

# LMPA NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2009

NOVEMBER 2009

## *And the drawdown continues*

Although the summer got off to a damp start with record levels of rainfall, the lake buzzed with activity in July and August.

The Annual Fourth of July Boat Parade was held in the early afternoon and over thirty boats decked themselves out for the event.

August saw the third annual Swim and Paddle event which was not as well-attended as before; perhaps the humidity kept participants away,

Plans to rebuild the boat ramp are underway. Heavy rains this Fall have slowed

the draw down's progress considerably.

Looks as if a larger draw down (up to 8 ft.) will have to wait until next Fall (see article on page three of the newsletter).

◆ PLEASE SUPPORT THE LMPA: RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE NOW

◆ CHECK OUT THE NEWLY-DESIGNED WEBSITE:  
[www.lmpa.org](http://www.lmpa.org)

◆ SAVE THE DATE:  
LMPA WINTER PARTY, JANUARY 30

## *Dogs on Sandy Beach*

The Parks and Recreation Department has **again** asked the LMPA for assistance in addressing a problem with animal (dog) waste on the beach and in the parking lot area of Sandy Beach. The town prohibits dogs in this area, as they also do for other areas in town such as the Town Common, school grounds and playing fields.

In the past, this has not been strictly enforced at Sandy Beach, especially during the winter months. Large amounts of waste have been found on the beach, near the boat ramp, pumping station and even in the lake bed where exposed for winter draw down.

The sanitary concerns are obvious for the actual beach, especially in the summer months. What may not be as apparent is the danger of this waste being washed into the lake during rainstorms thus degrading the water quality. For health reasons dogs should never be allowed on the beach. In addition, any animal waste in the parking lot area should be immediately cleaned up by the pet owner. This is the responsible and courteous thing to do.

As a last resort the Hopkinton Parks and Recreation department can ask the Police Department to enforce the

Town by-law. It is unfortunate that the situation could not be corrected and may result in strict enforcement of the prohibition of dogs at the Sandy Beach area. As a reminder to pet owners that walk their dogs on the streets surrounding the lake or have dogs at home please pick up after your pet so that contaminants reaching the lake can be minimized.

If the neighborhood works together we can keep this from becoming a difficult situation and will result in a safer and more pleasant environment for all residents using the beach area.



## Medical Device Company Supports the LMPA



**RENEW YOUR LMPA  
MEMBERSHIP  
ONLINE TODAY!  
USE PAYPAL OR A  
CREDIT CARD**

Medtronic, Inc. ([www.medtronic.com](http://www.medtronic.com)), a \$15B company headquartered in Minneapolis, is the global leader in medical technology—alleviating pain, restoring health, and extending life for millions of people around the world. Every 5 seconds, somewhere in the world, a person's life is saved or improved by a Medtronic product or therapy.

"Medtronic is guided by its mission," states LMPA E-Board member and Medtronic Sales Manager, Drew Logan. "Many companies say they are mission-driven, but Medtronic employees are extremely passionate about our mission and it impacts the decisions that we make every day."

Medtronic is also passionate about enhancing the communities where their employees live and work.

The Medtronic Foundation

recognizes that their employee's volunteer efforts are vital to the health of those communities. The Medtronic Foundation's Volunteer Grants Program matches volunteer involvement by providing financial support to nonprofit organizations such as the LMPA.

Eligible participants who provide a minimum of 25 volunteer hours during the year to a single eligible organization may apply for a \$500 Volunteer Grant. Additional grants may be sought as the volunteer continues to work with and donate to the nonprofit organization. Logan's grant application was accepted and the \$500 was received by the LMPA in September.

"I'm proud to work for a company that has a mis-

sion that contributes to human welfare through life-saving devices and therapies," explains Logan. "The fact that they have continued to support their employee's communities during tough economic times speaks volumes about Medtronic."

The LMPA sent a thank you letter to Medtronic for the generous donation and reinforced the efforts of the LMPA and how this money will support those efforts.

If you work for a company that has similar programs, including matching gift programs, please investigate the opportunity to further support your lake association. Your Human Resource department can provide further details.

## ***WANTED: OLD LAKE MASPENOCK PHOTOS***

The LMPA has begun to create an electronic archive of historic photos, documents and memorabilia associated with Lake Maspenock. This archive will be available on our website to be shared with our members and the community.

We continue to receive positive comments about our website from our own members, other lake associations and even Hopkinton town officials. People really seem to like the historical photos section. We would like to enhance this area of our website and are looking for older photos or documents relating to our lake.

We will digitally scan your paper photos or documents. This is similar to making a photocopy. Once scanned, your original photos or documents will be returned to you promptly. We can also email you a copy of the images, if desired.

Also, if you are interested in Lake Maspenock history - and would like to help out with this project - please email or call. Contact information is below. As we move

forward, it is important to remember and preserve the past.

If you have any old lake-related photos, documents or stories that you would like to share - or - if you are interested in helping preserve a bit of Lake Maspenock's past - please contact Lou Przystas at [Loutaurus@comcast.net](mailto:Loutaurus@comcast.net) or 508-634-3066.



## LAKE DRAW DOWN/BOAT RAMP REPAIR/PAVING OF SANDY BEACH PARKING LOT

### GREAT NEWS!

Approval has been granted for three lake related projects. On September 14<sup>th</sup> the Hopkinton Conservation Commission met and voted to approve the lake draw down, boat ramp repair and the paving of the Sandy Beach parking lot projects.

The lake draw down encompasses both the normal annual draw down, which had never been formally permitted, and a more extensive draw down which is to take place every 3<sup>rd</sup> year. The larger draw down would entail a reduction in the lake level of between 84"-96". It is hoped that this will help control the invasive weeds that have become severe in some areas of the lake. The start date would not vary from the normal draw down but will take place at a slightly faster rate so that the desired level can be reached by early December. The more extensive draw down levels would be maintained for a period as short as possible, but long enough to allow for the completion of projects and weed eradication. The lake would be refilled to normal winter draw down levels as soon as any scheduled projects were completed or sufficient weather conditions to kill the invasive weeds has occurred. In any event, the process to refill the lake to normal winter

levels would begin no later than January 15<sup>th</sup>, unless adhering to this schedule would create public safety issues. It is understood that this type of draw down will interfere with winter recreational activities, but the method has been proven to be an effective low cost method of invasive weed control, without the use of chemicals. In addition, dam inspection and maintenance must be conducted to preserve the lake itself. Approval of the more extensive draw down is contingent upon the formulation of a plan to identify and advise homeowners of properties who might experience the loss of their water service as a result of the more extensive draw down. Homes serviced by shallow wells are most at risk to experience problems. The LMPA is currently conducting a survey to inventory any shallow wells. If you have received a request from the LMPA in regards to this issue your reply with the requested information would be greatly appreciated. This plan must be submitted to the Conservation Commission by August 15<sup>th</sup> of the year that the draw down is to take place. The LMPA will assist homeowners that are at risk of problems in finding an alternative water source. The goal is to have this plan submitted by Au-

gust 15, 2010 so that the larger draw down can be conducted in the Fall/Winter of 2010-2011.

The repair/upgrade of the Sandy Beach boat ramp is expected to take place this fall. The plan is to lengthen, widen and reset the concrete blocks to level the current boat ramp. This will make the launching and retrieval of boats much easier for many years to come.

The paving of the Sandy Beach parking lot is under the purview of the Hopkinton Parks and Recreation Department and is on their list of capital improvements. It is hoped that funding will be available in the next two years.

Massachusetts has over 3000 lakes and ponds. There are approximately five million lakes in the world.

**FACT:** Lakes are not evenly distributed on the earth's surface; most are located in high latitudes and mountainous regions. Canada alone contains nearly 50% of the world's lakes. (The Columbia Encyclopedia, 6th ed., 2008)

