



THE LAKE IROQUOIS MONITOR

RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ACTION FOR A HEALTHY LAKE

WHAT IS THE STATE OF THE LAKE?

BY DAN SHARPE

The mission of the Lake Iroquois Association is to enhance the water quality and ecological health of Lake Iroquois. This can be carried out, in part, by research about the lake and its watershed as a basis for education and guidance in planning remediation projects and property maintenance practices that will result in cleaner water.

Participation in various monitoring programs has been important in the education of the LIA Board. It is instructive

in making decisions about how to best achieve our goals. We have data gathered from lake tributaries over the last three years, reports from the LIA Boat Greeter Program, data from in-lake measurements of phosphorus, chlorophyll and clarity from 1979 to the present, information about e coli and cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) from monitoring at the public beach, and surveys of invasive and native aquatic species.

One project of LIA in 2014 is to publish a "State of the Lake" report that brings together information about the lake that has been gathered. This will be a resource for lake residents and lake users, a tool for public education, and a compilation that can be used in grant proposals submitted by LIA for projects that further our mission of improving the lake's water quality.



(Continued on page 2)

REPAIRING THE BEACH EROSION

BY ROGER CROUSE

The Lake Iroquois Recreation District (LIRD) and the Lake Iroquois Association (LIA) were awarded an Ecosystem Restoration Program grant in late 2012 through the Agency of Natural Resources to stop the gullying on the Lake Iroquois public beach and the resulting erosion of sediments into the lake.

Sand is a vital component of any beach but each significant rainfall sends gushing water across the parking lot and the beach. This torrent of water pushes road gravel and beach sand into the lake and carves deep trenches in the land left behind. This erosion adds phosphorus to the lake which increases the growth of milfoil. It also makes the beach less attractive and the resulting gullies unsafe for children. On 7/1/2013, LIRD announced two public meetings to review alternatives to mitigate that erosion. The result was an engineering design, developed by KAS and approved by LIRD and LIA. The resulting design slightly revises the parking area, adds drainage that funnels water runoff away from the beach, and includes additional foliage and rain gardens. LIRD is now in the process of seeking grants and companies to implement the designed solution. Though it was hoped the solution would be implemented before "beach season", it now appears the work will be completed this fall.



STATE OF THE LAKE (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 1)

The State of the Lake report in 2014 will be a first attempt at bringing together various records that have been compiled about the lake waters. It is hoped that this can be an annual report that will be updated with new data about conditions in and around the lake. In addition to facts about the lake, the report will include guidance on lakeshore buffers, best practices for landowners, and information about run-off and soil erosion.

Individual steps to develop lakeshore buffers, rain gardens and better road maintenance can collectively make a positive impact to reduce sediment run-off and overall nutrient-loading in the lake. LIA will engage in projects

to abate soil erosion and sediment run-off into the lake and encourage better property management. In addition, LIA will continue monitoring water quality in order to identify those changes that result in cleaner water. We believe that concerted efforts of individuals and the association throughout the watershed will decrease nutrient levels in Lake Iroquois, improve water quality, and reduce the incidence of invasive species.

The State of the Lake report will chronicle the effects of these efforts. Please look for your copy of the report later this year.

PROTECTING A VITAL RESOURCE

BY JIM ROSS

The final phase of the Stream Bank Erosion Remediation Project on the west side of Lake Iroquois between Pond Road and the lake will be completed in the summer of 2014.

Phase One began with a \$10,000 planning grant from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. The Town of Hinesburg provided \$7,600 through in-kind services by trucking stone, preparing three sites for large stone basins to lessen the water velocity and reconstructing the Pond Road west side ditch to accommodate large water volume from Dynamite Hill. The Town of Williston paid \$4,000 for the crushed stone.

Phase Two received a \$20,000 grant from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation and considerable advice from its talented staff. The Vermont Youth Conservation Corps under the direction of its operations director, Keegan Tierney, spent two weeks rebuilding and stabilizing the north streambed with carefully placed stone and considerable plantings of shrubs and trees. The Town of Hinesburg provided \$5,000 for additional labor and materials.

Phase Three will begin this summer and address the erosion of the south streambed from the Pond Road culvert to the lakeshore. This marauding stream will be channeled at strategic sites and encouraged to widen where natural undergrowth will accommodate and reduce the water's velocity. Again, the Town of Hinesburg has provided another \$5,000 for this work. Keegan Tierney will provide professional advice and the Vermont Youth Conservation Corp will be once again asked to consider making this work part of its summer schedule.

In summary, The Lake Iroquois Erosion Prevention Project has received \$20,000 from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, \$10,000 from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, \$17,600 in tax levied and in-kind support from the Town of Hinesburg and \$4,000 in tax levied support from the Town of Williston. The support, encouragement and advice received from the Agency of Natural Resources and the Vermont Youth Conservation Corp is priceless.

We are most grateful to all who supported this work. Thank you, too, goes to the taxpayers of Hinesburg and Williston. Your lake is a rich resource. Your support is essential for its vitality.



Summer Employment On Lake Iroquois

The Lake Iroquois Association is seeking candidates for the position of greeter at the Vermont State Fishing Access in Williston. The purpose of the greeter program is to educate those using the access on best practices, to avoid introducing additional invasive species into the lake. Greeters will ask boaters for permission to inspect boats and trailers for plant or animal life that may be introduced to, or taken out of the lake water. In addition, educational materials will be offered to lake users, and data collected on visitors. The schedule is mostly weekend hours, including Friday afternoons, from Memorial Day through Labor Day weekend. Employees will be part of a team of as many as 4 paid greeters to cover the high traffic hours at the access; and some volunteers may join the schedule during the week as well. Candidates must have excellent communication skills as well as knowledge and interest in environmental issues related to water quality. Attending a training session in Montpelier on Friday, May 9th or Hubbardton on Saturday May 17th is required! Compensation is \$12 per hour.

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter and resume no later than April 10th to: kathyhudson@gmail.com Please put 'LIA greeter' in subject line.

PICNIC SET FOR JULY 2014

Mark the date of **Sunday, July 13th** on your summer calendar. The LIA Annual Picnic will take place on that date, and with the addition of the huge canopy we added last year, it is rain or shine. Location will be announced soon.

Chef Steve Lidle is dialing up another gourmet meal. Three years ago, it was Spanish theme; two years ago, French food; and last year a German feast. Rumor has it that this summer there will be an Italian theme. Picture a fabulous Italian feast: a pasta dish prepared on the grill, a summer salad, a classic Italian stew, Milano Panettone and finish it

up with a luscious tiramisu.

Steve, who lives on Wood Run, has been in the food business for years. He is the former owner of the Cheese Traders on Williston Road, and he and his wonderful wife, Nancy Wright, have represented Cabot Cheese in the past two years at food shows around the country. We are lucky to have a master chef in our organization, and Steve has more fun than anyone.

There is a possibility of a silent auction, a raffle and talented local musicians. Don't miss the wonderful opportunity to meet up with your friends and neighbors on the Lake. See you on July 13th!

LIA Makes Spotlight in Cabin Life

The March 2014 issue of **Cabin Life**, a national magazine promoted as "your guide to cottage, lake home and cabin living", featured the Lake Iroquois Association in its monthly Lake Association Spotlight page. The Wisconsin based publication does a profile of an association outlining the projects, the success stories and affiliations of the organization. See the full article on our web site at: <http://www.lakeiroquois.org/home/announcements/liaincabinlifemagazine>

It seems fairly accurate except for including in our list of social events an **October Chilifest**. No one seems to know where this came from but board member Meg Handler, of wine and beer tasting fundraising fame, jumped on the idea and is working to make it happen. Stay tuned for our first "annual" Chilifest.

DON'T FORGET TO SEND IN YOUR 2014 MEMBERSHIP

FIND FORMS AT [HTTP://WWW.LAKEIROQUOIS.ORG/HOME/MEMBERSHIP](http://www.lakeiroquois.org/home/membership)

WINTER AT THE LAKE



BUT SPRING IS ON THE WAY!



Quote from the Hinesburg Annual Report

The following paragraph appears on pg. 54 of this year's Hinesburg Annual Report:

"The Lake Iroquois Association made good use of \$5000 from last year's budget as well as donated equipment and labor from Michael Anthony to complete a storm water control project to prevent runoff from Pond Road and the adjacent water shed from reaching Lake Iroquois. Their next project is to resolve the erosion problem at Lake Iroquois Beach. The Association has proven to be an active and productive organization and their efforts to improve the water quality of the lake are much appreciated."

What the Lake Iroquois Association is doing for Your Lake!

- ◆ Hiring Greeters for the fishing access for the summer of 2014.
- ◆ Continuing participation in VTDEC Lay Monitor and Invasive Patrollers programs.
- ◆ Working with the Town of Hinesburg and others to lessen erosion caused by storm water entering the lake from Mt. Pritchard/Dynamite Hill.
- ◆ Working with the Lake Iroquois Recreation District to lessen the erosion at the beach which has caused increased phosphorus levels in the lake which in turn feeds Eurasian-Water Milfoil.
- ◆ Carrying out and expanding upon the third year of a VTDEC grant written by Dan Sharpe to monitor the level of contaminants coming from the various streams that flow into the Lake.
- ◆ Working with the Towns of Williston and Hinesburg to establish an overlay district for the entire Lake Iroquois watershed.
- ◆ Continuing to explore methods to control Eurasian Water Milfoil.
- ◆ Providing education and support for landowners to implement best practices in order to improve water quality.
- ◆ Installing channel markers and hazard buoys before the boating season.

The Lake Iroquois Association is a 501(c)(3), tax-exempt, non-profit organization with the mission to maintain and enhance healthy ecosystems and appropriate public uses of Lake Iroquois and those aspects of its watershed which impact on the health and well being of the lake.

WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR LAKE!

- Become a member of the LIA
- Volunteer for one of the LIA projects
- Join the LIA Board
- Implement shoreland best practices to protect water quality
- Find out more on the LIA web site or email: LakelroquoisAssociation@gmail.com.

www.lakeiroquois.org

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