



# LLHA COMMUNICATOR

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## Photo Database of Shorelines Being Created by APA

### *All Private Lakes in Park Targeted*

Over the past 2 years APA staff has photographed the shorelines of 33 Park lakes, most of which are private, in an effort to create a shoreline photo database. APA spokesman Keith McKeever, in an Adirondack Daily Enterprise (ADE) article, was quoted as saying the database will be useful for the agency to refer to when someone makes a complaint or during the review of proposed shoreline projects. He stated the project also serves as a preventative measure, in that current violations that are identified during the process can be stopped before they get too far along. He emphasized that they are not looking for older violations but are looking to prevent new ones.

## Local Government Review Board Uneasy About APA's Intent

The Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board, consisting of members appointed by the governing bodies of (Continues on page 2).

### Check our Website

[www.loonlakehoa.org](http://www.loonlakehoa.org)

- Message Board
- Hiking in Loon Lake Area
- Loon Lake History
- Newsletter Archive
- LLHA Items offerings (T-shirts, hats, Visors)
- Loon Lake Real Estate Listings: See Nathan Moser Guest House listing.

## Aquatic Plant Survey Completed

### *No Invasive Aquatic Plant Species Detected*

A survey of Loon Lake aquatic plants, conducted by Dr. Dan Kelting of Paul Smith's College Aquatic Institute, revealed that Loon Lake has not yet been contaminated with invasive plant species; e.g., Eurasian Milfoil, Water Chestnut, etc. The search for invasive species involved a combination of surface and diver observations. Payment for the survey's \$2000 price tag came from LLHA reserve fund which would not be sufficient for future studies. You may recall that LLHA members, at our annual meeting in July resolved to conduct a lake surface survey yearly and a more costly diver search every 2 to 3 years.

### *LLHA Board to Implement Payment Mechanism*

The LLHA Board, at its August 16 meeting resolved that payment for future aquatic studies will be provided via a dues increase and a fundraising effort.



Dr. Kelting (Standing) and Diver

## Local Government Review Board (continued from page 1 )

the twelve counties, wholly or partly in the Adirondack Park, is devoted to insuring that the interests of the people of the Adirondack Park and their local governments are protected as the Adirondack Park Agency carries out its duties set forth in the Adirondack Park Agency Act.. Recently, the ADE reported that local Government Review Board Executive Director Fred Monroe doubts that the intent of the database is not for use in enforcement cases as the APA has claimed..

## Town of Franklin News

### Resolution to Issue \$532,000 for Garage Repair Rescinded

After a Town of Franklin \$800,000 bond proposal for the Town garage improvements was rejected by tax payers in April via a permissive referendum, the Town Board passed another bond proposal for \$532,000 in July; however, the Board recently rescinded it because they anticipated another defeat of the Bond proposal..

At the special Town Board meeting in July, Supervisor Mary Ellen Keith had noted that if the voters rejected the reduced \$532,000 bond, the Town would still proceed with repairs but the cost would be included in the 2010 budget. However, Councilman Walt Kretser, at the Town's regular Board meeting on August 12, expressed a different course of action to finance the repairs. He said that they will make budget cuts elsewhere and also may have to cut back on employees.

### Proposed Subdivision Law Not Subject to Permissive Referendum

Regarding the opposition to the passage of the Town's proposed subdivision law, Town Attorney James Maher reported to the Town Board that, in his opinion, the adoption of this law is not subject to a permissive referendum as those who petitioned against it had hoped. He stated that his legal findings were backed up by the State Comptroller's office.

Although a public hearing on this matter was held in June, at a special meeting on August 26 the Board reviewed subdivision matters and provided further public input. Timothy Smith, Esq., special counsel to the Town on the proposed subdivision law outlined the process necessary to adopt this law and the appointment of 5 member planning Board. It appears that the law will be adopted and Planning Board appointed in the near future.

## “Unfair-Weather” Friends

Do you remember the jingle “Rain rain go away, come back some other day” – that was the chant of the LLHA Picnic Committee Sunday morning of August 2, the day scheduled for the LLHA annual picnic. The rain did go away, but not until the picnic was over.

### True Grit

Rain gear - clad Loon Lakers, huddled under tents and umbrellas, and undaunted by pouring rain, enjoyed traditional Don Pearson hot dogs and an array of pot-luck dishes, deserts, and each other's company. It was not a day of infamy but one that will be fondly remembered.



Thanks to the picnic committee for their efforts and to Joann Gerrish and Greg Bechard for the loan of and their assembling the tents that saved the day.

### Town Assessor Guest Speaker at Annual Meeting

Having accepted an invitation to speak at our annual meeting, Town Assessor Doug Tichenor graciously took precious time from his weekend to give us an informative account of the property tax assessment timeline. He said he is required to produce "equitable assessment rolls" based on market value as of March 1 in each year, and a tentative assessment roll as of May 1. After the review process, there is a final assessment roll for July 1 that is used by the school board for school tax bills sent out as of Sept. 1 (The Town bills are sent later). There is to be a new roll each year, but there has not been a new one since 2003. His new roll based on current data, which was completed for Loon Lake this summer, will be sent out March 1, 2010.

### Budget and Tax Rate

Mr. Tichenor pointed out that budgets influence the tax rate. If the assessments go up and the budget is not increased, the tax rate will go down. However, that may not be the case.; i.e., if assessments increase and budgets increase, (Continue on page 3)

## Local History Remembered

By Wendy Ungar

You look out the train window and all you see are trees, trees, trees. On the distant horizon you can trace the gentle silhouette of the mountains. The whistle blows as you pull into the station. The sign reads "INMAN." You have arrived! You disembark, the bellman pulls down your three steamer trunks and loads them onto the waiting stagecoach – you are ready for your summer at Loon Lake House. The air feels cold, too cold for this soft July evening in 1902, but you are nevertheless thrilled to be here and can't wait to swim and hike and paddle and explore the spectacular Adirondack Mountains.

Such was the feeling stirred up by the Town of Franklin **Memories Day** held in Vermontville on August 19.

With placards of photos not only of Loon Lake House, but of the Inman station, the Inman Inn, the mail train and many others such as the Merrills family tree, one could easily imagine life in Loon Lake at the turn of the twentieth century.

*Editor's Note:* Wendy Ungar has volunteered to scan old Loon Lake photos and articles and reproduce them electronically. You can contact her at [wendy.ungar@utoronto.ca](mailto:wendy.ungar@utoronto.ca). Also, See the HOA web site for the new additions to the Loon Lake History page: [www.loonlakehoa.org](http://www.loonlakehoa.org)

## Loon Lake History Committee

The LLHA Board appointed LLHA Board member Joe Lemay Chairman of the LLHA History Committee at its meeting on August 16. Joe is writing a book about Loon Lake history and agreed to share his knowledge and that of others, of Loon Lake history at a "Loon Lake History Night" presentation next summer.

## Petition to Fix Route 26

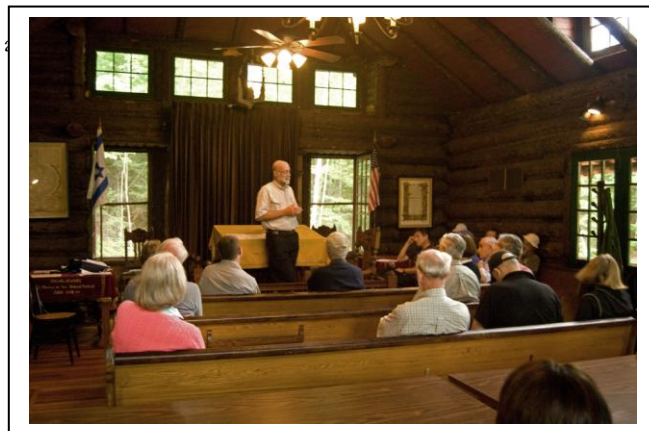
Paul Beyette of Loon Lake, assisted by John Cogswell and others from Loon Lake, has circulated a petition asking the County Highway Department to repair and better maintain Route 26. The combined hazards of eroded shoulders and many potholes make for unsafe driving conditions. The road is used by residents and those who commute to work in Malone and other local areas. It is anticipated that it will get even more use now that recreational easements that are around the road have public access. Furthermore, it is conceivable that further neglect could render the road impassible, leaving Loon Lakers without an exit route if access to route 3 from Route 26 is blocked.

Beyette has contacted County Highway Committee Legislators to schedule a meeting with them to discuss this pressing issue.

(Continued from page 2)

then one can expect the tax rate to increase and consequently, taxes increases.

There is also a Town Review Board before which one can appear and make representations. Certain exemptions are also available (e.g. seniors). People who have questions can contact him (518-891-0436) regarding the 2010 assessment. Web address for him is [dmt@northeast.org](mailto:dmt@northeast.org). Tichenor generously answered many questions, and was thanked by Pagano and members applauded.



## Talk About Loons

If you ever wondered about whether loons are monogamous, where they go when they leave Loon Lake, what their various calls mean, where and when they nest, how long they live, what their various behaviors indicate, what they mean to the environment, etc., and you attended the Loon Talk at the Jewish center the evening of July 15 at the Loon Lake Jewish Center; your curiosity was satisfied.

Dr. Nina Schock of the BRI's Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation, assisted by Amanda Marino, presented a slide show which was interesting and informative and left one with a better understanding of loons and their relationship with humans and the environment.



# Kayak Race Results

**Short course: (one loop to the larger island and back to the beach)**

- A. Recreational Kayak Class: Under 10 years old - Men  
1<sup>st</sup> place: Travis LaDue: 18:40
- B. Recreational Kayak Class: 11-18 years old - Men  
➤ 1<sup>st</sup> place: Marc Rosenblum 17:15
- C. Recreational Kayak Class: Over 18 years old - Men  
➤ 1<sup>st</sup> place: Taylor Rosenblum 18:10

**Long Course: (two loops to the larger island and back to the beach)**

- D. Touring Canoe Class: 11 - 18 years old - Men  
➤ 1<sup>st</sup> place: Luca Diadul (fastest time of the day) 25:33
- E. Recreational Canoe Class: 11 - 18 years old - Men  
➤ 1<sup>st</sup> place: Sam Hill-Cristol 26:15
- H. Recreational Canoe: over 18 years old - Women  
➤ 1<sup>st</sup> place: Rose Bartiss 30:05
- G. Touring Kayak Class: 11 - 18 years old - Men  
➤ 1<sup>st</sup> place: Byron Riggin 27:55

## Loon Lake Homeowners Association

PO Box 219, Vermontville, NY 12989,

Phone/Fax: 518-891-4095, E-mail:

[president@loonlakehoa.org](mailto:president@loonlakehoa.org),

Website: [www.loonlakehoa.org](http://www.loonlakehoa.org)



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Vince Pagano [president@loonlakehoa.org](mailto:president@loonlakehoa.org)  
Tom Bartiss, [vicepresident@loonlakehoa.org](mailto:vicepresident@loonlakehoa.org)  
Jane Carroll, [secretary@loonlakehoa.org](mailto:secretary@loonlakehoa.org)  
Jennifer Dalch, [treasurer@loonlakehoa.org](mailto:treasurer@loonlakehoa.org)  
Brenda Gewurz: [Brenda@proment.com](mailto:Brenda@proment.com)  
Joe Lemay: [lemay@aol.com](mailto:lemay@aol.com)  
Stuart Lucks: [goodlux2@aol.com](mailto:goodlux2@aol.com)  
Chuck Reyes: [reyes@geneseo.esu](mailto:reyes@geneseo.esu)  
Stan Ungar: [stanungar@aol.com](mailto:stanungar@aol.com)  
Leonard Wisse: [leonardwisse@yahoo.com](mailto:leonardwisse@yahoo.com)

Webmaster: Scott Muller:  
[scottmuller@soinclinedwebdesign.com](mailto:scottmuller@soinclinedwebdesign.com)

## Presidents Message

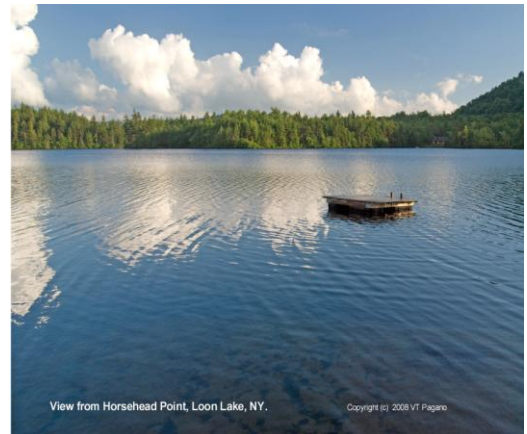
By Vince Pagano

As we all are well aware, Federal, State and local governments collect taxes to provide services for their citizens. When spending outpaces revenue, there is a deficit. As you also are aware, when the Federal Government has a deficit, it borrows, and if that isn't sufficient, it prints more money. Others don't have that option.

A case in point is the Loon Lake Homeowners' Association's need to finance its member approved efforts to periodically survey Loon Lake for the presence of aquatic invasive species. The \$30 per membership dues just doesn't cut it. Therefore, the Board at its August 16 meeting, approved the implementation of a fundraising effort; i.e., to raise the dues to \$40 per membership and the raising of additional funds from those whom would be most affected by the potential devastating effects to the Lake; i.e., Lake shore owners and others privileged to use the Lake. In this connection, in the near future, you will be receiving more specific information regarding the amount of additional individual contributions required.

I'm deeply grateful for your generosity and cooperation in the past and know that you realize that your **continuing support** is needed for the protection of the Lake's integrity.

All the Best to you.



View from Horsehead Point, Loon Lake, NY.

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*Let the blue skies before your eyes,  
Dressed with white billowing clouds,  
Like soft pillows comfort you, and  
Let the gentle breeze put you at ease, and  
Know that the cool, clean and clear  
water is your treasure*