

Reflecting on the summer of 2016

The Westmore Association got the summer off to a strong start by sponsoring the 16th annual 4th of July boat parade. Seventeen boats paraded by the judges, all decorated in the theme "Christmas in July." Shortly thereafter, Dick Simpson, Westmore historian, gave another of his beautifully illustrated "History of Willoughby Lake" presentations.

In mid-July, Mark Shelton entertained us as an Elvis impersonator at the Fellowship Hall. The 28th of July was the annual meeting of the Westmore Association. Ten area students were presented with \$1,000 scholarship checks. It gives us enormous pleasure to know that our small Association can raise the funds for these young scholars: Brittany Chase, Veronica & Clark Hayden, Cassi Martin, Bryant Prue, Maeve Scarlett, Ian Strange, Ryan Streeter, Morgan & Tyler Valley. The speaker for the annual meeting was Tracy Zschau, Conservation Director of the Vermont Land Trust, NEK division, who, with Art Brooks, President, presented Louisa and Vince Dotoli with a framed color aerial photograph of Willoughby, Long Pond and the 3,000 acres that they recently placed under a conservation easement to preserve the landscape from future development while making it available for public hiking. New board members elected at the annual meeting are Ellie Majchrzak, Deb Richards and Sharon Strange.

The last days of July were enjoyed by the plein air artists who distributed themselves around the lake to create lovely paintings that were later on display at the WilloughbyVale Inn. On the first weekend in August, Alan Greenleaf and the Doc played their original songs at A Picnic in the Park. Members enjoyed the music as they ate their picnic suppers. Little Deb and the Big Wind performed at the Ice Cream Social in the Memorial Park. A silent auction accompanied the ice cream, lemonade and iced tea.

The Greeter program that inspects boats entering and leaving Willoughby for alien invasive species was in operation at the boat launch from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. There were 3 full-time greeters and 3 alternates who covered 60 hours a week. The greeters are paid with funds from the Association, the Town of Westmore and a grant from the State of Vermont. The Greeter shelter was constructed over the summer by Ray Lanier which will be in place at the boat launch.

A new weather station has been installed on the west side of Willoughby Lake with a web cam to be added shortly. Current weather conditions (air and water temperature, humidity, precipitation, wind speed and direction, and barometric pressure) are displayed. To access the weather station, go to www.westmoreassociation.org. The water temperature is under "extra sensor" at the bottom of the page. The water probe is 5 feet beneath the surface of the lake.

A & E once again got the contract to harvest milfoil. Divers are again removing milfoil from the lake and finding much less of the invasive weed than in previous years. New bottom barriers have been laid down in trouble areas including a new patch at the delta of Roaring Brook on the west side. On a happier note, Bruce Tanner, our lay monitor for the State reported that water clarity this year was much improved. On one monitoring trip, the water was clear to a depth of 10 meters.

Photos of this summer's events can be found at our web site: www.westmoreassociation.org

Carroll Guitar