

## **FAIRFIELD POND RECREATION ASSOCIATION**

The very warm 2018 summer did expose the pond's fragile condition. There was at least one blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) bloom (confirmed sample tested by the state) and the milfoil was the thickest ever seen. Everyone needs to be acutely aware that we need to do everything possible to protect the pond's water quality.

An Aquatic Plant survey was completed last summer. The survey was made possible by the Fairfield Pond Recreation Association and the State Grant that was obtained with the assistance from the Town of Fairfield. The complete report is available on the Town's website. The report provides a complete inventory of the aquatic plants and their locations in the pond. It also provides suggestions on the best methods of control and which areas should be prioritized.

The VT. Dept. of Environmental Conservation's Lake Wise Program was contacted. The program is a voluntary program where a camper or land owner can invite a state representative to review their property for best practices to protect the pond's water quality. The program's representative (Lauren Jenness) attended the Association's annual meeting held in July. She provided information about the program and gave campers the opportunity to sign up to take advantage of the program's offerings such as design and labor assistance at no cost to improve the driveways and roads to reduce runoff, to do planting (provided at a reduced price) and labor assistance at no cost for shoreline buffers to reduce direct runoff to the pond. Many campers and land owners did take advantage of the opportunity. The association hopes to have the program representative again at next year's annual meeting.

The association placed eight "no wake" buoys at those locations on the pond where the milfoil is the thickest. Two were at the very south end of the pond, two in the cove and four near the beach. Several campers noted that there was a significant reduction in boat activity in these areas. (Thanks to everyone that has avoided the areas.) At this year's annual meeting, the association approved the construction of four more buoys to be placed in the two remaining areas of the pond with thick infestations of milfoil.

### **Aquatic Nuisance Control Grant-in-Aid funding #: 06140-AQ19-16 Project Report**

Aquatic nuisance control project at Fairfield Pond described in the Grantee's project year 2018 application for Aquatic Nuisance Control Grant-in-Aid funding. The application is on file with the State and the Grantee, and summarized below.

Fairfield Pond Eurasian watermilfoil assessment, raking from beach and education and outreach initiatives.

The project started early spring with the removal of aquatic weeds (milfoil) from the beach area built up through fall 2017 and the winter months. This was an all-day process with the help from the Town of Fairfield ("town") equipment (backhoe and dump truck) and volunteers, we listed as Hand-puller (non-scuba). This process was on-going with volunteers plus Doug Grant's tractor, York rake and trailer. Signs were erected varied from the request of the Town and Department of Environmental Conservation ("DEC") Watershed Management Division. Again this was accomplished with in kind volunteer personal listed as education, along with the DEC and Town personal. As we moved through a very hot summer we completed the survey and assessment of Eurasian watermilfoil and aquatic plant inventory and aquatic nuisance species management plan for Fairfield Pond. All documents and charts are on the Fairfield website. <http://www.fairfieldvermont.us/wordpress/>

### **Dating the opening of the St. Lawrence Valley as a conduit for glacial meltwater, potential trigger of the Younger Dryas and Maps of the extent of Glacial Lake Candona and the Champlain Sea by Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI).**

They used acoustic surveys and radiocarbon-dated sediment cores from Lake Carmi and **Fairfield Pond** to test the viability of the eastward meltwater event as a trigger for the Younger Dryas. By dating the termination of proglacial lake deposition, they tightly constrain the retreat of the Laurentide ice sheet, and thereby provide a date for the opening of the St. Lawrence Valley. They use further radiocarbon dates and stratigraphic analysis to elaborate the deglacial chronology of the Champlain Valley. This study will establish the timing of freshwater access to the North Atlantic and, together with future work that will quantify the impact of freshwater on AMOC, permit them to evaluate the association between eastward melt and the onset of the Younger Dryas. All documents and charts are on the Fairfield website. <http://www.fairfieldvermont.us/wordpress/>

We thank all volunteer personnel, the Town of Fairfield, State of Vermont, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and the VT DEC for all the help this year and will continue to keep Fairfield Pond as clean and free from Aquatic Nuisance Plants especially Eurasian watermilfoil as possible. Again, thanks to the Town of Fairfield for their support.