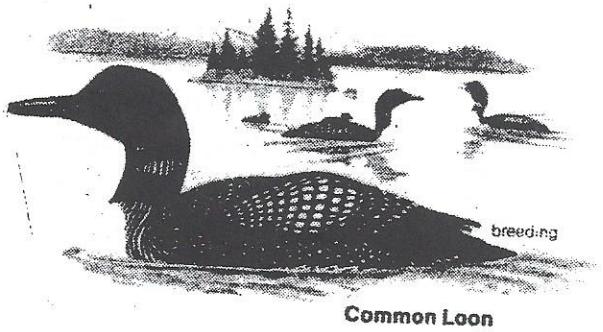

Common Loon

THE LOON

MAY 1999 NEWSLETTER – TIM'S COVE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

On The Road, Again……..from Gene Snyder

There was no winter plowing during the 97-98 winter so the roads came through in good shape. This was fortunate because we did not have funds immediately to work with since dues were slow in coming. We spent $2,000.00 for grading and gravel on the Sebec Shores Road. We also purchased several loads of gravel for lot owners to spread on Tim's Cove Road and on South Cove Road. The town of Guilford made extensive improvements to the Sebec Shores Road from the cemetery out to Gray Valley and beyond. They spread numerous loads of gravel, graded, ditched, and widened the road. During the fall we put in four new culverts on Sebec Shores Road, ditched, and created more runoffs. On Tim's Cove Road we ditched, put in a new culvert, and opened some older ones to get them working properly again. On South Cove Road we installed new culverts and also ditched. In total, we spent $6,000.00 for these improvements on our roads to get us through this winter. It seems to be working better to spread gravel and grade during the late spring or early summer, and then install culverts and ditch in the fall. This gives us better roads to drive on during the summer months, while ditching and culverts help carry the winter and spring runoff allowing the roads to survive the winter.

The treasurer's report shows we have more carry over of funds this year than in the past. This was done purposely to be in a position to work on the roads as soon as equipment can safely do so. We also plan on grading the roads at least once more during the summer in addition to the spring grading. Please send in your dues early to make this happen.

I understand that the Sebec Shores Road was not plowed this winter again, so hopefully the road will have survived the winter in good shape. This helps us all by allowing the TCPOA to spend its money for improvements instead of repairs.

ANNUAL MEETING of the Tim's Cove Property Owners Association – TCPOA –
Sunday, July 4th, 10 am – New Location – At the "Y" in the road.

Tim's Cove Property Owners Association
Report of Treasurer
Fiscal 1998 as of December 31, 1998

Balance as of December 31, 1997		$ 1,461.72
INCOME:		
Dues	$8,030.00	
Interest	$ 45.57	
Town of Willimantic	$2,000.00	
Total Revenues		$10,075.57
DISBURSEMENTS:		
Jan Waterman(Postage,Printing)	$ 62.61	
Mac Drummond-June	$2,000.00	
Mac Drummond-Nov.(Sebec Shores)	$3,000.00	
Mac Drummond-Nov. (Tim's Cove Road)	$1,500.00	
Mac Drummond-Nov. (South Cove Road)	$1,500.00	
Jan Waterman (Administrative Expenses)	$ 61.52	
Town of Willimantic (Property Expenses)	$ 550.00	
Total Disbursements		$8,674.13
Balance as of December 31, 1998		$2,863.16

Note:

Year	Total Dues Collected
1998	$8,030.00
1997	$7,200.00
1996	$6,900.00
1995	$5,850.00
1994	$6,445.00

LOON MORTALITY - by Jan Waterman

In the late fall of 1998 Charlie and I found a dead loon washed up on our shoreline. We contacted Lindsey Tudor in Dover-Foxcroft, who is a biologist with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Because the State of Maine is just beginning a new study of loons, we have no information at present as to the cause of death of our loon. However, Ms. Tudor sent information from several sources regarding loon biology, management, and protection. The following information is an abstract from the Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine study on environmental pathology of 124 Common Loons from New England, 1989 – 1992.

Abstract: From 1989 to 1992, 124 loons found dead or moribund throughout New England were examined. Major findings included 30 birds dying due to trauma, 28 birds, all adults, with ingested metal (27 fishing sinkers and I buck shot), 19 birds with aspergillosis (Defined as an infection or disease caused by fungi of the genus aspergillis, which includes many common molds.), and 5 chicks with omphalitis, an umbilical infection. Toxicological data from the subset of 38 individuals suggest that organochlorines and mercury may be elevated in the New England Loon population. Ingested metal, mostly fishing sinkers, was found in 67.5% of the adult loons from freshwater lakes. Mercury levels detected in the blood, liver tissue, and feathers appears to be elevated, and to increase with age. Results of this study confirm that much summer loon mortality is due directly or indirectly from human activities on the breeding lakes.

Ms. Tudor stated in her letter to me that New Hampshire has passed legislation banning the use of lead sinkers in their waters. Maine has a bill banning the sale of all ½ ounce lead sinkers by the year 2002 that will be presented to the full legislature within the month of May, 1999.

Lead poisoning may be the major threat to our loon population, bur according to the Maine Audubon Society, it is closely followed by the loss of nesting sites due to development, fluctuating water levels, careless boating and jet ski activity, predators, and water pollution. Only through active education, awareness and conservation can we expect these birds to continue to exist and remain a part of the precious times spent at Sebec Lake.

REMINDERS: {1} Pay your dues of $100.00 as soon as possible, payable to the Tim's Cove Property Owners Association. Send to Ben Dever, Treasurer, 31 Anderson Rd., Dover-Foxcroft, ME. 04426

{2} Annual Meeting of the TCPOA Sunday July 4th , 1999 at 10:00 am

– Location of meeting will be in front of the garden at the "Y" in the road. See you there!

WATER LEVEL - Heavy rains, reduced flow, and poor dam management produced flooding conditions during early summer, 1998. The Sebec Lake Association is installing a lake water level monitoring system, and should be operational this summer, 1999. With this instrument the Sebec Lake Association can advise the dam operators of high water during periods of heavy rainfall in order to reduce flooding.

WILLAMANTIC TOWN MEETING - We once again requested and received $2,000.00 from the Town of Willamantic. This money, combined with our dues, was spent on road improvements during November 1998.

ROAD SIGNS - During the late summer the road signs : **NO PARKING, SPEED LIMIT, RIGHT OF WAY, and DEAD END** were constructed, painted, and installed. Our thanks go to the Fischers, the Gronbergs, the Pages, and the Snyders for getting this accomplished.

911 EMERGENCY NUMBERING SYSTEM – During the past year the Willamantic Planning Board was directed by the state of Maine to institute a 911 numbering system. Bob Adams, who is on the planning board, called and said our lot numbers and road names would have to be changed because of the new town-wide plan. Gene Snyder then called Debbie Petigrew, the Willamantic First Selectperson, who explained what was happening. She suggested we write a letter to the Planning Board stating that our roads have names and 911 number already assigned, as directed by the county. We wrote the letter and started a dialog with the Planning Board and the State of Maine Government. Gene Snyder attended a planning board meeting and showed them our maps with 911 numbers and street names. They liked what we had done because it saved them a lot of work. Next, a conference call to the state resulted in approval of the plan. Copies of the map were sent to the town and the state showing our latest numbers and street names. As a result we will be getting new high visibility street signs.

1999 ANNUAL DUES OF $100.00 - Make Checks Payable To:
"Tim's Cove Property Owners Association"
Mail checks to : Ben Dever, Treasurer
31 Anderson Road
Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426

To all of you who paid your dues in 1998, we thank you for supporting our road association. Please pay your dues early. This gives us the money to make road improvements early in the summer. We can grade the road more than once this year, but it depends on you to get your dues in early to make this happen. Aim for May 31, 1999.
Thank you!