

Lake Breezes



June 2023



Yes, it's June, but it is still springtime in Vermont! Flowers are blooming but the temps are still cold. Wool caps have been spotted on the golf course!

The Lake Rescue Association board has been busy over the winter months. We have made the decision to dredge this fall, so it will be a busy summer of planning. Milfoil removal will continue as before. The DASH boat will be suction-ing, divers will be diving, bottom barriers will be smother-ing.

Kayakers will be surveying.
Read on to learn all the details!

**Watch our Facebook page, Lake Rescue VT.
for important updates**

Dredging Planned for October 2023

The LRA applied for a dredging permit in June 2020 which was approved in August 2020 and is good for 5 years. When we submitted the application, we estimated that 2,000 cubic yards (c.y.) would need to be removed to return to a 4-foot depth in the channel and surrounding 1.5 acres. Our estimate at that time was \$125,000. These estimates were based on a bathymetric survey done in October 2018.

Since that time, we have evaluated the navigability of the channel each summer and have postponed dredging until this year. The sediment has continued to build up, with a particularly large inflow from a rainstorm in April 2019. To prepare for dredging this fall, we commissioned another bathymetric survey in October 2022. This most recent survey showed that to achieve the same 4-foot depth in the same footprint would now require a removal of nearly 5,000 c.y. Not surprisingly, the estimated cost has more than doubled. We are now looking at a projected cost of nearly \$300,000.

We anticipate starting the project right after Labor Day and continuing into October as necessary. We are grateful that we have the funds to carry out this necessary remediation and thank the

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Dredging... 2023

Lakes community for the generous support of the 'Rescue Our Lakes' campaign.

This will continue to be an ongoing issue for our lakes because of road conditions around the lake and the steep terrain beyond the roads. The LRA is committed to striving for long term solutions, such as the ongoing Better Roads projects (see the Sedimentation article, below) and improved shoreland conditions on properties around the lakes (see the LakeWise article on p. 4). Thank you for partnering with us to preserve these beautiful lakes for our grandchildren!



Area of Dredging for October 2023



Aerial View of Narrows in 2020

Milfoil Mitigation

As in recent years, we will be deploying all our tools to keep Milfoil at bay this summer. The divers have already made dives to assess the milfoil growth. Their findings suggest that, while not eradicated, much of the established 'old growth' has been removed. They are now finding new, single-stalk plants, which will try to spread. Beginning on July 1, the bottom barriers will go down in selected areas of Round Pond and upper Lake Rescue to smother patches of Milfoil. The DASH boat will also begin operation in July to remove larger areas of Milfoil growth. Our divers, Cat and Shane Yoder, will be on the lake as much as weather conditions allow, up to 4 days a week. Our greeter at the Fishing Access area will be on duty weekend mornings beginning Memorial Day and continuing through Labor Day, to inspect arriving and departing boats. Once again this season, our fleet of kayak volunteers will be out, hunting down and marking stray Milfoil plants to be removed by other volunteers or the divers.

To help fund these activities, the LRA submits a grant application every year to the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Aquatic Nuisance Control Grant-in-Aid program. For the 2022 year, we received \$11,862. Although we have documented a need for \$33,200, the most we can receive from this grant for 2023 is \$10,954. The overall state funding for this program was cut last year by over 20%, explaining why we will receive less than 2022. However, the funding for 2024 will increase substantially due to new legislation. We are hopeful that our future funding through this Grant-in-Aid program will increase.

Sedimentation

The Town of Ludlow received a 2022 Better Roads grant from the VT state Agency of Transportation (VTrans) for culvert and stream bed improvements on East Lake Road near

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Archibald Lane. The Ludlow Highway Dept. was unable to complete this project within the required time frame and has withdrawn the request for this year. The Highway Dept is short staffed currently and looking to fill positions. They anticipate resubmitting the grant request to be completed next year.

The Stormwater Master Plan (SWMP) for the Town and Village of Ludlow, completed a year ago, identified two projects around Lake Rescue as 'high priority' and preliminary designs were drawn up. One project is along Scott's Landing and Tepper Drive. This project has been approved and funded by the state. There have been delays because of the Manager change-over at Ludlow Town Hall.

A second project, between Red Bridge and Lake Shore Drive is on hold until the property owner gives permission for work at this location.

State Dock Update

In 2018, the LRA and several property owners filed a complaint against the VT Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) protesting the proposed placement of a 48' dock at the fishing access boat launch. (More information about the suit can be found [here](#). Please note especially the [LRA Report](#) which details our position.)

After nearly five years of mediation attempts and various delays, we finally had our day in a de novo hearing in the VT Environmental Court in Burlington on June 6 and 7. The VT Department of Fish and Wildlife's lawyer, Catherine Gessing presented witnesses, including staff from the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, a former Coast Guard official regarding boats and docks, a facilities manager and a fish biologist. Their presentation lasted most of the day on June 6.

The LRA case was presented by our attorney, A.J. LaRosa of MSK Attorneys in Burlington, and who has wide experience in environmental law.

Our witnesses included LRA member and boat launch abutter, Kate Haslam, Cat Yoder, our diver, Bruce Zanca, LRA President and Barb Silver, former LRA Co-President. Our team made a strong presentation outlining our objections to the proposed dock, which included concerns about safety, navigation, parking milfoil proliferation, shore frontage limitations and others. It included portions of the LRA Report, mentioned above, and still frames from the video system we installed on the Haslam property next the boat launch. Both sides have until July 14th to submit briefs to presiding Judge Thomas Durkin. We expect to hear the judge's decision in late July or August.

Updates will be posted on our Facebook page.

Other News/ Reminders

- We hope you have registered for the 20th Annual [Lake Rescue Picnic](#) on July 2!
You can do so [here](#). We are making plans for a fabulous event. If you attended last year, you know how great it was! Food will be provided by Off the Rails and there will be live music, an ice cream truck and games for the kids.
Don't Miss Out!
- [Emerald Ash Borer](#): Consider having an inventory of Ash trees on your property, in preparation for our area becoming infested with this insect. Early intervention may save your trees and avoid costly removal later. For more information, Visit this [website](#).
- The Lake Rescue Association [Annual Meeting](#) will be on August 5th at 9am at the Ludlow Auditorium on the 2nd floor of the Town Hall. (Not the Community Center next to the old High School)

Lake Wise Program Comes to Lakes Rescue and Pauline!

A recent study by the EPA showed that Vermont ranked lowest in the northeast ecoregion and in the nation for degraded shallow water habitat. Vermont's degraded conditions for aquatic habitat are directly related to harmful impacts from lakeshore development. The Shoreline Protection Act was passed in Vermont in 2014 to prevent excessive tree removal in proximity to a lake and promote sustainable landscaping within 250' of a shoreline.

'Lake Wise' is a program created by the Vermont Agency for Natural Resources in the same year (2014) to promote lakeside landscaping practices which are proven to help protect the lake. The Lake Wise Program offers help to shoreland property owners who want to reduce erosion and make their property as lake friendly as possible. Shoreline homeowners can take advantage of free property assessments for controlling runoff and erosion, offering solutions for managing their property to make it lake-friendly for all. Homeowners who take advantage of this program can earn the Lake Wise Award to post on their property. (See photo below) In 2022 the DEC (Dept of Environmental Conservation) allocated money to conduct 20 lake assessments on Lake Rescue during 2023 and 2024. Lake Pauline properties can also participate. The organization awarded the contract for this project is Fitzgerald Environmental Associates (FEA), who are very familiar with our lakes from working on the Storm Water Master Plan in Ludlow in 2021 and 2022. Properties will be evaluated by FEA staff according to the Lake Wise criteria for shore, recreation area, driveway, structure and septic. With a passing score in all four criteria, the homeowner will be

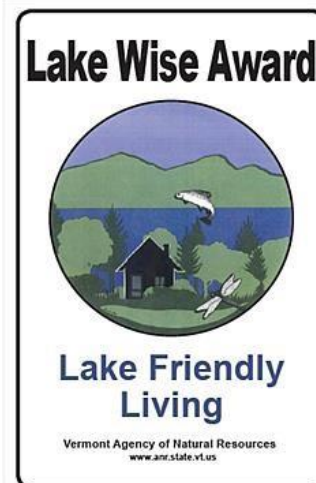
awarded a Lake Wise certification and sign. Assessors will provide the homeowner with a detailed plan with suggested improvements and the homeowner will have three years to work on the plan.

FEA personnel will be at Lake Rescue on **June 23, 30 and July 21** and target conducting 4 assessments each day. We are currently taking reservations for these dates. Lake Pauline assessments will be conducted by state Lake Wise Program staff on dates to be determined. Please contact us right away if you would like to be among the first to take advantage of this opportunity! Email us at lakerescueassn@gmail.com.

We are investigating sourcing discounted native plantings and possible help with installation.

More complete information about the Lake Wise Program can be found [here](#). To get an idea of the kinds of recommendations that they might suggest, see Lakeshore 'Best Management Practices' (BMPs) [here](#).

It is hoped that the Lake Wise program will help create movement towards more lake friendly living around our lakes, thereby greatly reducing runoff, improving protection for wildlife and improving lake water quality. Homeowners whose properties meet the standards will represent a 'model' lake property, with a focus on preserving our beautiful lakes for our grandchildren.





Promoting Water Safety,
Environmental Education &
Improved Water Quality

www.LakeRescue.org

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