



# Seymour Lake Association Newsletter

Spring 2006

## Notes from the President

I started writing this newsletter last fall with every good intention of getting out a Fall 2005 Newsletter. I must confess that I am now writing this in February with the hope of meeting the Treasurer's deadline of having the Ice Out raffle ticket in your hands by early March.

We've spent most of our weekends at Seymour this fall and winter. Daughter Robin and her husband Zac moved from Beverly Hills, California and have purchased the Morgan Country Store. Quite a change for them, so Bonnie and I have been busy helping them get settled.

The whole process has been enjoyable; having them closer than California is great. We really appreciate and want to thank everyone for the hearty, warm welcome that you have provided to the newcomers (although Robin is quick to point out that she has been coming to Seymour since she was 2 months old).

I would also 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.

We have had a good year. I always like to point out that the objective of our Association is: to preserve the purity of our lake and promote safety for all residents and those who use it for recreational purposes.

Your Association and its Board monitors a wide range of interests that affect Seymour Lake. You all know that our emphasis for the past few years has been primarily the dam and lake level, water quality and with Eurasian water milfoil.

The new dam has proven to perform as

designed and accommodated the spring water levels in an excellent manner. However, the dam committee was concerned that the lake level was lower than we would like in the late August and early September. We have had a number of meetings with the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and have reached an agreement to install flashboards on top of the spillway which will add 1 1/2 inches to the existing spillway. This will slow the lowering of the lake during the dry time associated with late August and September and should not affect the springtime levels.



Please read the letter/notice to all of you regarding the agreement in this issue.

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. I have had discussions with the Agency of Natural Resources personnel concerning the lake water quality and the monitoring program. These issues are of vital interest to members, lake property owners, and every resident of Morgan and the surrounding towns. The Agency personnel are supportive and willing to help in our objective of expanding the number of sites monitored and from which water samples are taken.

We are working with them to secure funds and procedures for establishing the other sites and processing the samples. Our objective is to establish a data base for the water quality in the North, South and Northwest portions of the lake.

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

This issue contains a 2006 Membership Application Form and an Ice Out/Block Down Form. We urge everyone to fill in your membership application and the Ice Out Form and send them in. The Ice Out raffle funds are used to support the Seymour Lake Milfoil project. This is important because Vermont Grants have been requested by other lakes with similar problems and our funding from the State is being cut back.

I've included a chart, on page 4, compiled by the folks that monitor the Boat access. It provides information on the number and type of craft that use our access and the number of incidents of milfoil or other aquatic nuisance species found. Please stop by when you can and tell our monitors they are appreciated.

### —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. An application form can be found on the back inside cover of this issue.

If you would care to contact me, please e-mail me: [jmcwain@earthlink.net](mailto:jmcwain@earthlink.net)

## 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 and its affect on the lake level and an expanded water quality monitoring of the Lake.

Please fill out the membership application, located on the inside back cover, 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.

## Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Seymour Lake Association will be on Saturday the 22nd 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.



## Swim Program

Our swim program this summer will be in the middle of July, at the public beach on Seymour. There will be three sessions: 9:30-10:10 A.M. , 10:15-10:55 A.M., and 11:00-11:45 A.M. All are 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 contacted 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 again see ads in this issue of our newsletter.

The Board of Directors has discussed this and decided to continue with ads. The decision was reaffirmed at the last annual meeting.

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.

Most of the advertisers are members of the association and support its goals. This issue we have also included individuals who are supporters of the association.

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

### Association Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs

#### Officers

President	Jim McWain
Vice President	Dave Anderson
Secretary	Peggy Bolduc
Treasurer	Janet Selby

#### Directors (Term end)

Sean Selby	06	Brad Shattuck	07
Jesse Nichols	06	Bob Slater	07
Kalman Samuels	06	Derek Moore	07
Tom Emery	08		
Fred Cummings	08		
Ron Kolar	08		

#### Committee Chairs

Audit	Jean McKenny
Boating	Derek Moore
Dam/Lake Level	Ron Kolar
Education	vacant
Fishing	Homer Selby Ron Frascoia
Grants	Tamara Stevens
Ice Out	Janet Selby
Loon Watch	vacant
Maps	Nancy Gilmond
Membership	Janet Selby
Milfoil	Bob Slater
Newsletter	Jim McWain
Personal Watercraft	Brad Shattuck
Swim Program	P. Kezar Thomas
Water Clarity	Tom Emery

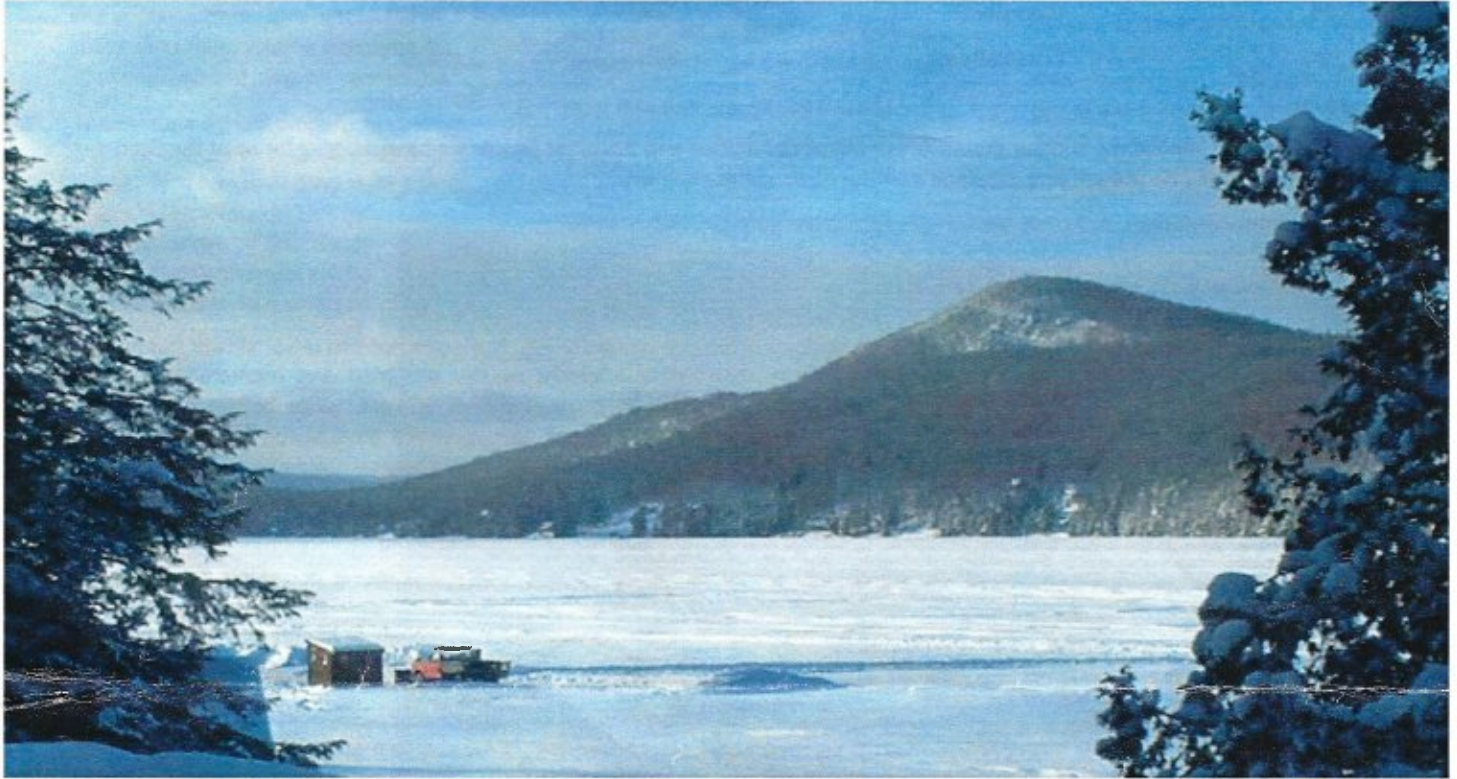
### Morgan Town Officers

Moderator	Open
Selectman	Richard Miller Robert Guyer Brian Gray
School Directors	Robert Cargill Kelly Paul Penelope Thomas
North Country School Director	Tammy Lacourse
Listers	Craig Lefevre Diane Moore Deanna Keenan

## Ice Out/Block Down Contest Winners

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

Last year 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 5:19 P.M. on April 18, 2005. The closest entry was within 26 minutes of the down time. The winning entry was that of Dave Augustoni, Jim Pratt was second and the third place winner was Ron Kolar.



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 over \$900 which will be used to support milfoil and water quality monitoring.

If you are interested in participating in this year's contest, please complete the ICE OUT/BLOCK DOWN CONTEST form and return it to Janet Selby by March 20th. The entry form can be located on the back inside cover page.

Checks for this years winners will be presented at the Annual Meeting July 22, 2006.

## Seymour Lake Association Newsletter Supporters!

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## Aquatic Nuisance Species Monitoring

Results of monitoring at Seymour Lake Boat Access —May through September 2005

<u>Number of Water Craft</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number of Cases of Milfoil/Other</u>
1110	Recreational (Power & Non-Power)	66%	11 and 1 case of Zebra Mussels
113	Jet Ski	6%	5 milfoil
126	Bass Boat	7%	16 milfoil
<u>330</u>	Fishing Boats	20%	<u>3 milfoil</u>
TOTAL 1679			35 Incidents

I think we owe a strong handshake and our thanks to our Milfoil Committee and the great people we have working for us at the Seymour Lake Access Area for their dedication and diligence over the course of the summer.

**NOTE:** Only 6% of the watercraft that went through the access were Jet Ski/Personal Watercraft.

## Aquatic Nuisance Species Highlight!

The VT Department of Environmental Conservation will be distributing for sale a new Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) sticker this spring. The

sticker will be designed and marketed for display on boats, vehicles, trailers, water bottles, windows, tackle boxes, etc., and will be sold for \$9 to distributors and \$10 to the public

The program will provide a great opportunity for involving more Vermonters and visitors in aquatic Nuisance management. By purchasing or selling stickers, they can contribute financially as well as spread awareness about protecting the ecological health and recreational potential of Vermont's lakes and ponds against aquatic nuisances.

Since the money from sticker sales (beyond the cost of creating the sticker) goes directly into the Grants-in-Aid Programs which helps us in fighting ANS, we as a Lake Association would like the sticker program to flourish! We are excited about the outreach and public awareness

aspect of the sticker program too. Ideally, stickers will be displayed all over Vermont by people who consider spread prevention techniques to be common sense.

We will have more information about how we, as a lake association can get involved as spring and summer approach.

If you have any comments, questions, or ideas, you can contact me at [jtmcwain@earthlink.net](mailto:jtmcwain@earthlink.net). The Department of Environmental Conservation contact is Sara Mulford, VT DEC, Water Quality Division, at 802-241-3799 or [sara.mulford@state.vt.us](mailto:sara.mulford@state.vt.us).



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## Vermont Property Owners Report, Feb-Mar 2006

The following are excerpts from the above publication

1. Vermont Homes will soon need a State permit to convert to year-round use. After July 2007 the conversion of a home to year round will require a state permit for the septic system. The purpose is to make sure that systems adequate for seasonal use are okay for year-round.
2. The average school property tax bill will raise 10% or more in most cities and towns. This has prompted more talk of property tax reform in Montpelier. It is unclear if Gov. Douglas and the Legislature will be able to agree on any changes in the current law that would bring tax relief.
3. An 'ancient road' bill gives towns until July 2013 to identify ancient roads and put them on town highway maps. Ancient roads are old, unused roads that were authorized as far back as 200 years ago. The current bill give the towns authority to identify these roads and make them public assets with right of public access.
4. Vermont's real estate market had a remarkable 2005, experiencing a boom in the first part of the year that led to a huge jump in average prices

compared to 2004, especially in land. But in the last few months of the year the market seemed to cool a bit. Median prices of both primary and vacation single-family homes were leveling or even dropping. The percent change for primary homes in Orleans County was up 20.3% in 2005 while vacation homes were up 14.5% in the County.

5. Poor first half of winter for outdoor sports. Snow dependent sports, skiing, snowboarding and snowmobiling have

been suffering from repeated warm spells and rain. In late January, much of Vermont's extensive snowmobiling trail system was shut down.

6. Vermont gets high marks. Vermonters are brainy, healthy and the work environment is good according to three separate rankings done recently by organizations that rate states. Additionally, the number of Vermonters killed in 2005 in incidents considered homicide dropped to 7, lowest in 11 years.



## State to Buy Clyde River Lands from Great Bay Hydro

A recent article in The Caledonian-Record by Robin Smith indicated that "the State of Vermont is about to purchase lands along the Clyde River system in Orleans County from Great Bay Hydro Corp."

Mike Fraysier, the state lands director for the Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation, said that the purchase, expected to close within a few months, would continue fishing and boating access to the river and its string of ponds and lakes.

The lands in the deal run from Echo Lake along the Clyde river's string of ponds and lakes west toward Lake Memphremagog.

Fraysier said the properties include:

- Seymour Lake dam and lakeshore property in Morgan.
- Echo Lake fishing access area in Charleston.
- Pensioner Pond fishing access and adjacent lands in Charleston.
- A mile-long stretch of stream bank below Big Salem Pond in Derby.
- An easement for fishing access on the Clyde River below Clyde Pond and above the power house that will still be owned by Great Bay Hydro.

## Dam/Lake Level

As reported previously, your committee has been very active during the past few years. At the July Annual Meeting of the SLA, your committee reported on the current status on the dam and lake level. We passed out a graph showing that the new dam and longer spillway handled the spring run off very well. We all were pleased on the capacity of this new structure to handle the rising water that always occurs on the spring runoff.

However, this summer we felt that during the drier periods, the spillway did not maintain the lake level in the 6 inch to 8 inch range above the low pin as had been requested of the State of Vermont. On many occasions in August, the lake was at 4 inches above the low pin.

On the opposite page is an information notice regarding raising the spillway 1½ inches. It provides information on the current status of

the spillway and dam and our plans to make a temporary modification, which we feel will help our water level in the summer of 2006.

Should you have any questions do not hesitate to call Homer Selby at (802) 895- 2951, Dave Anderson (802) 763-8026 or Ron Kolar (904) 261-7976.



## NOTICE

Your Seymour Lake Association has been working closely, over the past 12 years, with the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (VT ANR), the engineering firm that designed the new Seymour Lake dam, and the utility company, to have them provide a water control structure that would best serve all the residents around the lake. We participated in many meetings, where we requested that the lake elevation in the July - August summer period be maintained at 6 to 8 inches above the Low Water Control Pin, and our preference was that the level be closer to 8 inches above the Low Pin. The Low Pin and the High Pin, 14 inches apart in elevation, were installed at the natural lake outlet by the Vermont Public Service Commission in the 1950's. They represent the normal range in water level as specified by Vermont Statute. The State required the utility to manage the dam in a way that kept water levels between the two pins.

Unlike the old dam, the new structure is not actively operated through adjustments in the gate opening. The gate (which can be used/opened in emergency situations) is cracked open slightly to protect fish downstream during summer low flows, but the majority of flows pass over the spillway. The new spillway was built substantially longer to better handle spring high flows and floods. A design goal for the dam was to have a structure that does not need to be operated. This better protects Seymour's ecosystem, prevents conflicts with Echo Lake and its water levels, and avoids the complexities and safety issues related to manual operation.

The long-term average summer water level at Seymour, based on data from 1986 to 2001, was 6 ½ inches above the Low Pin. On average during that period, water levels varied from a spring high of about 4 inches above the High Pin to a summer low of about 4 inches above the Low Pin. With the new dam, the water level rose to 7 inches above the High Pin this past spring. In five of the 16 years of record mentioned, the lake rose more than 7 inches above the High Pin. The average water level this past summer (June 1 through September 15) was 7 inches above the Low Pin; however, for most of August the lake remained below the Lake Association's preferred range, falling as low as 3 ¾ inches above the Low Pin.

We are now at the point where lake water levels are being studied per the agreements and permits. At the annual SLA meeting in July 2005, we reported that the new spillway handled the spring runoff in very good manner, and persons familiar with the lake levels over the years said that the lake did not stage up this spring as high as it has in the past.

The spillway is designed to allow some adjustments to its elevation based on the results of the study. We are concerned about the low water levels this past August and how low water levels may affect camp owners in shallower areas of the lake. We met with VT ANR on October 7 and requested that we be allowed to raise the spillway crest elevation 1 ½ inches on about July 1, 2006, using wooden flashboards.

VT ANR has advised that they would allow this request as part of the study, **provided** they receive no valid objections from lake residents. They asked us to advise the residents around the lake in our newsletter and ask any residents that wish to object to the proposal to notify VT ANR, explaining the reason for the objection. VT ANR noted that it is particularly important to understand that raising the dam crest may have a corresponding effect on water levels during flood periods.

Accordingly, if you have an objection to raising the spillway crest 1 ½ inches, please write the Agency of Natural Resources by April 15, 2006 (Jeffrey Cueto, VT Department of Environmental Conservation, 103 South Main St., Waterbury, VT 05671-0411, or [jeff.cueto@state.vt.us](mailto:jeff.cueto@state.vt.us)). Please copy Jim McWain, [jmcwain@earthlink.net](mailto:jmcwain@earthlink.net), on the correspondence. If you have questions or need additional information about the lake levels or this notice, please call Homer Selby at 895-2951, Ron Kolar at 904/261-7976, or Dave Anderson at 802/763-8026.

**Additional NOTE from your Committee:** The spillway will be raised by bolting boards/planks to the iron currently fixed to the top of the spillway. Your committee does not believe this addition will significantly affect the spring water levels because of the improved, longer spillway. We do believe that the addition will be what is needed to maintain the level needed during the dry period in August. We want to try this on a temporary basis; if it does not work as anticipated, the planks can easily be removed.



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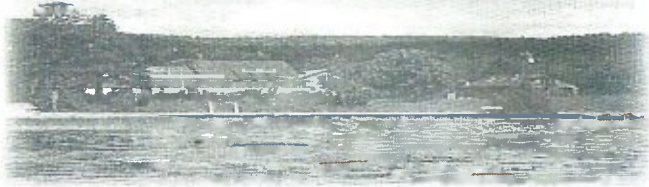
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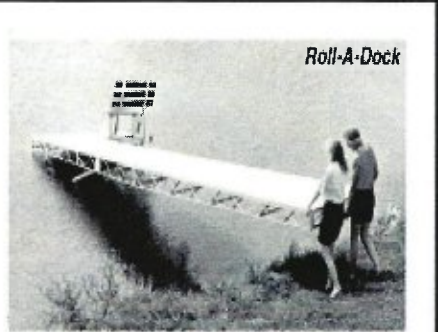
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