

# GLEN ECHO NEWS

Fall 2009

[www.glenecholake.org](http://www.glenecholake.org)

## DRAWDOWN ~ 15 OCTOBER 09

### **DRAWDOWN**

This year's drawdown started on October 15, 2009. Based on the increase in weed growth Glen Echo has experienced over the past few years, Lycott recommended increasing the drawdown level to 5-feet. At the September 2009 meeting, the membership voted to follow Lycott's recommendation. Refill will not start until we have received notification from Lycott that a hard freeze has occurred. A full refill will be performed this year rather than the "stepped" refill.

The request for drawdown was presented to the Conservation Commission on 7 October 09. The 5-foot drawdown was approved at that time. *HOWEVER*, this decision was rescinded at the 21 October 09 Conservation Commission meeting due to some residents concerns regarding their shallow wells and the information found in the existing Notice of Intent filed by the Board of Selectmen.

In the existing Notice of Intent (NOI), which governs the drawdown and herbicide treatments, the drawdown level is stated as 4-feet. Since the Board of Selectmen are listed as the applicant on the NOI, the Association has requested to be placed on the 10 November 2009 Board of Selectmen agenda to discuss amending the NOI to allow a 5-foot drawdown for 2009.

Please be aware that the reason for increasing the drawdown level to 5-feet is to aid in weed control. Over the past several years, we have experienced excessive weed growth,

and this past summer several algae blooms were detected. Lycott surveyed the lake several times this summer and noted the weed growth and location. Drawdowns are a low-cost, environmentally friendly method for weed control and allow for additional waterfront clean up and repair which preserves the ecology of the lake.

If the Board of Selectmen do not allow the 5-foot drawdown, additional herbicide treatments (above those currently contracted) will most likely be necessary to address the problem.

Until such time as a decision is made by the Board of Selectmen, the 2009 drawdown will continue to a level of 4-feet.

### **GEIA PROPERTY**

As you may know, the Association has spent thousands of dollars for much needed erosion control along the shore line as well as other improvements and maintenance on its property located on Glen Echo Shore Road over the past few years. Improvements include, but are not limited to:

1. Boulders along both property lines to eliminate parking and to encourage the use of the property as a park and beach.
2. Updated signs which indicate the rules and use of the property as well as a sign down near the water indicating that the area is for emergency vehicles only.
3. Shoreline improvements to eliminate erosion

4. Brush clean up and general beach maintenance

Unfortunately, despite these measures, including public awareness through the newsletter and postings around the lake and at the property, unauthorized parking and vehicle activity continues to be an issue.

At the September 2009 meeting, the membership voted to restrict the launching of boats on its property beginning in 2010 to paid members of the GEIA only.

In order to control access for boat launching and other vehicle activity on the association property to GEIA members only, effective November 1, 2009 a permanent chain & lock system will be installed at the entrance to the property. The chain will not affect those residents with deeded rights to use the property as a beach and they will still be able to gain walking access to this property.

This chain will also curtail unauthorized ATV use on the property, especially during the wet fall and spring seasons which causes rutting, erosion and runoff both on the property and the shoreline beach area. These damages are expensive to repair and are harmful to the lake.

The Board of Directors and Beach Sub Committee are currently working on a policy for launching and hauling boats on the GEIA property to be in place for the 2010 boating year.



