

Deering Lake

Oral History Project

Preserving the Stories of Our Lake, Our People, Our Place

A project of the Deering Lake History Exhibit

Deering, New Hampshire

Prepared by The Deering Historical Society

A Letter to Our Community

Dear Friend of Deering Lake,

We are writing to invite you to be part of something that matters — something that, once lost, can never be recovered. The Deering Lake Oral History Project exists for a single, vital purpose: to gather and preserve the living memories of the people connected to this place before those memories are lost to time.

We are seeking the stories of year-round residents and seasonal families, of visitors and workers and caretakers —whose lives have been shaped by Deering Lake. Your connection may stretch back generations, or it may have begun last summer. Every story belongs here.

Why oral history? Because the record of a place lives in voices, not just documents. A deed tells us who owned a cabin. A photograph shows us what it looked like. But only a human voice can tell us what the water smelled like on a July morning, or what it sounded like when the loons

call-at dusk, or what a neighbor's dog was named, or why a certain path through the woods mattered to a child who is now a grandparent. These are the details that make history real — and they live only in the people who carry them.

Participation is simple...

Guided by the questions below, submit your thoughts to either of the emails provided. If we contact you for a recorded conversation, we will come to you: your home, a porch, a favorite spot by the water — wherever you feel most comfortable and most yourself.

- 1. How long have you been coming to Deering Lake?**
- 2. What makes it special (ex; nature, social, family)**
- 3. Describe the changes over the years, how have you been affected.**
- 4. Traditions that you or your family have regarding the Lake.**
- 5. What do you want future generations to understand about Deering Lake?**
(Ex: Stewardship, Community, etc.)

Submit your written response and Lake contact information, including your lake address to:

DeeringHistoricalSociety@gmail.com or Rcompton57@gmail.com

Your stories, with your consent, will become part of the Deering Lake History Exhibit — physical and digital — and will be preserved in a community archive for future generations. It may also appear in future publications, educational materials, or presentations about the history of Deering Lake.

"Your memories are irreplaceable. By sharing them, you give a gift not only to this generation, but to every generation that will come to know Deering Lake through your eyes."

We hope you will say yes.

With gratitude and care,

On behalf of the Deering Lake History Exhibit

Every story matters. Every voice belongs. Thank you for helping us remember.