

Paul McNulty

From: Watchic Lake Association <p3mcnulty@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 05, 2021 10:07 PM
To: Paul McNulty
Subject: Reminder Dam Opening Nov 1

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Volunteers protecting and
improving Watchic Lake

Watchic Lake Association

Hi Paul, it's hard to believe that another summer has ended and that we are heading into winter. Hopefully you and your family had an enjoyable season on the lake and are managing well during these unusual of times.

WLA volunteers have continued with work on and around the lake. Activities have included:

- Managing the Dam. **Reminder - Dam Opening Date is about November 1.** More below.
- Invasive Plant Patrols - In August of 2021, a group of 12 WLA board members and volunteers surveyed Watchic Lake for invasive plant species – none were found. Read more about [Managing Invasive Plants on Watchic Lake](#).
- [DEP Section 319 Grant](#) - Work has begun on a variety of roads and residential properties to reduce runoff into the lake. See more below.
- Water Quality Monitoring continues on a regular basis with results being tabulated and submitted to the Lake Stewards of Maine. For the latest click or touch here [Water Quality](#).
- [WLA Social Event](#). On August 4th, over 60 people attended social event at the Outpost Restaurant. The feedback was very positive with 100% asking us to run a similar event in 2022. We'll post more info here when we have more detail plans.
- During the summer, WLA volunteers continued to monitor and support the loons. They installed a nesting platform at the Paine Brook inlet to encourage more nesting pairs, monitored loon activity (unfortunately no loon chicks this year) and participated in the annual Audubon Loon Count. More on the loons can be found here [the Watchic Lake Loons](#).

Thank you to all our members! As of October 5, 161 people from 111 properties are WLA members. This is the best membership rate over the past seven years. However, this still means that only 43% of properties are members. If you have not already, please take a moment to join or renew your WLA membership. Click or touch here to learn more about [membership](#) and [donations](#).

Feel free to share this email with others and encourage all users of Watchic Lake to subscribe to our email updates. More here at [How to Subscribe](#)

Reminder - Dam Opening Date November 1

The Watchic Lake dam gate will be opened on about Monday November 1, 2021 (plus or minus a few days depending on weather) for the winter. Following the opening, the lake level will go down to its winter level over the course of about two to four weeks (depending in part on rainfall). Lowering the lake level protects our shoreline from winter ice damage. Plan your boat and dock removal accordingly.

To help with your planning, November 1 is our estimated opening date for the coming years. If future adjustments are needed due to climate changes, we'll notify our members via email and on this website.

The dam will be closed again in the spring, generally in late April or May depending on the ice-out date. Click or touch here to learn more about the [Watchic Lake dam](#).

Watchic Lake Camp Tours - Interested?

Many members have asked about different camps on the lake... what are they like inside, who owns them, the history of the camp, how they are maintained, etc. One of our members, Monica Mahoney, has suggested that during the summer of 2022 we offer you the opportunity to visit camps to learn about the history and what owners have done to help protect the lake. As a fund raising activity, we would ask for a donation to visit the camps.

What do you think? Would you be interested in visiting and learning about camps on the lake? Would you be willing to allow members to visit your camp? If so, please take three minutes to give us a bit more info by completing the survey below.

[Camp Tour Survey](#)

Depending on feedback Monica will follow up with interested parties. She can be contacted at shrutehunter@gmail.com.

DEP 319 Grant Update

In October of 2020, the Maine DEP and the US EPA approved our application for funds to improve Watchic Lake water quality by reducing polluted runoff into the lake. One of the reasons the grant was approved is the broad support Watchic Lake property owners show for the lake and the association – thank you!

This matching grant is designed to support town culvert improvements, three road association improvements, and about six residential property improvements. This grant encompasses work totaling \$124,434, with Federal funds of \$74,732, and matching funds/time of \$49,802 coming from property owners, the town, and/or the WLA.

We are making great progress so far...

- Detailed plans for improvements to Watchic Rd 15 and Watchic Rd 3 have been completed and approved by Maine DEP. Most permits are completed. These projects are currently out to bid, with a goal of completing work in 2022.

- The Hi-Vu Drive Road Association has begun a project to reduce runoff at the right of way - on the hill accessing the lake.
- Six residential properties have been approved by DEP for various improvements. Detailed plans for each property have been provided to the owners by FB Environmental, and three properties have already agreed to the work. Permits will be secured as needed. Work on the properties will start this fall and into 2022.
- The Town of Standish has agreed to work improving a culvert and surrounding riprap on Dolloff Road, reducing the amount of storm water runoff that goes into the lake. This project has been approved by DEP, and will be funded in part by DEP grant funds. Thank you to the Town of Standish!

We want to thank Maine DEP and the EPA and note that funding for the projects, in part, will be provided by the U.S. EPA under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. The funding is administered by the Maine DEP in partnership with EPA. The EPA does not endorse any commercial products or services mentioned in the work plan.

Please feel free to forward this email to others you know on the lake, and encourage them to [sign up for our emails](#). Emails and our website are the best way to keep informed of activities on the lake! Email addresses are not shared and will only be used for WLA business.

Contact Paul McNulty at p3mcnulty@gmail.com if you want to learn more about any these or other lake related topics.

Thank you!

Paul McNulty

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