

Winnepesaukee communities discuss water quality concerns

BY ERIN PLUMMER
EPLUMMER@SALMONPRESS.COM

MEREDITH — Communities and state officials are taking steps toward improving water quality on Lake Winnepesaukee with the release of unfavorable data on the condition of various areas of the lake.

Representatives from the Department of Environmental Services, North Country Resource, Conservation, and Development, the Lakes Region Planning Commission, the University of New Hampshire, representatives from Moultonboro, Laconia, Gilford, and Holderness, and other interested parties came out for a meeting in Meredith last Tuesday to address water quality on local subwatersheds.

Conservation officials discussed looking at a subwatershed approach to addressing water quality on Winnepesaukee, working on a

smaller scale for a possible greater chance of success, as it would be more manageable. This approach could identify pollution sources and identify clear regulatory authority and greater coordination of efforts.

The presentation was part of a watershed planning an implementation process that started in 2006.

Erica Anderson of the LR-PC and Pat Tarpey from North Country RC and D presented a series of charts for recent water quality studies done on Meredith Bay in Meredith, Paugus Bay in Laconia, and Sanders Bay in Gilford as well as Lake Waukegan, which washes into Winnepesaukee. The main focus was on phosphorous levels, higher numbers of which can lead to lake health issues.

According to state standards, a lake with 7.2 parts per billion of phosphorous is

considered impaired and the state will become involved in the lake. A lake at over eight parts per billion is considered mesotrophic, the next stage of degradation from healthier oligotrophic.

Lake Winnepesaukee as a whole is considered oligotrophic with a summer median of 6 ppb of phosphorous over the past 10 years and a historical median of 4.9 ppb.

A study of Meredith, Paugus, and Sanders Bays and Lake Waukegan showed estimated 2009 phosphorous levels with and without Best Management Practices (BMP's), which are measures to mitigate the amount of phosphorous going into the lake. Without BMP's, Lake Waukegan is at 17.9 ppb, Meredith Bay at 10.1, Paugus Bay at 7, and Sanders Bay at 8.3. With Best Management Practices, Waukegan would be at 18.9, Meredith Bay at 8.6, Paugus at 6.6, and Sanders at 7.2.

The more area of land you have for a watershed, the higher the phosphorous levels," Anderson said, noting that this accounts for the high levels of phosphorous in Lake Waukegan as it has more land base to a smaller lake area.

Tarpey said the state looks at Lake Winnepesaukee as one whole assessment as it is a large volume of water handling pollution levels.

Urban activity accounts

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Residents purchase Lakes Region Mobile Home Village

BY LAUREN TINER
LTINER@SALMONPRESS.COM

Residents of the Lakes Region Mobile Home Village in Gilford can now call themselves proud home and landowners, after making it the 94th resident-owned manufactured housing community in New Hampshire as of Dec. 30.

With the help of New Hampshire Community Loan Fund's ROC-NH program, residents formed a cooperative and purchased the park for \$3.5 million. Ownership of not only their homes, but the land beneath them guarantees that LRMHV residents will avoid rent increases, park closures, and can now benefit from mortgage terms, home value, and equity loans.

Paul Henley, conversion specialist for NHCLF, said the 100 different families located in the park gave nothing but positive feedback when it came to purchasing their own community. Park owner Gerd Laudien was ready to retire and had done business before with NHCLF, said Henley.

"We work with the residents and help them purchase parks," said Henley. "We had very positive feedback from the very beginning. Residents were happy to own the park."

Henley said NHCLF met with about 70 to 80 residents at meetings, where they explained how the process worked, and why it would

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Huot Center reaches broad spectrum of students



PHOTOS BY LAUREN TINER

Gilford High School Senior Kayla Cooper puts the finishing touches on her freshly baked pastries for the culinary arts program.

BY LAUREN TINER
LTINER@SALMONPRESS.COM

The Huot Technical Center has run in conjunction with surrounding Lakes Region schools for over 25 years, and now that their programs are expanding at the center, so are student numbers.

The Huot Center, located in Laconia, offers elective programs and college credits to students interested in health science technology,

early childhood education, culinary arts, multimedia communications, automotive technology, and more. Not only are students becoming more receptive to these "practical" programs, but the school districts are as well.

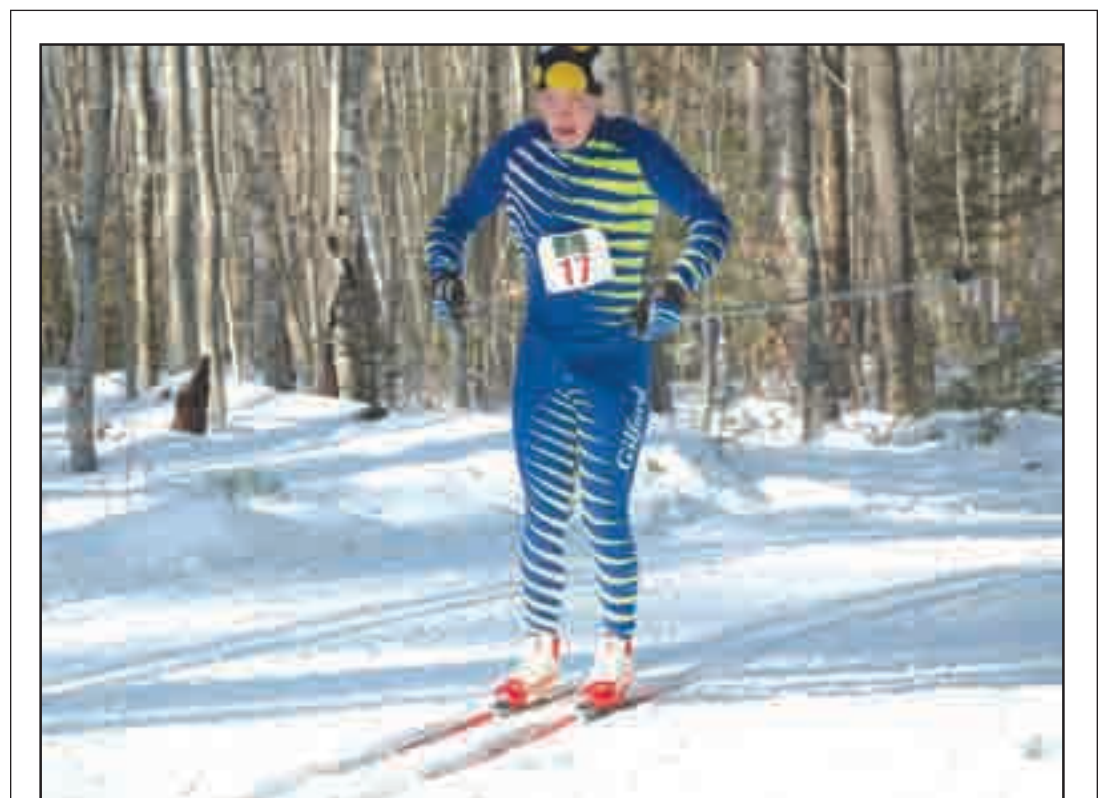
Scott Davis, the Huot Center's career and technical education director, suggested that student numbers have also increased because of local school sizes, where it

makes sense for students in smaller schools to branch out to the center for a broader array of programs.

"We have definitely seen an increase in numbers," said Davis. "We have expanded our programs, and there are more options now. We have a great relationship with guidance staff (at local high schools), and administration."

The Gilford School District, as well as Belmont, Winnisquam, Franklin, and Inter-Lakes, has seen an increased number of students participating in these career-focused classes. Davis, along with members of the Laconia School District, made a presentation about the Huot Center last month at a Gilford School Board meeting, and found the board to be supportive of their programs.

Davis told the board he is looking to "modernize" the facility even more, and perhaps perform some renovations, to meet the needs of surrounding school dis-



PHOTOS BY JOSH SPAULDING

School ski

Gilford High School's Guy Rice (above) finished 19th overall in a time of 14:39 at the New Hampshire Coaches Series race at Whitaker Woods in North Conway Saturday. Monique Baron (pictured below) was 18th in the girls' race in 17:38.



Committee stalls vote on warrant articles

BY LAUREN TINER
LTINER@SALMONPRESS.COM

During their final school and town budget review last Thursday, the Budget Committee voted to postpone action on town warrants until after their public hearing.

The School Board presented a warrant article to the committee pertaining to leasing out the old library as the SAU office. The committee supported that article, but others on the warrant, including the 2010 petitioned

warrant articles, Community Health and Hospice, Child and Family Services, and Genesis will be voted on at a later date.

Chair of the Budget Committee Dick Hickok said the public would like to know

where the committee stands on these warrants before the petitions go to the town in March, but committee members argued that most voters will be in favor of the warrants, despite the committee's usual disapproval of outside agencies.

Committee member Dale Dormody suggested holding off on a vote, since no agency representatives turned up at the meeting.

"I can't support any of these (warrants) because no one showed up," said Dormody who anticipated some would show up at the hearing. "What they have to say is important to me. They reserve the right, and we have the right to bring it up as a vote again after the hearing."

School Board representative and committee member Margo Weeks said there have been many discussions in the past on outside agencies, but it is ultimately up to the voters.

"They would have to go to 10 different towns and 20 different meetings. These folks work hard 50 hours a week trying to keep their agencies afloat, sometimes with no payment to help people who need it," said Weeks.

Although Hickok stayed somewhat neutral, he agreed that this discussion on outside agencies has gone on for years, but that the warrant

tricts. If the center sees renovations, the extended community may benefit even more so, said Davis.

Although school board member Kurt Weber said he would like to see a few more IT classes developed, board member Sue Allen said the culinary program at the Huot Center supported her daughter in her future career at Johnson & Wales University.

Davis told the board he

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Gilford High School senior Kyle Nelson brushes up on his technology skills in the multi-media communications studio and practices some filming techniques.

The Hussey Corporation's gift to the Lakes Region

BY CAROL LEE ANDERSON
THOMPSON-AMES
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

For today's business management students, a study of the Hussey Seating Co. of North Berwick, Maine, would bring an immeasurable amount of knowledge into the company's endless flexibility and its continual ability to change. With the sixth generation of the Hussey family now running the corporation, it will celebrate its 175th anniversary this year; a statement of the expertise with which management has used its skills to guide it through some of the most difficult economic times in America's history.

During the late 1930s, it was the builder of Gunstock's chair lift, the first in the East, its ski jumps, and the rest of the original recreation area. The company left behind a gift to this area that continues to operate successfully to this day. The success of Gunstock mirrors the success of this family and company, which from the very beginning has always been known for its honesty, integrity, and admirable work ethic.

The history book of the Hussey Corporation, "A Long Furrow Plowed" was written by Philip W. Hussey, Sr. and updated some years later by one of his sons, Philip Jr. It is a fascinating read and offers an incredibly detailed description of the Hussey family tree along with the birth and development of this international business.

New England may not have been the same if Christopher Hussey, accompanied by his widowed mother, had not come to this country from England somewhere around 1632. From that time on, the region was witness to the fast growth of this talented family. Each generation created its own skilled craftsmen and inventors who continually introduced new products into the marketplace.

The first product ever produced by the Hussey family was a farm plow featuring a new and innovative design. The American plow was an invention that saw an incredibly slow evolution, but was it thrown into a completely new arena by William Hussey in 1835. The improvements made by Hussey to this basic farm tool quickly gained the company international recognition and made work on American farms far more efficient than ever before.

Much is written into the book about Timothy Hussey, a man with great empathy for his fellow man, who carried his company through good

and bad times, treating his employees as he would his family. This trait was passed through the generations and is one of the reasons for the company's success and survival.

It was Timothy who was at the helm when an all-consuming fire on Jan. 11, 1895, engulfed his family's business. The event is still known to family members and employees as simply, "The Fire." In less than an hour the entire plant had burned with over a thousand pieces of farm equipment, finished and ready to be shipped, being lost. Timothy, then 64 years old, decided to turn what was left of the business over to his three sons.

The Husseys always believed that the trials and tribulations of life could and should be met head-on with a positive attitude. Such a devastating fire would have meant the end for most businesses; instead it became a shining example of how they managed to have something extraordinary come from something so negative.

Timothy's sons did rebuild and eventually split the company into two divisions; one part manufacturing plows and farm equipment while the other branched off into the business of building fire escapes.

It was the second division of the company that continued to grow even through the Great Depression and eventually manufactured products such as steel step ladders, sewer grates, manhole covers, park benches, and basketball backstops. The company became well-known for stadium and telescoping spectator seating. Hussey seating can be found in stadiums such as the Toronto Skydome, the Olympic Saddle Dome in Alberta, Canada, and here in states as far away as Florida, Colorado, and California.

One of the sons, Philip Hussey, Sr., leader of the company for 54 years, offered insights into this company that if compared to any list of business "how-to's" should not run as well as it does.

Within the pages of the history book, he writes: "The Hussey Corporation was in a continuous search for a reason to be. It had no real product line and thus no real mission for the company, except to stay in business."

He further explains how the company was able to capture the contract for the construction of the Belknap Recreation Area (today's Gunstock) with their talented and energetic chief engineer, Ed Willey, overseeing the development of the



COURTESY PHOTO

The Hussey Seating Co. home office and major manufacturing plant, pictured here, are located in North Berwick, Maine. The Hussey Manufacturing Company as it was known during the 1930s built not only the ski jumps at Gunstock Mountain Resort, but also the original recreation area.

facility:

"In some manner the word got around that we knew quite a bit about ski area development – it may have been that we had more ambition than actual knowledge. The project lasted for over three years, with Ed Willey, our engineer in charge living right in the vicinity. Before completion Ed laid out several miles of black topped roads, a big parking area, several bridges, a big

and attractive club house designed here in our office. Also included were a complete water supply system, a sanitary system, three ski jumps, one of the 60-meter size, and one of the first chair lifts in this part of the country. In fact, when finished, it was one of the finest complete developments in the East and is now enjoyed by thousands each winter."

Always mindful of the history it has created over time,

the family obtained the original company building located adjacent to its head office. The Hussey Family Museum was created within this building, itself on the National Register of Historic Places.

If history does indeed repeat itself as it often does, the Hussey Corporation will continue to contribute to society in a positive way. The Lakes Region is very fortunate to have had this famous corpo-

ration leave behind a piece of its history, which in turn, has become a large part of our local heritage.

Gilford's Thompson-Ames Historical Society welcomes stories of local history. To contact the Society, e-mail thomames@metrocast.net. Be sure to check www.gilfordhistoricalsociety.org for previous articles, upcoming programs, and events.

WATER

for the vast majority of phosphorous loading on all four subwatersheds, accounting for a total of 6,059 pounds in 2009.

Failing septic systems account for a large amount of lake phosphorous as many landowners go from seasonal residents to year-round residents. Anderson said many do not know the signs of a failing septic system and do not know the general state of their septic systems.

Lawn care is another major factor as many landowners are having large amounts of fertilizer put on their lawns to keep them green.

Meredith Town Planner Angela LeBreque said the town has a lawn care subcommittee as part of the Waukewan Watershed Committee that has been working with Public Works and local business owners on "green"

lawn care. A campaign is also in the works to raise awareness about the issue. Information is also available on more environmentally friendly ways to care for lawns.

The subwatershed areas are surrounded by 53 percent forestland, which accounts for 2,212 pounds of phosphorous. Crops and pasture account three percent of the area with 25 pounds from crops and 543 pounds from pasture.

Richard DeMark, USDA Coordinator for North Country RC and D, told those in attendance to discuss options and put forth their own acceptable phosphorous level for the subwatersheds.

Meredith Community Development Director John Edgar said the better option would be to discuss Best Management Practices, espe-

cially for small-scale areas that tend to fall through the cracks. Edgar said they would be looking to those with knowledge on the water bodies to help them with solutions.

Laconia Planning and Zoning Director Shanna Saunders said the communities are looking to the scientists and experts.

"Really a road map where all the communities are on the same page as the technical experts," Saunders said. "I think that's what Laconia needs before it comes up with a number. We really need that road map document."

Another issue is funding, as any improvements will require much money.

Anderson said there are grants available through the DES and there is a grant worth around \$76,040 from the EPA with a deadline if

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Dec. 31 of this year to apply. "In order to have some public support for the process, it's got to have some positive outcomes," said Meredith Selectmen Chair Peter Brothers.

Measures of public involvement include a website giving information on the status of the lake and bays, including areas of data, monitoring, and possible involvement by umbrella organizations.

"We're hoping to get all the data and have it on one Web site," Tarpey said.

Recent sampling has been done on Paugus and Sanders Bays, where chlorophyll levels were analyzed. Organizers said they are hoping for more volunteers to do water tests at different locations in the bays.

Bob Craycraft of the UNH Cooperative Extension said testing kits are available for volunteers and UNH will provide training on how to collect samples and use the kits.

Tarpey said several local organizations, including the Gilford Rotary and the Winnepesaukee Yacht Club, have expressed interest in doing lake testing.

Much of the testing does require access to a boat; shallower areas can be done with a kayak or canoe, while tributary testing can be done from the shoreline.

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