

Seymour Lake Association Newsletter

Spring 2005

Notes from the President

In the last issue we changed the format of the newsletter to include advertising. This year a volunteer has agreed to help with the editing, printing and mailing of the newsletter. For this we are grateful. Our newsletter is being sent to a wider population which has generated new members and provides information on issues important to Seymour Lake residents.

The 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.

Our focus during the past few years has been with two major issues: the dam/lake level and Eurasian Water Milfoil. The dam has been rebuilt to specifications that the Association insisted were necessary to provide a lake level consistent with past years. Please read the article about the dam inside the newsletter. The construction was accomplished on schedule and we can be proud of the result.

We continue to have a milfoil program which is used as an example throughout the State. We can be thankful for our monitors at the access area. They continue to find milfoil on boats and trailers attempting to use our lake. There were more occurrences last year than in the past three years. Fortunately, everyone seems to be aware of the milfoil problem in Vermont and is more that willing to have our

monitors check their equipment. Whenever you are in the area stop by the access and tell them you appreciate their effort.

Last year we added the quality of the water to our major issues list. Our lake has a history of being one of the cleanest lakes in the region if not the country. The board considers this an important issue. Tom Emery is our chairman and is enthusiastic about the project. The board has directed him to survey

The survey also indicated that you believe your Seymour Lake Association Board is doing a good job. The question regarding personal watercraft on Seymour Lake indicated that 56% of the membership considered them to be a low priority problem.

This does not mean the board will ignore the personal watercraft issue. Just as the board contributes significant time to maps, swim program, the newsletter and other programs



lower than the top five, we will continue to work with State Agencies and publish information regarding personal watercraft so that the few who disregard the rules do not spoil the sport for the majority who abide by the law.

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 estab-

four additional sites in addition to the two that have been surveyed in conjunction with the State's Agency of Natural Resources. Our objective is to monitor the whole lake to insure that clarity and quality are maintained at a high level.

The last issue contained a survey slip which the board used to assess the sentiments of association members in determining future direction of the Association. Elsewhere in the this newsletter you will find an article on the survey and our objectives. The reassuring results of the survey were that the membership considers the top five priorities to be: 1) Aquatic Nuisance/Milfoil; 2) Water Quality; 3) Dam /Lake Level; 4) Boating and 5) Fishing.

ishments, please thank them for their support of our Association.

—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.

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.

Swimming Project

One of the projects that the Seymour Lake Association sponsors is an American Red Cross Swimming Project held each year at the Public Beach in Morgan for 2 weeks. Last year 70 children from Morgan and surrounding towns participated. Penny Kezar Thomas runs this very successful program and puts a lot of time and effort into seeing it run smoothly. A financial breakdown of the funding is as follows for the 2004 summer.

Total Expenses including:	
Sheriff's Patrol, Red Cross fees, misc.	\$2645.04
Total Income including:	
Individual Donations and Participant fees	\$1340.00
Contribution from the Town of Morgan	\$ 500.00
Net Cost paid by the Seymour Association	\$ 805.04

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.

The town of Morgan also helps to pay what would have been a larger bill from the Sheriff's patrols as part of its regular Sheriff's Department budget. Without the town's support and various donations from individuals, this would be a very costly project. But with everyone's support, it seems that \$805.04 is a small price to pay if it saves just one child from drowning and teaches our youth to swim and enjoy the water. We would like to thank everyone for their support in what we feel is a very worthwhile program.

The swim program will again be during the middle two weeks in July. Further information regarding times will be posted in the local papers and in the Seymour stores and Town Hall.

Janet C. Selby, Treasurer

Property Tax

The February 4, 2005 Weekly Legislative Report issued by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns reported that a "proposal in the Governor's budget to use education fund monies to pay for special education for Correction Department's inmates and others under it's supervision. The same budget also includes monies to pay a portion of the State's Information System computer system needs. These are both new uses of the Education Fund (about two thirds of which come from property taxes) not included in the original intent of Act 60."

The Report further indicates that "the latest twist is H. 147, introduced by the Chair of the House Education Committee, which proposes to expand the state education property tax uses to assume a significant portion of the state's capital construction obligations. The bill would

levy an additional five-cent state property tax on all non resident property to pay for what has been the state's General Fund obligation for public school, technical center, the University of Vermont and Vermont State College capital construction requests. Amounts over \$12 million would be deposited in the state Education Fund. The bill would have the tax sunset after 2010."

Note—few taxes enacted by the state with a specific sunset date ever seem to actually see the sun fall below the horizon. The five cent tax on non-residential property would raise \$13.6 million this year.

Seymour Lake Association—Membership Application 2005

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



ICE OUT/BLOCK DOWN CONTEST SEYMOUR LAKE 2005

Guess	Date	Time	Circle One
#1	_____	_____	A.M. P.M.
#2	_____	_____	A.M. P.M.
#3	_____	_____	A.M. P.M.
#4	_____	_____	A.M. P.M.
#5	_____	_____	A.M. P.M.

\$5.00 each guess or \$20.00 for 5 guesses Prizes of \$200, \$100, and \$50

Benefit of Seymour Lake Association Milfoil and Other Projects

Name_____ Phone_____

Address_____ City_____

State_____ Zip_____

Clip and send ticket and check payable to SLA to:

J.C. Selby, PO Box 43, Morgan Vermont, 05853 by March 25

Fishing

The State of Vermont continues with its stocking program as it has for so many past years. Last summer, from reports that I have heard from fishermen that fish far more often than I do, the fishing was pretty good with some sizable fish reported. Lake trout, salmon and browns continue to be the primary fish caught, but in recent years, it seems that bass fishing is becoming quite popular on our lake. There seems to be a larger presence of the so called "bass boats" appearing frequently and even for a tournament or two on Seymour in the last few years.

Ice fishing also seems to be booming as there are approximately 40-50 shanties on the lake at any one time during the first few weeks of the season. Mother nature almost didn't cooperate, but at the last few weeks, the ice seemed to thicken up enough to get the shan-

ties out in time for opening day. For anyone who doesn't live in the area, it is quite a sight to see. Overnight, it seemed as if a new village grew just off the shores of the public beach and boat access as the shanties seem to congregate there. There are also numerous others around different parts of the lake and portable shanties that continue to change their locations also seem to be quite popular. This community not only shares a passion for fishing, but camaraderie is in abundance. The fisherman and families not only swap fishing stories but also play on the ice together, share meals and skate at the rink provided by local people. Some say that the anticipation of the season is similar to getting ready for hunting camp.

Lakers and salmon are reported to be the

big fish caught during the winter and both seem to be very healthy. Smelt are also caught and are eaten, as well as used for a bait fish. Ice fishing is decidedly different from summer fishing in many ways but one difference is that a maximum of 4 lines (tip-ups) are allowed as compared to 1 line during the regular season. The number of fish caught seems to vary depending on whom you talk to, but it can't be all bad, as there seems to be a fair number of them out there every day of the week having a grand old time.

Homer Selby,
Fishing Committee

Milfoil Committee

Though the snow is finally beginning to pile outside my doorway and the skiing is getting good, the Seymour Lake Association's Milfoil Committee is looking ahead to another busy project year on the Lake. Three monitors provided the majority of coverage at Seymour's fishing and boating access last year; dividing up the hours to provide a minimum of 10 hours of presence, seven days per week-checking boats for milfoil and speaking with boaters and others about nuisance weeds and prevention strategies. This year, beginning Memorial Day weekend and continuing through the end of September, we will again hire three field monitors and are hoping to involve many volunteers as well in our attempts at keeping Seymour milfoil-free.

The majority of funding for Seymour's Aquatic Nuisance Control Project comes in the form of two State awarded grants, with additional monetary support provided by the Town of Morgan and the Seymour Lake Association. A third grant proposal was submitted for the first time this year to Boat US of Annapolis, Maryland for an 'Educational Packet' for provision to all lakeshore rental property owners.

Our proactive, educational approach to keeping milfoil and other invasive plants and animals out of our lakes has proven successful, and we are exceptionally pleased given milfoil's increased presence in many nearby lakes and ponds. As we are all well

aware, the continued health of our Lake's ecosystem is important for many reasons-from the recreational benefits such as swimming and boating it provides to the presence and diverse abundance of fish species and their breeding grounds. The greater number or people hours we can log, the better our chances of protecting the Lake from the devastating effects of an invasive infestation. An investment of just a few hours today is an investment for us all, well into the future.

For additional information about the Association's Milfoil Committee, our Aquatic Nuisance Control Project or the exciting **Volunteer Opportunities** we have available, please phone Tamara Colten Stevens at 802.626.4298 or email woodlark@sover.net.

Association Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs

Officers		Education	vacant	Morgan Town Officers	
President	Jim McWain	Fishing	Homer Selby	Moderator	Stephen Marsh
Vice President	Fred Cummings		Ron Frascoia	Selectmen	Ronald Gonyaw
Secretary	Janet Jackson	Grants	Peter Morse		Richard Miller
Treasurer	Janet Selby	Ice Out	Janet Selby		Robert Guyer
Directors (Term end)		Loon Watch	Denis Fortin		
Fred Jackson	05 Marilyn Gray 06	Maps	Nancy Gilmond	School Directors	Robert Cargill
Dave Anderson	05 Paul Carlson 07	Membership	Fred Cummings		Kelly Paul
Tom Emery	05 Peter Morse 07	Milfoil	Peter Morse		Penny Thomas
Sean Selby	06 Derek Moore 07	Newsletter	Jim McWain		
Jesse Nichols	06	Personal Watercraft	Paul Carlson	N. Country School Director	Tammy LaCourse
Committee Chairs		Swim Program	P. Thomas Kezar	Listers	Craig Lefevre
Boating	Derek Moore	Water Clarity	Tom Emery		Diane Moore
Dam/Lake Level	Ron Kolar				Deanna Keenan




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Dam/Lake Level

After many years of planning and permitting, the construction of the new Seymour Lake Dam commenced in early July of 2004 and was completed ahead of schedule by the end of September. Your committee and the SLA officers visited the construction site on a number of occasions. We were most impressed with the quality of work performed by J A MacDonald Construction from Lyndonville. We also appreciated very much the excellent supervision and control exercised by Citizens Utilities, Great Bay Hydro Corporation (the current owners of the dam), Sean Breen, and the Owner's Engineer, John Northrup. The new dam has a greatly enlarged spillway, which the engineers advise us will help maintain a more constant lake level. Included in the construction is a gate that can be operated if tests show that this is required.



In November of 2004 your committee made some measurements and felt that the lake level appeared to be slightly lower than the design intent of 6.36 inches above the low pin that is installed near the outlet. (Vermont Agency of Natural Resources advised that 6.36 inches is the average Lake Elevation in the Summer for many years.) We have communicated with Great Bay Hydro and we requested a meeting in the late spring of 2005 to evaluate the monitoring reports. At that time we will get input from the project engineers and the State of Vermont

regarding any adjustment necessary to the weir on top of the spillway. This possible modification or adjustment would help to get the water level at the desired height and in accordance with the State of Vermont's Water Quality Certificate.

One of the construction features of the new

dam is a state of the art monitoring system that automatically reports elevations of the surface water at the dam and at the outlet of Lake Seymour at the Southeast corner.



We again want to thank Citizen's Utilities, Great Bay Hydro, Sean Breen, and John Northrup, as well as the State of Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and J A MacDonald Construction Corporation. They all did an outstanding job on construction of a very fine dam and water control structure that should serve the lake residents very well for many, many years.

Should you have any questions or concerns call Homer Selby at 895-2951 or Ron Kolar at 904-261-7976.



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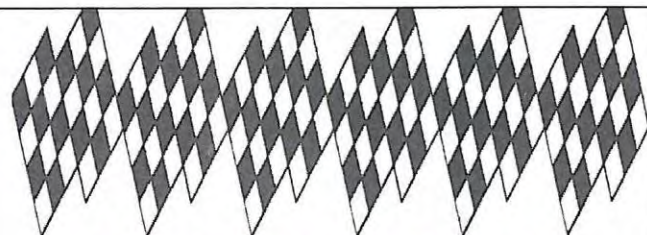
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