

LAKE CARMI ASSOCIATION NEWS

April, 2015.....**One Happy Lake....**Volume 9, Number 1

Brought to you by the Lake Carmi Camper's Association, Inc. and other fine sponsors.

Larry Myott, Editor.....Larry.Myott@uvm.edu..... www.lakecarmi.org

The President's Welcome, 2015 Season

Where do I begin, to start the 2015 season? What started as a very routine summer in 2014, quickly evolved into a call to action to save our Lake. Ironically, I began the 2014 camping season by providing a cover article to the Federation of Vermont Lakes & Ponds Quarterly newsletter on our efforts to improve water quality at Lake Carmi. Little did I know, the lake would soon reveal to us that such efforts were overwhelmingly insufficient. Blue Green Algae blooms appeared in the lake in July, actually was still there until early November. The lake was telling us it could not tolerate any more pollution. The way we looked and felt about Lake Carmi changed forever.

The LCCA also changed. Although we have addressed water quality issues for years, we were never aggressive in our approach. The unprecedented algae blooms created a whole new ball game. Starting with the Franklin Watershed Committee (FWC) Annual Meeting in late August the LCCA and its' members were open, honest and direct in an approach with local elected officials, about the problems at the lake. There was a real call to action by all.



The negative impact of the current agricultural practices could no longer be tolerated. WCAX-TV came to the lake several times, doing stories on the algae blooms for the evening news. Numerous letters appeared in the St. Albans Messenger, from campers, residents and friends demanding action on the part of our legislature and governor. The plight of Lake Champlain and Lake Carmi were echoed in a

press conference featuring the US Secretary of Agriculture and our own Senator Patrick Leahy. This was followed by a huge Lake Carmi turnout at a Legislative forum at St. Albans. Everyone could see the terrible situation with the deep green muck known as Blue Green Algae. Placards were visible everywhere citing "Save Lake Carmi" and "Stop Pollution."

Again the media captured our efforts, reporting the need for change in agricultural practices. Politicians at state level were beginning to pay attention. In late September Governor Peter Shumlin met face to face with our Lake Carmi group. Our message that the pollution must stop was heard loud and clear.

But, this was no-way enough. FWC meetings in December and January featured speakers from VT-DEC and the Vermont Agency of Agriculture. The pollution of Lake Carmi was openly discussed, the arrival of "action teams" at the watershed was again promised; to identify the problems. The condition of Lake Carmi was acknowledged at the Governor's State of the State Address and members of the FWC were recognized by the Governor for their efforts. The LCCA followed this up with letters to Agricultural Secretary Chuck Ross, every elected representative in the Franklin County Delegation and a lot more around the state. The message: Agricultural practices in the watershed must change to improve the water quality in Lake Carmi.

But this is no-way near enough. Water quality legislation has been introduced in both the House and Senate. As it appears now, the legislation (right now the House version H-35 has passed with only 11 dissenters) The Ways & Means Committee must assure the funding and the bill must pass through committees and the full Senate.

The LCCA has helped to fund the hiring of a Policy Intern who is working with the FWC and keeping track of the legislative progress on

water quality issue in the legislature. Telephone calls and emails have been going out to legislators. Voters are being asked to speak to their legislators, giving them the contact information and suggested thoughts to pass along in Montpelier. Phone calls and letters from voters to legislators are very important.

This is still not nearly enough. I would like nothing better than to use this forum to



introduce the great fun times coming to Lake Carmi in 2015.

Planners have met this winter and; yes, *Celebrate Lake Carmi* activities for the 4th of July week are well on the way to fruition. This issue has the basic details of the big week, including

all the new fun activities for the whole week and more.

But, the fact remains, our water quality must improve and we must continuously voice the need for change in our watershed. We need to stop the flow of excessive sediment and nutrients into the lake that continuously fuel algae blooms. This must be the dominant conversation throughout the upcoming season, as it has been all over the state this winter.

Please keep it going! Continue to demand of our elected officials, action to improve agricultural practices, not only in Franklin, but the entire Lake Champlain basin. There is great truth to strength in numbers. It is going to take all our efforts to save Lake Carmi. Your LCCA organization is *all in*, in this fight. Are you?

I remind you that articles are always welcome for the L.C.C.A. newsletters. Send email ideas and articles to larry.myott@uvm.edu. The next issue will be June 2015, deadline May 15.

Peter Benevento

President

LCCA Board Meetings, 2015

The LCCA Board has set their schedule of board meetings for the summer months. They meet in the FELCO Room of the Franklin Homestead at 8:30 a.m., May through September. Of course, members are always welcome to attend. They'll meet on May 23, June 20, July 25, August 22 and September 19.

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Sunday, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Another LCCA Member Owned Business

Membership Drive Under-Way

The 2015 LCCA membership drive is underway, with this issue. The membership form is included in this issue; several have already arrived at the office, with the form from the website. Membership chair Marion Benevento says that come June, there will be volunteers knocking on doors. The annual dues of \$35 are due by July.

Members get their new camp window card for camp identification. When the sheriff visits your cottage in the winter and finds something wrong, they will know who to call and where.

LCCA Members can be proud of their lake community and all the activities and events that take place during the summer months. Your board of directors and many more volunteers, work all year, planning, producing and packaging events for the seasonal folks and local residents to enjoy. The annual “*Celebrate Lake Carmi*” events are only part of what happens around the lake. ***Become an official part of our community, send in your membership, new or renewal.*** Make your check payable to LCCA, mail to: LCCA, PO Box 1, Franklin, VT 05457.

If you have a change in address or email you should send in the change soon to get it correct in the new directory. Email any changes to Secretary Ruth Ann Kravesky (rakay@aol.com). Please add your email address to your membership form for a free subscription to LCCA communications.

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For Sale, For Rent or Wanted

Paid members are permitted a free classified ad in the four issues of the season. Merchandise ads are only for two issues, unless renewed. Camp rental ads can run for the whole season. However, if you have no more availability, please notify the editor.

Cottage Rentals for the 2015 Season

Cottage for Rent, Westcott Shore, 3 bdrm, fully equipped, May – October. \$750.wk.

414.220.7079 days, 450.359.9138 nights. Email: sjones@erbgrou.com.

Cottage for Rent, May – Oct, AC/Heat, TV, Wifi, spring water, recently renovated. Plenty parking, picnic area, 180' waterfront, Westcott Shore. Bob & Nancy Lumnah, 603.231.0716.

Cottage for Rent, Hammond Shore Road, 2 bdrm, right on the water. \$800/month. Call 802.848.3393.

Cottage for Rent, 1950's era lakefront family camp on Westcott Shore. Sleeps six, two bdrm, plus beds on porch. Woodland setting. \$600/week. Contact Kim Gates 802.285.9911 or email vera@franklinvt.net.

Cottage for Rent, right on the lake, Patton Shore Road, 2 story, sleeps nine, 3 bedrooms, 2 bath. Second story loft, fully furnished. Call 802-879-7517, www.cyberrentals.com/rental/p129401

Cottage for Rent. Patton Shore; 3 bdrms; Sleeps up to 15; full kitchen. New England style rustic, by the week. Includes rowboat and canoe. Pets & children welcome. Contact James Hearne at 215.205.7855 or: lakecarmicamp@gmail.com.

Cottage for Rent, 1930's era vintage lakefront camp on Vic's Crossing. Sleeps 10, 4 bdrm, with canoe & Kayaks. 802.285.2250 or email: blackbarn@franklinvt.net.

Cottage for Rent, Three bdrms. Dock, rowboat, kayaks. Westcott Shore. \$600/week, including VT Tax. Contact Jan Cushman, 925.253.1958 or jancushman@comcast.net.

For Sale, 14 ft. aluminum rowboat/oars. \$450. Contact Bob Mongeur, 802.496.8186 or nmongeur@gmavt.net.

Camp Lot for Sale, Patton Shore. 89ft frontage, 60ft deep. Lease. \$55,000. Darlene Greenwood Cooper, 802.285.6870.

Camp for Sale, 41 Camp Road. Call 802.782.9665 or 951.639.3400.

Home for Sale, Blackwoods, year around, owned land, lake access. 3 bdrm, 2 bath, open & bright. Over 1,700 sq.ft. Large wrapping deck, great views. Asking \$275,000, call 802.285.6528 or 802.999.7026.

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LCCA Fishing Contest Begins June 1

The Annual LCCA Fishing Contest will be here soon, be ready to win a nice trophy. Trophies are offered in Junior and Senior Divisions for the largest fish caught in four categories. All entries must be caught between June 1 and September 7 (Labor Day), 2015.

Again, the official weigh-in stations are the Franklin General Store (Main Street) and Byam's Quick Stop (East Franklin). Recording sheets are kept in each store, where the fish may be weighed in and documented on the entry form. All fish entered in the contest must be taken in conformance with State of Vermont fishing regulations regarding licensing, legal sizes, limits and date within the contest period.

Trophies in the Senior Division are awarded for each of four species known to spawn in Lake Carmi. Following are the legal categories and the winners of the 2014 contest, in parentheses. A 12.5 inch, 1.04 pound, Yellow Perch (*Joe Craig* of Westcott Shore); A 4.53 lb. Northern Pike (*Fiona Johnson* of Westcott Shore); A 23 inch, 4.39 lb. Walleye caught by (*Linda Craig* of Westcott Shore). In the Smallmouth Bass category, *Joe Craig* caught the winner, a 20 inch, 3.91pounder.

In the Junior Division, *Spencer Sinagra* is winner of the Rainault Family Junior Fisherman, was twelve years old. He caught a 23.5 inch, 4.19 lbs. Walleye Pike. (This trophy remains at the Franklin Town Clerk's office to be picked up.)

In the Junior Division all entries must be caught and entered by a fisherman, age 15 or less. All Junior Division entries are automatically entered to compete against Senior Division entries; so a Junior Division winner may take first place in the senior division if the entry is the largest.

LCCA, Inc. encourages good stewardship of our wonderful resources. Catch and release of all fish, not intended for eating, is encouraged. Keep your entry in water as much as possible on the way to the weigh station and back to the lake. Before releasing the weakened fish, cradle it in a swimming position while rocking it back and forth to force fresh water through its gills. On recovery, the fish will simply swim away; this may take up to ten minutes.

The great fish should be photographed with the fisherman and emailed to newsletter editor Larry Myott: larry.myott@uvm.edu. You might be a cover photo next season.

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Attention, Patton Shore Campers

As you know the Town Of Franklin no longer grades or cares for our roads in any way. It is up to residents to provide maintenance to keep the road passable. Patton Shore is looking to form a committee to collect money and oversee the road maintenance. This is very important. Please contact Peter Benevento at 774.258.0216 or peterben@gmail.com to volunteer. Thank you.

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Franklin Watershed Report

The FWC report takes on a new look for this month's issue. It's a video: **What's Your Water-mark?** It's a great 37 minute video by the Lake Champlain Watershed organizations, including Franklin Watershed Committee. You'll find friends from all around the county, lake people, farmers, watershed employees, water quality activists and more. Here it is, if you are on the computer reading this, simply click on the address to go direct to the video or highlight to copy the address and move it to your internet page:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=crHD68gzCNw>

We hope you'll write a response to this video, I am so impressed that they included everyone that's "all in" in this issue. Your brief letter will be very helpful to future work on water quality.

For more information on any FWC project or program contact Alisha Sawyer at her office, 802.827.3360 or cell: 802.752.7247. Her email is alisha.sawyer@gmail.com.

Month of May - Metal Dumpster available at the Town Garage in the Village, all Franklin taxpayers welcome, for metal only.

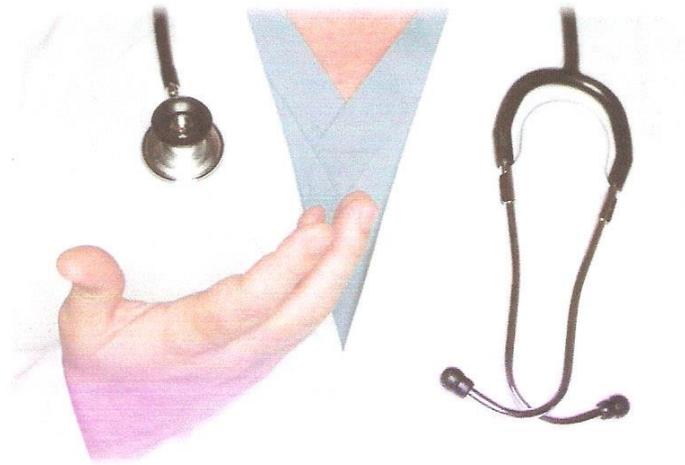
Vermont Dairy Festival

The 59th Annual Vermont Dairy Festival, hosted by the Enosburg Falls Lions Club will be June 4 through 8. There will be a carnival, bands for entertainment in the park, a No-Limit Texas Hold 'em Tournament at the Dairy Center on Friday evening; Baking contest and huge parade on Main Street at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, June 7, (arrive early, the roads will be closed). In the big parade will be the Lake Carmi float with Kevin Lothian bringing forth a big pontoon boat to market "Celebrate Lake Carmi," our big 4th of July week events. www.vermontdairyfestival.com.



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Sat. 9a-12pm

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Fri. 7am-5:30pm

Richford Health Center
44 Main Street, Suite 200
Richford, VT 05476
Phone (802) 255-5500
Mon. 8am-7pm
Tue., Wed., Thu., Fri. 7am-5pm

St. Albans Health Center
48 Lower Newton Street
St. Albans, VT 05478
Phone (802) 524-4554
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Tue. and Wed. 8am-7pm

Swanton Health Center
45 Church Street
Swanton, VT 05488
Phone (802) 868-2454
Mon., Wed., Thu., Fri. 8a-5p
Tue. 8a-7p

Celebrate Lake Carmi

The final details of the 2015 *Celebrate Lake Carmi* events are being put together. We guarantee a great week of fun, including those celebration parties at cottages all around the lake. The fireworks are scheduled for July 3, 9:30 p.m. after the pontoon boat races that begin at 7:15.

The Sail Fest is on the schedule for later in July, Saturday, July 11. The Parade of Champions will be on Sunday, July 5 at 4:00 p.m. Full details will be posted soon and in the June newsletter issue.

NEW EVENT for Celebrate Lake Carmi!

Your planning committee has come up with a new idea, *Light up Lake Carmi!* Light up all around the lake, every cottage. Bring your lights, decorate the cottage, wrap the trees, and make it all a big celebration and it can last for the whole week or more. You can use Christmas lights, any color, make it all pretty. No rules, no expected results at your cottage, just light up for lots of fun. All those family members can help, bring your ideas and lights too.

Just come prepared, bring all the lights,

extension cords and anything else that will make it work. You can light them anytime that week, we'll all enjoy them. Judging? The committee hasn't figured that out yet, perhaps winners for each shore. If you have an idea, let us know. Guess we have one rule, unplug your lights at 9:30 p.m. Friday, July 3--just before the Fireworks--for the great show. Plug them in after to continue Light up Lake Carmi!

Many volunteers are needed to make Celebrate Lake Carmi the biggest event of the summer in this part of Franklin County. We need car parkers at the North Beach, Ticket sellers, Judges, Pirates too! Photographers are desperately needed, for several locations to have a selection of photos for the newsletter and perhaps even a photo history book.

Chair Bob Lumnah needs pontoon teams for the big race too! Ticket sellers are needed for each shoreline to pick the winners and win money. Race tickets are sold on each shore the week of the race. Call Larry Myott, Bob Lumnah or Peter Benevento. We have a job for any volunteers, great fun for the whole lake.

"Gerry" Whitney Greatly Missed

Gerry passed away peacefully on February 28, 2015 at the age of 65. Gerry and Lisa built a new cottage on Dewing Shore Road three years ago and had become very active in Lake Carmi life. He was elected to the Board of directors of LCCA last August and had quickly become very involved in the current issues of water quality and lake health.



Gerry is deeply missed by his friends at the lake, his golfing buddies and many family members. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Lisa, who resides at Lake Carmi. He also leaves a daughter, a son and grandchildren.

Lake Lights!

Get ready to Light-up Lake Carmi. The committee asks that we begin the lighting the weekend before the 4th of July and continue through the holiday weekend. There will be many ideas for great decorating, bringing joy and sunshine all around the lake. Bring your lights to the lake, put 'em up and plug 'em in!

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Loons at Lake Carmi

We have many loons at Lake Carmi each summer, always have. But we do need to protect them and make them welcome. No we don't have any nesting loons, perhaps in the future if we treat



them with respect and provide nesting opportunities. Wouldn't it be great to see a baby loons riding around the lake on their mom's backs. *Thanks Cheryl*

Benton for the photo.

The new bridge on Dewing Shore Road could help us have that scene in the future. The lake water level will stay the same throughout the seasons, always at the level intended when the dam was built. The lake will not vary two feet or more, it is free to travel to the Mill Pond and then out to the river and finally Lake Champlain.

Please stay away from the loons that come live with us at the lake. Watch them from a distance. We all love to hear them and have come by searching for food. Warn your children and grandchildren to be very observant, giving the waterfowl plenty of room. There are several *Loon Watch* campers constantly observing the birds and keeping track of where they are. If you observe the loons, keep track of them. If anything looks wrong keep watching and make the Loon Watch volunteers aware of the issue. Loon Watch Volunteers each season track the birds, reporting to the Vermont Loon Conservation Project, www.vtecostudies.org. Volunteers at Lake Carmi include Debbie Bushey, Larry Myott, Chris O'Shea, Dave & Kitty Emerson and perhaps more. You can sign up to be a Loon Watch Volunteer on the above website. There may be others that we don't know about.

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We need you as a member of the LCCA, Inc:

Become an LCCA member for the 2015 season. The dues are just \$35.00 per year. LCCA members are committed to our wonderful lake in many ways. Some are volunteers who help out wherever and whenever they are able; some are simply here to enjoy a week or more in this pristine setting. We only ask that you become a member of your association and do what you can. Your comments are always welcome, contact any of the directors, or send the editor your thoughts for sharing at your director's board meetings. Become an official member of the Lake Carmi community, send your membership form and dues check, payable to LCCA, Inc. to: LCCA, Inc. P.O. Box 1, Franklin, VT 05457.

Attached is my check for 2015 dues in the amount of \$35.00, made payable to LCCA, Inc.

Name _____ Renewal New

Cottage 911 Address _____

Winter (Off-season Address) _____

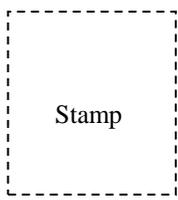
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Notes or Comments: _____

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Address Correction Requested

