

PARTRIDGE LAKE

PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Spring 2019

A Lake Preservation Group

Promoting Boating Safety on Partridge Lake

In an ongoing effort to enhance our safe enjoyment of this beautiful lake, the PLPOA Board wanted to remind our boating community of some current trends and best practices in safe boating operation. The United States Coast Guard, in association with state marine patrols, collects and publishes detailed annual statistics concerning their investigations of all recreational boating accidents that result in significant property damage, serious injury or death. Those statistics and charts represent literally hundreds of human tragedies that occurred across this country in the past year. Without question, many of those accidents could have been prevented by following safer boating practices.

Over the years the boats on Partridge Lake have evolved from rowboats, canoes and an occasional sailboat to our current mix of numerous powerful open motorboats, pontoon boats, kayaks, and most recently, paddleboards. High-speed powerboats have certainly added to the excitement of our water sports, but they also call for a much greater focus on safe operation. Let's take a look at several safety concerns that have recently been identified by the Coast Guard and the State.

Recreational Powerboat Collisions

Collisions by fast moving powerboats are the number one boating accident that results in serious injuries or death. It's no surprise that the USCG data identifies boating operator inattention as the primary cause - often compounded by alcohol consumption. Since two boats traveling at 35 miles per hour can collide with an impact similar to a boat hitting a stationary object at 70 MPH, the potential for serious injury is real. A boat, skier or tuber striking a dock or navigation marker is the second most common accident resulting in serious injury. Investigations into the causes of these accidents suggest two obvious remedies:

- 1. Drivers must always face forward, and leave alcohol until after the boating.**
- 2. COUNTER-CLOCKWISE IS THE RIGHT WAY.**



Our relatively small lake has a long-standing rule of counter-clockwise travel by boats. Observing that rule greatly reduces the potential for head-on collisions. It is vitally important to comply with the counter-clockwise flow of boat traffic and to make visitors and especially renters aware of the rule.

Boating After Sunset

Our ability to see and avoid stationary objects, other boats, swimmers, and wildlife (think loons) is obviously greatly diminished after sundown. In fact, the state of New Hampshire and the Coast Guard recommend a nighttime maximum speed of only 6 miles per hour, just slightly faster than walking, when traveling within 150 feet of the shore, other boats or any stationary objects. It's also a good idea to occasionally check that your "navigation lights" - the red and green light on the bow and the elevated white light at the stern, are working properly.

Bow Riding

"Open Bow" power boats are a design trend that seems here to stay. Boats that feature seats ahead of the driver increase the seating capacity considerably. The State cautions that occasionally passengers in these boats will sit on the hull edge rather than down on the seats. Apparently that practice has resulted in passengers being "ejected" from the boat - especially when the boat quickly slows to retrieve a fallen skier or tuber. This has also happened with children riding on the front edge of pontoon boats. The solution seems simple - insist that your passengers sit in the boat, not on the boat.

Thank you for taking time to read these suggestions. We all want the same thing - for Partridge Lake to be the most fun and safest lake possible for our families and friends.

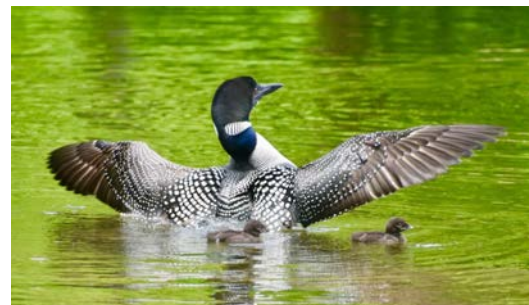
The PLPOA placed a warrant article on the 2019 Town of Littleton ballot for the purpose of securing funding from the New Hampshire Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

This funding source provides loans which must be made to municipalities. Private entities are not eligible to receive the funds directly; therefore we were obligated to request the assistance of the town. Because this loan was considered a “bond”, the article required a 60% majority vote in order to pass. 672 (59.36%) voted YES; 460 vote NO and defeated the article. We were only eight (8) votes short of the 1132 voters.

The article was approved by the Littleton Budget Committee 8-0 and by the Select Board 3-0. The voters who attended the Deliberative Session a few weeks before the Town Meeting Day voted overwhelmingly to place the article on the ballot. The article language stated that there would be no tax impact to the taxpayers of Littleton. With all this positive support, why was the article defeated? Why were 460 voters negative? We can only speculate. We believe that some think the Town will be obligated to provide maintenance (of what we know not) in the future; some Littleton folks apparently believe that Partridge Lake, although public, is primarily used by the surrounding property owners and the Town should not be obligated in any manner. Finally, the original article as written by the PLPOA Water Quality Committee was rewritten by the Town’s attorney so that it became lengthy, difficult to understand and filled with “legalize”.

The purpose of the CWSRF money was to hire a consulting water quality expert to review all previous studies and current water and watershed conditions and then provide an updated plan for external and internal remediation. This updated study is a requirement of the NHDES Watershed Management Bureau before they will approve funding for implementation of external and internal mitigation solutions. We have contacted Don Kretchmer, a water resource expert who lives in Wolfeboro, and have sent him the lake studies and watershed based plan performed and published ten years ago. Our intent is to secure a proposal from Mr. Kretchmer to perform an update analysis and propose solutions. The PLPOA Water Quality Committee will meet in June, 2019 to discuss the next step. We intend to explore alternative sources of funding to possibly sidestep voters approval; however, we are not ruling out proposing a 2020 warrant article if we identify no viable alternative. This article would address a more targeted marketing plan directed at the voters... (more speakers in support at the deliberative session, a Channel 2 presentation, letters to the editors at the two local papers, and an email campaign).

John Schultz, President



Loon Safety

Current state law prohibits the use of lead sinkers and jigs with a total weight of one ounce or less in all fresh water in New Hampshire. These laws are designed to reduce Common Loon mortality due to lead poisoning. Ingesting lead can kill a Common Loon in a matter of weeks. Lead sinkers and jigs account for 48 percent of mortalities among adult loons, by far the largest single cause of adult Common Loon mortality in New Hampshire.

Getting a close look. Loons can be curious, use binoculars or let them swim toward you. Adults with chicks and on nests are much more sensitive than adults by themselves. Never pursue loons by boat. Move quietly if they get close.

How do I know if I am disturbing the loons?

1. If a loon “crouches” or “hides” with head extended low
2. If you separate the adults from the chick(s)
3. When loons begin laughing (the tremolo-- alarm/alert call) or yodeling (the male territorial call)
4. When they dip or raise their bills, and act agitated
5. When they splash water, often while doing their calls (penguin dance)

If you see people disturbing loons on the water or at the nest, please ask them to back away.

Summer at Partridge Lake Kicks Off with the ANNUAL VOLUNTEER DAY Saturday, June 1, 2019

Meet at 9:00 am in front of the Warden camp.

Weed Watching Review

Saturday, June 8, 9:00 am, at the Ernsberger Man Cave

Please join us for a WEED WATCHING REVIEW with AMY SMAGULA, Exotic Species Program Coordinator from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES).

Amy will make a presentation on invasive water plants and distribute materials.

The more eyes on the lake the better. Get Involved Today!

(coffee and doughnuts will be served)

Shoreline Erosion Hazardous to Navigation

Operate away from shallow areas.

- **Motors can churn-up sediment on the lake bottom. This leads to phosphorus being re-suspended in the water, which contributes to algal growth and decreased lake clarity.**
- Motors can fragment invasive plants such as variable milfoil, potentially causing new areas of infestations as the fragments travel to other parts of the lake.
- Wildlife and waterfowl may be frightened away from their homes and nests by noisy motors.

Do not operate within 150 feet of any shoreline at greater than headway speed (6 mph)

- **Not only is it illegal, but boat wakes can erode the shoreline and damage wildlife habitat. Excessive speed is also a danger to others.**

(Courtesy: New Hampshire Lakes Association)

GRASS, LEAVES, PET WASTE, FARM ANIMALS

Many of us still believe it's OK to deposit - or just not stop - "organic" material like leaves and grass from going into the lake. **When yard waste (grass, leaves, pet waste ,etc.) is deposited into the lake, it begins to rob the water of critical, life giving oxygen and increases nutrient and phosphorus levels.** It should also be noted that horses, cattle, pigs, chickens, (farm animals in general), are not advisable within the watershed.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO WITH THE PET WASTE YOU PICK UP?

- A. The best option is to bag the waste and make sure that it is in rubbish that will be taken out of the watershed.
- B. The less better option is to flush it down the toilet so the septic system will treat it in the same manner as human waste.
- C. Another less better option is to install an underground pet waste digester. (look up the Doggie Dooley for example)

CLEANING PRODUCTS

Be sure that cleaning products and detergents are phosphorus-free.

Some examples are:

1. White Vinegar, Mrs. Meyer's Products, Green Works Products, Seventh Generation Products are all phosphorus-free.
2. Cleansers: Bar Keepers Friend, Comet or Dawn Dishwashing Liquid, which can be used on many different surfaces, including cars!
3. Dishwasher rinse aid products: White Vinegar or WaveJet Auto Dishwasher Rinse Aid.
4. Dishwasher products: Cascade Complete, Finish Quantum, Method Smarty Dish Tablets, Seventh Generation Auto Dish Pacs, Mrs. Meyer's Automatic Dish Packs.

AVOID THESE

1. TSP – it works great BUT it is Trisodium Phosphate – which we need to avoid.
2. The U.S. has banned the use of phosphates in laundry detergent, but not all cleaning products. Please read the labels carefully before you use any!
3. Check personal cleansing products such as shampoo, soap, etc. Madfromearth.com is a good resource.

Spotlight on Volunteers

Board of Directors

John Schultz President
Nina Johannessen Vice President
Jill Corey Treasurer
Lisa Morello Secretary

Tom Allen **Albert Howes**
Burt Bechtel **Jim Hutchins**
Jeanne Burdette **David Merrill**
Megan Caman **Tom Norris**
Tonya Eastman **Pam Parker**
Glen Hadwen

Ex-officio:

Jerry Eames, Dayton Goudy

Lake Quality Committee Chair

Dave Ernsberger

Thanks to our 2018 Annual Lake Association Picnic Hosts:

Jeff and Jill Corey

A Special Thank You to **Bert Bechtel** for his History Presentation at the 2018 Annual Meeting and for his contribution to our cover article on Promoting Boat Safety. Thanks to all our volunteers who help out throughout the year.

If you would like to contribute to future newsletters please contact Jeanne Burdette at jburdette1214@gmail.com.

Connect with us on Facebook!

Treasurer's Report

Jill Corey

As of 12/31/18

Checking Account:
\$1,716.33

Water Quality Account:
\$35,243.64

5th Annual "Official Partridge Lake Ice-Out Contest"

April 23rd @ 12:20

**Congratulations
to our 2019 winners
Mike and Tina Morrison**

**Closest guess without
going over
April 23rd @ 11:15**



2019 Schedule of Events

Saturday, June 1, 2019 9:00 am
Lake Volunteer Day
Meet at Warden Camp

Saturday, June 8, 2019 9:00 am
Weed Watching Review
with Amy Smagula
*The more eyes on the lake the better.
All are welcome! Please come!*
(coffee & doughnuts served)
Ernsberger's Camp

Saturday, June 15, 2019 9:00 am
Spring Board of Directors Meeting
Jill Corey's House

Saturday, July 6, 2019 11:30 am
Annual Lake Association Picnic
Location TBD

Saturday, July 27, 2019 9:00 am
PLPOA Annual Meeting
Open to all members! Please join us!
Ernsberger's Camp

Saturday, August 24, 2019 9:00 am
End of Summer
Board of Directors Meeting
Location TBD

**Save the Dates
WINTERFEST 2020
January 31 - February 8, 2020**

It is with great sadness that we lost two of our long time residents at Partridge Lake in 2018. Our condolences go out to family and friends. They will be missed by all.



**Edna M. (St. Hilaire)
Twombly**



Myrna Colicchio

It's Your Watershed! Get Involved Today!