

# Lake Breezes

Lake Rescue Association, P.O.Box 372, Ludlow, VT 05149  
www.lakerescue.org

June 2014

## Shoreland Protection Legislation Passed

The Shoreland Protection bill was signed by the Governor in early May and will take effect on July 1, 2014. This legislation will regulate the extent to which properties within 250' of a lake can be cleared and the construction or enlargement of impervious surfaces. The maintenance of existing structures and cleared areas is permitted.

Any changes being made on existing developed properties within the designated shoreland protection area are subject to various restrictions, but the legislation does allow for mitigation measures to be considered. All the situations cannot be summarized here but are outlined in two articles by the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Towns (FOVLAP), found here:

<http://vermontlakes.org/legislativeupdates/2014/01/30/h-526-update-january-30-2014/>, and <http://vermontlakes.org/legislativeupdates/2014/05/10/h-526-update-may-6-2014-an-act-relating-to-the-establishment-of-lake-shoreland-protection-standards/>

While the ANR is charged with writing the rules for implementation, administration and permitting, the ANR can delegate permitting authority to municipalities if the town's regulations are functionally equivalent to the State legislation. At this time the town of Ludlow is still weighing its options.



The dredger as seen on Google Earth

## Dredging Project Final Report

All the expenditures totaled \$85,436.66, while our fundraising campaign of last spring and summer brought in \$79,550. The remainder, \$5886.66, came out of the 'Rescue Our Lakes' fund, which had been accumulating for a number of years. We are grateful to all those who donated the funds as well as those who donated services and countless hours to plan and oversee the project.

There will be small buoys set out to mark the edges of the new channel. Please be cautious until you are certain of the depths needed for your boat.

This dredging will improve navigability for a while but does not solve the long-term sedimentation in our lakes. The LRA is actively trying to address longer-term solutions but these are complex and will take time to implement. See article on page 3.

***SAVE THE DATES !!***

***JULY 4<sup>th</sup> PICNIC on July 4, 12 Noon and ANNUAL MEETING on August 2, 9:30 AM***

## Bubblers and Ice Safety

Most of the homes around the lake have a dock and preventing damage from winter ice in the past meant hauling the dock out of the water and safeguarding it on land. But this is not the only solution to the problem. Deicing systems which prevent ice damage have been used on the Great Lakes and along major waterways in Canada and the northern US states, but have been appearing increasingly on inland lakes as well.

There are two types of systems: circulators and bubblers. A circulation system involves suspending a motor in the water which propels warmer water from the lake bottom toward the surface to prevent ice formation. The second type uses an air compressor to force air through perforated tubing which is laid on the lake bottom under the dock. The air bubbles create enough turbulence to prevent ice formation. Circulation systems are typically used for larger projects like marinas since they open fairly large areas of open water. Bubblers can be better tailored to de-ice a small area. There are now several bubbler systems operating on Lake Rescue, Round Pond and Lake Pauline. While they are convenient and fairly easy to install and operate they do present a safety issue for people who may be out on the ice.

The safety concerns are not just due to open water right around the dock, but for an unknown area of thin ice surrounding the dock. The Lake Sunapee Protective Association suggests 5 'Best Practices' which will minimize the area of ice affected by the bubbler.

1. Use a timer. Your deicer does not have to run 24/7 to protect your dock.
2. Even better, use a timer with a thermostat so the deicer only operates when it is cold enough to freeze water.

3. Right-Size your deicer motor. Choose a motor/deicer system that will have just enough power to open only the water directly around your dock or boathouse.
4. Turn on your deicer only when the lake begins to freeze. Turn it off on ice out.
5. Periodically check your deicer performance and safety. Conditions change during the winter.

Following these steps not only minimizes the amount of open water and thin ice, but also saves on energy costs and reduces the noise impact on neighbors.

The rules and regulations concerning these devices vary widely across different jurisdictions, from no regulation (e.g., Vermont) to a permit/register requirement (e.g., New Hampshire, New Jersey). New Hampshire requires a warning sign to be posted when a deicer is in use. Canada has quite strict rules, even a provision for manslaughter charges for negligent use of a deicer. At this time there is no requirement in Vermont to post warning signs when there is a deicer system. Since thin ice can extend out for up to 50 feet from a deicer device, posting signs would seem to be a prudent step given the risks.

A few other suggestions for people wishing to go out on the frozen lake:

1. Always go on the frozen lake with a buddy. The ice is unpredictable.
2. Wear a PFD under your winter gear.
3. Beware of ice covered with snow. Snow can insulate ice and keep it from freezing. Snow hides cracks and weak ice.
4. Ice formed over flowing water is

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generally weaker than ice over still water.

5. Always keep pets on a leash. If a pet falls through the ice, do not attempt a rescue – go for help.
6. Wear appropriate footwear. Crampons can be purchased which add spikes or cables to your footwear... similar to tire chains.
7. Carry a length of nylon rope to throw to your buddy.
8. Carry Ice Claws. These devices can be bought or made inexpensively. It is a pair of wooden dowels, the thickness of broom handles, with a spike at one end. In the event of falling through the ice, they can be used to climb back out on the ice. Keep them in a handy pocket that you can reach easily. Here is an article from the Minnesota DNR describing how to make your own.  
<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/ice/claws.html>
9. Snowmobilers should check local conditions before heading out on the ice.

The position of the State and of the LRA

continues to be that

**NO ICE IS SAFE ICE.**

**GO OUT THERE AT YOUR OWN RISK!**

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Sources:

Lake Sunapee Protective Assn., Dock De-Icers, Tips for Safe and Effective Use.

<http://firstaid.about.com/b/2006/12/06/make-a-set-of-ice-claws.htm>

Lake George Assn., Don't be Eaten Alive!

## ERG Work Continues

The current Environmental Restoration Grant has been focused on studying and finding solutions to the sediment flowing into our lakes from upstream. Three watersheds were studied in detail: Money Brook, Buffalo Brook and Patch Brook. Among the findings from this study, was that the TS Irene event contributed a total of 117,000 cubic yards of sediment washing down from these three brooks in to the Black River and the downstream lakes. This includes Amherst, Echo in addition to Rescue and Pauline. There is evidence to suggest that Round Pond and Rescue received as much a foot of new sediment.

The current grant has recommended possible actions to be taken but they entail monetary costs and obtaining agreements from public and private owners in all three watersheds. Improvements will be modest and slow in coming.

A brief summary of recommendations coming out of the current ERG are:

1. Add plantings on the lower slopes of Money Brook.
2. Abandon sections of forest roads in the Buffalo Brook area and add water bars to divert high water.
3. Remove 2 berms along Patch Brook to allow high water to disperse onto unused land.

The LRA Board has recently submitted a second ERG grant application that will hopefully supply funds for a consultant to negotiate the agreements with owners and the construction of the above mitigations.

The proposed mitigation actions are the next step, in what will likely need to be an ongoing effort by LRA and surrounding towns.

**Lake Rescue Association**

P.O. Box 372  
Ludlow, VT 05149

**Website:**

[www.LakeRescue.org](http://www.LakeRescue.org)

**Promoting Water Safety,  
Environmental Education  
&  
Improved Water Quality**

## Ideas Needed!

For the last several years we have partnered with the town of Ludlow to complete several Better Back Roads improvement projects. If you know of a road-related problem area that could benefit, please contact the LRA at [lakerescueassn@gmail.com](mailto:lakerescueassn@gmail.com) and share your ideas.

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The Lake Rescue Association is a 501c3 Non-Profit organization. All donations to the 'Rescue Our Lakes' fund are tax-deductible.

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Lake Rescue Association

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