



## KEY DATES:

- Friday, October 12: Winter lake drawdown begins and continues through December.
- Friday, October 12-13: Global Warming & Energy Solutions conference. Radisson Hotel, Manchester. Info @ [www.cleanair-coolplanet.org](http://www.cleanair-coolplanet.org).
- Wednesday, October 31: N.H. Annual Drinking Water Expo. Center of New Hampshire, Manchester. Info @ 603-415-3959.

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OSSIPEE LAKE, BROAD BAY, LEAVITT  
BAY, BERRY BAY, AND DANFORTH POND

David Smith, Executive Director  
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# OSSIPEE LAKE REPORT

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## STATE SHUTS NATURAL AREA, PROMISES PLAN

**OSSIPEE** — With a brief e-mail announcement to the press on August 20th, the New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) closed a large portion of historic Ossipee Lake Natural Area to prevent further damage by boaters who have been using the property's fragile shoreline as a beach.

The closure, which is considered an interim measure until a management plan can be written, was recommended last year by Philip Bryce, DRED's director of Forests and Lands who called the Natural Area "one of the state's most valuable assets in terms of its natural and cultural resources."

Seemingly overnight, bright red warning signs appeared on the shoreline and uniformed Forest Rangers walked the property for several days advising boaters about the new policy.

DRED's actions were hailed by lake, environmental and conservation groups as well as the Carroll County Independent, which carried an editorial saying the move "made sense" and was "a long time coming."

Within days of the announcement it was clear that most boaters were cooperating with the new rule. During Labor Day weekend, hundreds of boats were anchored along the

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At the end of a ride at the end of the season, a young couple takes a break before carrying their canoe out of the lake until next summer. *Alliance Photo*

## DANFORTH POND GETS ORGANIZED

**FREEDOM** — Among the areas of the lake that are infested with milfoil there is no bigger challenge than Danforth Pond.

Its soft mucky bottom and small coves are perfect breeding grounds for the invasive weed, which took root in the 1980s and can now be found in parts of upper and lower Danforth as well as the Narrows, the slender channel connecting the two bodies of water.

Since milfoil cannot be eradicated, keeping it in check is an ongoing process – and expensive, which is why a group of Danforth Pond residents have banded together.

On a sunny Sunday in August a large pot of coffee perked in Bruce and June Howletts' garage, improvised as a meeting room for 25 Danforth Pond residents who immediately got down to business.

The objective? Speed up the pace of removing milfoil. The method? Hand-pulling by professional divers. The challenge? Raising thousands of dollars to fund the effort.

By the end of the meeting several hours later, the Friends of Danforth Ponds had been formed to make it all happen.

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## DANFORTH POND RESIDENTS ORGANIZE



**Call to Order:** Danforth Pond neighbors at the August meeting at which the Friends of Danforth Ponds was formed to raise the funds needed to keep milfoil in check. *Alliance Photo*

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The fact that it is expensive to control milfoil by removing it from the lake is well known, but the actual cost is not.

Susan Marks of Ossipee Lake Alliance says almost \$80,000 has been spent to remove invasive weeds from Danforth Pond in the past decade, only 14% of which was paid for by the state. That left the rest to be funded by the local community.

Danforth Bays Camping Resort, which has a major presence on the pond, has paid 50% of the total cost while the Town of Freedom's milfoil fund has covered 28%. Individual contributors made up the remaining 8% - and the funding need continues.

### Filling the Gap

Year-round resident Jim McElroy, who is helping to organize the Friends, says to get the upper hand on milfoil the group plans to incorporate and file for non-profit status.

He thinks more individuals will contribute if they can claim a tax deduction, noting that Ossipee Lake Alliance and other charitable organizations only fund milfoil prevention, not milfoil removal.

The Alliance's Marks, who attended the meeting, agrees that there is a hole in the funding process that the Friends can fill. She said the Alliance will guide the group in its non-profit

application and will help with awareness and education, including new signs. It will also continue to seek state funds from DES.

### New State Programs

Once common, state funding for milfoil control has all but dried up in recent years, with the last state payments for Danforth Pond made in 1995 and 1996. Those payments covered two chemical treatments, a method replaced with hand-pulling by divers in 2004 after the Alliance began a state pilot program in Leavitt Bay.

While there is no state money for Danforth Pond this year, Marks sees hope on several fronts.

Marks and Danforth Pond resident Marcia Murphy are writing a milfoil management plan for the entire Ossipee Lake system as part of a new DES initiative. She says the plan could lead to a new round of state funding for Danforth Pond.

In addition, a pilot program partially funded by DES uses chemical treatments followed up with the removal of weeds using a device called a suction

harvester, which reduces the amount of time needed to remove the weeds by hand.

A Gilford diving firm says a two-man team using the harvester can pull up over 100 gallons of weeds in two hours. Add evaluating this new method to the "to do" list of the new Friends of Danforth Ponds.



## OSSIPEE LAKE REPORT:

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**OSSIPEE LAKE NEWS** delivers  
free up to the minute information  
about the lake by e-mail, as  
events warrant. Sign up @  
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The Alliance is a member of the  
New Hampshire Lakes Association  
([www.nhlakes.org](http://www.nhlakes.org)).

## NATURAL AREA IS CLOSED WHILE DRED WRITES A MANAGEMENT PLAN

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shore but only a handful of individuals were seen in the posted sections of the preserve.

Some boaters moved east to the 1,500 feet of shoreline that the state left open for passive recreation, an area from the border of the Long Sands residential community to the large white pine that gives the property one of its nicknames, Lone Pine. Officials were quick to point out, however, that leaving part of the shoreline open to the public did not change the status of that area to a beach.

### No Management Plan

A magnet to boaters whose numbers have swelled to the thousands, the Natural Area has been the subject of an intense debate over DRED's stewardship of the property, which contains rare and endangered plant species and the remains of prehistoric settlements.

DRED paid \$320,000 for the largely wetlands property almost 40 years ago but never developed it for the "education or recreation" specified in the deed.

Boaters filled the void by turning the sandy unregulated shoreline into a beach, moving in with tents, lounge chairs and grills. Without realizing it, they were damaging one of the state's most fragile and valuable assets.

By 2003 the situation had deteriorated to the point that DRED's Natural Heritage Bureau listed the property as imperiled. It outlined four options, ranging from immediately closing the shoreline to doing nothing further to protect the property. By not acting on the report, DRED officials implicitly chose the most controversial option, that of doing nothing.

### Issues to Resolve

In its August announcement, DRED said it plans to write a management plan over the winter and have it in place by next summer. It will not be a simple task.

Specialists say they believe the shoreline will start to recover as long as it remains closed. But given the years of damage and neglect, a for-

mal restoration plan will be required to ensure the survival of some of the most endangered plant species, including grassleaf goldenrod, slender bog clubmoss and mermaidweed.

The cost of the restoration plan is unknown, as is the level of cooperation that DRED can broker with N.H. Fish and Game and the Department of Safety Services' Marine Patrol, two agencies whose help is needed to ensure public safety and enforcement.

Far more complicated is the fact that the state has a thicket of rules and regulations that pertain to natural areas without specifically protecting them.

In an e-mail exchange with the Alliance in June, a DRED official conceded that the agency's standard rules for state properties – such as prohibiting fires and removing plants – fall short of what is needed to ensure the protection of the Natural Area's resources.

### Natural Area Blog

Last month Ossipee Lake Alliance launched

a website and blog specifically focused on the Natural Area situation, including the property's history and the latest news stories.

The site, [www.OLNA.info](http://www.OLNA.info), allows visitors to make comments and suggestions that will be provided to the state.

Alliance executive director David Smith said the purpose of the site is to increase awareness of the Natural Area as a state property and to tap into ideas about how to balance preservation, education and low impact recreation at the site, which he said is the Alliance's objective.

"The Natural Area has been debated almost exclusively as a local issue," he said, "but this is really an issue for the rest of the state as well as the people who visit and vacation here."

"The outcome will say a lot about our values as stewards of unique public lands. We hope people will look at the website and offer their ideas and suggestions for what the state should do." §



"By not acting on the 2003 report, DRED implicitly chose the most controversial option, that of doing nothing."

It's New Hampshire's best north country lake for fishing, boating and swimming. Home of the state's finest remaining examples of unique habitats. The location of one of your most important real estate investments. It's Ossipee Lake, and there's only one organization dedicated to preserving and protecting it: Ossipee Lake Alliance. **Please invest in the future of your lake by joining us.**

<input type="checkbox"/>	FRIEND .....	\$10-19
<input type="checkbox"/>	SUPPORTER.....	\$20-49
<input type="checkbox"/>	SPONSOR.....	\$50-99
<input type="checkbox"/>	PATRON .....	\$100-249
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**Now in its third year, our Exotic Species Prevention program continues to help ensure that new milfoil doesn't enter the lake.**

**Please join us in thanking the organizations and businesses that helped us launch this important lake-wide effort.**



**Town of Freedom**  
**Town of Ossipee**

**Effingham Conservation Commission**  
**Freedom Conservation Commission**  
**Ossipee Conservation Commission**

**Berry Bay Association**  
**Broad-Leavitt Bay Association**  
**Calumet Conference Center & Camp Calumet**  
**Camp Robin Hood**  
**Danforth Bays Camping Resort**  
**Deer Cove Condominium Association**  
**Freedom Village Condominiums**  
**Indian Mound Property Owners Association**  
**Lakefront Landing Marina & Campground**  
**Lakeview Lot Owners Association**  
**Leavitt Bay South Shore Association**  
**Loon Lake of Freedom Association**  
**Mountview Property Owners Association**  
**North Broad Bay Association**  
**Ossipee Bluffs Association**  
**Ossipee Lake Camping Area**  
**Pine Landing Beach Club**  
**Totem Pole Park Campground**  
**Ward's Boat Shop**  
**Westward Shores Marina**

**New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services**

## SHORELAND PROTECTION IMPROVED WITH CHANGES TO STATE LAW

By Thomas Burack

**CONCORD** — Our state is blessed with a wealth of water resources. The retreat of the glacier some 10,000 to 12,000 years ago left us the lakes, ponds, and rivers that populate our present day picturesque topography. Verdant forests rooted in soils that have evolved over thousands of years surround and buffer these waterbodies and are a natural provider of water quality protection.

Historically, New Hampshire has valued its forests for their beauty and their ability to provide a sustainable economic resource. But forests do much more than that – especially when they surround water.

Forested buffers serve to control erosion, promote stormwater infiltration, retain sediment, take up excess nutrients, moderate near shore surface water temperature, provide wildlife habitat, and help facilitate groundwater recharge. In short, native trees and vegetation provide us with essential ecologic services.

### CSPA Changes

In June 2007 the legislature enacted important amendments to the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act (CSPA).

The existing CSPA provides protection to the state's public waters by establishing a 150' forested buffer area as well as restricted use areas within 250' of lakes, large ponds and our state's largest rivers.

These amendments enhance the current CSPA and were based on recommendations from a legislative commission convened in 2005 to examine the strengths and weaknesses of the statute.

The changes, effective April 1, 2008 are broad in scope and are designed to strike a balance between the desires of shoreland property owners and the need to protect our shoreland resource. The amendments establish a permit program for construction, excavation and filling activities within the protected shoreland, a 50' waterfront buffer in which vegetation removal is restricted and pesticides and herbicides are prohibited and impervious surface limitations.

### Rivers Now Protected

An additional 1,391 miles of river will come under the protection of the CSPA as a result of the adoption of the New Hampshire Hydrography Dataset for stream order determination.

All rivers designated under the state's Rivers Management Act, including the Saco and Pemigewasset Rivers, will now come under the protection of the CSPA. Other changes to the

CSPA (see box above) were made to clarify provisions related to vertical expansion, shoreline frontage requirements, a statewide primary building setback, and restrictions related to impervious surfaces.

To promote broad public understanding of, and compliance with, the new CSPA provisions, DES expects to enlist the assistance of many of our partners and stakeholders to develop and implement a major outreach effort to educate the public, contractors, municipalities and other interested parties.

We all have an interest in the long-term integrity of our public waters. Through the CSPA and the stewardship efforts of shoreland property owners, we can ensure that future development of the shoreline protects water quality and the quality of life on our state's water bodies.

For more information please visit the DES Shoreland website at [www.des.nh.gov/cspa](http://www.des.nh.gov/cspa).

*Thomas Burack is commissioner of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services*

### Barry Hill

Barry Hill was an attorney but his passion was history and archeology. Spending time with him it was obvious that it was his understanding of the past that fueled his imagination about the future.

We met him four years ago when we were planning our first Tales of Ossipee Lake event. Janice Petrie, who had written a book about the lakeside murder of Florence Small, was scheduled to appear but we felt something was missing. Barry knew what it was, and he offered to open the program with a narrated slide show depicting Ossipee in 1916 when the murder took place.

"The Ghost of Ossipee Lake" attracted almost 350 people. It was a chilly night on the lake under the tent at Calumet. Lightning flashed and thunder rumbled in the distance as if Florence Small herself wished to be heard. The event was a hit, and it was memorable.

Barry and his wife lived on Broad Bay and we occasionally used that fact to pester him about working with us to write a history of the lake. Last fall he agreed it was time, even though he had other projects and a pile of unread biographies to attend to.

His death in July has slowed the project, but when it starts up again the memory of Barry's enthusiasm for the history of our area and the helping hand he lent us that night four years ago will still be very much with us.



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## OSSIPEE LAKE REPORT - AUTUMN 2007



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- DRED Closes Natural Area Shoreline
- Danforth Pond Gets Organized
- Shoreland Protection Increased
- Barry Hill Remembered

**Preserve. Protect. Educate.**

