

## **P. R. P. Association, Inc.**

P.O. Box 98, E. Wakefield, NH 03830

*Associated Website: [www: pineriverpond.org](http://www.pineriverpond.org)*

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*“Dedicated to promoting the welfare  
of Pine River Pond and its environs.”*

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### **JANUARY 2007 NEWSLETTER**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

As I begin this first newsletter of 2007, it is on the first day of the New Year. The impact of a New Year’s Day ice storm has thankfully diminished with temps now in the mid thirties. The 3” of powder snow that fell Saturday, Dec 30 has now been turned into an icy-slushy mess that will likely be gone by midweek.

The mild late fall and early winter weather has presented the prospect of back-to-back marginal winters in NH. Good for our heating bills but a big disappointment to winter sports enthusiasts. However it’s still early in the winter so stay tuned!

#### **ICE OUT CONTEST:**

Speaking of ice, once again we’re pleased to announce the SEVENTH annual Jim McRobbie Memorial Ice Out Contest. Dave Lee Sr. has organized this again. (Thanks Dave!) Since nearly half of newsletters now get sent out electronically we won’t mail out applications. To get an application, go to our website and print out a copy. If you’re still not “wired” call one of the officers (see header above) and we’ll mail you one. Of course, there should only be ONE GUESS PER PERSON! We perpetuate Jim’s memory through this contest, which was originally his idea. Jim, husband of Boni was a long-time lake

resident and big supporter of the association.

### **MEMBERSHIP:**

Currently there are **381** paid memberships (and 10 honorary) in the Association. Applications are available on the website or call one of the officers listed above. We encourage multiple memberships in the same household. Each membership gets a newsletter and the satisfaction of supporting the good works of the Association.

As you're aware, our officers are all volunteers and therefore making life easier for them is important. While the majority of applications and dues are sent directly to PO Box 98 for our treasurer, there are some road associations that collect the dues for the association. Unfortunately sometimes road association politics affects their collections as well as ours. Howie Knight has once again asked these road associations to reconsider collecting PRP dues so members can pay us directly. This would also eliminate delays in receipt fireworks donations as well. I'm sure this will be addressed at a future meeting.

### **N.H. LEGISLATIVE ISSUES:**

If you want to know what's happening and have internet access, log onto [www.State.nh.us](http://www.State.nh.us). Why not put it on your "favorites" and check it out from time to time.

### **NEW PRP WEBSITE**

Our 'new' website, [www.pineriverpond.org](http://www.pineriverpond.org), is nearly a year old. Dave Lee Jr. has done a great job of managing it and we appreciate his efforts. If you have input that you think may be appropriate, e-mail him through the association address.

### **BOATING SAFETY COURSE:**

The ability to take the required NH Boating Course on-line expired on New Year's Eve. Hopefully most procrastinators squeezed it in and are now "legal" to operate boats 25HP and over. For the latest information on certification, please go to [www.nhboatingeducation.com](http://www.nhboatingeducation.com).

### **WINTER SPORTS:**

The lake is only partially frozen now but soon it should be all frozen though as with every year one should exercise extreme caution on early ice. Even when new ice is safe for skating, etc, a **heavy snow** can weigh the ice down, allowing water to seep up and cause **slushy** areas, which can trap a snowmobile. Snowmobiling is a popular winter activity and it exists in Greater Wakefield thanks to the hard work of core members and supporters of the Seven Lakes Snowmobile Club. For more information, please visit: [www.sevenlakessnowmobileclub.com](http://www.sevenlakessnowmobileclub.com). Most of the trails are on private land with permission, so with increasing development, keeping trails open is a constant challenge. It is imperative that landowner rights are respected by all.

There are THREE authorized trail access points from the lake. One is at mid-lake on the NE side, one is out of Heron Cove (NW end) and the other is in the cove nearest the PR Steak House (not “dam” cove). Please use only the authorized trails, otherwise you need written landowner permission with you when you ride.

**LOST AND FOUND and “FOR SALE”:**

Contact Dave Lee Sr. at [prpassociation@rcn.com](mailto:prpassociation@rcn.com) to spread the word. Please note this is for lake-related items only.

**LAKE LEVEL:**

After a long drawn out drawdown, the lake finally reached its winter level around Thanksgiving weekend. The heavy rains we had in the fall slowed the whole process but hopefully those of you who had dock or beach work were able to complete it. The mild late fall would have made that possible. Based on the actual snow-pack, boards are usually slowly added back in late February or early March.

As a reminder, decisions on when to raise or lower the lake are made by the NH Water Resources Board. A job made very tricky in recent years with our alternate dry spells and flooding. Kudos to them for the prompt repairs to the dam after the Mother’s day 2006 floods.

**EAGLES:**

We are being visited quite regularly by at least one, possibly two bald eagles. These have been showing up sporadically for perhaps the last three years. In September we watched from our waterfront as one soared spiraling up on thermals until it was just a speck in the sky. Unlike the turkey vultures we often see, these are unmistakable up close.

*The following four articles were submitted by Jim Guiod, President, PRP Assn:*

**PINE RIVER POND RD & RTE 16 INTERSECTION PROJECT:**

Good news! NH DOT has completed the initial phase and the Rte 16 roadbed has been widened and site lines improved. The new two additional lanes have not been paved and so are not functional – that will happen in the spring. Stay tuned for further updates in our spring newsletter. At long last, real progress thanks to persistent efforts of Lois Bryant. Thanks Lois. We are looking forward to greater safety here in the future!

**YOUNG’S BROOK:**

Again, good news! Richard Uncles, NH dept of Agriculture, reports that he inspected the farm upstream on Young’s Brook where animals wading the brook that have been suspected of causing bacteria problems in PRP waters. Mr. Uncle’s reports that the owner of the farm is following state guidelines & regulations for keeping animals out of the brook and that the state ‘grant’ for fencing had been implemented and completed according to the terms of the grant. Also, Mr. Uncles notes, that the owner of the farm is very concerned about the environment and pollution issues. That bodes well for future –

if anyone notices farm animals next season in Young's Brook, please let us know. (FYI, Young's Brook is the one that enters PRP from the West into Pickerel Cove near PRP Rd)

### **BOG POND:**

Many of our members have watched in dismay while the ridge behind the bog pond at the southwest corner of our lake was cut and developed, a seasonal dock appeared in the pond and the old footbridge crossing the channel was removed. We discussed this at the annual meeting and I reported previously that after many conversations NH DES officials, they informed me that the land is private property and the bog & pond is legally state property (it's considered part of the lake) and thus existing building & dock permitting regulations apply.

I detailed in an earlier article posted on our website, that the new owners appear to be in compliance with state & town water/shoreline regulations pending the outcome of the Town Compliance Officer's ongoing inspections.

Bottom line, the State will not inspect this bog pond unless there is some clear violation of regulations even to determine if there is any endangered species. Therefore, the PRP Board voted in the fall meeting to fund a state certified biologist to check the bog pond this spring for any endangered species as past informal inspections have not discovered any. In addition, the Town Conservation Commission will consider if the bog qualifies for a 'protected wetland' status. Either the discovery of endangered species or designation as a protected wetland would introduce mitigation into the bog pond development - which we hope the new & future owners welcome. At any rate, the Association does not seek to interfere with any property owner's rights. Rather our purpose is to reference existing rules, best conservations practices and methods so all parties get the most benefit & use of this beautiful, unique natural resource.

### **PROPERTY TAX INCREASE:**

Many of us were surprised at the amount of tax increase in our December bill! The town took an 18% across the board increase for this past year - the increase was approximately doubled in the December bill to make up for the earlier summer bill (which had no increase). This was to fund the town budget increase, which in turn was due to the warrants voted in last year. Many of us had an increase of over 18% (for the year) and if you have concerned that your property is not taxed fairly there are some things you can do: first, file for a tax abatement (deadline March 1<sup>st</sup>) by going to the State of NH website and printing out the abatement form on: [www.nh.gov/btla/form.html](http://www.nh.gov/btla/form.html) -or- contact Cynthia Bickford, Town of Wakefield Assessing Clerk to get a form (522-6205 X 300). There is also a separate form to challenge building or land dimension/technical issues. Ms. Bickford is more than willing to help explain the use of the forms. The second thing you can do is to attend in the Town, Selectman & other meetings. Your input may have an impact on the way the Town budgets & spends tax revenues - even if you're not a voter!

### **PASSAGES:**

Our sympathies are extended to the families and friends of **MARILYN CHASE** who passed away after a lengthy illness on December 23. She was mother of Boni McRobbie and daughter of Jean Frasier.

**Have a safe and Happy New Year!**

***Bob Lundgren***  
Newsletter Editor