



# Seymour Lake Association

1991  
NEWSLETTER

## President's Message

The Seymour Lake Association continues to function as a meaningful asset to the community and region. In large part, this is due to the efforts of our officers, trustees, and membership, particularly committee chairs. I am grateful to all of you for your interest in and support of our environment.

The 1990 Annual Meeting, swim project, auction, and membership drive were all productive. Activities at the public parking area helped. Improvements to the kettle and spawning streams were also completed.

Our survey clearly indicated a continued concern with the environment, especially issues like water quality, fishing, lake use, and beachfront activities. Our association will work further to promote desirable solutions to ecological issues. I quickly emphasize, however, that Lake Seymour Association needs more active participation from its membership through committee involvement and volunteerism if we hope to maintain and improve the environment, and if we expect to continue as a productive organization. □

## C.P.R. COMMITTEE

C.P.R. class/certification was not held for the 1990 season. It was decided that a C.P.R. class would be offered locally every other year. There will be a class offered this summer, 1991 and **everyone** is strongly urged to attend this class to learn this very important life-saving skill. Date and location for the class will be announced at a later date. □

*Jerrri Potter*

## Annual Meeting . . .

The Potluck Supper and Annual Meeting of the Seymour Lake Association was held on Saturday, August 4, 1990, at 6 00 P M. at the E Taylor Hatton School in Morgan. President Cyrus Benson welcomed approximately 65 members and guests. Selectmen George Fuller and Charlie Norton were introduced. President Benson explained some of their efforts related to Association projects and expressed appreciation for their support. Reverend George Kern offered Grace prior to the meal, graciously served by a group of volunteers (including a number of young people), under the leadership of Jerrri Potter. Sincere appreciation was extended to this group by the membership, following the delicious meal.

Guest speaker, Commissioner of Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation, Paul Hannon, was introduced by President Benson. The topic of the presentation being, "Management of Lakes and Ponds." Commissioner Hannon explained that this was the "Year of the Lakes," with conflicts on the use of Lakes and issues of property owners. Some of the points shared included:

1. Need for the public to gain access to the Lakes
2. Boater registration rose 19% from 1987.
3. Legislators heard complaints
4. Revision of laws called for another study.
5. Boating issues were being dealt with, only touching on other issues.
6. Putting out permanent docks was an encroachment

Hannon went on to explain the S290 Management Study Phase I: Purpose -- how to get a handle on control of Lake use. A report is due out this Fall. In terms of Lake use (low, med., high), what is it that wants to occur on the Lake. In comparison to some other Lakes - Seymour might be considered a low speed use. Phase II Carrying Capacity -- the number of people using the Lake for various activities (waterskiing, swimming, etc.)

Hannon stated that the Public Trust Document issues are a "a whole can of worms." One particular issue is the fact that land-filled water is still public trust land. President Benson expressed our appreciation to Commissioner Hannon following an offer to take questions.

President Benson called the Annual Seymour Lake Association Business Meeting to order at 7:15 P M. The Secretary's report was accepted as published in the 1990 Newsletter. The Treasurer, Cindy Smith, reported a balance of \$2,190 00.

Committee Reports were given as follows:

- a) **AUDITORS COMMITTEE**  
George Kern reported that the books were without error.
- b) **KETTLE COMMITTEE** - Fred Taylor reported that the water quality/purity was drinkable, but not necessarily good. He encouraged "signing-up" for the care of the kettle and thanked those who have been doing so.
- c) **FISHING COMMITTEE** - Craig Lefevre reported that Fred Jackson had headed up the work done around the Beach culvert, enabling the fish to

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## Annual Meeting continued from page 1

travel upstream. Fred Murphy attended the July 25th Fish and Wildlife Board Meeting. The general feeling is that the fishing quality is declining. Mel Carter noted that eighteen years ago the Seymour and Echo Associations got all of the "Lakes" together/1972 Federation. The two Federations consisted of twenty-two northern lakes and ten southern lakes. Members attending the Lakes and Ponds Meeting were: Craig Lefevre, Fred Murphy, Dot and Mel Carter, and Bob and Marge Arnold. Commissioner, Paul Hannon, was the speaker at this meeting. Reports from each Association were given with topics in common to all Associations being discussed (taxes, public beach problems, liability concerns, etc.).

- d) LAKE LEVEL MONITORING AND WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE - Bob Arnold reported that the lake level was where we wanted it to be and that the clarity, at 10½ meters was just as good as it was ten years ago. A question was asked about the clarity in comparison with other lakes in the area. Seymour is the same as Willoughby because of coldness. A plaque was presented to Bob for the many contributions made during his ten years of work for Seymour Lake.
- e) CPR COURSE COMMITTEE - Jerri Potter reported that the course would be offered next year. She also included a report of the July 21st Loon Watch, with four adults seen and one chick (unofficially reported) It was noted that a chick was seen two years in a row.
- f) NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE - Ruth and Roger Whitcomb gave a brief report and thanked everyone for their reports. The Whitcombs were congratulated for a job well done.
- g) MAP COMMITTEE - Jeff Hall would greatly appreciate help in updating the map and encouraged members to contact him.
- h) NOMINATING COMMITTEE - Dot Carter read the nominees for the 90-91 Executive Board

and Board of Directors. They were as follows: President - Cyrus Benson, Vice President - Craig Lefevre, Secretary - Judy Fuller, Treasurer - Cynthia Smith, Directors - James Kenney, Jerri Potter, Walt Jenness, David Augustoni, Joe Denning, and Jim Horler. Nominations were opened to the "floor" and hearing none, the Secretary was directed to cast one ballot for the nominations as presented.

### Other Business - President's Report

It was noted that the Membership Committee would be continuing its drive. President Benson stressed the need to continue organizing, to stay on top of things, and to keep in contact with the State. He pointed out the necessity to solicitate for help in various activities, that people are usually willing to assist when asked. The membership fee increase, recommendation - \$3.00. The Swim Project will continue taking into consideration the increase of expenses. Instructor, Sally Frawley, would like to continue with the program next year. Noted was financial support given Ann Champigny for her student trip to the Soviet Union. President Benson expressed the difficulty for officers and directors to speak for members, and that the survey was used to help project desires of the members. He reported that the Executive Board met nine or ten times during the year.

Jean Gilliam thanked those who assisted with the Auction, reporting that \$905.30 was earned this year. She encouraged those who might be interested in serving as an auctioneer to "practice up" for the next auction. Expenses from the auction were discussed.

**Old Business** - There was no old business.

**New Business** - John Fraleigh made a motion which reads as follows: The Seymour Lake Association requests that its elected representatives consult with the appropriate town and state agencies to determine the feasibility of banning the use of all motorized equipment, craft, and vehicles on Seymour Lake at

all times of the year. It is further requested that the findings be presented to the membership at the annual meeting in 1991. The motion was not seconded.

A discussion followed regarding the Committee formed at the March Town Meeting, for the purpose of Lake Usage concerns. Mentioned at this time was the fact that the Beach Buoys were not working as well as desired due to the lack of enforcement. A motion was seconded and passed without discussion.

The Milfoil issue was discussed, noting that the present sign at the Fishing Access was not adequate. The construction of a large wood and metal sign was recommended and will be discussed at the next Board Meeting. At the Newport "Milfoil" Meeting in June, it was suggested that signs be posted in rented cottages. It was noted that the Selby boys have periodically checked boats and trailers at the fishing access. A motion was made that the construction of an appropriate sign be investigated and made by May, 1991. The motion was seconded and passed.

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:04 P M, seconded and passed. □

*Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Fuller, Secretary*

### Annual Dinner Committee Meeting

The Annual Dinner was again a success thanks to many volunteers from the association who helped with planning and serving the dinner. To all who served on the committee and those who came forth to help the day of the dinner with setup, serving, and cleanup, my most heartfelt thanks.

In 1991, the format for the dinner committee will change. It will become a standing committee within the association, made up of a nucleus of members to plan and execute the dinner. Chairing this committee will be Jerri Potter and Ann Torpey. The committee needs and welcomes help from the general membership. Here is an opportunity to become involved! Please return the form found on the membership page to Cindy Smith. Thank you. □

*Ann Torpey*

## NATURE SEMINARS

Five seminars dealing with Lake Seymour's environment will be held this summer. They have been arranged by association director, Jerri Potter, and will be sponsored by the Lake Seymour Association and Fletcher Potter Real Estate. Seminar subjects will include: Geology of Morgan, Local Flora, Local Fauna of the Northeast Kingdom, Non-Point Source Pollution, and Bird Identification. Each seminar will be conducted by a specialist in each respective field.

Time and place of the seminars will be announced later. □

*Jerri Potter*

## BICENTENNIAL PROJECT

The Town of Morgan, as part of its celebration of the Vermont Bicentennial, is going to erect a monument in the Clark Cemetery for JOTHAM CUMMINGS who was born in 1766. This individual was instrumental in the formation of the first church group, initial surveys of Morgan properties, and the management of Town affairs.

If anyone would like to donate toward this project, please send your check to the Lake Seymour Association, designating on the check "Cummings Memorial." □

*Eugene Earp*

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership in the Seymour Lake Association dropped slightly for the 1990 season. This change was due, in part, to the absence of a membership drive which had been conducted in 1989. This year a membership drive will be held from July 1 to July 15. An annual drive is recommended.

Memberships are a major source of income and most important for the continued activity of the SLA in order to address many current problems. At the 1990 Annual Meeting it was voted to increase dues to \$3.00.

If you can help in this activity and would like to become more active in the association, please return the form found in the membership section of the newsletter, to be sent to Cindy Smith at the address noted. □

*Ann Torpey*

## County Sheriff's Report

In 1990, the Sheriff's Department continued its patrols much the same as in the past years. The summer months involved increased efforts to maintain a higher degree of visibility in an attempt to curb some of the lingering problems still plaguing the beach area.

During the winter months, a good share of the patrol time was used for camp and summer home security checks around the lake area. So far this winter, Lake Seymour has survived for the most part unscathed, far better than lakes on the west side of the County. Vandalism that accompanies burglary in vacant camps and summer homes is one of the most difficult crimes to prove. It is very frustrating for the owners to understand the reason behind such acts. I feel crime prevention is the best avenue to pursue.

Corporal Donald Flood, our crime prevention officer, feels a neighborhood watch program for Lake Seymour is needed and would be able to meet early in the summer season with you. This would allow time to get the program in place prior to the fall and winter months. Deputy Roger Strobridge has spent considerable time on other lakes performing camp checks and has some new tips on camp and home security to share with you, also. There is a growing problem of burglary and vandalism. There are ways to curb it; perhaps, we can help.

As always, I am looking forward to serving you again this year as in the past. Also, I welcome any member's input as to how we can serve you better. □

*James G. Murphy*  
*Sheriff, Orleans County*

## MAP REPORT

Maps of Lake Seymour and the surrounding properties are available at the Town Office and at area stores. New maps will be updated in 1992, therefore, volunteers will be needed to help make the necessary changes.

The Chairman urges everyone to support the merchants and businesses advertised on the 1989 map. □

*Jeff Hall*



## FEDERATION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS (Northern Vermont)

### *A Letter to the Legislators - 1991*

Members of the 22 Associations in the Federation of Lake Associations, Northern Vermont, are deeply concerned by the resurfacing of the Public Trust Doctrine with its exploratory discussion of the easement concept over private beaches and land for use by the general public.

Also implied in the meaning of "Trust" is that of state and local governments that guarantee the buyer of property its deeded rights.

To permit public incursion on the periphery of privately owned lakefront property is to disavow that deeded trust.

Obviously the State would be liable for the full price of these eroded or devastated property values.

Will you convey the Federation's strong feelings to the principles involved in this renaissance of the Doctrine? □

*D. Wayne Newell, President*

## AUCTION REPORT

Sorry NO auction in 1991, but that doesn't let you off the hook! Just gives you more time to look around in attics, cellars, storerooms, garages, etc. . . . to find articles for the summer of 1992. START COLLECTING!

We did so well at last summer's auction, heading now for 1992 let's do even better!

Many THANKS to all who helped at last year's gathering, collecting articles, auctioneering, and buying. A special thanks to Bob Cain for his thoughtfulness and helpfulness going a step beyond the call of duty. See you all soon. □

*J. Gilliam*

## ELIZABETH TAYLOR HATTON SCHOOL

Many factors contribute to creating a school environment promoting excellent education. Last year I thanked you for the support shown the school through the construction of the addition we enjoyed our first full year in last year. Last year and this, great strides have been made toward building a framework on that foundation. One of the most important tasks of last year was to detail existing programs and resources; and, from that list generate a needs assessment. Through careful targeting of funds with the cooperation of the staff, and the Board of School Directors, the children of Morgan now enjoy up-to-date texts, science equipment that matches curriculum, computer hardware and software in each classroom, new library books, and a variety of audio/visual materials. We now possess the structure and the infrastructure to enable us to focus on learning directly without regard to limitations of space and materials.

I've commented in a number of spaces a number of times on the importance of education being a community effort. With the freedom enabled by placing these concerns behind us, the staff is able to focus itself on creating its own collegial community. An apt criticism of classrooms of late is that they exist as individual one-room schoolhouses that share a common parking lot. Teachers can actually go through their careers never watching each other teach or sharing what they do in their room in any serious way with others.

Our most important focus now is on breaking down these barriers and foregoing an educational environment of connectedness, where all staff work together in a common focus toward agreed-upon goals. We currently have in the draft stage a school mission statement and a set of schoolwide goals generated from it. Early this spring a statement of mission and goals will be adopted and the next phase of continuity will begin. In a long-term effort, the staff will examine areas of learning and teaching methods to ensure curriculum implementation that meets the developmental needs of

students and provides continuity and completeness across the years. Existing successful practices will be documented and brought to light and built upon together.

In another light, and more in line with the association's existence as a group devoted to the environment of the lake and its surroundings, the school has the markings of an excellent nature trail on its twelve-acre lot. A trail exists already, having been cut primarily for the cross country ski program but used last year for tree identification projects as well. The trail includes woodlands, clearings, and borders a fair-sized brook in one spot as well. We also have a growing collection of bird nests as well as a stuffed Sparrow Hawk donated by Jim Horler, a Sawhet Owl donated by Rick and Chic Gonyaw, and a forthcoming owl being donated by Tony Champagne. Mr Hunt has been actively pursuing classroom pets as a way of generating appreciation for nature as well.

A project under consideration is an aquarium to house local species of fish collected from local waters. If any of you have any interest, expertise, or materials that might help us with these ventures, please let us know. We would look forward to working with the association in any way to further its goals and the environmental education of our children. □

*Jeffrey Hare, Principal*

### IRON KETTLE REPORT

On the nicest morning of the fall, right between two lousy days, with the able help of Jim Horler and Roger Whitcomb, the cedar "hedge" at the iron kettle was finished, hopefully. Mother nature supplied added moisture almost at once. If you have an in with the power that be, someday, we'll be able to see it. □

*Fred Taylor*

It is with regret that the death of Fred W. Taylor on March 3, 1991 is reported

Fred was a past president of the Lake Seymour Association and a tireless worker for the quality of the lake and the area

## FISHING COMMITTEE

It has been said that any given situation either improves or degenerates. Nothing stays the same. It would seem that this precept applies to the quality of fishing on Lake Seymour. There is evidence that, for the first time in a while, we may be heading in the right direction.

During the past summer 9,000 salmon and 6,000 lake trout in the six (6) to seven (7) inch range were stocked in the lake. Hats off to those responsible for actually distributing the fish rather than dumping them at the fishing access.

After three years of perseverance, hard work, and down-right doggedness, an experimental spawning bed is in existence on our lake. Lake trout were seen on the bed last fall, so we have reason to be encouraged. A great deal of appreciation goes out to Fred Murphy for this was Fred's brainchild, and to Fred Taylor who assisted him on the project. We'd also like to thank the others who helped but are too numerous to name in this article.

Finally, we all need to be aware that Seymour has been designated as "test waters" and has more restrictive regulations than last year. The new regulations applying to both winter and summer fishermen were instituted because the Department of Fish and Wildlife received pressure from our area indicating that we needed to fish less to fish better. Both winter and summer fishermen sacrificed with the hope of improving our fishery. We are now in a transition period as sportsmen and need to evaluate how our attitudes reflect true sportsmanship. In the last few years we have come to realize that yes, there is a bottom to the barrel.

Here are some of the highlights of the new regulations for Lake Seymour:

### LAKE TROUT

**Minimum Length: 20" Daily Limit: 1  
Poss. Limit: 2 Lines: Summer: 1  
Winter: 4**

Each day's catch should be reported on forms to the Commissioner. **HAPPY FISHING!** □

*Craig Lefevre*





## ANNUAL DINNER

1. I would like to work on the annual dinner.

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

Address & Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Please respond to Cindy Smith  
2 Highland Avenue  
Derby Line, VT 05830

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## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

2. I would like to join the membership committee and help with the drive.

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

Address & Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Please respond to: Cindy Smith  
2 Highland Avenue  
Derby Line, VT 05830

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