



# THE LOON

*Tim's Cove Property Owners Association*

April, 1998

## **TCPOA 1997 Summary - Gene Snyder, President**

The Sebec Shores Road was once again heavily damaged due to runoff being channeled down the plowed section of road on the north side of Birch Mountain. There also were several culverts which had to be reset or replaced because of deeper frost in the road. This is associated with winter plowing removing the insulating snow cover from the road surface. On the Tim's Cove Road, the section before the large culvert just after the "Y" was just about impassable due to high water in the Fall of the year washing road surface away. Using our "carry over" funds and money received in April and May, the damage to the three roads was repaired in June at the cost of \$5,000.00. The road fixes to Sebec Shores Road held up well over the summer so that in the fall, improvements were made to Tim's Cove Road and South Cove Road. A stronger causeway leading to the big culvert on Tim's Cove Road was constructed, and grading, ditching, gravel and a new culvert were added to the end of Tim's Cove Road. On South Cove Road there was ditching, gravel and grading done. You will see the improvements when you come in this spring. They cost us another \$3,200.00.

In addition, money raised by the people on South Cove Road from the pig roast, the Labor Day party and direct donations purchased over 20 loads of gravel plus some additional ditching and grading. The Association spent \$8,200.00 of its 1997 funds on road repair and improvements. When funds from all sources are included, a total of \$10,730.00 was spent on roads. This, combined with the many hours put in by property owners spreading gravel and cutting brush, has resulted in our roads being greatly improved over 1996. Thank you all for your dollars and your efforts. These improvements and maintenance are making our roads more comfortable for us and kinder to our vehicles.

## **ROAD SIGNS - Gene Snyder**

At the Annual Meeting a motion was made, seconded and passed to provide Dead End and speed limit signs. Signs have been made and posts purchased. These new signs, along with the No Parking sign provided by the Town of Willimantic, will be placed along our roads this spring. The 1997 Annual Meeting addressed the subject of excessive speed - a growing concern as our roads improve. The consensus was that **25 MPH should be our maximum speed.**

## **ASSOCIATION LOTS - Gene Snyder**

The Association lots are still for sale. They were shown many times again this past year and with our improving economy, I am optimistic they will sell soon. Anyone wishing to contribute time and effort can help by cutting and stacking the slash on the lots. The better they look, the faster they will sell. At \$47,500.00 for 300 feet on the water, with septic approval, they are a really good buy.

Tim's Cove Property Owners Association  
Report of Treasurer  
Fiscal 1997 As of December 31, 1997

**Balance as of December 31, 1996** **\$1,241.14**

**Income:**

Dues	\$7,200.00
Interest	26.06
Town of Willamantic	<u>2,000.00</u>

**Total Revenues** **\$9,226.06**

**Disbursements:**

Jan Waterman (Postage, Printing)	\$ 60.84
Mac Drummond (Sebec Shores Rd.-Guilford)	2,500.00
Mac Drummond - June (Sebec Shores Rd.-Willimantic)	1,000.00
Mac Drummond - June (Tim's Cove Road)	750.00
Mac Drummond - June (South Cove Road)	750.00
Paul Belmain (Refund of Overpayment)	100.00
Jan Waterman (Administrative Expenses)	32.71
Town of Willimantic (Property Expenses)	550.00
Mac Drummond (South Cove)	1,600.00
Mac Drummond (Tim's Cove)	1,600.00
Gene Snyder (Paint, Posts)	<u>61.93</u>

**Total Disbursements** **\$9,005.48**

**Balance as of December 31, 1997** **\$1,461.72**

**1997 again showed an increase in dues payers....THANK YOU.**



## **LOONS ON SEBEC LAKE - Julia Flanders**

It's April once again, ice out time on Sebec Lake, and the first ones to arrive are the loons. One loon calls to another in that distinctive voice of the wilderness that has echoed for sixty million years. The oldest bird in North America, loons live alone or in pairs and return to the same lake year after year to raise one to two babies per season, if they are lucky. Upper Sebec Lake northwest of the Narrows can support several pairs of loons because of the many unpopulated bays, coves and stream outlets. When loons inhabit a lake people feel they are truly in the Maine wilderness, unspoiled by pollution, over development and excessive human activity.

As we impatiently wait for the frost to heave out of our well-maintained gravel road so that we can open up our camps on Memorial Day weekend, the loons are cruising the lake shore with their lifetime mate looking for a potential nesting site and establishing their territory. The success of an entire year's efforts for a breeding pair of loons depends on this initial choice. The ideal nesting site must be protected water near a ready source of fish. Sebec Lake continues to have clean water habitat for many varieties of fish, and provides more than enough for loons and fishermen both. By the end of May, their nests have been built on the shore or islands, literally at waters edge. Loon nests have no setback restrictions.

This bird of ancient lineage has many challenges to successful nesting. Only one to two eggs are laid and both mother and father loon participate in the incubation process, which lasts approximately 30 days. During this critical incubation period the nesting pair of adult loons must be ever watchful of predators. The most common raiders of the ark are raccoons, fishers, porcupines, otters and other small mammals. Loon eggs are a spring delicacy to those animals who have wintered over. Another challenge to nesting loons is the ever present weather. A heavy spring rain storm can sometimes raise the lake level high enough to flood the nest, causing the adults to abandon the nest for the year. Lastly, loons are especially sensitive to human activities. Studies of loon populations on lakes in Maine, New Hampshire, New York and Canada have shown that a loon parent will abandon a nest if people and boats approach any closer than 400 to 600 yards. In fact, loons are easily threatened by human presence and can be observed diving at the sign of any human activity on the water within a half mile. When they are piggy-backing young loons, they dive as a last resort, but in the meantime will leave their brown puffball floating on the lake while crying the alarm, flapping their wings and dancing atop the water to distract attention away from junior. As interesting as this may be to observe, loons won't tolerate repeated stresses caused by human intervention. They will simply abandon our part of the lake for calmer and quieter waters.

Probably the greatest threat to loons today is all motorized water craft and the resulting wakes which wash up into the nest. Incubating eggs cannot withstand the lake water temperature in May and June, which is typically under 65 degrees. Since a loon cannot tell whether an egg is growing, nature has provided that the loon parent will continue to sit on the eggs for the entire incubation period no matter what the perils; but when they show no signs of hatching, loons will abandon the eggs after the 30-day incubation period has ended.

So when you are out cruising in your power boat any time of the year, please be extra considerate of the loons. Keep your distance from nesting sites, and from the loons themselves. Give them a wide birth when you see loons in the lake path you are taking. And if



you should happen upon a nest while canoeing or fishing, please remember they cherish their privacy as we do ours. The best viewing distance is from far away, unobtrusively, through a pair of binoculars, or through a telephoto lens.

Watching the loons on Sebec Lake is always a pleasure, but hearing them call to each other every night is as precious a sound to hear as is the rare sight of the aurora borealis. Our Sebec Lake would not have the same sense of peacefulness and wilderness, nor create the lifetime of memories for all our generations, without the cry of the loon returning every spring. Perhaps if we all become aware of the areas around us that are good loon habitat we can help preserve this wilderness home of theirs so that the loons continue to return to our corner of Sebec Lake.

#### **WATER LEVEL - Gene Snyder**

After the disastrous 1996 water levels and our complaints, 1997 water levels were very well maintained. These water levels are negotiated with Swift River Company, who operates the dam and with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. From the camp owners' standpoint, it is the Sebec Lake Association who does the negotiating. Elizabeth and myself, along with Don and Elaine Page, Julia Flanders, and Mac Blanchard are directors of the Sebec Lake Association. If you are concerned about water quality, lake level and the preservation of our lake, you should become a member of the Sebec Lake Association. Dues are \$15.00 a year and are payable to Treasurer Mac Blanchard, South Cove Road. Sebec Lake Association is in the process of purchasing an instrument to monitor the lake water level year round so as to better advise Swift River on the management of water flow through the dam.

#### **WATER TESTING - Julia Flanders**

The summer of 1997 marked our first year as fully trained members of the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program, beginning with a crash course on Secchi disk reading, and dissolved oxygen and temperature measuring, administered by the director, Web Pearsall from Augusta, and Peter Devine, our Penobscot Regional Coordinator. Our compliments to John Daubenspeck for the accurate training he gave us over the summer of 1996, which significantly shortened our training period. We took measurements from June 15th to August 31, 1997, and sent the data to Peter and Web, who put together a summary report graphing water transparency and a summary of chemical and trophic state parameters. We are happy to report that water transparency was above average. Over the past 15 years, the average depth at which the secchi disk was last visible is 6 meters. In 1997 we recorded readings in August, the time of maximum clarity, at 8 meters. This is good news! Dissolved oxygen at various lake depths is also slightly above average. The fish love it! Dale and I look forward to another summer of measurements, starting Memorial Day, weather permitting.

**PLEASE PAY YOUR 1998 DUES BY MAY 16TH SO THAT WE CAN BEGIN THE SUMMER ROAD WORK AS SOON AS CONDITIONS PERMIT. DUES FOR 1998 ARE \$100.**

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## NOTICES

**ANNUAL TCPOA MEETING - JULY 4TH, 1998 - 10:00 A.M. - 164 SOUTH COVE ROAD**  
**TCPOA DIRECTORS' MEETING - MONDAY, MAY 25, 1998, 10:00 a.m. at Snyder's camp.**

**1998 DUES - \$100 - 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 WHO PAID DUES IN 1997 - THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR ASSOCIATION!!**

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### TCPOA OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS:

President: Gene Snyder, 2892 Buttonwood Key Ct, St. James City FL 33956 (Term: 1995-1998)  
Vice President: Julia Flanders, 15 Preston Road, Lexington MA 02173 (Term: 1995-1998)  
Secretary: Jan Waterman, 16 Kirsi Circle, Westford MA 01886 (Term: 1997-2000)  
Treasurer: Ben Dever, 31 Anderson Road, Dover-Foxcroft ME 04426 (Term: 1997-2000)

### OTHER BOARD MEMBERS:

Scott Hilton, P.O. Box 151, Gilmanton NH 03237 (Term: 1995-1998)  
Hugh Barry, RR 3 Box 58, Bangor ME 04401 (Term: 1997-2000)  
Paul Belmain, 18 Murch Road, Freeport ME 04032 (Term: 1996-1999)  
George Fischer, 198 Shawmut Street, Springfield MA 01108 (Term: 1996-1999)  
Don Hale, 583 Neponset Street, Norwood MA 02062 (Term: 1996-1999)

South Cove Road Commissioner: Paul Belmain  
Tim's Cove Road Commissioner: George Fischer, Don Weston assisting.  
Nominating Committee Chairman: Don Page