



Dear Belgrade Lakes Supporter,

March 2022

It is that time of year again. For a change, we are having a bit of a winter - the first one in the Belgrades for about three years. Snow, sleet, ice, rain and slippery walkways are making folks think of spring! I just told the young man shoveling my walkway that before he knew it he would be putting in my docks! He said he would rather be putting in the dock!

With spring comes time to renew your BLA membership. Here is a reminder of our programs that **YOU** support. First, and most importantly, the BLA is working every day to keep our lakes and surrounding land clean and beautiful for you and your family to use and enjoy. Since we are a volunteer organization, **ALL** your donated funds go to the programs the BLA leads or financially supports - STOP MILFOIL, the Great Pond Survey, the Long Pond Survey, phosphorus remediation, LakeSmart, Courtesy Boat Inspectors, Youth Conservation Corps, septic rebates, Loon Conservation, land acquisition, and trail maintenance.

Our lakes are like the Golden Goose - our most valuable asset. We need to do everything we can to make sure we keep our water as clean and clear as possible. Belonging to the BLA helps to maintain your property's value. If our lakes become overrun with milfoil or new invasives or turn green with algae blooms, not only will our enjoyment be greatly diminished, but they will also be less attractive to vacationers and renters. Historical data suggests these types of events could cause our property values to drop by 15% to 30%. Again, the BLA is working to protect our lakes and lands so this never happens. The Great Pond and Long Pond surveys have been completed and we have one overriding goal:

### KEEP THE DIRT OUT OF THE LAKE!

#### We are continuing our Membership Challenge!

Anyone who brings in 3 new memberships in 2022 will receive a BLA umbrella. These are not for sale and there is only one way to "earn" one. Just make sure your name is on the new member's completed enrollment form. And please don't forget to also renew your own membership. If you prefer, you can go to our website and renew online - we have even added the option to make your renewal automatic!

We are proud to be the oldest lake association in Maine, 114 years young. Without **YOU** there would be no BLA. Join us. Let's make this a breakthrough year. These past couple of years have certainly reinforced just how important our little corner of the world is to those of us lucky enough to be here!



*Carol Johnson*  
Carol Johnson, President