

Hamilton Reservoir Association Newsletter
April 2007

Well, it's Spring again on Hamilton Reservoir ... still ice out there but it is melting.

Mark your calendars - This year's HRA meetings are scheduled for June 2nd and August 25th at the Holland Elementary School, Sturbridge Road, Holland. Refreshments at 8:30 AM and a chance to talk. The business meeting starts at 9:00 and ends around 10:30. We may have a guest speaker from DCR. We have lots of new homeowners on lake - please invite them to join the HRA and come on June 2nd meeting. New member packets will be available.

Fund raising events planned for this year are:

- Pig Roast - June 30th 3 pm Dinner at 4 Holland Rod & Gun Club, Holland
- Poker Run - Sept 15th (Details to be announced)
- Trip to Mohegan Sun in October (Date to be announced)
- We are also planning to bring back the BOAT PARADE. We will announce the theme and date at our meeting in June. Prizes and details TBA.

The following people are the Fund Raising Committee - any of the following folks can be contacted for advance tickets for the Pig Roast and other events. Advance Tickets for the Pig Roast - \$15 Adults and \$6 for children under 12. Tickets at the door this year will be - \$20.00 for adults. PLEASE get your tickets early. We will need a count to be sure we have enough food. Pig Roast event will start at 3 pm and dinner WILL BE SERVED between 4-5 pm.

Fund Raising Committee - Call any of these folks for advance tickets.

Ray Perleoni, Chair	860 803 0954	Bev Aube	413 245 0194
Cindy Harris	413 245 6892	Chuck Flagg	413 245 4339
Jackie Proko	413 245 7035	Mary Sears	413 245 0903
Linda King	860 684 4140	Marti Tabb	413 245 4128

Anyone interested in helping out with any Fund Raising Events - please contact Ray. We need volunteers to make these events successful. Another committee meeting will be scheduled for sometime in early May. (Ray will contact you soon) All proceeds for any of these events go the "Save the Lake Fund."

This winter the **Lake Oversight Committee (LOC)** has worked very hard with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission on the 604B Pioneer Valley Planning Commission grant the LOC received. We used the almost \$30,000 to hire an Engineering firm to provide current Best Management Practices for some of our worst areas. We are now writing for a much larger grant for funds to implement these plans. Lots of HRA volunteers did streams surveys as part of the grant in order to direct more of the money to the Engineering work. More info in June.

The LOC has also revised existing dock bylaws which were passed by the town in February. A complete copy is on our website, <http://www.hamiltonreservoir.com> under Regulations. We will have some copies at our meeting. Briefly, the revisions address: location of docks and moorings; construction of docks in waterfront areas; ENFORCEMENT and fines (new); docks must be removed from Oct 31st through April 1; and now, each dock must be labeled with the Holland property address of the owner in a permanent way at least 3 inches high and readily visible from the lake.

The LOC is also currently writing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a vender to treat the lake starting in 2008. While the town still has Lycott Engineering under contract for 2007 to treat the milfoil in the Holland portion of the lake, the HRA has hired A.C.T. to treat the Connecticut portion in 2007. The treating is done in early June and weather dependent. We will let you know as soon as we have a date. Please check cable TV, or local flyers posted around Holland for specific date. While it is safe to swim, the less activity on the lake the day of the treatment the better it is AND do not use the lake water to quench your lawn's thirst.

Chris Haller and Jackie Proko have been representing us at the COLAP meetings (Congress of Lake and Ponds) and they attended the MACOLAP 20th Annual Winter Workshop in Worcester on Jan. 27, 2007. There were updates from Senator Stephen Brewer, Kathy Abbott, (Former Mass DCR Commissioner; Director, Conservation & Recreation Campaign), Ken Wagner, (NALMS, North America Lake Management Society) and Jim Straub, (Mass DCR Lakes & Ponds Program).

The basic message from all the speakers was that there is very little money from the federal or state government for protecting our lakes and ponds. We need to build, public and private, lake and pond partnerships.

Jim Straub spoke about Maine's "Lake and River Prevention Stickers". He would like to see Massachusetts pass a similar program. All motorized boats used on inland waters - lakes, rivers and ponds, not the ocean must display a "Lake and River Protection Sticker". These stickers cost \$10 for boats registered in Maine and \$20 for boats registered outside of Maine, and they're good for one year. The stickers fund a program to prevent infestation and control of invasive aquatic plants. Check out the website - <http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/milfoil.htm>

Robin Scott, from Hamilton Reservoir, shared his knowledge and experience using BIOLOGs on his lakefront property. Robin will be available at our June 2nd meeting to answer questions concerning the use of biologs. Check out this web site <http://www.partexgeotextiles.com/>

Lauren Gaherty from the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission shared information about planting VEGETATED BUFFERS. Material from this workshop should be available at the meeting. You can download a copy of "The Massachusetts Buffer Manual" from <http://www.mass.gov/dep/> and the "More than Just a Yard" from, <http://www.mass.gov/envir/>. If you have questions-email Chris Haller: chrishaller@cox.net

Some Good Points to help - Take Care of Our Lake
(from NALMS - North American Lake Management Society)

- Conserve water inside your home
- Conserve water in your yard
- Keep gutters and drain spouts free of leaves
- Avoid washing your car near the lake
- Avoid using bleach, drain cleaners and other strong cleaning agents
- Keep your boat and motor in good repair
- Be extremely careful with gasoline, oil, pesticides, paint and other toxic materials
- Maintain your septic system
- Compost your wastes
- Leave an unmowed buffer strip along the lake at least 20-feet wide
- Leave the grass 2-3 inches long
- Use phosphorus-free, slow-release nitrogen fertilizers
- Keep grass clippings out of the lake
- Plant steep banks with native vegetation that binds the soil and traps water

This year our harbormasters are ready to go. They have copies of the boating regulations and dock laws and will be working on both basins to make the lake safe and enjoyable for all. Please help them out when you can.

Relative to the earmark for Hamilton Reservoir, when the 9C cuts were initially reinstated, we had been under the impression that the \$50,000 also was reinstated. However, upon further inquiries during the past few weeks with the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA), Senator Brewer said that in fact this cut was sustained by Governor Patrick. Apparently, Ways and Means had earmarked these funds to come from the Inland Fish and Game Fund. This fund is an off-budget trust that relies on matched federal funding to support programs and therefore must adhere to very strict guidelines for its use. Therefore, these funds were unfortunately not reinstated when Governor Patrick overturned other 9C cuts. In light of this information, Senator Brewer will attempt to correct the situation by earmarking funds in the Fiscal Year 2008 (FY08) budget. We will be sure to keep you apprised of his progress during the budget process.

Non-profit status. Applications for non-profit status have been filed and a tax number received for "Friends of HRA, Inc." Final approval for non profit status may

take up to one year. When non profit status is approved - this group will work with HRA as the fund raising arm. HRA will still operate presently, as it has in the past.

Business Card Advertising - \$25.00 per card - Contact Chris at 413 245 3666 - notices or advertising for this newsletter.

Holland Rod & Gun Club, Union Road, Holland, MA - UPCOMING EVENTS

Kids Fishing Derby - May 13

Adult Fishing Derby - May 20

Chicken Barbeque - June 24

HRA Pig Roast - June 30

Family Day - July 22nd

500 Club - August 19

HRA MEMBERSHIP - Remember this year we have raised our membership dues to \$35.00. We are still trying to use emails as much as possible for communication so please make sure we have your most current (primary) email when you send in your 2007 membership form. If you need new member packets prior to the June 2nd meeting contact Dave Sears at 245 - 4370.

**2007 HRA Membership Form – Membership Fee \$35.00 per year per family
Return to: Hamilton Reservoir Association, PO Box 17, Holland, MA 01521**

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Holland Phone: _____ Home Phone _____ North Basin ____ South Basin _____

Lake Address _____ Email Address _____

Your membership DOES make a difference in preserving our lakes and all the properties surrounding them. Whether you attend our meetings or not – the HRA needs your support – more importantly our lakes deserve to remain clean, safe and enjoyable for all.