



## Why the Raymond Waterways Protective Association?

### Raymond Waterways Are Connected

The RWPA:

- 1. Is for all of Raymond's waterways— lakes, ponds, and brooks, which are physically connected:**  
If invasives show up in Panther Pond it does no good to eradicate them if more will be coming down the Tenny from Crescent, and eventually into Sebago; or to fight phosphorous in the Raymond part of Sebago if more is coming from Thomas Pond.
- 2. Complements the work of lake and pond associations and covers waterways without associations.**
- 3. Has an economy of scale with the RWPA:** The Courtesy Boat

Inspection Program, for example, inter-lake cooperation run by the RWPA that benefits all lakes. The RWPA, receives some grants from individual lake associations, the Town, and the State DEP, who recognize the centrality of the RWPA to run programs like the Courtesy Boat Inspector Program., but that funding doesn't cover all expenses. The RWPA hires, trains, monitors, and pays the Inspectors who serve on multiple boat launches in town to prevent invasive species from infesting our waterways and to educate boaters on the dangers of invasives.

- 4. Needs your donations to continue and to augment our programs.**  
We need to raise tens of thousands of dollars to cover a modest CBI

program, which still leaves hours and days on lake boating launches not covered by our inspectors. New challenges, including erosion, development, new and old invaders, and rising water temperatures, will require new programs. **All town property values are affected by the health of our lakes.** If lakes decline, either town services will be reduced or all property taxes will go up to cover the shortfall.

**To donate and to learn more about the RWPA, go to [Raymondwaterways.org](http://Raymondwaterways.org)**

Web: [raymondwaterways.org](http://raymondwaterways.org)

Email: [info@raymondwaterways.org](mailto:info@raymondwaterways.org)

Mail: PO Box 1243,  
Raymond, ME 04071

## What Does Your Heart Treasure?

### The Town of Raymond Wants to Know

The Town of Raymond is working on its 10-year Comprehensive Plan, which outlines the priorities for land use and development and wants to hear from you—a summer resident, a full-time resident, or a taxpayer.

Please let them know how you treasure the health of Raymond's lakes and ponds, among your other values and concerns.

The link, running through December is: <https://forms.gle/jN9Fvt3jbPcQTGtXA>



## Lake Water Clarity Tied to Property Values in Maine

### Clear Lakes Affect Even Non-Lakefront Property Values

According to a study done by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and the University of Maine, the value of property, even when it is not lakefront, is dependent on the quality of water in a town's lakes and ponds. A study called: "The Economics of Lakes—Dollars and Sense" with research by Roy Bouchard, Jennifer Schuertz, Kevin Boyle, and Holly Michael found that:

- There is no single feature of lakes which affects people's enjoyment of lakes more than water clarity.
- Declines in water quality in Maine lakes can significantly reduce property values, representing hundreds of millions in lost property values, and that lake use in general supports more than 8,000 Maine jobs.
- With the loss of property values, the burden of taxes would shift to non-



*Sebago Beach by Michael and Priscilla Savage*

On average 66% of town residents, including many non-shoreline owners, use town lakes for swimming and boating

- lakefront property owners, and/or an attendant loss of town services.
- In Maine, economic losses due to declines in lake water quality, which have already occurred, are real and very large.
- Faced with a potential loss of lake water quality, most respondents said that they would be willing to pay for the maintenance of good lake conditions.

## RWPA JOB OPPORTUNITY

The RWPA has a job opening for a CBI manager, who will hire, train, and oversee the Courtesy Boat Inspectors at various lakefront boat launches in Raymond to check for invasive species before boats are launched. The job description is below:

### Manager, Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) program, RWPA - Raymond Maine

The Raymond Waterways Protective Association (RWPA) is dedicated to preserving the water quality of Raymond's lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams. Among other things, it has taken the lead in eradicating invasive milfoil in the Raymond waters of Sebago Lake and runs the Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) program to ensure that invasives of all kinds do not enter Panther Pond, Crescent Lake, Thomas Pond, and Sebago Lake (via the Raymond boat ramp).

RWPA is seeking a capable individual with a commitment to

preventing the spread of invasive species in our lakes to head its CBI program for the 2024 boating season. The candidate should have experience training and overseeing entry-level staff, working with mobile applications, and communicating program issues and status information to a board of directors. Previous experience with a CBI program is a plus!

The CBI manager has the following responsibilities, spanning nine months from January through September, on a part-time basis and largely flexible hours. We estimate the position requires a minimum of 100 hours of work during this period, not including potential inspection work.

- Grant writing (January/February)
- Attend annual invasive species conference - (March)
- Recruit and hire CBI inspectors - (April/May)
- Train CBI inspectors - (May)
- Scheduling and monitoring shifts - (May-September)
- Assigning and collecting equipment (May/September)
- Write summary reports on CBI program (September)

RWPA pays highly competitive hourly rates. Please send a cover letter and resume to [info@raymondwaterways.org](mailto:info@raymondwaterways.org).

## Go Native!

### Dreaming of Spring Gardens? Plant Native Plants Along Shoreline, or Inland!

Downy Serviceberry (or Shadbush or Shadblow) and Bearberry in flower, are examples of native plants that are excellent for shoreline and inland properties to ward off erosion. Downy Serviceberry is covered with white flowers in the spring, and has beautiful fall color, and Bearberry blossoms turn into bright red fruit in summer.

As winter closes in, and the seed and plant catalogues arrive, please consider minimizing or even getting rid of your lawn on the lakefront and using native trees, shrubs

and flowers, as recommended by the University of Maine's County Extension Service.

Even if you live away from the water, native plants are good value and help the environment support bees, birds, and wildlife. Plus, native plants will thrive in Raymond.

Lawns consume pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers, and even without chemicals, hold heat in, and attract Canada Geese. The accumulated warmer rain water and bird waste flows into our streams and lakes. A shoreline buffer or even replacing your lawn with native shrubs can provide a beautiful natural

environment to frame your yard or view of the lake.

For a list of native plants, including shrubs, flowers, trees, and vines that the Extension Service recommends for Maine land, visit this site: [Bulletin #2500, Gardening to Conserve Maine's Native Landscape: Plants to Use and Plants to Avoid.](https://bulletin2500.org/) [extension.umaine.edu/publications/2500e/](https://extension.umaine.edu/publications/2500e/) Reprinted by permission of the University of Maine County Extension Service.

And, be sure to use erosion control mulch, available at local gravel yards, to additionally keep run-off from flowing into lakes and streams.



## Do You Have a Passion for Preserving Raymond Waterways?

The RWPA is looking for volunteers, including those who wish to serve on its Board of Directors, especially those with expertise in finance, database management, limnology (the science of lakes), directing volunteers, or

social media. We would welcome your good work!

You may sign up for individual volunteer projects as they come up, or if you would like to join our Board, our meetings are held

remotely, every month, so you do NOT have to be a full-time resident of Raymond.

Please contact us at [info@raymondwaterways.org](mailto:info@raymondwaterways.org) to learn more.

## Wake Boats

EXCERPT FROM THE LAKES ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION

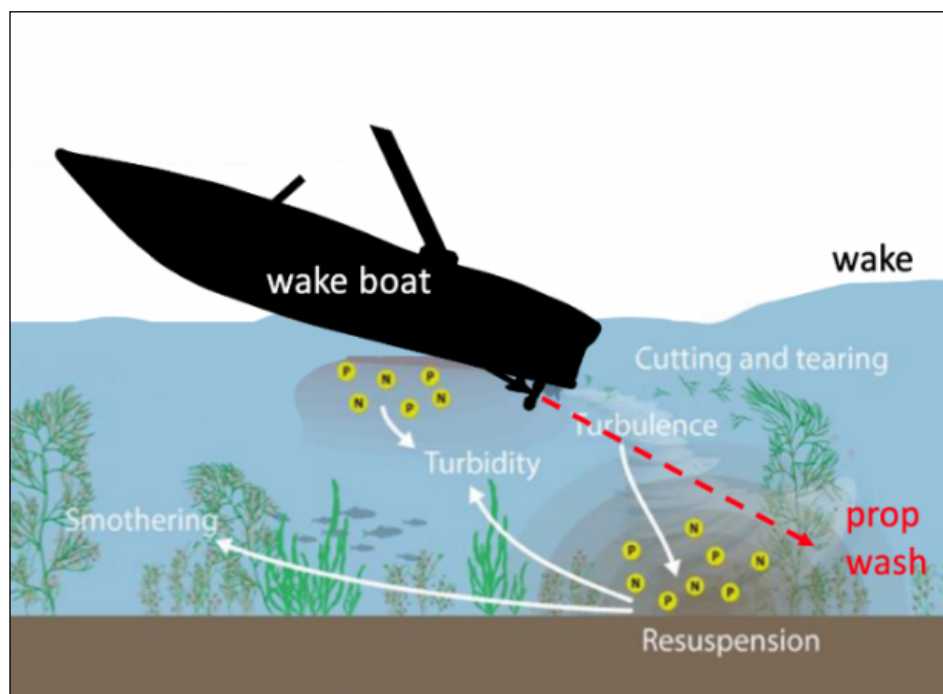
How we behave on our lakes and ponds affects not only other people, but also wildlife, shorelines, and water quality.

LEA and the Maine Boating Impacts Coalition proposed legislation in 2023 to protect water quality, wildlife, and safety through common sense regulations for large wake-producing activities.

A task force has been created through the committee and will report back to the Legislature in 2024.

### How are Wake Boats Different?

- Wake boats are specialized boats designed to create large wakes for the purpose of wake surfing.
- These powerful boats are equipped with ballast tanks and often mechanical systems designed to enhance the size of the boat's wake
- The large wakes created by these boats allow people to surf behind them without tow ropes
- How do excessive wakes close to shore put our lakes at risk?
- Large wakes erode shorelines and damage fragile wildlife habitat.



- The size of wakes from wake surfing activities take 500 feet or more to dissipate to levels typical of recreational boats on plane<sup>2</sup>. Large wakes simply take longer distances to dissipate

### Wake-surfing Boats Stir Up More Sediment than Other Recreational Boats.

- Wake-surfing requires the boat to plow water at slow speeds versus boats operating on-plane

- Downward-directed propellers can disturb the lake bottom

### Wake Surfing is Growing in Popularity

- The wake surf industry is rapidly growing

Boat sales in Maine increased dramatically during the pandemic but are now tapering off with the exception of Wake Surf boats and pontoon sales

## Do You Have Some Fabulous Photos or Art of Raymond Waterways?

PHOTO BY SUSAN GREER

We're always looking for great photos (and art) by adults and children of Raymond lakes, ponds, and streams for our newsletter, publications, and our new social media accounts, which

we'll open in early 2024. Please send us your photos and art and we'll use the best in our media, and credit you.

Thanks so much to Michael and Priscilla Savage and Susan Greer for this edition's stunning photos.

Please send your largest files as email attachments—we want to print the clearest images you have!

Send to [info@raymondwaterways.org](mailto:info@raymondwaterways.org)



Photo by Susan Greer

## About RWPA

Founded more than 50 years ago, the Raymond Waterways Protective Association is dedicated to protecting and improving the water quality of Raymond's lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams and fostering watershed stewardship.



Contact us: [info@raymondwaterways.org](mailto:info@raymondwaterways.org)

Mailing address: PO Box 1243, Raymond, ME 04071

Website: [raymondwaterways.org](http://raymondwaterways.org)

To donate and to learn more about the RWPA, go to [Raymondwaterways.org](http://Raymondwaterways.org)