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WELCOME TO THE WINTER EDITION

Wolfeboro Waters E-Newsletter

Edited by Libby Peard and Abigail Adams

Just for fun...

Which one of Wolfeboro's lakes was the first in the state to be stocked with fish? (answer at the end of newsletter)

Good news!

Wolfeboro's Department of Public Works is reducing salt usage.

Road salts pose an ongoing threat to area lakes and public water supplies. With this in mind, Department of Public Works Director Steve Randall has been working to reduce Wolfeboro’s winter salt usage. And, he’s making progress. During winter 2022-23, Randall estimates his department used 40% less salt on town roads as compared to the most

recent three-year average. And he's not through. His goal is to reduce usage by 50% without compromising driver safety.

Randall is especially trying to limit salt usage in areas where the risk of run-off carrying salt into lakes is greatest. As an example, he reports "getting away from salt as much as possible" in downtown Wolfeboro.

Another initiative, planned for next year (budget-permitting), is Green SnowPro training for crew members. This program, run in collaboration with New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and Department of Transportation, trains commercial and municipal salt applicators in the latest methods and technologies to safely reduce salt usage.

To learn more about how salt is compromising New Hampshire lakes and their ecosystems, click on this Road Salt and Water Quality publication from the NH Department of Environmental Services.

IN THE NEWS...

State Cyanobacteria Plan Developed

In 2022, Governor Chris Sununu signed House Bill 1066 which directed the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to develop a plan to prevent the increase of, and eventually control cyanobacteria blooms in New Hampshire's waterbodies (Chaptered Law 0292, Laws of 2022). In recognition that cyanobacteria blooms cannot be eliminated from the state's surface waters, the plan also included two additional goals: To reduce the risks of cyanobacteria blooms to humans, pets and

livestock; and, to better understand the causes of cyanobacteria blooms and develop methods to monitor their occurrence.

NHDES submitted a cyanobacteria plan to the state Legislature on October 31, 2023. A headline is that efforts to control cyanobacteria blooms in New Hampshire's inland surface waters should include reducing nutrient inputs, enhancing lake management programs, and increasing public awareness and bloom monitoring.

Learn more by clicking on New Hampshire's Cyanobacteria Plan: A Statewide Strategy

Senate Bill 394 To Appropriate Funding

The NH State Legislature will consider the appropriation of one million dollars to the State's Cyanobacteria Fund. Senate Bill 394, if passed, will appropriate this funding. Citizens from Wolfeboro and Alton (and members of Wolfeboro Waters) attended the Finance Committee Hearing on January 4 and were pleased by the overwhelmingly positive support for this bill. It will need to advance to the floor of the full NH Senate and then onto the House of Representatives. Additional public hearings will precede Senate and House votes, and public input will be significant in determining the outcome.

The Port Wedeln Project

Port Wedeln will be on the Warrant Article Ballot again this March. The Board of Selectmen recommends additional funding for the Port Wedeln drainage project because the original storm water drainage system authorized by voters in 2022 has not been adequate to control the severe storm-associated erosion of the Winter Harbor shoreline at the bottom of Winter Haven Road. Nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen) from lawns, gardens, and roadways above Port Wedelyn wash into the lake during severe storms and feed cyanobacteria outbreaks.

The re-engineered project is designed to handle more intense storms and the associated stormwater run-off, but will require a significant increase in funding. Details will be provided at the **Wolfeboro Deliberative Session on Tuesday, Feb 6, 7-11 pm, at the Town Hall.**

Lots of additional lake-related NH House and Senate bills this year.

NH Lakes keeps us updated. You can follow ongoing hearings, and requests for email or in-person support at hearings, through the following link:

NH Lakes 2024 Legislative Tracking

Here's an update on the Wolfeboro Waters Assessment Working Group.

Citizen Science at work...

Wolfeboro Waters Assessment Working Group continues to work closely with NHDES' cyanobacteria program, UNH, and Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences in Maine.

This past summer, volunteers took on the challenge of sampling sediment from the bottom of all Wolfeboro lakes. The goal was to determine if the phosphorus that feeds cyanobacteria blooms comes predominately from what is in the sediment (being released into the water under certain conditions) or if the phosphorus comes from outside the lakes (stormwater run-off, polluted streams, etc). Preliminary results suggest that the biggest

influx of phosphorus comes from outside our lakes. However, sediment and organic matter on the bottom of lakes also contribute to phosphous levels.

Photo: Emilie Clark, volunteer member of the Wolfeboro Waters Assessment Group, prepares to take a sediment sample from Back Bay in Wolfeboro

More on Cyanobacteria, even in winter...

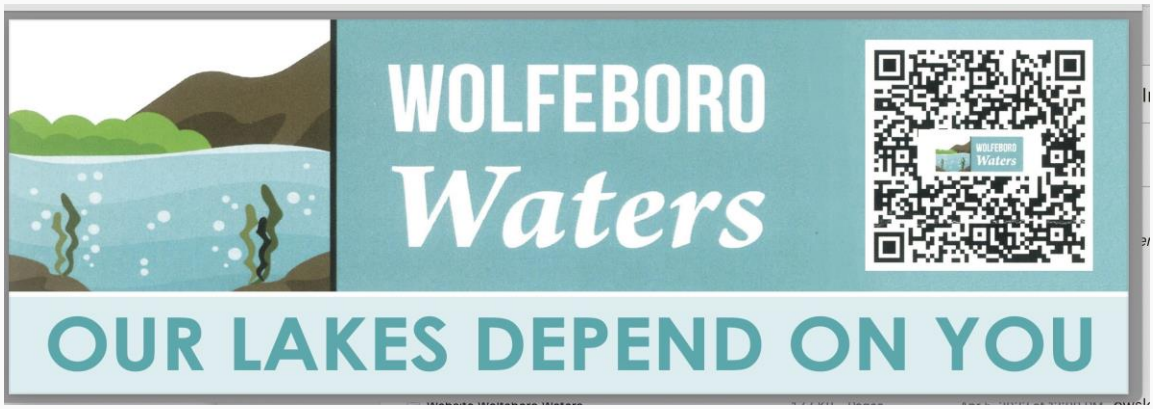
Summer is the time we usually see cyanobacteria blooms, but winter is a good time for planning ways to reduce the risk of these toxic blooms. What can you do to protect our lakes in the off season? How about checking out "Landscaping at the Water's Edge" from the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension, and preparing a plan for the spring planting season.

And, as part of our ongoing efforts to educate, even in winter...

For more Cyanobacteria Facts and Actions, we direct you to the Wentworth Watershed Association website.

We "sold out" of free bumper stickers and refrigerator magnets!

But more will be available by Memorial Day at Dive Winni, The Town Hall entry way, and the Wolfeboro Information Center.



JUST FOR FUN Answer...

Rust Pond was the first lake in the state stocked with bass. In The Bassing of New Hampshire, author Jack Noon quotes from an 1869 Report of Commissioners of Fisheries that "Mr. Goodwin of Wolfeboro has stocked with the same fish, Rust's (sic) Pond, as early as 1864 or 1865."

And, for those wondering how fish manage New Hampshire winters...

Here's an interesting article from NH Lakes: "What do the frogs, turtles, and fish do during winter?"

Wolfeboro Waters is a committee created in response to the Town of Wolfeboro's concerns about the water quality of our lakes and ponds.

We came into existence after the first cyanobacteria outbreak occurred in Winter Harbor on Lake Winnipesaukee in 2018.

We are a committee of volunteer citizens appointed by and reporting to Wolfeboro Board of Selectmen.

We initiate communication and outreach programs to develop more community awareness and involvement in protecting our lakes and ponds. We work collaboratively with area lake associations in measured and consistent advocacy for these precious resources.

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