

# Portage Lake Association Newsletter

June 2015

Volume 28, Issue 1

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## ***2015 Events and Activities***

Sat. June 13th	5 p.m.	Portage Lake Historical Society Annual Meeting & Dinner
Sat. July 4th	10 a.m.	Annual Boat Parade (hosted by PLA)
Sat. July 18th	4 p.m.	Chicken BBQ at Pavilion (Portage ATV Club)
Fri. Aug. 7th	5 p.m.	PLA Pot Luck Dinner, Annual Meeting and entertainment
Sat. Aug. 8th	9-3	Chub Fishing Derby
Fri. Aug. 14th	6 p.m.	Town Potluck BBQ & Supper at Pavilion (Historical Soc.)
	7:30 p.m.	Luminary Memorial Ceremony at Pavilion (Historical Soc.)
Sat. Aug. 15th	10-1	Whoopie Pie Festival (hosted by Tourism Committee)
	1-3 p.m.	Music by the Fiddleheads at Town Hall (hosted by PLSC*)
	3 p.m.	Motorcycle Rodeo at Town Hall (hosted by PLSC*)
	4 p.m.	Pig Roast at Town Hall (hosted by PLSC*)
	6:30-8	Canoe Carry from Little Machias (Historical Society)
	9 p.m.	Fireworks Over The Lake (hosted by Tourism Committee)
	9 p.m.	Dance at Dean's (hosted by Portage Lakers)
Sat. Sep. 5th	Dusk	Ring of Fire (hosted by PLA)

\* Portage Lakers Snowmobile Club

## ***Fourth of July Boat Parade***

The PLA is hosting a boat parade on the morning of July 4th. This year's theme is "Celebration!" Participating craft are asked to gather near the campground/boat landing by 10:00 a.m. As in the past, PLA will provide refreshments for the participants.

If you can't participate in the boat parade, come down the shore and cheer the parade members on as they pass your spot on the lake.

For more information about the boat parade, feel free to call Susan Doyen (227-7003) or Martha LaPointe (227-3849).

## ***Whoopie Pie Festival - August 15th***

The Tourism Committee will host the Whoopie Pie Festival again this year, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, August 15th. This year's festival is being held in loving memory of Wilza Robertson, who contributed so much to the local community during her life. Anyone wishing to reserve a booth may call Taunja Jandreau at 435-6341.

## ***Portage Lake Historical Society***

The annual Bean-Hole Bean & Baked Ham Dinner and Annual Meeting, hosted by the Portage Lake Historical Society, is scheduled for Saturday, June 13th, beginning at 5:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. All are invited to this event, which allows the Historical Society to share with the public its recent accomplishments and its plans for the future. Donations will be accepted.

The Historical Society holds regular meetings the 4th Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Voting Room at the Town Hall.

Over the course of this summer the Historical Society will be hosting a “mini-museum” in the Voting Room of the Town Hall, with a theme of Portage Lake Schools. The Voting Room is accessible during hours that the Town Office is open. The Historical Society would welcome any pictures, documents or other memorabilia relating to schools in Portage Lake that individuals would like to lend for this summer’s exhibit.

If you are interested in participating in the Historical Society or become a supporting member, forms will be available at the dinner. Please feel free to contact Corrine Routhier (227-0819) or Sarah Brooks (551-6471) with questions about the Historical Society. Email: [portagelakehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com](mailto:portagelakehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com).

## ***Annual Canoe Carry - August 15th***

Each year Jim Dumond leads a group of enthusiastic participants in a re-enactment of the portage that local Native Americans made in order to pass between two important waterways that led from the St. John River into the vast interior woodlands; a portage from Little Machias Lake and its access to the Aroostook River, to Portage Lake on the Fish River. This year’s canoe carry is scheduled for August 15th. Members of the Wesget Sipu Fish River Tribe will once again take part in the celebration.

As always, Jim would love to have a great many canoes or kayaks participate in the final stage, which is the paddle across the lake to the old seaplane base, where an enthusiastic crowd awaits. Join the portagers at the bottom of the lake (near where the Maine Woods Road joins West Road) by 7:30 p.m. Call Jim at 277-1864 for more info.

## ***Chub Tournament - August 8th***

A Chub Fishing Derby will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, August 8th. Entry fee is \$5. Check in at the dock on Hayward Street, and return with your bucket of chubs. Prizes will be awarded based on the total weight of your catch. 1st Place, 50% of entry fees; 2nd Place 30%; 3rd Place 20%.

Entry forms will be available at the town office beginning on July 3rd. Call Larry Duchette at 435-4361 for more information.

## ***Floating Classroom - July 18th***

The “Floating Classroom” will return to Portage Lake this summer, sponsored by the PLA. On Saturday, July 18th, the pontoon boat Melinda Ann, operated by the Maine Lakes Society, will make several trips onto the lake, carrying 12-15 passengers on each trip. During each trip one of the Maine Lakes Society’s professional educators will introduce general information about lake health and quality, and introduce several pieces of scientific equipment. Most importantly, passengers will engage in “hands on” activities, such as using an Aqua-Scope and a Secchi disk to measure water clarity.

PLA’s Lake Coordinator, Ray Wakefield, has the schedule for the “Floating Classroom” trips. Those interested in participating should contact Ray at 435-3063 to reserve places on the boat. The PLA is asking for a modest \$5 contribution per participant to provide a slight offset to the significant cost of bringing the Melinda Ann to Portage Lake.

## ***Water Safety***

One task that the PLA undertakes each year is to install safety buoys on the lake to mark shallow water areas, underwater hazards, etc. Ray Wakefield and Jim Kelley recently put the buoys in place for this summer season. For your safety and the safety of others, please heed the warning that these buoys provide. One other important reminder: “Headway” speed is mandatory within two hundred feet from shoreline (lake or river).

## ***Portage Hills Country Club***

Another season is underway at Portage Hills. The course survived the winter very well, and the spring rains have worked their wonders. For those of you who have never played there, Portage Hills is an incredibly scenic course which presents a few challenges, but remains very playable for the amateur golfer. On any given day, the scenery can include deer, foxes, ducks, or wild turkeys. Throughout the season, an occasional moose may wander onto one of the fairways. Keep your camera handy!

Back at the clubhouse, take advantage of the Watering Hole for drinks and bite to eat. The clubhouse’s expansive outdoor deck provides stunning views of much of the course and of the outlet end of Portage Lake.

As was the case last year, Portage Hills is offering first year memberships for \$200. Evening golf leagues exist for both men and women. All are welcome!

So if friends or visitors ask about golf in the area, tell them that great golf awaits just up the hill from town. Vanessa Layton, clubhouse manager, is absolutely correct when she claims that “Portage Hills County Club is a hidden gem in Aroostook County.”

For more information, call the clubhouse at 435-8221, or send an email to [portagehills@gmail.com](mailto:portagehills@gmail.com). You can also check out *Portage Hills County Club* on Facebook.

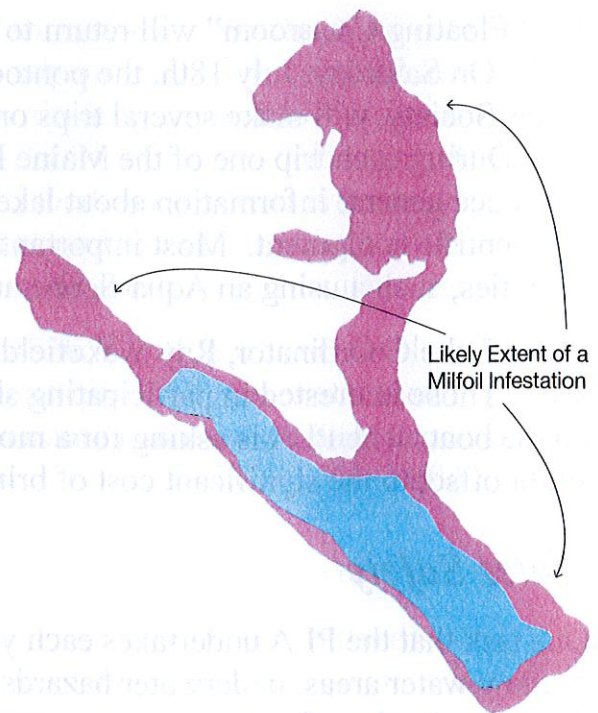


## ***Why We Care...***

The image on the right represents the footprint of Portage Lake. Since Eurasian Milfoil thrives in water up to ten feet deep, and since Portage is such a shallow lake, the prospect of an invasive plant infestation here is unthinkable. The maroon sections of this diagram represent the areas of the lake where an infestation of Eurasian milfoil would ultimately produce a floating mass of thick vegetation that would prevent swimming, paddling, skiing, sailing and fishing.

Infestations cannot be eliminated or reversed. Attempts to contain them or temporarily (i.e. year to year) ameliorate them can be extraordinarily expensive for lake associations and individuals property owners.

*For Portage Lake, the only answer is prevention!*



## ***Courtesy Boat Inspection Program***

Each summer, supported by a grant from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), PLA participates in the Courtesy Boat Inspection Program, under the auspices of the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP). Our CBI inspectors are trained in the identification of invasive plant species and generously donate their time on weekends at the Campground Boat Launch to help you self-inspect your boats. Many thanks to the inspectors who volunteered a combined of 325 hours of their time in 2014. A total of 573 boats were inspected last year. Happily, no invasive plant were identified.

Aubrey Cyr	John & Mary Ellen Hanling	Alison Mount
Ray Cyr	Peter & Martha Haskell *	John Richey *
Christy Dicker	Jim & Vicky Kelley	Corrine & Jack Routhier
Betty Dumond	Donna Kincer *	Alan & Teri Schlemmer
Fred Edgecomb	Linda Lunney	Gordon Somerville
Scott & Heather Ehlin	Duke Martin	Ella & Judy Stevens
Kathy Gagnon	Lou & Beverly Miller	Ray & Elaine Wakefield
Marcelle Gagnon	Ralph & Cindy Miller	Brian Wilson

CBI coordinator Ray Wakefield is always in need of additional volunteers to cover the two-hour inspection shifts, either as individuals or couples. Ray is certified to train new inspectors, and is most happy to do so. Call Ray at 435-3063 for more information.

\* Also certified as Lake Water Quality Monitor

## ***Message from the President...***

Since 1988, the Portage Lake Association has been “dedicated to preserving and enhancing all those elements that make Portage Lake a unique Aroostook County recreation area.” As with all their predecessors, the current PLA Board of Directors views that commitment as a solemn responsibility. Protecting the water quality of Portage Lake remains the top priority, as evidenced by our annual investment in the Courtesy Boat Inspection program. In our effort to support the broader community, PLA sponsors annual events such as the boat parade and “ring of fire”. Of course, this annual newsletter gives us the opportunity not only to publicize our activities and accomplishments, but it also enables us to share information on behalf of numerous other community organizations.

We welcome ideas and suggestions that can help us achieve our goals. Please feel free to contact any of the PLA officers and directors listed below.

Sincerely,

Jim Kelley

### ***PLA Officers***

Jim Kelley, President  
Ralph Miller, Vice President  
Holly Umphrey, Vice President  
Martha LaPointe, Secretary  
Peter Haskell, Treasurer  
Ray Wakefield, Immediate Past President  
Larry Duchette, Selectboard Representative

### ***Other PLA Directors***

Aubrey Cyr  
Susan Doyen  
Fred Edgecomb  
Louis Miller  
Adam Soucy  
Anita Theriault

Please .....

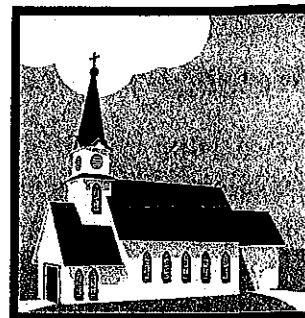
**DETACH THE MEMBERSHIP FORM (REVERSE SIDE) TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP  
OR TO BECOME A NEW MEMBER OF THE PORTAGE LAKE ASSOCIATION**

### ***In Memoriam***

Officers and directors of the PLA, both past and present, continue to mourn the unfortunately passing last fall of Donald Martin. “Duke” served as Treasurer of the PLA for a great many years, and contributed to the successes of the organization in a great many other ways, including as a long-time Courtesy Boat Inspector. Duke Martin was a kind, thoughtful and generous person, and he is sorely missed.

## Local Church Schedules

Catholic Church - Portage Lake Sunday, 9:00 a.m.  
 Congregational Church - Portage Lake Sunday, 10:00 a.m.  
 Catholic Church - Ashland Sunday, 10:30 a.m.  
 Congregational Church - Ashland Sunday, 9:00 a.m.  
 Advent Christian Church - Ashland Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

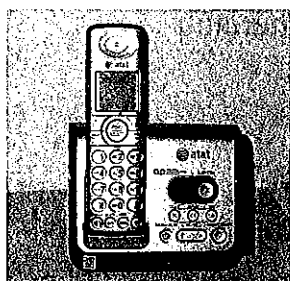


## Portage Hills Golf Tournaments

July 11th	Ashland Masons Tournament
July 25th	Pratico/Sileski/Colutti Tournament
August 15th	Rayno Cote Mixed Couples Tournament
September 5,6,7,8	Club Championship

## Important Phone Numbers

Police, Ambulance, Fire (Emergency)	911
Aroostook County Sheriff	800-432-7842
Game Warden (Dave Milligan)	227-9135
Portage Lake Fire Warden	227-2989



Ashland Health Center	435-6341
Portage Lake Town Office	435-4361
Portage Lake Post Office	435-6947
Coffin's General Store	435-2811
Dean's Motor Lodge	435-3701
Portage Hills County Club	435-8221

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

(July 2015 to June 2016)

**Annual Membership Fee: \$20.00**  
 (2015 fee waived for first-time members)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_

Summer Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Winter Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Additional contributions are welcome.*

Please return to: **Portage Lake Association, P.O. Box 224, Portage Lake, ME 04768**