



Photo Courtesy of Kris Snow

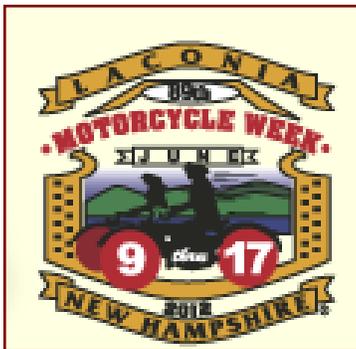
# Laconia Links

July 20, 2012 - Edition #41

Summer Sunset on Lake Winnepesaukee

## Updates from the Planning Office...

Link to the Planning Dept's website click [here!](#)



The Planning Department would like to invite City residents and business owners to a meeting with the Motorcycle Technical Review Committee on Wednesday August 1<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 pm to discuss the successes and improvements for Weirs Beach Bike Week 2012. We would love to hear from you how things went this year given the beautiful weather and lack of rainfall! The meeting will be at City Hall in Council Chambers (Room 200A) on the second floor.

In addition, please check out the proposed changes to Chapter 195 which have been posted on our website for review and let us know if you have any questions! Click [here](#) to reach the website. Please feel free to email us from the website with any comments or questions!

*Welcome* to *Laconia Links* a weekly email newsletter update devoted to keeping you informed of City of Laconia department news, City projects, useful links, activities and events!

Look for a new edition of the newsletter each Friday. If you have already signed up to be on our distribution list to receive your newsletter by e-mail, thank you for your interest! If you would like to be added to our e-mail list (or to unsubscribe), please click [here](#).

As always, we welcome your ideas and comments as to what you would like to see included in future issues. Just give us a call in the City Manager's office at 527-1270, or contact us by e-mail at [info@city.laconia.nh.us](mailto:info@city.laconia.nh.us)

*We look forward to keeping you up to date on our beautiful City!*



## City Manager Updates

A new, updated version of the [Monthly Economic Development Report](#) has been posted to the City's website to keep you up-to-date and informed on what's happening in your City.

This report contains information pertaining to Laconia's unemployment rate and wages, as well as business and economic development partnerships.

*We hope you find this report helpful and informative!*

Contact the City Mgr's office at 527-1270, or [info@city.laconia.nh.us](mailto:info@city.laconia.nh.us)



# Public Works Department



## City of Laconia Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 am to Noon DPW Office – 27 Bisson Avenue

The annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection in Laconia will be held Saturday, August 4, 2012 at the DPW Office, 27 Bisson Avenue from 8:30 am to Noon. All participants will be asked to complete a short questionnaire. Please remember **NOT** to get out of your vehicle. Household products only – no commercial waste allowed. Questionnaire is available on line at: [www.lakesrpc.org/services\\_hhw.asp](http://www.lakesrpc.org/services_hhw.asp) if you wish to complete it ahead of time.

Each household is limited to 10 gallons or 25 pounds. Keep materials in original containers.

The following will **NOT** be accepted: Latex paint, alkaline batteries, ammunition/fireworks, asbestos, propane tanks, empty solidified oil-based paints, explosives, smoke detectors, radioactive materials, household trash, tires.

Any questions – please call Ann Saltmarsh at 528-6379.

*Contamination of our natural environment is a very real threat  
through the improper disposal of household hazardous waste –  
We sincerely thank all residents for their participation in this very important program!*

## Upcoming Meetings...

Keeping the public updated and aware of what's going on in our community and receiving residents' feedback is an important goal of the City Council. Check each week's issue of *Laconia Links* for a schedule of the upcoming week's meetings. As agendas become available, they will be posted to the City's website.

You can also contact any of the City's departments for more information on a meeting or to obtain a printed copy of the agenda.

Meetings are open to the public....you are invited and encouraged to attend and provide input.

Follow this [link](#) to the "Calendar" page of the City of Laconia's website. Click on a specific meeting for more information. Please check the "Calendar" page often for updated info and changes.

*Become involved in  
your City  
and make a difference!*

Meeting  
in  
Progress

### **Trustees of the Trust Fund**

July 23, 2012, 10:00 am  
City Hall, Mayor's Office

### **City Council**

July 23, 2012, 7:00 pm  
City Hall, Room 200A

[Agenda](#)

### **TRC II Meeting**

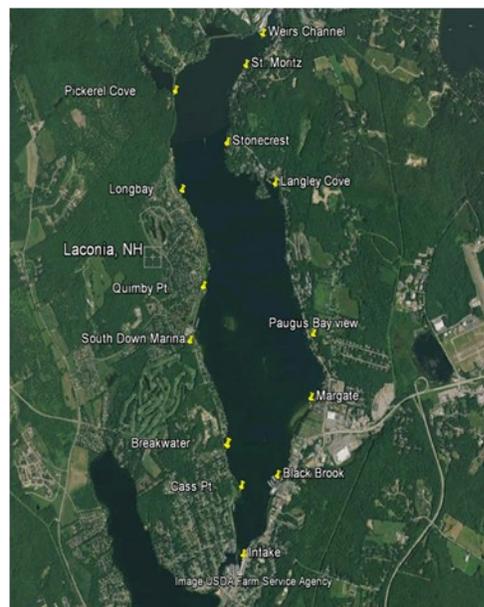
July 25, 2012, 9:30 am  
City Hall, Room 200A

[Agenda](#)

### HAVE YOU SEEN US OUT ON THE LAKE?? LAKE SAMPLING



Lake sampling is nothing new for the Laconia Water Department. This department has been sampling the lake for decades. The sampling on Paugus Bay is conducted weekly from the months of May through October at 14 sites along the lake (see the picture on the right hand side below for specific locations).



The typical procedure for these grab samples is that two of the department's Water Quality technicians go out on a small outboard motorboat owned by the department and collect one sample per site. These samples are then brought back to the department's certified laboratory and are analyzed for three parameters. These parameters are bacteria, turbidity and the potential of hydrogen (also known as "pH").

Once the water samples are tested in our lab, we enter the results in our files as well as our year-end treatment report.



#### **Bacteria**

Bacteria are prevalent in the lake. It is a normal occurrence.

We test for two types of bacteria; total coliform and Escherichia coli (E. coli). Total coliform is an indicator organism which in itself is not harmful, but if not removed can become more severe and develop into disease organisms.

The other bacteria that we test for is E-coli. E-coli originate in the intestines of warm blooded mammals. For E-coli to be present in the water, it indicates that it came from animal or human waste.

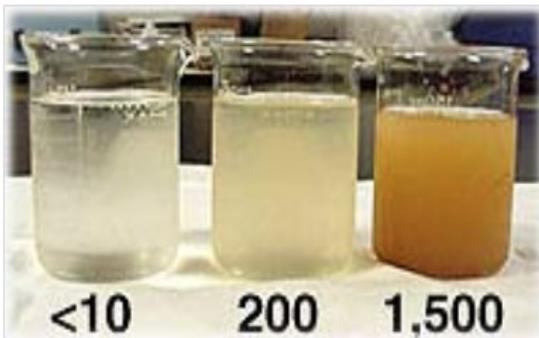
A likely source of some of the bacteria is the high recreational use of the lake. This is why we do have a restricted area on the west end of the lake where we do not allow human contact with the water in the vicinity of our intakes. We do ask everyone to pay attention and obey the signs as we are trying to keep everyone safe.

### LAKE SAMPLING (Continued)

#### Turbidity

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. The higher the turbidity, the harder it is to see through the water. Turbidity measurements are reported in nephelometric turbidity units (NTU) or Jackson turbidity units (JTU). Different units are used depending on which method is chosen to measure turbidity. One reason why turbidity is a concern within our treatment process is the fact that higher concentrations of turbidity allow for the masking of bacteria prior the treatment process.

Our normal turbidity in the lake is around .5 NTU. We decrease these numbers down to a range of .05 - .07 in our finished water. These figures are well below the national standards for drinking water and even lower than the state median. The median turbidity for New Hampshire lakes is 1.0 NTU. (*NH Dept. of Env. Services, 1999.*)



Lakes that are considered relatively clear in the United States can have a turbidity up to 25 NTU according to a study done in 2003. If water appears muddy, its turbidity has reached at least 100NTU. At 2,000 NTU, water is completely opaque.

The picture on the left shows turbidities of <10NTU, 200 NTU and 1,500 NTU.

#### Potential of Hydrogen (pH)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) does not regulate the pH level in drinking water. It is classified as a secondary drinking water contaminant whose impact is considered aesthetic. However, the EPA recommends that public water systems maintain pH levels of between 6.5 and 8.5, a good guide for individual well owners. PH is measured on a scale that runs from 0 to 14. Seven is neutral, meaning there is a balance between acidity and alkalinity. A measurement below 7 means acid is present and a measurement above 7 is basic (or alkaline).

Paugus Bay water is usually between 6.7 and 6.8 prior to any treatment. Once the water goes through our treatment process it is slightly increased to 7.2. Although it is a bit higher than the median, over the years we have found out that this level is the optimum level for other chemicals to have the proper reaction.

Next time that you see our quality control technicians out on the bay with a dip stick and a bottle you will have an idea of what they are doing and what they are looking for!

For any more information on the lake sampling and/or bacteria please contact us at 524-1096.



## Swimmers' Itch

In the 1950s, the N.H. Department of Fish and Game began importing mallard ducks into the state to add to the game population.

What they did not realize was that not only were they importing ducks, but a tiny parasite, cercarial dermatitis, in the ducks' blood stream as well.

### What Causes Swimmers' Itch?

Swimmers' itch (also called cercarial dermatitis) is a skin rash caused by an allergic reaction to contact with certain parasites of birds and mammals. Snails become infected with these parasites and then release them in fresh and salt water. Swimmers' itch generally occurs during the summer months.

### What are the Symptoms of Swimmers' Itch?

Symptoms include tingling, burning, or itching of the skin within minutes or days after exposure. Small reddish pimples appear within 12 hours, which may develop into small blisters. Itching may last up to a week or more, but will gradually go away.

### Is Swimmers' Itch a Health Hazard?

No. The swimmers' itch parasite is not parasitic to humans and causes no human diseases. No treatment is required for the rash. The rash will go away naturally within a few days, and there are no lasting effects. The same lotions used for mosquito bites and other itching rashes can control the itching caused by the rash. Swimmers' itch cannot be spread from person-to-person.

### Is Swimmers' Itch Related to Water Quality?

No. The presence of swimmers' itch is not related to pollution or poor water quality. It is a natural life cycle. Although it has been present in the state for many years, it has never been a significant nuisance problem in most New Hampshire lakes.

### Is There Any Way to Prevent Swimmers' Itch?

No. The adult parasite lives in the bloodstream of infected host animals such as ducks, geese, gulls and swans, as well as in certain aquatic mammals such as muskrat and beaver. The parasites produce eggs that are passed in the feces of the host bird or mammal. So if the animal feces land in the water, the water becomes contaminated.

### How Do I Avoid Swimmers' Itch?

- Avoid swimming in areas where swimmers' itch is a known problem or where signs have been posted warning of unsafe water.
- Avoid swimming near or wading in marshy areas where snails are commonly found.
- Towel dry or shower immediately after leaving the water.
- Encourage health officials to post signs on shorelines where swimmers' itch is a current problem.
- Do not attract birds by feeding them in areas where people are swimming.

Click [here](#) for  
Parks & Rec. website



## Laconia Public Library Upcoming Events.....

# Mark Your Calendar!

### Herbal Foot Spa Treatments



Tuesday, August 7  
Laconia Public Library  
7:00 Laconia Rotary Hall  
Master Herbalist Melissa Morrison  
\*Bring an old towel & a pair of old socks\*  
\$2.00 pre-registration fee

# GUITAR HERO

## Cool Teen Hang Out: Guitar Hero

Tuesday, July 24th at 1:30 pm. in Laconia  
Rotary Hall for teens in Grades 6 through 12.  
*Come play Guitar Hero!*

"Wednesday Specials"...Please join us  
at the Laconia Community Center for this  
week's free program!

July 25, 2012 - Ice Cream Party!

We're dreaming of all the sweet  
stuff! Come make a super  
sundae on Wednesday.



## Hoop It Up at the Bob Dearborn 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament

Bob Dearborn was a strong contributor to our community and is perhaps best known for his help with Santa Claus at Christmas Village!

**SATURDAY, JULY 21, 2012**  
**WYATT PARK**  
*(LMS Gym in case of rain)*  
Tournament Begins at 9:00 a.m.

Registration Fee per Team:  
\$25 for 3 player teams  
\$5 for each additional player

Half Court Shots/Prizes

Divisions:  
Elementary 3-5  
Middle 6-8  
High 9-12  
Adult/Alumni

For registration forms and more information call  
524-5710

*We hope you have enjoyed this  
Edition of Laconia Links  
We welcome your input, comments  
and suggestions!*

Feel free to contact us at the  
City Manager's office, 527-1270,  
or by e-mail at [info@city.laconia.nh.us](mailto:info@city.laconia.nh.us)

*Have a great weekend!*



Scott Myers, City Manager  
City of Laconia  
City's Website: [www.city.laconia.nh.us](http://www.city.laconia.nh.us)