

Lake Carmi Association News

August, 2007.....One Happy Lake

This special edition Newsletter brought to you by the Lake Carmi Association

Larry Myott, Editor

Vermont Secretary of Agriculture Visits



Roger Allbee, Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets visited in the Lake Carmi watershed recently to

view the work being done to enhance the water quality of Lake Carmi.

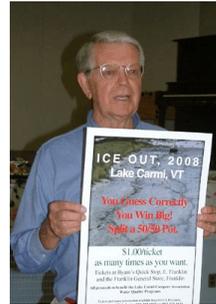
Allbee (left) is shown here with East Franklin dairy farmer Mike Benjamin reviewing the new manure handling system that is designed to store eight months of manure from 400 cows (Benjamin has 360 cows). This pit, covering more than two acres, was specially designed and constructed in partnership with the Agency and the USDA.

The Benjamin Farm has in place, farm management practices that reduce the impact of phosphorus and other pollutants on Lake Carmi. That impact reduction will ultimately be felt in Lake Champlain as Lake Carmi does eventually flow into the big lake after traveling through Quebec and emptying into the north end of the big lake.

In 2007 the lake is deemed to be in excellent condition as in mid-August it is still clean and clear. Allbee visited and toured the area to view the lake and its tributaries, and other areas that are problems or possible causes of pollution.

Farmer Mike Benjamin has invited the LCCA Board of Directors to visit his farm to learn of the system in place that will prevent any further pollution of the lake. At the recent Board of Directors meeting, the board accepted his invitation.

Ice Out 2008



At the annual meeting, President Lang announced the first annual Lake Carmi Ice Out contest. He purchased the first ticket. Tickets were distributed to directors for sale at \$1.00 each. Any one can buy a ticket and guess the date and time of the 2008 ice out at Lake Carmi.

Tickets are available at both the Franklin General Store and Byam's Quick Stop in East Franklin. Lang is shown here with the Ice Out Poster that is displayed prominently throughout the area.

Patterned after the Joe's Pond Ice Out Contest in Danville, Vermont, this contest will provide the winner with 50% of the pot. The LCCA Water Quality Programs will benefit from the LCCA share.

The Town of Franklin website will soon have instructions for the purchase of your Ice Out tickets. You can buy them by mail, just send in your check and self addressed/stamped envelope (for return of your stubs) along with your date and time guesses. You can buy as many as you'd like. For information, <http://www.franklinvermont.com/> Also visit www.lakecarmi.org for a current look at the lake.

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This Newsletter

This August newsletter is the last of the three promised Newsletters for the 2007 camping season. It has been a pleasure to see and hear the reactions of our Lake Carmi residents, visitors, and others who don't have any relation to the lake.

When we started this new idea, we couldn't have anticipated that it would be so well received. Many telephone calls, emails, and comments on the street later assure your editor that it is worth it. Each issue has been about 5,000 words. That takes about two days to write and produce. The photographs have been supplied by the editor from his collection and from other campers willing to share.

We ask that you post this letter at camp for the use of all visitors whether they be renters or family and friends. The original proposal was to make this letter a useful tool, your words prove that it is.

The editor continues to need your stories, photos and more. Stories can be of any length (no guarantee that all will be printed in its entirety, however). In 2008 the first issue will be mailed to your home address on file with LCCA, in April. This will again include your dues reminder. The three summer issues will be in June, July and August and delivered to each cottage by volunteers.

If you would like to receive this newsletter by email, in a .pdf format, simply email the editor with your request and he will send it out by email the day it is prepared. You will need Acrobat Reader to access the newsletter on email. It is available free on the web, simply follow instructions.

We will mail a few to members or special friends of the LCCA if you provide the mailing name and address to the editor. Or the editor will provide you with extra copies to send to friends and former cottage owners.

For the 2008 issues, photos and stories can be sent to Larry by snail mail or email. Email is preferred, for photos please make them at least 150 dpi in a .jpg format. Film photos will be scanned in and returned to the sender. Of course the editor reserves the right to use or not use any submission depending on space available or content. To contact Larry Myott, send mail to: 5014 Route Seven, Ferrisburgh, VT 05456 or email to: Larry.Myott@uvm.edu. Telephone, 802.285.6718 or in Ferrisburgh at 802.877.2250. November, 2007 thru April, 2008 call 813.779.6195 in Zephyrhills, Florida.

Haston Library in Franklin



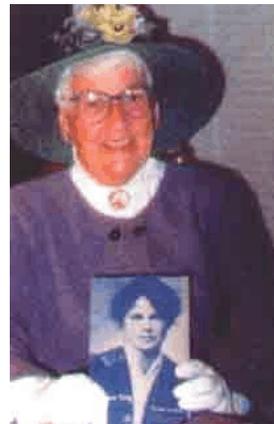
The Haston Library in Franklin is not only a historically significant building in the town, it is an unbelievable resource for

visitors from the lake, tourists and more. The folks at the library celebrated its 100th birthday this summer.

Located on the main street, it is right beside the post office and just upstairs over the Town Clerk's office. The staff at the library are always willing to help you find the right book or resource. **Hours are, Monday 10 - 2, Tuesday 2 - 7, Thursday 9 - 6, Friday 2 - 6, Saturday 9 - 1.**

Assistant Librarian Sandy Rooney reports that nearly 70 attended all or parts of the astronomy program at the State Park event in early August.

Although summer programs are nearly done for 2007, you can always stop in to borrow a book, check your email on one of their computers or offer to volunteer next summer. Perhaps you have a particular skill or hobby that you could share with others. They are always looking for new program ideas.



The last summer time program will be on Tuesday, August 28 at 7:00 pm. Dorothy Canfield Fisher is being presented by the Vermont Humanities Council. This is free and open to the public.

Dorothy Canfield Fisher is portrayed by Lake Carmi first lady Helene Lang of the Westcott Shore and Montpelier. She is a retired UVM English Professor who does portraits in literature in several personae.

Fisher was a Vermont author who wrote forty books of fiction and non-fiction attacking discrimination, intolerance, brutality, and fraud. Her vibrant writing celebrated life, lived with courage and joy. This living history presentation showcases the authors life works.

In Case of Emergency

Please remove the red stickers with the old Fire Department telephone numbers that were distributed years ago. You will no longer get the fire department or rescue squad by dialing that number. For emergency services, **use 911 only**. There is no longer a telephone operator for that old for emergency services number.

Remove all the old Lake Carmi Camp Number signs as those numbers haven't been valid for several years. If you call for help with one of those old camp numbers, you won't get help.

The Franklin Fire/Rescue Department makes 911 address signs available, at their cost. The green double sided signs that can be mounted on a post cost \$17.50. The single sided sign to be posted on the camp costs \$15.00. They are reflective and available in either vertical or horizontal format.

To order send your check to: Franklin Fire/Rescue, P.O. Box 182, Franklin, VT 05457. Please make sure you specify which sign you are ordering and the 911 number to be put on the sign. Please include your telephone number.

How many of you remember Ruth Toof? Who would like to share memories of our longtime telephone operator a future issue? _____

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A Message from the Town

During the months of May and September the Town of Franklin is coordinating with Hazardous Waste Collections. They will have a metal dumpster at the town garage. This is a free service that helps keep our roadsides clean and gives you a chance to get rid of the scrap metal that seems to accumulate. Only scrap metal is to be placed in it. NO appliances or other non-metal items are acceptable. Absolutely no dumping of items when the dumpster is not there.

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Lake Carmi Campers Association Dues

If you haven't yet paid your 2007 Dues to this association, please do. *Send your dues check (\$25.00) to LCCA: Treasurer Wendell Fortier, 29 North Avenue, Richford, VT 05476. Include your winter address, your camp 911 address and your telephone number for both camp and your winter address.* Wendell will send you your membership card. Make sure your 911 address is on that card along with your off season telephone number.

Calendar of Summer Events /Activities

Farmers Markets

Enosburg Falls Farmers Market on Lincoln Park in Enosburg each Wednesday, 3 to 6 pm, and each Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm, June thru October.

Richford Farmers Market at Davis Park, June thru September, Saturdays 9 am - 1 pm.

Swanton Farmers Market at Swanton Commons, Sundays 9 am - 3 pm, June thru October.

Church Services, Call the church of your choice for details.

Classified Ads: Free to LCCA Members

- Two Camps for rent on Hammond Shore, call Dan Larrivee at 802.285.6737
- Camp for Rent on Patton Shore, Call 802.285.6568
- Camp for Rent on Patton Shore, all amenities, canoe, kayak and rowboat included. Call for details, Bill Hearne, 802.285.6748 or 585.377.3537.
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Another Lake Carmi Camp Owner Business

This August 2007 issue of the Lake Carmi Campers Association News was written by Larry Myott, unless otherwise noted. Please send information or articles to the editor by April 1, 2008 for the next issue. Photos and captions are very welcome. If you are not a writer send me your ideas for development.

Visit the Franklin Web Site

The webmaster of the Town of Franklin web site lets us use a portion of the town web site. We are on the World Wide Web (WWW). Janet Norcross has posted the summer issues of the Lake Carmi Association News. This issue will probably be posted by the time you get it. You can access our newsletters and all the town postings, at any time, by going to the website at:
<http://www.franklinvermont.com/>

If you don't have access to the internet while at the lake, you can visit the Haston Library and use one of their computers. They are on DSL too. Get to know this great facility, borrow a book, make some new friends.

Septic Pumpout Rebate

Remember, LCCA members get a \$50 rebate when you pump out your septic tank. You select the company, call Pauline Favreau at 285.2228 for details. As a paid member of the LCCA you can mail your paid receipt for a pump out directly to Pauline Favreau, 1253 Swamp Road, Franklin, VT 05450.

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Directory of Services

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Jim Burns, Enosburg, 933.7715 or

802.777.5938

Lawn Mowing:

Paul Greenwood, East Franklin, 933.5044

Martins Lawn Care, Ryan Martin, Franklin,

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LCCA Directors Met on August 11

Your LCCA Directors met at Vice President Helen Devers Cottage for nearly four hours of business and planning for the future.

Game Warden Carl Wedin attended and reviewed his work with the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. He reminded directors of several items that he enforces, age of boat operators, jet ski life jacket requirements and the need for a spotter if the jet ski is being used for tubing or skiing. Boats that 16 feet or longer are required to have a horn and must have a throw device on board. All boats, canoes, etc. must have a life jacket in the open boat, for all passengers, at all times while on the water.

He mentioned that fisherman on the lake cannot use more than two fish lines at any time.

Helen Dever reported on the very successful Lake Carmi Cottage and Garden Tour held on July 21. Most of the 10 cottages participating had more than 175 enthusiastic visitors. The restaurants participating were very happy and most said they will do it again if the event is held. Dever reported the net received for the Water Quality Programs was \$1,713. The board voted unanimously to hold the event again in 2008 and set the date of July 19.

Cottage owners who would like to host the tour in 2008 should call Helen Dever at 285.6652 or Hilda Hendrickson at 285.6855. Several have already volunteered, ten new cottages are needed. Any volunteers to help on the committee should call the chairs.

The contract with the Franklin County Sheriff's Department was approved for this winter. The total amount of the contract is for \$2,879.

President Lang asked for suggestions for contacts for each camp road to work with the Town of Franklin. This was at the request of the Board of Selectmen. Names were suggested and the President will call each to ask them to help the association.

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Another Lake Carmi Camp Owner Business

_____ Tom Michel (Hammond Shore) asked that the LCCA consider helping to sponsor a fire works show for around July 4 next year. His plan is to have sponsorship from many residents at the Lake to put on a professional show. The board voted to co-sponsor the event if the LCCA does not have any liability. They budgeted the sum of \$200 toward the event. Tom Michel will chair the event and seek funding from camp owners and businesses.

Moe Poissant (Dewing Shore) proposed the development of a boat parade for next summer.

This has been a successful event in years past. Poissant will chair the event, he is seeking volunteers to assist (802.285.6732). The Board voted the sum of \$200 toward the event.

The 2008 Ice Out Contest was discussed at length as plans were developed to make it a successful first year event. President Lang is chair with all Directors on the committee. The committee anticipates selling more than 2000 tickets this year. The corresponding secretary will work with the town web master to make sure details are on the website. (See related article on page 1.)

"The Old Bowling Alley" at the north end of the lake is taking on a new look and keeping the old name. Leonard Larose, LCCA member, has been building a new restaurant on the site for more than two years. The photo shows the new building that is



awaiting the final permits to open. Sitting outside, waiting for installation, is the hood system for the new kitchen.

The LCCA Board of Directors have taken a special interest in

this new 22 seat restaurant. The restaurant is expected to be open three meals a day, year around. Members have attended zoning meetings in support of the project. The Zoning Board is shown here recently visiting

the site with Leonard Larose (right). The window and door frames and other trim are all



boards that were carved or autographed by patrons of the old bowling alley. Watch for the opening soon.

Green Mountain Passport

For \$2.00 Vermont residents, age 62 and over, get a Green Mountain Passport that gives you free admission to State Parks (day use) and other State owned attractions. It's available at town clerk's offices.

Youth Conservation Corps Helps

_____ by Brendan O'Shea (Patton Shore)

The Vermont Youth Conservation Corps recently spent three days working on two water quality projects in the Lake Carmi Watershed. The crew, lead by Luke Summers, consists of ten high school kids who travel the state and work on water quality improvement projects. They camped out at the Lake Carmi State Park.

The first day they seeded, graded, created cut outs and made check dams on the Westcott Shore Road. By creating cut outs much of the road sediment from the upper portion of the road has been diverted into the woods where it can settle out instead of ending up in the lake. The lower portion of the ditch was raked, graded, seeded and check dams were built. This will keep most of the road sediment in the ditch and out of the lake. Aldiho Farm donated the hay needed to mulch the seed

In the struggle to keep the lake clean and clear it is important to remember that roads are a large part of the puzzle. Poorly placed culverts, poor drainage ditches, and steep road grades all effect water quality. There is much work to be done on this in coming years.

The crew spent two days on the Marsh Brook, Lake Carmi's largest tributary. The project, which was identified in a Phase 2 Geomorphic Assessment conducted last summer, is located at the crossing of the old Marsh Farm Road and the Marsh Brook. The road is currently being used as a VAST trail. A sediment pond was created upstream of the culvert in hopes that during high water events, hydraulic pressure will be slowed and some of the phosphorus and other nutrients might settle upstream instead of in the lake. Plans are also in the works to remove the undersized culvert at this site and put in a VAST compliant bridge.

Big thanks to the VYCC crew, FWC, LCCA, the Larose family and the Mullen Family for getting involved with these projects that will improve water quality in and around Lake Carmi.

Where have all the rafts gone?

By Michael Tansey, Beda-Tansey Cottage, Patton Shore

As a kid, a trip to the lake wasn't complete without a swim out to the nearest raft. As an adult, there is still something about a cannonball off our raft that seems to release the inner child in me.

So where have all the rafts gone? Ten or 15 years ago, they dotted the waters of Lake Carmi, almost as common as seagulls are nowadays. This summer, though, there are only four gracing our lake. Kevin Tansey and Devon Johnson are shown in full flight..

The decline in the number of rafts can be attributed to several factors, including shifting demographics on the lake and the ubiquitous seagull.



As the population of Lake Carmi ages, there are fewer children who spend the summer on the waterfront. It's not easy for Granddad and Granny to haul a heavy raft into the lake if the grandchildren only visit for a few weeks. With the cost of lakefront property soaring in recent years -- many have changed hands at prices in the \$150,000 range recently -- a camp on Lake Carmi is a luxury that few young families can afford. And for those who do make the investment, there are a myriad of summer activities including soccer, music and hockey camps competing for a busy child's attention.

There are still a few diehards who do put a raft in the water; however they too face challenges, most notably from the increasingly bold Lake Carmi seagull population. Last summer I almost sank our raft after having to scrub the guano off it on an almost daily basis. It was dirty, stinky work, and no matter how much elbow grease I put into it, the surface remained slippery and unappealing to the kids. So what is a raft lover to do?

I consulted Kevin Lothian, a fellow Patton Shore resident, and owner of Boat Headquarters Inc. in Swanton for some answers. His store used to carry cedar topped and polyethylene rafts, but the market for them has dried up. "We don't sell many," he confessed to me one evening last month when I caught up with him. Stuffed owls and hawks "don't really work," he says, but a product called Birdwire, which creates an unstable landing area for birds, is effective. "They work, there's no question, but they are an inconvenience to the kids," since the wires have to be removed and brought back to shore before the raft can be used.

Our raft is homemade, so I decided to try a homemade solution. I fastened a bright blue tarp to one end of the raft, and attached it with bungee cords on the other end. The gulls are free to land on our raft and poop away to their hearts' content, but generally they don't, since the wind often causes the tarp to billow, mimicking the Birdwire unstable landing surface. When my kids or I want to exorcise our inner child, all we have to do is unhook one end of the tarp, and presto -- a clean raft awaits underneath.

Lake Carmi Cottage Tour a Delight, **Camps' charms compliment food, perfect weather.**

(Reprinted in full, with permission from the St. Albans Messenger, written by Heidi Britch-Valenta, Messenger Correspondent)

It is apparent that someone on the Lake Carmi Campers Association has some very serious connections. They were lucky enough to host the Premier Cottage and Garden Tour on what seems like the first nice day in the month of July. Perhaps to say nice is an understatement. It was the quintessentially perfect summer day; warm sun, soft breezes, and gorgeous lake views. Well, not everyone had lake views, but those lucky enough to have purchased a \$10 ticket for the tour on beautiful Lake Carmi got a soothing eyeful. 10 cottages generously opened their doors to visitors and collaborated with local restaurants to offer a sumptuous treat at each stop.

"What a fabulous idea!" echoed off the lake shores the entire afternoon as happy visitors followed their map to the next quaint cottage to enjoy a tour and savor a culinary morsel. This tour was a cross between a Better Homes and Gardens show, a road rally, and Burlington's Chew-Chew fest. The map and listing noted the owner's name, location and which restaurant was catering for them. You really had to prioritize your stops because you might not have time to see every cottage depending on your mode of transportation. Utilized transports were kayaks, canoes, motorboats, bicycles, cars and foot power. I was lucky enough to have a well-versed guide who knew her way around the shore from a lifetime connection to the Lake and surrounding area. We had a strategic plan and were able to utilize other parking sites at neighboring camps to avoid congested parking. We managed to hit all sites and partake in each offering at a comfortable pace.

Within our group of four there was no consensus on a favorite camp. Each person's ideal cottage is an expression of themselves. That was apparent as each dwelling we viewed held a completely different appeal than the last. A camp is a treasure within a family. It can be a retreat from the busy world or it can be a bustling hub where large families reconnect when returning from all corners of the globe. The latter appeared to be the case with Marsha and Albert Perry's lovely camp. They can efficiently sleep a large number of people within the house and have converted a garage and boathouse to boy's and girl's bunkhouses. It seems that all are welcome anytime. Family pictures grace the walls; comfort and warmth are as tangible as the furniture.

More on the urbane side was the lovely Dever Cottage inhabited by Helen Dever and Deiter Schelling. Its spacious screened in porch included a lovely wicker sitting area as well as a stunning dining area set for a formal dinner. Indoor furnishings were tasteful and inviting. Helen explained the history of the cottage and was extremely gracious and attentive to all that came through the door, remembering to give credit to her daughter-in-law for much of the décor. Dever co-coordinated the event and was very pleased with the large turnout.

_____The Jim and Faith Aube-Pivirotto cottage was a tribute to serenity and nature. They are nestled in the Black Woods tucked away from view from the road or the lake. They have



created many awe-inspiring spots on the grounds such as their heated gazebo overlooking the lake which Faith admitted was "extremely pleasant" in the winter. The nearby hammock

perched above the shore seemed the ideal spot to tackle a good book or catch a quick nap. They explained that they had been convinced to open their home as a way to generate awareness and raise funds for preservation projects and water improvement strategies. They added that it had turned out to be quite fun for them to showcase their home; a project for nearly 20 years.

Participating restaurants were the Crossing in Richford, Bernie's from Montgomery, Jeff's

Seafood of St. Albans, The Highgate Manor of Highgate Falls, the Franklin General Store of Franklin Village, Back Inn Time Bed and Breakfast from St. Albans, The Park Café of St. Albans, Chow Bella of St. Albans, The Abbey of Sheldon, and Halveys Café of Enosburg Falls. The food choices were as varied as the camps and ranged from a comforting hot dog and pie from the Franklin General Store to a delicate brochette and prosciutto wrapped figs from Bernie's. Chow Bella offered a wonderful ham and watercress crêpe accompanied by homemade potato chips. Each restaurant was on their best game and we enjoyed every presentation very much.



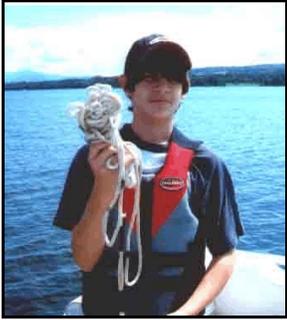
After completing all ten stops, sated, tired, and harboring a mild case of cottage envy, my friends and I made a pact to do it again next year (if the Campers Association will be kind enough to invite us back).

[At the recent meeting of the LCCA Board of Directors they expressed great appreciation to Helen Dever and Hilda Hendrickson who chaired this event and their entire committee of hard working campers. Very special thanks go to all the cottage hosts and restaurants who participated, you made it all possible]



Volunteers at Lake Carmi, Water Quality Testing.

Bob Rennie has long been a volunteer at Lake Carmi in many capacities, board member, secretary, dock mover, water tester and much more. He is also an unofficial mentor to a young Florida student who has helped him with water testing for the last few years. Skyler Gauvin lives on the Westcott Shore with his family in the Botta Cottage.



Skyler is required to carry out community service as part of his schooling. His

work at Lake Carmi is being reported to his school in Pensacola, Florida. He is learning while he is helping with Lake Carmi Water Quality Assessment. The Vermont Water Quality team of the State of Vermont are also sending a letter of service to his school.

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BOOM.....BOOM.....BOOM

For years residents of Lake Carmi and those for many miles around have been disturbed by what sounded like a pile driver on a city skyscraper lot.

Boom.....Boom.....Boom, every few seconds came this sound that rattled around the lake upsetting folks because we did not know what it was.

There were many theories, but no one really knew what the answer was. Your editor decided to find out. I traveled to Frelighsburg, Quebec (only about 5 miles away) and visited a Canadian Government apple research farm that I had been on years ago. They denied any knowledge, but did admit to hearing the same phenomenon from time to time. Their speculation was that it was for possible hail control at the many wineries nearby.

About two weeks ago some friends and I took another investigation tour that included sampling at a winery. We got the scoop. The machine you see here is an acetylene powered explosive device that shoots a blast

of air straight up into the air. This blast propels shock waves at the cloud formations that could form hail. These shock waves break up the particles that might become hail. We actually found one unit in an apple orchard in Dunham, QC. They are located in several orchards on the Quebec side of the border. Each unit costs about \$30,000.



There is a computerized weather monitoring system with this machine. It automatically starts when the weather conditions become right to produce hail. Hail can destroy an apple crop in seconds or at least damage it so that its commercial value is lost. Such damaged apples would have very low value, perhaps as cider or sauce.

Grading the Roads

Always a problem on the camp roads is taking care of the pot holes and getting the roads graded.

Michael Tansey of the Patton Shore was awakened early in the morning and went out to see what was happening.



It's always good to see the town employees out there helping us with the roads. Neighbor Peter Benevento was accused of having

insider information as he was already up and out playing golf.

We are reminded that the speed limit on our roads is 15 mph. This is especially important when the roads are wet. Speed over this does a lot of damage and really opens up the potholes.

Thanks for sharing the photo and thoughts Michael.

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