
◆ REFLECTIONS FROM THE LAKES ◆

Lake Dunmore/Fern Lake Association

P O Box 14, Salisbury, VT 05769

www.lakedunmorevt.com

Winter 2002

Membership

The membership reached 80% in 2001 totaling 365 non-commercial members. This is up from the 353 non-commercial members in 2000. Many thanks to all of you who help us out each year!

Water Quality

By: John N. Page

The summer water samples were taken in July; results were generally very favorable. Indeed all but 5 locations on Lake Dunmore and 1 location on Fern passed the "Swimming Quality Water Test" threshold for satisfactory water quality: 77 E. coli bacteria per 100ml. Most test scores about the lake perimeters were on the 1 to 8 E. coli/c.ml range. E. coli bacteria inhabit the lower digestive tract of animals, including humans. Animals such as frogs host E. coli. Presence of these bacteria in water does not necessarily indicate gross water pollution; just about all surface waters will evidence some E. coli; but these bacteria cannot survive for long periods in water. Sometimes water is tested for "coliform" bacteria (other species similar to E. coli) when seeking more direct tie-in to human fecal contamination. Over several summer testing seasons no adverse trend of significance is appearing at particular locations, based on examination of the historic test data available to us. Indeed most testing locations adjacent to shorelines (100 tests at Dunmore, 30 at Fern) exhibit "single digit" scores, even many "0" E. coli scores on average over a five year period. Two relatively small locations on Lake Dunmore (Sandy Point. Lane area and South Cove) appear to show a higher than average (average being about 25 E. coli/100ml). Poor scores were also noted for this year, but re-testing revealed no adverse E. coli scores. Though this average score is not high (as related to the 77 E. coli standard) it would be prudent to test more intensively at those locations, perhaps going to the previously noted "fecal coliform" test. Again, the 25 E. coli test result as an average over five years would be considered very satisfactory as compared to many other recreational lakes, in our opinion. Our two lakes exhibit excellent water quality. In addition to E. coli tests, continuous favorable test results have occurred on phosphorus and chlorophyll. Water clarity grades are also high, ranking us in the upper ranks of Vermont lakes. For year 2002 we propose to look hard at water quality in the general area of 2001 "sub-quality" test sites (over 77 E. coli/100ml) and to sample more extensively at South Cove and Sandy Point areas. Follow-up sampling would be undertaken in the event of poor results. A full schedule of lake perimeter testing would once again ensue in 2003.

Lake Dunmore Triathlons

As you recall, the Board of Trustees solicited the feelings of the membership regarding triathlons with last springs questionnaire. The results established a strong mandate for the Board as 87% of the respondents (192 members) concurred with the position the Board proposed. That position was to limit events to only two during the summer months with any number of events in May and early June or after mid-September.

We felt we had worked out the controversy as both the towns of Leicester and Salisbury had submitted letters to VT Department of Forest Parks and Recreation (VDFPR) requesting such a limitation on triathlons hosted from Branbury Park. VDFPR offered to host additional VT Sun events at any of its other Parks. We were quite disappointed when the town of Salisbury reversed its position and withdrew its letter to VDFPR after a meeting with VT Sun. They justify their action by saying that VT Sun will now hold its events on Sundays instead of Saturdays.

As a Board and residents of the area, we are discouraged that the town of Salisbury would favor the profits of an out of town business against the wishes of its taxpayers. We would like to thank the town of Leicester for its continued support and would encourage our members who are taxpayers of Salisbury and reiterate your support of the Association's position in a letter to the Salisbury Select Board. Our efforts have never been to shut down the events but rather to limit them to a reasonable number of events. This certainly does not seem onerous in light of VDFPR's willingness to host these events at other parks. For those who are outside the "line of traffic", we encourage you to put yourself in the shoes of those who do endure the pressure every other weekend throughout the summer months and help us reach this reasonable objective..

The 2002 triathlon schedule is as follows:

Sunday. June 30th
Sunday July 14th
Sunday August. 4th
Sunday August. 25th
Sunday. September. 8th

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