

Lake Breezes

Publication of the Lake Rescue Association, Inc. (LRA) Ludlow, VT

Fall Newsletter – 2008

LRA Selected For Major Grant

The Lake Rescue Association (LRA) has been selected to receive a major grant of up to \$24,400 by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. The funds will be used to hire a qualified consultant to assess Black River tributaries and the Black River main stem connecting Echo Lake to Lake Rescue.

The purpose of the assessment is to **determine the source of significant volumes of sediment** which have been filling the Round Pond at the northern end of Lake Rescue.

Round Pond sedimentation has been noticed since the 1973 flood, but has increased substantially in recent years. For the past eight years it has been evident that Round Pond was becoming a large settling pond for the Black River which runs through the lakes.

The project will identify sources of sediment along 11.4 miles of tributaries draining to the Black River and then to Round Pond, and **recommend projects and practices to decrease the sediment flow.**

The grant to do this critical assessment has been made possible by the leadership, hard work and expertise of Chris Salerno—LRA Water Quality Chair.

Water Quality and Sediment Control

The greatest long term threat to the preservation of Lake Rescue comes from sediment and weed growth.

Lake Rescue at 229 acres in surface area has miles of dirt roads and streams that carry sediment into the lake, particularly at high water events.

The LRA continues to foster projects to reduce the amount of this sediment running off the roads. Through the hard work of Liz Spaulding, the Town of Ludlow, with the assistance of the LRA, received \$11,744 in Better Back Roads (BBR) grants.

These funds have now been used by the town to **install rock-lined ditches and catch basins along 915 feet of East Lake Road and 70 feet along Ellison's Lake Road.** Application has already been made to BBR to continue this work next year along additional parts of Ellison's Lake Road.

The LRA has received a grant from the State La Rosa Laboratory and is sampling at high water events at six streams entering either the Black River or Lake Rescue. The LRA has also received a grant of \$2,530 for year 5 of the Lake Rescue and Lake Pauline water quality and lake restoration and protection project. Some of the funds will be used to map/measure areas of obvious sedimentation and plant growth using GPS surveys.

Past sediment control projects initiated by LRA include: rock banks and ditches installed by the State along Rt. 100; rock-lined ditches installed at the Fishing Access and along East Lake Road; efforts to encourage builders to limit erosion from construction sites

Five Years Without Milfoil

2008 marked the fifth straight year that no Eurasian Milfoil plants were found in Lake Rescue, Round Pond or Lake Pauline. Milfoil—a fast growing aquatic weed that impedes boating and swimming—was first found in Lake Rescue in 1998.

Each of the ten years since then, with the help of grants from the State of Vermont, the LRA has employed divers to search for and pull out over 100 of these fast-growing and fast-spreading plants. If those weeds had not been pulled before they grew too large, there is little doubt that the lakes would be choked and impassable by now.

In 2008 the LRA again employed divers to search for milfoil. We know we must continue to search diligently each year because milfoil remains a threat. Note that in 1998 forty-two Vermont Lakes had milfoil and today that number has increased to sixty-three lakes.

LRA Zoning Committee

Your new zoning committee has been hard at work since its formation following the LRA Annual meeting in August. Committee members include Jim McCall (chair), Jerry Latta, Dick Salerno, Liz Spaulding and Marty Wolf.

The zoning committee reports: "Our initial focus is on education. We have been reviewing current state and local statutes and regulations that impact zoning in the Lake Pauline and Lake Rescue area...known in the Ludlow zoning regulations as "the lakes district". Our committee's goal in doing this is to identify and clarify information that we feel may be of interest to you, our LRA membership.

We are working with Dave Hearne, keeper of the LRA web site, to establish a regular update process to keep you informed of important zoning information. This would include key aspects of regulations as well as changes or proposed changes to the regulations at both the state and local level. We will also pass on to you information that is regularly posted in Ludlow's town hall concerning applications for building permits and requests for variances that require review of Ludlow's development review board (DRB).

Please understand that our committee's primary focus is education. If you feel the information contained in the postings of building permits or variance requests impacts you individually as distinguished from LRA residents as a whole (either positively or negatively), you are responsible for representing your individual views to the appropriate town board members (i.e., Select Board, Planning Commission or DRB members). Should you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact Jim or any other committee member."

7th Annual July 4th Party

The 7th Annual 4th of July party sponsored by the Lake Rescue Association was a smashing success. Over 200 people came to the event for BBQ, family games and contests.

For the second straight year Angi Benson Ciufu did an outstanding job of organizing the food and running the games.

Kevin Davis, who first initiated this party seven years ago, again organized the business end of the event including insurance, facilities and publicity. Toni McPherson, in Kevin's office created a colorful and effective invitation.

Angi noted "This was one of the first years the event did not "run in the red." Most of you do not realize that we have to pay over \$800 for an insurance policy to use the Mahoney, Spaulding and Crainich properties for the day. This is why we have to charge to attend the BBQ in addition to asking everyone to bring a dish to share. Thanks to all who brought a salad or dessert to share."

Angi expressed thanks to those who helped out including Kevin Davis, Lisa Schmidt, Okemo for the grill, tables and PA system; Trish Davis, Pam and Rick Trainer for grilling; Lisa and Emma Geissler and Frank Wingate for handling the check-in; Casey Wingate and Michael Geissler for the 50-50 Raffle; Leslie Boyle for the races; Monique Kosar for handling the T-shirt contest; Ned and Jean Newland for help cleaning up and to the Mahoney, Spaulding and Crainich families for use of their properties.

Membership

Under the leadership of Judy Zilvitis, membership in the Lake Rescue Association continues to include most residents around the lake. In addition to the dues paid by over 130 families, we have collected \$2,825 in extra contributions.

Many thanks to all who have sent in their dues and a special word of appreciation to the following families for their extra contributions of both money and time: Salerno, McCall, Ralph Jones, Gutner/Rubin, Sperzel, Cullen, Ferguson, Kosar, Washburn, Weilbrenner, LaBonne, Schwartz, Bell, Vanneman, Archibald, Krach, Grant, Geberth, Mahoney, Rauch, Ellis, Waldron, Loveless, Lubow, Bellemare, Hansen, Smith, Zanca, Ciufu, Bob Jones, Wolf, Butts, Davis, Batesole, Sauser, Golmont, Sieber, DiPace, Zilvitis, Latta, Andrews, Braz, Killian, Fisher, Durkin, Carpenter, Nitka, Rose, Eddy, Hart, Wingate, Brown, Kelly, Packer, Hearne, Spaulding, Kattalia.

Judy asks that you remember that your dues and contributions are tax deductible. Letters will be sent to those who contributed \$250 or more to comply with IRS regulations. Otherwise, your bank statements or duplicate checks can be used to verify the contribution.

A 2008 Lake Rescue Association Membership Directory has been published, and Judy Zilvitis made sure it was distributed to the membership.

Thanks again to Judy and Liz Spaulding for updating the membership directory and to Toni McPherson of Mary W. Davis Realty for creating the directory and to Kevin Davis for having the company sponsor it.

Please contact Judy if you have any questions or need a directory, at LRA-membership@tds.net.

Loons

As per our vote at the annual meeting, the LRA will contribute \$500 to the Vermont Center for Ecostudies for their Vermont Loon Recovery Program. The funds would provide a secure loon-nesting platform on Lake Rescue. Loon pairs have been seen on the lake for several years, but there is no proof of any chick surviving. It is our hope to provide the conditions for loon chicks to survive and reach young adult status.

Ludlow to Acquire Lake Pauline Dam

The Town of Ludlow recently purchased the Lake Pauline Dam and the flowage rights from the Village of Ludlow for \$1. Beginning in the early 20th Century the Lake Pauline Dam produced enough electricity to light the Village of Ludlow.

The Town of Ludlow will now make some minor repairs to the dam and will continue to maintain the dam.

Reminders:

- Tie boats securely at all times to avoid losing them due to heavy rains and flooding;
- Report vandalism to Ludlow police, so they can investigate and will have a record;
- Take Back the Sky. Minimize the number of outside lights left on and keep them pointed down to prevent "light pollution."

Lake Rescue Association Mission

The LRA mission as stated in our By-Laws is to "maintain, preserve, restore and improve the bodies of water within the Lake District, including but not limited to Lake Rescue, Round Pond, Lake Pauline, and the portions of the Black River and the watershed lying within the Lake District." ***If you have read this newsletter and are not a member of the Lake Rescue Association please join us in our efforts to maintain, preserve, restore, and improve the lakes.***

LRA Board of Directors Sept. 2008-2009

Frank Wingate, President

Kevin Davis, Vice President and Past President

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Glenn Brown, Treasurer

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Angi Ciufu, 4th of July Celebration

Jim McCall, Zoning

Editor of the Newsletter: Frank Wingate

Please visit us for updated information at our website at www.lakerescue.org.