



OSSIPEE LAKE REPORT

Volume 9, Issue 1 • January – March 2010

KEY DATES:

- Tuesday, March 9: Ossipee elections. Town Hall, 10AM–7PM.
- Tuesday, March 9: Effingham elections. Town Hall, 11AM–7PM.
- Tuesday, March 9: Freedom Town Meeting (9AM) and elections (9AM–7PM). Town Hall.
- Wednesday, March 10: Ossipee Town Meeting. Town Hall, 6:30PM.
- Saturday, March 13: Effingham Town Meeting. Elementary School, 9AM.

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AND CHANNELS, DANFORTH POND, LOON
LAKE AND ROUND POND

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STATE LEGISLATORS WILL SEEK \$5 MILLION TO FUND MILFOIL CONTROL

CONCORD — Wrapping up a series of meetings it called a “Milfoil Summit,” a group of New Hampshire elected officials, state agency executives and lake associations, including Ossipee Lake Alliance, last month recommended spending \$5 million over the next five years to battle invasive variable milfoil in state lakes and rivers.

The recommendation will be embodied in legislation to be proposed this year, according to State Representative Dick Drisko (R, Hollis), whose N.H. Legislative Exotic Aquatic Weeds and Species Committee (or

“Weeds Committee” for short) originated the summit idea and convened three meetings between October and December.

If passed, the bill, HB 1295, will add \$10 to each boat registration fee. Given that there are approximately 100,000 boats registered in the state, it’s predicted the new fee will raise an additional \$1 million annually to be dedicated to milfoil control as matching funds for projects sponsored by lake communities and associations.

The proposed bill will likely have a “sunset provision,” meaning that it will expire in

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State officials say replacement of the Berry Bay Dam will help reduce the kind of flooding shown in this 1953 photo. Details on the project and additional pictures begin on page 4. *DES Photo*

UNH STUDYING OSSIPEE LAKE’S MUSSELS

Editor’s Note: Researchers have been studying Ossipee Lake and the Natural Area for years. We plan to highlight this work in a series of articles.

By Jim Haney

DURHAM — Although rarely noted in most lakes, *Elliptio complanata*, aka the Eastern Elliptio, is a large freshwater mussel that is widespread throughout much of the Eastern U.S. and occurs in many of the lakes and rivers in New Hampshire.

Because of its unusually sandy bottom, Ossipee Lake is home to a large population of the Eastern Elliptio.

Although *Elliptio* is one of the largest freshwater mussels, it begins its life as microscopic clam-like larvae that obtain their food and transportation by living on the gills of perch, bass and other small fish.

The mother mussel protects her babies, known as glochidia, by keeping them in marsupial pouches in her gills.

When it is time for the young to leave the pouch, she may expose some of her gill tissue to attract fish that unknowingly ingest the glochidia while pecking at the gills. The larvae then move quickly to the gills of the

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OSSIPEE LAKE'S MUSSEL POPULATION LIKELY EXCEEDS FIVE MILLION

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fish where they attach tightly and take up residence for a month or more as relatively harmless parasites.

Once released from their fish hosts, the larvae settle on the lake sediments and begin the second phase of their life cycle, where they assume the ecological role of lake filter-feeders, removing bacteria and phytoplankton as their food source.



In September, 2006, students at the UNH Center for Freshwater Biology initiated a study of the Eastern *Elliptio* population along the Ossipee Lake Natural Area (Long Sands) shoreline. The goal of this study was to compare the health and abundance of the Ossipee Lake *Elliptio* with the *E. complanata* population in Silver Lake of Hollis, NH, a lake that had experienced problems with periodic blooms of toxic cyanobacteria.

Students paddled to the sampling area in canoes and collected mussels by snorkeling, removing all of the mussels from 2x5 meter PVC frames that had been randomly placed on the bottom of the lake at a depth of 1.5 meters (approximately 5 ft.).

The shell dimensions of each mussel were measured and the mussel was then placed on a balance to determine its total weight. Ages of the *Elliptio* were determined by counting the annuli, or rings, on the surface of the shell.

Old individuals add only tiny increments of shell each year and some erosion of the shell may also occur. Thus, this method of aging is approximate and may underestimate the age of older animals.

The results were striking. Mussels from Ossipee Lake were older (an average of 12.5 years) than those from Silver Lake, with an average age of about eight years. The oldest of the 38 mussels collected was estimated as 22 years, whereas the oldest of the 138 Silver Lake mus-

sels was 18 years old.

The mussels in the Ossipee Lake population were considerably larger for their age than the Silver Lake mussels, indicating the *Elliptio* in Ossipee were in a healthier state.

However, the *Elliptio* population in Ossipee Lake was less than one-third the density of the Silver Lake population (an average of 1.6 versus 5.5 mussels per square meter of sediment).

Some of the mussels were taken to the UNH laboratory where they were fed suspensions of algae to determine their clearance rates, (i.e. how much water they can clear of algae per hour).

Ossipee mussels cleared an average of 1 liter of lake water per hour, about 25% faster than their Silver Lake counterparts. Thus, the typical mussel in Ossipee filters roughly 6 gallons of water every day.

To determine the total population size of *Elliptio* in Ossipee Lake, we extrapolated from the mussel density at the Natural Area shoreline and assumed that the other shallow areas of the lake (1-3 meters) have comparable populations of mussels, an assumption that needs to be verified. From this calculation, the total number of *Elliptio* in Ossipee Lake is approximately 5 million mussels.

Using the clearance rates determined in the laboratory, the mussels in Ossipee Lake could



be filtering the algae and bacteria from as much as 30 million gallons of lake water per day, a sizeable task and valuable ecological service, and

it is done "free of charge." Of course, these very rough estimates could be refined and improved by examining the mussel population densities in other areas of the lake.

Estimates from a Canadian study indicate that recruitment to the *Elliptio* population can be as slow as 1-2% per year, indicating the population would be slow to recover from losses from natural predators such as muskrats, otter and beaver, as well as from disturbances by the activities of people.

Based on field observations in other lakes, the mussels undergo seasonal migrations into the

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OSSIPEE LAKE REPORT:

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STATE LEGISLATORS WILL SEEK \$10 MILLION TO FUND MILFOIL CONTROL

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five years unless renewed or revised through new legislation.

Drisko said the goal of the spending bill will be to narrow the funding gap between milfoil prevention – keeping milfoil out of lakes and rivers – and milfoil control, which keeps existing milfoil infestations in check.

DES Commissioner Tom Burack put the milfoil control funding issue in perspective at the first summit meeting in October. He said his agency's \$450,000 milfoil budget was funded by capturing \$5 from each New Hampshire boat registration.

Almost all of that money went to support milfoil prevention through research, education and outreach initiatives such as the Lake Host and Weed Watchers programs. What was left over – \$60,000 – became the milfoil control budget.

Since DES received requests to help fund \$575,000 in control projects last year, 90% of the state's known milfoil control needs were left up in the air, either to be funded locally, deferred or canceled.

Thanks to a recent increase in the portion of boat registration fees that is allocated to DES' milfoil programs - from \$5 to \$7.50 - the agency hopes to apply \$160,000 to \$200,000 to control projects this year. Drisko says the increase will help but it isn't enough.

"We need a full-court press on milfoil," he said at the summit, "and the state must take the lead in meeting the funding need."

Tapping State Expertise

The Milfoil Summit was apparently the first effort of its kind to connect diverse lake stakeholders for a discussion on the history, status and future treatment of infestations; and to review studies on the size and scope of the issue, including identifying lessons learned on control and eradication methods and funding.

In addition to DES Commissioner Burack, state officials Glenn Normandeau, Executive Director of NH Fish & Game, and Dave Barrett, Director, Bureau of Marine Patrol, Department of Safety, attended summit sessions.

Lake associations and milfoil committees also attended, including individuals from Squam Lakes Association and the towns of Barnstead, Center Harbor, Meredith, Moultonboro and Wolfeboro. Ossipee Lake Alliance board member Bob Reynolds represented the Ossipee Lake community at the meetings.

Since New Hampshire has the highest number

of variable milfoil infestations of any state in the nation, DES is likely the most knowledgeable agency in the country when it comes to understanding how to control invasive weeds.

Currently the state has five accepted tools for milfoil control: (1) Hand-pulling by certified weed control divers; (2) Diver-assisted suction harvesting using "DASH" units to increase divers' productivity; (3) Benthic barriers, which are mats that smother the weeds; (4) Herbicide treatments, primarily Aqua Kleen or Navigate (2,4-D); and (5) Draining the lake.

DES has learned that applying these tools under what it calls an Integrated Pest Management Approach, using five-year management plans, can significantly increase the effectiveness of milfoil control activities.

State specialists will inspect areas of milfoil infestation and develop a management plan as a no-cost service to lake communities and associations. Locally, DES created a management plan for Danforth Pond last year with help from Ossipee Lake Alliance and the Friends of Danforth Pond.

Such management plans capitalize on and are guided by DES' experience from around the state. For example, when infestations are too large for divers to control, a herbicide treatment can significantly "knock it down" but not completely kill it. That means hand-pulling by divers is required after the treatment to keep the weeds at a manageable level.

Lessons Learned

Summit attendees from state towns and lakes offered suggestions based on their best practices and lessons learned, including:

- Forming a centralized Milfoil Committee for better coordination of control efforts, either sanctioned by a town government or operated by a lake association. Such coordination is especially useful on large lakes where multiple communities are affected by invasives.
- Establishing a Milfoil Trust Fund supported by annual contributions from town budgets, state money (as available) and local fundraising efforts. A centralized fund built around a comprehensive management plan is especially useful for lakes with multiple communities, in that it provides a holistic view of the lake's needs.
- Involving and working with all local stakeholders, including state agencies, property owners, businesses, boaters, fishermen and

N.H. LEGISLATIVE EXOTIC AQUATIC WEEDS & SPECIES COMMITTEE

- Rep. Dick Drisko, Chair (R, Hollis)
- Rep. Jane Beaulieu (D, Manchester)
- Rep. Chris Christensen (R, Merrimack)
- Don Foudriat (Public, Sanbornton)
- Sen. Amanda Merrill (D, Durham)
- Rep. David Russell (R, Gilmanton)
- Rep. Frank Tupper (D, Canterbury)
- Stewart Lamprey (former President, NH Senate, & Speaker of the House)

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REPAIR PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPORTANCE OF OSSIPEE LAKE'S DAM

Editor's Note: The following, written by Kent Finemore of DES as part of the permitting process for repairs to the Ossipee Lake Dam, provides a history of the dam and its importance to the lake.

The Ossipee Lake Dam actually consists of two structures: a concrete head works structure with five sluice gates and a concrete gravity spillway. Because there is a small island that separates these two structures, they were once considered two dams: the Head Works Dam (gates) and the Berry Bay Dam (spillway).

The two dams collectively are often referred to as the Ossipee Lake Dam because they act as a single hydraulic feature.

Need for Repairs

The original Berry Bay Dam spillway was constructed in 1878. DES records indicate that the spillway was reconstructed in 1919.

The spillway was completely reconstructed in 1944 and has been repaired several times since then. However, it is now deteriorated to the point where it is again in need of urgent repairs.

The concrete piers of the spillway have cracked and are in danger of failing.

Also, the concrete of the spillway has deteriorated to the point where reinforcing steel has been exposed, further threatening the integrity of the structure.

Failure of the structure would result in property damage downstream and the loss of the 4,100-acre Ossipee Lake, an important recreational resource to the state, the shoreline of which is heavily developed with permanent and seasonal residences.

In addition to its structural deficiencies, the spillway of the dam does not have sufficient

discharge capacity to safely pass floods. During flooding in 1998, the lack of the capacity to pass the flood water through the dam resulted in high water levels in Ossipee Lake which caused considerable flood damage to shoreline communities, residences and businesses.

In the aftermath, the state paid out over \$70,000 in public assistance funds to the municipal governments of the three towns of Ossipee,

Effingham and Freedom for losses suffered by the municipal governments from the flood event. Private and business losses at just one of the campgrounds surrounding the lake totaled nearly \$1 million.

Project Objectives

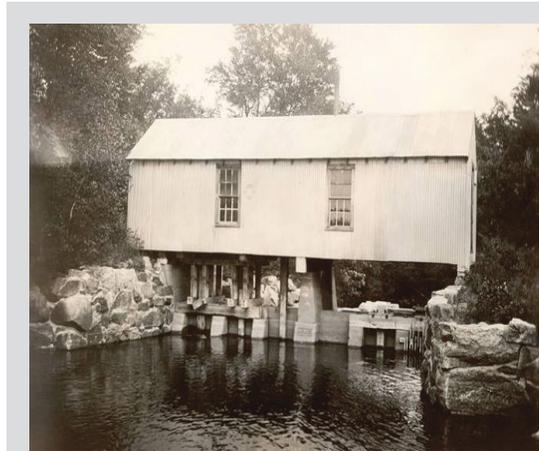
The proposed work is required to prevent the structure from failure; to add needed discharge capacity to the spillway to reduce the extent of property damage during flood events; and to comply with the requirements of New Hampshire state statutes and regulations pertaining to dam safety. The only feasible option is to replace the dam.

Preliminary Plans

Preliminary plans include using the left overbank area

(looking downstream) as the access and staging area for construction. DES records indicate that previous work on the spillway (Berry Bay Dam) has been staged from the right side of the dam (the Head Works side). An access was cleared to the site from the left side off Parsons Road in Freedom several years ago.

While the left overbank area gets inundated at least once in most years as water levels in the lake reach 410.0 (the Natural Mean High Water Mark elevation), our files do not document that the left overbank area has ever been



Gatehouse of the Head Works Dam (top) and the Ossipee River channel, circa 1930. Photos: DES

STATE HOPES REPAIRS WILL REDUCE FLOODING

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significantly disturbed by excavation or other work. The canal constructed for the Head Works Dam, the parking area adjacent to the right side, and the use of these areas and the island between the two structures have resulted in significant disturbance over time of the right side of the river bank and the island.

Our intent at this time is to construct a replacement dam just downstream of the existing dam. The justifications for doing so include the following:

- Greater discharge capacity to mitigate flooding and enhance public safety.
- A more standard dam design with low level gate potential will enhance operations to help mitigate flooding.
- Addresses erosion issues downstream and along the left overbank.
- Helps meet Dam Safety requirements.

History

In 1878 and 1879, the Saco Water Power Company built the canal at Effingham Falls and a dam with gates at the head of the canal.

The dam was originally built to store water for the hydroelectric power generated at downstream plants.

No other information is available in Dam Bureau files about the original dam, including the extent to which the other channel was dammed to control outflow (what would now be the Berry Bay Dam).

The Department of Environmental Services (DES) acquired the Ossipee Lake Dam from the Central Main Power Company in 1992.

DES records suggest that the Ossipee Lake Dam was reconstructed in 1919; however, there is little information in the files regarding

the original designer or contractor and plans or documents pertaining to the original construction.

According to construction plans dated 1944 (USAC, 1978), extensive modifications were made to the primary spillway (Berry Bay Dam) including construction of the service bridge, installation of the hinged stanchions and provisions for additional stoplogs.

Repairs were made to the Berry Bay Dam in 1968, 1985, 1990 (significant repairs to the principal spillway), and the Head Works Dam in 1995 (new gates and gatehouse), and in 2000 (right abutment of Head Works Dam).

Elevated Levels and Flooding

The watershed for Ossipee Lake is large in comparison to its storage capacity, which has resulted in elevated levels almost every year that inundate the left overbank and more significant flooding in some years.

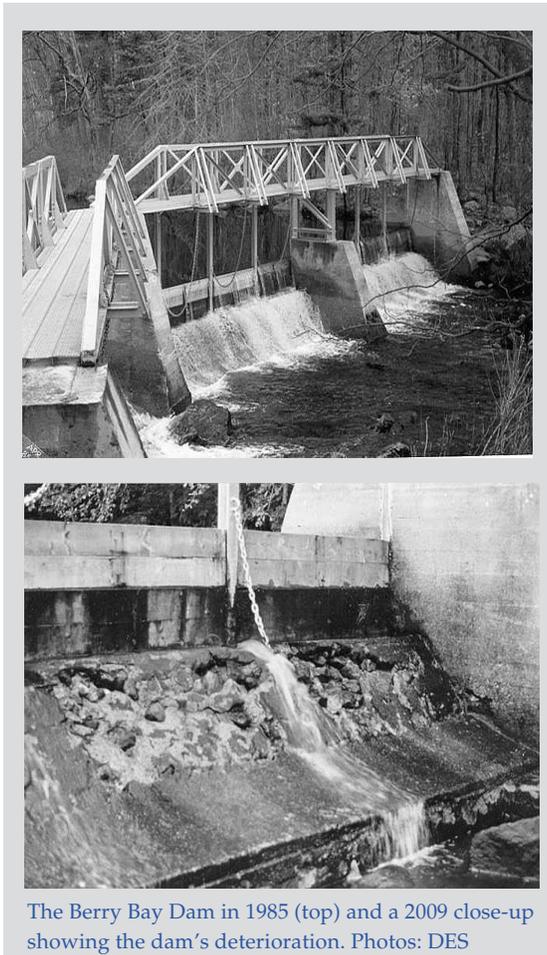
The most damaging flood on record occurred in 1998 when the watershed experienced 12 inches of rain over seven days, raising the lake level approximately nine feet over typical

summer elevations.

High flow conditions at the dam, which generally occur at least once a year, inundate the left overbank area of the Berry Bay Dam.

DES records and field survey work do not indicate the existence of any structures historically in the left overbank area, which may or may not stand to reason since that area often gets inundated to a distance of 60-100 feet from the edge of the river.

Other significant flood event years include 1936, 1953, 1969, 1976, and 1987.



The Berry Bay Dam in 1985 (top) and a 2009 close-up showing the dam's deterioration. Photos: DES

LAKE AULD LANG SYNE 2009

OSSIPEE—One of the lake's oldest and largest businesses was the year's biggest news story, and it was not a happy one. Westward Shores Campground and Marina filed for bankruptcy protection in July; but what led up to the filing, and what followed, made the story even more newsworthy.

Condo Plan

In early May, returning campers received a memo saying campsites would be sold as "condo units" and down payments would be accepted until the end of the month. The condo conversion, according to the property's managers, was the idea of long-time customers who wanted equity in their sites.

Within hours, however, dozens of campers took to the Internet to dispute the claim that the idea came from campers, and to accuse principal owner Charlie Smith of running the business into the ground and masking its deteriorating financial condition.

Smith downplayed the allegations, but within weeks his primary lender foreclosed and set a date for an auction sale. Negotiations ensued, but Smith and co-owner Anthony Aversa ultimately filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

There was no protection to be had from a vocal segment of campers, however. They continued to complain online that they were being kept in the dark, and they called for a general meeting to get their questions answered and their concerns addressed. But it never happened.

Westy Shores

Enter "Westy Shores," an anonymous online correspondent with an apparent insider's knowledge of the business who positioned himself (or herself) as a kind of online Robin Hood, promising to take up the campers' cause and fill the information void.

Using the email address "WWSWatchdog," "Westy" distributed an array of court documents - from cash flow projections to a list of the campground's creditors to an accounting of who was being paid what during the bankruptcy period - peppered with commentary and questions.

Sometimes taunting the owners, "Westy" more typically spoke directly to campers to define legal terms, explain courtroom proceedings and urge everyone to stay informed.

After recommending that campers ask the court to establish an escrow account to protect deposits for the 2010 season, about a dozen did so.

Since the bankruptcy filing in July, the camp-

ground's principals have declined to speak on the record, citing the ongoing legal case. Campground manager John Hardie did, however, publicly offer to meet individually with any camper at any time, an offer that still stands.

At the end of November the court authorized the owners to hire a law firm to continue pursuing the condo plan while work proceeds on reorganizing the business.

Accidents

In another major news story, 38-year old Massachusetts resident Chris Haynes died when his snowmobile hit an embankment near Berry Bay and he was thrown from his machine.

After learning that emergency crews had difficulty reaching the accident scene, Haynes' family turned their grief into positive action by raising money to buy Freedom a winter emergency transport vehicle called a "snow-bulette."

Weeks before Haynes' accident, two visiting snowmobilers went through the ice near Spindle Point, and one of the operators was in the water for 30 minutes before being rescued. Year-round residents warned visitors that parts of the lake can't hold the weight of snowmobiles even during the coldest months; and one posted a map online showing the places to avoid.

Spring rescues of kayakers are common on the Saco, but the rescue of a kayaker on the Bearcamp in June was a reminder that our rivers can be dangerous too.

Swollen by heavy rains, the river pinned the kayaker to a downed tree and then swamped the fire department's airboat after it was sent to the rescue. No one was injured, but officials said the kayaker's life jacket probably saved his life.

Law & Order

It took two trials, but Ossipee Lake resident Sean Fitzpatrick was convicted of murdering his lake neighbor, Michael Zamitti, Jr., and another man, a bystander, at a business near Boston.

At the trial, Zamitti's wife tearfully testified she had been having an affair with Fitzpatrick, and the case was covered in lurid detail on the "Dateline NBC" crime program.

In Concord, Assistant State Attorney General Richard Head approved environmental violator Donald Lee's application for a home equity loan despite a pending Superior Court motion to give Ossipee Bluffs Association a lien on Lee's property for its full value.

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"Sometimes taunting the owners, "Westy" more typically spoke directly to campers to...urge everyone to stay informed."

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Continued from previous page

A judge issued an emergency order overruling Head and granting the Bluffs group its lien. It's expected that the cost of the state-ordered remediation of Lee's damage to Ossipee Lake will exceed the value of his property.

A group of Freedom residents, including several former town officials, used the Right to Know law to establish that the town spent more than \$20,000 defending the ZBA's 2007 decision to abandon the boat storage limits it previously set for Ossipee Lake Marina.

The storage limits were restored by a Superior Court judge in January, but in June the Selectmen voted to appeal the decision to N.H. Supreme Court after marina owner Kevin Price said he would pay for it.

Hiker and mountain mapmaker Bob Garrison found himself under suspicion by state officials after new trails were discovered blazed on easement lands in the Ossipee Mountains. The property was closed to the public but later re-opened after Garrison, who calls himself the "Trail Bandit," admitted he made the trails by removing vegetation and spraying herbicides.

Milfoil Madness

Last minute scheduling problems caused the postponement of a \$15,000 project to treat Danforth Pond's milfoil with chemicals.

During the winter, funding for the project was cobbled together after the state said it couldn't help because it had just \$60,000 in its budget to cover \$450,000 in proposed milfoil control projects. The Danforth Pond treatment is now scheduled for this spring.

Pickerel Cove, at the tip of Broad Bay near Cassie Cove, became the sixth location in the lake system to succumb to milfoil infestation. The milfoil was confirmed by DES after residents reported it to Ossipee Lake Alliance.

Ossipee officials are considering the state's recommendation to treat the weeds with the chemical 2,4-D in the spring, a plan that will require replenishing the town's milfoil fund at Town Meeting.

Local Landmarks

It was a good year for local landmarks, including the Freedom Village Store. Volunteers revived the historic site as a place to socialize over coffee and as a destination for visitors looking for a slice of country life. Under manager Nancy Griffin, nights of music, poetry and story-telling were added to the mix.

North on Route 153, a last minute deal was struck to save the Eaton Village Store after

funds were found to purchase an easement for a new septic system on adjacent land. Eaton's favorite gathering spot for breakfast and lunch, the store doubles as the town's post office.

There was also a happy ending to last year's fire at Kranky Frankie's on Route 16 in Ossipee with the planned reopening of the building as a 99-seat restaurant. The owners named it Sunny Villa after the 1930s-era family restaurant that served visitors and residents for more than 50 years at the site.

In Freedom, a plan to buy land and move municipal functions to a new complex on Ossipee Lake Road was put on hold after a group of residents organized as Freedom Cares and argued the change would alter the character of the village and leave historic buildings empty.

Voters at Town Meeting agreed, and an architectural firm was hired to put all options on the table, including updating and refurbishing the current Town Office building. Eventually voters will decide which plan will prevail.

Funny or Dumb?

An April news release on the CMI Motorsports website said the company would start work on its long-stalled Tamworth racetrack thanks to an \$18.5 million award of federal stimulus funds. Area contractors were invited to bid on the work, but were furious when they learned the announcement was a joke.

Even after the hoax was revealed by a reporter, company officials left the notice posted for another ten days, saying they hoped it would flush out "the perpetrator."

In what sounded like a hoax but was true, a state press release announced that the Madison Boulder was for sale, along with 27 other state-owned properties that were no longer "viable" because they cost money to maintain and don't generate revenue.

Before anyone had a chance to consider purchasing and monetizing the 5,000 ton glacial erratic – the biggest in New England and one of the largest in the world – the state changed its mind and withdrew the offer.

Notables

Lake residents Jennifer Molin, Dennis Gould and Jean and Ian Marshall deserve special mentions this year, as do DRED's Don Kent and DES's Amy Smagula. At the Independent, newly-hired reporter Daymond Steer got off to a great start with his article about the Thurrell family reunions on the big lake.

To everyone who volunteered, contributed or otherwise helped out, all the best for 2010!

"In what sounded like a hoax but was true, the state offered to sell the Madison Boulder because it doesn't generate any revenue."

LEGISLATORS RECOMMEND MAJOR NEW FUNDING FOR MILFOIL CONTROL

vacationers.

- Maintaining consistency is essential. Experience shows that control projects must be strategically planned and managed without gaps in the program. A control treatment followed by several years of inactivity leads to a stronger, larger re-infestation.

- Milfoil control requires continuous work and continuous funding. On Squam Lake, more than \$30,000 has been spent each year for the past eight years. Some \$90,000 has been spent during the past three years for milfoil in Lake Winnepesaukee's Smith Cove, and the town of Wolfeboro has spent \$80,000 on control efforts since 2005.

Studies Cited

At one of the summit meetings, John Halstead of UNH and Anne Nordstrom of Antioch University discussed a 2006 study designed to predict how changes in water quality, including milfoil infestation, might affect the state's economy.

In a survey of residents and visitors who recreate on the state's lakes, 69% of the respondents said they would reduce their visits to state waters if water quality declined.

Such a reduction would have the potential for an \$18 million annual hit to state revenue and the loss of 800 jobs.

In another noteworthy finding, researchers project there is a 1% to 6% reduction in lake-front property values for every one-meter reduction in water clarity.

This study also found that milfoil control costs range from \$150 to \$1,500 per acre per year.

For the 50 acres of milfoil infestation currently identified in the Ossipee Lake system, the projected cost of controlling milfoil could range from \$7,500 to \$75,000 annually depending on the final management plans selected.

Ossipee Lake Alliance recently estimated that more than \$150,000 has been spent locally to control milfoil since 1995, with just 16% of that total paid for by the state.

Outcome Uncertain

Stewart Lamprey, former Speaker of the N.H. House and President of the N.H. Senate, will help shepherd the milfoil funding bill through the legislative process.

Given current economic conditions and state budget problems, passage will be an uphill battle.

Finding money for new programs is considered to be so difficult that some legislators privately predict that any bill requesting new funding will be 'dead on arrival' in the legislature.

Considering all of the steps in the legislative process and the timing of generating money from boat registrations, it's also likely funding won't be realized until 2011.

Even so, Drisko and his fellow Weeds Committee members are optimistic about the funding bill's prospects.

"Funding remains the crux of the situation," Drisko said at the Milfoil Summit's closing session. Added Lamprey, "politics is the art of the possible."

Ossipee Lake Alliance will report on the bill's progress at www.ossipeelake.org.

MUSSELS PROVIDE NATURAL FILTRATION

Continued from page 2

sediments. During the summer, over 90% of the *Elliptio* population resides in the surface sediments whereas by late fall, up to 60% of the population buries itself down to about 1 foot deep in the mud.

Thus, during the summer mussel populations in the shallow water are most exposed and susceptible to the potential impacts of swimmers and boats.

To determine whether there are any measurable impacts of boating activities at the Long Sands recreation area, UNH initiated a class research project this summer in which mussels were collected in the waters off the protected and mooring areas.

More than 100 mussels were collected from each of the two areas. Each mussel was measured, weighed and given an age assessment. A numbered tag was glued to the shell of each mussel to allow it to be identified if recaptured at a later date.

From this information we hope to detect changes in the size structure of the population as well as individual growth rates to determine whether boating and swimming are negatively impacting this important component of the Ossipee Lake food web.

Jim Haney is a professor with the UNH Center for Freshwater Biology, Department of Biological Sciences, in Durham.

"The mussels in Ossipee Lake could be filtering the algae and bacteria from as much as 30 million gallons of lake water per day."



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OSSIPEE LAKE REPORT - WINTER 2010



INSIDE:

- Funding Proposed for Milfoil Control
- UNH Studying Lake's Mussels
- Repairs Highlight Dam's Importance
- Lake Auld Lang Syne 2009
- For the Memories

Preserve. Protect. Educate.

