



Dear BLA Members and Friends,

December 11, 2021

The Belgrade Lakes Association has wrapped up another great summer of working in partnership to protect Great and Long Pond. Once again, we were able to hold our annual meeting at the beautiful Belgrade Lakes Golf Club where we could view the lakes that we serve. This year was a more informal meeting followed up by an online update of programs. If you did not attend, then I invite you to attend next year ' it is a great way to hear about our programs, ask questions and meet fellow BLA members that share your passion for clean lakes that will last for generations to come.

We have two main foes in our efforts to keep Great and Long Ponds clean and healthy:

- **Water Quality** is affected by the amount of phosphorous in the lakes. Excess phosphorous from soil erosion, or released from the sediment of the lake with low oxygen levels, can lead to excessive algal blooms. We need to continue improving our cottages, property and roads to reduce added loads of Phosphorous. We have completed watershed surveys of both our lakes and this year the Great Pond Watershed Management Plan was approved by Maine DEP. This allowed us to apply and receive 319 grants in the amount of \$109,430.00. The Long Pond Watershed Management Plan will be submitted in the spring of 2022 and we hope for similar DEP approval and 319 monies. It is imperative that we work on the identified properties in order to be eligible for future grants. These plans determine the best way to manage all of our resources to prevent harmful algal blooms - keeping our lakes clean and golden for the future.

Our programs like Lakesmart, Youth Conservation Corps, Courtesy Boat Inspectors and our cooperative work with Colby College and the 7 Lakes Alliance should result in stemming the increase in phosphorous load.

- **Invasive Plant Species. Variable Milfoil** continues to grow back. Our ongoing efforts to stem the spread have helped considerably, but it seems to be a problem that will stay with us for the foreseeable future. We need to remain vigilant. Courtesy Boat Inspectors continue to stem the flow from boats both entering and leaving the lake. This summer there were two saves by CBI's - one on Long Pond and another by the CBI's protecting North Pond. Milfoil crews continue to pull it. We continue to seek ways to eradicate the milfoil and more efficient ways to attack the problem. Volunteers can survey their shorelines for invasive milfoil through the Adopt-A-Shoreline program. 2021 also saw the discovery of **Invasive Pond Weed** in the serpentine between East Pond and North Pond. This was quickly managed by Maine DEP but is a reminder that we must be diligent about looking for invasives.

In addition to our two main initiatives, we continued work on the Loon Preservation Project which will develop a comprehensive plan to support and grow the loon population in a sustainable manner. **Please help us to continue working on these efforts by donating to our Annual Appeal.** Every dollar counts! We work to squeeze as much as we can out of each dollar so that we can to make these lakes great for generations to come.

Best regards,



Carol Johnson, President  
and your BLA Board of Directors

George Atkinson	Paul Feinberg	Blaine Horrocks	Steve Smith
John Atkinson	Liz Fontaine	Joy Intriago	Sunil Thakor
Polly Beatie	Stephanie Gardner	Richard LaBelle	
Andy Cook, PhD	Dick Greenan	Bert Languet	
Pat Donahue	Louise Hogan	Jack Schultz	

**YES!** I want to support the **Belgrade Lakes Association's** ongoing water quality programs and operations with my 2021 Annual Appeal [donation](#).

