

To Protect and enhance the natural vitality of Lake Dunmore and Fern Lake while preserving the recreational and lifestyle interests of the lake community.

# Lake Dunmore/Fern Lake Association



## Letter From the President By Paula Wilson

Wow, I picked the wrong week to accept the President's position. It happened to be on an island in the Adirondacks, kayak camping with some girlfriends with no phone etc. when the floods came. I have to thank my husband Allen for doing damage control and helping to organize the clean-up project in my absence. (He has a bit more experience than I do in these situations.) Thankfully the lake water level on Dunmore normalized rather quickly. Fern Lake's water level was only slightly elevated and did not cause any damage. Thank you to all who helped clean up and those who respectfully observed the emergency, temporary no wake zone recommendation on Lake Dunmore. Many homeowners would have sustained further damage to their properties had folks not complied with the voluntary measures. No one likes to curtail their

usual recreational activities in the precious few summer weeks we enjoy in Vermont and your efforts are greatly appreciated.

As is typical, lessons are learned in the face of adversity. We realized how important communication is and we are updating our website so that emergency communications can be transmitted immediately via the internet. I give big thanks to our executive secretary, Liam Powers, for the many hours and hard work that he has put into our website. He is working with a web designer on a new and improved website that we hope will be up and working soon. Until then, please visit the current site at [www.lakedunmorevt.com](http://www.lakedunmorevt.com) for any news, events or reports.

I also want to thank our hardworking board. We have several new trustees who are extremely dedicated, insightful and caring people

that we are very fortunate to have working for the association. Along with the trustees already serving on the board, we have a lot of talented folks who generously help maintain the natural beauty of this special region. Thank you all for supporting this awesome association.



Sucker Brook Bridge  
Taken By: Liam Powers

## Harold "Slim" Curtiss Award By Lynda Rheume

In 1992 the Harold "Slim" Curtiss award was established to acknowledge person/s who have served the Lake Dunmore Fern Lake Association with enthusiasm and dedication to the improvement of our lakes. Recognition was given to Jeff Wallin for establishing the Milfoil program we use on Lake Dunmore and Fern Lake.

Jeff Wallin joined the board in 1991, replacing a member who couldn't complete their term. Jeff continued in his own two consecutive terms. The Lake Association already was working with Ann Bove, from Vermont Agency of

Natural Resources, to identify milfoil locations around the lake. Susan Mackey worked to organize volunteer pulling teams being assisted by Bill Shouldice and Chip Malcolm. Hand pulling teams were used for a few years, but Ann told the committee that a program like we were using, would probably never eliminate Eurasian Milfoil, but we could identify and control with hand pulling volunteers. Jeff took the Milfoil program to a new professional level. He wrote a program for collecting milfoil plants by using divers. The divers map and survey the lakes and hand pull individual mil-

foil plants to remove the plant and root without disturbing the lake bottom or native species. The success of the program has proven that a thorough and scientific hand-pulling program can control milfoil on a large and on a small lake. Jeff wrote grant requests, tracked progress and got the towns of Leicester and Salisbury to sign on to the program with financial assistance. In 2004 the LDFLA won an EPA Environmental Merit Award for the Milfoil program Jeff established. A rewarding part of the way Jeff developed the Milfoil program is

## “Slim” Curtiss Award Cont.

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that the program can live on long after Jeff’s involvement. Our Milfoil program is still very useful, well respected, and duplicated in other bodies of water.

Another point to recognize is the fact that Jeff remapped the areas around the lakes by walking the parameters of the lakes one winter with a GPS system. The Lake Association created a new map using Jeff’s information. Thank you Jeff for your interest, concern and professional help.

While collecting data I learned of other generous volunteers who have helped the Lake Association become the strong force we are today. People like Virginia Wolf, Dr. Ralph Carbo, Carolyn Trudeau, Bill Souldice, Susan Mackey, Dr. Chip Malcolm, Andrew Menkart, Bob Juneo, Liam Powers, and Harry Cornell. We are a very fortunate organization to have them and so many other wonderful volunteers “step up to the plate”.

## Milfoil Control Program By: Rick Snyder

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The milfoil control program ended the 2008 season with 18,415 plants pulled on both lakes. The milfoil crew attacked the noxious weed on our lakes with great energy and purpose. Milfoil growth persisted on Fern Lake and a number of Dunmore sites this season, but the crew fought back. This is remarkable, when compared to the heavy growth of milfoil on many other lakes.

The program’s success is based on a number of factors with the foundation being the milfoil crew. Five Scuba swimmers, including Nate Bierschenk, Will Pitkin, Derek LaRosee, Brian Bliven, and led by Collin Tompkins, were on the crew this year. The crew, using LDFLA’s fleet of the red and blue milfoil boats, found & picked milfoil. I’d like to acknowledge the exceptional work by Andrew Menkart, who led the program for the last six years and continues to provide very important

help. Jeff Wallin was honored at our annual meeting with the “Slim” Curtiss Award, in his critical work, both founding and guiding the milfoil program over twenty years.

Support by the LDFLA was key, including the Shoreline Watch Program. Many thanks to our members providing over 1200 volunteer hours and being alert to any milfoil plants and working with the crew. Appreciation of the crew and their diving work on the lakes was great and critical to the program’s success. We had continued extensive aid from Keewaydin Camps, providing use of a brand new cabin at Songadeewin and a boat dock. And thanks to CVPS and Casella Waste for their continued generous contributions of facilities. Thank you all for spreading the word about our unique program.

The State of Vermont continues to support us with substantial grant funds for the pro-

gram. In addition, the towns of Leicester and Salisbury and the LDFLA itself made significant funds available.

While there may be little hope that the milfoil can be completely eradicated from the lakes, we are confident that the program is meeting its goals of limiting milfoil infestation to current levels. Heavy rains this summer, particularly early August flooding, hindered the picking effort. The crew assisted in lake cleanup and recovery efforts following the flood. They couldn’t pick milfoil on Dunmore for two weeks after the flood, but did adapt by picking into September.

Our final report to the State of VT DEC is being prepared now and we expect to receive the remaining funds due from the state at the end of the year.

If you have questions please feel free to call me at 802-247-8101.

## Insect Control By: Linda Pitkin

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Our “flood of the century” impacted the mosquito population as well as ourselves, leading to a noticeable increase in the mosquito hatch.

Jon Turmel, our state entomologist, explained that areas beyond the normal flood areas never dried out so, although the usual breeding areas were monitored and treated, it was the unexpected that caused the problem. In his words, “The whole dynamic changed.”

It is interesting to note, however, that the actual mosquito counts in the traps the state maintains were typically 600-800 per trap unlike the many thousands per trap that have occurred in years past. This shows that the Insect Control District’s efforts do make a difference and that the negative effects of the flood could have been much worse.

Also of interest is an inquiry from the Town of Pittsford about joining our Insect Control District. Although they have talked off and

on over the years about starting some form of municipal insect control, it was this year’s flooding that finally caused their citizens to sign a petition asking the town to take action. Preliminary talks are currently underway about how this merger might take place.

## Legislative Report By: Sue Potter

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The 2009-2010 Vermont State Legislature will convene in January, 2009. A listing of the legislators and the Legislative Information Database can be found on the Vermont Legislative website ([www.leg.state.vt.us](http://www.leg.state.vt.us)). This is a must stop for viewing bills both House and Senate as they are introduced.

The LDFLA voted at its annual meeting on July 7, 2008 to retain the lobbying firm of Willam Shouldice and Associates to keep abreast of legislation that may affect the Lakes. The Shouldice agency has been our conduit for information on Legislative issues, and has lobbied on behalf of the Lakes for several years. Their work is important and greatly appreciated.

The Town of Leicester has readopted its Town Plan and will be working on updat-

ing the Plan throughout the year. The new Town Plan is expected to be completed by February 2010. The Leicester Planning Commission has adopted recommendations for amendment of the Leicester Zoning Regulations. The Select Board has not as yet approved the recommendations. One item recommended for change is the need to define a "dock" and to adopt regulations that would have Salisbury and Leicester having the same regulations on docks. The complete listing of the amendment recommendations are available at the Leicester Town Offices or from Andrew Peterson, Zoning Administrator. A calendar of Zoning Board/Planning Commission meetings is available online at [www.leicestervt.org](http://www.leicestervt.org).

The Town of Salisbury has completed a draft of the Salisbury Unified Development

Regulations. The proposed regulations would "consolidate the subdivision, zoning, and flood hazard bylaws so that reviews could be conducted simultaneously and so that review criteria are consistent". The proposal also would create a new zoning district for Lake Dunmore. The Districts would be Lakeshore District 1 (LS1) and Lakeshore District 2 (LS2). The LS Districts would be subject to specific standards which includes set backs and size restrictions. The draft is a lengthy document and is available at the Salisbury Town Clerk's Office. Public hearings are currently being conducted by the Planning Commission on these proposals and public input is welcome. The dates of the hearings are posted at the Town Clerk's Office and Salisbury Post Office or by contacting Mark Wilch, Zoning Administrator.

## Water Safety By: Kate Williams

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The Lake Association has had a busy summer with Water Safety and there are many people to thank for their participation. A Boaters Safety Course was held again this year in conjunction with Middlebury Recreation Department, American Legion Post in Middlebury and the Lake Dunmore Fern Lake Association. Anyone born after January 1, 1974 must successfully complete an approved boating safety course prior to operating any motorized vessel. This course can be taken on line at [www.dps.state.vt.us/vtsp](http://www.dps.state.vt.us/vtsp).

It is nice however to be able to offer the course locally. Tom Scanlon, past LDFLA board member organized and supervised this day of training. Thank you, Tom, for once again giving us this opportunity.

Don Isabelle of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department reported that over the past summer, there were two major classes of infractions of water safety regulations:

- Vessels with no life jackets, including some instances of children under 12 in a moving vessel wearing no life jacket. In one case an 18 month old

was in a moving vessel with no life jacket.

- Speed and distance: there were several infractions in this area. By law, speeds must be reduced to 5mph within 200feet of a swimmer, another boat, or of the shore.

In both these areas, Don stated that the violators were equally split between VT residents and visitors.

Don stressed the importance of knowing the boating laws, the most important of which are the life jacket requirements and the speed and distance requirements. He suggested that residents who rent out their property pick up information on these regulations from any VT State Police Barracks, or download them from the VT Dept of Public safety website [www.dps.state.vt.us/vtsp/index](http://www.dps.state.vt.us/vtsp/index) and communicate them to their renters. A sign on the refrigerator would be sure to be noticed, and could be quite simple, for example:

***VT state law requires that life jackets be carried in all moving vessels, and must be worn by all children under 12.***

***The law also requires that boats go no faster than 5mph when they are within 200 feet of a swimmer, another boat or of the lake shore.***

***These laws are enforced by patrols on our lake. Please play your part in keeping the lake safe.***

Heavy rain and extremely high waters, due to the release of upper dams into Lake Dunmore caused a great deal of debris on our lake in August. We would like to thank CVPS for their 24/7 attention and for reducing the lake levels as soon as it was safe to do so. Thanks also go out to Waterhouses, the Milfoil Crew, and to the many area residents who assisted volunteers from the Lake Association with clearing large floating debris from Lake Dunmore. We also thank the many boaters on Dunmore who observed our suggested 5 mile per hour boating speed when water was high, thus helping us to avoid land erosion and flooding docked boats. Lastly, congratulations to everyone on keeping our lakes accident free again this season. That, in my book, is what safe recreation is all about.

## 2008 Membership By Rosie Spahn

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As Treasurer managing the Membership database, I thank all who supported us with their annual dues contribution. Another thank you goes to the 24 members making donations ranging from \$5 to \$455. And a special thank you for the donation \$100 towards the clean up from the August 5<sup>th</sup> flood.

As of October 2008 we received dues from 344 (80%) from households, friends and businesses increasing participation in 2007. This still leaves membership down 20 households from our highest year in 2004.

For your payment of \$45 per camp or \$135

per business you receive milfoil control, mosquito control, water quality testing and safety, an invitation to the annual picnic, newsletters, bi-yearly directory, and of course, a dock tag for each camp as a show of support for the Association.

Financially, one of our goals is to have enough funds available to cover the costs of milfoil control. A concern is that state funding could be reduced or even dry up. We continue to work towards our goal.

Are you interested in a stunning 11" by 34" Lake Dunmore Fern Lake Association Map?

This map was created solely for the Asso-

ciation using GPS technology. The Map displays all roads around the lakes along with the new 911 house addresses. An authentic [Warren Kimble](#) print is also included on the map. Each current member of the Association is entitled to a map. If you need a replacement, it can be purchased for \$10.00. Non-members and the general public may purchase one for \$35.00 each. You may pick it up at your convenience or have it mailed to you at an extra charge of \$2.00 for shipping and handling. Please contact me at (802) 352-9049, drop me a line at [rosie.ldfla@live.com](mailto:rosie.ldfla@live.com) or send your order to P.O. Box 14, Salisbury, VT, 05769.

## N. Cove Cottages 50 Years of Retro Vacations By: Susan Patterson

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Driving around the north end of Lake Dunmore, you can't help but see the sign: "**North Cove Cottages, Our 50<sup>th</sup> Season.**" Several cute and tidy little cottages, most lining North Cove, are just beyond the sign. I wondered about those 50 years, and who owns and manages the cottages and who stays there. And so, on a rainy afternoon in July, I set out to find Karen Rockow, who turned out to be a fascinating person with a rich Lake Dunmore history.

Karen first came up to Lake Dunmore from Brooklyn with her parents, Hazel and Julius Rockow, in 1954. At that time there was a group of teachers and school principals from the metropolitan New York area who summered on North Cove, high school and college friends of Karen's mother, who taught Home Economics at Brooklyn College. That first year, the Rockows stayed in a small, dirty cabin in the Moosalamoo Club group behind the red General Store (now the Kampersville Deli & Ice Cream Shop). The next summer they rented a house with a kerosene hot water heater that blew up their first day of residence. But, no matter; they were already smitten with the lake and determined to have their own place.

That took some doing. Karen remembers going to look at a camp that had a canoe perched on a grand piano (at least in the off-season). There was a near miss with a small camp in North Cove, for sale for \$1,500. The day of the sale, Karen was to get her polio shot at her school in Brooklyn, and in the mid-50s that was so impor-

tant and revolutionary (as many of us remember), there was no way her parents would have her miss it by being in Vermont.

The Rockows had to wait out the family who owned what is now the house at North Cove Cottages. It was built around 1932 and owned by the Parent family, electricians (or maybe plumbers) in Middlebury. Next door was a group of ramshackle cabins owned by Joe Franzoni. They had Dutch ovens rather than kitchens and shared a shower house near the water, and were rented out to a fairly rowdy group of guests. The Rockows decided to buy them with the idea of knocking them down and building a house for themselves. The day they closed on the shacks, the Parent house became available and they bought that too.

Now the story gets even more interesting. Karen's mother was asked to write a book on home decorating, one of the subjects she taught at Brooklyn College. She didn't have the time, but Karen's father had long had an interest in writing. So, Hazel ended up outlining and co-editing the first mass appeal book on interior decorating of American homes. Julius wrote the chapters, reworking his wife's directions, and in the process, becoming an expert on the subject himself. The book, *Creative Home Decorating*, became a best seller and a classic, and the couple was in great demand as lecturers and teachers for many years.

So, now with a house and group of shacks on the lake, the plan changed. They could remodel and redecorate the cottages, they thought, applying all their professional ex-

pertise, and rent to friends and relatives. And thus, in 1959, North Cove Cottages sprang from the shacks, with some moved and some additions built over the years. Some of the early renters were teachers and students from the French School at Middlebury College, who didn't fancy living in a dorm for the summer. Interestingly, nowadays, a sizeable group of renters are Bread Loaf Summer School of English students, who rent for the season for the same reason. The North Cove Cottage community has a "scholarly bent" as Karen puts it, with guests who came as children, coming back as adults. "We join the Middlebury Natural Food Co-op and the library, hike with the local Green Mt. Club, and take crafts courses at Frog Hollow."

Over the years, showers, electric ranges, refrigerators, gas heaters, and even some satellite TVs have been added, until the 11 cottages (6 winterized) now have modern kitchens and bathrooms, comfortable furnishings, and heat sources with some wood burning stoves as well. Many water craft are available, from rowboats to paddle boats, a Sunfish, and motor boats. There's a sandy bottom swimming area and a play area for small children. And, of course, a resident dog, Widget, king of the cove and Karen's dear and loyal companion.

Karen has been an active, integral part of the operation from day one. Her first job was to keep the rowboats bailed out. Since her mother had rheumatoid arthritis and her father died when she was 13, Karen was driving and buying supplies by that

## N. Cove Cottages Continued

age. Back in Brooklyn, Karen skipped grades and did advanced school work so that she graduated from Brooklyn College at age 19, and went off to Harvard for a PhD in Anglo-Saxon/Middle English, with a focus on Celtic Folklore. Always an enthusiastic athlete (taking golf lessons at the Middlebury course from “Dud” Phinney for 25 cents a pop by age 5), Karen was one of the first women to play squash at Harvard in the late 60s. She was also writing professionally at a young age, first for the Addison Independent (golf correspondent and her own column) at age 13. She is still a writer – of technical manuals and documentation for software programs. As a deaf person, she well knows the field of hearing loss and hearing aids, and has written pamphlets and consumer guides for the State of Massachusetts. She now has a cochlear implant, which along with lip reading enables her to function well.

The most enjoyable rainy afternoon I vis-

ited with Karen in her over-flowing but tidy office at North Cove Cottages, I witnessed a stream of children and adults stopping by – some to ask for assistance or borrow a tool, one interested in buying a canoe placed for sale on her driveway, another a worker around the place. Karen greeted each with a big smile and eager attempts to be of service. She takes being the proprietor of affordable vacations and a steward of the lake very seriously. She says, “Running a place like this is a humbling experience. The idea that people with only a couple weeks’ vacation from their jobs each summer want to spend it here at North Cove Cottages on our special lake is very gratifying.” It’s no wonder that the North Cove Cottage sign has “no vacancies” on it. It is still providing the outdoor haven and close, friendly community it has offered for the last 50 years. As Karen says, it’s much more than a business; it’s a way of life.

*Karen is very interested in finding photo-*

*graphs of the earlier days of her properties (Parent camp and Franzoni’s) or other North Cove camps. She (and the Folklife Center in Middlebury) would love to take oral histories from people who have stories to tell, first or second hand (from parents or grandparents) about life around North Cove. She may be contacted by email at [info@northcovecottages.com](mailto:info@northcovecottages.com).*



## Water Quality By: Marty Lapidus

What a greeting for a new Board member and committee chair! Rain, rain, rain stationed right over our heads for too many days. Both lakes were filled to the top and beyond. Concern was expressed, particularly by several Lake Dunmore residents, that several septic tanks had been compromised and water quality affected.

The water testing process is a “snapshot” at a particular moment in time. The

LDFLA has taken this snapshot for many years, but it reflects just the moment in time and the location that the test is taken. Once water safety was assured (as compared to water quality), we tested the water at the normal number of sites on Lake Dunmore and on Fern Lake.) The test results were good, except for two spots on Lake Dunmore: one near Hooker Road on the West Shore and one in the North Cove. A week

later, a second snapshot was taken at these two sites and I am pleased to report that both locations were well within safety guidelines. You can find the 2008 results on page 6. They are also posted on the LDFLA website under “Water Quality”. The website also permits you to compare this year’s results with previous years’ results.

## 2009 Trustees

LDFLA · P.O. Box 14 · Salisbury · Vermont · 05769

Lynda Rheame  
P O Box 655  
Middlebury, VT 05740  
(2009) Membership/Directory

Linda Pitkin  
556 Weybridge St.  
Middlebury, VT 05753  
(2010) Insect Control

Sue Potter  
P.O.B. 426  
N. Clarendon, VT 05759  
(2011) Legislative

Kate Williams  
192 Mountain View Dr.  
Leicester, VT 05733  
(2011) Water Safety

Rick Snyder  
512 Indian Trail  
Leicester, VT 05733  
(2009) Milfoil

Susan Patterson  
67 Robinson Parkway  
Burlington, VT 05402  
(2010) S.O.C, Newsletter

Neil Mackey  
P O Box 725  
Middlebury, VT 05753  
(2009) Nominating

Paula Wilson  
19 Horton Hill Rd.  
Chittenden, VT  
(2011) Water Quality

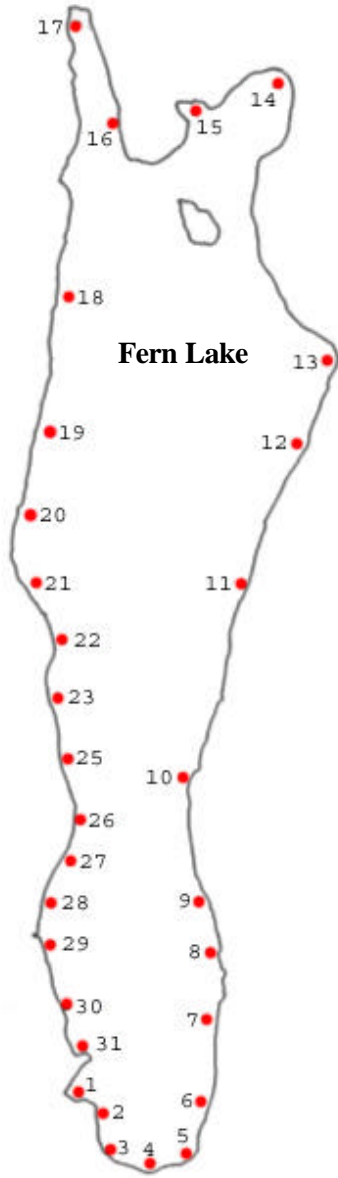
Rosie Spahn  
P.O.B 45  
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(2010) Finance

Martin Lapidus  
1792 Lake Dunmore Rd.  
Brandon, VT 05733  
(2011) Water Quality

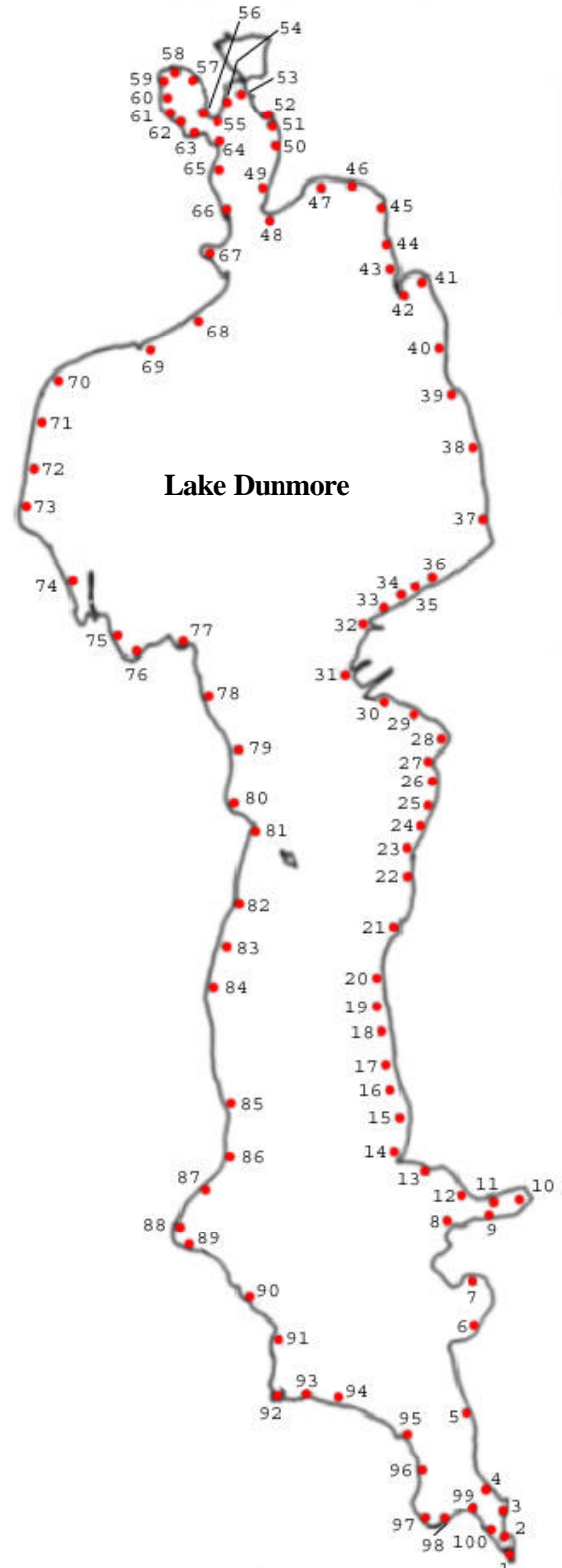
Tim Tadlock  
Camp.Keewaydin  
Salisbury, VT 05769  
(2009)

John Ebert  
305 Lakeview Dr.  
Leicester, VT 05733  
(2010) Social Events

# 2008 Water Quality Results



Lake Dunmore	
Site Number	Test Result
1	4
3	4
7	6
12	2
15	0
19	2
23	0
26	2
30	2
32	0
38	0
43	2
47	1
49	0
50	1
52	1
54	1
55	3
59	2
61	200*
64	50
67	14
70	4
73	2
74	1
78	3
81	0
86	0
87	1
92	130
94	3
96	3
99	1
Fern Lake	
Site Number	Test Result
1	1
8	0
10	2
13	2
18	2
21	2
23	3
27	0



The results in the chart are based on the Vermont Health Departments safe swimming guidelines. The Health Department states that a count of over 77 counts of E. Coli per 100 mL of water is not suitable for swimming. The data shown is the quantity of E. Coli found in the water sample taken.

\*Site was re-tested and was negative.