout 1500 9" 517 lbs 5/13/03 un-marked

Lake trout 3000 7" 326 lbs 5/13/03 adipose clip

Landlocked Atlantic salmon 2,000 7" 200 lbs 4/15/03 left ventral clip

Atlantic salmon broodstock 100 @3-7 lbs Dec. 02 left pectoral clip

VT Fish & Wildlife stocked Seymour Lake in 2004 as follows:

Brook trout 900 8.8" ? lbs 4/21/04 un-marked

Lake trout 4000 7.1" ? lbs 4/21/04 adipose clip

Landlocked Atlantic salmon 2,000 7.1" ? lbs 4/14/04 adipose/right ventral clip

Atlantic salmon broodstock 100 @3-7 lbs Dec. 03 right pectoral clip

VT Fish & Wildlife sampled Seymour's lake trout population using gill nets in 1999 and 2000. Our principal objective was to examine what contributions lake trout of wild (from natural reproduction) and hatchery (from stocking) origins were making to the lake trout population, in response to the Test Waters regulation that came into effect on Seymour in 1991 (greater minimum length, lower creel limit, fewer lines). The Seymour Test Waters regulation became a permanent regulation in January 2003, based on a demonstrated positive response in the lake trout population and fishery, and strong public support. Hatchery origin lake trout

have been marked systematically by removal of the adipose fin in every year of stocking since 1994, making stocked lake trout recognizable at capture. We found hatchery fish in the population at 13% and 38% in the two years, respectively. Lake trout are slow-growing and long-lived. At the time of our sampling in 1999 and 2000, we could not be certain of the origin of larger (>20") lake trout we captured, because lake trout stocked before 1994 were not always marked. We intend to repeat our sampling again this summer to assess the current status of wild production versus contribution by surviving hatchery lake trout with greater confidence, given our consistent marking of stocked lake trout over the past decade.

New Boat for the Milfoil and Water Quality Projects

Thanks to all of you who assisted in the purchase of our new boat. The new boat is much more versatile than the old run-about that we had last year. The flat bottom and tiller model outboard will be very flexible and useful for both the milfoil and water quality monitoring work done by the Association. Our milfoil monitoring effort is an extremely important aspect of the project and is a vital part of keeping Seymour Lake free of aquatic nuisances.

Your board feels that we need to increase the scope of our water quality survey to include more observation areas. This expanded scope will provide better monitoring of the Seymour Lake water quality.

Those who did not have an opportunity to help, we would appreciate any donation to the Milfoil/Water Quality effort. Please include your donation with your Membership Form.

New Water Quality Monitoring

The Seymour Lake Association has been monitoring the quality of the lake's water for years. This has been done in conjunction with the State of Vermont and the readings for water clarity and water samples were provided to the State Agency of Natural Resources.

At the 2003 Annual meeting, the Board recommended, and the members approved, that the Water Quality Monitoring be expanded.

Tom Emery, our Water Quality Committee Chairman, has agreed to begin monitoring several places on the lake in addition to the two specific spots that have been surveyed over the years. We are researching the possibility of sending the water samples to an independent laboratory so we can get quicker results than with the samples sent to the State lab. This may be an added expense, however, data would be more responsive and would allow us to track the results in a more comprehensive manner.

Association Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs

Officers

President: Jim McWain
 Vice President Fred Cummings
 Secretary Janet Jackson
 Treasurer Janet Selby

Directors (Term end)

Peter Morse 04 Fred Jackson 05
 Derek Moore 04 Sean Selby 06
 Kalman Samuels 04 Jesse Nichols 06
 Tom Emery 05 Marilyn Gray 06
 Dave Anderson 05

Committee Chairs

Boating Derek Moore
 Dam/Lake Level Ron Kolar

Education

Fishing
 Grants
 Ice Out
 Loon Watch
 Maps
 Membership
 Milfoil
 Newsletter
 Personal Watercraft
 Swim Program
 Water Clarity

vacant

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 Ron Frascoia
 Peter Morse
 Janet Selby
 Denis Fortin
 Nancy Gilmond
 Fred Cummings
 Peter Morse
 Jim McWain
 Kalman Samuels
 Penny Kezar Thomas
 Tom Emery

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Dam/Lake Level

As I have reported before, your committee has been very active in 2003 and 2004. The Association hired Attorney Gregg Howe to assist us in our appeal of the Agency of Natural Resources decision to replace the current dam with one without a gate. Attorney Howe and your committee were successful in obtaining an agreement to include a gate in the new dam. We were informed that the lake level would begin to be lowered this summer to prepare

for the construction phase of the project. The construction company will erect earthen cofferdams up and down stream eliminating water and creating a dry work area. Bypass pipes will be installed to keep the lake at a constant low pin level and to not allow the lake to rise above the high pin during storms. During the month of June the lake will be lowered to reach the low pin level by the First of July.

It is anticipated that construction will be completed by mid-October followed by a construction site clean-up period. Included below is a memo from the Great Bay Hydro Corporation regarding the dam construction and lake lowering.

Should you have any questions or concerns, call Ron Kolar at 904-278-5020 or at Camp Winape after June 25th at 723-4400

TO: Seymour Lake Association

FROM: Tony Callendrello, Vice President
Great Bay Hydro Corporation

DATE: May 24, 2004

SUBJECT: Seymour Lake Dam Replacement-Lowering of Water Level

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform the members of the Seymour Lake Association of the pending lowering of the water level of Seymour Lake to accommodate the construction this summer of a new dam on the outlet stream of the Lake. A slow and steady lowering of the Lake level is scheduled to begin on June 1, 2004 and be complete by July 1, 2004. In total the Lake water level is expected to be lowered by less than 6 inches. The water level will be maintained at the lower level throughout the dam construction process. Refill is scheduled to begin in the Fall of 2004, and the Lake should be back at its normal operating level by Spring 2005. (Please note that while dam construction is planned for this summer, there is a slight possibility that various time constraints will cause the proposed work to be delayed until the summer of 2005. In this case the lowering of the water level would occur in June, 2005. We will inform you if this delay is necessary.)

By way of background, Great Bay Hydro Corporation (GBH) acquired the Clyde River Hydroelectric Project (project) from Citizens Communications Company on April 1, 2004. The Project received its new operating license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on November 21, 2003, which requires, in part, that GBH replace the Seymour Lake Dam with a new structure with greater spillway capacity. Construction of the new dam is scheduled to begin in June and be completed by the end of this summer. As an initial step in the construction process, the water level of Seymour Lake will be lowered to its minimum operating level (an elevation of 1278.33 feet, as dictated by the Vermont legislature) so that the maximum available storage capacity is available within the Lake to attenuate runoff resulting from significant storm events. This is an important step in the process that will help manage the water level within its normal operating range during construction and help ensure that the construction area is not flooded by a major rain storm.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, however, this step is needed for the safety of the construction workers and to reduce the possibility of environmental impacts that could result if the construction area was flooded. Your understanding in this matter is greatly appreciated.

GBH has assigned a local project manager, Sean Breen, who is available to answer any questions you may have. You can reach Sean at 334.4225 (cell phone 802.673.6157) or via email at Breenenergy@adelphia.net.

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