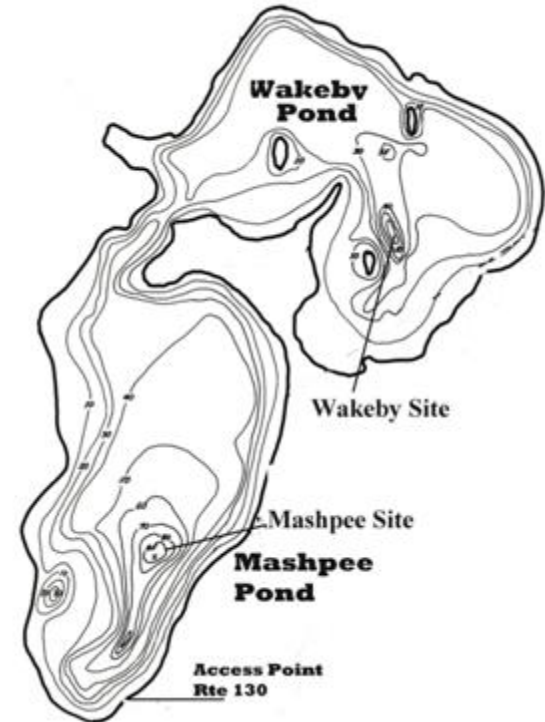


**MASHPEE & WAKEBY LAKES
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
NEWSLETTER**



VOLUME 17, NUMBER 2, FALL 2017

This newsletter is offered in the spring and fall and can be found on the Town website at www.mashpeema.gov under Boards and Committees: Mashpee Wakeby Lake Management.

Water and air, the two essential fluids on which all life depends have become global garbage cans.

~ Jacques-Yves Cousteau

**Mashpee-Wakeby Lake
Management Committee**

Mashpee Town Hall

Mashpee, MA 02649

MASHPEE & WAKEBY LAKE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MISSION STATEMENT



Beach Water Quality Testing

Four seasonal employees of Barnstable County conduct testing of lakes and salt water beaches weekly during the swimming season for Enterococcus in marine waters and E.coli in fresh water. These pathogens are found in the intestines of warm blooded animals and may cause disease; the most common is a mild gastroenteritis. This sampling has been done for 14 years now, funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency through the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. It takes 24 hours to run the tests. When the beach was closed for the first test, most repeat tests have been negative. If a repeat test is positive, the Health Agent in Town would be notified to close the beach. Mashpee was tested at both Attaquin Beach and Camp Farley between June 2nd and August 31st. All tests have been negative for bacteria.

Storm water runoff is the dominant cause for elevated levels of bacteria. Fecal contamination from pets and wild animals such as geese, ducks, seagulls and fox can also cause contamination.

The Mashpee & Wakeby Lake Management Committee is comprised of five members from the Mashpee community. They are representative of groups within the Town of Mashpee who have a vested interest in maintaining the beauty, safety and health of the Lake for the residents' use and enjoyment. The Committee acts as a conduit for the public's interests and concerns about the Lake. It serves as liaison to the Town's governing agencies, recommending necessary actions to be taken. The Committee meets on the fourth Thursday of each month, at 7:30 PM at the Mashpee Town Hall. The presence of Mashpee residents at these meetings is encouraged. We urge your participation in the activities of this Committee, to assist in our ongoing efforts to preserve the beauty and safety of the Lake. For more information, contact any of the Committee members listed below.

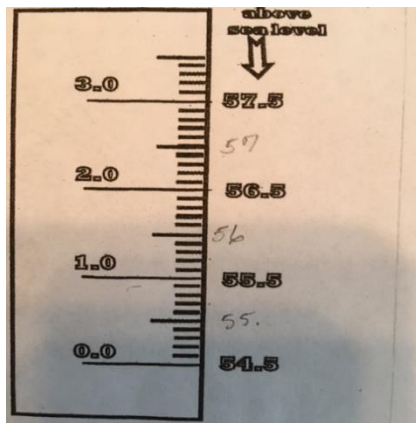
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2016-2017 Lake Levels

Lake level measurements are taken by a MWLMC member every two weeks when the area is accessible at the fishway where the Mashpee River exits the Lake. The lowest level of the lake this past year occurred on September 15, 2016 with a reading of 54.9 feet above sea level, and the high of 55.6 feet occurred on May 15, 2017.

Minor adjustments in the boards are done by Drew McManus in Conservation and the Massachusetts Department of Marine Fisheries to allow herring to migrate into the Lake in spring and out of the Lake in the fall.

Levels above 55.5 feet may cause erosion and property damage around the lake shore and the May 15th reading was the only one exceeding that level. Looking back five years at the levels on March 1st, the lake has been at 55.6 feet above sea level in 2013, and 55.5 in 2014, 2015 and 2016. The 2017 level was at 55.3 feet above sea level following a very dry summer in 2016; however, with the frequent rains this fall, the September 2017 level is two-tenths of a foot above last year.

New Member of MWLMC

At the Selectmen's meeting on October 30, 2017 Mike Rapacz was appointed as the Committee's newest member. Mike Rapacz recently moved to Mashpee from Vermont, and brings to the committee 35-plus years experience as an environmental scientist, regulator and water resource advocate. He is a avid rower and boater, spending several hours each week on Mashpee/Wakeby. He believes that ground and surface water quality are good indicators of how we humans are interacting with our environment; and the Lake is a resource we have a responsibility to maintain in good health.

Swimmers Itch

Swimmers Itch was reported in July in Mashpee Lake according to a July article in the Cape Cod Times. Also called cercarial dermatitis, Swimmers Itch is a skin rash caused by a tiny parasite, which is carried by host animals such as ducks, geese, gulls and swans, as well as beaver. Snail become infected as well. This very irritating rash can last up to a week. Children playing in shallow water are most apt to contract it. To help avoid this rash, towel dry immediately after swimming.

Do not feed the waterfowl as they will congregate in your swim area and increase the probability of this itchy rash.



Lowell Holly Reservation

Lowell Holly Reservation, the peninsula between Mashpee and Wakeby Lakes has been maintained by the Trustees of Reservations since 1942. It contains hiking trails and sandy beaches. For the past three years, the swim beaches have been marked off with swim buoys and motorized boats have been prohibited, and the plan is to continue this practice in 2018. This has allowed the beach area to recover from overuse.

The stewards encourage active use, and request that all visitors please share in preserving its beauty through a carry-in carry-out policy.

Should you need additional information, please visit www.thetrustees.org or contact Superintendent Diane Lang at dlang@thetrustees.org.

Do Not Dispose of Medications Down the Toilet

Medicines that are flushed down a toilet or sink contaminate water resources, resulting in reproductive and developmental problems in fish and other aquatic wildlife. Improperly discarded containers also provide personal information that can be used illegally, including identity theft. If a permanent medication return box or Take-Back Day is not available, follow these steps:

- Take unused, unneeded, or expired prescription drugs out of their original containers.
- Remove ALL personal identification or prescription label from the container before placing in the trash.
- Mix the prescription drugs with an undesirable substance, like used coffee grounds or kitty litter, and put them in impermeable, non-descript containers, such as empty cans or sealable bags, further ensuring that the drugs are not diverted or accidentally ingested by children or pets.
- Throw these containers in the trash.

www.mass.gov/lakesandponds

