



June 2020

Greetings!

We hope all our Raymond Waterways friends are well and safe in this time of COVID-19. The pandemic has caused many changes in all our lives. One change is the need to avoid large gatherings of people. So, we reluctantly must forego our annual, in-person meeting. We will try to share all the usual information with you in this expanded newsletter.

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Routine reports

You'll find the Secretary's report at <http://raymondwaterways.org/Ann20SecyRept.pdf>

The treasurer's report is at <http://raymondwaterways.org/Ann20TreasRept.pdf>

Milfoil survey, spring 2020 is at <http://raymondwaterways.org/Ann20Survey.pdf>

NEWS FROM THE LEGISLATURE AND REP. JESSICA FAY

With the Second Regular Session of the 129th Maine Legislature truncated because of the novel coronavirus, we weren't able to finish a lot of important work. Fortunately, when we adjourned on March 17, the Legislature did make provisions to carry forward any unfinished business to any special session called before the next Legislature is sworn in.

The most obvious result of this was that the Supplemental Budget as originally proposed is still available to be worked on. Of great interest to folks in Raymond was a provision in that budget that would have set forth some additional state funding for the Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. This funding would have provided additional Game Wardens and repairs to the Panther Pond Dam. Unfortunately, because of the decrease in state revenue, this funding and funding for other important environmental efforts may be displaced. That remains to be seen and I will continue to raise the importance of these projects to our community.

I do have good news to report. I have heard from many people in the area that the use of fireworks has become problematic for people, the environment and wildlife. This past session I introduced a bill to mitigate some of those issues. After working with some fireworks businesses, we were able to pass a bill unanimously that strengthens consumer education about the environmental impacts of fireworks. I am hopeful that the new requirements will help address some of the concerns that people have had in the past.

The [price] increase in milfoil stickers should be in place and hopefully that will translate into additional funds for invasive species mitigation for 2020. Thanks to organizations like RWPA, we are making good progress against some of these infestations.

I look forward to seeing you all this summer as I paddle my kayak around Raymond. Be safe and be well. Please let me know how I can be of service. I can be reached at 415-4218 or at jessica.fay@legislature.maine.gov

Operations

Past - Last Year

We had a very productive year in 2019. The DASH crew was especially effective, finally removing the *last remaining old-growth milfoil patches* in Raymond. We also ran a successful Courtesy Boat Inspector Program, and consulted with a number of waterfront property owners about erosion/runoff problems. We previously posted a report on 2019, which we encourage you to read if you haven't. http://raymondwaterways.org/Was_19_a_Good_Year.pdf

Present - This year

- COURTESY BOAT INSPECTIONS

Boat inspections are our first and most important protection from invasive aquatic species. Once again we have CBIs at Raymond's launch sites on Crescent Lake, Panther Pond (Mill St.), Thomas Pond, and Sebago Lake. More than half our CBIs this year are returnees. We appreciate having these experienced folks protecting our waters. Carly Witherow, a long-time CBI, is managing the scheduling and looking after





the CBIs. Look for the yellow 'Inspector on Duty' signs and the inspectors in their yellow shirts. They will be wearing face masks at the launch sites. And they will be recording all the inspection information on an app on their phones instead of paper log sheets---unless they have some technical problems. This greatly reduces our costs for processing the inspections for reporting to Maine DEP. RWPA board member Locke Macdonald from Crescent Lake has again organized, recruited, and trained the CBI's.

- DIVER ASSISTED SUCTION HARVESTING

We are super pleased that our super DASH crew has returned again. They start each season by surveying all the previously 'cleaned' areas---Turtle Cove, Mason Cove, Port Harbor Marina, and the Bavview Canals. (See the link above for the numbers for this year!) They will return to these areas a few times this summer, removing any invasive plants that they find. At the end of the season they will survey



again and we will share those numbers with you in September. The DASH crew will also continue working in the Jordan River and they will work in Dingley Brook. Volunteers cleaned variable milfoil from Dingley Brook many years ago, but some plants have returned. The DASH crew will wear face masks whenever they need to interact with the public. (Face masks and SCUBA gear are not a good match!)

- WATER QUALITY MONITORING

RWPA will continue to support the lakes and ponds as volunteers continue to collect data about the health of our waters.

- Secchi disk readings tell us about the clarity of the water---the higher the number, the deeper the disk is visible, the clearer the water.
- Dissolved oxygen readings tell us how well the water can sustain aquatic life. Especially important are the readings near the bottom. Cold water fish like to hang out in the cooler, deeper water and they need oxygen to live there.

- Temperature readings tell us how deep the thermocline is---that invisible divider between the warmer surface water the colder deep water. More warm water usually results from sunny weather and the sun and the warm water are super friendly to algae growth.
- Phosphorus readings can be taken in different ways. The simplest and most widely used method is to take a surface grab sample. The more complicated method is to take samples at different depths, including very near the bottom. The surface grab yields one measure. The samples at different depths can indicate whether or not phosphorus from the sediments is moving back into the water column and providing nutrients for algal growth. By either method, these samples must be analyzed by a lab.

You can find data for your lake at **Lakesofmaine.org**. It's difficult to work your way through all the screens to find the data you're looking for, so we've put a guide on our Website:

http://raymondwaterways.org/How_find_lake_data.pdf

Future - Our expectations for **2021 and beyond** are that RWPA will:

- Continue to support Raymond's individual lake associations in whatever ways we can, to help monitor and maintain water quality
- Continue to be available to consult with waterfront property owners on erosion control and invasive species issues
- Continue to be a conduit to/from Maine government bodies (especially DEP) on matters that affect the Raymond Waterways community
- Respond to new threats and new opportunities as effectively as we have in the past decade
- Continue the Courtesy Boat Inspection program, and expand it where possible. Depending on Covid-19 conditions, we may see more of our inspectors returning to their schools, so we may seek more volunteer and/or paid inspectors from the more mature segment of our community. DEP has improved its CBI reporting app, so we may want to adopt that tool, if we can integrate it with our own procedures.
- In a case like Sebago Lake, unfortunately, milfoil is forever. But if we do a good job with it this summer, there may not be enough left in Raymond waters to justify hiring a full-time dive crew next year. We may consider hiring a milfoil contractor for a few weeks, or developing a part-time mixed employee/volunteer team. RWPA may become more of an administrative body than a direct-service operation. We won't know what conditions we'll be dealing with until the summer season is over, and then it will be up to the board to work our way through these options.

Call for volunteers

The current board members have done a great job in guiding us through the ups and downs of the past few years; but, as we noted above, we expect there will be some changes in the nature of RWPA's operations in 2021 and beyond. Some of the directors and officers are getting gray of hair and long of tooth, and we need help. It's time for some fresh blood and new ideas to help us keep up our record of good works in a changing climate. If you can contribute in some way – especially by serving a term on the board – please drop us a note, an email, or write yourself in for election in the voting section (see below.) Thank you.

Thanks

To Port Harbor Marina for once again supporting our DASH work by providing space to dock our boat.

To Raymond Fire Department for giving our DASH divers opportunity to refill their air tanks.

To Raymond Public Works Department for moving the DASH boat and for storing it for the winter.

To Holly Hogle, Peggy Jensen, and Cassie Macdonald for making cloth masks for our summer crews to use.

To Woody Beach and Lisa Hall for finding paper masks for the crews.

To Neil Jensen for prepping the DASH boat for the season and for rebuilding the outboard motor for the little workboat.

A personal note from the president of the RWPA board

I've served RWPA as treasurer for 5 years and president of the board for 3 years, and as a director for longer than that, along with ancillary functions as DASH manager, SCUBA supervisor, boat mechanic, and Webmaster. In that time, the board and employees of the association have put RWPA on a firm financial footing; improved operations and record-keeping; developed a cell phone –based reporting system to replace the old paper CBI reports, and to take advantage of the young folks' digital skills; switched from hookahs to SCUBA to satisfy OSHA's changing rules; constructed a new DASH boat; and expanded CBI coverage.



I want to thank the association members for supporting us, as well as the residents (year-rounders and snowbirds) of Raymond, the Town of Raymond and its agencies, and local

businesses for their support. I especially wish to thank the Board of Directors. Raymond is a volunteer-driven town, and RWPA is a prime example of that. None of us have done this work for any motivation other than the love of the lakes and the people who care for them.

It's been a blast! But for all the pleasure and satisfaction I get from contemplating the progress we've made, it's been exhausting, too. I need time to catch up on some personal projects that have gone unattended for far too long. As the nature of RWPA's operations begins to shift, it's also time to make way for new ideas and fresh energies.

I will be resigning from the presidency of RWPA at the end of July, 2020. I plan to remain on the board (if they'll have me!) and be available for various assignments. We've dealt with a long string of challenges – some thrilling, some tedious – and can be proud of what we've built on the foundation of the old RWPA. I thank you all and I look forward to ongoing service in a somewhat reduced role.

At the time of this writing, no one can say what conditions will be like a year from now – will we still be sheltering in place? Will we all be vaccinated and able to resume our accustomed activities? I hope the coronavirus situation will soon be resolved, so I can greet you all next year in the old familiar ways.

Neil Jensen

Kind words from members:

"Keep up the good work!", Crescent "Thank you all for your dedication", Crescent "Keep up your great work!!", Panther "Keep up the good work!", Sebago "Good job!", Sebago "Thank you", Raymond Pond "Thank you for the work you do—hope to be in Maine during summer 2020—Be well", Panther "Keep up the good work!", Sebago "Thank you!", Thomas Pond

Directors: **Woody Beach, Marie Connolly, Lisa Hall, Holly Hoglund, Neil Jensen, Peggy Jensen, Locke Macdonald**

In October 2019, long-time director and officer **Ben Severn** retired from RWPA, sold his home in Raymond, and moved to Virginia to be nearer his family. We wish him well.

RWPA email: mailtoinfo@raymondwaterways.org Website: <http://raymondwaterways.org>

Donations can be sent to RWPA, PO Box 1243, Raymond, ME 04071 or by credit card at the Website
To be removed from our mailing list, just send an email or note to one of the addresses above.