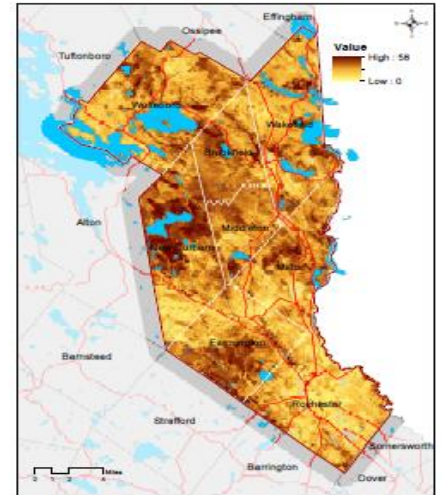


Conservation Focus Areas



MMRG

Conservation Action Plan



**THE MERRYMEETING
WATERSHED IS A KEY
CONSERVATION
RESOURCE.
THIS IS OUR YEAR TO KEEP
IT THAT WAY!**

Photo credit: Moose Mountains Regional
Greenways. Details at

<http://www.mmrq.info/conservation-planning-in-our-region/>

Orange highlighted areas identified as “Tier 1: Highest Priority” for conservation

2018 Lake News and Guide





Message from the President

The mission of the Merrymeeting Lake Association (MMLA) is to help preserve and protect the beauty, quality, integrity, and value of Merrymeeting Lake and its surrounding watershed for future generations. The organization exists for the betterment of the lake and for the enjoyment of its inhabitants.

Board of Directors

Officers

President – Bill Bassett
Vice-President – Chap Nystedt
Secretary – Brenda Mullaney
Treasurer – Mark Sullivan

Directors

Jan Allard	Jeff Allard
Jan Bell	Nancy Bryant
Chris Cairns	John Chapin
Pat Chiumiento	Susan Glenney
Sue Kowalski	Tom Mottl
Russ Weldon	Open
Open	Open

2018 Annual Meeting Saturday, July 7

This will be the most important annual meeting in recent history. We have a chance to change the future of the Merrymeeting watershed. Come and learn how on July 7.

Not a member yet? Visit www.mmlake.org to learn how to become one.

MMLA
PO Box 468
New Durham, NH 03855

The BIG NEWS this year, as most of you are aware, is Merrymeeting Lake Association's contract to purchase the 2000-acre Birch Ridge property. The ultimate goal is not to take title to the land but, instead, transfer the ownership rights to another entity that will put the parcel into permanent conservation.

The highest priority is to protect our watershed and, therefore, Merrymeeting Lake forever. This is a one-time opportunity, and the stakes are high. If we do not succeed, the land most certainly will be lost to development.

The formidable task at hand is to raise \$2.8M (purchase price plus future conservation management) in a relatively short timeframe. Already, \$200,000 has been contributed by 10 generous members for the required deposit, so the fundraising process is off and running. A large part of the MMLA's effort will be to build a coalition of supporters by reaching out to the State, the Town, key conservation groups, and all lake residents.

An undertaking of this magnitude is complex and not easily understood. That's why the Birch Ridge purchase will be the major focus at the MMLA Annual Meeting on July 7. Although basic facts were covered earlier in the email to MMLA members and on the MMLA website, considerable meeting time will be devoted to explaining additional details about the purchase, as well as addressing member concerns and questions. The agenda and other meeting details will be posted on our website in early July.

The MMLA Board of Directors is dedicated to bringing about a successful outcome, but these individuals can't do it alone. We need YOU, the members, to bring a high level of commitment, support, and involvement to the process, along with other lake and town residents. Everyone has the opportunity to be part of the solution, and I hope you are willing to put some time and money into this vital effort. Please let us know soon by contacting any board member or emailing mmla@mmlake.org.

There IS strength in numbers! Your membership never has been needed more, and I ask you to join. I also encourage you to spread the word to your neighbors and any newcomers.

By working together, we will continue to protect and preserve Merrymeeting Lake. Many individuals have shared positive feedback and voiced support for the purchase, and I can't thank those of you enough.

Bill Bassett
President, MMLA

What's Happening with the Birch Ridge Land?

This question concerning the large property that dominates the southern side of Merrymeeting Lake, sometimes also referred to as Red Oak Ridge, has been of high interest and concern for many years. For the record, here's a brief overview.

PAST EFFORTS A decade ago, two MMLA members at large, Pat Decker and Lou McGrew, spearheaded a fundraising campaign to save the Birch Ridge land from development. All was on track to purchase the land for the \$2.9M appraised value, but the owner wanted millions more. Thus the effort ended.

Years later in 2016, a selective tree harvest was done from midway toward the end of South Shore Road. Around the same time, the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests was engaging in discussions about buying the property and putting it into conservation.

Then last August, much to the surprise and dismay of the Forest Society and all of us, the land was sold suddenly for quick cash to a Maine logger for \$2.6M. Within weeks, permits were granted and cutting began.

PRESENT AGREEMENT The MMLA obtained the right to purchase the land for \$2.0M once the logging is complete. With 10 like-minded donors funding the \$200K deposit, the agreement was finalized in February 2018. The MMLA has until June 28, 2019, to raise the remaining balance and complete the land purchase. Additional monies will be required to place the property into a conservation trust and fund future conservation management (current estimate is approximately \$800K).

FUTURE USE? The focus now is on future possibilities – the next best use for this huge parcel of land. Housing development? Wind farm? Conservation? Other? A full and open discussion of this timely, critical issue will take center stage at the MMLA Annual Meeting.

MMLA Annual Meeting – Mark Your Calendar!

Saturday, July 7, New Durham Elementary School

This year's annual meeting is the most important in recent years. Whatever happens next with the Birch Ridge land will have a lasting impact on Merrymeeting Lake – good or bad.

Concerned about problems with drainage into the lake? Property rights of abutters? Public use of conservation land? Impact of decisions on property values and taxes? Feasibility of raising such a huge sum? Then you belong at the meeting.

AGENDA

8:30 a.m. – Coffee & donuts and member sign-in

9:00 to 9:30 a.m. – MMLA Annual Business Meeting (to begin promptly)

Key topics: welcome and brief overview, financial review, program updates, election of officers and directors

9:30 to 10:45 a.m. – Birch Ridge Conservation Plan (session open to the public)

Speakers to include representatives from groups such as NH State Forest Rangers, land conservation groups, state agencies, and both state and local officials

Don't miss this one-time opportunity to:

- explore details involved with the purchase,
- ask questions and offer input about the conservation plan and future land use,
- understand the MMLA's role going forward, and
- play a part in the Birch Ridge conservation solution.

10:45 to 11:00 a.m. – Reconvene MMLA Business Meeting

Member vote to ratify decision by Board of Directors to enter into purchase agreement

The future of Merrymeeting Lake is in your hands!

2018 Annual Events

- **Roadside Cleanup** - Sunday, May 27, 9 AM, starting at the MMLA Clubhouse
- **Annual Meeting** - Saturday, July 7, learn about the plans for Birch Ridge!
- **Fireworks** - Saturday, July 7 (rain date, July 8)
- **Social Gathering** - Saturday, August 4, time and details posted on website in late July

Roadside Cleanup on Sunday, May 27

Last year's spring Roadside Cleanup was a huge success, with approximately 50 people collecting more than 20 bags of trash!

Please volunteer and bring your family/friends/neighbors to participate in the MMLA Roadside Cleanup that will take place this spring on Sunday, May 27, during Memorial Day weekend.

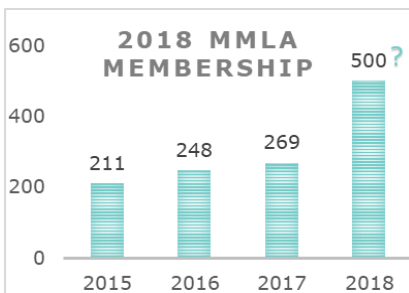
The start time is 9:00 a.m., and participants are asked to gather at the MMLA Meetinghouse/Cove Cottages. After enjoying complimentary coffee and donuts, volunteers will be assigned sections of Merrymeeting Lake Road, South Shore Road, and North Shore Road to clean up. Plastic bags and gloves will be provided for collecting and separating trash and recyclables.

Each volunteer will receive an MMLA t-shirt in appreciation for contributing to this important community activity.

Let's clean up the roadside together in this meaningful way and protect our lake environment for all to enjoy.



MMLA Membership up 27 Percent



One dedicated effort of the MMLA Board of Directors in 2017 was to continue growing the Association membership in hopes of reaching 275. As part of a focused "membership drive," both members of the Board and several volunteers from the general membership contacted non-member property owners around the lake, emphasizing the important work of the MMLA and encouraging them to join.

As a result of these efforts, the MMLA's paid membership at year-end totaled 269 households, just six short of the goal and up from 248 the previous year. This increase is significant because membership dues provide the funds necessary to sustain and advance all programs.

If you haven't yet renewed your membership for 2018 or joined as a new member, you are encouraged to act now. There is strength in numbers, and more members translate to a stronger, more-effective Association.

Water Quality Top Focus of Preserve and Protect Task Force

Formed in the summer of 2016, the Preserve and Protect Task Force continues to seek new ways to protect the health of Merrymeeting Lake for generations to come.

The most recent initiative is a booklet highlighting ways for shorefront property owners to contribute to the health of the lake. The focus is on the responsibility that everyone shares in maintaining the lake's pristine water quality. Be sure to pick up a copy at the MMLA Annual Meeting in early July, as well as share it with visiting friends and renters.



Two high-interest presentations are being planned during the summer months. Dates have not yet been set but will be posted on the message boards and published on the MMLA website at mmlake.org. Please keep an eye out for these announcements.

In one talk, a representative from UNH Cooperative Extension will help educate the audience on environmentally friendly gardening and landscaping techniques that are smart, affordable choices for lakefront property owners.

For the other, Bob Craycraft, New Durham resident and educational coordinator of the Lakes Lay Monitoring Program at UNH Cooperative Extension, will address concerns and share valuable perspectives on lake water quality based on the MMLA's longstanding water monitoring program. All samples taken throughout the summer are tested in the lab at UNH.

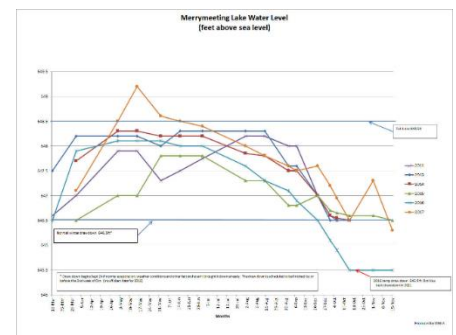
Skeptics about the value of clear water in Merrymeeting Lake should note that lakefront property values fall approximately six to 20% for each three-foot loss in water clarity. It is up to each and every one of us to protect this beautiful natural body of water.

Lake Level Monitoring for Better Management

Some lake residents might be surprised to learn that the MMLA keeps detailed records of the lake level from year to year. Roughly once a month, the water level is measured against the gauge attached to the dam and photos are taken for visual comparisons. Since the water level is under the control of the State of New Hampshire, being able to provide up-to-date information to the NH Dam Bureau helps speed up decisions and actions when issues arise.

This winter was an example of why having these records is so important. The MMLA Board of Directors received several reports of higher-than-normal ice levels, which can damage both waterfront property and the shoreline. A quick trip to the dam and a check of the numbers did indicate an elevated water/ice level. Just one call is all it took for the Bureau to increase the flow of water over the dam, helping alleviate potential problems.

To monitor monthly water levels, be sure to visit mmla.org and click on the "Lake Level" tab.



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The High Value of MML Lake Hosts

Stopping Aquatic Invasives

Lake hosts at the public boat launch are the first lines of defense in the battle to keep Merrymeeting Lake free of invasive plants and animals. And so far so good! Your membership dues and donations to the Water Quality Fund help support this important program, which now is in its 16th summer.

Coverage at the launch this summer is planned as follows:

- late May to mid/late June – weekends 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- mid to late June until late August – weekdays 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and weekends 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Fridays during busiest summer weeks – 7:00 p.m. time extension
- last week in August through Labor Day – weekends 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.



Last year, MML's dedicated lake hosts recorded 1,941 boat inspections and removed 16 samples of plant life from watercraft and equipment. All were sent to the lab for testing and, fortunately, were identified as native species. Lake hosts also help educate boaters about aquatic invasive species and teach them the "Clean, Drain, Dry" method that now is required by the state (see write-up on page 9).

Special thanks are extended to John and Jan Chapin, this season's co-point persons, as well as to Pat and Marsha Chiumiento, who will be assisting after running the program last year. Sara Kowalski, who managed all the scheduling last year, will be returning to supervise approximately eight paid and several volunteer lake hosts.

Volunteers are needed to man the boat launch for a few hours on weekends in June until all of the paid lake hosts return for the summer and again in September after they've returned to school. If you could help out during these times, please contact John or Jan at MMLhosts@gmail.com. It's a high-value job, and a brief training session will bring volunteers up to speed quickly.

The Lake Host™ Program is a courtesy boat inspection program administered by NH LAKES in cooperation with participating local groups. A grant issued annually from NH LAKES helps fund wages for the paid lake inspectors, saving the MMLA many thousands of dollars each budget year.

Lake hosts cover more than 100 boat ramps throughout New Hampshire to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive plants and animals from waterbody to waterbody. Statewide, more than 1,550 "saves" of aquatic invasive specimens were made from 2002 to 2017.

Loon Fun Fact

Are loons monogamous? Since loon pairs do not migrate and winter together, their bond may not be strong enough for a lifetime partnership. But they do share an affinity for the nest site and probably return for several years. So, rather than each other, it may be "home sweet home" they really love.

LPC's Annual Loon Census on Saturday, July 21

For over a decade, MMLA volunteers have participated in the Annual Loon Census, a community-based tool organized by the Loon Preservation Committee (LPC) to gather valuable, observation-based data about New Hampshire's loon population.

In addition to providing a "headcount" of both adult loons and chicks on lakes throughout the state, the census results help the LPC to:

- monitor the state's loons and mark their progress on various lakes,
- perform a mid-season productivity check,
- spot unknown birds in each territory,
- track loon movement, and
- assess relationships between neighboring pairs.

This summer the census is taking place on Saturday, July 21, from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. The task is easily accomplished by four or five two-person teams slowly cruising assigned areas of the lake. If you're a loon lover, have a boat, and would be interested in assisting this year, please contact Jan Bell at mmla@mmlake.org.



Timely Reminders of Two Recent NH Laws

Aimed at protecting both waterbodies and wildlife throughout the state, two New Hampshire laws went into effect during the past two years. Both were covered in last year's newsletter, yet their importance makes them well worth repeating.

SELF-INSPECTION OF WATERCRAFT AND EQUIPMENT The transport of aquatic plants or exotic weeds to or from NH's lakes, ponds, and rivers is illegal and subject to fines. Three inspection steps must be taken before launching into and after leaving a waterbody.

Clean off mud, plants, animals, and algae from boats and all equipment – and dispose of such away from the waterbody

Drain the boat and related equipment away from the waterbody (bilges, live wells, ballast tanks, drain plugs, valves, bailers, etc.)

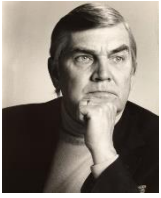
Dry all equipment that comes into contact with the water (motors, live wells, bilges, etc.)

BAN ON LEAD SINKERS AND JIGS Both the sale and freshwater use of lead sinkers and jigs weighing one ounce or less, regardless of length, is prohibited. Fortunately, fishermen can choose from an array of inexpensive alternatives made from steel, tungsten, tin, and bismuth, many of which even offer technical benefits. Find lead-free fishing tips at wildnh.com/fishing/get-the-lead-out.html.

The law is a clear "win" for the loon population, as lead tackle has been the largest cause of loon mortality in New Hampshire, according to Senior Biologist Harry Vogel with the Loon Preservation Committee.



In Remembrance



Dr. David John Dreyer died September 24, 2016, in Toronto, Ontario, at the age of 80. Born in Boston, he attended Harvard University and Yale Medical School, specializing in ophthalmology. After serving his country in the USAF, he opened a private practice in Rochester where he worked for 35 years.

David, aka "Doc," loved life and lived large. He and his late wife Cynthia traveled the world and split their time among a house in Durham, their beloved Merrymeeting Lake house, and a condo in the Florida Keys. He played trombone in a Dixieland band, collected antique cars, and built model ships and planes. He loved the natural world and taught his children to appreciate its beauty and importance.

David is survived by his wife Sandra Demson, four children, and five grandchildren.



Phyllis Bean Lundgren, 85, died May 17, 2017, at her home in Rye. Born in Portsmouth, she graduated from Portsmouth High School in 1951, and worked as a clerk for the City of

Portsmouth Tax Collector for 23 years. She later was employed by the Town of Rye for nine years.

Phyllis was an active member of the North Church in Portsmouth. She enjoyed gardening, spending time with her family at their Merrymeeting Lake house, and watching her grandchildren play sports.

Phyllis is survived by her husband of 62 years, Knute; two sons; and their beloved grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Vivian Oneta Munsey, age 84, died in Augusta, ME, September 5, 2017. She was born in Glen Allen, MO, but grew up in the Boston area.

Vivian attended Boston University's College of Business Administration as one of six women in the class of 1955. It was during this time that she met her lifelong partner and best friend, Henry Giles Munsey. They were married in Natick, MA, in 1955, and began their 62-year life journey.

In 1996, they moved from Sudbury to Merrymeeting Lake in New Durham, where they enjoyed 21 years together.

Vivian's favorite thing was having her children and grandchildren come to the lake for a family reunion every summer. She is survived by her husband, five children, and 10 grandchildren.



Barry F. Newell, 71, of Reading, MA, passed away June 9, 2017. Born in Boston, he graduated first in his class in the 50th Massachusetts State Police Training Academy. He served proudly on the

Massachusetts State Police for more than 40 years until his retirement in 2008.

Barry was a gentle giant who was respected and loved by countless friends and family. He was a role model to many - someone who his friends and family aspired to be like.

Barry is survived by his wife Annamae. A devoted "Papa," Barry spent his retirement years spoiling his grandchildren with a selfless, unconditional love that they always could count on. His legacy will live on through his children and grandchildren.



David Vance Priddle passed away February 22, 2018, at the age of 82. Born and raised in Winthrop, MA, he grew up helping in his family's store, Edie's Variety. He often told stories about preparing turkeys for

Thanksgiving, going to the market in Boston for groceries, and drying mittens on the pot belly stove.

Having started his career at Sanborn Company (which became Hewlett-Packard), David worked for over 30 years at New England Nuclear (which became DuPont), retiring at age 50. After serving as executive director, he later retired from NEC Corporation.

David is survived by his wife of more than 60 years, Lorraine; his children; and grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Most precious to him was time spent at his home on Merrymeeting Lake, which he enjoyed with both family and friends.

Nonstop Summer Fun in New Durham

There is no shortage of summer activities to enjoy in the beautiful NH Lakes Region, and a good place to start is right here in New Durham.

Once again, **New Durham Parks and Recreation** will be offering swim lessons at the town beach on Merrymeeting Lake. The three two-week sessions will begin on July 2 and conclude on August 10. Per the usual schedule, other Rec events will include weekly field trips, the annual 5K road race, and the popular Celebrate New Durham festivity.

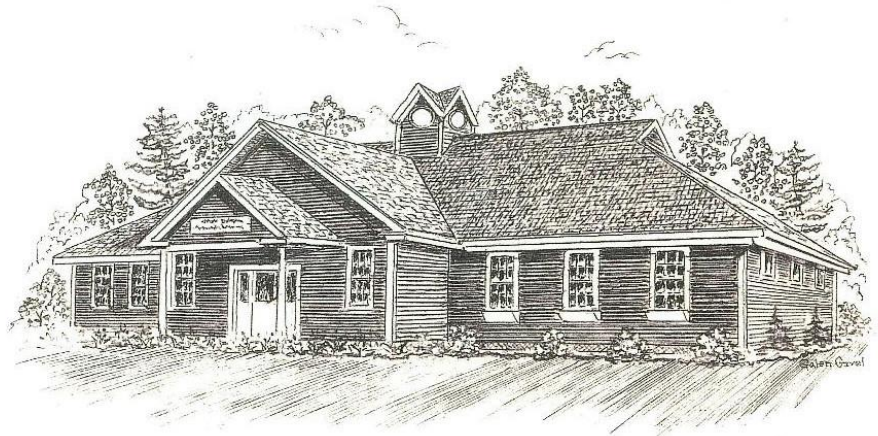
The Rec staff also is working hard to organize additional summer programs, including workshops, exercise sessions, and other classes. Two yard sales will be offered as well.

The first, scheduled for June 23 and 24, will be a town-wide yard sale taking place at the participants' properties. Registration is required in order for all sale locations to be featured on the map – for free! Then, at the end of August (date TBD), a community yard sale will take place at the ball fields. Sellers will have the opportunity to donate any unsold items to support the Rec Department's Savers FUNDrive.

Any insights into local programming are encouraged and should be provided to Recreation Director Nichole Hunter at ndrec@newdurhamnh.us or 859-5666.

The **New Durham Public Library** staff encourages Merrymeeting Lake's summer residents to get a library card and take advantage of everything the library has to offer – DVDs, downloadable books, audio books for kids and adults, telescope, appliance energy-efficiency reader, special programs, and more.

"Libraries Rock" is the theme for this year's Summer Reading Program, which is a fun, interactive program offering entertainment, crafts, activities, and food. It is scheduled from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on four consecutive Wednesdays: July 11, 18, 25, and Aug. 1. All children who have completed kindergarten through sixth grade are welcome to participate in this free drop-off program. Entertainment at three sessions also is open to the public for free: July 11 (mime), July 18 (fife and drum), and July 25 (American tales and songs).

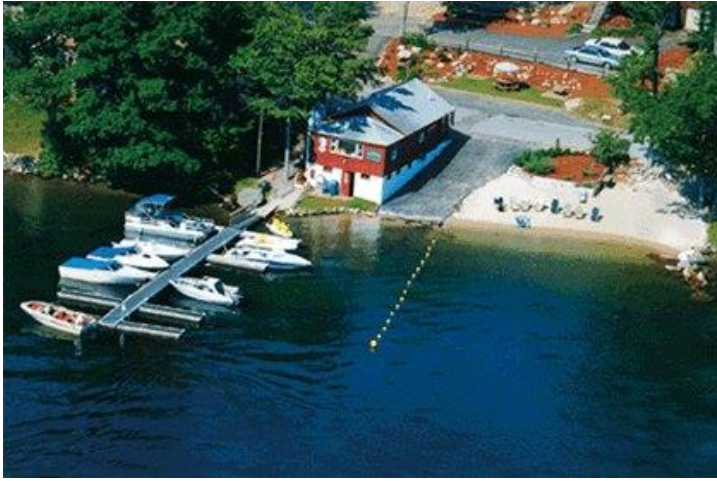


To discover what else the library has to offer, visit www.newdurhamlibrary.org or call 859-2201. And don't forget to Like the New Durham Public Library page on Facebook!

Important Contact Numbers

<p>Town of New Durham</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Hall 859-2091 • Police Department 859-2752 • Fire Department 859-3473 • Transfer Station/Recycling 859-8080 • Post Office 859-5200 • Recreation Department 859-5666 • Public Library 859-2201 	<p>Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NH Marine Patrol 293-2037 <p>Area Hospitals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huggins/Wolfboro 569-7500 • Frisbie Memorial/Rochester 332-5211 • Wentworth-Douglass/Dover 742-5252 	<p>Utilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NH Electric Coop 800-698-2007 • Eversource 800-662-7764 • MetroCast 800-952-1001 • TDS 866-571-6662
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Merrymeeting Marina Up and Running for Summer Season



We are growing again, which is good news after the long, cold winter. Marcie and Allen are expecting their third child in October, which means we're only about 16 years away from full employment of cheap family labor!

The entire marina staff is looking forward to servicing your needs this summer in every way possible. We're here for you, so please let us know how we can help make your summer more relaxing and carefree (859-2000 or merrymeetingmarina@gmail.com).

Marina Services: What You Need, When You Need It

For example, has your mooring been checked recently? Last year three boats and two swim rafts broke loose from moorings because of old rusted chains, so don't ignore this maintenance item. Just contact the marina to put your name on the list.

- ☑ **MOORING CHECK** – Diver will check your chain, mooring, and attachments for just \$75, which will be deducted from the total cost if you need a replacement chain or related repair.
- ☑ **SPRING BOAT DETAILING** – Get your boat on the list early for interior detailing and hull waxing. You'll enjoy a clean, shiny boat all summer long – plus help retain your boat's value.
- ☑ **GAS** – Gas is available seven days a week. If the store isn't open, simply look for an attendant or call the marina at 603-859-2000.
- ☑ **TRAILER STORAGE** – Is there a trailer in your way? Let the marina store your trailer for \$50 a half season or \$100 the full season. Trailer storage is free for our winter storage customers.
- ☑ **BOAT AND JET SKI REPAIRS** – Fast, affordable repairs are completed locally by experienced mechanics on inboards, outboards, and jet skis.
- ☑ **WINTER STORAGE AND SHRINK WRAPPING** – The marina provides indoor storage, shrink wrapping, and outdoor storage on site. Labor Day weekend special: 10% discount on shrink wrapping!
- ☑ **SUPPLIES** – Need oil, boating accessories, or even fishing bait? Just stop by the marina and save yourself a trip to town.
- ☑ **LAKE APPAREL** – Hats, shirts, and sweatshirts are festive reminders of great times spent at Merrymeeting Lake.
- ☑ **REFRESHMENTS** – The store is well stocked with ice cream, candy, cold beverages, and coffee to make your days on the water refreshing and delicious.

Hours of Operation

Memorial Day weekend

to Labor Day
Friday – Sunday
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Other Weekdays All Summer

Monday – Thursday
Gas and ice cream available
(just ask an employee for assistance)

Monday, October 8

Last call for boats

Thursday, November 1
Snowmobile repair begins

To all our loyal customers, **THANK YOU** for your patronage!