

Lake Saint Catherine Association

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2026

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LAKESTCATHERINE.ORG



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all in our Lake St. Catherine community. I hope you had a great summer at the lake!

A few weeks ago, we held our Annual Meeting & Dinner at the Lake St. Catherine Country Club. It was a beautiful evening, and we enjoyed seeing everyone. Thank you to all who attended, I hope you had a good time. If you were unable to join us, please see the story about the Annual Meeting on page 2 that has a link to a recording of the presentation on YouTube.

As we head into the fall, the LSCA will be keeping busy by completing work on projects that were grant funded and submitting the required reporting, and looking for new grants to apply for for the 2027 season. We'll also continue to collect water samples as part of the State's Lay Monitoring Program, and to collect data from the newly installed lake loggers. We'll share the data and the analysis of that data from our limnologist when she reviews it over the winter.

I'd also like to take a moment to thank our new Greeter Program Coordinator Melissa Hardesty. With help and assistance from our previous long-time coordinator John Belnavis, Missy has done a great taking over the program this year, making sure that the boat launch has a Greeter available 12 hours a day - 7 days a week checking incoming and outgoing vessels for aquatic invasive species. Being able to expand Greeter coverage at the launch was made possible by a combination of membership contributions, allocations from Wells & Poultney, and grants earned from the State and the Lake Champlain Basin Program and NEIWPCC. Thanks to Missy and the Greeters!

Finally, keep an eye on our website for the latest news on the lake, and for our upcoming website redesign! Check out the Annual Meeting video for a sneak preview of our new site, and our new logo - all coming soon.

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely, Jim Canders - President, LSCA





2026 ANNUAL MEETING & DINNER

On Saturday, August 8th, the Lake St. Catherine Association held our Annual Meeting & Dinner at the Lake St. Catherine Country Club.

We greatly appreciate the interest, engagement, and support from our members, the lake community, and our state and local officials. The Annual Meeting gives us the opportunity to update you on the LSCA's and our partners work for the benefit of the lake, but it has also become a yearly gathering of lake neighbors to celebrate the lake we all love and care for. We look forward to it every year!

With a full house on hand, and attendees comfortably seated with their cocktails, we presented reports from our committees, including a peek at the LSCA's new logo (designed by Andrew Gioulis), and our new website which is currently under construction. Other topics included: water quality improvement projects, water monitoring & testing, aquatic invasive species prevention and control, outreach, education and engagement, finances, lake safety, and wildlife updates.

As the presentation finished, the LSC Country Club once again provided a fantastic dinner for us, and it was great to see all our lake neighbors enjoying a meal together for the rest of the evening. Thank you to the wonderful staff at the Country Club for their fantastic service!

For those who attended the meeting, we'd love to hear what you thought of the evening. Please reach out with any feedback you'd like to provide us at info@lakestcatherine.org. For example, are there topics you'd like to hear more about, or who would you like to hear from as a guest speaker?

If you were unable to attend, the presentation was recorded, and you can view it on our website, or on YouTube. Scan the QR code in the top right of this article, or type in the link to view it.

If you have any questions about the presentation, please let us know.

Thank you to all who made this another fantastic event!

Thank you for your support of the LSCA! 



Lake St. Catherine Association's Presentation
Annual Meeting & Dinner - Lake St. Catherine Country Club



YouTube Link to Recording

https://youtu.be/a_X30bIWCoY



Lake neighbors

Hanging out before the presentation



Dinner on the porch

What a beautiful evening!



OUR LOONS & EAGLES DO IT AGAIN!

For the second year in a row, our nesting loons had a chick, and our nesting eagles had three eaglets - AMAZING!

After successfully nesting in the Channel for the past two seasons, the loons decided to pick a new spot to nest - inside Oxbow Bay on the Island. Why the change? Well, Dawn & Joel who live near the previous nesting area reported that the loons appeared ready to nest, but they were acting differently compared to previous years, and then they left the nesting area. We thought that maybe things didn't work out this year. But soon after they left the previous nesting area, a nesting loon was reportedly seen on the Island. With all the loon visits we've had over the previous years, it's hard to say whether this was the same pair, a new pair, or possibly the same female with a new male mate. Although loons can mate for many years together, they are not monogamous. They are more attached to the breeding territory, and they could have two to three mates in their lifetime. It could be that a new male had a territorial battle and ousted the previous mate. Also, the male loon picks the nesting location which could explain the move to the Island. Oh, the intrigue! The loon chick hatched on June 17th.

As Vermont Loon Biologist Eric Hanson has informed us in the past, the parents will leave in the fall before the chick to start their migration to the ocean on the New England coast and the chick migration will follow later on before the lake freezes. The chick will stay between 2 to 4 years at the coast before returning in a range of 40 miles from Lake St. Catherine. It will then try to establish a territory to start breeding, but that can take a few years before it is successful.

Not to be outdone, our nesting eagles also had another successful season with another three eaglets. As with last year, the eagles were very active in the early spring, renovating their nest. In late April, there were multiple observations of an eagle delivering food to the nest, leading us to believe that the other was sitting in the nest, tending to eggs. Then on May 16th, a little head was observed peeking up above the nest (see the photo below). Soon after, all three were seen in the nest. About 8 weeks later, they were full sized, and VERY vocal!

Typically, once the eaglets fledge (take their first flight from the nest), they stay with the parents for another 6 weeks. At that time, they will leave their natal area and wander and explore as they mature. At 4 to 5 years, they will fully mature with their white head and tail feathers and look to find a breeding territory.

Thank you to Karen Velsor and Martha Pofit for these wonderful photos! 



Loon on the new Island nest in June.



June 17th, loon chick hatches!



The chick hitches a ride a few days after hatching.



Photos: Karen Velsor, Martha Pofit, LSCA



The loon chick in early August.

14TH ANNUAL LSCA BOAT PARADE

On Saturday, July 4th, the LSCA held our 14th Annual Boat Parade! Fourteen boats participated this year. We continue to be amazed at the creativity each year! We again held an online poll to determine the winners in our four categories: Most Patriotic, Funniest, Most Original, and Best Overall, and over 450 votes were cast! Thank you to all our very creative participants, and to Ben Nicolson for these great drone photos of the boats! Many more photos are available on the [Lake St. Catherine - Vermont Facebook Group](#). We hope you enjoyed the parade! We'll do it all again next year.



Most Patriotic: Boat #10

Row, George, Row - Held/Mulcahy Family



Funniest: Boat #1

Gym and Tonic - Lori Winn, Melissa and Bill Tatko



Most Original: Boat #12

Barn in the USA - Catherine Petrozzini



Best Overall: Boat #2

The Boston Tea Party - Jim & Melissa Bilotta



Honorable Mention: Boat #7

Lily of the Pond - Leah LaTour



Honorable Mention: Boat #4

Ship of Tools - Mike and Chris Gay

LAKE ST. CATHERINE NEWS & NOTES

It's been a busy summer! Here are a few quick recaps. For more information and photos of all these events, and many more, please visit our website Blog: www.lakestcatherine.org/blog.

Greeter Program

Our Greeters began staffing the boat launch during Memorial Day Weekend, and have been working 7 days a week, 12 hours a day inspecting incoming and outgoing vessels for aquatic invasive species (AIS). They do a great job keeping AIS out of LSC, and educating boaters about the dangers of transporting these harmful species. Thank you for your good work keeping LSC safe from AIS!



Milfoil Control Program

Our DASH team has been hard at work all summer, beginning in mid June with hand-pulling milfoil in multiple areas. On June 22nd, 5 small spot treatments were performed, and after the 4th of July weekend, the DASH team began full DASH operations and will be working through late August. Thanks to our DASH team for another great season of hard work!



Wells Lakeside Park Cleanups

The LSCA, LSCCF, and The Delaney Committee organized volunteer events to clean up the shoreline at the Wells Lakeside Park on Little Lake on Saturday, June 20th and August 1st.

Floating mats of milfoil, and rooted milfoil on both sides of the dock were cleaned up, along with lots of lakebed debris along the shoreline during both events. We plan to do it again next year!



Halls Bay Channel Project?

We'd like to pass along some information from Joseph D'Acunto, who is a camp owner on the Halls Bay Channel. He is looking to organize folks to participate in a potential project to make the Halls Bay Channel more navigable. This hydroraking project would need a lot of work on permitting and funding to make it happen, so Joseph would like to see if others would like to contribute. If you are interested in helping out, you can contact Joseph at 518-589-9159, or at debbieiocca@gmail.com.



Lake Safety

We want to make you aware of a very close call involving the safety of the DASH team on the lake on July 30th - and also to use this as an opportunity to remind folks of Vermont's 200 foot rule.

Despite the DASH team having multiple buoys in the water, the diver down flag deployed, and the topside team member yelling and waving his arms, a speeding boat came WAY TOO CLOSE to the diver. Thankfully, everyone was OK.

The 200 foot rule basically states that boats cannot travel at a speed greater than 5MPH within 200 feet of shore, the "Shoreline Safety Zone", or closer than 200 feet from a person, another water vessel in the water, or a diver down flag (or maintaining a buffer of 500 feet if operating a wake boat in wake sport mode).

In-Lake Loggers Placed in Lake

Last year, we announced that we had earned a grant to purchase water testing equipment for the lake. Over the past few weeks, this equipment has been calibrated and placed in the lake. These in-lake loggers will take constant and continuous readings for Dissolved Oxygen, Conductivity (salt stress), and temperature. The loggers have been placed in Lily Pond, the Big Lake, and the Little Lake.

We'll periodically visit the loggers to retrieve the data, and the buoys will remain in place until the late fall. Our limnologist will analyze the data, along with all the other collected data about LSC in the 2026 season, and will provide us a report of her findings. We'll share this report when it becomes available.





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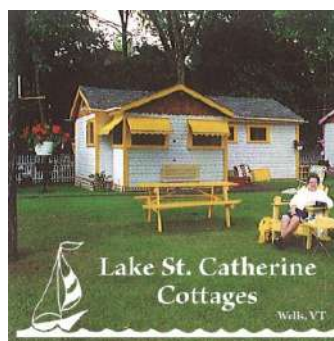
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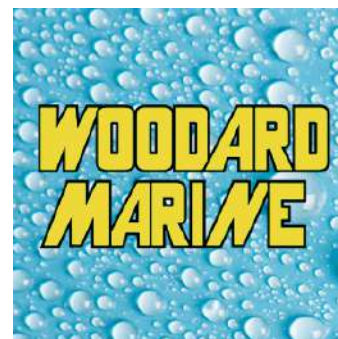
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Name	Email	Term Ends
Jim Canders President	jim.canders@lakestcatherine.org	2029
Jeff Crandall Milfoil Committee Chair	jeff.crandall@lakestcatherine.org	2029
Michael Gay Trustee	michael.gay@lakestcatherine.org	2027
Jeremy Jones Membership / Publicity	jeremy.jones@lakestcatherine.org	2029
Ed Laird Trustee	ed.laird@lakestcatherine.org	2028
Nancy Liberatore Trustee	nancy.liberatore@lakestcatherine.org	2028
Tim Mante Trustee	tim.mante@lakestcatherine.org	2027
Steve Mattison Trustee	steve.mattison@lakestcatherine.org	2027
Kemi McShane Recording Secretary	kemi.mcshane@lakestcatherine.org	2028
Lisa Micich Trustee	lisa.micich@lakestcatherine.org	2027
Dan O'Connell Trustee	dan.oconnell@lakestcatherine.org	2028
Mark Shea Trustee	mark.shea@lakestcatherine.org	2027
Mary Jo Teetor Treasurer / Water	maryjo.teetor@lakestcatherine.org	2028
Sue Williams Trustee	sue.williams@lakestcatherine.org	2029
Open Position		2029

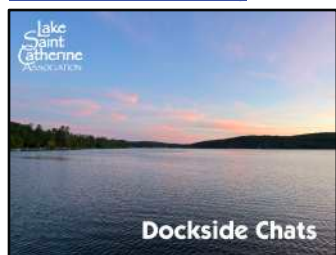
Volunteer or become a Lake St. Catherine Association Trustee

Would you like to contribute and help to preserve, protect and maintain our beautiful Lake? If so, please send an email to info@lakestcatherine.org, and include your contact information, a little bit about yourself, including why you'd like to join the board. Thank you. 

Dockside Chats

An LSCA Trustee will boat, swim, kayak, or Sea•Doo to your dock to speak with you, and your invited neighbors, about any lake related topics that you would like to discuss. Email us to set one up!

info@lakestcatherine.org



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LAKE ST. CATHERINE ASSOCIATION: BECOMING A MEMBER

Everyone associated with the Lake St. Catherine Association is a volunteer. But, there are only 15 trustees and it's a very large lake! Your membership and the dues and contributions we receive allows us to accomplish our work. While we do receive annual voter approved allocations from Wells and Poultney, and we work to bring grant funding from the State and environmental groups to the lake each year, your membership contributions are a significant source of our yearly funding.

WHAT DOES THE LSCA DO?

Here are some of the services that we provide:

- Maintaining & purchasing navigation and shoreline protection buoys throughout the lake.
- Testing the water for E coli, phosphorus, chlorophyll-a, and water clarity as part of the State of Vermont's Lay Monitoring Program.
- Inspecting boats wishing to enter the lake at the Vermont Fish & Wildlife boat launch in Wells for aquatic invasive species (AIS) to keep them out of the lake as part of the LSCA's Greeter Program.
- Keeping the invasive weed Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) under control via our Milfoil Control Program.
- Working with state & local governments, our local partners, and individual property owners to mitigate stormwater runoff from carrying phosphorus, sediments, and other pollution into the lake with the LSC Stormwater Master Plan & Watershed Action Plan, and the Lake Wise Program.
- Liaising with other lakes, and the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds in order to exchange information on best practices.
- Sponsoring the annual fun-filled July 4th Boat Parade.
- Providing information to our membership and the lake community via newsletters, emails, website & social media postings, and other publications.
- Organizing funding through membership fees, donations, and grants from the State of Vermont, Poultney and Wells, and environmental groups.
- Representing you to state and local governments to protect your rights and the lake in general.
- Protecting the value of your property by maintaining the beauty, access, and safety of the lake. 

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER

Please complete this form and send along with your check payable to Lake St. Catherine Association to:

Lake St. Catherine Association
PO Box 631
Wells, VT 05774

You can also pay your dues or make a donation on our website:

www.lakestcatherine.org

Thank you for your support!

* Business Sponsor Membership includes a listing on our website & newsletters, a posting on our blog and the ability to have your special events listed on our Lake St. Catherine Community Calendar. 

DUES SCHEDULE, OR MAKE A DONATION

• Cottage Owner	\$100
• Business Sponsor*	\$200
• Unimproved Lot Owner (no dwelling)	\$50
• Supporter of LSC	\$35

- Supporter of LSC = family members of property owners, renters, those who use the lake for recreation



Dues Amount or Donation: _____

Additional Contribution: _____

Total Enclosed: _____

Owner: _____

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Lake Phone: _____ Camp Name: _____

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Permanent Address: _____

Permanent Phone: _____

Email Address: _____