



Dear BLA Members and Friends,

November 16, 2022

Our mission is to protect Great and Long Pond and you (our members) are very passionate about that! In surveying folks throughout the year, I have found that protecting the lakes means protecting the water quality of the lakes. When we step off our dock or dive into the water, we continue to experience the sensations that many of us have since we were young; clear water unencumbered by invasive weeds or algae.

As we have seen with the rising price of lakefront real estate, water quality is important to most people and that is why folks continue to seek homes and cabins on our two lakes. The BLA membership raises funds to continue our efforts of controlling milfoil and preventing algal blooms; we thank you for your contributions. Those donations allow us to fund the CBI (Courtesy Boat Inspection), YCC (Youth Conservation Corps), LakeSmart, and milfoil reduction.

Crazy about Loons? We are, too. Thanks especially to board members – Dick Greenan, Paul Feinberg, and Nathalie and Blaine Horrocks for hands on work. The funding of Loon Preservation project will continue next year and beyond. Look for exciting new enhancements.

Moving forward, we have been and continue to work with the 7 Lakes Alliance (7LA) on Watershed Based Management plans for Great and Long Ponds. The goal here is to reduce the amount of dirt/phosphorous that gets into the lakes. The herbicide treatment done by the State of Maine and monitored by the 7 LA greatly reduced the need for pulling of milfoil in the Great Meadow Stream this year and allowed for increased native vegetation growth as well as many fish species to enter the area. We shall see if our expenses from milfoil removal increase more toward the average of about \$124,000 in future years or remain lower due to the treatment. We must remain vigilant in monitoring and remediating milfoil in our lakes.

For 2022 we spent the following amounts:

\$31,630 - Courtesy Boat Inspection. We added a few weeks after Labor Day.

\$15,000 - Youth Conservation Corps.

\$19,959 - Milfoil. A reduction from the \$132,000 spent in 2019 due to the herbicide treatment.

\$10,513 - Loon Preservation Project.

\$13,621 - Long Pond Watershed Survey.

So please consider donating to this – our annual appeal. We work to get as much as possible out of every dollar donated to keep our lakes healthy for your future enjoyment.

Best regards,

Bert Languet, President, BLA