



WELCOME TO SPRING!

Enclosed are your Ice Out Tickets, with the annual history for reference and assistance in guessing the time and date the ice will depart Lake Harvey this spring of 2017. Additional tickets may be downloaded and printed from www.lakeharvey.com. Tickets must be postmarked by March 17th, St. Patrick's Day. **Good luck!**

Also enclosed is our current membership form for renewing or joining anew our Lake Harvey Association. If you haven't done so as yet, please do so now. Just \$25.00 for 2017 membership (January 1 – December 31) grants you entry to our special Lake Harvey world. Come to our annual Pavilion meeting and brunch on Saturday July 8th – share your concerns, voice an opinion or two, spend time with neighbors and friends.

Participate in our Association July 15th weekend, starting with a potluck party for lake residents and visitors at the beach Pavilion on Friday night. On Saturday deck out your boat and enter the annual Boat Parade – this year's theme is "Heroes, Heroines and Villains" – or just view the better every year awesome floating displays as they pass by your home. Winners are announced at the Ice Cream Social, and the drawing for the lucky kayak raffle ticket winner is held as well. Gather round and enjoy the ice cream and the company!

Saturday evening our glorious fireworks explode over Lake Harvey waters. It's been a tradition from the inception of our Association in the 1950's and has been a memorable highlight of summer over all the years since for residents and visitors alike.

For those of you who generously donate an additional \$100.00 or more above and beyond dues and purchases (such as our very own notecards), we host a Sunday champagne thank you brunch at the Cornelius Connibuck lakeside lodge on the following Sunday, July 23rd. Now in its 11th year, it's a not to be missed event of libation, fun and food!

On a more serious note: over all those years, dues and donations by our members have funded our mission – **to preserve, protect and enhance our lake environment**. We established and funded our seasonal boat monitoring program toward that purpose. In 2009 Barnet residents voted to contribute \$10,000 to our program, recognizing that maintaining our Town's significant natural resource benefits us all - aesthetically, recreationally and of utmost import, economically. Greeters became employees of the Town, and LHA has then reimbursed the Town for payroll costs above the \$10,000. Last year those payroll costs totaled \$16,177. For 2017 we estimate that \$17,000 will be needed to cover a somewhat increased payroll and other necessary program costs.

Over 20% of Barnet tax revenues – a vastly disproportionate percentage of the total – come from lake property owners. Summer visitors as well as lake residents support area stores, services and trades. Should we become one of the 96 Vermont lakes currently infested by Eurasian milfoil, or another destructive species, not only will our enjoyment of the lake decline, but property values will as well, and tax revenues and local businesses will suffer.

To assure that our annual \$17,000 expenses for the so very important Greeter program be adequately met on an ongoing basis, we are thus asking the Town to assume the cost of this program, and henceforth include it as a Town budget item. We have just 91 Association members, so clearly our \$25.00 membership dues total a mere fraction of the total needed amount. Depending on the generosity of just some of our members to make up the difference is a risky – and inequitable – solution.

So please, if you are a Barnet resident, attend Town Meeting this March and VOTE YES for the good of our lake and community. And convince your friends and neighbors to do so as well.

To help mitigate the increased Town expenditure, LHA Trustee David Price has worked with Barnet Select Board member Dylan Ford, with the assistance of Ben Heisholt, Don Easter, Kathy Wirthwein, Karla Cornelius, Jackie Sprague, Jan Sherman and Dotti Turek among others, to prepare and submit an application to the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation for an Aquatic Nuisance Control Grant. The data reveals that the cost of the Greeter program has risen an average of 3.52% per year over the last 6 years. The Town is asking the State to offset a portion of that expense and provide funding for a new power washer and an all weather Greeter booth. We also proposed expanding the program to include providing information to renters about the threat of invasive species and the need to clean watercraft before entering the lake.

Other news and updates:

“Members Only” can now log in and place ads on our website’s “unclassified” section. Our map and lake directory of property owners and members is complete and available to members only as well. Our webcam is still pending, but when up and running it will offer a wonderful additional membership benefit, especially for those of us farther afield in the winter months. We plan to establish more website links to news and events of interest, and to be able to pay dues and make purchases online. Stay tuned.

Natalie Kitchel is working away on our Facebook page adventure, which we hope will expand participation in both our Association’s work and play. We are all thinking wistfully of last summer and next, when our lives will again be enriched by the warmth of weather and friendships, shared activities and experiences, forever treasured.

Winter of course offers cool comforts of its own, from ice fishing to volumes of snow, and beauty of a different kind and appeal. Wood burning fires fuel evening warmth, and draw us closer together. The pending “Ice Out” hints of spring in the air, and Lake Harvey opens its waters to welcome summer again. Enjoy the transition!

Karla Cornelius, President

**PREVENTION IS THE ONLY CURE. PLEASE JOIN US;
VOTE YES TO KEEP LAKE HARVEY PURE!**