

LAKE PARKER ASSOCIATION, INC.

PO Box 69, West Glover, VT 05875

June 1998 Newsletter

Bob Johnson - President

Annual Meeting Edition!

Saturday, July 11th, the date for our Annual Meeting and Potluck Supper is fast approaching and I hope everyone plans to attend. We have some proposed by-law amendments, described later in the newsletter, so there is some important business to consider. But mostly, we are just looking forward to seeing everyone again and having the opportunity to share ideas about our common interests in Lake Parker and the Association. So bring a favorite dish to share and come for a neighborly get together.

***** Annual Meeting and Potluck Supper – Mark your Calendar! *****

Saturday, July 11, 1998 is the date for our annual business meeting and potluck supper! The potluck supper is from 5:30PM to 7:00PM with business meeting following. At the suggestion of our membership, we are starting a little earlier than we have in the past to allow for more time to chat with our neighbors during the potluck supper. Please mark your calendar and plan on attending.

Agenda is as follows:

Introduction of Officers

Introduction of New Members

Minutes of last year's meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Old Business

Standing Committee Reports

Fishing

Water Quality

Home Security

Boat and Water Safety

Government Liaison

Land Use and Conservation

Weed Harvesting

Membership

Communications

New Business

Proposed by-law Amendments – see below.

Other New Business

Adjournment

PROPOSED BY-LAW AMENDMENTS

ARTICLE VII, Section 1, Method of Amendment

The current by-laws read: "These by-laws may be amended at any annual or special meeting of the members of the Corporation by a majority vote of those voting, provided that notice of the proposed amendment, or amendments, accompany the call of the meeting; such notice to be mailed to each member not less than ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting."

At the June 6, 1998 Lake Parker Association (LPA) Executive Board Meeting, it was recommended that the following by-law amendments be presented for voting to the LPA membership at the July 11, 1998 annual meeting.

Proposed changes are underlined.

ARTICLE II, Section 3, Membership Dues

NOW READS: Unless otherwise determined by the members of the Corporation, the dues for membership in the Corporation shall be ten dollars (\$10) per year per family. Each family membership is entitled to two votes.

CHANGE TO READ: Unless otherwise determined by the members of the Corporation, the dues for membership in the Corporation shall be fifteen dollars (\$15) per year per family. Each family membership is entitled to two votes.

EXPLANATION: When the LPA was incorporated in 1971, dues were established at \$3 per year per person, \$5 per couple. In 1981, they were amended to read \$10 per family. With the help of state grants for the weed-cutting programs carried on for 18 years, and by good financial practices by the LPA Officers, the LPA has established a substantial financial balance. It should be remembered, however, that there were a number of years when the State was in a bad financial position and no grant money was forthcoming. During these years the LPA continued with the full weed-cutting program including machinery repairs and part replacements, at their own expense. There is no reason to believe that this could not happen again. Therefore, it is felt that most of the existing bank balance should be held as a "Reserve Fund", for unanticipated expenses, including the possibility of equipment replacement in the future. The day-to-day costs of other LPA activities, such as newsletters, LPA sponsored lake and community programs, etc., should be covered by annual dues income as much as possible. (Consider, for example, the postage to mail a newsletter to 100 members in 1981 cost \$18.00, compared to \$32.00 today, and another postage increase is anticipated!) The LPA Board recommends approval of this amendment.

ARTICLE IV, Section 6, Authority of the Board

NOW READS: The Board is empowered to manage the affairs of the Corporation, subject to such restrictions as may be specifically imposed by the Corporation membership. It is authorized to vote such expenditures of the Corporation as may be required. These expenditures shall not exceed two hundred dollars (\$200) per expenditure in any fiscal year with the exception of the routine expenditures such as printing, mailing, patrol expenses, secretarial expenses, map revision etc. Any larger expenditures shall be approved by the members at the annual meeting or at a special meeting.

CHANGE TO READ: The Board is empowered to manage the affairs of the Corporation, subject to such restrictions as may be specifically imposed by the Corporation membership. It is authorized to vote such expenditures of the Corporation as may be required. With the approval of both the President and the Treasurer, any single expenditure may not exceed four hundred dollars (\$400) in any fiscal year. Any larger expenditures shall be approved by the members at the annual meeting or at a special meeting.

EXPLANATION: The original by-laws allowed a total of \$100 in any fiscal year. In 1981, this was amended to allow a total of \$200 in any fiscal year. In about 1985, it was further amended to allow a total of \$200 per expenditure, as in the current by-laws. Increased activity by the LPA in both lake-related and community-oriented programs, along with substantial cost increases since 1985, bring about the need for consideration of this amendment. The LPA Board recommends approval.

Grant Status

We noted in the last newsletter that Beryl Adams and Bob Richards had applied for a Better Back Roads grant to improve the roads and ditches on the western side of the lake. We are pleased to announce that we received \$2000.00 for this project. The work should be completed this summer.

Weed Harvesting Notes

Thanks to Ernie Lord and Jeff Millette the weed cutting machine is in the water and ready to go. The machine is stored at Jeff's (camp #17). If you are checked out on the machine you can use it anytime even if Jeff is not at home. Fill out the time sheets that are in the cupboard on Jeff's garage. If you would

like some instruction on how to use the machine contact Jeff or Glenn Barber (camp #33). Please keep track of the time you spend cutting or raking weeds or working on the machine, this is very important to us because we get reimbursed for this time via the State of Vermont Aquatic Nuisance Control Grant Program.

It is the responsibility of each camp owner to remove the weeds that drift ashore on their property but if you need help with this you may call Glenn Barber at 525-4113.

Report On Watershed Survey - Kickoff Meeting.

The Watershed Survey Kickoff Meeting was held on June 6th. Nineteen people volunteered to help out with the survey so we are off to good start this year.

Report On Instructors Boating Safety Course

An Instructors Boating Safety Course was held on June 18th. Four people from Lake Parker, two people from Shadow Lake and one person from Willoughby Lake were certified to teach the state boating safety course. The new instructors from Lake Parker will offer the course as described below.

Boating Safety Course Offered

Vermont State Boating Laws require that all persons born after January 1, 1974, pass a Boating Safety Course before operating a motorboat. The Lake Parker Association (LPA) will sponsor a Boating Safety Course taught by certified instructors. It is an 8-hour course, and will be made up of two 4-hour sessions; 9 AM – 1 PM, Saturday, July 11th, and 1 PM – 5 PM Sunday July 12th. Attendance at both sessions is required. If you are interested please phone 525-4606, or 525-6252, to reserve a place, and for location information. The class size will be limited to a total of 8 people. Recommended minimum age is 12 years, and adults are also encouraged to take the course. There is no charge for the course. Pre-registration is mandatory.

Poster Contest Notice

HEY, ALL YOU KIDS FROM KINDERGARTEN THROUGH THE 8TH GRADE! Join the fun - enter the LakeFEST '98 Poster Contest and win a prize! All Glover school kids, as well as kids vacationing at Lake Parker, Shadow Lake and Daniels Pond, up through the 8th grade are eligible. Use your talents and design a poster on the theme "Protect Our Lakes". Add your name, age and grade level on the back, and you are on your way! Drawings must be original and can be any size up to a standard 22" X 28" poster board. The theme "Protect Our Lakes" must be printed somewhere on the front of the poster. Deadline for submission - to the Lake Parker Country Store - is Saturday, July 11, 1998. Winners will be announced on "Glover Day", Saturday, July 25th, and all entries will be on display in downtown Glover - location to be announced. There will be first, second and third place winners in each of five grade categories: Kindergarten, Grades 1-2, Grades 3-4, Grades 5-6, and Grades 7-8. So put on your thinking caps and get busy. Questions? Call 525-6252 or 525-4057.

LakeFEST '98 Wrap-Up

Our LakeFest '98 celebration will conclude the weekend of July 25-26 with several noteworthy events:

- 1) The winners of the Poster Contest will be chosen and all entries will be on display in downtown Glover, on "Glover Day", Saturday, July 25th. Come see them and congratulate all the talented kids!
- 2) *** On Sunday afternoon, July 26th, the "Maple Leaf 7" Dixieland Band will be cruising around Lake Parker starting about 1:00 PM and winding up with a concert at the boat access which will last until 4:00PM. Including our own Ron Ducham, from camp #66, the band will have you all on your feet! So bring your outdoor grills to the boat access, or put them along the shoreline, put on the chicken or ribs or steaks, and lets have a lake-wide family "grill-out" while you enjoy the toe tapping music. In case of inclement weather, the band will perform in the West Glover Church. ***

Notes on Camp Security - by Frank Daignault & Joyce Littlefield

The bad news is, crime is on the increase. Yes, even the remoteness of the Northeast Kingdom is not a barrier against this element of humanity. The good news is, you can take measures to ward it off. Sgt. Bruce Melendy of the State Police spoke with us recently and made these observations:

During the summer, most camps are occupied, either by the owner's or renters. Even if folks don't have the pleasure of being at their camps for the season, they are usually up during weekends or other camps close by are occupied. There are, generally, minimal problems with camps over the summer months as a result. In order to further minimize the likelihood that your camp could be targeted when you can't be there, the following are some very good suggestions:

1. Get to know the camps around you and the owners. Know their cars, and when they'll be there. You, as the camp owner, should let your neighbors know when you will be up, and especially if you will be renting it or having guests use your place when you're not there. Leave a key with someone you trust in case someone needs to get in to check, or to secure your camp.
 2. If you notice any unfamiliar cars parked in the area, jot down the make, model and license plate number and keep on hand for future reference. If you find out later that a camp was broken into - this information could be useful to the Police.
 3. Keep your camp locked. Most burglars are lazy - they'll look first for easy entrance. They don't want to make noise as breaking glass could attract attention. Don't make it easy for them ! Install deadbolt locks (the type you need a key to open on both sides) and locks on windows.
 4. Put away any valuables. TV's, VCR's, stereos - are all very attractive to would-be thieves. Keep a log, somewhere safe, of any serial numbers for valuables.
 5. Make the place look occupied. Arrange to have someone mow the lawn; have your mail picked up if it's delivered to your camp. If you leave the electricity on, install timers - preferably ones that you can stagger the on/off times. Install motion detectors at all entrances.
 6. Get to know your neighbors - watch out for each other. Don't feel like you're being nosy - if something doesn't look right it's best to investigate. We should all appreciate each other investigating anything out of the ordinary. If there are people you don't know, either try to reach the camp owner to check it out, or call the State Police. If it turns out the people around your property should be there, it's better to be safe than sorry. Start mini "neighborhood watch" groups. Let them know when you'll be around.
 7. If you are letting strangers fish off your property, make sure they are told they may do so only when you are there. Make sure you take down the information on their vehicles in case of future problems.
 8. Never let a stranger in your camp. If someone comes to your door looking for directions or to use a phone because their car broke down - speak with them outside and YOU make any calls to the police, family or tow truck. If they are legitimate, they won't object. Sgt. Melendy also stressed never to approach a strange vehicle. Keep a safe distance.
 9. If you have asked the State Police to do a camp check - make sure you notify them if your plans change and you will be there during the time they would be checking in ! If they've been by, they'll leave a card in the door.
 10. Call the State Police if you find evidence of any camp break in.
 11. If you really want some peace of mind when you're away - consider installing a security alarm. Sgt. Melendy says very few homes or camps with alarms get broken into. He cautions against having the audible type, electric storm and power failures can set them off, and at 1:00 in the morning you could have some very unhappy neighbors ! He recommends the silent alarms that relay directly to the alarm company. Unfortunately, in addition to the inconvenience and repair costs of a break-in, the police are seeing an increase in malicious destruction as well. They attribute this to kids, and sometimes as an angry response if they break in and don't find any valuables, or if the camp has been boarded up.
- The most important thing is: know who should be around the area - and if you see someone acting suspiciously or someone you don't recognize, make a note or call the Police to investigate. The best crime prevention is: being a good neighbor - get involved, look after one another.

Lake Parker's Own Ornithologist

Have you ever had trouble identifying an unusual species of bird? Dr. Ray Griffin (camp # 20) has offered to help out! Dr. Griffin and his wife Olive have made a hobby of bird-watching for many years and are probably the leading experts on the subject in this area. They have traveled extensively on birding expeditions and lead bird-watching field trips locally. Dr. Griffin also writes bird-sighting reports for the Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences. If you see a bird that you can't identify, give Dr. Griffin a call at 525-3646. He will gladly try to help you identify the bird from your phone description or he may need to come and observe the bird to properly identify it. Dr. Griffin clearly loves his hobby, and I'm sure that you will enjoy talking to him about your sightings. He has also suggested that if there is enough interest, he would be willing to lead a local bird watching field trip sometime in the future. **Any interest?**

Selectmen Remind Us

The Glover Selectmen remind us that water and electrical lines are not to be run through culverts as this causes problems when cleaning or replacing the culverts. Campers can, however, put lines through a culvert during the summer months as long as all lines are removed in the fall.

Conservation License Plate Grants

Proceeds from the sale of Vermont Conservation License Plates provide funding for local and regional watershed projects in Vermont. Funds are available for water-related projects that:

- Protect or restore fish and wildlife habitats;
- Protect or restore water quality, shorelines, and streambanks;
- Develop or enhance recreational access and trails;
- Identify and protect historic and cultural resources;
- Educate people about watershed resources;
- Monitor fish and wildlife populations and/or water quality.

If you register a vehicle in Vermont, please consider purchasing a Conservation License Plate. Applications can be found at the Lake Parker Country Store.

CPR Courses Planned

If enough interest is shown, the Glover Ambulance Squad will sponsor two separate CPR courses this summer. One course will be for adult CPR and the other for infant and child CPR. Contact Betsy Day at 525-4051 for details.

Charter Member of the Association Passes Away

Paul Hanson, of Lexington, MA, owner of camp #92 on the east shore, and one of the charter members of the Lake Parker Association, passed away in October 1997. Before the LPA was officially organized in 1971, Paul served as the Secretary-Treasurer Pro Tem, until the election of the first officers of the Association. At that time, in 1971, Paul served as Chairman of the Land Use & Conservation Committee, and fulfilled that responsibility for 20 years, until his health required he give it up, in 1991. Paul contributed greatly in the laying of the strong foundation for the existing Lake Parker Association.

How to give us Feedback

If you would like to share your ideas on Association matters, please contact Bob Johnson, camp #25, at 525-3458 during the day or 525-4078 evenings, or Glenn Barber, camp #33, at 525-4113. Of course, you can always drop us a line at Lake Parker Association, Inc., PO Box 69, West Glover, VT 05875 (or use the comments section on the dues remittance form.)

News About Dues

Yes, it is that time again! The LPA fiscal year starts on July 1st each year. If you haven't paid your dues this year it is time to do so. You can pay at the Annual Meeting and Potluck Supper on July 11th or you can use the enclosed form and mail in your dues. The Association has been busy this year and has had increased expenses so your dues are more important than ever. Thanks to all of you, about 50 members, who have already paid your dues. This is an extremely good number for this time of year!



JD's CORNER

Notes on Common Courtesies

Hi, I'm JD! Most of you know me as that handsome chocolate lab that you just can't resist petting when you are out for a walk along the western shore. My master is taking a lunch break so I'm going to sneak a few words into the LPA newsletter. You can provide feedback on JD's Corner by e-mailing me at jd@tec-i.com. Now that most of the "human campers" have returned for the summer it seems a good time to bring up some of suggestions I have on common courtesies:

Z Be respectful that most humans are here to escape the noise of the "big city" and chose Lake Parker for it's serenity and sense of "community". Be courteous of your neighbors and take pride in the lake.

Z Remember that the lake is for having fun but that noise travels great distances across water, especially in the evenings when the wind dies down, so please be courteous of your neighbors and keep music and noise levels down after 10:00 PM.

Z Keep an eye on each others camps - start your own mini "neighborhood watch" and report any suspicious activity to the State Police.

Z When burning debris (leaves, branches) please don't leave the fire unattended and make sure the wind is not blowing the smoke into your neighbors area.

Z When out walking, bring along a trash bag and help keep the area clean and don't forget to bring along plenty of treats for the canine campers you meet along the way.

Z The boat access area is not for late night parties. If groups are congregating there and causing a disturbance, report it to the State Police.

Z If you know someone is elderly or alone, see if they need assistance in getting to the stores, etc., or help cleaning up around their camps.

Here's a good deal!

Remember that your ambulance subscription runs from March to March each year. You do not need to subscribe in order to use the services of the ambulance squad. But if you do subscribe, only \$20.00 per household, any charges that your insurance doesn't pay the ambulance squad will absorb.

A FLATLANDER'S VIEW

by Beryl Adams

Bob's changed since we became year-round residents of Lake Parker almost three years ago. I think he's become Vermontized. It seems to be a syndrome that strikes males predominantly, maybe appealing to boyhood daydreams of Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn - of times when Nature was an everyday friend, when getting dirty felt darned good, and when finding a piece of twine or a shiny bolt was a treasure story worth retelling.

Anyway, Bob's changed. He wears camouflage proudly. And often. He quotes Jeff Foxworthy in hushed, almost reverent, tones. He identifies manure spreaders by make and model number. And he brings home *STUFF*.

Bob brings home *STUFF* that's rusty, dusty, ripped, and worn. But that's okay, because it was really cheap and it only needs a little fixing up to be "just like new," a conditional statement that somehow appeals to my practical sense and allows him to pile it all in the yard by the shed. I think there's an underlying magical belief that *STUFF* will spontaneously self-repair when it's near tools.

Now, I can't accuse Vermont of creating this *STUFF* addiction in Bob. I mean, to be fair, he always had the potential for a serious *STUFF* problem long before we moved here - sort of like a dormant gene, just waiting for the right conditions to burst into joyous, uncontrolled expression. In the city, natural selection held it in check. There was a very small, clearly defined, Critical Mass of *STUFF* we could have on our front lawn before the condo association wrote us a nasty note, sent Howie out in the corporate truck, and billed us for an unscheduled trash pick-up.

But consider what can happen to the unexpressed gene when environmental limits are suddenly gone.

Consider the effect of cultural tolerance, even reverence, for *STUFF* as an essential piece of a practical, do-it-yourself work ethic. Consider what happens when Bob moves into this geographic area and discovers that there's no corporate truck and nobody calls Howie.

There's a battered, seat-torn wheelchair parked by the side of our driveway. Finding the practical application here was a real stretch for me, but Bob had a logical explanation. I thought he was making it up on the spot, since his eyes kind of glazed over and his breathing rate increased noticeably, as he described the improbable transformation of this piece of medical support equipment into a garden cart for me.

The next morning at work, I was discussing my *STUFF* concerns with several teachers. It was a relief to hear that their husbands also collect *STUFF*, and that there's no shame in storing a sink in the yard or stopping on the highway to pick up a free bungee-cord. As an impromptu, gender-biased test, I threw out the concept of the wheelchair as a five-dollar bargain. As they were musing it over in puzzlement, the school principal joined us. His eyes kind of glazed over, he wiped the back of his hand nervously across his mouth, and his breathing rate increased. "I'll give him \$10 for it," he panted.

The gene is definitely located on the Y chromosome, probably near those remarkable male abilities in spatial reasoning and map-folding. I may never understand it, but I'm learning to appreciate the *STUFF* habit. But I'm keeping Howie's phone number anyway, just in case we reach Critical Mass.