

Hickory Hills Waves



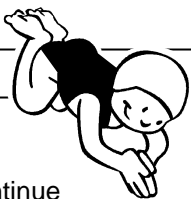
A newsletter of Hickory Hills Landowners, Inc.

PO Box 298 * Lunenburg, MA 01462 * 978 582 6365 * hickoryhills@net1plus.com

Summer 2005

Annual Shareholders Meeting September 17, 2005

The Hickory Hills Landowners Annual Shareholders Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, September 17, 2005 at the Bull Run Restaurant. A meeting notice and shareholder packets will be sent out on July 15th.



Swim Lessons

Hickory Hills Landowners, Inc. will continue to sponsor swimming lessons again this summer at the Island Road Beach. We have scheduled three two-week sessions beginning July 5th. We still have room in the second and third sessions.

- ❑ **2nd Session** - will be July 18 to July 21 and July 25 to July 28.
- ❑ **3rd Session** - will be August 1 to 4 and August 8 to 11.

Sandreley Henderson, a certified Red Cross instructor will return again this year to teach all three sessions. Each 2-week session will be \$20.00 per student. Hickory Hills residents have first priority to enroll their children or grandchildren. Remember to register early as sessions fill up quickly. Go to the Hickory Hills website at www.hickoryhillslake.com to print a registration form(s) and send it with your check to P.O. Box 298, Lunenburg, MA 01462. Or call the office for a form at 978 582-6365.

Beware of Bears!

Florida has its sharks,
Hickory Hills has itsbears???
That's right; a black bear has been spotted in the area and even swimming in the lake. If you see it, do not approach it, certainly do not chase it down the street with a video camera (yes one of our residents did this). Most of all, please don't feed the bear!



Boat Parade

Please join us for the annual 4th of July Boat Parade on July 3rd at noontime. All resident boaters interested in participating should meet at the Island Rd Beach by noon. The parade will proceed along the complete shoreline of the lake ending back at the Island Rd Beach.

Please refrain from throwing water balloons or engaging in water fights until the end of the parade. Some of the boaters do not want to participate. Please respect all other boaters.



Dogs

Residents are reminded that dogs are not permitted on the beaches due to state health guidelines. In the Town of Lunenburg dogs **must be under control of their owners at all times**. When walking your dog please be considerate of your neighbors and their property and clean up after your pet!



ATVs & SNOWMOBILES

by Tom Bertram

ATVs & snowmobiles are a lot of fun, and they'll go just about anywhere. Unfortunately that can be a problem. Too much of anything can be a bad thing. When I first started riding ATVs they only had three wheels! Most riders today don't remember those days. As much fun as they are, we as residents, riders and parents of riders need to make sure we are safe and operating within legal bounds. Everyone should know that helmets are not only required by law but when riding an off road vehicle they are a must. Some of the worst head injuries come from "just taking a spin around the yard". **Always wear a helmet and STAY OFF THE PUBLIC WAYS!!**

I'm an avid rider of snowmobiles, ATVs, motorcycles and boats. This year while enjoying an afternoon of ice fishing at the annual Martin Luther King Ice Fishing Tournament I was shocked at the number of machines, both snowmobiles and ATVs. As I looked around at the participants I expected to see strangers. Instead I saw lake residents and their children. I have to admit I was concerned. The machines were running over the islands and the beach over and over again. That day I spoke to others who also witnessed the day's event. Some had initial reactions that they should be banned. "For what?" I questioned. "For riding on the beach and the islands" was the answer. My response was "There are no signs, it is not posted." It is not fair to punish people for doing something that they don't even know is wrong.

Well here I am folks letting you know **that riding ATVs and snowmobiles on the beach, islands, along the shoreline and dike is wrong and against the rules. It causes unnecessary erosion that cannot be reversed.** I have stepped up to the plate and volunteered to do some posting. I'm fighting for our rights. But we need to play ball and respect the rules. See you on the trails.

Final Notices for 2005 Annual Maintenance Fees

Your 2005 annual maintenance fees were due on May 1st. We are using the same program as last year which will automatically assess interest on any bills that are more than 30 days past due. We have received payment from 91% of our residents – **Thank you!** Final notices will be sent out on July 15th. Please send in your payment before this date to P.O. Box 298.

From the Office Store



The following items are available in the office:

T-shirts	Available in blue, white, light green & pine green	\$ 9.00
Sweatshirts	Available in blue, white, mallard green	\$15.00
Ariel Photos of the Lake	8 x 10 color Photos	\$25.00
Wood Block Photos	4 x 6 color prints	\$15.00

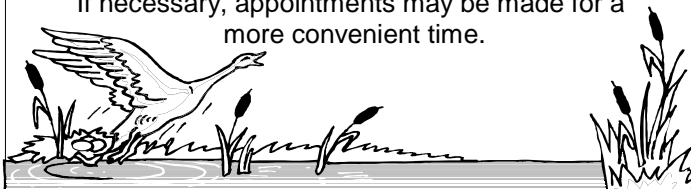
**Not all shirt sizes are available in all colors, but they may be ordered if pre-paid*

Spring & Summer Office Hours:

Mon., Wed. & Thurs. 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Please call the office before arriving to make sure someone is there, 978-582-6365.

If necessary, appointments may be made for a more convenient time.



New Residents



Welcome!

A Welcome meeting for new residents will be held at the Office in the fall. New residents will be notified. In the meantime welcome to our Community.

Brett Ramsen – Cove Road
Melissa Ribaudo – Birch Island Road
James Shearer - Townsend Harbor Road
Debra Leger – Sandy Cove Road
Charles & Sharon Kimball – Peninsula Drive
Michael Rash – Island Road
Joseph & Sarah McGhee – Townsend Harbor Road
Dawn & Caio deFreitas – South Row Road

SEWERS AND GROUNDWATER

by Paula Bertram

As Lunenburg residents, we are all familiar with the sewer project. Recently at the May Town Meeting, an article to appropriate \$600,000 to design additional sewers was amended on the floor to appropriate \$150,000 to review the sewer project to date, rather than continue "full steam ahead".

There are many reasons the townspeople felt we should proceed with caution. The expansion of sewer raises many concerns, upsurge in development, increased demand on our overloaded infrastructure and possible negative impact on our brooks, wetlands and Lakes due to the impact on groundwater recharge.

Since 2002 there has been a shift in the thinking at the State level regarding sewers. In the MA Water Policy, which was drafted in 2004, it is stated that one of the biggest issues facing the State is maintaining sufficient quantities of stream flow. The report urges all Towns to gain a more comprehensive understanding of local water budgets (the inflow and outflow of water within communities). As stated in the report: *"We also need to rethink where the water that we use goes. Existing infrastructure often transports precipitation away from where it lands instead of letting it infiltrate. Transporting dirty water far from its source made sense historically, but today, with significant improvements in wastewater treatment techniques and standards, treatment levels often make the water available for reuse or recharge, thereby replenishing the natural stream flows and aquifers in the basin or sub-basin."*

Many areas across the Commonwealth have experienced severe problems with the loss of stream flow. The Ipswich River Watershed is a prime example of an area severely impacted. One cause of the disruption in hydrology is the development of regional water and sanitary sewer systems, which resulted in the movement of large volumes of water from one watershed to another. Many other watersheds are facing low stream flow problems. The Neponset River Action Plan advocates the use of septic systems; *"DEP should consider sewer extensions and expansions only as a last resort ...septic should be the preferred method of wastewater treatment for family homes.."*

The Lake Shirley Community and the Hickory Hills Community are identified within the Facilities Plan as areas to be sewered in Phase III. Prior to moving forward with sewer installation in **any** area, serious consideration should be given to the potential impacts on our invaluable natural resources.

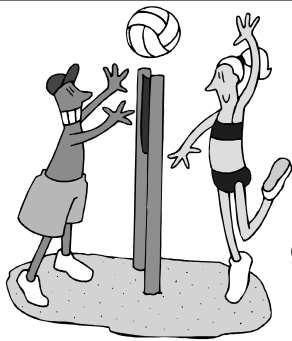
The Nashua River Watershed, in its five year action plan, notes that although water quantity has not been a problem historically, many of the sub-basins are net exporters of water and *"there must be critical review of any additional sewerage in the watershed"*.

The Lake Shirley Community is actively investigating this issue, and is concerned about the potential impact of sewer. Members of the LSIC advocate that an environmental review be done before additional sewerage. In fact, in correspondence dated February 11, 2002, Mary Gardner, Acting Deputy Regional Director of DEP, recommends that *"the hydrologic impacts in the Catacoconamaug Sub-basin be re-evaluated prior to proceeding with Phase III, a more detailed evaluation of a neighborhood wastewater collection and treatment system for Lake Shirley be performed."*

Prior to proceeding with sewer, the Town of Lunenburg must determine the need, and evaluate the impact. Since the revision of Title 5 in 1995, the total failure rate Town-wide is 19%. Granted, in some areas installation of on-site sewage disposal is challenging, and in the most severe cases sewer may be the only option, however it should be considered as a last resort, the use of shared systems or innovative technologies should be investigated prior to proceeding with sewer.

As a resident of Hickory Hills, I am very concerned that the expansion of sewer in the Town of Lunenburg will severely cripple our environmental resources over the course of time. I welcome your involvement and comments regarding this issue. Please feel free to email me at pbertram@net1plus.com.

The LSIC and members of the Board of Directors will continue to monitor this situation to ensure that we will not be negatively impacted, we will keep you advised.



Volleyball

Join the adult volleyball games on Thursday nights at 6:30 p.m. at the Island Road beach.

Prevent the Spread of Nuisance Aquatic Plants!

Hickory Hills Lake has NOT been attacked by the invasive Eurasian water milfoil or hydrilla, two of the most troublesome aquatic plants that are now spreading in lakes and ponds in Massachusetts.

These “bad” weeds travel from infested waters on the bottom of boats, motors and trailers. To keep our lake safe from these weeds, we limit boats on our lake to those owned by residents.

How you can help keep “bad” weeds out of Hickory Hills.

- Do not take your boat to another body of water.
- If you must use your boat elsewhere, be sure to scrub the boat, motor, trailer and hitch thoroughly before putting the boat back into our lake. **This includes kayaks & canoes!!**
- Do not let guests bring boats, canoes and kayaks onto Hickory Hills Lake.

By following these simple preventive measures, we can continue to keep our lake free from these invasive water weeds.



Purple Loosestrife

Purple Loosestrife is a highly aggressive invasive plant that has found its way into Hickory Hills. If left unchecked, this plant poses a severe threat to waterfowl habitat and can impede water flow in areas around the main lake and Little Hickory. It is a spike of rose-purple flowers with 5-7 purple petals; leaves that are opposite or in whorls of 3 all lacking teeth; and a stiff 4 sided stem that may appear woody at the base. It is a perennial that grows an average of 5 feet tall and flowers from early June to early September.

Purple Loosestrife is best controlled when infestations are small. Plants can be hand pulled or dug out, but this must be done before the flowering, or seeds will scatter. The plant flowers from the bottom of the stalk up to the top, so it is important to remove plants before most of the stalk blooms. Cover the tops of the plants with a dark trash bag to prevent seed scatter, then cut the stalks. Dig out the rest of the plants, bag them and let them rot before disposing of them, or burn them. Most landfills prohibit disposal of these plants, so homeowners should not put them at curbside for trash pickup. The Board of Directors urges all of you to help in controlling the spread of this invasive pest by checking your own property and by helping clear the plant from properties owned by the corporation. Thank you all for your cooperation.



Bass Club Schedule

Remember, these fishing tournaments are for Hickory Hills Residents & invited guests.

Split Tournament	July 16	6 to 12 3 to 9
Billy Proctor Mem.	August 13	6 to 5
Buddy Brown Mem.	Sept. 10	7 to 5

Please remember, that this is for fun. Help us keep it that way. Jim Leblanc

Beach Hours: The beaches are open from dawn to dusk. Please make sure your vehicles are not in the parking lot after 8:00 p.m. Exception: The parking lot is open for volleyball on Thursday nights only.

Resident's corner

Our Condolences

We express our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Nick Rimpas who died on Thursday, June 9th. Nick was a long time resident of Hickory Hills and served as an officer and director on the Board of Directors.

Dear Residents:

I have made the commitment to take steps in the fight against multiple sclerosis (MS) by joining the MS Challenge Walk, and I'm asking you to join me in this important fight by sponsoring me.

MS is an unpredictable and devastating disease that can attack any of us in the prime of life. Imagine, one day you are ready to take on the world, and the next you are faced with the diagnosis of an incurable and debilitating disease. You are no longer able to do the things you love most and just putting one foot in front of the other is a challenge. That's why I'm participating in the MS Challenge Walk and asking you to help me make a difference.

You can help by sponsoring me in the MS Challenge Walk. The walk is three days, 50-miles on Cape Cod, September 9-11, 2005. I am walking with a wonderful group, The Blister Buddies. The team captain is my sister, Patty Thorpe, who has MS. When Pat was diagnosed with MS, we were all devastated. Ironically, Patty was the one to reassure all of us that she would continue to live her life to the fullest, and that she would never allow MS to define who she is. Every day she continues to fight the disease with strength and courage. She is my inspiration. Your support will mean so much to me, and the over 400,000 Americans living with MS. Checks should be made payable to the National MS Society and sent to be at the address below, or if you prefer to donate on line, please visit the National MS Society site at www.nationalmssociety.org and select, Pledge/Sponsor a participant. Thanks in advance for your support.

Warmest regards,

Paula Bertram
312 Townsend Harbor Road
Lunenburg, MA 01462



FOR SALE

Sailboat – 10 foot SunFish with everything, and in good condition. Asking \$300 or B.O. Please contact Jill or Mike at 978-582-7719.

Canoe - 17' Coleman RamX-17 plastic canoe with 3 seats installed and comes with a trolling motor bracket. Asking \$450 contact Ron Pearson at 978-371-0513.

Boat – 1986 14' Grumman Fisherman with 1986 Mercury 6 h.p. motor includes trailer and accessories. Asking \$1000, call Jim White at 978 582- 7580.



If you are interested in helping out on the Waves, contributing an article or sharing some interesting news, please let us know! Contact Pat in the office at 978 582 6365, or by email at hickoryhills@net1plus.com.

Safety & Security

This season we have a new Security Team. They are Patrick McColl, Phil Moore and Karen Sanderson, all residents of Hickory Hills. They are patrolling the lake area by bike, car and boat during varied hours every day.

Also we would like to remind residents that rope swings of any nature are NOT ALLOWED on private or common areas. The safety and liability risks are too great and the Board of Directors has instructed the Security Team to remove or report any rope swings. If you have a safety or security concern, please call the office at 978-582-6365 and leave a message with your name, address and a phone number.

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A NEWSLETTER OF HICKORY HILLS LANDOWNERS, INC.

WAVES

HICKORY HILLS



Hickory Hills Landowners, Inc.
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