



## Island Falls Lakes Association

December 2009

Dear Members,

I was going to start this year's letter with the typically frosty theme, but here I sit in early December with the temperature hovering around 60 degrees. One thing about the weather in Maine is that it changes, and this year the change has been dramatic. If it weren't for the wind, it would be a great day for kayaking.

I've been involved with the Island Falls Lakes Association for a number of years and was pleased to serve as this year's president. I love these lakes and want to insure we leave them as we found them. I'm also not one to sit on the sidelines, but to jump in often, learning as I go. My involvement with the Lakes Association allows me the opportunity to do just that. In August I attended a Congress of Lakes Association meeting in Windham. It was my first conference; I was impressed with the wealth of information they can provide. Did you know there are 17 Pleasant Lakes/Ponds in Maine? COLA provides a summary of data for all lakes:

Mattawamkeag is 3323 acres with a maximum depth of 47 feet. Pleasant is 1817 acres with a maximum depth of 63 feet (that's the salmon hole). I encourage you to check out their website at [www.mainecola.org](http://www.mainecola.org).

Each year the Lakes Association Board works to provide opportunities for our members to have fun on the lakes as well as help preserve our lakes. This year's activities included:

- The Maine Audobon Loon count, held on a rainy July morning, sighted 8 loons including 2 chicks.
- July's Annual Canoe and Kayak race continued to be a family favorite with a number of mixed classes and ages.
- The annual meeting and lobster feed had record attendance for both association members and lobsters.
- The shore-to-shore clean up had fewer participants than in prior years, however more garbage was collected. Plastic continues to spoil

our shorefront. It doesn't decompose and is easily swept ashore.

- The IFLA members voted to send DEP a letter expressing concerns with First Winds' Oakfield turbine project. We have sent the letter and are monitoring the approval process. Please read the article about the wind turbine project in this newsletter

I'd encourage you to get involved. These are our lakes. IFLA can always use more help. Next year I'd like to have some activities focused on children's programs. COLA has a number of resources we can tap into. I'm looking for volunteers to pull this together. Encourage your kids to help – they are the next generation of camp owners.

Enjoy your winter, perhaps we'll meet on the ice!

Candy Guerette  
IFLA President 2009  
[cguerette@gwi.com](mailto:cguerette@gwi.com)



### **Annual Around the Pond Canoe and Kayak Race: July 25, 2009**

The annual Around the Pond Canoe/Kayak Race took place on Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, at Birch Point Lodge and Campgrounds on Pleasant Lake in Island Falls. The weather cooperated and over \$240 was raised for the Southern Aroostook County Regional High School's Dollars for Scholars program. The First Place winners were: Nicholas Hagan (Junior Kayak), Zachary Lowry (Student Kayak), Jason Bigonia (Adult Men's Kayak), Erica Qualey (Adult Women's Kayak), Bob and Aimee Guerette (Adult Tandem Kayak), Brian and Kelsey MacDonald (Mixed Double Canoe), and Peter and Carol Blood (Century Canoe).

The Island Falls Lakes Association would like to thank all of the local businesses that donated prizes for the races: Katahdin Trust Company, Katahdin Federal Credit Union, Bishop's Market, Island Falls One-Stop, Va-Jo-Wa Golf Course, Craig's Main Course Restaurant, Vacationland Estates, Trail's End Restaurant, Jerry's Thriftway, Briar Patch Gifts and Flowers, Katahdin Forest Products, Whitey's Market, Golden Ridge Woodworks, First Wind Oakfield, G.R. Porter and Sons, Birch Point Lodge and Campground, and Patrick Hunt Law Offices.

**2009 Canoe/Kayak Race Winners  
And Total Times:**

Junior Kayak (age 14 and below)

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Nicholas Hagan	17:37
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Matthew Martin	20:33
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Seth Hannigan	22:03
4 <sup>th</sup> Place	Benjamin Buffington	22:17
5 <sup>th</sup> Place	Cameron Godbout	25:38

Student Kayak (age 15-17)

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Zachary Lowry	22:31
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Sean Fontaine	23:53

Adult Men's Short Kayak

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Jason Bigonia	16:57
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Michael Hannigan	20:05
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Brent Rockwell	20:38

Adult Women's Kayak

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Erica Qualey	17:47
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Adult Tandem Kayak

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Bob & Aimee Guerette	17:06
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Mixed Double Canoe:

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Brian MacDonald & Kelsey MacDonald	19:28
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Bill Phipps & Miranda Willett	22:49

Century Canoe:

1 <sup>st</sup> place	Peter and Carol Blood	15:00
	(best overall time in race)	

**A LAKER'S DOZEN  
13 Ways You Can Help the Lake\***

1. Always check boat, trailer, and equipment for plant fragments
2. Respect Shoreland Zone Regulations
3. Control storm water run-off from buildings, paths, driveways and roads
4. Cultivate a wooded shoreland buffer
5. Take a Break, Retire the Rate and Save the Lake – Limit lawn size
6. Use only phosphate free fertilizer
7. Don't stress the septic system
8. Construct docks and floats with lake friendly materials
9. Dogs, humans and boats should never be washed in the lake!
10. Observe headway speed within 200 feet of the shore
11. When you replace a boat motor, choose a clean 4-stroke engine
12. Preserve wildlife habitat on land and underwater
13. Support your local and regional lake associations.

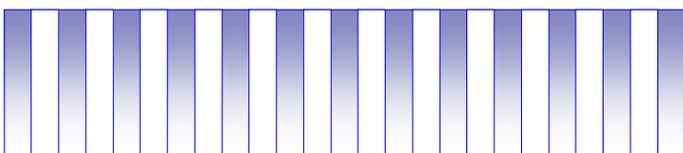
\*Adapted from The Lake Book, Maine Congress of Lake Associations



**Life and Times on Pleasant Pond  
1858 – 2009**

Sandy Newman is writing a book about the Pond and is looking for your stories. Camp stories including history, personal human interest, fish stories – big & lost, swimming lessons, 4 season stories, Sand Cove, Barker Rocks etc. Please consider writing a short story one page or less please include a picture if possible. The picture should be dated and everyone identified. Send your story to: Sandy Newman, 20 Portsmouth Ave. #41, Stratham, NE 03885. Stories may also be sent via email to: ssndesigns2@yahoo.com.

**Join the "Crown of Maine" website!** Jeff Clarke, IFLA Board member, has offered free membership to all IFLA members, a \$10 value. Check out the site with its community bulletin board and discussion options, the camera views (from Pleasant Lake to Katahdin to Presque Isle!), and participate in the cool surveys! Check it out at [www.crownofmaine.net](http://www.crownofmaine.net) or [www.iflakes.org/](http://www.iflakes.org/) community. Let us know what you think!



## **Oakfield Wind Power Project**

In April of this year, the wind power development company FirstWind submitted a site location application to the Maine DEP to build a 40-turbine wind farm in the Oakfield hills. Approximately 13 of the turbines would be visible from Pleasant Pond and various members of the IFLA are concerned that the turbines may have a significant visual and acoustic impact. As such, the IFLA board sent a letter to the DEP outlining members' collective concerns. The text of the letter follows. While there is little chance that the project will be halted, the hope is that the DEP will require FirstWind to address the issues raised. At present, the DEP is deliberating and a decision should be forthcoming.

More information is available at:

- [http://www.oakfieldwind.com/oakfield/permitting\\_pdf.cfm](http://www.oakfieldwind.com/oakfield/permitting_pdf.cfm)
- The town of Oakfield is also a good source of information on events of the past year and a half:
- <http://oakfieldme.org/>

### **Letter to Mr. Mark Margerum, DEP**

The Island Falls Lakes Association (IFLA) represents over 120 individuals and households with property on and around Pleasant and Mattawamkeag Lakes. The IFLA was created in 1972 to "preserve and improve the aesthetic and other environmental values and conditions affecting" the lakes.

We are writing to express our concern that the plans by FirstWind, Inc., if approved, to build 34 wind turbine generators (WTG) on property in Oakfield, ME, will have a significant impact on the scenic value of the area, specifically:

1. Many of the WTG will be directly visible from most points on Pleasant Lake and will greatly alter the quality and character of the Lake's natural beauty. Only along a limited area of the Lake's north shore and at the northwest end will the WTG be restricted from view.

2. Pleasant Lake is considered a high value lake insofar as it is rated Management Class 1 according to LURC Wildlands Lake Assessment Findings. The findings specifically identify Pleasant Lake's scenic value as significant.

3. There is evidence that the presence and visibility of WTG in areas valued for their pristine nature has a negative effect on property values.

4. We do not believe that the Decommission Fund has been adequately addressed. We would like to see greater detail on exactly when and how funds will be committed, as well as the costs

associated with the removal of the WTG as they age.

4. We do not believe that camp owners and recreational users of Pleasant Lake have had a sufficient opportunity to learn about, understand, and/or object to the Oakfield installation. There is significant concern on the part of the membership about visual and other impacts of the project. The camp owners are not adjacent land owners, but they will nevertheless be affected and should be considered stakeholders since WTG will be visible from many of their camps.

We feel that the benefits of wind power do not justify harming the unique beauty of one of Maine's natural gems. We respectfully request that you postpone a decision on the FirstWind Oakfield application until these issues and concerns can be properly addressed, especially in light of the fact that FirstWind is currently considering additional projects in the immediate area.

Very truly yours,

The IFLA Board and Members



### **As a Member of IFLA How do you feel about Wind Turbines**

The Crown of Maine website conducted two surveys this fall attempting to determine how people felt about WTG. Here are the results, but bear in mind that not all of the responses may have been from camp owners.

1. Will having two wind farms visible from Pleasant Lake damage its scenic beauty?

Yes: 42%    No: 37 %  
A little: 13%    Maybe: 3%  
Not sure: 6%

2. As a camp owner, how do you feel about the Oakfield WTG being visible from Pleasant Lake?

Happy: 39%    Very concerned: 20%  
A little concerned: 13%  
Indifferent: 25%    Not sure: 2%

**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION** – As an owner of waterfront property your membership and support is essential in preserving the quality of our beautiful lakes. Many thanks to those members who have continually supported IFLA over the years. Won't you please consider convincing your lake neighbors to become members? Remember: the watershed is huge! All residents of the surrounding local towns should be members too!

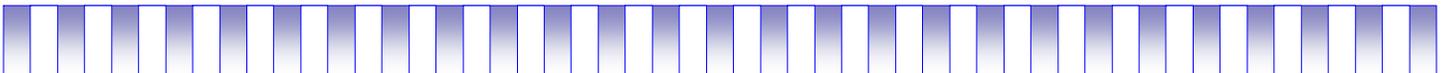
What are the benefits of membership? What does IFLA do?

- Monitor lake water quality, submit data to Maine's Volunteer Lakes Monitoring Program (VLMP) and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
- Provide grant monies for pollution control projects including roads and septic systems. IFLA may provide up to 40% of the costs for camp road repairs if at least 75% of the camps served by the road are IFLA members.
- Provide educational material and guest speakers
- Send a representative to the Maine Coalition of Lakes Associations (COLA) so that our voice can be heard at the State level
- Place speed/wake control buoys where needed to preserve shoreline property and safety
- Assist in maintaining the public boat landings
- Place/replace culverts to divert run-off from the lakes
- Maintain the informational signage at the public boat landings

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Island Falls Lakes Association  
PO Box 63  
Island Falls, ME 04747



**IFLA wishes you a Happy New Year!**