

## THE SQUAM LAKES ASSOCIATION 2004 REPORT

*The Squam Lakes Association (SLA) is dedicated to conserving for the public benefit the natural beauty, peaceful character, and unique resource values of the lakes and surrounding area. In cooperation with local and state authorities and other conservation organizations, the Association promotes the protection, careful use, and shared enjoyment of the lakes, mountains, forests, open spaces, and wildlife of the Squam Lake region. Since 1904, the Association has focused in three primary areas to fulfill our mission: conservation, education, and outreach.*

**Conservation:** The SLA, aided by numerous volunteers, has collected over twenty-five years of water quality data in collaboration with the University of New Hampshire's Lay Lake Monitoring Program. In addition, the tributaries around the watershed are being monitored on a monthly basis to examine phosphorus loading into the lakes and implement Best Management Practices where necessary. In 2002, the first year of a baseline bio-inventory project was completed. The data collected will be used to enhance the monitoring of watershed health and inform decision makers who actively support legislation that will conserve and protect the Squam Lakes Watershed.

A growing concern for the watershed is the invasive plant, variable milfoil, that has been found in both of the lakes and the channel. Non-native invaders, such as milfoil, disrupt the food chain, stunt fish growth, and degrade wildlife habitat and water quality. In areas that are completely overtaken by variable milfoil, fishing, swimming, and boating are virtually impossible. A decline in property values is another consequence of invasive species infestations. Once milfoil is found in a lake, with no known method of eradication, the only option is to manage the plant through various techniques. Our main management techniques are handpicking, laying bottom barrier netting, surveying and herbicide applications. In the past 18 months, there have been over 1598 man-hours devoted to milfoil management by SLA staff, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, private consultants, and local residents. The SLA has spent over \$40,000 on milfoil management and will continue to allocate funds for this purpose in the coming years. We are looking for volunteers to help monitor the 65 miles of shoreline surrounding the lakes. If you would like to sign up for this vital program, please contact the Squam Lakes Association at 968-7336.

**Education:** The SLA offers a summer youth program in July and August. There are two different programs that introduce children to the unique resources of the Squam Lakes Region. The Junior Squam Lakes Association Program seeks to develop the next generation of environmental stewards through outdoor activities including hiking, canoeing, kayaking, and camping. The other program is our award winning Community Youth Sailing Program that introduces children to the techniques of sailing using Optimist and Club Junior class sailboats. For each of these programs there are scholarships offered to students residing in the five watershed towns. These scholarships are provided to children exemplifying qualities of good citizenship or humanitarianism. The Squam Lakes Association also offers American Canoe Association certified kayak instruction,

educates and promotes safe boating, and works with local schools to educate students about the watershed.

Outreach: To enhance public access to the Squam Lakes and promote low-impact recreational use, the SLA rents canoes, kayaks, and sailboats. We also manage fourteen backcountry campsites on Moon Island, Bowman Island, Chamberlain-Reynolds Memorial Forest, and Mead Base. SLA provides low-impact public boat access at the SLA Headquarters and at Belknap Woods. The SLA also manages and protects properties available for public recreation in the Squam Lakes area and maintains over 50 miles of hiking trails in the Squam Range, Rattlesnakes, Red Hill, and the Sandwich Range.

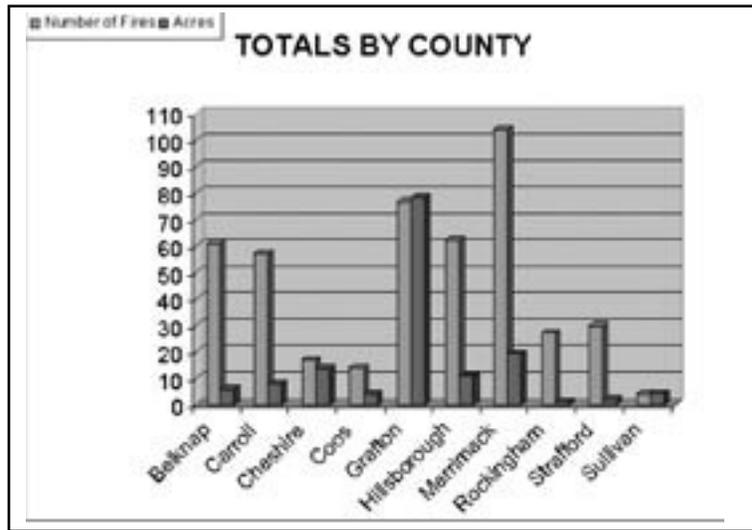
SLA also produces numerous publications including our Loon Flyer, The Squam Lakes Water Trail Guide, and The Squam Trail Guide. Our website, [www.squamlakes.org](http://www.squamlakes.org), provides detailed information about our events such as Winterfest, Hike for the Trails, Bik Around the Lake, Pancake Breakfast, Sail Around the Lake, and our Annual Meeting.

## **FOREST FIRE WARDEN AND STATE FOREST RANGER 2004 REPORT**

Your local Forest Fire Warden, Fire Department, and the State of New Hampshire Division of Forests & Lands cooperate to reduce the risk of wildland fires in New Hampshire. To help us assist you, contact your local Forest Fire Warden or Fire Department to find out if a permit is required before doing ANY outside burning. A fire permit is required for all outside burning unless the ground is completely covered with snow. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services also prohibits the open burning of household waste. Citizens are encouraged to contact the local fire department or DES at 1-800-498-6868 or [www.des.state.nh.us](http://www.des.state.nh.us) for more information. Safe open burning requires diligence and responsibility. Help us to protect New Hampshire's forest resources. For more information contact the Division of Forests & Lands (603) 271-2217 or online at [www.nhdf.org](http://www.nhdf.org).

This last year was fairly wet throughout the spring and summer months, however we finished the season with an active fall fire season. In order to meet an increased demand for services, the Forest Protection Bureau was reorganized into three regions with smaller Forest Ranger Districts and over the last several years we have added two Forest Rangers. The fifteen state fire towers were the first to report on many fires throughout the state and they completed many other projects on the low fire danger days. The state implemented a program called Tower Quest to help citizens learn about fire towers and the need to protect New Hampshire's forest resources. The United States celebrated Smokey Bear's 60th birthday in 2004, and celebrations were held throughout the state. Please help Smokey Bear, your local fire department and the state's Forest Rangers by being fire smart and fire safe!

**2004 FIRE STATISTICS**  
 (All fires reported as of November 18, 2004)



**CAUSES OF FIRES REPORTED**

Arson.....	15
Campfire.....	41
Children.....	12
Smoking.....	19
Debris.....	201
Railroad.....	1
Equipment.....	5
Lightning.....	5
Misc.*.....	163

(\*Misc.: power lines, fireworks, electric fences, etc.)

**Total Fires    Total Acres**

<b>2004</b>	462	147
<b>2003</b>	374	100
<b>2002</b>	540	187
<b>2001</b>	942	428

**ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDLAND FIRE**

## **2004 REPORT OF UNH COOPERATIVE EXTENSION- GRAFTON COUNTY OFFICE**

UNH Cooperative Extension provides New Hampshire citizens with research-based education and information, enhancing their ability to make informed decisions that strengthen youth, families and communities, sustain natural resources, and improve the economy.

Funded through the federal, state and county governments, and competitive grants, educational programs are designed to respond to the local needs of citizens through direction and support of an elected volunteer advisory council.

Education programs and assistance are objective, informal and practical in nature; most are at no direct cost for participants. Clients' needs are met through phone calls, letters and printed materials, hands-on workshops, on-site visits, seminars and conferences, and up-to-date web sites. Our staff is able to respond quickly with needed information via electronic mail, keeps up-to-date on the latest research and information, and works collaboratively with many agencies and organizations.

A professional staff of five educators and one specialist work out of the Extension Office located in the Grafton County Courthouse in North Haverhill. Two additional staff members work in Plymouth and Littleton to provide educational programs for limited-resource families. Additional support is provided through trained volunteers who assist with Extension programs and increase our outreach capabilities.

### **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN GRAFTON COUNTY, FY04:**

- To strengthen NH's Communities: Community Conservation Assistance Program; Preserving Rural Character through Agriculture: Urban and Community Forestry; Community Youth Development; Volunteer Training (Master Gardeners, Coverts Cooperators, Community Tree Stewards, 4-H Leaders); Land Use Planning; Finance & Tax Assistance.
- To strengthen NH's Family and Youth: After-School Programs; Family Resource Management; 4-H Youth Development: Family Lifeskills Program; Nutrition and Food Safety Education; Parenting Education; Cradle Crier/Toddler Tale Newsletters; and Volunteer Leader Training Programs.
- To sustain NH's Natural Resources: Dairy Management; Agroecology; Forest Resources Stewardship Program; Fruit Production and Management; GIS Training; Lakes Lay Monitoring Program; Integrated Pest Management; Ornamental Horticulture; Plant Health Diagnostic Laboratory; Vegetable Crop Production; Wildlife Habitat Program; Water Quality/Nutrient Management Programs, Agricultural Business Management; Estate Planning and Conservation Easement Education Programs.

- To improve the economy: Small Business Assistance (Forest Industry, Logging Contractors, Consulting Foresters, Farms, Nurseries); Farm and Forest Product Marketing; Agricultural Business Management; Family Financial Management; Employment Skills Training Program.

**Extension Staff:** Tom Buob, Agricultural Resources; Ginny DiFrancesco, Water Quality; Kathleen Jablonski, 4-H Youth Development; Michal Lunak, Dairy; Deborah Maes Family & Consumer Resources; Northam Parr, Forestry & Wildlife Resources; Robin Peter, Nutrition Connections; and Jacqueline Poulton, LEAP (Lifeskills for Employment, Achievement and Purpose). Educators are supported by Jerilynn Martino, Dawn Mitton and Kristina Vaughan at the Extension Office.

**Extension Advisory Council :** Mike Dannehy, Woodsville; Sheila Fabrizio, North Haverhill; James Kinder, North Haverhill; David Keith, North Haverhill; Shaun Lagueux, Bristol; Jane O'Donnell, Littleton; Cindy Putnam, Piermont; Debby Robie, Bath; Carol Ronci, Franconia; Denis Ward (Chair), Monroe. Teen Members include: Molly Roy, Bath and Justine Morris, Haverhill.

Extension Office Hours are Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 4 PM.

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Web Site: [www.ceinfo.unh.edu](http://www.ceinfo.unh.edu)

*Extension programs and policies are nondiscriminatory with regard to age, color, handicap, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation and veterans' status.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Northam D. Parr  
County Office Administrator

**VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE**  
**2004 REPORT TO THE TOWN OF HOLDERNESS**

To the Voices Against Violence staff, board members, volunteers and supportive community members:

First of all we'd like to thank you for just being there.

Some of us have stayed with, or returned to, abusive partners because we didn't think we could make it on our own.

You have shown us different.

You have convinced us that we, and our children, deserve different.

You have helped us to realize that we are not worthless as we have been conditioned so long to believe.

Thank you for reminding us that we are good parents when we were told the opposite for so long.

Thank you for helping us rediscover our self-esteem or even realize it for the first time.

Thank you for reminding us how to be assertive and protect our boundaries.

Thank you for letting us vent about custodial issues, "the system," etc., whenever we needed to.

Thank you for providing us with the necessities while we're trying to get back on our feet.

Thank you for helping our children have happy birthdays when we couldn't quite do it ourselves.

Thank you for helping us obtain things like haircuts and long neglected dental care that helps us immeasurably to feel better about ourselves.

Thank you for providing fun things to do with our families and even occasional time away from them.

Thank you for helping us obtain vehicles that go a long way in helping us to regain our independence.

Thank you for helping us try to find housing and making sure that we have everything we need when we do find that housing.

Thank you for your kindness, caring and support.

Thank you for all the other things you do that are too numerous to mention.

By appreciative clients of Voices Against Violence

Respectfully submitted,  
Jaye Olmstead

**Vachon Clukay & Co. PC**  
Certified Public Accountants,  
45 Market Street, Manchester, New Hampshire 03 101  
(603) 622-7070 • FAX: 622-1452

## **REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL BASED ON AN AUDIT OF BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

To the Board of Selectmen  
Town of Holderness, New Hampshire

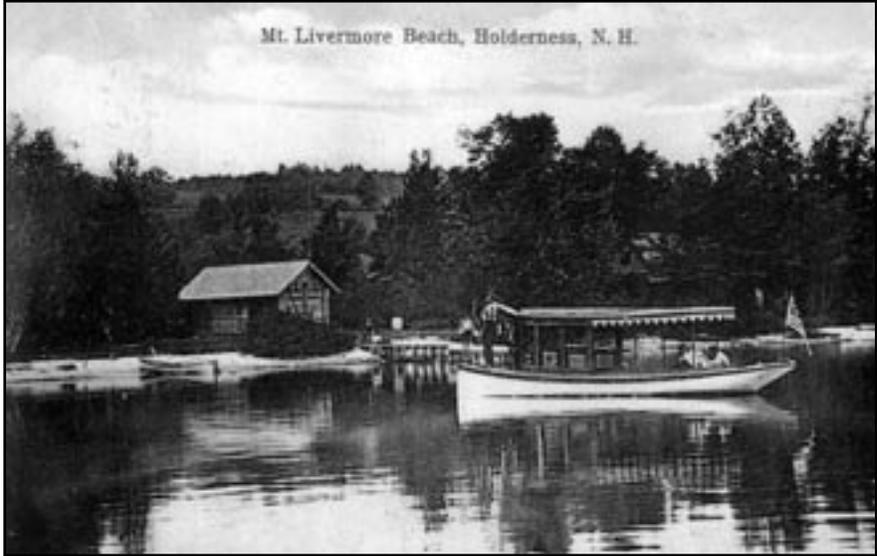
We have audited the basic financial statements of the Town of Holderness, New Hampshire, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2004, and have issued our report thereon dated February 11, 2005. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America.

The management of the Town of Holderness, New Hampshire is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure. In fulfilling this responsibility, estimates and judgments by management are required to assess the expected benefits and related costs of internal control structure policies and procedures. The objectives of an internal control structure are to provide management with reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that assets are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized use or disposition, and that transactions are executed in accordance with management's authorization and recorded properly to permit the preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Because of inherent limitations in any internal control structure, errors or irregularities may nevertheless occur and not be detected. Also, projection of any evaluation of the structure to future periods is subject to the risk that procedures may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or that the effectiveness of the design and operation of policies and procedures may deteriorate

In planning and performing our audit of the general purpose financial statements of the Town of Holderness, New Hampshire for the year ended December 31, 2004, we obtained an understanding of the internal control structure. With respect to the internal control structure, we obtained and understanding of the design of relevant policies and procedures and whether they have been placed in operation, and we assessed control risk in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the basic financial statements and not to provide an opinion on the internal control structure. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Our consideration of the internal control structure would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control structure that might be material weaknesses under standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control structure elements does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that errors or irregularities in amounts that would be material in relation to the general purpose financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control structure and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses as defined above.

This report is intended for the information of the Board of Selectmen. However, this report is a matter of public record, and its distribution is not limited.





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For more information on the New Hampshire General Court  
[www.gencourt.state.nh.us](http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us)