

To Our Friends, Members, and Supporters On and Around the Lake,

**THANK YOU!** Your support helps us help you in maintaining and improving water quality and life on the lake in general. As of October 2015, membership is 40% above last year and close to 50% of lakefront properties are members of the WLA... we'd love to get to 100%!

#### A New Dam Gate Has Been Installed

After over thirty years, it was time to replace the gate on our dam. Two WLA volunteers, David Bradbury and David Ross, guided the installation of a new gate late in October. As a reminder, the dam helps ensure a lake water level that protects the shoreline, protects shoreline structures, and supports loon nesting. This new gate was built by David Bradbury and Donal Drew from hemlock farmed and milled on David's property. David Ross fabricated the various fittings needed to secure and operate the gate. Steve Rines, Paul McNulty, and Nancy McNulty assisted with the installation. This new gate should make for a more consistent water level, be easier to operate...and last at least another thirty years!



#### Please Ensure Good Shoreline Property Maintenance.

During the fall, many lake front property owners do repairs to their house, trim/remove trees, and do landscaping. It's important that you check with the Standish Code Enforcement officer before doing such work. This helps minimize runoff and damage to the shoreline. Not following Standish or Maine DEP regulations may require costly rework to projects already completed as well as paying significant fines. Call Dan Hill at Standish Town Hall for more info (207) 642-2994.

### Protect Watchic Lake

Watchic Lake is blessed with clear water, no invasive plants, and thriving loons.

As visitors, please help us keep the lake healthy.

- 1 STOP INVASIVES.** Clear ALL plant and animal matter from your boat, kayak, paddles, anchor, fishing gear, etc. BEFORE entering the water.
- 2 HELP THE LOONS.** Do not approach the loons or their nests. Do not use lead fishing gear. Lead sinkers and jigs cause 30% of loon deaths.
- 3 DON'T FOUL THE LAKE.** Do not dispose of trash or plant matter in the lake. Do not allow oil or gasoline into the lake. Don't bathe in the lake.

Thank you!



More information or to donate visit [www.watchiclake.org](http://www.watchiclake.org)

### A Simple Way You Can Help Protect our Lake

Most regular users of the lake know what they can do to avoid invasive plants infestation, protect the loons, and maintain water clarity. However, many renters and visitors may not know the importance, for example, of removing plant-life from their kayaks or using lead free fishing gear.

The Watchic Lake Association has created a simple and compelling sign to help educate your visitors and renters about how they can help protect the lake. This is a high quality sign made of 2 MM thick aluminum that is 10 by 14 inches and designed for outdoor use.

If you are interested, we ask that you help cover the cost of the sign with a \$25 donation to the WLA. Contact Paul McNulty at [pmcnulty@verizon.net](mailto:pmcnulty@verizon.net) for more info.

### LakeSmart – Good Progress in 2015

Twelve properties were evaluated for LakeSmart awards over the past few months (there are currently 25 LakeSmart properties on the lake). The primary focus of LakeSmart (a free program administered by The Maine Lakes Society) is to keep our lake water clean and support wildlife habitats by promoting good property management practices; stabilizing eroding areas, reducing the use of chemicals, diverting rainwater into vegetated areas, and maintaining or planting trees, shrubs, and ground cover along the shoreline. Should four additional properties win a LakeSmart award, Watchic Lake will be recognized as a leader in water quality and be defined as a “LakeSmart Gold” lake... keep your fingers crossed!



### Water Quality – Positive Fall Readings

Secchi disk readings were done in early October. With clarity at 17 feet, the results were so good that the test was done three additional times to check for accuracy, with each test yielding the same result. After attending the Maine VLMP training on Lake Auburn in August and obtaining the necessary certification, the WLA is now in a position to have our secchi disk readings posted to the VLMP website beginning Spring 2016.

### Invasive Management – More Board Members Certified

Watchic Lake Association Board members attended Maine VLMP Invasive Plant Patrol classes during the summer. We now have six Board members capable of evaluating invasive plant risks. Over the past few months a few property owners raised concerns about certain plants, but each was found to be non-invasive.

### 2016 Watchic Lake Association Annual Meeting – Saturday July 9, 2016. Hold the Date.

We are planning a late afternoon social event as part of our 2016 for our annual meeting. We will follow up on items from our 2015 meeting including a review of longer term risks to the lake and plans to address them, provide updates on invasives and water quality, gather member input, and meet socially with our Watchic Lake neighbors.

Stay warm this winter, think spring and of pleasant times on the lake. Check out [www.watchiclake.org](http://www.watchiclake.org) for the latest news on Watchic Lake. See you at our next Annual Meeting on Saturday July 9<sup>th</sup> 2016.

Again, THANK YOU for your continued support!

*Paul*

Paul McNulty, President Watchic Lake Association

## Thank You to Our Members and Sponsors (as of 10/31/2015)

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