



Friends of HRA, Inc. 27 Sturbridge Rd., Unit 17, Holland, MA 01521

October, 2009

ACT WEED SURVEY

ACT was on the lake at the end of September conducting the fall survey. The complete report will be available in November and we will put that information in the next newsletter. Will also publish on our web site at www.hamiltonreservoir.com

If you see any plants that you would like to have ACT identify - please take a photo showing detail of the plant and email the photo file to Jim Dusza at dus3J@aol.com and he will forward them to ACT. Be sure to let Jim know the address where these plants have been identified. We will review with ACT and decide which weeds might need to be treated next year.

DRAW DOWN

This year's draw down will be different than in the last few years. At the last meeting the HRA voted to recommend to the town that the draw down begin the day after Columbus Day and continue at a rate of approximately 2 inches per day until the lake is down 24 inches from its normal level. If the lake remains at the lower level it is not an additional 24 inches but it will be let down until it reaches the total of 24 inches.

The Army Corps of Engineers manages the level of Mashapaug Lake which flows into our reservoir. They consider doing a drawdown there about every three years. Last week they met with the Union, CT Selectman and decided to have a drawdown this year tentatively beginning October 15, 2009. Typically it takes up to three weeks to complete - depending on their water level when they start. In the past, any drawdown of Mashapaug has started well before the end of September so this late notice and late start required the town of Holland to rethink how they will handle our drawdown.

Because our lake level continues to be low, the Town has decided to wait until at least one week after they start the Mashapaug drawdown before we open our gates on approximately October 22nd. This will bring our lake up to a normal level for a few weeks where people can get their boats out before we actually start seeing it lower again. Once our lake reaches its normal level and we open gates at the dam - it will remain at that level because water is still coming in until Mashapaug has completed its drawdown and we are no longer getting all that water.

At that point our gates will remain open and continue until our lake is down the 24 inches which should take about two weeks. Of course, all of this depends on the weather (rain or no rain and how much water we get from Mashapaug)

LAKE TESTING

The Holland Board of Health has been testing the lake for E Coli all summer at different locations each week. As we discussed at the meeting, the levels varied but were always well below acceptable levels. The specifications state that no single samples shall exceed 235 colonies per 100 ml of water. They actually use a geometric mean which states that it is ok to have one sample over 235 but the average of five (5) tests must be below 126. When it finally got warm the Holland Board of Health tested nine (9) locations on 8/29/2009: the Connecticut portion; PJ's Beach; Causeway culvert- South side; Massaconic Shores Beach; Beaches off Over the Top road; Beach at the end of Craig Rd; The Marina; the Boat ramp on Shore drive; and Fisherman's

Landing near the dam. The results went from 12 CFUs per 100 ml of water in the Connecticut end to 170 CFUs at the Marina.

Friends of HRA Board of Directors held their annual meeting on October 4, 2009

Lake Oversight Committee - LOC

Places that need work for the next grant

With direction from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, we are in the early steps in the process of applying for another Federal 319 grant. This is a Federal matching grant for stormwater management. We are asking all our members to submit specific areas that have stormwater management issues which ultimately result in sediment ending up in the lake. Areas in the watershed do not have to be lakefront to qualify since frequently those areas feed the problem.

The first step in to compile a large list of possible projects. As the process moves forward, the list is whittled down to a smaller one and then to the final list of specific sites that we apply for in the grant. There are many factors that go into choosing locations for our application and then there is no guarantee that we will get money for any or all of them but we wanted to insure that we have reviewed as many of them as possible - If you are aware of an area that you think we should look at please email Lynn Arnold at lfarnold2@aol.com.

LOC meetings are scheduled for the second Thursday of each month – anyone can attend.

August meeting

The LOC awarded \$4,000 in grant money to homeowners who submitted applications for work on stormwater issues.

The HRA raffled rain barrels purchased with some the 319 grant money to interested members who attended the meeting.

The HRA also gave away consolation prizes from the kayak fundraiser raffle - hats, shirts, and Tom and Carol Sargent won a free 2010 Membership to the HRA.

At the August meeting the membership elected the following officers

Chris McCooe – President
Chris Haller - Treasurer
Jim Dusza – Vice President Environment & Safety
Cindi Harris - Secretary
Becky Hilbig –Membership Chair

Special thanks to Lynn Arnold for her many, many years of service as President and Vice President. Lynn will still be involved with LOC as Chairperson and will continue to write the HRA newsletter. Thanks to Kathy Perleoni for work as treasurer and Janet Lunig for secretary services in the past few years. Thanks to Bev and Lou Aube for supplying refreshment this past year.

We need more volunteers to head up some fundraising events. Jim Iancale has volunteered to chair and organize another Pancake Breakfast. However, we really need some other folks to step up – a Golf Tournament at Hemlock in Sturbridge on Holland Rd. was one idea, maybe another Kayak Raffle, or Lotto Calendar. Please contact Chris if you have an interest in getting involved. Email cmccooe@curtis1000.com or call 413 245 3666.

WE ALSO NEED someone to volunteer for refreshments for meetings in 2010 – coffee and refreshments can be expensed and paid by HRA. Please let Chris know if you're interested.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES FOR 2010

Some Friends of the HRA Activities already in the planning stage for 2010 are:

Pancake Breakfast – DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED

Spaghetti dinner – need someone to organize

Gold Tournament – need someone to organize

HRA Lake Side cookbooks are still available – call Becky at 245 8339 or
Bev at 245 0194 to purchase. \$10 – great Christmas gifts.

PHOTO CALENDAR

We are in the process of putting together our next HRA Calendar which we will have available at the HRA May meeting. Please send pictures for our 18 month calendar - June 2010 through Dec 2011). We are looking for two summer's worth but the real challenge is shots that represent the lake in the other three seasons especially the spring. Pictures should be shot or formatted in landscape because that fits the layout of the calendar best. Send electronic files to Chris at CMcCooe@curtis1000.com The "best" picture will be featured and that talented photographer will win a free membership for 2010. Photo entry cut off date is April 30, 2010.

MEMBERSHIP

Check the date printed above your address label – that date is the last year you have paid your membership. 2010 memberships are due July 1st. You can pay in advance. Please mark your checks with the year you are paying for. Your membership matters – bring in a new member and receive \$5.00 off your membership dues. See new membership form below.

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 : _____

To get a \$5.00 discount off your membership complete the New Member info below and include their \$35 membership fee along with your \$30.00 discounted membership. Thank you for getting a new member to join!

Referral Name: _____
Referral Address: _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____
Holland Phone: _____ Home Phone _____
North Basin ____ South Basin (CT side) ____ Neither ____ YEAR PD ____ Check # _____
Holland Address: _____ Email : _____

REMINDERS

For those of you who may have forgotten, it is a good idea to have your septic pumped at least once every two years. If you have the type with a filter, that filter needs to be cleaned at least twice a year. Not everyone is familiar with septic systems and not everyone realizes that they need to be pumped to work properly. Please pass the word to anyone around the lake

As the calendar year closes, we would like to thank those of you who have generously donated funds to the Friends of HRA. It is that time of year again. Please consider a tax deductible donation to The Friends of the HRA. For anyone making a donation of \$250 or more we will provide you with the necessary letter of proof with our non profit tax number for tax purposes. Donations less than \$250 do not require that number. Many of us work for companies that provide gifts as a match. Check and see if your company will match your donation. Please take the time to get the paper work required and let us know. Contact Chris McCooe or our treasurer Chris Haller for more information. Every little bit helps.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED – Please consider helping fundraising with events ...and membership

Mark your calendars: our 2010 meetings are **May 22, 2010 and August 28, 2010.**



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Next Meeting: May 22, 2010
8:30 refreshments
9 am Business Meeting
Holland Elementary School