



McGRATH POND & SALMON LAKE ASSOCIATION

LATE FALL 2007

“Experts say more enforcement needed to prevent lake pollution”

Waterville Morning Sentinel headline
October 30, 2007

In the October 30th article, Sentinel staff writer, Joel Elliott inferred from the presentations by experts in the field that watershed communities must dedicate more resources to the enforcement of shoreline zoning. Based on the presentations by Roy Bouchard, environmental biologist from the DEP, the Belgrade Lakes are at risk ecologically. Peter Kallin, executive director for the BRCA, indicated that water quality is being downgraded at an unhealthy and unnatural rate threatening the

economics of lake communities. If residents are to continue to enjoy the quality of life brought about by the lakes and communities want to continue to reap the economic benefits of tourism and lakefront taxes, solutions will be needed sooner than later.

The October forum provided a balance of education and ideas for associations to ponder individually and collectively. The sixty representatives from all towns and lake associations in the Belgrade Lakes area vowed to continue the discussion and take necessary steps to address water quality.



Left to right, Rick Baker, Roy Bouchard, LeMarr Cannon and Peter Kallin answer questions during a culminating panel discussion at the October 29th Forum. All in attendance were convinced by presentations that individuals must be better educated in maintaining healthy water quality, associations must take a proactive position in rallying support and towns need to direct more resources into monitoring and enforcing existing regulations. The economics of our region is so dependent on lake quality and this issue needs to be addressed immediately and in a unified manner.

“Buffer – Buffer – Buffer”

Phosphorus entering the lake will increase by 700% when a proper buffer is not maintained on lake front property” LaMarr Cannon, coordinator for MNEMO, (Maine Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials) shared her research and solutions at the forum facilitated by the BRCA. Doug McCafferty, Rick Swanson, and Don Borman represented MPSLA and will continue to participate in upcoming sessions.

FACTS

- Increased levels of phosphorus is the number one threat to water quality
- 70% of phosphorus entering our lakes is the result of roads and development
- A typical subdivision of 100 homes in the watershed will increase phosphorus levels by 10%
- Each new home in the watershed adds ½ to 2 lbs. of phosphorus to the lake each year

SOLUTIONS

- Plan and build smarter
- Maintain and enhance buffer zones
- Enforce shore land zoning ordinances

Upcoming Newsletter Articles

In each edition of our newsletter, we will try to include articles and information that will educate our membership and share ideas that are fundamental to the preservation of our lake resources.

Additionally, we will report on progress in our efforts to support the municipalities in their role in monitoring shore land ordinances.

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Fall 2007**

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A Call To Membership –

MPSLA bylaw...Article 11. Purpose

The purpose of the Association is to preserve and protect the natural character, enhance the water quality, and promote responsible use of the lakes for the benefit of all.

As you read this newsletter, I'd ask each of you to think about the reason that you live where you do. The air is fresh, the wildlife is abundant and the water quality is appealing. In order to maintain this "quality of life" environment, we all need to do our share.

The BRCA (Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance), the MPSLA (McGrath Pond/Salmon Lake Association), the Milfoil Inspection program, the Belgrade Dam committee, and the local conservation corps provide support to all of us in the lakes watershed area.

Unfortunately, declining membership fees and donations are not keeping pace with expenses. I appeal to each of you to join the association. Not only to help support our financial needs, but to be a part of an organization that does make a difference.

Please join and contribute at whatever level that you can afford. Remember it is 100% tax deductible and without widespread monetary support, we cannot fulfill the purpose of our association.



Golf Reception Supports Milfoil Inspections

Each of the Belgrade area lake associations recently received a check for \$500 to help support milfoil inspections. Thanks to the participation of the lake associations in the recent golf tournament, \$25,000 was raised to support BRCA, while profits from the reception went directly to individual associations for their milfoil efforts. Above, President Don Borman gratefully accepts a check from Pete Kallin.

Dues for the current '07 year can be itemized on your income tax return if paid by December 31st.

The Board of Directors are working diligently on your behalf. If any one would like to share your thoughts and/or attend a meeting please contact me (dborman@dialmaine.com), or any of the board members listed in the newsletter.

Respectively submitted,
Don Borman

Did You Know

- Our association purchases and places buoys in the narrows...
- Insurance protection must be maintained to protect our association...
- Signage at the boat landing is paid for by us...
- Roughly 650 hours of paid milfoil inspection was provided in 2007...
- Water quality monitoring is voluntary and/or supported by the association...
- Educational programming and costs of the annual meeting are donated and/or supported by the association...
- Our association supports the conservation corps...

Shoreline Soundings

Membership Committee

The membership committee has examined our records. We have found that some of you have continued your membership in McGrath Pond – Salmon Lake Association. To you we say **Thank you**. Your continued support is vital to the future of our lakes. We ask that you continue to support our efforts.

We also notice that some former members **have not renewed** their memberships. We urge you to do so. If you have a specific grievance against the association, please allow us to address that grievance.

We must all work together to sustain our resources.

Finally, **if you have never been a member**, now is the time! By living near the lakes, you benefit from their beauty. Whether you swim, ski, kayak, fish, or just sit on the porch and watch the water, you are utilizing the lakes. Please consider joining the lakes association to help sustain their quality. There are several ways to join the effort:

- \$25 Association Membership (Your membership helps fund our water quality inspection and improvement efforts, and to continue our education activities.)
- \$50 Lake Steward (This increased level of support is vital to our efforts.)
- \$100 Watershed Futurist (The future of the lakes is in your hands.)

Any other financial contribution will be acknowledged and greatly appreciated. Please consider a contribution to one of these funds in addition to your membership. The lakes belong to all of us. It is our responsibility to take care of them.

We also execute two specific funds related to the future of our lakes:

- The **Courtesy Boat Inspection Program** is aimed at keeping invasive plants out of our lakes. Your contribution to this program ensures its continuance.
- The **Frances Fox Sandmel Education Fund** is used to provide public education related to watershed use and sustainability.

Board to Review Practices

PUBLIC NOTICE

As published by the Belgrade Area Dams Committee

“FALL LAKE DRAWDOWN & WINTER STORAGE ACTIVITIES”

Throughout the year our Dams Committee is actively working and maintaining water levels on our lakes. However, there are three planned activities that create public interest. These are Lake Drawdown and Winter Management activities, Spring Refill, and our Summer Water Level Management practices. The Committee is now preparing for FALL LAKE DRAWDOWN activities.

Pursuant to the *Belgrade Area Dams Committee's Water Management Plan*, Section I – FALL Drawdowns and WINTER STORAGE of the plan specifies that:

1. The primary objective (of the “Spring Refill” management plan) is to pass through *“The primary objective of fall and winter water management is to lower the lakes to accommodate increased rainfall and runoff which occurs in the fall and again in late winter and early spring.”*
2. Optimum drawdown levels:

SALMON LAKE	1.0-1.5 ft. below Spillway
Great Pond	1.5-2.0 ft. below spillway
Long Pond	1.5-2.0 ft. below Spillway
3. Water level limits – At no time shall the lakes be drawn down lower than:

SALMON LAKE	1.5 ft. below Spillway
Great Pond	2.5 ft. below Spillway
Long Pond	2.5 ft. below Spillway
4. General management programs: Lake drawdowns should begin after Labor Day and no later than September 10th. Drawdowns must end by October 31st to avoid adversely affecting fish and wildlife. Therefore, whatever lake level is achieved by October 31st will be the lowest level at which the lake may be kept throughout the winter, unless an unusual amount of rainfall in September and October force emergency provision for additional drawdown. Note: While there are more restrictive requirements as to what levels must be achieved by various dates, due to significant public interest in providing for lake use through Columbus Day weekend, the Dams Committee has and will continue to try to meet the needs of lake-side residents and, depending on water levels and the weather will endeavor to manage water levels to minimize any impacts through Columbus Day (October 12th) each year.



This “Public Notice” is provided as an on-going attempt by the Belgrade Area Dams Committee's to keep you informed of their water level management activities for our lakes. If you have any questions about these activities please contact your Town Office or the member of the Committee that represents your town:

- Belgrade:** Richard MacKenzie – 495-3111; Dennis Purington – 495-2698; Roger J. Pelletier – 465-3420;
Percy Ackerman – 495-3842; George Hoy – 495-2105; Town Manager, Belgrade Town Office – 495-2258
- Rome:** Selectmen, Town of Rome – 397- 4011
- Oakland:** Delores Lemon – 465-7992; Town Manager, Oakland – 465-7357

YES! I want to help the MPSLA

Levels of Giving

☐ Association Member (\$25)
☐ Watershed Futurist (\$100)
☐ Francis Fox Sandmel Fund

☐ Lake Steward (\$50)
☐ Other \$ _____
☐ Courtesy Boat Inspection Program

Name(s): _____ Phone: _____
 Winter Address: _____
 Summer Address: _____ Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Do you belong to a camp road association? ☐ yes ☐ no
 If so, what is its name and contact information? _____

MPSLA is a nonprofit, 501 c(3) organization, registered in the State of Maine. All voluntary contributions to MPSLA are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.
 The McGrath Pond/Salmon Lake Association works to protect and improve the watershed of McGrath Pond and Salmon Lake through preservation, education and action.

John Loomis '07, Treasurer
3 Brigham St.
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Water Quality in Our Lakes

Water quality is a major issue for freshwater lakes for reasons relating to human and environmental health. Water quality measurements have been taken on McGrath Pond and Salmon Lake since 1975. During this 32 year period, Secchi disk measurements have been consistently taken. Other measurements of water quality, such as dissolved oxygen and phosphorous levels have been taken sporadically. Because lake water becomes more turbid as algae proliferate in a lake, the transparency of a lake is a good way to determine its health. The transparency of a lake can be measured easily with a black and white disk, call a Secchi (pronounced sec-ee) disk. The measurement is recorded as the Secchi depth. If the Secchi depth decreases from year to year, it may be getting an over abundance of nutrients such as phosphorous which could be harmful for the lakes ecosystem and detrimental to the fish population.

McGrath Pond Water Quality: Reported by volunteer Ron Purnell

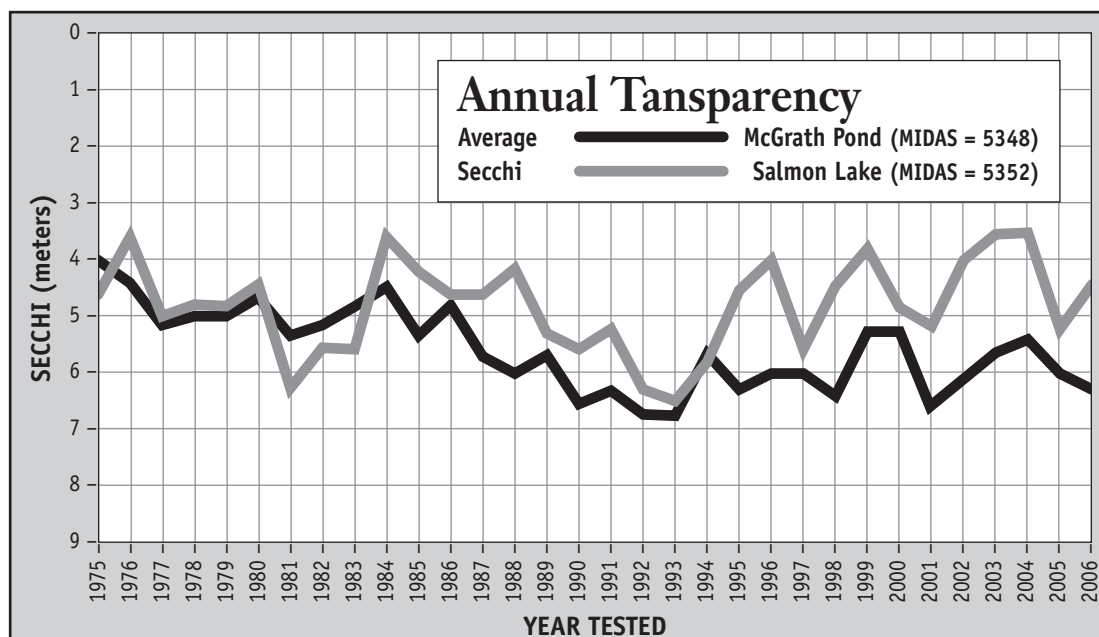
Water quality on McGrath Pond has been slightly better than average. Nuisance algal blooms is considered to be "moderate". The water has low water coloration and Secchi disk measurements have averaged 5.6 meters. The graph below shows average historical measurements. The readings for 2007 are excellent. The disk has been at the maximum (about 7 meters) for several of these readings.

Salmon Lake Water Quality: Reported by volunteers Lenny Reich and Rob True

Water quality on Salmon Lake has been slightly better than average. Nuisance algal blooms is considered to be "moderate". The water has low water coloration and Secchi disk measurements have averaged 5.5 meters. The graph below shows average historical measurements.

Phosphorus Readings

Phosphorous is a major nutrient needed for plant growth. Aqueous phosphates are a major contributor to this measurement. They are not toxic to people or animals unless they are present in very high levels in which case digestive problems could occur. Phosphorous has the same problems as nitrogen in that too much can cause excessive growth and decomposition of plant material. Phosphorous is present in most lakes as people contribute to it with runoff, lawn fertilizers, and septic tanks.



The data from testing in both McGrath and Salmon are not yet available. Look for phosphorous measurements in the next news letter.