



**Friends of HRA, Inc. 27 Sturbridge Rd., Unit 17, Holland, MA 01521**

May 2008 – Spring Newsletter

*From the President – I'd like to welcome you back! Many things are in the works for 2008 – The drive to increase membership is #1 – ask your neighbors to get involved and join the HRA - \$35.00 goes a long way. Please attend our meetings and social events this summer. #2 we are looking for new folks to volunteer their time and talents to work on committees, walk door to door for new members and to sell fundraising event tickets, to plan and work on various social events, attend meetings, clean up around the lake, and work with the LOC. Thank you all for your support. Please consider what you can do to help and volunteer your time. Many good things have been accomplished in 2007. Read On!*

**The LOC (Lake Oversight Committee)** - A Section 319 Grant from the Mass. Dept. of Environmental Protection was awarded to the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) on behalf of the Town of Holland. The grant includes funding for the design and construction of storm water management systems at four locations in the Hamilton Reservoir watershed in the Town of Holland: Mashapaug Rd and Steven's Brook, Mashapaug Rd. and Brandon St, and two (2) locations on May Brook Rd. We have hired an engineering firm, Geosyntec, and design has begun. More on all of this at our HRA May 31st meeting.

Additionally, a Storm Water Assistance Fund is available through the grant. This Assistance Fund is a small program offering a cost share for homeowners to create storm water management systems and restore eroded areas on residential properties within the Hamilton Reservoir watershed. Fund awards will be made up for to 75% of a project cost or no more than \$1,000 each.

Projects must meet the performance standards below. Applications for these funds will be prioritized based on the following criteria: 1) extent to which the proposed project addresses the performance standards for storm water management (listed below); 2) type of problem and degree of severity that the proposed project addresses; and, 3) the amount of funding available.

**Information Session** -The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission will hold an information session about systems for storm water management on residential properties followed by the opportunity to ask questions about individual sites and what might be appropriate for them after the HRA meeting on Saturday, May 31, 2008 at 10:30 am at Holland Elementary School.

Performance Standards for Storm water Management and restoration systems include:

- Retain runoff on-site during a storm event (in other words, reduce peak flows)
- Infiltrate storm water on-site to reduce runoff rates and capture sediment
- Restore eroded areas with native vegetation including grasses, trees, shrubs, ground covers or perennial wildflowers.
- Establish vegetated buffer along reservoir and /or stream (lawn does not qualify as a vegetated buffer)

Given these performance standards, potential storm water management systems that are appropriate include, *but are not limited to*:

- Vegetated or stone lined swales
- Rain barrels and Rain gardens (depressed areas with plantings)
- Drywells or curtain drains
- Catch basins or other grated structures with sumps
- Vegetated buffers and Residential scale detention or retention basins
- Catch basins or "yard drains"

To learn more about these systems or what type of system may be appropriate for your property, go to the following websites:

*Conservation Practices for Homeowners Fact Sheet Series*

<http://www.pwd.org/news/publications.php#Brochures>

Rain Gardens: A Design Guide for Homeowners

[http://www.sustainability.uconn.edu/landscape/05-rain\\_gardens.html](http://www.sustainability.uconn.edu/landscape/05-rain_gardens.html)

*The Clean Water Toolkit and the National Menu of Storm water Best Management Practices*

<http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/resources/nonpoint.htm#megaman>

*The Massachusetts Storm water Handbook – Vol.2 Chapter 2 Storm water Best Mgmt Practices*

<http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/laws/policies.htm#storm>

**Submission Requirements:** Proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope and can be mailed or delivered in person by *Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup> at 2pm* to: (The PVPC is open Mon– Fri, 8am – 4pm.)  
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission  
26 Central Street  
West Springfield, MA 01089  
Attn: Anne Capra

All applications must include the following information:

- Application form (attached) with name, address, phone number and email
- Written description of problem including photo documentation if available
- Written description of proposed work
- Sketch or schematic of proposed work including location of house, driveway, well, septic system, and/or other important features on or adjacent to property
- Detailed cost estimates for proposed work
  - Include costs for materials and labor separately
  - May seek cost estimates and proposals from contractors and submit with application. If you do not plan on doing the work yourself and plan to hire a contractor, it is recommended that you include their cost estimate with your application.
  - If you are only seeking grant funds for materials and you plan to do the work yourself, please provide a cost estimate based on number of hours you anticipate the project will take you. Your time will be considered a match to the project.
- Is your project located within 200' of a stream or 100' from the lake  
YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ if you answered yes, your project will require permitting through the Holland Conservation Commission. All permitting is the responsibility of the property owner. No grant awards will be made to projects that do not comply with permitting requirements. Contact the Holland Conservation Commission to discuss how to file a permit.

**Grant Award Process**

1. Proposals are due June 30<sup>th</sup>
2. Review committee will evaluate proposals. Site visits may be needed to better understand the nature of the problem or proposed project. The committee will contact you if a site visit or more information is needed.
3. Grant awards made around August 1<sup>st</sup>.
4. Grant award recipients will be expected to implement their proposed projects by November 2008. Grant award funds will be distributed on a reimbursement basis after the proposed project has been completed. Receipts for materials and labor may be required or reimbursement.

(Make a copy of application below and submit it)

**STORMWATER ASSISTANCE FUND APPLICATION –**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM:**

**DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WORK** – Must include schematic or plan of proposed project including the location of house, driveway, well, septic system and/or other important features on or adjacent to the property.

**PROVIDE A DETAILED COST ESTIMATE FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT** – Cost estimate must include costs for materials and labor. If you plan to do the work yourself, estimate the number of hours it will take you to do so. If you plan to hire a landscape contractor, you may provide their cost estimate(s).

**Is your project located within 200' of a stream or 100' from the lake?**

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

If you answered yes, your project will require permitting through the Holland Conservation Commission. All permitting is the responsibility of the property owner.

**Have you contacted the Holland Conservation Commission to discuss permitting?** YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**Aquatic Management Program** - In December, Aquatic Control Technology, Inc. (ACT) summarized its' 2007 Aquatic Management Program performed on the Reservoir on September 4, 2007 in a report paid for by the HRA. The program focused on controlling three nuisance aquatic plants, variable milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*), watershield (*Brasenia schreberi*) and common reed (*Phragmites australis*). On October 15<sup>th</sup>, ACT conducted a post-treatment inspection and a lake-wide plant survey which was also paid for by the HRA. Milfoil was scattered throughout the littoral zone (high water to low water shore) of the reservoir with considerable densities in the southern end. Watershield was found in small to moderate patches scattered around the entire reservoir. Phragmites was mainly confined to the northern portion of the reservoir but the invasive potential of this plant threatens other shoreline areas. Gerry Smith, aquatic biologist and president of ACT, presented his report to the Lake Oversight Committee. The report makes recommendations for 2008: substantial chemical treatment of milfoil, additional treatment of Phragmites, a greater than 3 or 4 foot drawdown of the water level, concern about the invasive potential of other submerged plants - bladderwort, pondweed, and tapegrass may warrant a localized "spot treatment". The information in this report will be available at the HRA meeting on Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. **Since some of the plants we find in and around the lake are invasive and some are actually friendly and good for the lake we will make Weed pictures and descriptions available for everyone at our meeting May 31<sup>st</sup>.**

**COLAP Meeting Info - MACOLAP Workshop**, Chris and Richard Haller attended an informative workshop on January 26<sup>th</sup>. Senator Brewer welcomed the group and spoke about Massachusetts legislative issues that relate to lakes and ponds. Jane Pierce, program coordinator for DEP, introduced the "Massachusetts Clean Water Toolkit!". Originally published in 1993 as the "Massachusetts Nonpoint Source Pollution MegaManual", an incredible resource on best management practices, regulatory issues, available online at: <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/resources/nonpoint.htm>

The Webster Lake Association made an entertaining and informative presentation on building a successful Lake Association. Check out their website: <http://www.websterlakeassociation.com/>

Other information presented related to: invasive species, lake-level draw downs, shoreline restoration projects, etc. More information about COLAP and this workshop will be available at the HRA meeting on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Massachusetts legislation** pertaining to clean water, weed control, phosphorus in water, invasive species, and lakes and ponds:

Senate Bill 536 - "An Act Relating to the Distribution and Sale of Household Cleaning Products Containing Phosphorus"  
<http://www.mass.gov/legis/bills/senate/185/st00/st00536.htm>

House Bill 878 - "An Act Relative to Integrated Pest Management and Control of Invasive Plants"  
<http://www.mass.gov/legis/bills/house/185/ht00pdf/ht00878.pdf>

House Bill 730 - "An Act Protecting the Commonwealth's Lakes and Ponds"  
<http://www.mass.gov/legis/bills/house/185/ht00pdf/ht00730.pdf>

House Bill 2246 - "An Act to Require Environmentally Safe Alternatives to Harmful Cleaning Products"  
<http://www.mass.gov/legis/bills/house/185/ht02pdf/ht02246.pdf>

House Bill 811 - "An Act Providing for the Protection of Public Water Supply"  
<http://www.mass.gov/legis/bills/house/185/ht00pdf/ht00811.pdf>

**2008 HRA Membership Form – Membership Fee \$35.00 per year per family – check payable to Friends of HRA  
Return to: Hamilton Reservoir Association, 27 Sturbridge Rd. Unit 17, Holland, MA 01521 or bring to the May meeting.**

The year printed above your name on the address label indicates the last year your membership was paid. Please check if your membership is due.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Holland Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Holland Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

North Basin \_\_\_\_\_ South Basin \_\_\_\_\_

**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 –**

**Our Social-Fundraising Committee** has been busy planning lots of new & fun social activities for 2008-09

- An HRA Photo Calendar of our lake which will be available for sale at our 2008 meetings
- A Spaghetti dinner/dance July 12<sup>th</sup> at the Polish Club in Southbridge – details to follow
- A Pancake breakfast
- Another fun Mohegan Sun trip
- A Wine tasting in November at the Yankee Spirit
- An Ice Out Contest 2009
- An HRA Cookbook is in the works
- A fall lake cleanup which we need to do as a part of the grant matching. Date to be announced for 2008
- A plan to coordinate painting the rusted guard rails at the dam and causeway.

Our first fundraiser this year will be a lottery calendar - Every day in the month of September 2008 is a monetary prize. The lottery calendar will be on sale at the May 31<sup>st</sup> and August 30<sup>th</sup> meetings. Cost per card is \$10.00. Proceeds go to the Hamilton Reservoir Lake Fund.

#### **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

May 31, 2008 - HRA Business Meeting - Holland Elementary School - 8:30 am - Coffee social and 9:00 business meeting – 10:30 PVPC guest speaker on Storm water Management - Invite your neighbors.

May 27 - Town of Holland Annual Meeting – 7 pm at Holland Elementary School. One of the line items being voted on is the money for seeding the invasive weeds. We need you to attend and vote to insure that this stays in the budget.

August 30 - HRA end of summer meeting at Holland Elementary School 8:30 am Social, 9 am Business



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