



Dear Belgrade Lakes Association Supporter,

February 2023

We are not quite sure what season it is in the Belgrades. It has been a relatively mild winter with open water well into January but I'm not sure I would trust the ice now. Then we had an arctic express come through with generational cold for 36 hours. The temperature change from one Friday to the next was around 90 degrees counting the windchill. That means spring is on our minds!

With spring comes time to renew your BLA membership. Following is a reminder of our programs that you support. First, and most importantly, BLA is working every day to keep our lakes and surrounding land clean and beautiful for you and your family to use and enjoy. Since we are a volunteer organization, **ALL** your donated funds go to the programs the BLA leads or financially supports - STOP MILFOIL, the Great Pond Survey, the Long Pond Survey, phosphorus remediation, LakeSmart, Courtesy Boat Inspectors, Youth Conservation Corps, septic rebates and a favorite, Loon Conservation.

Our lakes are our most valuable asset, We need to do everything we can to make sure we keep our water as clean and clear as possible. Belonging to BLA helps us maintain your property's value. If our lakes become overrun with milfoil and/or new invasives or turn green with algae blooms, not only will our enjoyment be greatly diminished, but our lakes will be less attractive to vacationers and renters. Historical data suggests these types of events (as experienced by our neighbor lakes) could cause our property values to drop by 15% to 30%. Again, the BLA is working to protect our lakes and lands so this never happens. The Great Pond and Long Pond surveys have been completed and we have one goal:

### **KEEP THE DIRT OUT OF THE LAKE!**

#### **We are continuing our Membership Challenge!**

Anyone who brings in 3 new memberships in 2023 will receive a BLA umbrella. These are not for sale and there is only one way to "earn" one. Just make sure your name is on the new member's completed enrollment form. Also, please don't forget to renew your own membership. If you prefer you can go to our website and renew online - we have even added the option to make your renewal automatic!

We are proud to be the oldest lake association in Maine, 115 years young. Without **YOU** there would be no **BLA**. Join us. Let's make this a breakthrough year. The last few years have certainly reinforced just how important is our little corner of the world!



Carol Johnson

Membership Co-Chairs

Stephanie Yeaton Gardner