



# Waves

The Newsletter of Hickory Hills Landowners

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Spring 2008



## Hickory Hills 2008 Annual Boat Parade July 5th, Saturday at Noon From Island Road Beach



### Summer Youth Program

Hickory Hills Landowners is excited to be able to offer a Summer Youth Program this year. The Youth Program will be free of charge and only for Landowners children and grandchildren ages 5-12. Hickory Hills Resident, Diane Nowd has graciously volunteered to run the program. Diane has taught first grade for 25 years, 22 years here in Lunenburg. The program will run for five weeks, July 7<sup>th</sup> through August 4<sup>th</sup> and will integrate a study of our lake habitat with arts and crafts, nature walks and sports activities. Activities will be offered three days a week, Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Enrollment forms are available by contacting the office or on the website at [www.hickoryhillslake.com](http://www.hickoryhillslake.com). Space is limited, therefore enrollment is on a first come, first served basis.

### Help Wanted for Youth Program

Are you a teenager age 14 or older, interested in working part time this summer? Hickory Hills is seeking a motivated young adult to assist the Youth Director, Diane Nowd with the summer youth program to be offered this summer. Interested teens, please submit your name, contact information and qualifications to the office. Applications will be accepted through June 13, 2008.



### Beach Clean Up Day

Our annual Beach Clean up Day is scheduled for **Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>** starting at 9:00 a.m. A scheduled rain date is set for May 17<sup>th</sup>.

Meet at any of the three beaches with your rakes. Anyone with a truck who can help take some yard waste to the dump would be greatly appreciated. Please come, meet some neighbors and make our lake property look its best for spring.

To help with the planning of this activity, please email the office if you plan to be there and if you have a truck.

### Annual Town Meeting and Elections

The Town Meeting will be held Saturday, May 3, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. The Annual Town Elections will be held Saturday, May 17. Be sure to get out and cast your vote on Lunenburg's important issues.



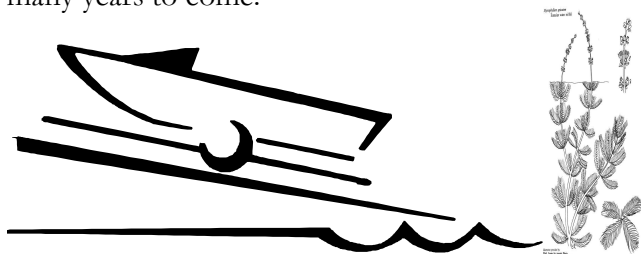
## Not all Boat Trailers are Considered Equal!

**An Invasive Weed Advisory by Jim Leblanc**

We are very lucky to live on a lake that does not presently have Eurasian milfoil or any other invasive water plants. In fact, Hickory Hills is remarkably one of only four lakes in this state to be free of Eurasian milfoil. The reason we don't have this invader is that few boats with trailers are being transported from lake to lake. You may have read in the news last year about the problems that other area lakes have caused by Eurasian milfoil and other invasive weeds. To prevent these destructive weeds from entering our lake, we **all** have to take responsibility and carefully inspect the trailers that transport boats to our lake.

Last year I luckily happen to witness a marine dealer delivering a boat. When I inspected the bottom of the trailer it was full of Eurasian milfoil. The driver was very apologetic and did not drive his trailer into our lake. He, like many just thought that all lakes had this invasive plant. This is why continued education is our best defense and protector of our lake.

At the beginning and end of the season, it is common practice by marine dealers to send the boat trailersto Lakes Shirley, Whalom, Wyman, and then send it here. Any weeds left on the trailer could drift off the trailer and consequently contaminate our lake. I know that a lot of us don't own trailers, which makes it difficult to put boats in or out of the lake. However, **Gary Casey of Peninsula Drive does have a trailer and is willing to trailer your boat for a \$50 fee. His home number is 978-582-6224 and his cell 978-833-6905.** I hope that you all consider this as a way to ensure minimal danger to our lake. I don't know if we can stop milfoil invasion, but hopefully we can delay it for many years to come.



## Financial Planning Committee.

Previously the Board of Directors voted to establish a Finance Committee. The BOD has now established the following charter and have five residents willing to participate, along with Neal Sullivan as the Chairperson.

**Membership:** The committee will consist of at least five members. Members will be residents of HHL, shareholders in HHL and have past experience or proven skills in the field of finance or planning.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this Committee is to construct a 3-5 year financial plan for HHL. The plan will include projected income and expenses for operation HHL in the next 3-5 years. Provide the BOD with an analysis of the need for any change in annual maintenance fees. If so, then make recommendations to the BOD of implementation and time fame.

**Charter/Deliverables:** The BOD will expect a full investigation and report to include the following:

1. Impact of the construction of a new recreation/ office facility.
2. The actual construction costs.
3. The impact to the operating budget to maintain the new facility
4. A comprehensive comparison of other similar private lake communities and fees in the area. This should include;
  - Lake size, ownership of a working dam or not, population and other demographics
  - Formal or informal boards or management
  - Operating budgets
  - Current annual fees and what that covers
  - Last increase or planned increase
  - Projected cost increases to annual operating costs
  - Complete projected costs for maintenance of the Dam and possible major repair scenarios based on inspections and mandates



### Island Bass Fishing and BBQ Club - Jim Leblanc

Hello again from our Island Bass and BBQ Club. Another great year of fishing last year with Randy Albert squeezing out John Leblanc and John Henry for the coveted angler of the year stump. Paul Walsh caught the largest bass during a tournament at 4.54 lbs. Only eleven bass over 3lbs. were caught during the seven events last season. Please practice catch and release on all the large bass as there are not enough of them and they are really fun to catch!

Any adults interested in fishing with us please contact Jim Leblanc at 582-7922. We have rules to protect our lake, our fish, and our fun! Hope to see you all out on the lake fishing this year or at least while I'm out fishing.

Hope you all have a great summer, your friend Jim Leblanc. The Bass Fishing Club 2008 event dates are:

- April 19 7:00 am to 3:00 pm
- May 17 6:00 am to 4:00 pm
- June 14 6:00 am to 5:00 pm Buddy Brown Memorial
- July 12 6:00 to 12:00 and 2:00 to 8:00 Split Team Event
- Aug 9 6:00 am to 5:00 pm Billy Proctor III Memorial
- Sept 13 7:00 am to 4:00 pm
- Oct 11 7:00 am to 3:00 pm Lobster Bake Awards Party



### March Mixer

The March Mixer held on March 22, 2008 at the Eastwood Club was a terrific success. All who attended enjoyed delicious appetizers and great music. The DJ, Jim Bean, kept everyone dancing all night. Thank you Charlie & Sharon Kimball, Susan Oram and Lisa Normandin for all of your hard work! This year we had a special raffle gift for \$500 worth of landscaping that was generously donated by Jacob's Landscaping, a new business opening here in Lunenburg. A number of local businesses and residents donated various items making the Chinese auction/raffle a great success. Thank you to those who donated:

- |                          |                             |                   |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| American Harley-Davidson | Dave & Lisa Normandin       |                   |
| AMR, Paul & Dee Anderson | Orchard Hill, Tim Richards  |                   |
| Central MA Powersports   | Padula Brothers             |                   |
| Peter & Susan Doherty    | Proctor Landscape & Masonry |                   |
| The Ela's                | Romano's Meat Market        |                   |
| Elena's Gourmet Grocery  | Bob & Donna Saiia           |                   |
| Gibbet Hill Grill        | Sillman's Dairy Farm        |                   |
| The Harley House         | Tri City Marine             |                   |
| Jacob's Landscaping      | Turdie's Treats             |                   |
| Lakeview Landscaping     | Village Barber              |                   |
| Lakeview Nursery         | P. Lastella & S. Andrews    | The Village Grill |



## Board of Directors Nominations

The Nominating Committee is accepting names of people interested in serving on the Board of Directors during 2008-2009. One year positions to be filled at the September 20th Annual Shareholder's Meeting are: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Clerk. Two-year positions to be filled are for four Director positions.

Any shareholder who would like to be nominated must notify the Nominating Committee by written application through our office in person, email [hickoryhills@net1plus.com](mailto:hickoryhills@net1plus.com) or by mail to post office Box 298 before May 15. The names and biographical data on selected nominees will be mailed to shareholders in mid July.

If you would like to become a shareholder of Hickory Hills Landowners there is a one time fee of \$240, which gives you a vote and a voice in the management of the Corporation. Please contact the office.

## 2008 Annual Bills

The 2008 statements for the HHL annual maintenance fees were mailed for April 1st and are due by May 1st. Please take a minute to read the letter enclosed; it will answer some of the more frequently asked questions. And updating your email addresses and phone numbers is appreciated.

Check to make sure we have all the details on your boats and make any changes on the form provided.

This year we have improved the car stickers to display your registration number and they will be adhered to the exterior of the vehicle. This is one of the few ways we have to insure residents only are using our lake facilities. Remember, even if you had a car sticker before we cannot give out stickers without first seeing a copy of your vehicle's registration. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. Let's all have a safe and fun season!

## Reminder: Annual Shareholders' Meeting

The Hickory Hills Landowners Annual Shareholders' meeting is scheduled for Saturday, September 20, 2008 at the Harley House in Lunenburg. In order to participate in the meeting and the management of Landowners you must be a shareholder by June 30, 2008. Any resident interested in purchasing a share can send a one time fee of \$240.00 (checks made out to Hickory Hills Landowners, Inc.). Shareholders receive a 50% discount for IDs boat stickers and release fees. If you have questions regarding shares please email the office.

## Email Address Updates

More than ever it is important we have resident's current email addresses. This past year we have been using email to communicate with residents more frequently.

Email is beneficial because it allows us to communicate quickly, it saves money on postage and the office email is checked more frequently than the phone machine. Please make sure we have your current email address, and remember to allow [hickoryhills@net1plus.com](mailto:hickoryhills@net1plus.com) past your spam screen and put our address in your "okay to accept mail from" folder. Thank you.

## Spring & Summer Office Hours May thru August

**Monday, Wednesday, Thursday**

**9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

Please call the office before arriving to make sure someone is there. Email is the best and fastest way to reach the office. If necessary, appointments may be made for a more



## New Residents

Hickory Hills Landowners, welcomes the following new residents who have recently moved to our lake community. We hope you have met some of your neighbors by now and are looking forward to a great summer season. Welcome!

Peter & Jessica Beardmore—Sandy Cove Rd

## Welcome Meeting was held Feb 20th

Lisa Normandin and John Pesenti hosted a welcome meeting last month. We had a great turnout, of 11 new residents, inviting residents from the past year who were new to the lake. John and Lisa covered the history and development of Hickory Hills Lake and some of the major accomplishments of the corporation. There was good dialogue and education of the importance of cleaning off the bottom of boats that are transported between bodies of water, and other possible methods of weed control.

## Adult Swim Lessons

Hickory Hills Landowners is still offering adult swimming lessons with funds donated in memory of Bruce Richards. The YMCA in Fitchburg offers semi-private lessons and Orchard Hills Athletic Club offers private lessons. If interested contact our Clerk, Lisa Normandin at 582-7256.

## Children Swim Lessons

Unfortunately, Hickory Hills Landowners will not be offering a Swim Program for children this year. The town of Lunenburg offers lessons for residents at the Town Beach at Whalom Lake. If you are interested in these lessons, please check the local paper for information or contact the Town Clerk directly at 978-582-4131.

## Boating Basics Course

“Boat Massachusetts” is offered to the public at no charge. The primary purpose of the course is to foster safe boat operation through increased awareness of required safety equipment, safe boating practices and legal responsibilities.

Youth 12 to 15 who successfully complete the course, will be issued a Safety Certificate allowing them to operate a boat without adult supervision, as required by state law. All graduates will be issued a course completion diploma and a Safety Certificate. Taking the class as a family is encouraged and has proven to be highly rewarding.

For more information on course schedules go to the Mass Environmental Police website at [www.mass.gov/dfwele/dle/courselist.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dle/courselist.htm) or call 508-759-0002

## Our Condolences —

We express our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of **Howard Hudson** of Pine Acres Road. Howie passed away on Thursday, March 27, after a long illness, surrounded by his loving family.

Howie was an avid fisherman and a great supporter of Hickory Hills. He will be missed on the lake and around town where he was often seen enjoying his grandchildren participating in local sports activities.





## The Magic Purple Worm

By Bonnie Brown MacKenzie

One warm sunny noontime last summer my five year old son, Cameron had been fishing off the end of Grammie's dock. He had gotten bored after fishing for about 45 minutes, so I just picked up his pole and cast a couple of times. On the third cast I got a hit. It felt like it was a huge fish!!! When the fish surfaced I knew I had a big one on, I reeled him to the edge of the dock and my mother came running down the dock. I don't know what she thought she would do because she has never touched a fish in her life.

I yelled to our neighbor, Mark because I couldn't get the fish up on the dock and of course I had no net. Mark came over and grabbed the fish and we put him in a plastic deck box.

I called my family to come over and see this fish. We weighed him in at 7 lbs. 4 oz. I have attended many of the Buddy Brown Memorial fishing tournament weigh-ins on the island. I can't recall any fish coming in that big. Please don't correct me if I am wrong! Let me "bass in my glory."

I have discovered you don't need to be too technical, have the best gear or sit in a boat all day in the sun or rain to catch the "big one." You just need the tail end of a broken purple rubber worm that your son has been using for a week and to be in the right place at the right time.

Note: I have since learned that Jack Gorman caught a large mouth bass that weighed 8 lbs. 1 oz. on June 24, 1993.



## Teenagers Working to Keep Our Beaches Clean

Pictured here is the trash collected by Troy Cutter and his friend Cody Saulnier. They picked this up along the Island Road Beach area one Sunday afternoon. They headed out for a walk to see if anyone was around to get a ball game going and came home with all this trash and also some other goodies not pictured. They wish they had taken photos of the bags of trash Troy hauled off the islands last summer.

It is nice to see what some caring younger residents see as an important contribution to our lake community. And it is a reminder that when we don't pick up after ourselves it not only diminishes the beauty of our community, some one else has to pick up after you, and that should happen why?

To all who clean up during the year, please accept our gratitude and know it doesn't go unnoticed on behalf of the Board of Directors.



### CLASSIFIEDS

**Land For Sale:** Large 2.75 acre wooded corner lot on beautiful Hickory Hills Lake. Approved 3 bedroom septic design, water view and lake rights, \$120,000. Please contact Linda Marble or view at [www.LinMarble.com](http://www.LinMarble.com)

**For Sale:** Classic Ethan Allen Living Room Set, newly reupholstered, green mauve and maroon tapestry pattern. 2 couches, 2 chairs and 1 ottoman for \$1900. Each couch \$700, each chair \$350 and ottoman \$100, call 582-9032.



### HHL Increase in Costs

In our last newsletter we showed you where the money the annual maintenance fee was going. In this issue we would like to share the facts around the increase in costs over just the past five years.

Below is a summary of costs, comparing 2002 to last year's major costs. As you can see over the five year period, some of the line items have increased while others have decreased. Things like Security have gone down due to less hours covered by paid employees and some hours covered by volunteers. Office payroll is less due to the termination of healthcare coverage. The costs of inspecting and maintaining the dam, along with taxes, insurance, legal counsel and accounting services continue to increase. The comparison shows that last year's total expense of \$94,900 is an increase of about 33% over the last five years.

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2007</u>
• Dam Maintenance	\$ 2,500	19,000
• Facilities, supplies	\$ 7,500	11,000
• Taxes	\$ 8,000	11,000
• Ins. legal & acc.	\$ 5,000	12,000
• Lake and Property	\$ 9,500	8,000
• Office payroll	\$ 23,500	21,000
• Replaced copier	\$ 3,000	1,400
• Security	\$ 8,000	5,500
• Community Events	\$ 3,000	4,000
• Harvester	<u>\$ 900</u>	<u>2,000</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 70,900</b>	<b>\$ 94,900</b>

\*Numbers have been rounded for easier reading.

Your HHL 2008 annual maintenance bills should have arrived at your homes this week. You will notice that there is a new line item on the bill labeled "Additional Maintenance Contribution." This line gives you the opportunity to voluntarily add to your annual fee. Any additional amount will be greatly appreciated.

### 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk for Wally

This year's "Walk for Wally" will be held on **Saturday, May 10th at 10 a.m.** starting in front of Lunenburg High School.

The *Walk for Wally* was started by Wally's friends and classmates, and benefits the Wallace Foskett III Memorial Scholarship Fund, which provides a scholarship given in Wally's memory. Each year we pass on some of Wally's love, strength, and perseverance to a graduating senior who has endured a hardship and still prevailed. Please join us for the 3.5 mile walk/run held in loving memory of Wally.

For anyone who may want to make a pledge or donation, (checks can be made out to the Wallace Foskett II Scholarship Fund), please contact Patty at 978-582-7635 or email her at [Foskett@verizon.net](mailto:Foskett@verizon.net). Or visit the website at <http://mysite.verizon.net/foskett/>

Thank you all for your kind thoughts and support... Patty, Wally & Melissa Foskett

### Landlords...

Please remember as landlords in HHL you are responsible to ensure the office has the current names and phone numbers of your tenants.

In addition, please be sure to register any boats they may have and provide them with IDs. Give them a copy of the annual license you receive from the office once your annual maintenance fees are paid.

We appreciate all your help in keeping our records up to date.