



RAYMOND
WATERWAYS

Summer 2024

Quarterly newsletter

Free LakeSmart Consult: We Can Help You Be Proud of Your Lakeside Property!

This summer, Raymond Waterways will be stepping up our efforts to educate lakefront landowners on how to reduce harmful stormwater runoff from their property into Raymond's lakes and ponds. Polluted runoff, also known as non-point-source pollution (as opposed to specific discharges from sewers or industry), is the biggest threat to water quality in lakes in our region.

Although many Raymond Waterways activities involve monitoring the condition of our waterways—watching out for invasive species and measuring water attributes such clarity, dissolved oxygen, and chemicals—perhaps the most important way lake residents can prevent water-quality problems before they begin is to examine their own property

We are taking advantage of the methods, experience, and supervision of LakeSmart to evaluate waterfront properties in Raymond for any owner who requests it. The evaluations are 100% voluntary, totally free, and non-regulatory, meaning we will never report conditions we observe to law enforcement.

for signs of erosion and excessive rainwater runoff.

On a Maine lake surrounded by undeveloped land—covered with native trees, shrubs, groundcover plants, and natural litter—very little rain (as little as 1%, even during heavy storms) runs off into the lake or streams that feed the lake. Most rainwater soaks into the soil, is taken up by plant roots, or eventually seeps down to underground aquifers. Such a lake is likely to be healthy for wildlife and people—we might call it “pristine.”

This situation changes dramatically when development replaces trees with houses and roads and other impervious surfaces. As rain falls on these surfaces, it accumulates and picks up speed downhill. It doesn't have time to soak in. Instead, it carries sand and organic matter into streams and lakes. Fine particles cloud the water, and chemicals, especially phosphorus, encourage the growth of algae, which begins a cascade of problems for the lake (see box, next page). Fortunately, this problem can be mitigated on any developed parcel, enhancing enjoyment of the site and protecting the lake and lakeshore property values.

Raymond Waterways is partnering with LakeSmart, a state-wide



You could have this beautiful award on your property with the LakeSmart Program!

education and outreach program that recognizes homeowners who manage their land to protect water quality. We are taking advantage of the methods, experience, and supervision of LakeSmart to evaluate waterfront properties in Raymond for any owner who requests it. The evaluations are 100% voluntary, totally free, and non-regulatory, meaning we will never report conditions we observe to law enforcement. Our volunteer site evaluators will tour your property with you and score five areas of the lot—driveway and parking areas, house and other

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 9:30 AM!

Learn More About the Future of Our Lakes at Our Annual Meeting

Susan Gallo, Executive Director of Maine Lakes, an advocacy group, will be the speaker at the annual meeting of Raymond Waterways on Saturday, June 22 at 9:30 am at Hawthorne House, 41 Hawthorne Road, at the corner of Raymond Cape Road in Raymond.

Ms. Gallo will present information on the current and future health of our lakes and she and our Board Treasurer, Steve Craine, will talk about our new program, LakeSmart (see page 1.) There will be time for questions and answers from the audience.

Free refreshments and a gift for you! No registration required; all are welcome!



Photo: Annual meeting at Hawthorne House

Free LakeSmart Consult Continued

structures, outdoor living areas, shoreline, and shoreline buffer area—in terms of risk for erosion and runoff. Properties that score high in all five areas qualify for the LakeSmart Award, consisting of two attractive signs that can be displayed at the waterfront and driveway. All evaluated homeowners will receive a written report including recommendations of steps that could be taken to reduce erosion and protect their lake. Raymond Waterways will make matching funds, up to \$100 per property, to help defray the cost of recommended improvements.

About Phosphorus

Phosphorus is a naturally occurring element that is essential to all plant and animal life. For example, it is a necessary component of every molecule of DNA.

Phosphorus is the “limiting nutrient” in lakes in this region. That means algae have sufficient other necessities for growth, but are limited by the availability of this key nutrient. When phosphorus increases, algal blooms occur, turning water green, depleting dissolved oxygen, and killing fish and other animal life.

Since phosphorus occurs in all living things, runoff through organic material will carry some phosphorus to the lake. When people use phosphorus-containing fertilizers, especially on their lawns, the amount of phosphorus pollution can jump dramatically.

A little phosphorus goes a long way! In our area, a lake with 0 to 5 parts per billion is considered healthy, but only 10 to 15 ppb indicates a serious problem, including likely algal blooms.

Mill Street Dam Update

Restoration of the Panther Run Dam, on the south side of the bridge on Mill Street, across from the boat launch, will begin on June 1st and end on September 1st, and may affect water levels on Panther Pond, Crescent Lake, and Raymond Pond.

The water level should be maintained at 80.5' per the gauge attached to the bridge embankment. It is possible that it may be necessary to lower the water level by an additional 6 inches. As a reference, for July of 2022 the water level was 80.5'.

Mill Street will not be closed but frequently will be down to one lane, controlled by flaggers.



Photo: Mill Street Dam

Use the boat launch at Crescent Lake once trees have been cleared from the Tenney River or contact

Slovenski camps for boat launch availability for Panther Pond Association members.

Spring and Summer Gardening on the Shorelines

To keep our lakes healthy, please consider:

- Reduce or replace lawn by planting native plants and shrubs. For a list of native plants, please see this: **Bulletin #2500, Gardening to Conserve Maine's Native Landscape: Plants to Use and Plants to Avoid.** extension.umaine.edu/publications/2500e/ Reprinted by permission of the University of Maine County Extension Service.
- To shop for native plants, check out Maine Audubon Society's plant sale on June 8 in Falmouth, or in person at their store: <https://shop.mainenativeplants.org>. To consider starting native

plants from seed, check out <https://wildseedproject.net>

- Not using pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers—it all eventually finds its way into our waterways, creating algae growth and harming lake health. Free yourself from mowing and spreading chemicals on the lawn with a shoreline buffer zone of native plants.

- Using special erosion control mulch (ECM) on your paths, driveways, and gardens. It's organic, and in longer shredded shape, so it keeps soil from running into the lake. ECM is available locally at Gorham Sand and Gravel in Buxton, P and K Gravel and Sand in Naples, or Pleasant Hill Properties in Norway. Delivery available.



Canada Serviceberry—a native shrub for shorelines

New Raymond Waterways Board Members

Raymond Waterways welcomed two new board members in April. They each bring valuable expertise and a willingness to work as volunteers to the organization.

Juliet Kirk, of Panther Pond and Chicago, joined the Raymond Waterways Board of Directors. Her family goes back more than a hundred years on Panther, and she has spent every summer of her life on the lake as an avid swimmer and sailor. A graduate of Columbia University, where she was president of Engineers



Juliet Kirk—
New Board Member

Peter Rowland—
New Board Member

Without Borders, which built a well platform in Ghana over two years.

Peter Rowland, of Sebago, Lake, joined the board in April as well. He graduated from Williams College and then was a part of the first class at the Veterinary School at Tufts University and studied pathology at the Veterinary College at Cornell. He taught at Cornell, beginning a pathology practice in 1994 that continues today. He moved to Raymond in 2014 and loves living in a quiet cove off the north end of Jordan Bay. Wind sports are favorites and he spends many hours out on the water.

Sebago Lake Shorefront Violations in Settlement with Town of Raymond

After two years of lawsuits and negotiations, the Town of Raymond has signed an agreement with a Raymond Cape shoreland zoning violator and two of his contractors for them to pay the Town \$650,000. Additionally, the

property owner must pay further to restore the site.

According to WGME News, Donald Buteau, who owns the properties, and Robert Durant, who is the managing member of Big Lake Marine and Durant Excavating,

are jointly and severally responsible to pay the town the funds for clearcutting trees and installing a wide band of riprap on the shore of Sebago Lake without permits and in violation of state and local laws and regulations.

New Law Passed to Discourage Those Flouting Shoreland Zoning Regulations and Laws

LD 2101, a new Maine state law, supported by our local Senator Timothy Nangle and Raymond Waterways' board member and State Representative, Jess Fay, allowing municipalities to both

deny permits for further work on shoreland property when violations occur, and to allow for the towns to place liens on the property until the costs of fines, remediation, and attorney's fees

are recovered, passed in April. For the full text, please see link below.

<https://legislature.maine.gov/>

CONTRIBUTE HERE! Or send your donation to RWPA, PO Box 1243, Raymond, ME04071

Volunteers Needed

Raymond Waterways is looking for a new treasurer for our board to oversee payroll, bookkeeping, and donations. You need to be a Raymond resident.

We are also looking for people willing to be trained in invasive species identification, water sampling techniques, and courtesy boat inspections.

Our new LakeSmart erosion

control program also needs volunteers to help lakeside residents identify and mitigate erosion into our lakes.

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and donations.**

We also need a volunteer or more to deliver rack cards at various groceries and businesses in Raymond. This would be a once weekly job throughout the summer.

If you have other ideas about how you may help Raymond Waterways, please let us know!

For more info, please see our Volunteers page on raymondwaterways.org.

What is Raymond Waterways?

We are a non-profit corporation dedicated to protecting all Raymond Waterways with programs such as the Courtesy Boat Inspections, water quality sampling, erosion control, and education.

Poetry Corner

*From "New England Pilgrimage"
by Phyllis McGinley*

Connecticut, with much at stake,
Prefers to call a pool a lake,
But in New Hampshire and beyond
They like to call a lake a pond.

Why Raymond Waterways?

- All Raymond Waterways—lakes, ponds, and brooks-- are connected—we help take care of them all.
- We have an economy of scale in our programs that coordinates and cooperates between the different lake associations in town, local businesses and government, and state and federal regulators.
- The value of all properties in Raymond—shoreline or not—depends on healthy lakes
- Our programs—established and new—depend on your donations. Please give:



**RAYMOND
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Contact us: info@raymondwaterways.org
Mailing address: PO Box 1243, Raymond, ME 04071
Website: raymondwaterways.org

To donate and to learn more about the RWPA, go to Raymondwaterways.org