

Waves

The Newsletter of Hickory Hills Landowners

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Fall 2011

Annual Shareholder's Meeting Reports from September 17, 2011

The following are the reports presented at the meeting.

Letter from the President - Neal Sullivan

2010-2011 was an excellent year for the Hickory Hills Landowners (HHL) Corporation. Volunteer activities remained at an all-time high, led by the significant efforts of the Lake Management Group (LMG). This year LMG accomplished a lake wide hydro raking project which successfully addressed both landowner's areas and private waterfront areas. The LMG has also responded to the fanwort infestation that was caught in late July in the boat launch area. Hickory Hills has been very fortunate over the years to have avoided all invasive weeds. While it was perhaps inevitable that Hickory Hills get hit with an invasive infestation, the response of the LMG volunteers has been tremendous – earning the admiration of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) lake expert. I am confident that the efforts of LMG addressing the fanwort infestation and new control procedures for watercraft will maintain the beauty and pristine qualities of Hickory Hills for a long time to come.

The Dam, perhaps the single most important corporate asset, has been the focus of a great deal of attention. Many thanks to Jack Kutarnia who has nearly single handedly maintained the dam for all of these many years: devel-

oping the plans and programs that will carry us well into the future. The newly formed dam committee has done a tremendous job maintaining the dam and beginning the process of evaluations and designs that will culminate in the state mandated spillway improvements – expected to cost well in excess of \$400k.

Financially, HHL is on very firm footing. License fee revenue is up again year-over-year with a participation rate greater than 93%. The BOD authorized an amnesty program for those residents who are delinquent, in order to recover more revenues. The tax advantaged dam fund is ahead of schedule with over \$171k in assets, while the Capital Assets Reserve Fund (CARF) is approaching \$100k. With special thanks to Nicole Waters for the donation of her HHL administrative salary this year, the corporation was able to put a total of more than \$65k into the dam fund.

The BOD was able to make significant progress against the goals for this year. Highlights include:

- ♦ A reorganization to a more structured committee format, consistent with the newly developed mission statement, which has aligned the organization and streamlined the budget and goal setting process, enabled the use of electronic communications and significantly increases transparency as evidenced by the first shareholders report released at the annual meeting

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2011 Summer Youth Program



Pictured here are some of our residents enjoying a fun filled day at the main

beach during this years Summer Youth Program! We were lucky enough to have Holly Rivard accept the position of Director with Sam Feinberg and James Rivard as this year's Assistants. They all did a superb job and we received MANY fabulous comments about this year's program from both the kids and the parents! Thanks guys!

Take a Hike!

Hiking season is here! Time to enjoy some natural scenery with a little hike through Hickory Woods! So set aside Saturday, November 12th rain or shine and meet me at the trail head at 10 a.m. between 200 and 214 Island Rd for a walking tour of the Hickory Woods.

The walk is a beginner level hike, and will take us at a slow pace through the woods. We will cover approximately 3 miles, so bring your favorite walking stick and water, and we'll be off! Call or email to confirm or to make arrangements for other dates!





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◇ Improvement of HHL's electronic presence with: a new website, dedicated and secure BOD web pages and significant increase in the use of electronic communications for notifications and waves issues, saving several thousand dollars in print and personnel costs.

For the next fiscal year the BOD and its committees have established the following goals:

- ◇ Successfully deal with Fanwort infestation and implement long range plan for invasive species.
- ◇ Dam
 - ◇ Maintenance planning - new 5 year plan to replace existing plan (due in 2012 but substantially completed in 2011).
 - ◇ Formulate and implement training procedures for the Dam EAP
 - ◇ Develop draft improvement plan based upon Hydrology results
- ◇ Develop an Island Rd. facility plan
- ◇ Finish 2012 with greater than \$200,000.00 in the Dam fund
- ◇ Increase shareholder base by 10%
- ◇ Fully integrate Finance Committee into the corporate budget and planning structure

The BOD composition will change significantly going forward. Jack Kutarnia, Anne Davis and Lisa Normandin all take their leave this year having all served the corporation and the shareholders admirably for many years. Tom Bertram, Eric Manseau and Mike Nault will join the BOD.

Finally, the newly developed shareholders report clearly represents the changing face of the BOD and the corporation towards its shareholders. Consistent with our drive to improve communication and transparency, while pushing authority to the volunteer committees, we hope that the shareholders find the document and the information contained within, useful to assess the performance of HHL. An electronic copy is available to all shareholders, in good standing, upon request.

Capital Asset Reserve Fund -P Lastella

The fund was created to generate income to improve the Corporation's capital structure and financial base for planned and unplanned capital expenditures, which will promote and conserve the welfare and better-



ment of Hickory Hills. We do this using the following methods:

- ◇ Examine short and long term investment practices and determine which of these practices is optimal
 - ◇ Determine expenditure of funds on projects such as the dam, land purchases, water quality, and any unplanned emergencies
 - ◇ Define and manage the approval process involving the Capital Asset Reserve Fund Trustees, the Board of Directors and the Shareholders
- Our goals for 2011-2012 are to:
- ◇ Introduce New Trustees to the Capital Asset Reserve Fund responsibilities and bylaws
 - ◇ Review current needs of the Corporation for short and long term investments
 - ◇ Establish new ways to grow the CARF Fund
 - ◇ Review and propose updates to the original CARF by-laws adopted in 2002

I am pleased to report that this fund remains intact and has increased by \$2,230 during the past twelve months.

We thank the contributors for their donations this year. We have had 19 contributors 4 of whom contributed \$100.00 or more.

The current total for the CARF is \$96,788.

Thank you for your continued contributions to support the growth of this important fund.

Dam Report - C. Albert presented

The Dam committee has been hard at work. Members include, Melvin Bertram, Chris Albert, James Leblanc, Tom Nowd and Eric Manseau. An RFP for a hydrology study was created and sent out for bid. Responses are in and a decision has been made. The study is commissioned to be completed over the winter. The RFP was broken out into two pieces. The first is to meet the requirements of the state dam inspection, 1/2 probable flood capacities, and the other to address the concerns of the low water level last year. Everyone has their own theory as to what factors had the most effect; drought, board installation, town well pumping, sewerage etc... We would have liked to add some science to educate us and avoid this situation in the future. Unfortunately all



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(con't from page 2) of the respondents suggested that this science was not cost effective and we elected not to move forward with this piece at the present time. We feel there are other more important impending issues warranting these funds.

The Dam committee has taken responsibility for maintenance of the Emergency Action Plan (EAP). This document specs out the who, what, why, when and where in case of a breach. A great deal of effort was put into creating and maintaining the plan, and it has been updated appropriately.

Dam maintenance does continue. This year we plan on replacing most of the boards and adding safety improvements to aid the process of board installation and removal. The new Dam committee members have all been trained on the process and have been educated with the Dam policy. The policy itself is being reviewed and may be modified as we get results of the various studies.

To paraphrase the policy: The Stop Log (boards) installation shall commence on or about April 15th and should be completed by May 15th. The Stop Log removal begins on or about Sept 15th. The most important aspect of maintaining the water height is public safety. We all want high water but we cannot risk flooding anyone's property up stream or down. Any water over the spillway (adjacent to the dam) can be considered a violation and to manage this, the policy has provisions to remove boards when significant rains are forecasted. Basically one board per 1.5" – 2.0" of rain. Our "Team", the Dam committee, stays in contact as storms come and go to ensure a member is prepared for any upcoming incident.

This fall, we intend to begin removing the stop logs on or about Oct 15th.

Lastly, we would like to thank Jack Kutarnia. We as a team have a much deeper respect for all the years he just did what he did. We tend to take things for granted when they move along without incident. This is a perfect example of that.

Land & Property Management - M. Andella

Land and Resource Management is a newly formed committee. When the Lake Management Group was formed, it was assigned management of the aquatic based responsibilities which were previously handled by the Lake and Property committee. This reorganization worked so well that the Board decided to continue the process, and created the Land and Resource Management committee which will assume, as its name implies, management of land based assets owned by the corporation.

Although the Lake and Property Committee has been replaced, let's not forget the many men

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Peg Gorman & the 2011 HHL Fishing Club



A Tribute to Jack Gorman

September 10th, 2011 was a special day for Hickory Hills. The biggest fish EVER caught on the lake during a bass tournament was caught that day, which would've been the big talk of the day too, if not for some thoughtful residents who wanted to honor one of our very own past presidents Jack Gorman with the first annual fishing tournament dedicated in his honor.

Jack was an avid fisherman who was also one of the founding members of this fun club and spent almost every evening after supper enjoying the peacefulness that fishing on this lake always brought him. When Jack was first President, we were pretty young as a corporation. It was his efforts and love for the lake that helped transform an area off of Island Road from a simple shaded dirt path to what is now our Main Beach with non lakefront residents in mind to park their cars and enjoy a day with their family and friends. Jack played an integral role of that reconfiguration where our office was also built & single-handedly furnished it with desks, chairs & file cabinets galore. He was known for getting things done & dedicated many faithful years to this lake raising money and keeping us staying afloat in times of need giving personal donations when our fees weren't quite enough to cover it all.

On the day of the event, Jack's wife Peg was escorted to the island where she was quickly swept into the arms and hearts of the entire Fishing Club. The crew presented her with 2 dozen yellow roses and displayed for her and this year's winner, the awesome new Jack Gorman Bass trophy! Shortly thereafter, many stories about Jack and his love for fishing (and Peg) were told, which immediately launched into quite the catered event by our own Mr. Jim Leblanc.

Thanks to the entire fishing club for providing such a fitting tribute to an honored member of our lake's history.



****3RD ANNUAL BEACH PARTY ****

Thanks to all for making the 3rd annual Beach Party a great success. This years Carnival beach party was held on August 13th and raised over \$2600.00 to help with lake management issues. Entertainment was provided by Open Highway band. There was a lot of great food including a make your own sundae bar, ice cream donated by Cherry Hill and fried dough donated by The Village Grill. Everyone had a great time playing carnival and Minute to Win it games. Lots of prizes were won including a 50/50 raffle prize of \$250.00 won by Deb Narus and a kayak won by Patrick Callahan.

I would like to thank Bob and Donna Saiia, Joanna Bilotta Simeone and everyone who donated prizes. Thanks to Mike Nault for all the great signs and a special thanks to all the volunteers who helped to plan and worked at the carnival, you make my job fun and easy.

Betty MacDonald

PS Hope to see you all in April for a "Taste of?"



(con't from page 3) and women who gave so much of their time and effort to Lake and Property. Their unselfish volunteerism helped make the Hickory Hills community what it is today, a great place to live!

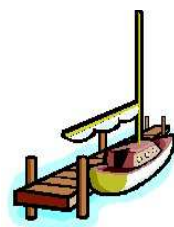
The Land and Resource Management Committee, or LRM, will begin the year with 5 members, Chris Albert, Dave MacDonald, Doug Waters, Joe Levine and me. Together, we'll manage the maintenance of, and improvements to, all

common real estate owned by HHL, including:

- ◇ Hickory Woods land and trails
- ◇ 4 private roads (Park St. Terr., Hilltop Ln., Hemlock Terr., Harbor Terr.)
- ◇ Townsend Harbor boat lot
- ◇ 3 common beaches (Island Rd., Brookview, Hemlock)
- ◇ Office bldg., parking lot, canoe rack, etc.

Additionally, we'll investigate all requests for permits from HHL shareholders and residents for:

- ◇ Tree removal
- ◇ Building additions, sheds, patios, decks, etc.
- ◇ Docks



Because we're a new committee, we cannot take credit for last year's accomplishments within our area of responsibility, but in the typical HHL tradition, many volunteers stepped up and got the job done.

- ◇ Public roads were plowed, sanded and patched
- ◇ Private roads and parking lot were plowed, sanded and regraded as needed
- ◇ Beaches received Spring clean up
- ◇ Decaying wood in our office building was repaired

Next year, LRM will:

- ◇ Develop a long range proposal for our office facility
- ◇ Investigate opportunities to reduce our trash removal costs
- ◇ Improve the process for residents permit requests
- ◇ Analyze and make recommendations on opportunities to acquire or divest real estate for HHL
- ◇ Maintain all HHL owned common areas for the use and enjoyment of all residents

I know we can rely on your continued support. Please let us know how we're doing and what you can do to help us.

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Weed Harvester

The weed harvester was put in early this year to assist the hydro raking operation. It was very useful as a barge until rocky debris got between the screen and the roller and damaged the screen. At this point it was taken out of service to await the growth of weeds and for minor repairs.

During this past off season Jay Simeone spearheaded the rebuilding of the main table under the screen and replaced many parts as listed in the expense sheet. He also painted the pontoons and side screens and did an awesome job of overall maintenance. I would personally like to thank Jay for all he has done for Hickory Hills Lake.

This year we looked at all donators from the last 4 years and tried to remove weeds from all these properties due to constant breakdowns (main table) and low water last year. All residents on the list were harvested one time I believe. We also harvested a few people who were extremely unhappy that their lilies returned after hydro raking. One of these residents complained many times even though they were the most harvested person in the history of harvesting and quite frankly has one of the largest nicest swim areas on the lake. The harvester ran good this year but was sidelined due to the invasion of fanwort. Overall, I believe the 4 feet of snow this winter (total sun block) and the quick installation of the boards in the dam this spring, mixed in with ample rain (lower water temp.) led to a great reduction in the amount of bladderwort in parts of the lake although it made a huge comeback in August.

With the invasion of fanwort and how fragmentation spreads it, the future of the harvester is in limbo. We will have to see what the future brings and hope for the best.

Report submitted by Jim Leblanc

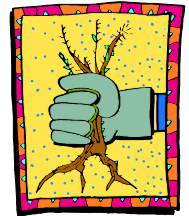
Lake Management Group – D. MacDonald

The LMG consists of a number of dedicated residents from around the lake. The Group was formed in 2009 to evaluate the quality of the lake ecosystem and identify potential issues; review options to mitigate them and to recommend the best courses of action. There are a number of issues that can affect the quality of Hickory Hills such as pollution, storm water run off, development and invasive species. For Hickory Hills, the need for Lake Management has never been greater.

In July of this year, Fanwort, an invasive species was found in the boat ramp cove on Island Rd. Recently Fanwort was discovered in a cove off Peninsula Dr. Eradication of this weed has become the top priority of the LMG. It is crucial that all residents are aware of this threat to the lake, and what they can do to help fight it.

Fanwort is very bright green with fan-like leaves that are arranged in opposite pairs on the stem. Delicate green underwater leaves are fan-like and average 2" across. Leaves are arranged in opposite pairs on the stem. Small oval floating leaves are occasionally present. Once the plant is established it can grow up to 6 ft. There are two native plants in the lake that have a similar green hue and can be mistaken for Fanwort; Coontail and Bladderwort.

Fanwort grows very quickly – it can grow more than 1" per day. It spreads by both fragmentation and by roots. The stem is very delicate and breaks easily, so human contact, boat propellers and paddles in areas where fanwort is growing is of great concern. The plant also auto-fragments, meaning pieces will break off, and root in other areas. Once Fanwort has established itself, it will eventually overpower native species. The plant spreads quickly, and eventually oxygen levels will decrease resulting in the loss of fish and other aquatic animals. Fanwort impedes recreational uses such as boating, swimming and fishing and can lower property values.



If we don't stop Fanwort and it establishes itself on Hickory Hills, it will be devastating. Fanwort thrives in shallow conditions, so Hickory Hills is the ideal environment (the average depth of the lake is 8").

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Board of Directors for 2011-2012

President	Neal Sullivan
V. President	Walt Parquet
Treasurer	John Pesenti
Clerk	Chris Albert
Directors:	Mario Andella Tom Bertram
	Jim Leblanc Eric Manseau
	Mike Nault Bob Novacek
	Jim Shearer



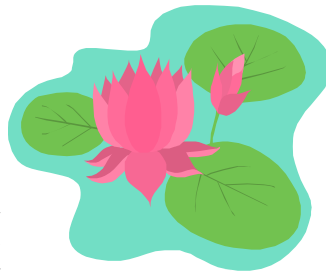
Lake Management Group

An opportunity to be involved

At this year's Annual Shareholders Meeting there was a great report presented by the Lake Management Group about weeds in Hickory Hills Lake. Several residents expressed interest in learning more about the process and participating in proper lake management. The Committee reviews the issues and explores solutions in order to make recommendations to the BOD and take action.

We need your help! If you are interested in participating in this Group please send an email describing your interest to the office at hickoryhills@net1plus.com or to Paula Bertram or Dave MacDonald.

Please contact us now to help preserve our own little piece of heaven!



(con't from page 5) Acting quickly to eliminate this threat is critical.

When Fanwort was discovered, the Board immediately shut down the boat ramp, quarantined the area and consulted with Aquatic Control Technology (ACT). ACT manually pulled Fanwort from the Cove on a couple of occasions. Fanwort was also removed from the mouth of the Cove. ACT then visually surveyed the lake on August 23rd, at that time no Fanwort was found. After the discovery of Fanwort in the Cove the LMG mobilized to determine the best response to mitigate and eradicate this threat. Members immediately immersed themselves in information about Fanwort, it's characteristics and the best way to eliminate it. Tom Flannery of DCR was consulted and he has been a terrific resource. After reviewing the States rapid response plan for Fanwort and talking with Tom, the LMG moved forward with blocking off the Cove and installing benthic barriers.

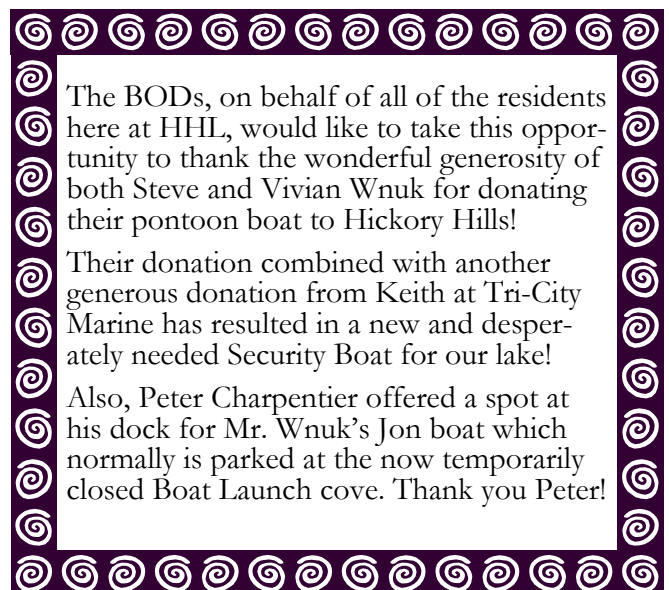
A series of turbidity/fragment screens were installed at the mouth of the boat ramp cove in an attempt to contain the infestation. A product called "lake bottom blanket", a form of benthic barrier, was deployed at the mouth of the Cove and five blankets were placed within the cove which were believed to be the areas of the worst infestation. A benthic barrier is essentially a mat that sits on the bottom of the lake and prevents sunlight from getting to the bottom, thus killing the plants. After visually surveying the Cove, Fanwort

was observed again throughout the Cove. As a substitute for the expensive blankets, barriers were crafted by volunteers out of Tyvek (house wrap) and rebar. The construction & deployment of the barriers was a huge undertaking. To date the entire cove has been covered and smaller barriers have been placed in other areas of the lake where Fanwort has been found. Areas containing Fanwort have been roped off; boating and swimming is prohibited in these areas. The response by HHL residents to help with this effort has been truly amazing. The volunteer effort has been multi-faceted, not only have they built and installed barriers, volunteers have:

- ♦ Cleaned vegetation off the beaches
- ♦ Educated residents about Fanwort
- ♦ Installed signs and distributed flyers
- ♦ Snorkeled areas of the lake to determine the spread of the plant
- ♦ Hand pulled plants
- ♦ Helped establish the temporary boat ramp
- ♦ Surveyed the lake to look for Fanwort

Volunteers have been surveying sections of the lake to determine if Fanwort is growing in other areas. The Lake has been divided into zones and volunteers have been assigned to perform weekly patrols. If you spot Fanwort, **DO NOT PICK THE PLANT!**

Instead, please contact the office, Paula Bertram or Betty MacDonald. If possible, mark the general area with a weighted line and bottle - taking care not to put the marker too close to the plant. Fanwort (con't on next pg)



The BODs, on behalf of all of the residents here at HHL, would like to take this opportunity to thank the wonderful generosity of both Steve and Vivian Wnuk for donating their pontoon boat to Hickory Hills!

Their donation combined with another generous donation from Keith at Tri-City Marine has resulted in a new and desperately needed Security Boat for our lake!

Also, Peter Charpentier offered a spot at his dock for Mr. Wnuk's Jon boat which normally is parked at the now temporarily closed Boat Launch cove. Thank you Peter!



In August, P. Lastella was able to catch this shot of a loon swimming off of Horizon Island Drive

(*con't from page 6*) spreads by fragmentation so be very cautious not to disturb the plant. Additional volunteers to combat this are needed. Work sessions were held throughout the summer and many more will be held in the Spring. Please consider becoming a member of the LMG or joining a sub-committee!

An invasive species sub-committee has been formed to help combat Fanwort and provide expertise about other aquatic vegetation. The committee is in the process of putting together a booklet containing photos and descriptions of all existing vegetation based on the last vegetation survey and rapid response procedures for all potential/likely invasive species. Members will be attending various conferences such as MaCOLAP and will be communicating with other Lake Associations about invasive problems and action plans. Members are working to Develop and document a removal/mitigation procedure for existing invasives, Fanwort and Purple Loosestrife.

Historically a vegetation survey has been conducted on the main lake every other year. After consulting with Tom Flannery of DCR and Bob Hartzel of GeoSyntec, the LMG is recommending that detailed surveys be conducted yearly. Regular surveys of Little Hickory should also be conducted, initially on a yearly schedule. The last survey of Little Hickory was done in 2007. The recommended survey will include visual surveys with a minimum of 40 GPS data points, collection of vegetation at each of the GPS data points to determine vegetation type and density (this is typically done using a throw rake); measurement of water clarity using a Secchi disk. Water quality testing at a minimum

of two collection areas; at the Mulpus inlet, which is the main tributary to the lake and one other location to be determined. A weed watcher class sponsored by DCR was held on May 25th. Another class will be held in the Fall or Spring to help educate volunteers. If you are interested in attending the class please contact the office.

We must continue to guard against invasive aquatic species by preventing them from entering the lake. The primary means of invasive infestation is boats, trailer and equipment. The Board of Directors has adopted a strict process for boat launching/removal to prevent additional introduction of foreign weeds into the lake.

The battle against Purple Loosestrife continues. Loosestrife can take over a wetland and choke out natural vegetation as well. Each year, many infestations of Loosestrife have been removed by hand pulling. Contact the LMG or the office for information on removing loosestrife from your shoreline.

Erosion control efforts have continued and the Erosion Control Committee remains committed to protecting and stabilizing shorelines. Erosion not only results in loss of shoreline, but causes sedimentation which degrades the aquatic environment. The extensive efforts on Lizard Island were successful, the majority of plants survived and the coir logs that were installed survived the winter. This summer, volunteers reinforced shorelines with coir logs, floating logs, and debris from the Hydro-Raking project. Various Willows, grasses and bushes have been planted on Lizard, Andella Island and some of the other Islands on the Lake to stabilize shorelines. One of the biggest challenges has been transporting this material out to the Islands. Therefore, the Erosion Control Committee will be looking to acquire loam and rock in the Fall and transport it to the Islands during the winter months over the ice (soil from hydro raking has been expended). The Committee is proposing the acquisition of frost blankets to protect the loam from freezing. Efforts to stabilize shoreline with coir logs, plantings and rip rap will continue. Foot and boat traffic cause erosion, whenever possible, embark and disembark from the Islands, using the log-constructed stairways or solid rock or soil areas, rather than walking across the locations where there are plantings of coir logs or along the shoreline. The "NO WAKE" signs are put out for two reasons... to reduce shoreline erosion, and damage to docks and boats. If you are driving your

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boat in the middle of the lake, your boat wake will dissipate before it reaches the shoreline. If you are near the shoreline or in ANY cove on our lake your wake will NOT dissipate before it reaches the shoreline and will cause damage.

The Committee continues to investigate storm water issues on the Lake. Members have visited all known storm water outfalls, viewed plunge pools and identified areas for additional maintenance and follow up. The Committee has consulted with Bob Hartzel, of GeoSyntec, to educate themselves about storm water impacts and mitigation methods. Over the next year the Committee will be implementing a number of strategies to mitigate the effects of storm water including, but not limited to, the construction of rain-gardens in various locations, maintenance of plunge pools and forming a partnership with the Town to address degraded storm water structures.

In accordance with the Lake Management Plan, May 17, 2011 hydro raking began in various community areas of Hickory Hills Lake, Little Hickory and the 66 private waterfront homes which contracted for service.

Hydro raking was conducted by Shoreline Weed Control which is now owned by Lycott Environmental. Two project managers were hired to oversee the project, Paula Bertram and Matt Proctor. One of the main concerns of the LMG and the Board of Directors was the introduction of invasive vegetation to the Lake by the equipment and trailer. Lycott operated two rakes, a barge with a 50 horsepower motor and a dingy with a 5 horsepower motor.

We were the first lake to be raked this year by Lycott, and according to DCR, equipment that has been out of the water for a season is not a possible source of contamination because plant matter is no longer viable. According to Jeff Castellani of Lycott, machines were pressure washed with a bleach solution off-site. Thorough visual inspections of all machines were conducted by members of the Board and/or the Project Managers before the equipment was allowed to enter the Lake. Hydro-raking is an effective lake management technique that allows for clearing of selective areas and generates minimal disturbance to shoreline landscapes. The entire water body was divided into 6 zones; each zone was completed before proceeding to the next. During the operation, two rakes and a barge were operated in various areas. Our harvester also served as a barge for a short period of time.

The operation of the hydro-rake generates high turbidity, and to minimize impact to adjacent properties, modified turbidity curtains were installed at the boundaries of participating properties. Pine Acres Cove (also known as Proctor Cove)

was an area of particular concern as mermaid weed has been present in this cove for many years. The last vegetation survey conducted by ACT in 2010 indicated that mermaid weed had almost completely filled in the cove and was beginning to enter the main lake. After confirming with Tom Flannery of DCR that the weed was in fact mermaid weed and that hydro raking was an appropriate way to address the problem, a decision was made to spend 10 hours raking the center of the Cove. In order to prevent any vegetation from entering the main lake, a full turbidity screen was placed at the mouth of the Cove.

Generally the raked debris was placed on the shoreline of participating properties, in some instances where accessibility to the debris pile was an issue, a barge was utilized to transport the debris to a more suitable location. Overall the response from those that participated in the program has been positive, of the 66 homes that were raked, only a few have expressed disappointment (primarily with the number of re-emergent lily pads). Generally hydro raking is an effective method to remove lily pads; however depending on the density of the patch, the rake may not be able to remove all the root system. Lily pad communities have extensive root and rhizome systems. With the energy stored in these systems, lily pads can quickly re-grow. While hydro raking will certainly reduce lily pad density, continued maintenance will be crucial to eradication in recreational areas. Moving forward, raking later in the season when lily pads are visible will be considered.

The Harvester operated for a period of time over the summer until the discovery of Fanwort. Harvesting is well suited for clearing nuisance vegetation from ponds, coves of larger lakes or cutting channels or lanes through dense plant growth. Regular harvesting in various areas of the lake is recommended, **provided that the threat of Fanwort or other invasives has been eradicated.**

In past years, Little Hickory has been treated twice with herbicides. The Lake Management Plan recommended treatment in 2012, prior to moving forward with this treatment, the area will be surveyed. If conditions warrant, chemical treatment may be applied there.

In order to supplement the LMG budget, the LMG fund raising committee organized a number of fun events. There was a great turnout for the taste of New Orleans held in April at the Leominster Elks, the Hickory Hills Carnival in August was well attended and a terrific time was had by all, especially the kids! The LMG fund raising group has raised over \$5000 this year to

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help lake management efforts.

As new technologies are developed, the LMG will investigate and make recommendations. The LMG will continue to monitor lake habitat and investigate additional areas of concern as they are discovered. Public education, outreach and involvement is critical to the success of any Lake Management Plan. We will continue to publish valuable information in the Waves, distribute literature and hold fun and educational events. Please visit the Hickory Hills website for more information on LMG's research.

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<http://hickoryhillslake.com>



By Scot Lehigh—A fish's view of a dense stand of Eurasian milfoil, a non-native invasive species. (Dennis Roberge/Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program)

Weed Wars - Invasive aquatic plants are choking the native life out of the region's fresh waters

Article taken from July, 2011 Boston.com

AS FANS push the July heat around, Roberta Hill is training citizen sleuths gathered in Acton's antique town hall to identify some of Maine's *least* wanted offenders.

"You see the leaded glass window, the serrated edge, and the lasagna noodle, and you've got it," she declares.

Got what, you ask? A curly leaf pondweed; those are looks-like clues for

spotting its leaves.

That weed is just one of nearly a dozen invasive aquatic plants that Maine and other Northeastern states are fighting to keep out of their lakes, ponds, and rivers.

"They are such serious invaders that once they become firmly established in a water body, they are almost impossible to eradicate," says Hill, invasive plant coordinator for the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program. Others on the list of vegetative villains are European frog-bit, water chestnut, yellow floating heart, fanwort, Brazilian waterweed, hydrilla, European naiad, and several varieties of milfoil.

As non-native species, the invaders don't face the parasites and predators that keep native flora in check, and so, when they infect a lake, they usually grow rapidly, crowding out other plant life and destroying fish habitat. Their thick growth can make it difficult to boat and hazardous to swim.

Hill and Christine Guerette of the lake monitoring organization show photographs that are enough to make a water-lover shudder. In one, for example, milfoil has transformed the surface of a Maine

pond into a tangled mat of vegetation that obscures the water; it's as though a green shag carpet has been laid down.

When it comes to battling the invaders, there's no silver bullet, says Guerette. Sunlight-blocking mats can impede their growth, but they hurt other plant life as well. Divers, sometimes aided by suction tubes, can remove the alien plants. But those labor-intensive methods are expensive. In Vermont, where Lake Fairlee has had a Eurasian milfoil problem for more than 15 years, annual costs for the 457-acre body of water have sometimes exceeded \$100,000.

With some invaders, there's a biological approach. Weevils, for example, like to munch on non-native milfoils. But at \$3 to \$5 apiece, the little bugs are expensive.

Herbicides can be used, but the chemicals also affect native plant life and can carry risk for people and fish as well. Because of that, Maine considers chemicals a last-resort treatment. Still, both Fairlee and Lake Morey in Vermont have turned to herbicides when divers and other methods have failed to contain milfoil.

Sometimes, the best you can do is to keep whacking away at the weeds with a mechanical harvester in an annual effort to keep them in check. That's the case with the water chestnut infestation that plagues Lake Champlain.

All of which emphasizes why prevention is so important, and on the scale of things, painless. Most invaders are unwittingly carried from lake to lake on boats, trailers, anchors, fishing tackle, or even duck decoys. Sometimes they come in on the pontoons of a seaplane.

That's why it's essential for people to inspect their boats and trailers or planes, as well as other aquatic equipment, and remove the weeds.

Meanwhile, organizations throughout New England are training volunteers to do regular invasive plant patrols on their lakes, the better to detect invaders before they get a grow-hold. The websites of the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (www.mainevlmp.org) and the Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel, www.northeastans.org are great resources for information and contacts. Lake lovers should take some time to learn the basics. If they see a suspicious plant, they should mark it with a buoy and notify the experts so they can take a closer look. That way, they can help ensure that their favorite body of water doesn't get left in the weeds.

Free Demo Beginner Tai Chi Class

Held at the United Parish of Lunenburg,

Tuesday, November 8th @ 7:30pm

Their free demo class will kick off their New Beginner Class to be held on Tuesdays at 7:30pm

Taoist Tai Chi is recommended for men & women of all ages. For more info, call 978-582-6572



(con't from page 9)

Security Report - Bob Novacek

Security on the lake this summer was performed by two college students: Jake LaChance and Mike Rash. They were supervised by me with a backup by Walt Parquet. The Board of Directors was also available via a rotating on call list to handle any serious problems if Walt Parquet or myself were not available. Security made several trips on a daily basis, around the lake checking for boat stickers, offering assistance as needed, inspecting the islands and marking logs. They also did daily road patrols and checked the association beaches for residency ID cards. Security wrote up a daily log of their activities that were reviewed and any needed action was investigated or acted upon.

Thankfully, no major problems or incidents occurred on the lake or beaches. It was a pretty quiet summer on the lake. The only area of concern were several complaints about two different residents not keeping headway speed in areas of coves and shorelines and a separate complaint regarding parking inappropriately along Hemlock Beach.

Finance Committee — J. Shearer

Membership consists of lake residents and shareholders: Jane Blake, Caroline Fortin, Pat Lastella, John Male, Walter Parquet and Jim Shearer, with support from HHL Treasurer John Pesenti.

Tonight I'd like to report on 2 topics: (1) the Dam repair fund, and (2) our FY12 plans

The Financial Planning Committee was established in 2008 to assess the impact of state-mandated repairs to the Dam. The estimated cost of those repairs is ~\$400K over 3 years from 2012 – 2015. Based on research by the committee, the following plan was approved by the shareholders at the 2009 annual meeting:

- ◇ Increase annual dues, with at least 50% of the increase to be allocated to Dam fund [*Lake Front \$330; Off-Lake \$220 = \$82.50 or \$55.00/shareholder*]
- ◇ Allocate revenue from sale of the Woodland Rd. land to Dam fund (\$69,832 budgeted in 2013)
- ◇ Allocate \$75k as a loan from CARF for Dam repair
- ◇ Borrow the remaining funds required for Dam repairs from a commercial lender

The committee is pleased to report that the Dam fund has exceeded its budgeted goal to date. In 2011 we **added ~\$65K to the Dam account, and our current balance is \$171,949.**

Three favorable events have occurred since 2008 that contributed to exceeding our goals:

- ◇ The Woodland Rd property was sold last year at the budgeted cost (~70K), but 3 years earlier than anticipated
- ◇ We understand that the state intends to relax the projected schedule for completing Dam repairs by 2-3 years. This will enable us to accrue more funds from fees and interest, and reduce the amount that we will be required to borrow
- ◇ Nicole Waters, our Office Manager, has generously donated her first year's salary to the Dam fund (~\$22K)

Our plans for 2012: The FPC was reactivated this past winter with the long range objective of developing an ongoing 3-5 year financial plan for HHL. Our 2012 plans are to:

- ◇ Continue to support the Dam committee's repair planning. This will be driven in large part by the results of the hydrology study which are due in a few months.
- ◇ Work with CARF (and others) to formalize a Dam investment strategy given the longer term horizon of present Dam planning
- ◇ Meet with other committees to develop long term financial plans
- ◇ Establish a uniform procedure and format for major committee budget submissions

End of reports

MA COLAP 25th Lakes & Ponds Winter Workshop

The 25th Annual MA COLAP Winter Workshop on Lake and Pond Management and Restoration is scheduled for:

**January 28, 2012, at Worcester State University, 9a-3p,
with a snow date of January 29, 2012**

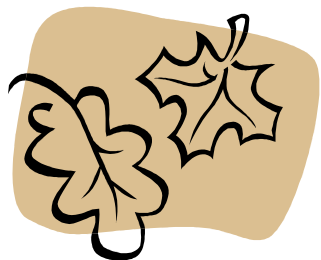
There is much interest in Storm Water Management issues. Speakers will address among other topics, Rain Gardens (the purpose of a rain garden is to improve water quality in nearby bodies of water) and a low-cost best management practice for managing storm water.

They are also planning to repeat the 2-hour mock Conservation Committee session on using the Generic Environmental Impact Report (GEIR) for lake management projects, in which folks from the audience bring their own specific projects to address.



Yard Waste Days for Lunenburg

The Lunenburg Landfill, off Youngs Road will be open Saturdays through **November 19th from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Guidelines for disposal or yard waste:



- **Acceptable:** grass clippings, bark mulch, wood chips, leaves, brush (with a diameter not to exceed 3 inches and unlimited length). Shrubbery and plantings with the same restrictions.

Available Part Time Accounting Clerk

Hickory Hills is looking for someone to help with:

- Processing invoices and payments to vendors.
- Manage payroll accounting.
- Manage RE Taxes accounting.
- Assist with annual audit of financial statements.
- Assist with tax document preparations.
- Assist with financial and business reports including P&L, Balance Sheet, YE Budgets
- Prepare timely and accurate financial information to the Treasurer.
- Reconcile accounts.
- Assist Treasurer with budgeting and general risk management.
- From time to time, prepares and analyzes reports which reflects performance compared to approved budgets and recommend actions to correct variances, including: budget; monthly & quarterly reports.
- Prepare special reports by collecting, analyzing, and summarizing information and trends.



Experience required:

QuickBooks Rock star is a must!

Intuit Online Payroll experience is a plus.

Solid Excel, Word and email skills.

Must have a Bachelor's degree in accounting or equivalent business exp with 5+ years experience.

For consideration, send your letter of interest with resume to our office via email hickoryhills@net1plus.com

HHL Classifieds Page is up!

View the listings below among others at our very own Classifieds web page. Contact the office to put your own listing up and find it on our website. <http://hickoryhillslake.com> and select Classifieds!

Boat & Trailer for Sale



18 foot 2005 Sylvan pontoon boat model Mirage 818 with 9.9 mercury 4 stroke engine. Boat has a full cover to protect seats and carpet. Always covered when not in use. Boat includes 2008 pontoon trailer. Boat and trailer are in excellent condition. \$10,000

Call Jim @ 978-995-8273

Boat for Sale

14 foot fiberglass white open boat. \$400

Good condition. Seats 4 to 5 people

Boat has been garaged

If interested, call June at (781) 665-5620



House for Rent:

3 bedroom, 2 bath, ranch style house
Fireplace with wood stove.
Close to main beach for rent.

If interested, contact 978-582-9090



Fall Office Hours

Monday & Thursday 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Appointments may be made for a more convenient time.

EMAIL ADDRESSES ... save some trees!

We recently sent an email informing residents of the new temporary boat launch schedule & when it was closing. For those we were missing, we sent the notice in the mail.

If you have not sent your email address to the office or have changed your address recently, please send the office your current email address so we can continue to keep you updated with the latest news & happenings around the lake quickly & cost effectively. **Thanks for your help!**

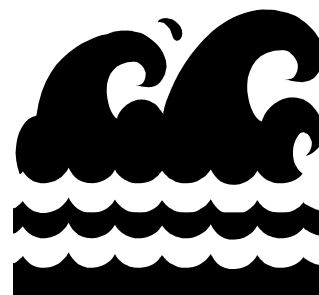
hickoryhillslake.com

978-582-6365

hickoryhills@net1plus.com

Waves

The Newsletter of Hickory Hills Landowners, Inc.



Directors

Mario Andella

Tom Bertram

Jim Leblanc

Eric Manseau

Mike Nault

John Pesenti

Jim Shearer

Officers

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Vice President: Walter Parquet

Treasurer: John Pesenti

Clerk: Chris Albert

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The WAVES 12