

# PARTRIDGE LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Spring 2020

## *A Lake Preservation Group*

### Which of these well-known expressions would you wish to describe your personal fate?

***May the road rise up to meet you.***

***May the wind be always at your back.***

***May the sun shine warm upon your face  
and until we meet again, May God hold you  
in the palm of His hand.***

#### ***MAY YOU LIVE IN INTERESTING TIMES.***

Most of us prefer the first, a comforting blessing rather than the second, an ironic unsettling curse. The time in which we currently live is certainly interesting. Unprecedented conditions require us to isolate and separate; the future is uncertain. The economy is upset, unemployment is high, and we can't predict an end point. Yet, how fortunate we are to live here and belong to the Partridge Lake community. In all my adult life, I've never experienced a community like it. We all seem to enjoy, appreciate, and support each other. When we first intruded ourselves into this community, I feared that unless one were a third or fourth generation Yankee, one might not be warmly welcomed. The opposite is true. If any of us needs help, we aren't alone. We can count on each other. We are extremely fortunate to be living in an area where risk of COVID-19 infection is low, and we can count on the support and friendship of our Partridge Lake neighbors.

Our Warrant Article # 5, ***Partridge Lake Phosphate Reduction Study*** passed with a 73% majority. 60% was required. The PLPOA Board of Directors made things happen. Scott Manning with his employees organized and facilitated the mailing to the residents of Littleton. Pamela Parker and Nina Johannessen designed and ordered the "Vote YES on Article 5" signage, and Pamela and Albert Howes installed the signs around town. Scott and the Coreys installed the large banner signs on their business properties. Eames Realty made space available on Cottage Street for a banner. Tonya and Greg Eastman contacted influential Littleton residents asking them to write letters to the editors of the Caledonian and Courier newspapers. Letters were written by Ed Hennessey, Schuyler Sweet, and others. Greg and Scott contacted reporters at the newspapers and facilitated articles educating the public. Dave Ernsberger facilitated the printing of the banner signs, and arranged for Steve Landry of the NH DES to speak, which he did eloquently, at the Deliberative Session. Rob Ellingwood, Liz Gattone, Muffy Copenhaver, Ed Hennessey, Greg Eastman, Megan Carmen, Pamela, Nina, Jill, Tonya, Scott, Albert and I stood outside the voting venue, holding "Vote YES" signs. Thanks to everyone who contributed; thanks to all of you who live in Littleton, voted for Article 5 and encouraged your friends to do the same. This was an amazing and effective group effort, and please let me know if I have failed to mention someone who helped with this water quality project and warrant article.

In recent weeks, significant progress has been made toward identifying and selecting a highly qualified consulting group to perform the study being funded by the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) approved via Article 5. Steve Landry and Katie Zinc of the Watershed Assistance Section at NH DES and Mike Welch of North Country Investment Corporation (consultant to Town of Littleton) wrote, advertised, and distributed a Request for Qualifications, requesting proposals from qualified firms and individuals. The submissions received were evaluated and scored by a committee of Steve Landry, Katie Zinc, Burt Bechtel, Dave Ernsberger, Tom Norris, and John Schultz. Two finalists, scoring 94.5 and 95.5 (out of 100) will be interviewed via video conference on May 13, and one will be selected soon thereafter.

The study will potentially take as long as two years, although we will encourage the consultants to make it shorter. Following the study, we will need to secure funding to implement the consultant's recommendations. It has been estimated that the entire process, study through completed implementation, may take as long as five years. I will definitely provide periodic updates and keep the PLPOA members informed.

John Schultz, *President PLPOA*



# Taking Care Of Our Precious Loons

Last year we had an incident at Partridge Lake where 1 of our 2 chicks was either sick, hit by a boat, or some other incident befell it. The loon was then weak and attacked continuously by the healthy chick. Unfortunately, we were not highly aware of the situation or how to help the chick. By the time we did contact authorities, and they came to rescue the chick, it died on the way to recovery in the car.



Here are some ways in which we can help protect the Loons when fishing and boating.

## **FISHING: PROTECTING LOONS FROM LEAD**

“With the help of collaborating veterinarians, the LPC (Loon Preservation Committee) has obtained a necropsy (animal autopsy) for every dead loon that we have recovered since 1989. **These necropsies reveal that lead poisoning from ingested lead fishing sinkers and lead-headed jigs is the largest cause of known adult loon mortality in New Hampshire.** Since 1989, lead poisoning from lead fishing tackle has accounted for 42% of documented loon deaths in New Hampshire.”

*(Loon Preservation Committee website)*

## **BOATING**

Since the 4th of July falls on a Saturday in 2020, we need to be especially vigilant. **Last summer the chicks were less than a week old on the week of July 4th.** Let's try to be mindful and know where the Loons are at all times when boating.

Here's a couple of suggestions:

- A. Scope the lake to locate the loons before beginning tubing or skiing.
- B. Have a dedicated spotter strictly to keep an eye out for the loons.
- C. Leave clear information to any renters regarding fishing and boating and our loons.

## **A BIT OF LOON KNOWLEDGE**

*(All copied from The Loon Preservation Society website)*

Adult loons provide high levels of parental care to their chicks until the chicks reach fledging age (typically around 12 weeks of age). Because of this extended period of care, loons have only one brood of chicks per year. Loon chicks are vulnerable to predation and attacks by intruding loons. Due to nest failures, loss of chicks, or years in which pairs do not nest, the average loon pair in New Hampshire successfully raises just one chick to fledging age every two years.

This slow rate of reproduction is counterbalanced by the loon's long lifespan – the oldest loon of known age in New Hampshire is over 30 years old. This means that although loons produce few chicks each year, they have the potential to produce many chicks over the course of their lifetime. Because of this, the viability of our loon population relies heavily on adult loon survival.

**1-2 Days:** Newly hatched chicks are covered in dark downy feathers above with white bellies. Unlike adult loons, a young loon chick is able to walk upright on land. Although they can swim immediately after hatching, chicks spend a lot of time riding on their parents' backs during the first several days of their lives. This helps to regulate their body temperature and protects them from underwater predators. Chicks are entirely dependent on their parents for food, and one adult typically remains on the water's surface with the chicks while the other catches fish and feeds them.

**1 Week:** The legs, feet, and head, which are needed for swimming and food capture, begin to grow. Chicks are better able to regulate their own body temperatures and may spend more time in the water on their own, though back riding is still common. They are able to swim to the bottom of shallow areas, probe and search around objects, and chase fish.

**2 Weeks:** Chicks molt into a second downy plumage that is a lighter brown color. They are able to swim underwater erratically for lengths up to 50 feet. Parents may begin leaving chicks alone on the water's surface while both dive for food to feed them.

**3 Weeks:** Loon chick bodies begin to elongate. Their bills also begin to lengthen. Juvenile feathers begin to develop on white underparts. As their bodies grow and begin to take on the characteristic shape of loons, they lose the ability to walk upright on land.

**4 Weeks:** Growth of juvenile primary feathers begins. At this age chicks have become too large to back ride, though they may still try.

**5 Weeks:** By 5 weeks of age, chicks look a little unkempt as their juvenile contour feathers begin to develop. They can capture small prey items for themselves but remain dependent on parents for food.

**8-9 Weeks:** Growth of legs, feet, and head begin to slow. Juvenile plumage has fully developed, enabling chicks to compress air out of feathers and dive efficiently. Chicks can forage independently and capture about 50% of their daily food. They begin exercising their wings to prepare for flight.

**12 Weeks:** By 12 weeks of age, loon chicks reach fledging age and become independent. They may take their first flight, and they eat fish of similar size to adults. At this stage, the second parent may migrate to the ocean, leaving chicks entirely alone on their natal lakes. Chicks typically leave their lakes 1-2 weeks after their parents, though some remain into the early winter.

**If anyone witnesses a loon in distress, please contact the Loon Preservation Society at (603)476-5666.**



# Kids Korner

## What Partridge Lake Means to Me

By Maggie Krejci

The first thing I think of when I hear the word summer is New Hampshire. At the end of the long car ride up to Partridge Lake, we cross the green bridge over the Connecticut River at Monroe, and I stick my head out the window to smell the pure air with hints of pine. The scent brings memories of waking up each morning to go to the Coffee Pot, running barefoot on the warm pavement to Rochelle's house to go tubing, and late-night campfires filled with stories and s'mores. As I grow older the memories change, but the old ones remain redolent in my mind.

About four years ago I decided to bring my best friend, Aneka, to the lake. She, of course, had heard all about Partridge Lake, Log Haven, and most importantly the water trampoline, but she had never experienced these things for herself. She loved it from the first moment she arrived. On that first day we spent every sunny hour on the lake and came in for dinner à la Mimi: classic spaghetti and meat sauce. As soon as we finished, we decided to take the dinghy across the lake to introduce Aneka to Rochelle. Paddling over, we kept splashing Sophie, until she jumped into the water in her sundress. After we scooped Rochelle, we all swam back across the lake in our sundresses, a moment I will never forget. After about two years of visiting with us in the summer, Aneka told me that New Hampshire was her second home. At first, I was surprised, as she had only visited for a couple of weeks, but then I realized that it is true. Partridge Lake becomes a part of everyone who visits. Whether it's the warm friendships we forge, or the natural beauty of the lake and its sunsets, Partridge Lake is unforgettable. Just like Aneka had said, Partridge Lake is and always will be my second home.

## Growing up on Partridge Lake

By Sophie Krejci

Partridge Lake is why I fail my math tests. Honors pre-calc, fourth period, every other day, is a class I should probably be putting more effort into; however, I cannot help but daydream about endless summer days on the lake. I've been visiting the lake every year since I was born, (actually since before I was born, as my mother needed to imprint the lake on me before any other "densely populated" body of water ever got a chance.) When I stare out the window of my high school and daydream, I fantasize about sunbathing with a glass of tangy lemonade in one hand, and my Mimi's famous grilled cheese in the other. I envision swimming all day, just to wake up and do it all again. Which, on a side note, is still my daily lake routine, even though I am now 17. Going to Partridge Lake, however, is always about more than just the weather, the water, and an unhealthy diet. Partridge Lake for me is a place where I go to see my whole family in one place: The Straws, Keffers, Neaveses, and the Krejcis, all sitting together on one tiny dock. It is a place where people visit and chat, like the Eames on their daily walk. Partridge Lake brought me to the Eastmans, who are some of my best friends and who I miss dearly on this cold February day. Even more so, I look forward to the Fourth of July picnic every year and I'm convinced Independence Day is my favorite holiday solely because I get to spend it on the lake. I feel that this anecdote is supposed to be growing up on the lake, but I would like to point out that I still have one more summer before I am officially an adult. So, believe me when I say that I intend to make the most of my last year of childhood on the lake!



