

AROUND THE LAKE

NEWS FROM THE MERRYMEETING LAKE COMMUNITY

Brought to you by



Celebrating MMLA's Diamond Jubilee: 1947 - 2022

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Merrymeeting Lake Association! The MMLA was founded in 1947 by Harry Meader in order to organize volunteers to man a fire truck. Over the years, the MMLA's focus has expanded from the safety of lake residents to also include social activities, connecting with the town, water quality protection, and watershed conservation.

The MMLA has hosted socials, teen dances, picnics, barbecues, concerts. We have inspired environmental protection through lectures, workshops, newsletter articles, and the "20 Ways to Protect MML" booklet. The MMLA has participated in the UNH Lakes Lay Monitoring Program, the NHLA Lake Host Program, the NH DES Weed Watchers Program. As a non-profit, we have supported like-minded organizations such as the NH Lakes Association, the Loon Preservation Committee, SELT, and Moose Mountain Regional Greenways.

So much has happened on Merrymeeting Lake in these 75 years: camps were built all around the shoreline; many camps became year-round houses; North Shore and South Shore Roads were built and eventually paved; the Marina changed hands many times before its steady operation by the Weldon family; Taylor's Snack Bar came and sadly went; swim lessons, sailing races and fish tournaments took place; the South Shore spring shut down; the dam underwent significant repairs in 1983; Lions Camp Pride opened in 1989; the town beach was



A view of Merrymeeting Lake. CREDIT: JEN SEUSING

established in 1994; the boat ramp was improved in 2011. And throughout all these changes, the MMLA has been active, keeping the lake community informed, hosting social events, protecting water quality and preserving the watershed.

The MMLA plans to assemble a Commemorative Booklet on these past 75 years in which we'd like to include member contributions of memories, stories, poetry and photographs. Please check the MMLA website for details regarding submission. And please help make this Diamond Jubilee Anniversary a banner year by joining the MMLA and by attending our many summer events!

Letter from the MMLA President

Welcome to 2022—A big year for the Merrymeeting Lake Association! There is a lot to celebrate this season as we honor the 75th Diamond Jubilee anniversary of the Merrymeeting Lake Association (MMLA) and the 260th Anniversary of the Town of New Durham.

Since its inception 75 years ago, the focus of the MMLA has evolved from a need to coordinate volunteer firefighters to a commitment to protect our lake and the land around it, recognizing the critical importance of water quality protection through land conservation and other activities. To this end, our volunteer Board of Directors meets year-round to stay on top of items of importance to our lake community. With significant progress in the last three years, 3,170 acres (29%) of the land in the watershed is now in conservation and open for public enjoyment. We will continue to partner with conservation organizations such as the Southeast Land Trust of NH (SELT) and Moose Mountains Regional Greenways (MMRG) to increase the portfolio of conserved land around the lake. Through the Lake Host Program, we will again have hosts at the launch for boat inspections and education of water enthusiasts to help prevent the introduction of invasive species.

Your support of our work is paying off. Ongoing water testing confirms that the water quality of the lake continues to be excellent, and we want to keep it that way! While many lakes are battling to improve water quality, we are in the enviable position of being pro-active in working to maintain the pristine water of our beautiful lake! The old adage of “All work and no play . . .” rings true-- and what a great place we have to play!

To that end, our Events Committee is again bringing a full slate of fun activities to the lake this summer and we’re supporting the Town for the 260th celebration, with details in this newsletter and on our web site. The Birch Ridge Community Forest Management Committee has some exciting new plans in the works for expanded recreational opportunities to benefit the New Durham community. Stay tuned for more info.

Much of the work we do is evident, but your membership in the MMLA directly benefits you in ways you may not have considered. Merrymeeting Lake is highly regarded for the quality and clarity of the water and the beautiful vista of undeveloped land surrounding the lake. The success of our work to protect the lake and the land in the watershed for water quality, wildlife habitat and community recreation has contributed to a rise in property values around the lake as homes here are greatly sought after. Your membership pays for the programs that will maintain the status of our lake as one of the cleanest in NH! Bi-weekly water testing will identify any issues with water quality early on, allowing for prompt action if a problem arises. This testing, along with the Lake Host program and ongoing conservation efforts will continue to safeguard our lake and bolster property values.

The last few years have been unsettling and unpredictable, and we have experienced a dip in membership numbers. We are hopeful that this year we’ll see a rebound in membership beyond previous levels. If you are one of many members who have already joined for 2022--our sincere thanks. If you are not currently a member or are a past member who has taken a hiatus, please join or renew today. Your support enables the work we do. Joining is easy! Visit mmlake.org and click “Join Now.”

This year the annual meeting is on July 10 at the MMLA Meetinghouse at Cove Cottages (across from the public boat launch). Refreshments and mingling 8:30 - 9:00 am and meeting 9:00 -10:30 am.

With appreciation for your support and participation, I wish you a wonderful summer of sunny days at the lake!

Laurie Smith, President, MMLA

MMLA Board of Directors

Laurie Smith (President)	Pat Chiumiento
Jen Seusing (Vice President)	Daniel Leach
Bruce Long (Treasurer)	Chap Nystedt
Lisa Keslar (Secretary)	David Roy
Nancy Bryant	Royal (Brad) Smith
Jim Buttafuoco	Mark Sullivan
John Chapin	Richard Waldbauer
Jeff Chiumiento	Russ Weldon

A special thank you to Nancy Bryant for assistance in editing this newsletter.

Keep Up-to-Date with What's Happening at Birch Ridge Community Forest

Looking for the latest news and information about Birch Ridge Community Forest? Visit SELT's dedicated webpage at:

www.seltnh.org/birchridge

There you can view and download current updates and announcements, committee meeting materials, presentations, and more. (PS: Big congratulations to our friends at SELT for moving into their brand new home, The Nan and George Mathey Center for People and Nature at Burley Farms in Epping.)



Wake Surfing Recommendations

During the 2021-2022 legislative session, the NH Legislature considered passing a law that would have required wake surf boats to stay at least 250 feet away from shore when towing a wake surfer. Although the legislation was not passed, following this distance guideline has merit. A recent study conducted by the University of Minnesota found that it can take at least 500 feet for wake surf boat waves to dissipate. The concern is that high waves from wake surf boats may cause increased erosion of shore land and may disrupt sediments in shallow water, releasing nutrients that decrease water quality. Additionally, if a wake boat moves from lake to lake, great care should be taken with the intake and outlet of the ballast water to make sure that invasive species are not unwittingly transported from one lake to another.

Legislation Passed on Cyanobacteria Blooms

Responding to concerns over the increase in cyanobacteria blooms in New Hampshire waters, the NH Legislature passed a bill this year to direct the State Department of Environmental Services to establish an advisory committee and prepare a plan to address cyanobacteria blooms. Over the past several years, the Merrymeeting River has experienced cyanobacteria blooms. The major source of nutrients to the River has been the long-term discharge of fish food and fish waste from the Powder Mill Fish Hatchery. Efforts are finally underway to reduce and treat the hatchery wastewater.

Celebrating New Durham's 260th Anniversary: 1762 – 2022

New Durham was settled by colonists, mostly from Durham, NH, in 1750 and incorporated as a town on December 7, 1762. By 1859, the town had five sawmills, four shingle mills, two gristmills and a gunpowder factory. Today the town has many active farms and a population of approximately 2,700. New Durham's 260th Anniversary will be celebrated with special events and activities all year long! Keep an eye out for event postings in the community and in the local newspaper.

The Marina and the MMLA have teamed up with the Town of New Durham to celebrate the Town's 260th Anniversary! We have combined our resources for the celebration, which will include the biggest fireworks New Durham has ever seen in a show you will not want to miss! Please mark your calendar for Saturday night, August 6th at 8:30 PM. It's guaranteed to be a blast!

The Marina is excited for another great summer ahead! Please remember to have your mooring chains checked. We will be going out with a diver this year so please call ahead or email us at the Marina to get on the schedule today! Thank you from the crew at Merrymeeting Marina!

Keeping Cyanobacteria at Bay

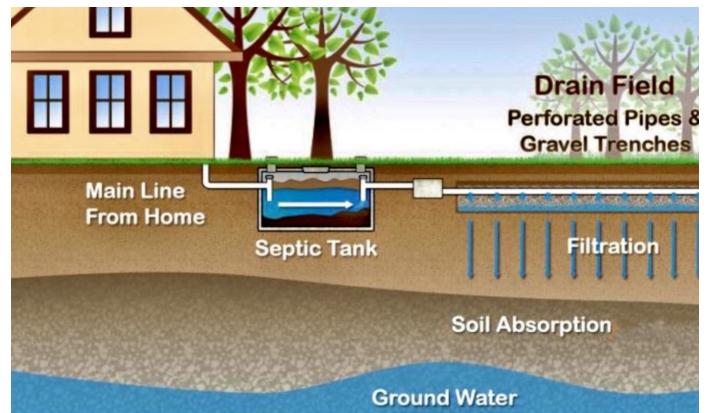
by Royal B. Smith, NH Licensed Home Inspector

Did you hear? We had a confirmed Cyanobacteria bloom on our beautiful lake last summer. One of our observant lake residents noticed a white foam substance floating in Pleasant Cove and had the forethought to get a sample. It was sent off to the state for testing and sadly it was positive for Cyanobacteria. So why should we care and what can we do about it? After all Cyanobacteria, also known as blue green algae, is almost always present in the lake.

So what makes this a new problem? The problem is that when Cyanobacteria blooms (rapidly multiplies because of a nutrient source), it produces toxins. These toxins are very detrimental to other organisms, people and especially our pets. There have been studies that implicate these toxins in higher rates of a number of neurological illnesses in humans, including ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) and Alzheimer's to name just two.

So what can we do to control these blooms? The most effective way to control the blooms is to control the nutrients that leach into the lake. This is why we should not use fertilizers on our lawns because much of the phosphorus intended to green up our lawn washes into the lake and feeds the Cyanobacteria. Another common source of phosphorus can come from a failed or failing septic system. Many of us have lived where our septic disposal is part of a larger municipal treatment system where everything we put down our drains eventually makes its way to a facility that renders it safe to discharge back into the environment.

Here at the lake we all have our very own sewerage treatment plants in our back yards, or front, or side yards. Just like those big treatment facilities are designed to handle certain flow rates so are our systems. A two bedroom house has a system designed to handle the waste water flow from a home that assumes a two bedroom home would have up to four people, showering, using the toilet, washing laundry and dishes as well as all the other water use needs of a family.



As the house gets larger in design and more bedrooms are added, the size of the septic system also has to increase to handle the increased load. A septic system is made up of its component parts. The drain piping within the house leads to a main drain that takes your waste water to a septic tank. Inside the tank the waste water separates into a sludge layer at the bottom of the tank, a clear zone in the middle and a scum layer at the top. Bacteria within the tank help "digest" solid material entering the tank and solids heavier than water sink to the bottom. Water from the "clear zone" within the tank, usually follows the path of gravity, or in some systems is pumped from a pump chamber to a distribution box, and out to a leaching field. At the leaching field the contaminated water from your tank runs out through a series of pipes or chambers installed over a stone and gravel bed that filters the water from your system before it re-enters the environment. Some camps around the lake may not have anything more than a tank to hold the waste water until it is removed and taken to a treatment facility by a septic pumping service.

It is equally important to ensure these holding tanks are in good condition and have not deteriorated over time. These holding tanks generally require more frequent pumping, but *all* septic tanks require periodic pumping depending on usage. All septic systems need to be inspected for leakage and periodically pumped because untreated waste water is a significant phosphorus source for the lake.

Lake Hosts Keep Invasives at Bay

Every summer since 2003, the Merrymeeting Lake Association, through its membership with the NH Lakes Association, has run the Lake Host Program, a nationally-recognized aquatic invasive species education and prevention program.

Lake Hosts inspect boats, trailers, personal watercraft, and gear entering Merrymeeting Lake for hitchhiking plants and animals. Over the years, we have had quite a few “saves”, where we have stopped invasive plants or animals from entering our beloved lake.

Clean water, diverse wildlife, and stable property values depend on a healthy lake, free of invasive species. The Lake Host Program is the first line of defense in keeping our lakes free of invasive plants and animals. Prevention is always easier than eradication!

Lake Hosts also help educate boaters on the “Clean, Drain, and Dry” law to prevent hitchhikers. Unfortunately, invasive species continue to spread to more lakes and there are an increasing number of species found in New Hampshire. So far, Merrymeeting Lake has no known invasive species, but many water bodies around us have become infected.

Starting in mid-May through Labor Day weekend, the Merrymeeting Lake boat launch will typically be manned from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM during the week and from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM on weekends. If you would like to volunteer as a lake host, please e-mail the MMLA at mmla@mmlake.org. Thank you to our members, as your dues and contributions support this important program.



The sun sets on Merrymeeting Lake. CREDIT: MIKE ZAMPIERI

Stay Connected to the MMLA All Year Long

By Lisa Keslar

Did you know there are several ways to engage with the MMLA? In addition to this mailed newsletter, we share information throughout the year via social media.

The MMLA website is kept up to date with information on events and initiatives, meeting minutes, prior copies of annual newsletters, and more! You may also visit the website to easily pay your membership dues!

We also have a robust Facebook page managed by the Association. This page features educational and informational content about topics that may be of interest to residents around the lake. Look here for reminders of upcoming events that are social and/or educational.

And we will soon be starting a periodic email newsletter. This will contain content related to MMLA events and initiatives, as well as any other current information that may be of interest to members. Sign up for the email newsletter on the MMLA website.

We look forward to providing you with information to enhance your experience at Merrymeeting all year long.

www.mmlake.org

mmla@mmlake.org

facebook.com/MerrymeetingLakeAssociationNH



When a Community Comes Together

Many people know Harry as “the man who picks up trash on the sides of our roads and greets everyone with a friendly wave.” He waves to virtually all passing cars and lives on Merrymeeting Road across from the lower fish hatchery ponds.

This past September, a court order demanded that a clean-up of Harry’s property be completed in just a few weeks. If not, his house and property would be lost to forfeiture and Harry would be converted from tax payer to ward of the state.

Within days of the court order, a group of volunteers led by the Merrymeeting Marina and Mike Gelinas were on the scene with machinery and volunteers, in a mission to save Harry’s house, freedom and dignity.

“We initially thought it might take a week, but it turned into over three weeks to complete,” said Gelinas. “It was far worse than we could have imagined. Sadly, this mess was dumped on Harry by others. It wasn’t his doing. In fact, we still aren’t quite done as topsoil and seed will be going down this spring to finish the job.”

In all, six cars, five house trailers, over 100 tires, three sheds and over 60 tons of household junk were removed, at a cost of over \$12,000.

Two containers were purchased to store items worth keeping, allowing the property to stay clean, never to return to the eyesore it had become.

The total hard dollar cost was over \$20,000. Thankfully, no garbage or hazardous waste was found on site and the site posed no environmental threats.

Along with the Marina, other local business contributed significantly to the efforts, including Al Greymont Trucking, Cameron’s Septic, Adam

Levesque Landscaping, McKay Earth Movers, Vachon, Ironwill Contractors, and Bickford Farms. Amy Vachon, a local Alton hairdresser donated a personal makeover for Harry and offered him free haircuts anytime in the future.

Community members have volunteered to paint his house this spring, and others have provided warm winter clothes.

In the end, no one is sure which turned out better - Harry or his house! Either way, Harry has a new spring in his step.

“I found out I have more friends than I ever thought was possible to have,” said Harry.

“Over 100 people contributed both time and money to this neighborly effort and we thank everyone that did,” said Allen Weldon at the marina, who collected contributions for the effort.

He is still receiving contributions and is committed to seeing it through to the end. Congratulations to the Merrymeeting Lake Community for showing everyone what can be achieved when people work together!

A Note from Harry

Dear Merrymeeting Lake people,

My name is Harry

Thank you all for saving my house that my mother left me when she died. If so many good people did not help me to clean and organize my property I would lose it and have nowhere to live. You all are great people and I will keep helping you by cleaning your roads. God bless you.

Merrymeeting Lake Life: *Beyond the Dog Days of Summer*

By Jen Seusing

It is late fall at Merrymeeting Lake and the deck furniture has been stowed away, the water drained from the pipes, the docks raised, and the windows shuttered tight against the impending winter cold and winds. With wonderful memories fading quickly of families and friends gathering lakeside, swimming in the cool clear water, kayaking in the early morning mist, holding tight onto Big Mable, the dog days of summer have passed. Life shuts down on Merrymeeting, everyone leaves, and all is quiet. Yes?!? Not at all!

For those of us fortunate enough to live here year round, or have places that remain open throughout the winter, life on Merrymeeting Lake is anything but quiet and over! Although not the constant hustle, bustle and noise of summer, Merrymeeting Lake in winter boasts an active and fun-filled community blessed with a unique beauty of the surrounding landscape.

As the Lake begins to freeze, the dogs bark along the shoreline at the incredible sounds being produced by the shifting and expansion of the ice freezing across the water. One would think a Star Wars lightsaber battle is taking place from shore to shore!

Once we've achieved "ice-in" and the ice is safe on MML, you'll see colorful ice huts pop up around the lake as brave and hearty ice fishermen and women take on the cold and snow for the elusive catch of the day. On any given crystal clear afternoon, you can look out over the lake and see folks ice

sailing, walking, playing hockey, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, or even skating from one end to the other with a hockey stick! Hiking in the hills surrounding our beautiful Lake is a fabulous experience with views of the pristine landscape and snow-covered lake surface.

Locally, New Durham hosts a fabulous annual Winter Carnival, a giant Christmas tree adorns the Main Street of Wolfeboro while white lights twinkle from the shop windows, and friends gather for hot chocolate or drinks in front of fires in our numerous local taverns. Alton Bay has the Alton Bay Seaplane and Ice Runway, the only one of its kind in the Continental US, with expert pilots landing their planes on the ice of Winnepesaukee much to the enjoyment of locals along the shore.

As March progresses and the ice and snow begin to melt, the community participates in "ice-out" contests that mark the end of the winter season. By early to mid-April, the waves of Merrymeeting once again sparkle and flow and loons and ducks return to their lake habitat. A few hearty souls kayak or fish in the early spring chill, knowing the dog days of summer will soon be upon us.

As we say good-bye to winter on Merrymeeting Lake, we leave with fond memories of great outdoor fun, chilly nights by the fire, reading a good book during a gentle snowfall, the lights of Christmas trees twinkling around the lake, all knowing that this unique season will once again return...but not for quite some time!



A glorious winter rainbow curves over Merrymeeting Lake. CREDIT: SUE JOHNSON

New Durham Planning Board Revises Zoning Ordinance on Waterfront Building

Jeff Allard, Chairman, New Durham Planning Board

After a year and a half of study and discussion from both the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Adjustment, the New Durham Planning Board completed revisions to the Zoning Ordinance to regulate waterfront building. And in March 2022, the voters approved.

This is in response to the flurry of waterfront building activity – not just on Merrymeeting Lake, but on all of our waterbodies in town. We feel that we struck a fair balance between protecting our valuable waterbodies and the rights of property owners. Most of the changes are centered in Article XIV, Shorefront Conservation Overlay District (SCOD) which encompasses properties within 300 feet of a listed water body. The major provisions of the new regulations are:

- We clarified that the building setback from all water bodies in New Durham is 75 feet
- The maximum building height is 35 feet from the lowest point of the building as opposed to 35 feet from the average parent grade
- Accessory structures and sheds may not exceed one story and 12 feet in height
- A natural waterfront buffer of 50 feet is required, as mandated by the state. This will apply to all properties with proposed new construction
- Nonconforming structures to be demolished and rebuilt must maintain the same square footage as the original footprint, but the design may be reconfigured
- Homes demolished and rebuilt within 75 feet of a water body must be moved back as far as possible
- Nonconforming properties demolished and rebuilt may expand to include a basement and two stories of living space while maintaining the original size footprint
- All new development must provide parking for a minimum of four vehicles
- All Construction within 75 feet of a water body will require a Conditional Use Permit from the Planning Board

- Deviations from any requirement for the SCOD will require a Special Exception from the Zoning Board of Adjustment. This is because a Variance has generic criteria that apply to all sections of the Zoning Ordinance, whereas a Special Exception uses criteria specific to one section of the Zoning Ordinance. We laid out specific criteria to obtain a Special Exception.

We also made an important change to Article XXI: Nonconforming Buildings, Land or Uses. We had previously allowed the addition of 12 foot wide deck toward the water for existing nonconforming properties within 75 feet of the water.

An astute citizen noticed that the state only allows this for properties constructed prior to 1994. We therefore abolished this, and addition of a deck within the 75 foot waterfront setback will now require a Special Exception.

We plan to hold a joint Planning Board/ZBA discussion on how these new requirements are working in the August/September timeframe. If anyone has comments or questions before then, please feel free to contact Robin McLane, Land Use Administrative Assistant, at Town Hall and Robin will direct your questions to the relevant board.



The view from the cabin atop Birch Ridge. CREDIT: JEN SEUSING

Obituaries



William "Bill" R. Carroll

William R. "Bill" Carroll, 66, of Windham, passed away on May 31, 2021, surrounded by his loving family. Bill owned and operated Airex Filter Corporation in Hudson, NH which he was proud to grow alongside with his children and brother. He was an avid golfer, enjoyed working around the house, and could often be found at the family lake house enjoying the summer. Most of all Bill loved being with his family. He was the devoted husband of Lynda (Lanigan) Carroll and the greatest father of all time to Alana and her husband Brian Fletcher; William and his wife Kerry Carroll; Matthew Carroll; and Russell and Jessica Carroll. He was an adored Papa and hero to his five grandchildren: Tyler, Jordan, Leanna, Brayden and Landon. Bill was a beloved brother to his siblings: Jim and the late Gerrie Carroll; Ann and Roy Conway; Ruth and the late Jim Cronin; Kathy and Tom Salera; Walter and Karen Carroll; Clare and Mark Landers; John and Colleen Carroll; Laurie and Jim LeBlanc; Mary and Pete Healey and Terri and Ted Conway. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews. The full obituary can be found at: carrierfuneralhome.com/obituary/william-bill-carroll



Ann Toll

Ann Toll, 87, died peacefully at home surrounded by family, on February 21, 2022 after a three year battle with lung cancer. Ann was born and grew up in Manchester, NH. She lived in Framingham MA with her husband Bill for nearly 60 years, celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary in October 2021. Ann traveled extensively, having visited countries on six of the seven continents! Among her favorite places were Hawaii and Germany, which she visited multiple times, including a trip to Germany with her daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren, Katey, Pete, Shirley and Ben Plucinski in 2010. Since 1998, Ann has spent her summers at Merrymeeting Lake. She especially enjoyed time spent with her niece, Dawn Spooner, and her family who also have a home on the lake. It was there she discovered that she could sit for hours just "Doing Nothing" while enjoying the idyllic setting and spectacular sunsets. Ann enjoyed a full life, filled with fun times and adventures spent with dear family members and great friends.



Scott Charles Bingman

Scott Bingman left us suddenly on January 27th, 2022 at the age of 57. Scott is survived by his wife Bessie Bingman, his three children; Tyler, Meagan, and Kristen, and seven grandchildren; Dylan, Lorelei, Madilyn, Declan, Harper, Olivia, and Cody. Scott was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. His passing has left a huge void in the Bingman family that can never be filled. Throughout his life he had lived in many places, across the country and even internationally, but he always made a home wherever he and Bessie would go. They traveled all over the world together and he loved planning the next adventure and new places to explore. Scott loved a good cup of coffee, smooth jazz, and views of the ocean. He also enjoyed amateur photography, particularly when traveling. He was a man of faith who loved to read his Bible every day. He had a kind and loving heart and left this world too soon. He was loved by so many and will be terribly missed. There are no services planned at this time. To express condolences, please visit: peasleefuneralhome.com/obituaries/print?o_id=7848515



Paul R. Petersen, 84, of Portsmouth, NH (and Marsh Hill Road New Durham) passed away on January 17, 2022 at his home after a long illness. He attended high school in Boston, MA and attended Northeastern University. He served as active military in the Army Signal Corps and as a reservist, ending his military career as a Captain. Paul lived in Eastern Massachusetts for his first 50 years, running a successful painting business. Upon retirement he moved to Portsmouth NH, investing in and managing real estate for the next 30 years. He was generous with his time, his wisdom and his insight. Helping those around him came as naturally as did his boisterous laugh. Paul made many peoples' lives better through both modest and grand acts of kindness. He will always be remembered for his love of the ocean, his love of great food, and his afternoon cocktail. Left to cherish his memory, he is survived by his wife of 48 years, Doris (Blomstrom) Petersen, as well as children, Richard Petersen and his wife Cari, Mark Jones and his wife June, David Jones and his partner Jodi Horton, Donna Petersen and her partner David Sage, Jan Mackey and her husband Jimmy, Linda Myers and her husband Steve, 8 grandchildren, and 13 great grandchildren.

Paul's full obituary may be found at www.taskerfh.com

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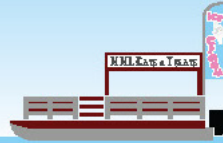
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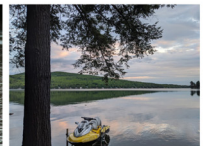
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MMLA Summer of 2022 Events

Save the Dates for the Summer of 2022! The MMLA Events Committee is excited to present the following activities for the Merrymeeting Lake community (more information will be shared via Facebook and on the MMLA website as each date approaches):

MMLA Annual Meeting

July 10 | 8:30 – 10:30 am | MMLA Meeting House by Cove Cottages (across from the public boat launch)
Coffee at 8:30, and the meeting begins at 9:00. Meet other MMLA members and get up-to-date on the many activities and initiatives of the Lake Association. Also hear from guest speaker John Martin of Martin Forestry Consulting LLC who is working with SELT (Southeast Land Trust of NH) on the forest management plan for the Birch Ridge Community Forest.

MMLA Diamond Jubilee Boat Parade

July 23 | 3:00 – 5:00 pm | Meet at the MML Dam
The 2022 theme is "Celebrating 75 Years of MMLA." Sparkle up your boats for a Diamond Jubilee Boat Parade or feel free to travel back in time 75 years and decorate your boat accordingly. We'll meet by the MML dam and travel counterclockwise along the shoreline all the way around the lake. Those unable to join in the parade are invited to watch from shore and share in the celebration! We respectfully request that no political statements or themes be presented. NEW THIS YEAR: We are seeking the eldest MMLA citizen-member to ride along as the Grand Marshall of the boat parade!



MMLA Ice Cream Social

July 30 | 2:00 – 4:00 pm | MMLA Meeting House by Cove Cottages
Bring the family or come on your own and join us at this FREE tasty event with delicious ice cream supplied by Johnson's Restaurant of New Durham. Always a fabulous treat on a hot summer day!

Fireworks Event to Celebrate the 260th Anniversary of New Durham

August 6 | Dusk | The fireworks will be set off from the hill behind the MML Marina
There are many ways to view this year: in Broad Cove from your boat, from any shoreline with a view of the Marina, and at the Birch Ridge Community Forest Cabin (specially open to the community for viewing fireworks that evening) with parking at the SELT parking lot below the cabin.

A Note on Summer Fireworks - The MMLA respectfully requests that lake residents and their guests please refrain from shooting off personal fireworks along the shoreline. While they may be fun, what goes up, must come down; and firework debris and chemicals are not healthy for the lake. Instead of investing in personal fireworks, please consider contributing to the Merrymeeting Marina for the August 6 Fireworks Extravaganza. Thank you!

MMLA Music on the Lake

August 13 | 5:00 – 8:00 pm | Multiple locations around the lake
This is a watercraft-only viewing event. Enjoy watching wonderful musical acts and listening to great tunes by our very own talented lake musicians as you meander along the beautiful shores of Merrymeeting. Travel by watercraft to each event as the musicians play from their docks.

Please note that the MMLA Roadside Clean-Up is not being held this year. But please pick up roadside litter when you see it to help keep our lake environment clean throughout the summer!