



Spring 2023

Spring has arrived in the Lakes Region. The ice is gone, the loons are back, and many of you are already getting your boats and docks in the water. We at the WWN are gearing up for another busy and exciting summer!

Ice In, and Out, and In, and....OUT!



What an unusual winter this was! As with its bigger sister lake, Lake Winnisquam experienced one of the latest ice-ins on record this year with ice-in officially being declared on February 5th. A few days later the lake was nearly all open water again, although it refroze within the week. By the end of March most of the lake to the south of Three Islands was open water again while the ice continued to linger at the north end and in some of the less exposed areas. Ice-out on Winnisquam was officially declared on April 11th, when the last of the ice cover disappeared.

Many thanks to Peter Dupak who monitors the ice for the WWN, and to other members who report in from around the lake. The WWN monitors ice-in and ice-out on Lake Winnisquam in conjunction with the NH Department of Environmental Services and the data is used to track long-term trends.

While the ice is gone the water is still cold. Officials are warning people to be sure to wear life vests while boating, kayaking or canoeing. The shock of falling into water colder than 50 degrees can render a person helpless, even if they know how to swim well.



Work on Watershed Plan Implementation Begins

The Winnisquam Watershed Network has begun a project to address some of the pollution sources identified in the recently completed Lake Winnisquam Watershed-Based Plan. Three high priority sites that discharge excess sediment and nutrients to the lake have been selected for the design and installation of structural Best Management Practices to manage stormwater. Funding for the project (\$125k) is provided in part by a Watershed Assistance Grant from the NH Department of Environmental Services with Clean Water Act Section 319 funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The WWN is partnering with the City of Laconia to address erosion at the city-owned park at the terminus of Gale Ave caused by road runoff and wave action along the shoreline. In Meredith, the WWN will work with the Town and members of the Deer Park Association to manage stormwater runoff and reduce erosion at the Association's beach. The third site is in Sanbornton, where the WWN will partner with that town to better manage drainage from unpaved Kaulback Road where it discharges into Black Brook, a tributary to Lake Winnisquam.

The engineering firm of Comprehensive Environmental Inc. (CEI) of Merrimack NH has been engaged to provide design and permitting services. Work on the project is underway and the WWN is hoping to begin construction at the three sites later this year.

Although Winnisquam has excellent water quality it does, like other lakes in the region, face challenges. For the first time in several years there were two documented blooms of potentially harmful cyanobacteria on the lake last summer. Harmful algae blooms are caused in part by excess nutrients, particularly phosphorus, in the water. The Lake Winnisquam Watershed Based Plan, completed in July 2022, identified over 100 sites in the watershed that are sources of nonpoint pollution and outlined measures to be

undertaken to reduce phosphorus loading and protect the water quality of the lake into the future. This project is the first step in the implementation of the plan.

Welcoming Back our Lake Hosts



Our Lake Hosts play a critical role in keeping Winnisquam free from aquatic invasive species, conducting courtesy boat and trailer inspections at the public ramp in Laconia and educating boaters on "Clean, Drain, and Dry" practices. The WWN is fortunate that the two wonderful and experienced Lake Hosts we've had for the past several summers, Deb Williams and Barb Chapman, have agreed to return again this year. Deb and Barb inspected more than 4,000 boats last summer and made an important save when they discovered an invasive water chestnut seed hitchhiking on

somebody's trailer and prevented it from getting into Lake Winnisquam. Please be sure to say hello to them when you launch your boats, and let them know how much we all appreciate their work.

You can also show your appreciation by helping us to fund this important program. Our Lake Host program is supported in part by a grant from NH Lakes (who also help us administer the program) but in order to staff the ramp seven days a week throughout the busy summer season the WWN needs to raise an additional \$13,000. Won't you help us out?

HELP US REACH OUR GOAL

Local Natural Resources Organizations Featured

Be sure to check out this month's exhibit at the Belknap Mill in downtown Laconia, which features information on a number of environmental organizations (including the Winnisquam Watershed Network) that are working to protect natural resources in the area. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the work each organization is conducting and how you can support their efforts. The display will be at the Mill for the month of May. The Mill is open weekdays from 9 am - 5 pm.

Neighborhood Developments

Those of you who are seasonal visitors to Winnisquam may notice a few changes when you return this summer. Site work is underway at the former Anchorage property in preparation for the construction of a resort hotel complex, The Preserve at Winnisquam. We do not yet have an estimated completion date on that project.

Down the street at the former Jay's Marina, now owned and operated by East Coast Flightcraft, the new DOX restaurant will be opening this summer. Renovation of the space is underway and we're told it will include a 36-seat bar, open-air dining overlooking the lake, live entertainment and space for docking your boat while visiting the restaurant. DOX is owned by the family-run Mariano's Restaurant Group, who have three other restaurant locations in the southern New Hampshire/northern Massachusetts area.

And word has it that the Lobster Connection will remain in its current location for another season as work continues on the new and larger space across the street.

Get Involved to Help Us Protect the Lake You Love

The WWN relies on volunteer effort to help with weed watching and water quality monitoring as well as most of our day-to-day operations, and we'd love to have your help. Want to help with occasional water quality monitoring or weed watching (we'll provide the training)? Or perhaps you have photos of the lake or its wildlife that we can share? [Let us know](#) how you'd like to help. And we ask everyone to please help us spread the word about the [Winnisquam Watershed Network](#) and encourage others to [join](#). Together we can do more to protect the lake we love!

YES, I WANT TO HELP



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