

## Featured Interview — Neil Jensen, RWPA Volunteer Extraordinaire



*Neil and Peggy Jensen have been involved with the RWPA for more than 40 years. Under their leadership, RWPA*

*has spearheaded the eradication of invasive milfoil in Raymond's lakes.*

*Neil is currently a board member and president emeritus. Peggy is RWPA's current president.*

### **NEIL, WHAT MOTIVATES YOUR WORK FOR THE RWPA?**

I love water. I love being in it, on it, under and around it. And I feel a responsibility to help preserve it. I've always hoped that the more you know about your lake, the better you'll take care of it. That's why I created the new depth map of Panther Pond that's on the walls of so many camps now. I've been a diver for many years. I got trained as a milfoil diver, not so I could spend my days pulling weed, but so I could understand what's going on underwater. How else can you manage a dive crew?

### **WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD ABOUT YOUR TIME WITH THE RWPA?**

Watching the association fulfill its potential in becoming a strong, effective organization that performs a public service without wasting people's time and money.

### **WHAT CAN THE REST OF US DO TO PRESERVE THE LEGACY OF OUR LAKES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS?**

I've spent most of my summers on Panther Pond since about 1950. Many properties on the lake have been handed down for generations. Many of us have fond memories of carefree summers spent on and around the lakes. We treasure those halcyon days, and we can pass them on to our grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and beyond.

But to do that, it's important that you get involved! Climate change is real. If we don't do anything, we'll be passing down to our heirs a few puddles of stinking green soup. Set a

good example for your kids. And bring your friends and neighbors along. Get involved!

### **WHAT HAVE BEEN YOUR BIGGEST CHALLENGES AT THE RWPA?**

Finding people willing to devote time to environmental protection. Our board members are aging out. We need fresh energy and new ideas. You don't have to do this full time, and you don't need special skills. It's not hard to collect data and organize it for scientists who can't collect it all themselves. If you're willing to help even a few hours a month, we can find ways to use your unique skills.

### **WHAT ARE YOUR FONDEST MEMORIES OF YOUR WORK WITH THE RWPA?**

New friendships, long collaborations, and personal growth.



## Annual RWPA Donation Drive – Message from Peggy

Hi All! Look for our **Annual Appeal Letter** which will arrive in your mailbox late March. We count on your support to keep our programs going and our lakes free of invasive plants and phosphorous contamination. Thanks for all your support in the past and we look forward to another successful season. See you on the lakes!

— Peggy Jensen, President

## Save the Date! Annual Meeting at Historic Hawthorne House on June 25

After a two-year hiatus, the Raymond Waterways Protection Association will once again hold its annual meeting in person. The date is Saturday, June 25 at 9:30 a.m. at the newly renovated and historic Hawthorne House. Located at the throat of Raymond Neck, Hawthorne House was the boyhood home of one of America's preeminent literary figures in the 19th century, Nathaniel



Hawthorne, author of *The Scarlet Letter* and *The House of Seven Gables*.

Our **featured speaker** is Jim Paruk, associate professor at St. Joseph's College in Standish Maine.



Jim will talk about findings from his new book, *Loon Lessons*, that celebrates uncommon encounters with Maine's iconic bird. Jim has researched loons for nearly 25 years so you won't want to miss this presentation!

## RWPA 2021 Finances

In 2021, RWPA tallied income of \$73,599.96 against expenses of \$68,040.35 for total net income of \$5,559.61. Income was split between donations (\$26,840), grants (\$46,035.69), and interest (\$657.27). Grants came from Maine Department of Environmental Protection (\$26,607), Town of Raymond, and Portland Water District. (\$19,428.69).

RWPA has \$101,590.75 in total assets, divided between various bank accounts (\$51,644.94), two certificates of deposit (\$39,466.63) and fixed assets, namely the DASH boat. (\$10,479.18) Because of Covid restrictions and the tight labor market, we were unable to complete a full season of boat inspections, thus the unaccustomed net income. We don't

usually end up in the black. We're a nonprofit organization and we take that seriously!

Bottom line, RWPA is in good financial shape but we depend on your donations for more than a third of our operating income (37%). So please donate generously (see below) to keep our lakes clean, clear, and contaminant free!

## Time to Donate?!

To keep our lakes pristine and free from invasive plants, please consider making an annual donation to RWPA. We are a 501(c)(3) corporation so your gift may be tax deductible.

**Milfoil doesn't take a year off, why should you?**

**CONTRIBUTE HERE!**

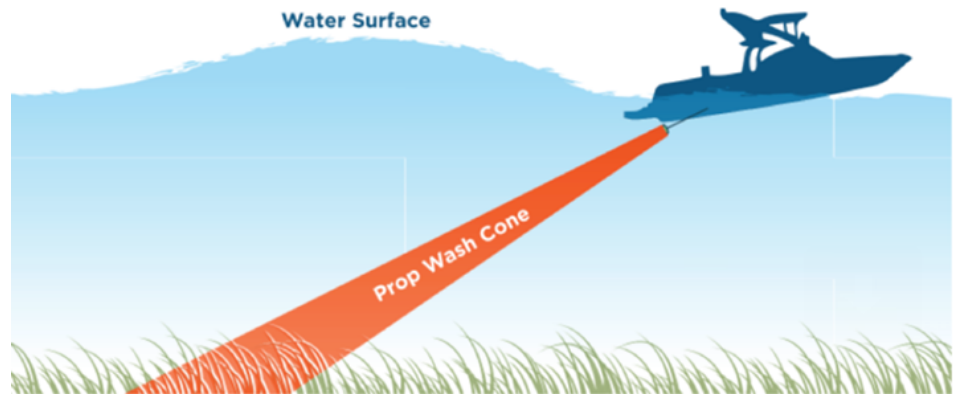
Or send your donation to RWPA, PO Box 1243, Raymond, ME 04071.

## Recommendations for Wakesurfing Boats

Wake surfing and wake boarding have increased substantially in recent years. While the excitement of the sport is undeniable, it creates large wakes that can have side effects on our lakes.

Large wakes can damage docks, moored boats, loon nests and limit enjoyment of small watercraft, such as paddleboards, canoes, and kayaks. Large wakes also erode the shoreline and stir up bottom sediment which often has a high phosphorous content. Phosphorous can cause algae blooms. Sediment can clog fish gills, suffocate fish eggs, and destroy loon nests.

While large wakes are associated with high-speed boating, you may be surprised that it's low-speed boating (6 to 12 mph) that creates the largest wakes. A boat's bow angles up and the propeller angles down which creates large wakes and stirs up bottom sediment in



shallow water. This is known as “plowing the water” as shown in the graphic.

### How to Help

- Find large water areas where wakes will diminish before reaching shore and where propeller wash won't scour the bottom.
- Operate your boat at least 200 feet from shore.

- Operate in water more than 10-feet deep.
- Avoid small bays, channels and enclosed areas, especially during high water.
- Avoid marshy areas where fish and loon habitats are likely to exist.
- Leave and approach shore in a straight line. Turning makes large wakes.
- Operate at least 100 feet from small watercraft.

## New Crescent Lake Kiosk

The Crescent Lake Watershed Association (CLWA) has erected a kiosk at the Webbs Mill Road (Route 85) public boat ramp and beach area on Crescent Lake in Raymond. The purpose of the kiosk is to educate people about the lake and encourage them to help preserve and protect the lake, its aquatic habitats, and wildlife.

The kiosk is dedicated to Ron Hall, a past president and Board Member of the CLWA, who passed away last year. The picture (right) shows, from right to left, Russell Hutchinson, president CLWA, Lisa Hall, RWPA board member and wife of the late Ron Hall, and Sallie Worcester of CLWA.



## Seeking Courtesy Boat Inspectors and DASH Crew for 2022 Season

The first line of defense against invasive aquatic plants such as variable leaf and Eurasian water milfoil, hydrilla, water chestnut, brittle naiad and Brazilian elodea are Maine's courtesy boat inspectors. Many new infestations occur in shallow waters near public boat launch facilities, so it's obvious invasive plants move from lake to lake on the boats and equipment of unsuspecting boaters.

If people are the cause, they can also be the cure. Since courtesy boat inspections started, the number of boats inspected has risen from just 2,848 in 2001 to 102,822 in 2020.

What do courtesy boat inspectors (CBIs) do? As boaters launch and remove their boats from the water, CBIs:

- Discuss with boaters how invasive aquatic plants spread
- Show boaters how to inspect boats and equipment for plant fragments
- Urge boaters to inspect before and after every launch
- Distribute information about invasive plants

We are looking for a few inspectors to join us for the 2022 season. We will train and provide support. The

hours are on weekends and the pay is \$18/hr. You will be asked to cover one of the four public boat launches in Raymond.

If you are interested, or know someone who is, please contact Locke Macdonald at [locke.macdonald@gmail.com](mailto:locke.macdonald@gmail.com).

Seeking DASH Crew. We are also looking for new DASH crew members. We need SCUBA divers and a pontoon boat driver (diving helpful but not required.) Age 18+, \$22/hr or more, depending on skills. Contact [DASHmaster@raymondwaterways.org](mailto:DASHmaster@raymondwaterways.org).

## Water Quality Monitoring – Two Great Offers!

### Matching Grant from the RWPA

An important way to keep our lakes clean and healthy is to regularly monitor them for clarity, temperature, and chemistry. All the lakes have people who volunteer to monitor water quality and we value their work. This year RWPA is offering all Raymond lake associations a 50-50 match to upgrade or enhance water monitoring equipment, such as replacement batteries, membranes, new meters, and lab fees. We have set aside \$1,000 for each lake group to use over 5 years. We already collaborate with lake associations to fund Courtesy Boat Inspectors. Here's another great opportunity to work together! Contact me ([pjensen@gwi.net](mailto:pjensen@gwi.net)) for more information.

### LSM Watershed Survey Grants

Lake Stewards of Maine (LSM) is now offering grants to Maine lake associations and communities to survey their lake watersheds. These surveys are conducted by community volunteers to identify and resolve land use problems that impact lake water quality. Watershed surveys also provide valuable opportunities to engage community members about threats to lake health. These surveys are intended to identify soil erosion problems that are relatively easy to detect and resolve.

**Download** a document (<https://rb.gy/kz0atp>) that describes the process of conducting volunteer watershed surveys. For more information and an application form, contact [stewards@lakestewardsme.org](mailto:stewards@lakestewardsme.org).

## RWPA Board of Directors and Members

- Peggy Jensen – President (Panther Pond)
- Locke Macdonald – Vice President (Crescent Lake)
- Marie Connolly – Treasurer (Panther Pond)
- Lisa Hall – Secretary (Crescent Lake)
- Neil Jensen – Member (Panther Pond)
- Wayne Eckerson – Member (Panther Pond)
- Elwood Beach – Member (Raymond Pond)
- Holly Hoglund – Member (Thomas Pond)

If interested in serving, let us know! To be removed from our mailing list, contact us at [info@raymondwaterways.org](mailto:info@raymondwaterways.org).

## 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.



Our web site: [raymondwaterways.org](http://raymondwaterways.org)

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

Our mailing address: PO Box 1243, Raymond, ME 04071



Raymond Pond (lower left), Crescent Lake (middle right), Panther Pond (middle-left), Thomas Pond (middle top- barely visible), and Sebago lake (top).