



Great Homer Pond is quiet and empty, despite the sunny weather. The Craftsbury Outdoor Center agreed to keep its sculling vessels off of the pond between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. to assuage property owners who want to water ski on the pond. The Agency of Natural Resources has proposed a new rule that specifically limits the times that racing shells and rowing sculls can be used on the pond. *photo by Doug McClure*

Town Plans for New Garage Building and Heating System

By Michael Bielewski
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The oldest members, when the furnace is most needed, are also the busiest times for the road crew, which makes it difficult to keep it burning.
The board discussed purchasing a wood pellet or coal-based heat source. For now, the decision is to order 20 cords of wood, rather than risk the decision on a long-term solution.
The board formally changed the traffic ordinance to prohibit any cars from cutting through the heat. With September around

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On July 31, Madison Langfield, 12 (center) of Wolcott, was presented with a 14-week-old French Bulldog by Make A Wish Vermont grantors Katy Smith (left) of St. Johnsbury and Jennie Judkins (right) of Hardwick. Madeline, who also enjoyed a dog, had her wish, has already named the dog Olli May. Madison is recovering from brain surgery performed at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, July 10.



Art teacher Mini Smyth teaches young students how to paint designs on scarves during the Chinese Cultural Group held at Hiram Union last week.

Number Ten Pond Discussion Falls Town Hall

by Will Walters
CALAIS is a dispute arising from confusion over whether access to #10 Pond is common use land or private property has been a long-running source of contention in Calais. After the land at Memorial Hall was posted as private and the beach at #10 pond was removed, the town believes it has a right to use the pond access to keep it from being "stolen" for a third time.

Whether moved discussion to the swimming access. Hiram said the organization has taken no official action to open it up to swimming. She said that pump owners have used the beach area for swimming for many years and that pump owners claim to have rights to the access. She dispensed any such claim, maintaining that the access belongs to the town.

GAR Road, the Memorial Hall area, the beach, continues to raise questions as to what is public and private. The latest action by the Women's Relief Corps who closed the #10 pond access raised a new question as to what is public and private. The town believes it has a right to use the pond access to keep it from being "stolen" for a third time.

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Agency of Natural Resources Joins the Hosmer Pond Debate

by Doug McClure
CRAFTSBURY — It's just past two-thirty on a summer afternoon at Craftsbury Outdoor Center. The threat of storm is long gone and the sun is still shining off the calm waters of Great Homer Pond. It looks inviting and cool. You just want to shake off the sultry air of late summer and jump in. A few kids just did just that, but they've wandered off and now it's quiet. The sculling boats are in their storage pens, untended, the rows of chairs fronting the docks are empty. It wasn't always this way, and it isn't accidental, how it changed. A group of property owners, led by Chittenden County State's Attorney Sarah George, have claimed that the Craftsbury Outdoor Center (COC) is monopolizing the pond with its sculling classes. They requested that we scull and voluntarily sealed back his summer sculling operation, although that is the largest profit for the COC and helps them subsidize classes for local residents. Each side has its arguments, and each is looking for the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) to settle the dispute for one or the other. The COC and the Friends of Homer Pond documented their sculling activities alone generate \$1.2 million for the local economy (through seventy-five jobs and a community-wide revenue). The revenue program meets three days a week

during the summer and provides residents an inexpensive way to get out of the spot, according to COC's Sheldon Miller. In July, George, acting as COC's private citizen, talked to media state-wide. She said that she wanted to water-ski on Great Homer Pond more often than she currently can. She contends that the COC is monopolizing the lake. Water-skiing on Great Homer Pond is logistically challenging in any common use scenario. According to the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) map, the pond's 149 acres, just 32.1 acres (21 percent) of its surface is 200 feet or more from the shoreline. Vermont Statutes Annotated (VSA) Title 23 Section 3811(c)(1) states that "a person shall not operate any vessel, except a sailboat or a police or emergency vessel, within 200 feet of the shoreline, a person in the water, a canoe, rowboat, or other vessel, an anchored or moored vessel containing any person, or anchorages or docks, except at a speed of less than five miles per hour which does not create a wake." The 32.1 acres, are not contiguous, the largest area is the one in front of the COC with 15.49 acres, according to the DEC. The second largest area is 8.02 acres, and is at the opposite end of the lake. That area has been restricted to a water DEC fee sheet says, which under the law of Public Waters (PW) rules means neither people nor property can come within 200 feet of birds during nesting season (May

1st-July 31st). Given the shape of the pond and the poor candidate for water skiing, but other crafts, swimmers and looms, and the logistics for water skiing are ever more daunting. George, and she admitted that she is the only regular user of a high-speed boat on the lake. The situation gets even more complicated. A quirk of legislation put by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) in charge of enforcement of the rules governing speed boats. Contacted by The Gazette, DMV Commissioner Robert Hix said that "an unregistered lake boat that no one can explain gives the DMV regulatory authority for setting speed limits for boats. We've never been asked to do so. We have no experience doing this. We believe this responsibility moved to the ANR and will work on doing so during the next legislative session." Asked whether the DMV has the resources for enforcing boat speed limits, Hix said: "We don't even have a boat." The next steps are determined by the ANR rule-making process. The ANR will be asked to propose a change to the PW rules specific to Great Homer Pond. The change adds a single paragraph which states: "No person shall operate a motor vessel within 200 feet of the shoreline." "Of using sculling and rowing sculls on the pond." See DEBATE, Page Four

Greensboro Association, DEC Seeking the Right Dam Solution

by Doug McClure
GREENSBORO — A perennial problem facing Caplan Lake for nearly 70 years has been the lake's water level. Ever since Greensboro business folk invested \$200,000 to create seventy-eight summer camps on the lake in 1926 as the Camps of the State of Vermont, the lake has shown a perennially recurring problem. The late Clay Simpson's History of Caplan Lake.

overwhelmed Cuthbertson's store in New Wiley's — and a grant mill, the history says, a flooding so severe that people feared the entire shore might break loose and pour down the valley to flood Hardwick itself. That flood was the impetus for camp owners to form the Greensboro Association in 1934, with a primary goal of maintaining the lake's water level, Simpson says. Since then, the Association has repeatedly failed to include water quality, lake protection, and overall improvement of the lives of the village's residents. Now, the Association is working with the State of Vermont's Agency of Natural Resources Conservation (DEC) Watershed See DAM, Page Four

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Survey Results on Cabot School Future

by Will Walters
CABOT — A public forum will be held tonight to discuss the results of the community survey on the future of Cabot School. The school board conducted the survey in July over the internet and via physical questionnaires that were available

from the town clerk's office and the Cabot School Performing Arts Center starting at 6 p.m. In addition to the survey results, discussion on an alternative Vermont Academy will be on the agenda. The Academy was discussed at recent school board meetings as an alternative to complying with Act 402 requirements.

198 respondents answered 189 survey questions about what the community wants for educational opportunities for Cabot students. Cabot residents with at least one child in school completed 49.97 percent of respondents; 34.76 have never in Cabot for over 10 years and 85.3 percent voted in the June 25 vote on merging with Plainfield Union School and Danville school. Nearly two-thirds of survey respondents (65.6%) voted against the merger who voted 'yes' to the merger ranked the factors that they were most concerned about (from most to least influential) as closing the entire school in the future, maintaining and strengthening focus on the school's strengths, and the other. See SURVEY, Page Four

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