



Island Falls Lakes Association

Dear Members,

December 2007

I hope the summer of 2007 was an enjoyable one for everyone. Hopefully you were able to enjoy the pleasures of being on the lakes, doing fun and worthwhile projects, or meeting with old and new friends to refresh your spirit.

The lakes appear to be doing fairly well, water quality tests reflect that we are holding our own and not losing ground. These tests are very valuable to Maine and to us for our continued vigilance in keeping our beautiful lakes-beautiful. As property owners or one of the frequent visitors to our area, we all have a part to play in the continued health of our lakes. Sometimes it's a small thing like picking up trash that got left behind, steering around a swimming loon, or watching out for a neighbor's property while they are away. All of these things help create a community of caring and respect that property owners and visitors alike feel when they spend time in our area.

The directors of the Island Falls Lakes Association (IFLA) are doing their part as well to help keep landowners informed of the issues, needs and activities being planned for the year. The directors meet monthly from May to September. Many items are discussed as they meet and discuss the best way to implement these plans and then how to get the word out to the members is decided. Central to our discussions is water quality and the continued certifying of individuals to do the water tests on both lakes so that we have updated data in which to monitor our lake water. These meetings are open to anyone and we encourage people to bring issues that are pressing to any of these meetings.

Again this year, we brought our lake family together for a steak and lobster feed for our annual meeting. We raffled off a kayak and paddle, sold clothing with the IFLA logo, and enjoyed camaraderie as we shared a wonderful meal. Reports on water quality were given and data was registered with the state. Also, the annual canoe and kayak race was discussed. This popular event helps SACHS Dollars for Scholars, along with the Philip Powers Memorial Scholarship. Next year we are planning to add a shore clean-up effort for both lakes.

Lastly a thing to note is the pride people have for their particular lake and the willingness to work together in an open dialogue to get things done. It is great to see camp owners working together to make things happen. To see a group observe the areas where run-off needs to be addressed and then prioritize these projects and move on them. Educating ourselves and our neighbors to the landscaping methods to help minimize phosphorous run-off from getting into our waters seems like a small thing but in the big view is one of the most critical things we can do as a lake community. Take a minute and think of the times you have done one of these things and pat yourself on the back. Then think ahead to what you can do next year!

Thank-you for all your contributions, keep up the good work; let us continue to improve and bring ideas forward for the good of our lakes. And for more information on our lakes be sure to log on to <http://www.iflakes.org/>. The kind folks at Crown of Maine have established a web cam on Pleasant Lake and they have agreed to publish our newsletter and other information. Be sure to check this site frequently to see the lake in the winter, watch for the ice to go out, or just to read what's going on!

Steve Edwards
President
Island Falls Lakes Association

2007 Annual Meeting

The Island Falls Lakes Association was held on August 11 at Big Valley Snow Club. The meeting was preceded by the annual lobster and steak supper. This continues to be a successful event attracting record attendance to our annual meeting. Thanks to all who helped pull this together.

Steve Edwards presided over the annual meeting. The secretary and treasurer reports were given and accepted. Trustee changes were as follows- Bill Ginter representing Mattawamkeag Lake was nominated and voted onto the board. The officers were elected at the same time with Steve Edwards as president, Peter Powers as vice-president, Candy Guerette as secretary, and Jim Timmins as treasurer.

Other items covered at the meeting included: the islands deeded to the association which is being taxed \$175 for them; \$1,500 was set aside for a some culvert work on Lane Hill; the association was informed of the webcam on the pond www.crownofmaine.com; the following donations were also approved that evening - \$500 for SACHS Dollars for Scholars and \$100 for test equipment.

Canoe and Kayak Race

The following are the results of the annual Canoe and Kayak race sponsored by Island Falls Lakes Association – which raises funds for SACHS Dollars for Scholars and Philip Powers Memorial Scholarship. This year’s race was held July 29 at Birch Point on Pleasant Lake.

The winners of the following divisions were:

Student Kayak:

- 1 Dillon Stubbs, 16.04
- 2 Rob Toothaker, 16.21
- 3 Nick Haggan , 16.51

Adult Kayak:

- 1 Jim Pettyjohn, 15.02
- 2 Charlie Phipps, 15.31
- 3 Earl Morris, 16.14
- 4 Logan Edwards, 17.23

Woman’s Kayak:

- 1 Erica Qualey, 15.19
- 2 Sandy Newman, 16.42

Open Class:

- 1 Clint Cushman and Crystal Nason, 12.09
- 2 Bob and Amy Gurette, 15.29

Mixed Canoe:

- 1 Ben Boutlier and Micah Rodgeron, 16.29
- 2 Michelle Dyer and Bruce Gagne, 16.48
- 3 Zach Stubbs and Amanda Clark, 19.52

A lucky lady from Lincoln also won a brand new Old Town kayak! We are now busily securing more fabulous prizes for next year’s race. See you there!

Mark Your Calendars!

- July 12, 2008 - Lakes Clean Up Weekend
- July 19, 2008 – IFLA Annual Dinner and Meeting
- July 27, 2008 - Annual IFLA Canoe and Kayak Race at Pleasant Lake

2007 Water Quality Report

Upper Mattawamkeag Lake:

Water quality data has been collected since 1972. In addition to the Secchi disk transparency data (SDT) collected by IFLA, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (ME-DEP) has collected 11 years worth of more in depth chemical data, the last tests being 2004. On the basis of all that data, the water quality is considered to be slightly below average. The SDT average for 2006 was 3.5 meters (11.5 feet) which is consistent with the average SDT for all the years of testing. In addition, the total phosphorus grab for 2006 was 9 ppb which is the same as in 2005.

Lower Mattawamkeag Lake:

Water quality data has been collected since 1983 with 6 years of ME-DEP chemical testing. This part of the lake is considered to be below average with a high potential for nuisance algal blooms. The average SDT for 2006 was 3.4 meters which is slightly better than the overall average of 3.1 meters. The total phosphorus grab for 2006 was 10 ppb which is fairly consistent with the 11 ppb last year.

Pleasant Lake:

Water quality data has been collected since 1974 with 14 years of ME-DEP chemical testing. Our SDT average last year was 10.6 meters which is slightly better than the overall 14 year average of 10.0 meters (33.3 feet), but down from the 2005 average of 11.3 meters. Our total phosphorus surface grab was 5 ppb which is fairly consistent with the 2005 (4 ppb) and 1974 (6 ppb) tests. There are many years with no tests. As we continue to run this test yearly, perhaps trends will appear. The state considers Pleasant Lake's water quality to be above average, so we have a low potential for a nuisance algal bloom. As a matter of fact, in "The 2006 Maine Lakes Report" all lakes monitored by VLMP (Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program) are listed by increasing SDT and only 3 lakes are clearer than Pleasant Lake! That does mean we have our work cut out for us as development and logging continue in the Lake's very small watershed.

What is SDT?

Secchi disc transparency is a simple method used by water quality monitors for assessing the clarity of their lake. It consists of a black and white patterned disc on a long tape. The disc is lowered into the lake while the monitor watches through a viewing scope. As long as sunlight penetrates the water, it will hit the disc and bounce back to the viewer so we can "see" it. This means sunlight can travel that far down into the water and plants on the bottom can grow.

If the lake has color (like Mattawamkeag) or if sediment is present because it is carried in by rain run-off from logging, farming, development, or gravel roads and driveways, then the light can not travel very far down into the water and the Secchi disc will "go out of sight" sooner.

Another issue is "nutrients." Nitrogen and phosphorus are essential nutrients that "fertilize" or increase the growth of plants. They are, of course, found in human and animal wastes as well as in the bags of fertilizer we buy for our gardens and lawns. If any of these "fertilizers" end up in the lake water, the nutrients will increase the growth of algae. More algae in the water will also prevent sunlight from penetrating the water column.

The end result of sunlight not being able to reach the bottom is that if plants can't grow down there, they will not be there to give off oxygen for the fish to survive.

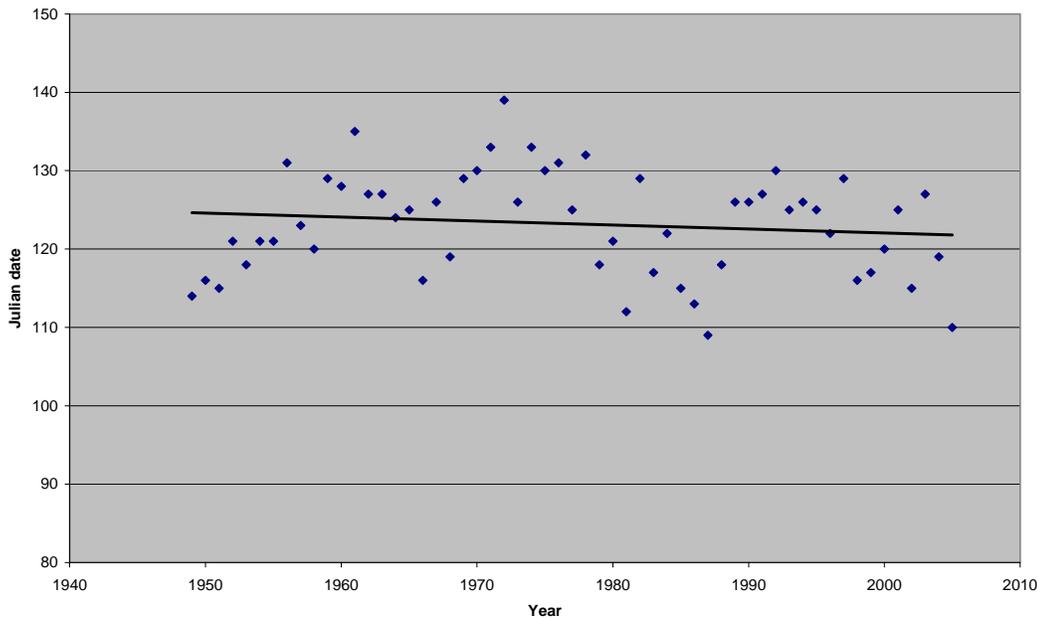
So..... What does this mean?

We all need to do our best to be sure that ...

- No nutrients are entering the lake from our lots or local roads
- Septic wastes are being taken care of adequately
- Animals and their wastes are kept out of the water
- Logging operations are following DEP guidelines
- Builders are following DEP guidelines
- Rain is filtered by a layer of natural plants and enters the soil rather than running off into the lake

Recent economic studies using Maine VLMP data indicate that the quality of the water in a lake is directly related to the shoreline property values. No one wants a cottage or home on a lake that is green, algae-choked or muddy, and we all love our lakes too much to see this happen!

Ice-out data Pleasant Lake



Interesting slight downward trend does seem to say that ice-out is occurring earlier in the year over time. Changes in lake ice-out dates over time can affect important characteristics of lakes, such as the rate of change of summer oxygen levels (Stewart, 1976), and the health of important parts of the food chain (Maeda and Ichimura, 1973; Porter and others, 1996).”

Respectfully submitted: Sherry Pettyjohn

- Source: <http://me.water.usgs.gov/iceout.html>
- Resources
- www.MaineVolunteerLakeMonitors.org
 - <http://www.pearl.maine.edu>
 - <http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/lake.htm>
 - www.maineaudubon.org
 - www.BRIILoon.org (the education page)
 - <http://www.maineaudubon.org/conserv/citsci/loon2.shtml>
 - <http://www.maineaudubon.org/conserv/loon/index.shtml>

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION – As an owner of waterfront property your membership and support is essential in making the quality of our beautiful lakes. Thanks to those who have supported IFLA in past years. Benefits of membership:

- ◆ Monitoring of lakes for water quality
- ◆ Grant monies available pollution control projects and roads
- ◆ Educational material, guest speakers
- ◆ COLA affiliation

Enrollment form: Dues: \$10 per person - \$20 per family. Payable to IFLA, Box 63, Island Fall, ME 04747

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ e-mail: _____



Suzanne Spruce photo

Kayakers enjoy a mid-day paddle this fall at Pleasant Lake ...

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