



Reflections

FALL 2019

Westmore Association, Inc. Newsletter

Number 49

Reflections on an amazing year, from the president:

By Daniel Ian Smith, President

“All great thoughts are conceived while walking...” Wise words from the philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche from *Twilight of the Idols* and a conviction that I experience with every step I take in our beautiful Westmore surroundings. As I reflect on our activities, endeavors and accomplishments I am amazed and so thankful for collective energies, commitment and outreach that our community provides. It’s been a great year and we have done so much. I am proud to be a part of the Westmore Association (WA) and look forward to every opportunity to contribute to the community.

Our executive board has new some new faces and extends its gratitude to those who have served. First, I must extend my heartfelt thanks to Pam Kennedy for her tireless efforts and commitment to this community and every undertaking she embraces. Pam has organized many of the WA’s summer programs over the last several years and her vision initiated our annual Plein Air event that has been well received. Pam stepped down from her position as our Clerk this summer to spend more time with her family and ever-expanding garden! Her presence on the board is already missed. I know I speak on behalf of the entire board in wishing her well, but I also know that she will continue to help us in the planning and organization of the annual Plein Air event. We’re so grateful. Sharon Strange has also taken a leave from the board as her 3-year term ended this year. Her energies and insights will be missed but her contributions to the town church among other things will still be felt. We thank her for all her efforts! Bruce Tanner, who has been an integral part of the Westmore Association as our Treasurer for many years, has reached our term limits. His tireless efforts and attention to detail were invaluable, and we are grateful for all he has done for our community and the Association. We hope he will continue to share his resources as a consultant in the new year.

We have the great fortune of welcoming two new officers to our board: Jennifer Woolard and Irene Salerno. Jennifer (a year-round Westmore resident-raised here!) has joined the board and is our new Clerk. Her spirit, fresh insights and exceptional organizational skills are already a priceless addition to the Association. Irene has made Westmore her second home for many years and resides on Old Route 5A with her husband and has taken on the role of Treasurer. I can already tell that her experiences will give clarity and provide a wonderful new direction to all our fiscal energies. Please join me in welcoming them both.

I would be remiss not to mention the success of our annual meeting this past July. I was told by many people that it was one of the most well attended and spirited annual meetings our Association has ever had. The food and warmth in the room was inspiring! In addition to our scholarship awards and silent auction, we honored the Tanner family for their many years of dedication to the community. We had two wonderful presentations delivered that evening: one on activities at the Old Stone House Museum, delivered by Bob Hunt, with a bit of



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history about our town; and an informative presentation on the health of VT lakes and ponds by Ethan Swift. Ethan's presentation brought many important issues to the fore which will inform our mission in the years to come. I hope we can continue this spirit every year. I was moved by the energy and outpouring of support in the room that night, not to mention the collective conversation about a variety of topics. It was truly a wonderful event and I am so thankful to all who attended and to my fellow board members who helped make it such a successful evening. Special thanks go to Claudia York and Ellie Majchrzak for organizing the silent auction and logistics for this year's event. I've been fortunate to meet so many wonderful individuals in our community and our connections have led to many great things and new friendships.

Here's a short list of what our Association has achieved in the past year:

- Updated and rewrote our Bylaws
- Established guidelines for our subcommittees and officers
- Established a new outreach and follow-up process for annual membership
- Established and enacted clear scholarship guidelines, process and edited/updated our application
- Awarded \$8000 in scholarships to eight college students in our community
- Applied for a State of Vermont RTP Grant
- Presented two world class concerts, a community dance, a Plein air event, our annual boat parade and other activities
- Honored members and organizations in our community
- Supported and helped to finance our boat greeter program on Lake Willoughby
- Installed cigarette receptacles on the north beach of Lake Willoughby to help curb litter
- Beautified our common areas at the base of Peene Hill and Hinton Hill roads. Special thanks go to Karen Richardson, Ellie Majchrzak, Jennifer Woolard, Eileen and Catherine Smith
- Allocated funds for milfoil eradication

As indicated above, we applied for an RTP Grant this year for some much-needed work on the Westmore Town Forest Trail system on Peene Hill Road. This was a major undertaking I initiated on behalf of the WA and I must thank Luke O'Brien, Dusty May, Jon Cox, Melissa Zebrowski, Bruce Tanner, Sherrie Winnie and Bruce Moffatt for their Herculean efforts in the process. Extra special thanks to Bruce Moffatt who reached out to me last fall to inform me of the needed work and his family history and commitment to the town. The saying "it takes a village" has never been more evident to me than through this process. Unfortunately, we did not receive the grant, but we were informed that we were very close and that our proposal was excellent. Undaunted, the Westmore Association pursued a capital campaign to finance this important project. I am moved to tears as I write this because yet again, the phrase "it takes a village" resonates so strongly. Our hope was to raise half of the needed funds to complete the project. We're so proud to inform everyone that we have nearly tripled the funds we had hoped to raise. The Northwoods Stewardship Youth corps program under the direction and supervision of Dusty May completed the work this July. They worked tirelessly and did a superb job restoring and widening the trail, replacing and rebuilding bridges and rebuilding rock staircases. If you have not gone for a walk in this beautiful set of woods lately, I encourage you to do so. We are profoundly grateful to all who have contributed to bring this project to fruition. Planning is already underway for more projects next spring and summer.

It takes a village indeed, and ours is strong and ever so beautiful. My deepest gratitude goes to Betsy, Karen, Deb, Jennifer, Abbie, Claudia, Ellie, and Irene for your dedication. I wish you all a prosperous and inspiring fall and winter. May every step you take fill your soul with new energy and fill your mind with great thoughts and appreciation for all you behold. I am thankful to share this path with you all.

With warmest regards,

Daniel Ian Smith

President, Westmore Association



The Westmore Association Board

The Westmore Association Board includes Daniel Ian Smith as President, Ellie Majchrzak as Vice-President, Irene Salerno as Treasurer and Jennifer Woolard as Clerk. Board Directors include Abbie Gowdy-Chase, Betsy Plume, Deb Richards, Karen Richardson, Claudia York.

Membership

By Betsy Plume

The 2019 season brought unusually large crowds to Lake Willoughby, as we all observed. So far, however, the greater numbers have not resulted in higher Westmore Association membership. The popularity of the area is likely to grow, and the Association hopes to benefit from the increase by making our presence known and attracting new members. The Association remains familiar only to its current members, to whom we offer grateful thanks for your loyal support. We need to make the Association and its work more evident to both visitors and residents, and encourage them to spread our message of thoughtful use and stewardship of this beloved place.

How best to do that? The Board is entertaining suggestions from members and non-members alike. Here are a few of them:

- Adopt an eye-catching logo to use on our correspondence, and on products such as totes, t-shirts, and other WA items
- Place a WA message at trail sign-in posts, such as, “Trail improvements funded by the Westmore Association”
- Provide a way for visitors to contribute to the Association, such as a jar or money box at local venues
- Advertise WA initiatives and events in the Chronicle and other local publications

In the Spring, the Association will send a letter to all non-member property owners to let them know of our mission and encourage them to become members. If you have friends or neighbors, whether property-owners or visitors, please tell them about the Association. Word-of-mouth advocacy is a persuasive tool, one we always have with us and can always share with others. If you have suggestions about raising our visibility, please send them to membership@westmoreassociation.org.

Lake Willoughby Water Programs

Willoughby Lake, Greeter Program: *By Katherine Busby, Greeter Program Coordinator*

We had three full time greeters and three alternates to cover the 60 hours per week. The program ran from Memorial Day Weekend to Labor Day. Over the season, the greeters encountered 1458 boats (approximately 33% fewer boats than in 2018), that were either launched or retrieved. Plant material was removed from 24 boats of which 13 were Eurasian Milfoil. Once again, more Eurasian Milfoil plants were removed from boats (11) being retrieved than being launched (2) resulting in the program not only protecting Willoughby, but potentially protecting other lakes and ponds. July and August had the most frequently contaminated vessels. The major concern this year was the infestation of Zebra mussels in Lake Memphremagog and the possibility of Zebra mussels being brought to Willoughby and other lakes within the Northeast Kingdom. Since the Willoughby greeter program does not operate a hot water wash/decontamination station it has no means to remove possible invasive species, including Zebra mussel larvae, which cannot be removed by another means. It should also be noted that there has been an increase of kayaks and paddle boards (including powered paddle boards) being launched, that pose a possible invasive species threat, at both the North and South beaches that the greeter program does not cover.

Water Quality: *By Bruce Tanner*

At the 2019 Annual Meeting of WA, Ethan Swift, Program Manager for Monitoring, Assessment, and Planning for the Watershed Management Division of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (and long-time seasonal resident of Westmore), gave a well-received presentation on the state of the health of Willoughby Lake. According to Mr. Swift, Willoughby Lake, considered one of the jewels in the crown of the Northeast Kingdom, is in jeopardy of losing its status as a pristine waterbody if steps are not taken to ward this off. This is due primarily to the documented steady increase in total dissolved phosphorus, as measured in water samples taken from Willoughby Lake by Volunteer Lake Monitors (of which Mr. Swift was one of the earliest).

Phosphorus is the principal limiting nutrient that promotes growth of aqueous plants and algae and is responsible for the toxic Cyanobacteria blooms afflicting several other waterbodies in Vermont. The process of increasing plant and algae growth, along with sedimentary infilling of the lake basin, is a natural phenomenon, known as eutrophication, that occurs over the course of millennia. Human activity that promotes phosphorus pollution can radically increase the rate of eutrophication, as is being observed today in many Vermont waterbodies, including Willoughby. Sources of phosphorus pollution are numerous and varied: stormwater runoff; agricultural and logging activities; non-compliant septic systems bordering the lake; mismanaged lakeshores; stream-bank erosion; and more. Historically, Willoughby has enjoyed a status of being an oligotrophic lake—that is, as a pristine lake, free of excessive plant and algae growth and having low phosphorus concentration. Currently, Willoughby is verging on becoming mesotrophic, an intermediary state between oligotrophic and eutrophic. Unless the trend of increasing phosphorus load is reversed, Willoughby will soon lose its status as one of the cleanest lakes in Vermont.

Mr. Swift reported that his department is planning to ramp up efforts to monitor the situation at Willoughby and to create a plan to remediate the influx of phosphorus into Willoughby Lake. Willoughby is a lake where the issues are well understood and where something can be done about it. He also noted that there are already programs in place to help encourage the public to become a part of the solution, such as the Lake Wise Program, and compared a successful Lake Wise initiative on Seymour Lake to that of Willoughby Lake (which is need of many more participants!).



The ultimate take-away from Mr. Swift's excellent presentation is that we have a problem that needs to be addressed and that it can be fixed, especially if each one of us is willing to participate by adopting best management practices in our own backyards. To learn more please visit dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/lakeshores-lake-wise.

Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds: *By Bruce Tanner*

Did you know that the Westmore Association is a founding member of the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds (FOVLAP)? On September 1, 1972, a first meeting was held for the then-named Federation of Lake Associations - Northeast Kingdom. In attendance were lake association representatives from Caspian, Echo, Parker, Seymour, Shadow, and Willoughby. Its first President was Carl Simpson, cofounder of the Westmore Association. By 1982 eight more lake associations had joined up, and in 1986 the name was changed to Federation of Lake Associations - Northern Vermont. In 2001 this Federation merged with Southern Vermont Lake Associations to become the FOVLAP.

Today, annual membership in FOVLAP averages in the 70s and includes individual memberships as well as association and commercial or municipal memberships, representing interested parties throughout the state. Only association members have voting privileges in the affairs of the Federation, however.

FOVLAP is "...dedicated to the conservation, promotion, and development of environmental quality standards for Vermont lakes and ponds through communication with the local lake and pond organizations." FOVLAP achieves its stated mission by providing valuable educational material and information to all interested parties and, in conjunction with the Lakes and Ponds Division of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, hosts an annual seminar in early June on current issues affecting lakes and ponds in Vermont. In addition, FOVLAP closely monitors legislative bills affecting lakes and ponds, and board members have frequently testified at public hearings, urging state legislators to pass effective laws to protect and preserve our lakes and ponds.

If you are passionate about protecting and preserving our beautiful lakes and ponds, you are urged to add your voice to FOVLAP's by becoming a member (individual dues are just \$25), and you might also consider becoming a Director or Officer on the Board. Westmore Association has proudly had at least one of its members on the FOVLAP Board of Directors throughout its history. Let's keep this string unbroken! Please visit www.vermontlakes.org for more information, downloadable application forms, and links to online registration.

Westmore Scholarship Committee Report

By Karen Richardson and Deborah Richards

The Westmore Association has a long tradition of providing financial assistance to college students from our area. This year, thanks to the generosity of our membership and the visitors who participated in our silent auction, purchase of cards, maps and calendars, the Association was able to award eight \$1000 scholarships to the following students:

William Cashin has three semesters left at Northern Vermont University before graduating with a bachelor's degree in accounting. After that he intends to pursue a master's degree in Forensic Accounting.

Callie-Rae Cashin is currently pursuing an Associate degree in nursing at the Community College of Rhode Island. Following completion of her Associate degree she plans to obtain her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Rhode Island. Her goal is to become an Emergency Medicine trauma nurse.

Nicolas French has been accepted at the University of New Hampshire College of Engineering and Physical Sciences. He has a goal of becoming a software engineer.

Cassi Martin is a senior at the University of Vermont, College of Nursing and Health Service, majoring in Health Sciences. Her plan is to continue her education so that she may obtain her Ph.D. in Psychology and become a child psychologist.

Megan Martin just completed a very successful freshman year at Husson University, Bangor, Maine. She will continue there with a double major in Criminal Justice and Psychology in the university's five year double major program. Her hope is to become a forensic psychologist.

Emma Strange had a successful first year at New England Conservatory of Music, Boston where she is pursuing a career in classical vocal performance. She ended the year on the Dean's List with straight A's both semesters. She auditioned and joined NEC's more advanced choir, the Chamber Singers and plans to continue with them.

Ryan Streeter plans to graduate in August 2020 from Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston where he has been majoring in business management and advertising.

Isobel Wildflower transferred over the winter to the State University of New York at Potsdam. She has been on the President's List each semester. She stated that our gift of scholarship monies over the past two years has helped her not only financially but also academically by eliminating stress over working many hours during the week while taking 18 credits. To quote Isabelle, "to say I am grateful would be an understatement".

Scholarship Recipient Quote: Emma Strange

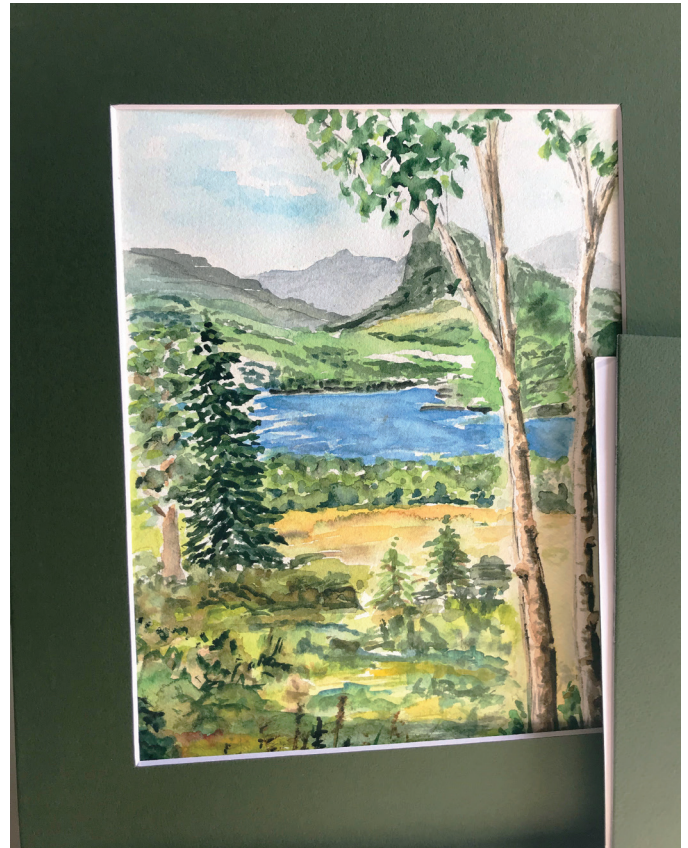
"For the last couple of years, I have been lucky enough to receive a scholarship from the Westmore Association to aid my college finances, and for that I am truly thankful. I attend school at New England Conservatory, where I study classical vocal performance. I absolutely love it! I am able to take lessons and classes with high class musicians, as well as perform alongside musicians my own age who have the same focused goals as my own, which is something I would not be able to experience at most colleges, let alone was able to experience during high school. The only downside to all this is the high expenses. However, through private organizations like the Westmore Association, I can apply and receive financial aid that allows me to continue my education at such a high-end conservatory. I plan to continue my schooling to get my bachelor's and master's degree in vocal performance, and hopefully be able to get a job somewhere in Europe as a professional performer."

Arts and Entertainment

By Pam Kennedy

There was something for everyone this summer in Westmore. We opened the summer with what may be a new tradition, the reading of Fredrick Douglass's 4th of July speech, and an old one, the 20th Annual Boat Parade. Folks cleaned out their clutter at the Town-Wide Yard Sale and learned about recycling and composting from Shannon Choquette, Outreach Coordinator from NEK Waste Management District and our own Burton Hinton. Foresters Scott Machinist and Emily Meacham from the Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation brought us deeper into the treasure that is Willoughby State Forest. The Fifth Annual Willoughby Lake Plein Air brought artists from near and far to paint beautiful scenes around the Lake and Westmore. A reception included refreshments and awards, with many paintings being sold to attendees. Musical events included an evening with singer-songwriter Francesca Blanchard and a rousing hoedown that had everyone on their feet. Music was combined with comedy when the Westmore Community Church brought back the Page Brothers Review. And music and comedy included a rousing pie auction by the inimitable Justin Lander when Modern Times Theatre came to town. Cool Jazz for a Hot Summer Night was the event we all were waiting for, when Daniel Ian Smith and the Generations Quartet made music soar through the Westmore Community Church.

These events happened because you, our members, support the Arts in Westmore with your generous contributions and, more importantly, your presence. Thank You!



CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:
www.westmoreassociation.org

4th of July Willoughby Lake Boat Parade

By Doreen Allen

The 20th annual Willoughby Lake Boat Parade, hosted by the Westmore Association, took place on Thursday, July 4, 2019. Casting off from the shores of Crescent Beach the parade was led by the Tanner family pontoon boat festively decorated for the holiday. This year's parade theme was "Your Favorite Movie." Boats and participants were adorned with decorations representing movies including "The Pirates of the Caribbean" and "Disney's Descendants." First place went to the Miley Family who chose the movie "The Pirates of the Caribbean." The Glover Ambulance Float was a nice addition to the parade, as well as a surprise. Thank you to all the parade participants and to those who enthusiastically lined the lake shores to cheer on the boats. A special thank you to all our judges this year, who always have a difficult job selecting the winning boat.



Westmore Association
Officers & Board of Directors
2019-2020
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Ellie Majchrzak, *Vice-President*
Jennifer Woolard, *Clerk*
Irene Salerno, *Treasurer*
Directors:
Abbie Gowdy-Chase
Betsy Plume
Deb Richards
Karen Richardson
Claudia York

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NEWSLETTER

Reflections

Our 52nd Year!
1967-2020