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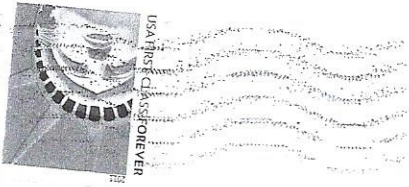
LOON

VOL.
NO.

Tim's Cove Property Owners Association

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HEALTHY LOONS = HEALTHY LAKES: 2010 Loon Count Reviewed by Susan Gallo, Maine Audubon staff biologist

Why do we care so much about common loons? True to their name, they are fairly common in Maine, nesting on many of our lakes in the summer, and spending the winter in the frigid waters off-shore. They are so much a part of our Maine outdoor heritage that we may forget how unique and special they are. After all, Maine is the only state in the northeast with such a robust and apparently healthy loon population.

But this is exactly why we do care about loon, and why loons have made such a compelling species of wildlife to study over the past 27 years of Maine Audubon's Annual Loon Count. A healthy loon population is indicative of clean water, vigorous fish populations, high-quality wetlands, and a healthy lake ecosystem. Reasonable regulations that have protected shoreland zones, reduced road runoff, and maintained high water quality have paid off in making our lakes healthy places for loons, as well as for people.

The 2010 Loon Count took place on a near perfect Saturday morning last July. It made for a more thorough count when volunteers aren't foiled by wind and waves. The loon population has been growing steadily for the last couple of years, and the 2010 count showed that trend continuing, with an estimate of 3,220 adults in the southern half of the state (roughly south of the lone from Rangeley to Calais). This is the highest number of adult loons ever estimated in the 27 year history of the count, and that is great news, especially in light of the dip in loon numbers evident in the mid-to-late-nineties. It appears our loon population has recovered and is doing better than ever.

The estimate for the chick population wasn't quite as high. The 2010 estimate was 283 chicks, which is just about average (the low chick count was 141 in 2006, and the high was 440 in 2007). So what does this mean? Our ongoing Loon Productivity study suggests that there are a lot of loons out there who try to nest and fail. Although lots of adult birds are around, many are unpaired "bachelors" looking to gain some experience on Maine's lakes before trying to find their own territory.

The 2011 Loon Count will take place on July 16th, from 7:30 to 8:00am. For More information or to participate, visit www.maineaudubon.org/conserve/loon or call Susan Gallo at 781-6180 X216

Message from Dave Inglehart, President of T.C.P.O.

Thus far Spring has been late in coming to Sebec. A visit to the lake April 15th revealed very little open water along the shore and as much as 6" of ice remaining throughout Tim's Cove and the big lake. Indeed, the view across to the north shore was not much altered from that to be seen in January.

Sebec Shores Road was free of snow and ice throughout its length, but the upper road from the end of the pavement to the turn-out at Halfway Pine was in rough shape from the winter's logging efforts. The frost was still coming out of the ground and the driving was slow going much of the way.

At Tom Crepeau's suggestion (and by means of his ATVs), a survey was made of all of the culverts from the cemetery to the Y, revealing a number of pipes in need of replacement and/or resetting. A complete list of these culverts and the condition of each will be available soon on the TCPOA website.

As of this writing, two phone messages have been left with Scott Olson, who oversees the logging operations, and I expect to speak with him soon about grading. Sebec Shores and the need for more culverts in addition to the four plastic pipes he delivered in the fall (all of which were installed in November and have held up very well).

Once the road has been graded, we expect to move forward with plans developed during the Labor Day meeting of the Board to treat parts of lower Sebec Shores Road with recycled asphalt (known as "brownpack"). Available from Pike Industries, located on the Dexter Road, the material can be tail-gated and rolled to create a coherent surface that promises to alleviate many of our erosion and pot-holing problems. At \$5.50/ton it is considerable cheaper than gravel.

Many thanks to Tom and Sharon Crepeau for keeping me posted about local conditions, clearing the roads of windfall, and for their warm hospitality!

Notes from Our Treasurer – Mac Blanchard

The dues received for 2010 were almost the same as 2009, approximately \$11,000. Each year we average about 70 camp owners paying their dues. To put the roads in top notch condition we need more participation, and it would be very gratifying to receive dues from those who have not been paying dues. Those members who have land only could contribute \$100.00, rather than the \$150.00 for those with a camp on the property.

Dave Inglehart is working closely with Scott Olsen to get some grading done to repair the road from the lumbering operation. If we all chip in to pay our dues we will be able to make some long term improvements to all the roads. I will have a financial statement covering 2009 and 2010 available for the annual meeting this coming July.

It would be helpful to have your 2011 dues of \$150.00 paid before the annual meeting. Please send a check made out to T.C.P.O.A and mail to:
Mac Blanchard, Treasurer, P.O. Box 275, Newcastle, ME 04553

Sebec Lake: Leave It to Beavers

Everybody loves to hate the beaver; probably because they are second only to us humans in their ability to noticeably alter the landscape over a short time. Humans and beavers often clash over tree felling, as well as road and woodland flooding. But not all that beavers do is destructive.

Beavers are the engineers who create wetlands. They dam up a fast flowing stream in a shallow valley, which eventually creates a wetland that serves a vital function in nature. It creates a waterway through the forest for migrating birds, provides a watering hole for a multitude of different animals, and serves as a nursery for many species. Microorganisms grow whose sole purpose is to break down toxics (like pesticides) which helps to purify the water. Wetlands are useful in droughts and in floods. They hold water longer, raise the water table, and keep excess water from washing organically rich silt down into lakes and rivers. Wetlands curb erosion of topsoil, and act as the earth's kidneys in cleaning water as it percolates into underground aquifers. They provide habitat for insects which are food for other animals. It's a big web of life, thanks to the beaver.

The Maine Wildlife Service has a Beaver Management Program for mitigating damage to human engineered habitats. And there are some very simple precautions we waterside landowners can do to protect our trees from beaver chewing and felling. Shooting them or trapping them simply stimulates the species to reproduce faster.

PROTECTING TREES WITH A BEAVER-PROOF FENCE: Using 2"x4" welded wire mesh, cut a piece 4 feet tall by the diameter of your tree PLUS 12". You want a 6" space between the fence and the tree trunk. Cut every other horizontal wire down one vertical side and bend into a hook. Wrap cage around tree trunk and attach hooks onto other vertical mesh side, bend closed. Anchor bottom of fence with stakes.

SHOW SOME RESPECT

Reduce speed

Exercise caution

Stay alert

People and pets walking

Emerging traffic has right of way

Children playing

Thank You

The Loon Newsletter is written and produced by Julia Flanders. In April 2012 we will electronically send you the Loon Newsletter so that you can read it on your computer, or print it out yourself. The Loon will also be posted on our association website www.timscove.org along with pictures and additional information about road conditions. Please help us update our mailing address, phone number, and email data base by sending the correct information to: Don Rush 395 North Rd, Sebec, ME 04481 or email it to him at rushva@aol.com All email addresses will be held in private by the Board of Directors of TCPOA and used solely for emailing the Loon Newsletter to you once a year. Thank You!

Waves Rule

I bet you thought just now this essay was going to be about surfing. It is, in a way. I'm referring to surfing our way in and out the dirt road, and the quirky, Maine way we greet each other as we pass.

Nearly everyone waves hello, each with their own particular style. It's an old fashioned small town tradition which I have seen practiced in many places in Maine. You may not immediately recognize who is in that vehicle, especially through the cloud of dust, but might as well say hello with a wave, in the likely case it is someone you know.

Most people are hanging on to the steering wheel trying to keep it in the road, so many people use the "lazy boy scout salute"- the index and middle finger raised but still slightly bent with the ring finger just barely crooked up. Often times only the index finger makes it up. It is still a form of acknowledgement, though to me it seems somewhat reluctant. Mostly men use this form.

The high five wave has many different unique sub-styles beside the straight up, hold her steady in the windshield, using either the steering wheel hand or one's other hand. There is the "high four" wave, still holding that thumb and palm on the steering wheel. Sometimes it makes it into a complete high five, with the wrist against the steering wheel.

There's the "Salute wave"; a single rotation of the wrist away from the body. And of course, the "Clown" wave; big open palm high five enthusiastically rotating back and forth. This wave is commonly used for actual friendly recognition of the people in the other car.

There is "the pet" high five, which is with somewhat curled fingers, and a gentle rotation of the wrist away and slightly downward from the body, very much like the motion when petting a dog. It strikes me as a very kind hearted wave. Then there is the high five out the open window, either with bent elbow, or arm stretched straight out. It's more of a "Contractor's wave" by and for other workers on the road.

Ladies, young and less young, have a common style of waving, which is also common in children. They open and close the hand up and down in front of them. I call it the "bye-bye" wave. It is an affectionate kind of wave. One rarely sees a man wave in this way.

Sometimes when we approach people we know, we wave out the window, and drop the arm into the "slow down" signal so we can chat a minute. This I have mostly observed on our camp roads. I love to see it. Sometimes there is even a handshake between the two car drivers. That's a lot friendlier than kissing bumpers!

OK, admit it. Sometimes we forget to wave. It's not intentional. Coming down the road after a long drive up to the lake, or a long day out to town, the slow, meandering drive in allows one to decompress and zone out, or gaze into the woods to look for wildlife. Please forgive us.

So if you are new to Maine and to the Sebec Lake camp experience it is time to find your wave. What kind of wave will you be using this summer? Perhaps you will find your own unique signature wave. And remember, waves rule!