



# Waves

The Newsletter of Hickory Hills Landowners

[www@hickoryhillslake.com](http://www@hickoryhillslake.com)

978-582-6365

Winter 2009

## Winter Recreation Vehicles

Now that winter has arrived there have been recreational vehicles utilizing the lake. The Board of Directors wishes to remind riders of some basic safety requirements. Recreational vehicle operators must be in full control of their vehicle at all times and operate in a safe and responsible manner. Riders should not encroach on skating rinks or private property. All recreational vehicles and riders are required by law to have the following

- Approved Helmet
- Adequate braking system
- Adequate muffler designed to reduce unusual or excessive noise and obnoxious fumes.
- Each recreation vehicle must be equipped with and display after sunset, one or more headlights, a red rear light and red rear reflector.
- Under Massachusetts law all snowmobiles must have a State Registration and have a Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts (SAM) pass. For information regarding the SAM, visit <http://www.sledmass.com>.

According to Chapter 90B Section 24, no snow vehicle and no recreation vehicle shall be operated which makes an unusual or excessive noise or which emits obnoxious fumes. Vehicles that are not equipped in accordance with the law **will** be reported to local authorities. Please be respectful of other residents' rights.

Blocking off skating areas with logs or placing obstacles on the ice that pose a danger to others is strictly prohibited. Respect is a two way street.

Don't put your ice rink in the middle of a well-traveled area or in front of a trailhead.

Recreational vehicles on the islands and beaches damages the tree roots and causes erosion. The Islands have been posted with no Snowmobile or ATV signs and the Island Road beach has been marked off. **Stay off the islands with ALL vehicles** and use care when crossing the beaches. Stay in marked trails! **All vehicles are strictly prohibited on the dam.** Violators **WILL** be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.



## Public Hearing for UNITIL

The state's Department of Public Utilities has scheduled a public hearing in Lunenburg as part of its investigation into Unitil's response to the December 11, 2008 ice storm. The hearing will take place **at the Lunenburg High School Auditorium from 4:00 – 10:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 3, 2009.**

This meeting is geared toward Lunenburg residents and is an open public meeting. There is also a meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 27, 2009 in Fitchburg is geared toward Fitchburg residents.

If you would like to sign the DPU petition or learn more about it, you can find it on a link at Jen Benson's website: <http://www.jenbenson.org/index.html>

## WANTED: Youth Program Director

Last year's summer youth program was a huge success, therefore, the Board of Directors would like to continue offering a part-time youth program in the summer.



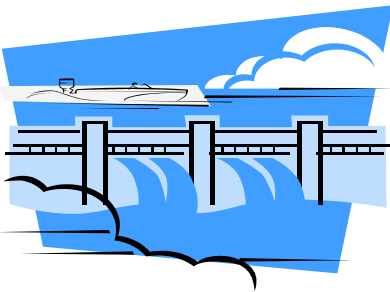
We are looking for a new Director for the 2009 season. Last year's Director,

Diane is unable to run the program this year but is willing to pass on her materials, help and knowledge. The program would run approximately six weeks, 2-4 hours per day at the main beach offering sports, crafts and nature activities. If you are interested in directing this program please send a letter of interest including your experience to the HHL office email at [hickoryhills@net1plus.com](mailto:hickoryhills@net1plus.com).



## Dam Report

Our dam is classified as a "high hazard dam" (due to the size of the lake and the downstream population), is one of 179 Massachusetts dams that share this classification and requires, a state-mandated inspection every two years.



The report from the Sept 2008 inspection, generated by Tighe & Bond Engineering, was received in late Dec 2008. As in the 2006 inspection, the HHL dam received

the second highest rating: satisfactory. All of the improvements made since the 2006 inspection: cutting of trees, removal of stumps and hydro seeding of the down-stream bank between the emergency spillway and Mulpus Road, were positively noted.

In addition, work continued last month, according to the maintenance plan, on the banking across from Woodland Rd., adjacent to (and on) the Murphy's property with extensive brush clearing, stump removal and rip-rap installation.

The capacity of the spillway, relative to a "Spillway Design Flood" event, was given the lowest possible rating and noted in the report as an unknown, requiring a hydrology study. This study is planned for year six of the dam maintenance plan (now in year 3) and will trigger expenses associated with the study itself and the expected findings for spillway expansion. Budgetary estimates for the spillway expansion have been requested and will be fed to the Finance Committee in order to complete the five year financial plan.

*"Nature does nothing in vain"*  
- Aristotle

## Finance Committee

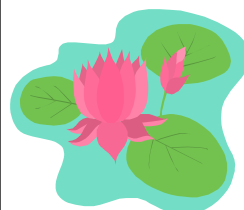
Costs have begun rising faster than the 14% per year increases reported at the 2008 annual meeting, caused in-part by higher than expected dam maintenance costs associated with the recent work at the south end of the down-stream bank. Revenues have also dropped due to an increase in non-payment of annual dues. Finally, we have also experienced a greater than 30% increase in property tax over 2008, driven by the revised property assessments and increased tax rate. The dam inspection report, while not impacting short term maintenance forecasts, has delivered the expected indictment of the spillway capacity which will require a hydrology study which is anticipated to result in a mandate to increase capacity. The finance committee will work with available budgetary estimates for this work and will develop a 5 year financial plan for presentation to share holders.



## Lake Management Group

Director, Paula Bertram is chairing the newly organized Lake Management Group. This committee is chartered to investigate a variety of issues relating to the overall health of the lake such as invasive species, weed management, pollution and storm water issues. The Committee will review the issues and explore solutions in order to make recommendations to the BOD.

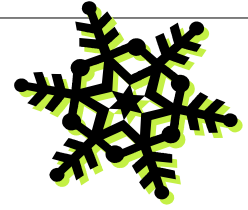
So far we have 15 residents participating in the group. They are: Mario Andella, Paula Bertram, Jane Blake, Dana and Suzanna Dudley, Jim LeBlanc, Charlie Kimball, Dave and Betty MacDonald, Linda and Fred Malcomb, Diane and Tom Nowd, and Kerry Sullivan.



If you would like to participate in this Group, please send an email describing your interest to the office at [hickoryhills@net1plus.com](mailto:hickoryhills@net1plus.com). The first meeting is scheduled for later this month.



## Winter Rules — Use of Hickory Hills Lake Area



To ensure a safe and enjoyable use of the Hickory Hills Lake area, we remind you of the following rules established by the state, town, and/or Hickory Hills Landowners:

1. Use of Hickory Hills Landowners' facilities, lake beaches, and islands is limited to licensed residents with current IDs and their guests.
2. Keep your ID with you while you use Landowners' facilities.
3. Guests must be accompanied by their host who has an ID while using Landowners' facilities.
4. Property owners who rent their homes are responsible for obtaining IDs for their renters.
5. Renters are not eligible to use Landowners' facilities unless they have identification.
6. No resident who is delinquent paying annual charges can be the guest of a resident who has paid annual charges.
7. Property owners are personally responsible for the behavior of their family members and guests while the latter are using Landowners' facilities.
8. Ice fishing is limited to residents with current IDs and their guests. A Massachusetts State Fishing License also is required.
9. Ice fishing is permitted from dawn to dusk only. no ice drills are to be operated before 6:00 a.m.
10. Ice fishing shall be done in compliance with all the laws and regulations of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts including those laws and regulations concerning the number of fishing holes to be drilled each day and the size and number of fish to be taken.
11. No open fires are permitted on the lake or on the land. (The town also prohibits open fires.) All fires must be contained (grill, hibachi, etc.). All materials brought onto Landowners' facilities must be removed.
12. Vehicles may not be parked on public roads during snowstorms because they will obstruct snow plowing (a town ordinance). For fire purposes, all roads shall be kept clear during any type of weather.
13. Islands, except those privately owned and posted, may be used daylight hours only (one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset).
14. No trespassing on the dam spillway.
15. If a dog falls through the ice, do not attempt a rescue. The Lunenburg Rescue Squad has a flotation suit and can arrive within a few minutes to make a safe rescue.
16. No glass bottles or glass of any kind are permitted on Landowners' facilities.
17. Use of snowmobiles and recreation vehicles on Landowners facilities is limited to residents with current IDs and their guests. Snowmobiles and recreation vehicles also must be registered with the State of Massachusetts. Operating a snowmobile or recreation vehicle shall be done in compliance with all the laws and regulation of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.





## Overview of Massachusetts' Recreation Vehicle Laws

The following activities are prohibited in accordance with Massachusetts's recreation vehicle laws. For the complete law refer to Massachusetts General Law, [Chapter 90B](#) (Sections 20-35) and 323 Code of Massachusetts Regulations 3.00

- Operating under the influence of drugs and alcohol.
- Operating on public ways or upon the right-of-way limits of a controlled access highway.
- Failure to come to a complete stop when crossing a public way (must yield to motor vehicle traffic). No person under 16½ years of age shall operate across a public way.

- Operating so as to endanger any person or property.
- Operating at an unreasonable, improper, and unsafe speed for existing conditions.
- Operating on land of another without permission of the owner. (Permission may be given to an individual or group).
- Operating within 150 feet of an occupied residence without permission of the owner unless operating on the property of another for which permission has been granted.
- Operating in a manner so as to harass or chase wildlife or domestic animals.
- Operating on a wetland such as a bog, marsh, or swamp so as to destroy or damage the wetland, if such area has been designated and posted as a protected wetland area.
- Operating in Wildlife Management Areas.


Visit <http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dle/323cmr30.pdf> to view the full MA law.

### Welcome to New Residents!

Please welcome the following new HHL residents to the community:

Ethan & Kathryn Adams	45 Williams Drive
Alan & Alicia Legere	181 Peninsula Drive
William F. & Linda Malcomb	149 Island Rd
Michael McNally & Cara Castaner	180 Island Rd
Sarah Sullivan	15 Pine Acres Rd

A Welcome meeting is scheduled for **February 18, 2009 at 7 p.m.** New residents will be notified. Please make sure the office has your email address and new phone numbers for our records.



**Land for sale:** Large wooded corner lot on beautiful Hickory Hills Lake, 2.7 acres. Approved 3 bedroom septic design, water views \$119,900. Contact Linda Marble at [linmarble@realtyman.com](mailto:linmarble@realtyman.com) or 978-537-6401 x31

### HHL Office Winter Hours

Winter office hours are limited so please call to make sure we are open...

**Monday and Thursday 9-11 a.m.**

The best way to reach the office is through email at [hickoryhills@net1plus.com](mailto:hickoryhills@net1plus.com) or leave a message at 978-582-6365.

## HHL GOALS for FY08-09

The BOD wanted to share the aggressive goals they have defined for this fiscal year and with everyone's help we hope to reach them.

1. Complete a three to five year Financial Plan
2. Complete the sale of the Beachview/Wildwood Rd property
3. Formulate a plan for improvement of Island Rd Facilities.
4. Improve electronic presences (website)
5. Increase the number of volunteers and level of community involvement
6. Establish Lake Management Group Charter and goals

