



Photo by John Gisis

## 2020 Lake News and Guide





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.

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### 2020 ANNUAL MEETING Saturday, July 11 via ZOOM

Please attend! Involved members - like you - are the key to a strong, successful MMLA.

Not a member yet? To join, you can remit the form included with the brochure sent in May along with a check, or, pay your dues online at [www.mmlake.org](http://www.mmlake.org).

MMLA  
 PO Box 468  
 New Durham, NH 03855

[www.mmlake.org](http://www.mmlake.org)

## Message from the President

Our momentum continues!

I'm excited to announce an incredible opportunity this year to further protect our lake by conserving a treasured property and expanding the Birch Ridge Community Forest (BRCF). Our "Keep Merrymeeting Clean" initiative will add 1,100 acres to the conserved land in the watershed around the lake!

Inspired by their love of the lake and pleasure in seeing others enjoy Mount Molly, the Collins Family has made a remarkable pledge to gift to



the Southeast Land Trust (SELT) 500 acres including the slopes and peak of Mount Molly. Their generosity will ensure this land is forever protected and open for hiking and recreation.

Additionally, BRCF will be expanding by 643 acres with the addition of two properties directly abutting the forest.

The current landowners, the Stell and Young families, readily contracted with SELT to purchase these key parcels because they recognize the significance of their lands in the wider conservation plans for both the lake and the region.

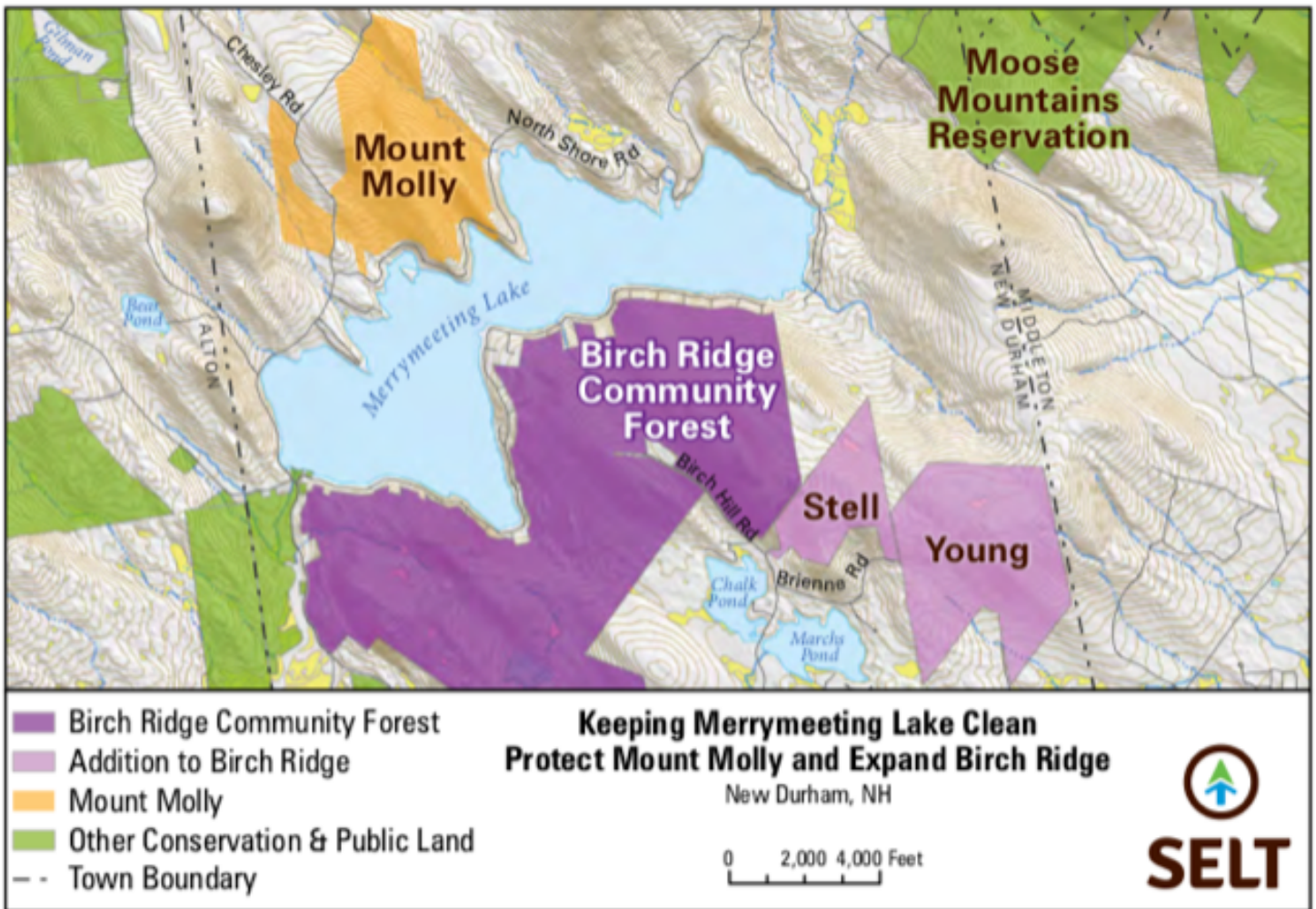
Success begets success. These new conservation opportunities are the result of our lake community's unique combination of awareness, passion and action for conservation. Our success in partnering with SELT and Moose Mountain Regional Greenways (MMRG) for Birch Ridge has proven to the State of NH and Federal Conservation Agencies that we are dedicated to our conservation goals, and increases the likelihood of additional grant funding.

Prior to Birch Ridge, only 4% of the land in the watershed was protected. The conservation of Birch Ridge raised this to 19%. Our new initiative will increase the amount of conserved land in the watershed to 29%! Our work has heightened awareness of the critical need to act now for land and water protection and illustrates that, working together, we are a success story with more chapters to be written.

With appreciation,

Laurie Smith  
 President, MMLA

## MMLA Map of Merrymeeting Lake and Surrounding Conservation Lands



### MERRYMEETING LAKE AND RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

A Watershed Management Plan for Merrymeeting Lake and Merrymeeting River was finalized in September of 2019 following extensive research, public participation, sampling, and modeling conducted by FB Environmental Associates. The plan addresses the blue-green algae (a.k.a. cyanobacteria) blooms in the Merrymeeting River, focusing on ways to reduce phosphorus inputs to the river. The greatest contributor of phosphorus is the Powder Mill Fish Hatchery which will be required to significantly treat its wastewater before discharging it to the river. The plan also identifies other phosphorus sources in the watershed and recommends reduction strategies, such as minimizing fertilizer use, proper septic tank maintenance, and erosion control.

“What’s a watershed?” you might ask. The watershed of Merrymeeting Lake is the land surrounding the lake all the way up to the hilltops, such that when it rains the water eventually drains into the lake. As shoreland property owners, we can all help do our part to reduce the amount of phosphorus that enters the lake and then the river. You can find a link to this informative and comprehensive Watershed Management Plan on our [mmlake.org](http://mmlake.org) website.

# SPECIAL MMLA SUMMER EVENTS



## 2020 Marina FIREWORKS, July 4

The 2020 Marina Fireworks show is currently planned for Saturday night July 4th compliments of the Merrymeeting Marina.

## MMLA Annual Meeting on Saturday, July 11

Our 2020 Annual Meeting on Saturday, July 11 will be virtual via ZOOM this year. Details will be posted on the MMLA web site at [mmlake.org](http://mmlake.org), and sent by email to members in advance of the meeting.

## Music on the Lake Saturday, July 25



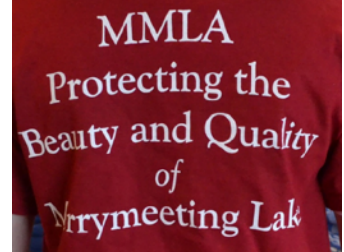
Please join us for an exciting evening of "Music on the Lake" Extravaganza on July 25 from 5 to 8 p.m. (with a rain date of July 26). Enjoy listening to music as you meander along the shores of Merrymeeting Lake while being serenaded by musicians from their docks.

Please stay tuned for the program closer to the date. We're sending out a call to all musicians to share your music for our event. All musicians of any ability level are welcome! Do you have an instrument to dust off and have some fun performing? Have a family duet or band, or just want to share your playlist with others down on your dock for our first ever Music on the Lake Boat Extravaganza?

Interested performers please contact Jen and Stephanie at [mmla@mmlake.org](mailto:mmla@mmlake.org) with your names, genre of music, and location. Help us make this event a success by sharing your music with our community!

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# SPECIAL MMLA SUMMER EVENTS



## MMLA Boat Parade: Celebrating our Beautiful Lake, Hills, and Forests August 15th



4th of July Boat Parade, Brantingham Lake, NY by Pstark1 CC-BY-SA

In this summer of social distancing, we think it's a good time to bring back a popular lake association event: the boat parade! This year's theme is "**Celebrating our Beautiful Lake, Hills and Forests**". The boat parade will celebrate our recent land conservation achievements and the benefits these protected lands will have on the lake's water quality. Feel free to be creative in decorating your boat (although decorations aren't required for participation). This theme may conjure up visions of wildlife and fish and clean water and trees and the four seasons and sunsets and...we have much to celebrate!

Decorated or not, please join the MMLA boat parade on **Saturday, August 15, starting at the dam at 3:00 PM**. We'll slowly make our way around South Shore to the East End, then along the North Shore and will end back at the dam around 5:00 PM. Rain date will be Sunday, August 16 at 3:00 PM. Let your boat decorating imagination run wild and celebrate our beautiful lake, hills and forests in the 2020 boat parade!

## Mushroom Foray Saturday, August 29th



Edible fungi in basket, Public Domain

Join with members of the Moose Mountains Regional Greenways (MMRG) in a day of discovery of the mycological world. We'll search the slopes of Caverly Mountain on a relatively easy trail off North Shore Road that also features an active beaver pond-meadow. With a sturdy collection basket and a small knife in hand, collect mushrooms you spot in the woods and then join other participants in an identification session led by renowned professional mycologist Dr. Rick Van de Poll. Learn the fundamentals of forest mycology and how to identify the many mushroom families and get acquainted with which species are edible and which are not.

Please register in advance with Kari Lygren at [mmrgnh@gmail.com](mailto:mmrgnh@gmail.com) or 603-978-7125. We'll meet at 10 a.m. at 253 North Shore Road, followed by the foray and identification session that will last until approximately 1 pm. Please join us!



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## Lake Host Program Continues to Prove Its Worth



John Chapin, co-point person for Merrymeeting's Lake Host program, accepts the \$500 check. Left is Krystal Costa of NH Lakes Association, and center is Sara Kowalski, Merrymeeting's lake host manager for 2017 - 2018. Watch the fun video on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/GZxzOilPzoM>

Our lake is beautiful with very clean water. To keep it that way, the Merrymeeting Lake Association participates in the nationally-recognized aquatic invasive species education and prevention program run through The NH Lakes Association, a non-profit created to protect all of the state's 1,000 lakes.

Our local lake host inspectors, both paid and volunteer, are trained to inspect boats, trailers, and water gear for hitchhiking plants and animals before they enter Merrymeeting Lake. They also teach boaters about the Clean, Drain, & Dry method to prevent the spread of invasive plants and animals.

Since the inception of the program in 2002, lake hosts have conducted over one-million courtesy boat inspections and have made nearly 1600 "saves", preventing the spread between one water body and another.

Here on Merrymeeting Lake, our Lake Host inspectors conducted 1,862 courtesy boat inspections in 2019, with 74% motor boats and 26% non-motorized (i.e. kayaks, canoes, paddleboards, etc.). This is roughly a 5% increase over the prior year.

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 – extended to 7:00 p.m. • last week in August through Labor Day – weekends 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to man the boat launch for a few hours on weekends in September after all of the paid lake hosts have returned to school. If you can help out, please contact John or Jan Chapin, this season's co-point persons, at [jmchapin@gmail.com](mailto:jmchapin@gmail.com).

## Notes from the Birch Ridge Community Forest



Last year, we were visited by Meredith Hovis, a PhD Forest Policy student from North Carolina State University. She met with a representative of SELT, Russ Weldon and Laurie Smith to research and understand the BRCF project from inception to completion. The following are excerpts from her thesis:

"I have spent the last three years studying and visiting community forests in the United States. In the summer of 2019, members of Birch Ridge Community Forest were enthusiastic to meet with me and share their experiences about establishing their community forest. Of all the community forests that I've researched and visited, I am confident to say that Birch Ridge has the highest level of public participation and collaborative involvement and pays careful attention to the voices of the New Durham citizens. I was very impressed with the vast amount of work that SELT and the steering committee put into hosting town workshop sessions and sending surveys to understand what the people of New Durham wanted for their community forest. I have high hopes for the sustainability and success of this Community Forest."



## “The Fireworks” about Fireworks, by Russ Weldon

Last year the MMLA Board of Directors voted to stop sponsorship of the fireworks show at MML. **WHY?** The charter of the MMLA is to protect the water quality and watershed of the lake. To that end, the MMLA has worked hard to gain members, raise money, and to secure the 2,000 plus acres into conservation last year. In addition, with continued water quality monitoring and the Lake Host program the organization has proven its value to all property owners. I hope you will agree the MMLA has been **very** effective. **AND**, this year in 2020 we have a chance to help SELT add another 1,100 acres to the existing conservation land and the MMLA will be focusing on that project.

Fireworks in general do not fit the mission of the MMLA, hence sponsoring it would not be the best investment for the Association to make. For the record, I agree with the vote for the MMLA to stop supporting the fireworks show.

**But there is more....** Over the many years of sponsoring a July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks show you may have noticed that the private use of fireworks around the lake has increased. Many people are finding more and more papers and fireworks debris washing ashore along with polluting chemicals dropping into the lake. This is counter productive to the water quality that we all work to protect. For more information about the effects of fireworks on water quality, please visit the State of NH Dept. of Environmental Services at [tinyurl.com/nh-lakes-and-fireworks](http://tinyurl.com/nh-lakes-and-fireworks)

### **Fireworks shows are so popular- what can we do to continue it?**

Let's face it, we all want to have our cake and eat it too! I will continue to do a fireworks show far away from the lake where it is exciting to see and non-polluting to our water quality. I ask those of you who enjoy fireworks to help me continue the tradition by donating directly to the show by either contributing fireworks or money to support the show at the Marina. If we end up with more than we need for the July display, then we will add a Labor Day weekend show too.

I ask you all to put our efforts together and continue our long running and popular family event of July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks.

The 2020 Marina Fireworks show is currently planned for Saturday night July 4<sup>th</sup> .

Thank you all for the years of support!

- Russ Weldon

## In Remembrance



**Kathleen A. (Burns) Putis**, 75, of New Durham, NH, passed away peacefully on Saturday, May 18, 2019 surrounded by her loved ones. She was the cherished wife of 52 years to Walter Putis.

They lived in Chelmsford, MA for 40 years before retiring to New Durham and Naples, FL. She was a world traveler who loved exploring new places and enjoyed golfing, crossword puzzles, and was an avid reader involved with several book clubs. She was a faithful person and communicant of St. Katherine of Drexel Church in Alton, as well as churches in Chelmsford and Naples. Most of all, she enjoyed spending time with her family and friends.



She worked as a secretary for General Electric and then as an administrative assistant at Raytheon until her retirement. In addition to her husband Walter, she is survived by her daughter, son, three grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. A complete obituary may be found at: <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/lowellsun/obituary.aspx?n=kathleen-a-putis-burns&pid=192928847&fhid=20783>

**Elizabeth M. Brackett**, 102, passed away Saturday April 25, 2020 at Watson Fields Assisted Living Facility in Dover, NH following a period of failing health.

Born January 9, 1918 in Berwick, ME she was the daughter of the late Dr. John T. and Clara (Hurd) Moran. She was predeceased by her husband, Robert, in 2005 and by her brother, John T. Moran Jr. in 1972.

Elizabeth enjoyed oil painting, Tole painting and rug hooking, and was a member of the Seacoast Striders for many years. She had spent summers at Merrymeeting Lake since 1962.

She is survived by her son Greg Brackett of Newmarket, NH and numerous nieces and nephews. A complete obituary may be found at: <https://www.taskerfh.com/obituary/elizabeth-brackett>



**Kenneth Thomas Pitman, Sr. (CPO US Navy, Retd)**, of Manchester, NH died on Friday, January 24, 2020 at the age of 81 at home with his loving family by his side. Most of his military career was with Submarines, advancing to the position of Chief Quartermaster. He was also on the decommissioning crew of the USS Albacore. Ken was instrumental in establishing the standard for Quartermaster Submarine Training.

After military retirement, Ken was employed by the City of Manchester as Engineering Tech in the Assessor's Office. He was an avid Skeet Shooter, winning many state titles and was a member of the US Navy Retired Team, better known as "The Old Goats".

Ken obtained his private pilot's license. His hobbies included skydiving, walking and fishing, cribbage, and he especially enjoyed time at his camp "Pit's Pit" on Merrymeeting Lake.



He leaves behind his loving wife of 60 years, Janice (Spiewak) Pitman, two sons, two grandchildren, a great-granddaughter, a sister and many nieces, nephews and cousins. To view his online memorial, <http://phaneuf.tributes.com/obituary/read/Kenneth-Thomas-Pitman-108084280>

# In Remembrance



Photo by Allan & Janet Thorell

**William Manfred Veazey, "Bill,"** died peacefully at his home in Portsmouth on March 15, 2020. He leaves his wife Julie, five daughters, a son, 12 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

A UNH graduate, he enjoyed a successful career as a Civil Engineer, specializing in acoustics.

Never one to be idle, Bill's retirement became short-lived when he discovered his love of journalism with Rye Reflections, an online publication. Bill's writings of his thoughts, poems, musing and opinions were poignant and well-received.

Bill's greatest joy was in building projects. He loved to share his skills with anyone who would come along to assist, and the volunteers were many to his (and their) benefit.

Gardening was a natural outlet for Bill's industrious and creative energies. Wherever he lived, he created beauty for all to enjoy.

A resident of Merrymeeting Lake since 1983, Bill and Julie endured the loss of their treasured cottage to fire in 2014. With the encouragement of family and lake neighbors, they rebuilt their home and returned in 2016. Bill was the first person on the lake to windsurf, and gladly showed others how to enjoy the sport.

An Eagle Scout in his youth and throughout his life, Bill never missed an opportunity to do a simple kindness or to make the world a better place.



**Erick A. Thorell**, 37, of Bow NH, passed away unexpectedly on Monday, January 6, 2020. Born on August 2, 1982 in Manchester, he was the son of Allan and Janet (Applegate) Thorell of New Durham.

Erick grew up in Hooksett but enjoyed time on Merrymeeting Lake from 6 months old, loving every moment of his time at the lake with his family. He graduated from Kingswood High School, where he served as team captain and was selected to the New Hampshire Allstate Football Team. He attended Plymouth State University as a physical education major and continued to pursue his love of playing football. Erick was a competitive weightlifter and body builder, and a certified personal trainer. He enjoyed hiking, archery, hunting, skiing, boating and waterskiing. An accomplished water skier, he was a member of the Abenaki Water Ski Club. He loved playing his guitar, but his true passion in life was spending time with his three children, who were the center of his world.

Erick worked for many years as a painting contractor with his father and was in the process of establishing his own business.



He is survived by his parents, his wife, Jennifer Duprey of Bow, his son, two daughters, a brother, two nieces, and his maternal grandfather (who passed away three weeks after Erick).

For Erick's complete obituary: <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/erick-thorell-obituary?pid=195000458>

**Judith (Judy) Prasse Bassett**, 76, of Southbury CT, passed away at home with beloved family by her side, on May 5, 2020 due to complications from ALS. She was the beloved wife of Bill Bassett for over 53 years.

Judy was born and grew up in Cleveland, OH and graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University. Bill and Judy were married soon after graduation and settled in Southbury.

She was a generous volunteer serving Southbury Girl Scouts, the Southbury-Middlebury Scholarship Foundation, and The United Church of Christ, Southbury for many years.

Judy loved the time she and Bill were able to spend at Merrymeeting Lake. The lake holds special memories of time with her family and friends. In addition to her husband, she is survived by her three children and their spouses, seven grandchildren, a brother, two sisters, a brother-in-law and aunt.



A full obituary is available at: <https://www.munsonloveterefuneralhome.com/obituary/Judith-Lynne-Bassett>

# Marina Update 2020



Firstly, all of us at Merrymeeting Marina are happy to see everyone return to Merrymeeting Lake for the season. These are scary and confusing times for all of us. On the Bright Side... Boating on the Lake may be one of the best Social Distancing events that we can participate in this year! We have to face the fact that times are changing and we need to embrace it...although the hugs and handshakes that we usually get will be missed this year for sure. Our goal at the Marina is to deliver to you a clean, safe and happy season ahead!

Many questions have come in to the Marina about health & safety issues due to COVID-19 and the effects it may have on boating this season. Things are ever changing, but at the time of this writing these are the plans/changes for this year:

- ☑ **BOATS** – The Marina is open for boat delivery, as boats are defined as “transportation”. Each boat will be opened, tested, cleaned and disinfected before launch. Boats will be available for your direct pick up on the docks or trailer at your requested time and date, to the best of our ability. We ask that you provide 2 weeks notice with a specific date and time for pick up. Dock space is limited. If we have to pull the boat because you did not pick it up we will need to clean and disinfect it again before delivery at an additional charge. Please help us help you by giving us accurate scheduling information. Remember to make sure your dock, your mooring, and the weather is ready before requesting a delivery date. Thank you.
- ☑ **GAS** - We are identified as “gas station” and as such we will be open and available for gas. This year we may only provide full service pumped gas service in order to limit people touching the pump or entering the store to pay. Please help this process by opening a Marina charge account to make this a touch free gas experience.
- ☑ **NEW GAS PRODUCT** – At the end of last year we changed to a new marina specific gas that is both higher octane and includes an added ethanol stabilizer that will help protect engine parts from the corrosive effects of ethanol.
- ☑ **FOOD** – Theoretically we could offer “takeout” Ice cream, but the marina is such a very small space. We feel our Marina would not allow for the recommended social spacing needed for safety reasons. This could pose an unnecessary health risk that we should all avoid. If things are to change and the threat drops, we will post updates on social media including the MML website.
- ☑ **RESTROOM** – Will be open to public access. Please see us for a key and disinfectant wipes as the restroom will be locked for safety reasons.
- ☑ **REPAIRS** – Mechanical Boat and Jet-ski repairs will be provided as usual. Whether it’s a tune-up, oil change or more we are here to give you the best, fastest and least expensive professional boat service found anywhere in NH.
- ☑ **MOORING ALERT** – Your mooring serves to hold and protect a valuable boat. You cannot evaluate the integrity of your chain from the top. The middle of the chain sustains the most wear as the mooring “bobs” in the water. We suggest that you have your chain checked every 4-6 years. If it has been a while since your chain was checked, call the marina at 603-859-2000 to schedule a chain check this year and avoid a serious potential problem.
- ☑ **FIREWORKS** – Please refer to the Fireworks notice in this newsletter.

## HOURS OF OPERATION

Memorial Day Weekend to Labor Day	Other Weekends All Summer	Monday, October 12th	Monday, November 2nd
Friday - Sunday 9 a.m to 6 p.m.	Monday - Thursday  Gas available (just ask an employee for assistance)	Last call for boats	Snow mobile repair begins

***We thank all of our loyal customers for your patronage.  
Have a Safe, Sunny, and Happy Summer at Beautiful Merrymeeting Lake!***