

A non-profit dedicated to restoring the waters of St. Albans Bay

Fall 2008
Newsletter

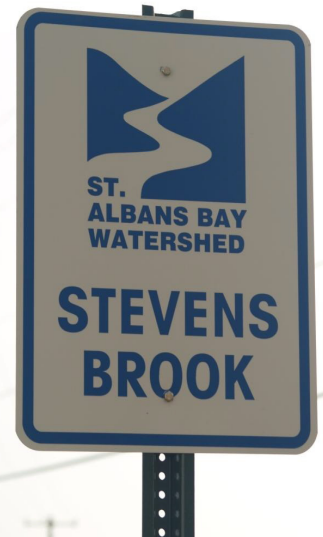
ST. ALBANS AREA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Stream Crossing Signs are Here!



....And, they look great! With assistance from Northwest Regional Planning Commission, the St. Albans Area Watershed Association was awarded a grant last Spring from ANR to promote *Connecting Healthy Lawns to Healthy Waterways*. The project is located in the St. Albans Bay Watershed, with a specific focus on water quality awareness in the urban/suburban areas of the Stevens and Rugg Brook watersheds. We are continuing our theme of lake friendly lawn care, to use "stream crossing signs" to stimulate the connection of urban residents to their water quality impact on their local streams and St. Albans Bay. These signs will be posted at approximately 15 stream crossings in the Stevens and Rugg Brook watershed. We are hopeful that residents will begin to recognize and 'get to know' the local streams. This grant was funded through the Vermont Watershed Management Fund which was created in 1996 to provide funds to restore and protect Vermont's "nongame wildlife and major watershed areas." Revenues for these projects are raised by the fee for the Vermont

Conservation Plate (an additional \$20 per year fee to register motor vehicles.) Proceeds from plate sales are forwarded by the Department of Motor Vehicles to the Department of Fish and Wildlife and are equally divided between the Vermont Watershed Management Fund and Nongame Wildlife Fund. See the sample WATERS license plate below. (Continued on page 6)

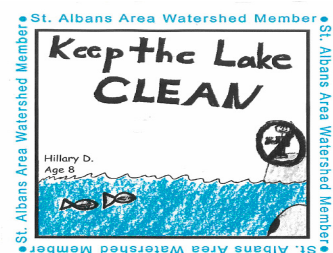


Inside this issue:

Weed Harvesting & Purchase of Weed Harvester	2
Notes of Interest from Eric Wolinsky, President	2
Web Page	
Lighthouse	3
Web Page	3
Walk a Thon	4-5
Rain Barrels	6
Stream Signs, continued	6
Membership & Contact Us	7



Conservation License Plate



Weed Harvesting Update

We did not contract with Aquatic Control Technology, Inc. for summer 2008 weed harvesting. With anticipated budget reductions the Agency of Natural Resources, whom we rely on for substantial funding of our weed harvesting effort, would commit only \$7,700.00 which is approximately 50% of last year's contribution. Even if the ANR had met last year's contribution, adequate funding for this year would have been problematic given increased fuel cost and neither St. Albans City nor Georgia had yet committed funding. It was obvious to us that we cannot continue to raise sufficient funds to contract with Aquatic Control Technology, Inc. for 4 weeks of weed harvesting on an annual basis.

It was determined that the most cost effective approach would be to purchase a Weed Harvester & Trailer. After much research and a lot of intensive time, a Weed Harvester was found and purchased in October at a cost of \$35,000. It is an Aquamarine H-7, 400 having a 7 foot cutter head and 400 bushels of capacity. It came with a trailer

equipped with a conveyor which can be used to transport and off load the weeds.

The Weed Harvester was funded as follows:

ANR Grant	\$7,700
St. Albans Town	\$5,000
Clean & Clear	\$5,000

The remainder was financed with a \$17,300 loan from Peoples Trust Company. The loan is structured so that payments of \$5,000 are due annually. The Town of St. Albans approved an expenditure of \$5,000 per year for five years, which will enable us to make the payment due People's Trust.

We have also applied for a grant through Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) to assist in the maintenance and operation of the Weed Harvester.



Notes of Interest from Eric Wolinsky, President SAAWA

I am excited to be involved with SAAWA at this time. There is a lot going on and a lot of work to be done. There have been two long articles in the St. Albans Messenger on CLF's petition to the EPA for greater involvement in the Lake Cleanup. The Messenger website is www.samessenger.com.

The permit for the City of St. Albans Treatment Plant has been issued. Essentially it is unchanged from the permit for the last 5 years. This permit goes against instructions from EPA and I am working on getting the permit changed and working toward getting improvements made to the treatment plant beyond what the permit required.

Peter Rath is working with VOC on their manure management system. There are still many hurdles to jump over before the system is in place, but people behind this seem motivated.

Dennis Hill is committed to working on

getting some new board members and develop a different committee structure.

Jeff Rouleau is researching NRCS Section 590 requirements. This may be a way to require buffers on ditches or as the Section states 'establish perennial vegetative cover in all areas of concentrated flow resulting in reoccurring gullies.'

There is a lot of work to be done. I am committed to making a difference. We can't do it alone. Please consider getting more involved and joining in on the effort. This can be done simply by attending our monthly meetings to get more involved; joining a committee such as the Lighthouse, or Walk a Thon. Volunteering your expertise in any areas beneficial to our organization.

**Visit our new web page! It's still under construction....
Check it out and watch for upcoming changes and additions!**

www.saintalbanswatershed.org

With funding from a grant through the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) and NEIWPPC and the efforts of volunteer Jennifer Hill (board member and current VP's wife), we have a web page established and it is still in the stages of construction.

There are some changes that need to be made to it. If you have any questions on information contained therein, please e-mail Lori at sawatershed@verizon.net. For instance, our monthly meetings are not being held at the St. Albans Town Hall. We are holding them at BFA. More communications will follow as to the exact day and location for future meetings.



In addition, the grant through LCBP enabled our Association to purchase QuickBooks software to make our treasurer's life easier and Microsoft Publisher to enhance our Newsletters! The web page will provide our members and the public easy access to ongoing events and projects, as well as links to important information.

Without individuals such as Jennifer and our local businesses, shoreline owners and our members we would not be where we are today. Additionally, thanks to the Agency of Natural Resources, The Lake Champlain Basin Program and The Waterwheel Foundation for the funding and ongoing support that they provide.

Redeem your bottles & cans at the Lighthouse

The "Lighthouse" at the foot of Lake Street continues to bring in much needed revenue for our association. It helps pay for these Newsletters, postage, etc. We want to recognize the individual volunteers who worked the Lighthouse this past Summer. They are: John Bostwick, Kevin McGinn, Nick Hathaway, Martha Hathaway, Bill & Rosemary Horton, Dan & Judy Desorcie, Warren & Barbara

Hamm, Ken & Joan Kaye, Charlie Boudreau, Kyle & Tammy Fersing, John Bushey, Warren Marchessault, Eric & Kate Wolinsky, Heidi Crossman and Steve Cushing. Many of these volunteers have done this for more than one year and their efforts are greatly appreciated. Bob Wood will take over for the Fall and Jerry Morong will take the helm for the Winter months. Jerry could use some help, so

please contact him if you have availability this winter. He can be reached at 524-6637.



**WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP EMPTY THE
LIGHTHOUSE THIS WINTER!**



To volunteer this winter, please contact Gerry Morong at 524-6637 or e-mail him at jerrym@surfglobal.net

Thank you for your support of our 3rd annual Walk-A-Thon to help raise funds for a cleaner lake

The 3rd Annual Walk to Save our Bay was another success. This year the weather cooperated and there were ___ walkers and runners. There were great door prizes. Hannaford once again came through and provided a BBQ for all the participants and their families. This event is not only a fundraiser for our organization, but most importantly it highlights the cause and educates the public. Children and families are the future of St. Albans

Bay and if we can publicize our cause in a fun way, it sticks with them and they can become passionate about 'Keeping the Lake Clean' into adulthood. We appreciate everyone's support and the turnout of runners and walkers who collected pledges. A \$25 Better Planet Gift Certificate was awarded to Bennett Coseo for collecting the most in pledges (\$281) for the participants in the under age 12 category. A \$25 Gift Certificate courtesy of Kevin Smith's

Sports Connection was awarded to Greg & Melissa Beeman for collecting the most in pledges (\$170) for participants in the over 12 category. In addition, we'd like to thank Mimmo's and Hamlen's Garden Center for their donations of pizza's, marinara sauce and gift certificates to be drawn as raffle prizes



Dan LeCours, Becky Cota & Sarah Rocheleau from Hannaford's put on a great BBQ

A HUGE thank you to our Sponsors

A.N. Deringer
Ace Hardware
Bruley & Bruley
Corporate Outfitters
Cross Consulting
Franklin County Industrial Development Corp.
Hackett Valine & MacDonald
Hamlen's Garden Center
Handycars.com
Hannaford
Mimmo's Pizzeria
Paul Poquette Realty Group
S.B. Collins
The Bay Store



**THANK YOU TO ALL
THE PARTICIPANTS!**

Kudo's to our Supporters

Better Planet Books
Burlington Bagel Bakery
Kevin Smith's Sports
Kill Kare State Park
Mainstream Kayak's
Office Quarters
St. Albans Amateur Radio Club



Participants in the 2008 Walk-a-Thon



A fun, family oriented event encouraging everyone to participate



Above: Board Member & BFA Ecology Teacher, Jeff Rouleau with Bennett Coseo

At left: Heather Galligan, Olivia Raftery, Chris Blackburn, Lisa Raftery, Jordyn Raftery and Brendan Raftery (just 3 months old!) Their 2nd year of participating! Thank you for your support!

Stream Signs, continued....(Cover Story)

Signs have been or will be placed throughout the watershed, both in the City and in the Town. When people hear talk of or read about issues with the Bay, and specifically Stevens and Rugg Brooks, most people do not realize where these waterways are located and how they are connected. Often they are also unaware of how their activities in the watershed generate the storm-water runoff and phosphorus pollution that is impacting these waterways. Thus, through this project, we are continuing our theme of lake friendly lawn care, while using the “stream crossing” signs to enlighten urban residents about their impact on water quality in local streams and St. Albans Bay. These “stream crossing” signs will provide a starting place for discussion about the connection between the urban areas and the Lake, so that more citizens are likely to be engaged when reading about projects and efforts. Some residents

don’t even realize that what they think is possibly a “ditch” is actually part of Rugg or Stevens Brook. Hopefully, these signs will raise awareness.

An additional component of this Grant will be the designing of Lawn Signs over the winter to continue the Lake Friendly/P-Free Campaign.

Approximately 25 signs will be produced and placed on participating homeowners lawns.

We plan to place these strategically as well within the City and Town and will be looking for homeowners willing to promote and display the signs.



Rain Barrels...

A reminder! If you have a rain barrel, make sure to drain it as soon as possible. If it sits full of ice over the winter, it is likely to crack or split!

There are still a few rain barrels left. If you live in the Stevens or Rugg Brook Watershed and would like a Rain Barrel, please contact Jeff Rouleau or e-mail us at sawaterhed@verizon.net.



Current Board Members:

Eric Wolinsky	President	wolinskymail@comcast.net	527-7572
Dennis Hill	V.P.	dhill@bfasta.net	527-0157
Bob Wood	Treasurer	bobandlorettar@comcast.net	527-0123
Peter Rath	Board	xpat@together.net	524-6827
Jeff Rouleau	Board	jrouleau@bfasta.net	527-5368
Steve Cushing	Board	n/a	524-2897
Ted Kissane	Board	kissanet@comcast.net	524-3288
Gould Susslin	Board	gsuss@comcast.net	524-5217
Jerry Morong	Board	jerrym@surfglobal.net	524-6637
John Whitney	Board	icwhitney05478@yahoo.com	524-3652

We are looking for new board members, volunteers and participation on committees.

If you have some time to give and are interested in *Keeping the Lake Clean*, please contact us.

Renew your Membership TODAY!

We need your support.....

Membership Dues are crucial to keeping our organization going.....\$10 per family per year.....that's not very much, yet it is significant in helping our organization to cover costs of newsletters, postage, paper, supplies, web page, you name it!

In addition to the \$10 dues, please consider a donation for an additional amount to help Keep the Lake Clean.

Mail your tax deductible donation today!

Thank you to each and every member for their support. This organization would not be where it is today without your support.

PLEASE RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP

St. Albans Area Watershed Association

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Seasonal Address: _____

Amount Enclosed \$_____ (\$10 Dues) + additional \$_____

Mail to: St. Albans Area Watershed Association

P.O. Box 1567

St. Albans VT 05478