

NOTE: if the date printed above your name is not 2011 – YOUR MEMBERSHIP is not current. Every membership makes a difference. Please make sure we have your current email address if you'd like to receive email updates and/or newsletter via email.

HRA Membership Form – Membership \$35.00 per year per family
Return to and Payable to: Friends of HRA, 27 Sturbridge Road, Unit 17, Holland MA 01521

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Holland Phone: _____ Home Phone _____

North Basin ____ South Basin (CT side) ____ Neither ____ YEAR PD ____ Check # _____

Holland Address: _____

Email _____

If you'd like newsletters emailed to you check here: ____

If you'd like to make an additional donation to our membership, please do so \$ ____ All donations are tax deductible.
Thank you for your support.



Friends of HRA, Inc., 27 Sturbridge Rd., Unit 17, Holland, MA 01521 Tel# 413 668 6851



Pictured Above: Jim Dusza, Sam from Big Bunny, and Beck Hilbig

And the Winners of our Meat Raffle Plus are:

- William Chmura of Holland
- Susan Larade of Natick

Thanks to Becky Hilbig for the idea and all of the others who worked very hard to make our Big Bunny Meat Raffle Plus a fundraising success!

Lake Maintenance and Treatment

This year (2011) marks the fourth successive year that Aquatic Control has been selected by the Town and FHRA as their lake management consultant and contractor. Since their engagement by the Town's Lake Oversight Committee and the HRA, they've worked together to increase our collective knowledge and understanding of the lake. To that end, an annual water quality monitoring program has been established with water samples collected during late spring/early summer and again later in the summer. Test results are interpreted relative to Massachusetts standards/criteria and are used to gauge the quality of the water in Hamilton Reservoir. We're pleased to report that the overall water quality in the reservoir compares favorably with other MA waterbodies. The water in Hamilton Reservoir does, however, tend to be somewhat "tea colored" by mid-summer but this is largely of natural origin owing to the organic lake bottom sediments. When the water in the lake warms come summer, these organic deposits release tannic acid into the water, very similar to when warm or hot water is added to a "tea-bag." The laboratory analyses that we perform for E. Coli Bacteria twice a year in two locations in both the lake's north and south basins have almost always tested well within the state guidelines and acceptable limits for swimming. Nutrient levels, that is phosphorus and nitrogen compounds, that are critical to the fertility of a waterbody, are generally low in concentration. One might logically then ask, "if the water tests of such good quality in the lake then why do we have a substantial weed /plant problem in portions of the lake?". The answer is that rooted aquatic plants derive their nutrients largely from the bottom sediments and not the overlying water column. Ponds or lakes can have almost pristine water quality but if the sediments contain even small amounts of available phosphorus and nitrogen, then nuisance vegetation may grow there. Furthermore, non-native plants like variable watermilfoil, which is a common nuisance plant in Hamilton Reservoir, are especially opportunistic under such conditions. Even in very low nutrient

The FHRA phone number is 413 668 6851 – you can leave a message and one of the board members will return your call. If you need additional information visit HRA website www.hamiltonreservoir.com.

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Holland, MA 01521



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waters such as Lake Winnepesaukee in NH, variable watermilfoil is a significant nuisance in a many areas of the lake, which ACT was then called upon to chemically treat and manage each year.

More detailed aquatic plant surveys are now performed in late spring and summer than in the past. These surveys are used to guide the management program and provide feed-back as to the effectiveness of the management actions being employed. These surveys also offer us the opportunity to be on the look-out for possible new infestations of other invasive plants that may just be getting a foot-hold in Hamilton Reservoir. Prompt action to control such small infestations of new invasive species affords the best opportunity to prevent their spread and for potential eradication.

Over the next week or two, ACT plans on inspecting the lake again to assess the degree of control attained following their mid-June aquatic herbicide treatment targeting variable watermilfoil. We'll also be looking at areas of the lake that support nuisance densities of other plants, namely ribbonleaf pondweed and tapegrass/wild celery. If these plants are found to be a problem, they'll offer management recommendations.

Later this summer, they'll be looking to complete the chemical "spot-treatment" of the waterlilies and watershield in the "high use" areas of the lake. You may recall that we were unable to fully complete last year's treatment due to a high frequency of windy and rainy days in September. For this particular treatment we need a relatively calm day with no rain forecast for at least 6-8 hrs., post-treatment.

As required by Mass General Law, the Town Board of Health continues to test five (5) locations on the lake weekly for ecoli. The results have been posted. Any number under 235 parts per million are safe. The numbers vary weekly but have been <10 to 70 ppm.

Lake Oversight Committee - LOC

In the long-term, the HRA and the Lake Oversight Committee are working to explore other potential weed control strategies – both chemical and non-chemical.

The LOC has been investigating non chemical alternatives to treating the weeds. We will bring that information to the next HRA meeting to share with the members.

The LOC has also been working with Laila Parker, Watershed Ecologist one of the Flow Restoration/River Instream Flow Stewards in the Division of Ecological Restoration Massachusetts Dept. of Fish and Game to determine what amount of water should actually be let out of the dam into the Quinnebaug River. A gauge has been installed at Alexander Rd and the LOC volunteers are taking readings a few times each week. These will be entered into a database used to help determine the river flow.

Safety

If anyone on the lake is renting or having company using boats, jet skiis, snowmobiles, or ATVs it is your responsibility to inform them of the Lake Rules. All Massachusetts Laws apply on Hamilton Reservoir including the new snowmobile and ATV rules we put out in our winter newsletter. There are also Holland General Bylaws that apply. Rules such as but not limited to: all traffic (including non motorized boats) is counterclockwise; only two people max. can be towed behind a boat even if the tube holds three or the boat can pull more skiers; no towing of any kind behind jet skiis; etc, Copies of the Holland Rules can be found on our website. Mass General Laws about boating can be found on the internet. The Mass General Law (MGL sections 89 and 90B) rules for motorized winter vehicles apply on Hamilton Reservoir.

Fundraising

Our fun filled trip to the Mohegan Sun Casino is scheduled for Saturday September 17, 2011. The bus will leave the Walmart in Sturbridge, MA at 4 pm and return from Mohegan at 10 pm. For \$25, each ticket includes the bus ride, a \$10 voucher for food and a \$10 gambling voucher. Advance tickets are necessary. Please contact Bev Aube at 413 245-0194 to reserve your seat.

The new HRA calendar is now available and we will have them for sale at our next meeting. This calendar goes from August 2011 through December 2012. The Calendars sell for \$10 each. These would make nice gifts. They will be on sale at the Ski Show at PJs on August 20th and at HRA August 27th meeting. If you can't attend the meeting - contact Chris at 413 245 3666.



The next HRA Meeting will be held on Saturday, August 27, 2011 at 9:00AM at the Holland Elementary School with refreshments at 8:30. Elections will be held at the August meeting. Please consider running for an office and making a difference.

Save these dates:

August 20, 2011 - Holland Aqua Riders Ski Show at PJs
August 27, 2011 - HRA Meeting 9:00 at the Holland Elementary School
September 17, 2011 - Mohegan Sun Trip 9:00 at the Holland Elementary School

May 19, 2012 - HRA Spring Meeting
June 10, 2012 - HRA Pancake Breakfast at the Holland Sr Center
August 18, 2012 - Holland Aqua Riders Ski Show at PJs
August 25, 2012 - HRA Meeting 9:00 at the Holland Elementary School

Another reminder - PLEASE DO NOT FEED THE GEESE and remind anyone you see just how toxic they are to the lake. Also, members have seen others sweeping the duck droppings off of their docks and rafts right into the lake... please do not dispose of the duck or geese waste in the lake.

We need someone to be in charge of refreshments for our next meeting, please consider volunteering. If you are interested please call the FHRA cell phone at 413 668 6851.