



KEY DATES:

- Tuesday, March 8: Ossipee elections. Town Hall, 10AM-7PM.
- Tuesday, March 8: Effingham elections. Town Hall, 11AM-7PM.
- Tuesday, March 8: Freedom Town Meeting (9AM) and elections (9AM-7PM). Town Hall.
- Wednesday, March 9: Ossipee Town Meeting. Town Hall, 6:30PM.
- Saturday, March 12: Effingham Town Meeting. Elementary School, 9AM.

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AND CHANNELS, DANFORTH POND, LOON
LAKE AND ROUND POND

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OSSIPEE LAKE REPORT

Volume 10, Issue 1 • January – March 2011

LEAVITT BAY LOONS PART OF STATEWIDE GAINS IN NESTING SUCCESS

The following article is courtesy of the Loon Preservation Committee (www.loon.org).

FREEDOM — Like a good baseball season, each New Hampshire loon season produces its own organic collection of dramatic moments, record-breaking performances, and underdogs who come out on top.

Winning a World Series or fledging a loon chick both require, in their own ways, an essential mix of heated endeavor, mad skills, teamwork, and blind luck. By the end of the season the stories and statistics attached to each player and team, or each lake and its

loons, have combined to spell success or failure. Thus our fall loon report, like ESPN commentary, provides the numerical results - what was the score? - and the compelling narratives that defined the season - the loon equivalent of Babe Ruth pointing to the stands or Buckner's infamous error.

One such story this year came from Leavitt Bay in Freedom where, at the start of the season, the loons were squarely in the underdog position, after four years of failed nests.

Their first try, in 2006, was flooded out. The following season, it looked like a picnicker's

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The boardwalk to the lake through wetlands at Constitution Park received new footings and other improvements this year thanks to a grant obtained by the Town of Ossipee. *Photo: Jean Hansen*

PEOPLE ARE GONE, BUT NOT THE FROGS, FISH AND TURTLES

The following article is courtesy of the New Hampshire Lakes Association (www.nhlakes.org).

CONCORD — Winter is here and it's pretty quiet at the lake. The boats have been taken out and cottages and camps closed-up.

The loons have gone to the ocean and the ducks and geese have flown south. But, ever wonder how the frogs, turtles, and fish that stay behind are preparing to survive through the winter?

During a typical New Hampshire winter, lakes and ponds are sealed off from the rest

of the world with a thick layer of ice for at least a couple of months.

The aquatic organisms that weren't able to go south in search of warmer waters face the challenge of adjusting to water temperatures low enough to freeze their homes and declining levels of oxygen which could cause them to suffocate.

To deal with these adversities, frogs, turtles and fish have adapted many unique strategies which allow them to survive.

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FROGS, FISH AND TURTLES IN WINTER

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Frogs

As the air temperature drops throughout the fall, the body temperature of frogs (and other amphibians and reptiles) drops as well, alerting them to head for their overwintering site.

Some frogs overwinter by burrowing down in the thick layer of decomposed leaves along the shoreline where their bodies may partially freeze. They don't freeze completely, however, thanks to a high amount of glycerol or glucose that their bodies produce which acts like antifreeze.

Turtles

Most turtles burrow into the mud and become inactive during the coldest winter months. However, some turtles have an unusual ability to survive very long periods of time without oxygen - in fact, their metabolism can continue uninterrupted without needing oxygen.

These turtles enjoy their normal activities throughout the winter. Take a look under the ice this winter and you might see a painted turtle or snapping turtle swim by!

Fish

Like other cold-blooded animals, fish adjust their body temperature to decreasing water temperatures and can modify their metabolism to tolerate the cold.

Some fish are able to reduce the amount of fat in their bodies and, like frogs, produce an antifreeze-like substance inside their bodies - trout, salmon, and yellow perch are particularly good at this.

This allows them to remain active during the winter, but their movements are slow. These fish often migrate to the deepest part of the waterbody where it is warmest.

Other fish, such as bass and sunfish, which are unable to tolerate the cold water, spend the winter in a resting state by burying themselves in the mud and leaves at the edge of the waterbody.

Amazingly, bullheads, and other members of the catfish family, can completely freeze dur-

ing the winter and thaw in the spring without being harmed!

Although, the activity level of these cold-blooded aquatic animals drops during the winter, it typically does not stop entirely.

Instead of going into a constant state of inactivity (commonly referred to as 'hibernation') like some warm blooded animals, certain fish, and many turtles and frogs go into a period of reduced activity called 'brumation.'

During a warm spell, like a January thaw, they may get heated up enough to venture out of their winter home.

The Biggest Winter Threat

The biggest threat to the aquatic organisms that stay behind in New Hampshire each winter is not the cold weather - it's the loss of winter habitat.

Man-made alterations along the shoreline (such as retaining walls) can prevent frogs and other amphibians and reptiles from reaching their vital overwintering habitat on land.

Unfortunately, the removal of natural vegetation along the shoreline can eliminate overwintering habitat altogether.

Also, water level draw-downs conducted too quickly during the fall can strand organisms out of the water before they are able to relocate to their overwintering site, causing them to perish.

Draw-downs conducted too deeply can result in ice reaching the lake bottom farther from shore and to a deeper depth in the lake than in previous years, adversely impacting the amphibians and reptiles that spend the winter in the lake bottom.

If you own property along a lake, one thing you can do to keep your lake healthy is to keep or replant vegetation along the shoreline.

By doing so, you will provide critical overwintering habitat for frogs and other amphibians and reptiles, and you'll beautify your property and reduce the amount of pollution that flows into the lake. Need help figuring out what to plant? Contact NH LAKES - we can help!

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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 @
www.ossipeelake.org/email.



The Alliance is a member of the
New Hampshire Lakes Association
(www.nhlakes.org).

ALLIANCE MEMORIAL FUNDS

FREEDOM — Ossipee Lake Alliance Memorial Funds were established this year for Peter Villari and Daniel Bouley.

In addition, the Alliance received In Memoriam contributions for Benjamin Hull, Maureen E. Tobin and Terry Beesley.

Contributions to these funds can be sent to P.O. Box 173; Freedom NH 03836 with the name of the fund clearly marked.

To establish a fund in the name of a loved one, contact Susan Marks at smmarks@ossipeelake.org or at (914) 588-3280.

LEAVITT LOONS SUCCESSFULLY PRODUCE CHICKS

Continued from page 1

dog had sent them packing. And two years ago we actually found someone’s flip-flop in the failed nest, with no sign of the flip-flop’s mate or its owner, and no loons.

Determined to break the streak of bad luck, intrepid field biologist Tori Kentner arrived at the island on July 3rd, 2009, armed with metal garden stakes and a kayak full of nest signs, only to find huge boat wakes and a rising lake level soaking the eggs in the nest as she watched, with the loons wailing nearby.

Tori conceded defeat for the season at Leavitt but held out hope for the long run, and made the island nest her rallying cry, sort of a loon Alamo. At the bottom of the Leavitt page in her final data reports, an underlined and emphatically punctuated “Save Leavitt!!!” handed down this mandate to the 2010 crew.

With recent history in mind, we were amazed last May to see the Leavitt pair persisting for a fifth year at the same spot, where the odds seemed so steep. Why hadn’t they thrown in the towel and looked for a better site?

Once again, we floated a nest sign, made common cause with local residents who could help watch the nest, and waited, without a lot of hope. But fortune smiled on this fifth try.

In late June we got a flurry of emails and calls that two chicks were hatched. This was the first successful nest here that anyone could remember, and word traveled fast.

Within a few weeks I even heard from former LPC Director Jeff Fair in Palmer, Alaska, whose correspondence from a New Hampshire friend, a loon field biologist under Jeff in the early 1980s, included a scribbled note in the margin: “Chicks hatched on Leavitt Bay where my family has a camp, first in 40 years!”

Lake Community Pitches In

The hatch, of course, was the end of one saga and the start of another. As the two loon chicks and their parents threaded their way through summer weekend boat traffic on the Ossipee bays, interested photographers and concerned fans kept a close watch.

David Smith and Susan Marks of the Ossipee Lake Alliance posted key information and guidance for boaters online, and we soon found we could rely on their Facebook postings and online forums to glean almost daily reports on the status and well-being of the chicks from a growing number of fans.

By August, the success of the chicks was assured. The loons had defied long odds, and

to borrow Tori’s slogan, at least for this season, Leavitt was saved. A memorable success, since it so clearly signals that the population is headed in the right direction with our help, reoccupying and succeeding at sites that had been deserted by loons, perhaps, for a half-century or more.

The Numbers

Nesting success at Leavitt was emblematic of an upward bounce in productivity this year



Leavitt Bay’s loon family, out for a spin under the lake’s watchful eyes. Photo: Joe Snow

across the state. Drier weather meant fewer flooded nests, and we saw 170 chicks hatched from close to 120 successful nesting territories, a healthy 10% gain over last year. In addition to better weather, there were fewer unpaired adult loons, reducing the number of rogue intrusions on some lakes.

Leading the charge in this rebound were the Seacoast, North Country, and Lake Umbagog regions, while Lakes Region and western New Hampshire lakes saw slight gains. As usual, a scattering of normally productive pairs were off-kilter this year, at, for example, the Lakes Region’s Bearcamp Pond, Winnepesaukee’s Salmon Meadow Cove and Lake Winnisquam.

These empty nest sites were offset by territories where success was less expected, like Webster Lake in Franklin, Kanasatka Lake in Center Harbor, Paugus Bay in Laconia, French Pond in the North Country, Orange Pond in Andover, and little Iona Lake in Albany.

These all joined Leavitt Bay as successful 2010 territories where loon chicks have rarely been fledged in recent decades, if not in recent memory.

The Loon Preservation Committee is a non-profit organization working to preserve loons and their habitats in New Hampshire through monitoring, research, management and education. Visit them on the web at www.loon.org.

“The loon hatch, of course, was the end of one saga and the start of another...as the parents threaded their way through summer weekend boat traffic.”

DOWNY AND HAIRY WOODPECKERS, FAMILIAR WINTER VISITORS AT THE FEEDER

Editor's Note: The following article originally appeared in the Conway Daily Sun and is reprinted with the kind permission of the author.

TAMWORTH — I often pause to look out the window at my feeding station and observe the hairy and downy woodpeckers--which always accompany other birds frequenting feeders placed there. While the price of "meaties" and black oil sunflower seeds can fluctuate, sometimes even being too costly for this New England hobby of treating the birds to winter sustenance, I can rely on the woodpeckers needing only suet from the meat counter to adequately sustain them. It remains a fairly cheap commodity to provide.

The white hunks of fat come from the beef kidney area, and are located somewhere to the right or left of the meat cutters' various products for us to obtain in that display case.

Several sizes can be had to throw into the lobster bait bag we have hanging out there, or in the wire mesh holders also sold for this particular use. Nuthatches and chickadees like to peck at the greasy white stuff too, but the hairies and downies are the birds that really relish it.

The chunky white by-product of the meat cutter's efforts gets put to good use by locals here, and serves as a replacement for bug life in deep winter once those insect critters have become dormant. Grubs that borrow under the bark are what woodpecker species like to devour, but things slow down in the off season. So this is important succor for them.

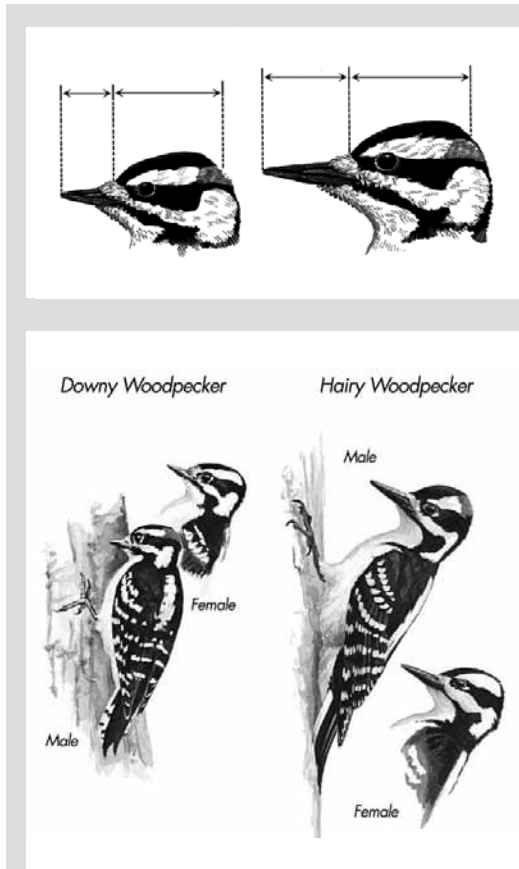
I have a particular female hairy woodpecker that is resplendent in her black and white

plumage this season. She must have molted just before the cold times set in. Even without the red nape patch the males of the species have, her ivory white vs. Coal black feathers are remarkable. I like to witness her appearance.

You might notice there is a gradation in the sizes of the larger hairy woodpeckers versus the smaller downies, who seem more consistent in size. It is all about the amount of forage they gathered over the warmer months, and the variation in size is about how well they did in obtaining that growth.

Nutrition works in the animal kingdom just like it does for our human race, and one can see globally how diets turn out healthy people well, or not.

We are all bigger than 18th century people were, and out live them, too. The mean age of 36 after the foundation of this country still stymies me, but after the Civil War, folks got up into their fifties. Now look at the obits, and you will see people living until 83 as the norm these days.



Overall size and bill size and shape help bird watchers distinguish between the two species.

Globalization cannot help but bring up all societies to better sustenance, and many will live longer than ever before on this earth as a consequence.

I leave dead pine snags in the woodlot for the woodpeckers and nuthatches to pour over, and enjoy seeing them pecking their way along in branches over head, peering under loose bark and other surfaces for their fodder. I like the sound of their work on a quiet winter day, when no other noise may be emanating from the forest's treetops. Says I am doing right

Continued on next page

WINTER'S DOWNY AND HAIRY WOODPECKERS

Continued from previous page

by leaving such things alone. And I wouldn't have their visits to the bird feeder without this natural sustenance source being available.

Downy and hairy woodpeckers are almost carbon copies of each other, except that the hairy is always larger.

We find one of the best ways to distinguish between them is by looking at the proportion of the length of their bill to the dimensions of their heads. In the downy, the pin-prick bill is about half the length of their head; in the hairy, the strong bill is almost as long as the head.

Even when there are big downies, and smaller hairies, this rule works well. Males of both species have a red patch, females do not. The white outer tail feathers on the downy woodpecker are usually barred in black, giving a spotted effect, while the hairy is largely pure white.

Over-mature trees are vital to a hairy woodpecker's subsistence, and you won't find the hairy where trees are not degenerating. This is

not a suburban woodpecker. A downy woodpecker can live in such environs, searching bark crevices for insect egg masses and dormant larvae, but the hairy cannot thrive on young trees.

Old denizens of the forest that have long passed their prime, being subjected to wood boring grubs and other insect life's intentions of reducing them to rotten wood, are habitat for this brilliantly attired woodpecker.

Hairy woodpeckers find their food by feeling the vibrations made by insects moving about in the wood, hearing the large white grubs munching away underneath, and will flay away large sections of bark to get at their prey.

In addition to writing for the Conway Daily Sun, Dave Eastman broadcasts "Country Ecology" four times weekly on WMWV, 93.5 FM. For consultation, additional information, and to purchase his writings, visit his website at www.countryecology.com. illustration courtesy www.birds.cornell.edu.

FINE TUNING STATE'S NATURAL AREA PLAN

OSSIPEE — The state's Working Group of Ossipee Lake Natural Area stakeholders met in October and found much to cheer about.

Natural Heritage Bureau representative Melissa Coppola reported that the property's endangered plants and exemplary natural communities are holding their own and in some cases have shown signs of recovery.

Fine grass-leaved goldenrod stems were more plentiful west of the Pine River than last year, and new hairy hudsonia plants were observed behind the public access area and west of Pine River. The bulblet umbrella sedge open sandy pondshore community appears to be re-establishing in the protected areas of the preserve.

The Natural Heritage Bureau, which is part of DRED, conducted the surveys in May and August as part of its ongoing monitoring plan for the site.

DES representative Jacquie Colburn summarized the summer's water quality sampling and concluded E. coli counts at the Natural Area were lower than the state standard on each of the four sampling dates (in fact close to or below detection levels), and lower than counts at the Pine River and Red Brook sites. The Working Group and other volunteers plan

to conduct water sampling tests again in 2011.

After several years of creating awareness of the state's regulations for the site, enforcement was stepped up this year to address visitors who ignore the posted signs - especially in the western portion of the preserve known as Short Sands.

Bryan Nowell of the Forest Protection Bureau and Captain Mark Gallagher of the Marine Patrol said 41 summonses were issued during the summer and fall for trespass in closed areas of the preserve. They said the average fine was \$124 and the Marine Patrol would defend citations in court if they were appealed.

Representatives of the boating community, enforcement officials and Natural Heritage personnel reported scant trash, debris or waste at the site this year and said the pre-season cleanup, periodic policing by boaters and the carry in/carry out policy were likely contributors to the shore's cleanliness.

For the coming year, the boating community recommended re-emphasizing the rule requiring boats to be afloat and not resting onshore. DRED said there will be additional signs and a fence along the western boundary of the preserve in 2011.

UNDERWRITING SUPPORT FOR THIS ISSUE COMES FROM:



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LAKE AULD LANG SYNE 2010

On January 3rd the Carroll County Independent published a front page story on a meeting the Alliance held with state and local officials to discuss an important but little known law that defines the state's ownership of shorefront property. For the rest of the year, the number 410 dominated the lake news.

For most lake property owners it was a mild surprise that the state owned anything other than the lake itself. For others, however, the news that the state owns the shoreline to 410 ft. above sea level was devastating. It meant the state owned a large part of their property; and in 12 instances it meant the state owned everything, including their house.

The bottom line? The state says it will decide in January whether to lower the benchmark. At press time, however, the planned final search for evidence at the lake during the annual draw-down has been hampered by continued high water levels.

Just in case the state doesn't act, the lake's three State Representatives and its State Senator have a piece of benchmark-lowering legislation ready to roll out.

Milfoil Madness

Milfoil was also in the news, of course, and the year started promisingly with the announcement of two initiatives.



One of two vehicles and several snowmobiles that went through the ice and made news in 2010. No one was injured, but the incidents are a reminder of how unpredictable the ice is in winter. *Photo: Jean Hansen*

“The year started promisingly with announcements of two milfoil control initiatives. By summer, however, both were dead.”

Freedom and Ossipee Selectmen and State Representative Mark McConkey were quick to respond – just ahead of the first request for a tax abatement based on what became known as the 410 Rule.

Local officials lined up volunteers to look for historical evidence that the lake's “natural” high water mark was a lot lower than the state's claim.

After a summer of sleuthing failed to uncover the figurative smoking gun, the Alliance convened a public meeting on August 12 for the state to answer questions about an array of issues confounding lake property owners, including taxes and property sales.

August 12 was hot and there was the potential for hot tempers to match. But the meeting proved to be a refreshing exchange of facts and ideas – so remarkably different in tone from what it might have been that the Independent wrote a lengthy editorial about it.

In Concord, what's known as the Weeds Committee said it was shooting for \$5 million from the State Legislature to fund the perennially underfunded state milfoil control program.

Locally, meanwhile, the Alliance announced the formation of a Tri-Town Milfoil Committee for lake-wide coordination of weed control. Each town's conservation commission appointed two members who were approved by their respective Select Board.

By summer, however, both milfoil efforts were dead. In Concord the Legislature punted again on milfoil funding, leaving the heavy lifting to lake communities like ours who have the no-win choice of coming up with the cash to pay for eradication programs or letting the milfoil grow and spread.

What of the Tri-Town Milfoil Committee? Despite having informed and well-intentioned

Continued on next page

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

members, the group quickly bogged down in procedural issues that blocked progress and created frustration.

First Effingham dropped out, then Freedom and Ossipee similarly decided the current method of towns working on their own was sufficient.

All was not in vain, however. Each town continues to have a designated milfoil committee responsible for addressing issues from funding to scheduling annual treatments.

On the lake this year there were successful milfoil control treatments in Pickerel Cove and Danforth Pond; and a new patch of invasive weeds in the Ossipee River above the dam near Effingham’s shoreline was discovered and treated quickly.

Donald Lee Madness

Like a bad penny, the notorious Donald Lee case popped into view from time to time to remind us that the combined legal powers of DES and the Office of the State Attorney General continue to be unable to resolve it.

The Lee case’s legal complexities have become too many and too arcane to detail in a news story without a bibliography and footnotes. But you can follow its sluggish trajectory with the illustrated timeline we published in our spring newsletter (now available on our website).

This graphic illustration tracks the case through seven presidential administrations and encompasses the fall of the Berlin Wall, the death of Jerry Garcia, the end of the Red Sox curse, the 9/11 terror attacks and last year’s Super Bowl victory by the New Orleans Saints.

Now in its 23rd year, the Donald Lee case has literally become part of history. Incredibly, no one in Concord is surprised or embarrassed.

Everyone Talks About It

Yes, it’s the weather. Compared to the bizarre weather of the past few years, this year was positively tame. Dull, even.

No floods or tornadoes (although there was a doozy of a wind and rain event in November that put the lights out for several days).

Temperatures from January through March were higher than normal and snowfall was less, according to the always reliable website northconwayweather.com.

March’s warm temperatures brought an abundance of rain, but when April rolled around and we were ready for spring, snow again blanketed the ground, piling up six inches for the month. Go figure.

Once again Mother Nature kept the Dam Bureau on its toes with more rain than usual after the Columbus Day draw-down, hampering the state’s search for information on the natural level of the lake.



A familiar face at the end of a favorite hike, Green Mountain Fire Tower watchman Harry Libby died in March. Alliance Photo

Baby on Board

Bears were the buzz on Berry Bay in May, but by summer everyone there was talking about baby loons - the first documented birth of loons on Ossipee Lake since the 1970s, according to John Cooley of the Loon Preservation Committee in Moultonborough, who described it as “a once in a lifetime experience.”

The loons were born on Leavitt Bay but soon relocated to Berry Bay, which Cooley said is a technique they use to keep their natural enemies confused.

The Alliance’s Facebook community took up the task of ensuring the chicks’ well-being by tracking their movements and warning curious boaters to keep their distance. By all accounts, the chicks thrived and made it through the season without incident.

Thanks

We are grateful to everyone who supported our work this year with a contribution or a volunteer effort. We can’t do it without you!

Our special thanks go to Carroll County Independent editor Larissa Mulkern, who greatly increased awareness of lake issues during her stay at the paper. We will miss her editorial voice and wish her well in her next position.

Kudos to our elected officials for their work on the 410 Rule, and special thanks also go to our Board of Directors, including new member Jean Hansen, for all their efforts this year.

Happy New Year to all, and it’s on to 2011.

DLS

“Bears were the buzz on Berry Bay in May, but by summer everyone was talking about the baby loons.”

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Dear Susan:

Enclosing our annual check and sorry it's so late. We've headed up to the lake next weekend to stack wood and rake pine needles. Reminds me of closing up with my parents when I was a kid, and now I do it with my kids. I wonder how many pounds of pine needles I've raked in my life?



Our daughter Jen hiked Green Mountain while she was at camp and now her brothers want to do it too. So it looks like we'll also be stretching our legs next weekend. The lake has great mountain views but there's nothing like being up on the tower.



I was eight when my dad first took me to climb the tower. Amazing all the mountains as far as you can see, and all those farmlands out toward Maine. The fire ranger let us look through his binoculars and said on a clear day you could see the buildings in Portland and the sun reflecting off the ocean. I think I saw that, but it was a long time ago. Do you know if there's still a ranger up there in the fall?

Anyhow, we close up the first week of November after our annual breakfast cookout for lake friends, whoever is still around. I cook and my husband and kids serve and clean up. Everything gets done on the grill. Another tradition from my dad!



It's great to get your newsletters over the winter so we know what's up. Just wanted to say thanks for what you do and it was nice meeting you (briefly!) at the Calumet event. I hope you have a great winter.



Betsy P.

NEW HAMPSHIRE HITS A DECISION POINT

[Editor's Note: We posted this Concord Monitor editorial on our website when it was published on November 14th, and we reprint it here for those who missed it. The questions it raises have particular relevance to lake communities like ours. Will the new majority in Concord further decrease funding for milfoil control, water safety, and environmental protection of state lakes because of pressure to cut all spending? Is new legislation likely to place more of the cost burden on lake property owners and lake communities like Ossipee and Freedom? This article begins a discussion that will continue throughout the year].

CONCORD — At dusk, not long ago, with the State House in view, a woman and two young children tramped across a field along the Merrimack River and headed into the woods. They were carrying sleeping bags.

The social safety net has been unraveling for years, but lawmakers in the next session of the Legislature could tear gaping holes in it to balance the budget.

This winter, New Hampshire will get only half the federal money it received last year to help the poor heat their homes.

The mental health system is emaciated. Food pantry supplies are inadequate. The local waiting list for low-income housing is 600 applicants long. Meanwhile, the state faces a general fund budget deficit of nearly \$700 million, by one reliable estimate.

Gov. John Lynch, who asked state department heads to prepare a budget 5 percent lower than their current one for the next biennium, believes that he can balance the books without making draconian cuts.

If the economy picks up, he may be right. But for the first time as governor, Lynch won't be in the driver's seat. Republicans in the House and Senate enjoy a veto-proof majority. Many of them want not just to cut spending but also to lower taxes — which means cutting spending even more. There is no desire on the part of the governor, or Republicans, to raise more revenue.

Most state agencies have suffered from years of budget cuts. Finding efficiencies and cutting

waste won't begin to be enough to balance the budget. Some programs can't be eliminated without losing federal funds that match or multiply the state's contribution. So unless revenue is increased, whole programs or agencies may have to go.

Every cut will have consequences for those in need of services. But those needs will not disappear — the responsibility for meeting them will simply be downshifted.

It's time for New Hampshire lawmakers and citizens to decide what they want their government to be and do. If they are not willing to pay to have all they want, they must put their priorities in order.

Where do they rank things like public safety, good roads, environmental quality, public education and social services? How much will reduced spending reduce the state's quality of life?

Republicans have mentioned a wealth of potential cuts. They include making state employees pay a bigger share of their pension costs and requiring them to work longer

to receive full benefits; postponing or eliminating a scheduled \$140 million increase in state education funding and amending the Constitution to allow state education aid to go only to needy communities; and reducing state support for higher education.

Health and Human Services, the state's biggest agency, is once again a target. There is talk of seeking a federal waiver to make it harder for needy residents to qualify for Medicaid. That means a reduction in services and greater pressure on local welfare offices, jails, prisons, police departments, hospitals, churches and local taxpayers.

Republican lawmakers have a new crop of ideologues and firebrands in their ranks. They will be under great pressure to make cuts that diminish the quality of life for those receiving state help and shift more of the cost of governing to property taxpayers.

Before cheering state budget cuts, those taxpayers should consider what it will mean for them.



“Every cut will have consequences... but those needs will not diminish. The responsibility for meeting them will simply be downshifted.”



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OSSIPEE LAKE REPORT - WINTER 2010



INSIDE:

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- Fish, Frogs and Turtles in Winter
- Natural Area Plan Gets Adjusted
- Winter's Confusing Woodpeckers
- Lake Auld Lang Syne 2010

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