

## RPA Annual Report 2019

Developed, implemented and evaluated a multi-faceted all-pond goose management plan to address E-coli contamination and related public health concerns from the resident Canada goose population explosion. The goose herd-chasing by trained border collies appears to have been at least partially successful, as the resident goose population on the pond was reduced by about 50% from 2018. Planning for a somewhat scaled back goose management strategy is in progress for 2020.

Oriented Richmond's new town administrator to Richmond Pond, its assets and its challenges.

Continued the vendor's management of invasive weeds with Town financial support. While the annual treatment occurred later than usual, the post-treatment assessment indicated that it was successful. A possible separate treatment for native tapegrass was studied, but a decision was made to "let it be."

Sponsored 3rd annual all-town picnic, hosted at Camp Russell with pontoon boat rides; 100 attended.

Assisted with facilitation of community dialogue about noise impacts from the Balderdash Cellars Winery fall harvest concert series and other outdoor events.

### **Ongoing:**

- Conducted tributary monitoring, continued review of the dam maintenance program, and financially supported the 3rd year of the water level monitoring project. The Town funded and managed the public boat ramp monitors, who educated the public about invasives, especially zebra mussels; the Town also staffed the Town Beach.
- Updated the RPA website and Facebook page, submitted monthly pond updates for the *Richmond Record*, and participated in regional and state pond management seminars.
- Distributed the annual "*Developments at Richmond Pond*" funding solicitation newsletter; also received a substantial contribution from Balderdash fall harvest concert series parking proceeds.
- Enhanced engagement of Richmond Shores Association leaders with the Richmond Pond Association.

**Emerging projects:**

- A Richmond Pond history project (a picture book) is under development, with a target publication date in late spring 2021.
- Created a canal restoration fund, initiated planning for a canal restoration strategy, and started work on the development of a cyanobacteria bloom prevention/management plan in collaboration with other Berkshire lakes and ponds.

*Respectfully submitted,*

**Ken Kelly**, President  
**Susan Benner**, Vice President  
**Carl Foote**, Treasurer  
**Doreen Donovan**, Secretary