

LAKE CARMI ASSOCIATION NEWS

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In Loving Memory of Our Late Editor & Dear Friend, Larry Myott



Saying Farewell to Another Season at Lake Carmi

President's Report



By Peter Benevento, LCCA President

I say this September: It seems like only yesterday I was writing for the May newsletter, and here it is almost autumn, with thoughts of closing camp looming.

But the melancholy thoughts of the ending season are definitely subdued by what is the majesty of fall at Lake Carmi. I hope everyone takes the time to enjoy September and October at the lake.

The air is crisp. The leaves are brilliant. And the night provides some of the best sleeping ever! If possible, take a walk around the lake, or hike or bike the hills surrounding it. The views are superb. Apple orchards are nearby for picking. I can taste the cider and donuts now. Mums and pumpkins are plentiful.

So please try to experience one of the best months of the season at Lake Carmi. It's good for the soul.

I am going to be unusually brief in what is my last President's column of the season. I have asked our editor to include my address from the LCCA Annual Meeting. It appears in this digital edition. It is a good capsule of the season, and I wanted those who could not attend the meeting the opportunity to read it. Moreover, my lack of skills at running a Zoom meeting meant failing to admit members until well into the virtual meeting. This will give those folks the opportunity to read the portion of the President's Report they missed.

2021 LCCA Annual Meeting President's Report

By Peter Benevento, LCCA President

Good evening everyone. Welcome to the second and hopefully last virtual LCCA Annual Meeting. I was hoping we wouldn't have to conduct our annual meeting like this again, but unfortunately, COVID will not relent. I trust and hope that next year we will be back to our pot luck dinner. I still really miss all those great desserts.

First of all, I'd like to thank the Franklin United Church and Pastor Jason for allowing



September Dawn

The sun rises over Lake Carmi on Sept. 1, bringing summer to an end and ushering in autumn.

Photograph by Ellen Richards

So I will bow out early in this section of the newsletter. But before I do, I would like to thank you, the entire LCCA membership, for your faith and support this season.

Despite COVID, we have remained a vibrant organization and, as a result, a strong advocate for Lake Carmi and the Town of Franklin. There is certainly strength in numbers, and fortunately we live that every day.

This may be the final newsletter of the year, but by no means will it be the final communication. We have the capability of reaching out to all our members and beyond

with our website's bulk email capability, and we will communicate throughout the winter.

Your LCCA Board works year 'round, and 2021 to 2022 are no exception. We will be following up unfinished activities from this year and planning new ones for next year. And please don't forget our **Ice Out Contest**. It is our only fund raiser, and we need your support.

If you wish to reach us, please email me at President@LakeCarmiVT.com.

Have a safe and healthy winter. See you around the lake!

us to stage this meeting, as well as our monthly board meetings, in their meeting hall. It has greatly facilitated our efforts.

The last few weeks have been tough here at the lake. Algae blooms and general poor water quality can tend to dampen your spirits. I said the same thing last year, but I said it almost a whole month earlier. That means we are making progress. Moreover, the algae blooms have been far less severe than last year. I believe we are definitely making progress.

Yes I know we have lots of room for improvement, but that is where we are fortunate as well. We have so many resources working on our behalf. I have to thank Oliver Pierson, Program Mgr. of DEC Lakes & Ponds Section. With rare exception, there is seldom a day when either Rob Evans or I do not communicate with Oliver. Oliver and his staff have been extremely responsive to our



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Wrapping Up a Dry But Successful Season of Work In Lake Carmi Watershed

Franklin Watershed Update



*By Tucker Wehner,
Coordinator,
Franklin Watershed
Committee*

I hope you all had a wonderful summer and were able to enjoy Lake Carmi. As we move into September and summer winds down, here's an update on what we have been up to at the Franklin Watershed Committee.

This summer was extremely dry. We continued sampling the tributaries and will continue into fall. Tributaries were completely dry from early July to the

very end of August, when we were able to collect samples at four sites, three of which were on Marsh Brook, Lake Carmi's largest tributary. We share our gratitude and thanks with all who supported this objective, allowing us to continue sampling to get as much data as possible. We look forward to sharing the results. We were able to begin sampling in March, earlier than we ever had before.

We continued the Boat Greeter program at Lake Carmi. Boat greeters will be stationed, when possible, into the fall this year. We thank everyone who utilizes the boat launches for being kind, patient, and helpful in efforts to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species into and out of Lake Carmi.

This past month, there were intense algae blooms at Lake Carmi, a reminder of the importance of our work and the continued need for help from everyone utilizing the watershed to protect our waters. Algae blooms began later than in years past, which makes us hopeful that all the work being done by campers, farmers, and other community members, along with our regional and state partners, is slowly but surely working.

We thank everyone who is helping protect and improve water quality around Lake Carmi. For folks remaining at the lake into the fall, please continue sending photos of any blooms you spot to me at tuckerwehnerfwc@gmail.com. These photos are added to a photo journal we can send to folks such as our legislators to provide a visual of the extent of the issue at Lake Carmi. You can also submit a report to the state cyanobacteria tracker at healthvermont.gov/tracking/cyanobacteria-tracker. To submit a report, click on "Explore Cyanobacteria Tracker Map" and follow the next link to submit your own report.

This summer, we worked on expanding the LakeWise program at Lake Carmi. A survey earlier this summer gauged interest in the program. We are excited and thankful to see so much interest in the program, and we plan on continuing this work into the fall and years to come. To learn more about the program, shoreland best-management practices, or if you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me at tuckerwehnerfwc@gmail.com, or take the survey at surveymonkey.com/r/SWCDRM3. Provide your contact information, and I will reach out to you!

As this is the last newsletter this season, we again thank everyone in the community for supporting our efforts to improve water quality and protect this wonderful lake. This was my first full season up at Carmi, and it has been truly special to see just how much you all care about protecting this lake. I look forward to continuing this work into the fall and over the winter.

I hope you all have a happy and safe fall, winter, and spring. We look forward to seeing everyone back up at the lake next year! As always, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me at tuckerwehnerfwc@gmail.com.

Despite Tech Issues, Dry Weather, Extension Ag Efforts Continue as Summer Winds Down

Submitted by Marli Rupe, VT DEC

UVM Extension reports that it has used the manure injector on four farms, covering 425 acres so far this year, and hopes to get it on five more to hit the target of 750 acres.

The unit is having substantial operational issues, and since this is a new technology to our area, technical support is limited.

As demonstrated at the UVM/Friends of Northern Lake Champlain Field day, the UVM local staff plus Dr. Joshua Faulkner are conducting a study on one field in the Carmi watershed to quantify the reductions of runoff using the manure injector, compared to runoff from surface applied manure. This study has been limited due to the lack of rainfall, but they will continue to conduct this important work as weather permits.

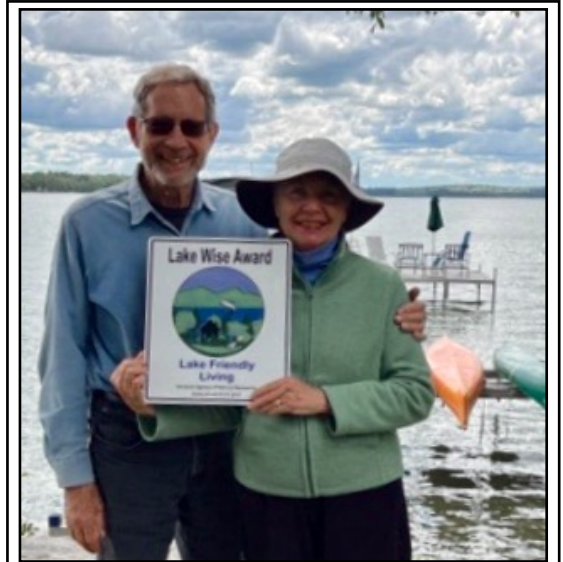
Seventy-one people attended the UVM/FNLCL field day, and it was a great

educational opportunity for the farmers and the community.

Two farmers have tried interseeding cover crops on 100 acres. Interseeding involves planting cover crop seeds before the corn is removed, increasing the time for the cover crop to germinate and grow. UVM will monitor the germination rates.

Nutrient management plans require soil tests; however, UVM is also collecting soil samples to evaluate soil health. This is a different test that looks at multiple other metrics and is assessed in New York at Cornell University. Samples from 10 corn fields and 10 hay fields in the Carmi watershed have been collected and sent to Cornell.

Prior to Covid, UVM had been meeting regularly with the Carmi farms. UVM hopes to bring that group together again in November after fall work is completed.



Andrea and Ernie Englehardt stand on the shore of Lake Carmi with their LakeWise Award. They received the recognition from the Franklin Watershed Committee for their Lake-Friendly Living practices. The LakeWise program aims at promoting shoreland best-management practices at Lake Carmi.

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Building a Strong Foundation for Lake Carmi & Its Campers

By Peter Lafley, Treasurer,
Lake Carmi Community Foundation

As all homeowners and camp owners know, one of the keys to having a stress free property is building on a good foundation.

Did you know that Lake Carmi has a foundation?

Although it is different than cinderblocks or concrete, it serves the same purpose over time. This public foundation is a fully U.S. tax-deductible Section 501(c)(3) set up to advance the greater good in our Lake Carmi community. After some lengthy legal delays, the foundation was finally set up in August 2016, and since then we have slowly started to ask for donations.

We want to thank all the people who buy through smile.amazon.com. This site allows you to pick the Lake Carmi Community

Foundation as your charity, and we receive a rebate of 0.5 percent of all your purchases. The prices you pay, your sign in, your order history and selections are exactly the same as if you were on the regular Amazon site. It

We also want to thank the people who have donated funds in memory of our dear friend Larry Myott. Larry founded the foundation. He really believed in the foundation, and he had great dreams for it.

If you can see it in your heart to support the foundation, please send a check to the Lake Carmi Community Foundation (LCCF), PO Box 1, Franklin, VT 05457.

In future issues I would like to tackle some other issues like: What does it takes to make a good charitable foundation? How do we advance the greater good in our community? How do we build trust among donors

to tackle old, perpetual problems in new ways? How do we build our capacity to lead in courageous ways to benefit the lake?

So stay tuned!

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REPORT from pg. 1

needs. We are fortunate to have them as a partner. DEC has been instrumental in the initiation of the projects set forth in the Crisis Response Plan. They are committed with the LCCA to making our lake better.

The first and foremost of the projects is, of course, the aeration system. The system was turned on as planned in June, but unfortunately, it experienced down time due to overheating issues. The unusually warm, dry summer didn't help. The downtime, however, was far less than last year, and no one rested until the problem was solved. John Tucci of Everblue Lakes, who installed the system, remains committed to our lake. John has been at the lake several times this season performing maintenance and repairs and will return one more time to close down the system. Hopefully next year will be the first year we will have flawless operations. Once again, it is speculated that the interruption in operation of the aeration system may have contributed to this year's algae bloom.

The UVM Research Platform was the center of attention in the center of the lake again this year and is another true sign of commitment to improving Lake Carmi. The research platform measures dissolved oxygen and measures water temperature every 15 minutes. Another

sensor moves vertically from the surface to the bottom to assess physical, chemical and biological properties every hour. It also collects a water sample daily to measure nutrient concentrations above the lake's sediment and monitors the weather as well. All this data is collected and analyzed for the benefit of our lake. The platform will hopefully return next year. We thank Andrew Schroth of UVM and his staff for all of their work on the platform. A report on the data collected by the platform – entitled UVM 2020 Lake Carmi Interim Monitoring Report for DEC – is available on the DEC restoring Lake Carmi webpage: dec.vermont.gov/watershed/restoring/carmi

In addition to the research platform, water samples are still taken biweekly at multiple points in the lake by Pete Stengal, an environmental analyst contracted to VT DEC. We thank Pete for all of his work. This is in addition to the weekly samples in the lake taken by the LCCA and the biweekly tributary samples taken by the FWC. The dry summer, however, greatly limited the amount of tributary samples this season, as many of the tributaries were dry most of the summer. Presentation of the results of all these samples will be made when all the data is available.

Other projects that are still ongoing are the groundwater and geological study, which is designed to determine the extent groundwater contributes phosphorous to the lake. The process to replace two major culverts on State Park Road that are contributing excessive sediment to the lake is ongoing. And an assessment of the private and State Park Roads designed to better understand how storm water runoff is negatively impacting the lake has been completed. Projects emanating from the assessment are currently being evaluated and are expected to commence in 2022. COVID has delayed the commencement of these projects for two years.

Substantial improvements in farming practices in the watershed continue. We thank the farmers in our watershed and Jeff Sanders of UVM Extension. Jeff has been working with farmers in the watershed, resulting in the use of injection manure machines for both hayfields and corn fields. This is huge, as manure has the greatest potential for staying in the ground where it belongs. UVM Ext. went to great lengths and expense to acquire the injector for the hay fields. The hayfield injector is primarily dedicated to the Lake Carmi watershed. For those who attended the Aug. 4th Annual Farm Meeting at Tim &

See **REPORT**, pg. 12

We need you as a member of LCCA, Inc.

Become an LCCA member for the 2021 season. Dues are just \$50 a year. LCCA members are committed to Lake Carmi in many ways. Some volunteer to help out as they're able; some enjoy a week or more in our pristine setting. We only ask that you become a member and do what you can. Comments are always welcome. Become an official member of the Lake Carmi community by sending your membership form and dues check today.

If your information hasn't changed in the past year, just send your dues check. Thank you!

Please mail your check and this form to: LCCA, Inc., P.O. Box 1, Franklin, VT 05457

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Buttoning Up For Winter, Cozying Up By the Fire

By Suzi Hull-Cassavant

It's a chilly afternoon as I sit on the porch and look at the lake. Fast approaching is the time to close up camp, and in doing so, thoughts of next spring immediately start to take center place.

But there is much to be done. Just as chipmunks and squirrels gather and prepare for winter, I must prepare this cabin for its hibernation.

All the bedding gets washed, dried, and put into totes with a nice dryer sheet so it's fresh in the spring. Curtains are taken down, washed, and ironed, made ready to adorn the windows next spring.

Those squirrels and chipmunks have been active the past two years, so extra precautions are taken. No, we won't do the mothballs again, as the smell lasted forever. But we will use dryer sheets and less noxious methods to keep them from coming in and nesting where they shouldn't. All the drawers get pulled out of the bureau and re-inserted upside down, a trick I learned from my mother.

There will be a few more nights cozied up in front of the fire until it's time to pull the water and shut the door. Not yet, not quite yet; a few more sunsets, a few more campfires, a few more rides around the lake at dusk, seeing who is still here and who has left and how many docks remain in the water.

Come winter, there will be treks in the snow to make sure a giant pine tree hasn't created undue harm to this happy place. Talk of this summer's friendships and gatherings and planning for next year will get us through until we are back here again.

Have a good fall and winter wherever you land, and see you back at this happy little lake next year.



Ryan Cyr, 8, learned to fish at Lake Carmi this year and reeled in a walleye, which he entered in the LCCA Youth Fishing Contest. Ryan's grandmother, Wendy Peyrat, shared this photo of him and his catch, and she reports that Ryan is now "hooked on fishing."

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LAKE CARMI



Summer 2021 wasn't quite the return to normalcy we were all hoping for, but at Lake Carmi, it was at the very least a reminder that we can still find joy, beauty, and solace in nature. Thriving eagle families along the shore, spectacular sunsets, unexpected rainbows, and reflected beauty filled our season of warmth. And until we return next year, memories of the past months will keep summer in our hearts.



© Ellen Richards Photography

Photos (from top) courtesy Bill Peace, Ellen Richards, Linda Craig.



“A lake is the landscape’s most beautiful and expressive feature. It is earth’s eye; looking into which the beholder measures the depth of his own nature.”

– Henry David Thoreau

SUMMER 2021



Photos (from top) courtesy
David Pratt, Debby Larose,
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Hello From Behind the Curtain

By Ethan Dezotelle

Come Nov. 1, it'll be eight years since my wife Alison and I moved to Franklin from Enosburg Falls, where we used to run *The County Courier*, Franklin County's weekly newspaper.

She was the publisher and I was the editor. It was a ton of hard work that started on Thursday, culminating in the satisfaction of a new issue sent to press each Wednesday, then beginning all over again. Those were exciting, difficult, fun years, but we were both relieved when the Courier wasn't our responsibility anymore.

And I think it's safe to say that neither of us expected moving to Franklin to start that cycle up once more. But here we are ...

It began with a phone call in early April.

Polly Gadbois was on the other end of the call. Her voice was uncharacteristically timid as she told me she was hoping Alison and I could help out the LCCA. She described the not insignificant hole left in the organization following Larry Myott's passing.

Everyone was pulling together to meet the challenges, but there was still the matter of the LCCA newsletter and how it would be able to continue. Polly wondered if Alison and I would be willing to volunteer our time and help out, given our shared background.

It should come as no surprise that we said yes.

The past five months have been a tremendous learning experience. Alison and I, along with Polly, Peter Benevento, Suzanne Hull-Casavant, and Rhonda Fletcher, formed an impromptu editorial group and determined the best way to move forward while meeting the mission of the LCCA and honoring Larry's legacy.

Did we pull it off?

I hope so. And I think so.

For five months now, on or pretty close to the middle the of each month, we've had a new newsletter ready to go. The standards from years past, like the President's Report, Franklin Watershed Update, and news items, are still here. And we added a monthly calendar of area events (admittedly a bit thin this month), revamped the look of the newsletter, and upgraded the overall presentation to full color and high-quality paper stock.

The ability to do these sorts of upgrades comes down to a significant increase in support from local advertisers and the sales efforts of Polly. (If I could travel back in time, I'd go back 18 years and tell Alison and me to hire Polly onto the *Courier* sales team pronto.) The ongoing crisis faced by print journalism is due in part to loss of advertising. Based on this season's newsletters, the LCCA newsletter has a bright future.

Of course, the other key to any publication's success is having readers. And this newsletter has quite a few of those, too. Readers who are as dedicated a group as any I've seen. Dedicated to Lake Carmi. Dedicated to Franklin. Dedicated to building community.

Many thanks to Polly for making that phone call back in April, to Peter for agreeing to take a chance on Alison and me, and to Suzi and Rhonda for consistently thoughtful and helpful feedback. And many thanks also to the LCCA board and members, not just for this opportunity, but for helping make Franklin the lovely place Alison and I happily call home.

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REPORT from pg. 6

Martha Magnant's Bridgemanview Farm here in Franklin, you had a first hand and very up close demonstration of the grassland manure injection system. In addition to the injection method, there has also been a significant increase in the acreage of cover crops, which keeps the soil in the fields after harvest. Appropriate size buffers surrounding the fields are also being maintained.

I can't say enough about the substantial effort of UVM Ext. and the farmers in the watershed to help the lake. The question remains, however, as to how much manure should be spread in the watershed of an impaired lake, with a federally approved TMDL that has been legislatively declared a "Lake in Crisis." Again, the LCCA hopes to explore possible alternatives in the coming year.

Meanwhile, it is incumbent upon us more than ever to keep our own lake shore property properly maintained to prevent unwanted erosion and phosphorous from entering the lake. The LCCA strongly advocates the DEC Lake Wise Program and urges all members to employ Lake Wise practices at their shore land homes. Tucker Wehner, the Franklin Watershed Committee Coordinator, has been visiting camps around the lake to offer suggestions on Lake Wise practices. He has also conferred the DEC Lake Wise Award on several camps this season. Please reach out to Tucker to see how you can become a better steward of the lake. Tucker can be reached at tuckerwehnerfwc@gmail.com.

And don't forget the FWC Septic Pump Out rebate program. The FWC pays a \$75 rebate for every septic pump out and a \$25 rebate when a port-o-let is rented. This winter the FWC will also once again be exploring the feasibility of community septic systems on Lake Carmi. The more effluent we can move away from the lake, the better.

The LCCA is working closely with our many partners to improve our water quality. We remain in close contact with our elected officials, the Franklin County delegation. They joined us for a boat ride around the lake in June, and we have followed up with providing them a chronological photo journal of our algae issues. They have been very supportive, and funding for Lake Carmi has remained intact in the State budget.

We are very fortunate to have such great organizations and resources working to help the lake. I am more confident than ever that we will solve this BGA problem.

As you can see, there are many moving parts to the health of the lake. I haven't been able to say this for a couple of years, but one part that has been operational this season is the weed harvester. The LCCA purchased a new diesel engine for the harvester which was installed by the Town. We thank Dave Bennion and the Franklin Select Board for their efforts in getting the weed harvester operational. The one question that has emerged, however, is the extent of the milfoil problem. The weed harvester has been with us since 1985 and is designed to manage the proliferation of Eurasian milfoil, an invasive species. Since the advent of the aeration system, however, it appears that the milfoil is not as prevalent as it once was. This is based purely on observations and not scientific fact, so please don't take it as gospel. The matter will, however, be further assessed over the winter.

On the lighter side, we are currently evaluating our agenda of activities for Celebrate Lake Carmi next summer. COVID cut us short again this year, but we were able to host the 40th Army Band. The concert was conducted in late June in conjunction with the Franklin United and East Franklin Churches Ice Cream Socials. A great listening and ice cream (and cake) eating evening was had by all.

Fishing as always is alive and well on Lake Carmi. Walleye remains our predominant game fish. Per the VT Dept. of Fish & Wildlife 2020 Lake Carmi Walleye Management Report, "The Lake Carmi walleye population continues to maintain an improved population structure with a greater abundance of quality sized walleye for anglers." A copy of the full report is available on our website: lakecarmivt.com.

Speaking of the website, I would like to thank David Krayesky for all his efforts to improve it. David assumed the role of Webmaster this year and has done an excellent job. Vast improvements have been made under David's watch, including the implementation of the bulk email feature, which allows us to communicate with the membership with one click of the mouse.

We will once again be engaging the services of Sheriff Roger Langevin and the Franklin County Sheriff's Office to patrol the lake during the winter. Last year no winter break-ins were reported.

Our primary fund raiser this year is the 2022 Ice Out Contest. Tickets are \$2 apiece or 6 for \$10. Tickets are presently available through any LCCA Director and will hopefully be available on the LCCA website. They will also be available at various nearby locations beginning January 1. Additional notifications about the contest will be published.

I would also like to remind everybody about the Lake Carmi Community Foundation. We launched this foundation as a platform to acquire resources to improve the lake. Pete Lafley of Patton Shore was recently selected as the new foundation Treasurer. We need help in making the foundation more active. Please contact me or any LCCA Director if you are interested in getting involved. And remember, we are registered with Amazon Smile. When buying through Amazon, please use Amazon Smile; select our foundation as the charity of choice, and the foundation receives a percentage of the purchase.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the LCCA Directors and Officers for all their hard work this year. This includes Vice President Rob Evans, Treasurer Polly Gadbois, Secretary Ruth Ann Krayesky, Director John Costa, Director Ann Delaney, Director Ernie Englehardt, Director Rhonda Fletcher, Director Nancy Johnson, Director Diane Larose and Director Paulette Tatro. Diane Larose and Paulette Tatro have left the board and we thank them for their service.

Also, I would like to acknowledge and thank Ethan and Alison Dezotelle for putting all our newsletters together. They wouldn't be published without them. Also Suzi Hull-Casavant for her contributions.

This was certainly a difficult and sometime trying year, as it was the first without our dear friend and mentor, Larry Myott. There was not a day this summer – including tonight – that I did not think of him. Throughout the summer, I often thought he was looking down and shaking his head, but overall I think he is proud of our efforts this year on behalf of all who love the lake.

A Big THANK YOU To Our Advertisers

As our last newsletter of the season goes to press, we'd be remiss if we didn't thank the area businesses listed below (in alphabetic order) for their support. Without them, we could not have been brought you this year's edition. During these difficult times, it is more important than ever to support local businesses, and we hope that you will continue to support our sponsors as faithfully as they have supported us this year.

Ave Maria

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In Memoriam



Everett John Peyrat (June 23, 1943-May 6, 2021)

ESSEX JUNCTION: Everett J. Peyrat, 77, of Patton Shore Drive, passed away on May 6, 2021.

To read his full obituary, please visit awrichfuneralhomes.com/obituaries.

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FRANKLIN COUNTY SEPT 2021

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, Sept. 18

Enosburg Harvest Festival
9 a.m.-4 p.m., Lincoln Park,
Enosburg Falls. 50+ vendors w/
produce, jewelry, food trucks,
chicken BBQ, horse-drawn wagon
ride, live music, hot rod car display.

Ongoing

Cold Hollow Sculpture Park
Thur.-Sun. + holidays, noon-6 p.m.,
4280 Boston Post Rd., Enosburgh.
Free. coldhollowsculpturepark.com.

St. Albans Bay Farmers Market
Thursdays through Sept. 26,
4:30-7:30 p.m., St. Albans Bay Town
Park, St. Albans Bay.

Live at McClurg's
Fridays & Saturdays, 7 p.m.,
McClurg's Scottish Pub, 303 Main
St., Enosburg Falls.

Fairfax Farmers Market
Fridays through Sept. 24, 4-7 p.m.,
Fairfax Community Center, 1210
Main St., Fairfax.

Richford Farmers Market
Saturdays through Oct. 30, 9 a.m.-1
p.m., 21 Main St., Richford.

Northwest Farmers Market
Saturdays through Oct. 30, 9 a.m.-2
p.m., Taylor Park, St. Albans.

CLASSIFIEDS

Members of the LCCA who are current with their dues are permitted a free classified ad in all five issues of our newsletter. Merchandise ads are only run for two issues, unless renewed. Camp rentals can run for the entire season, but if you have no more availability, please notify the editor.

COTTAGE FOR RENT: Mullen Shore; May thru Oct – Call (802) 373-1173 for details.

COTTAGE FOR RENT: Hammond Shore Rd, fully furnished, bring your own linens. (802) 285-6737.

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Auto



Home



Life



Business

Eulogizing Our Good & Faithful Servant

Editor's note: As we began the season remembering Larry Myott's life, we thought it appropriate to end the season by sharing the eulogy from his funeral.

On August 14, 2021, a beautiful Saturday morning in Vermont, funeral services for our dear friend and editor, Larry B. Myott, were held at St Ann's Shrine in Isle La Motte.

The funeral mass was offered by Father Marcel Rainville as Larry's family and friends gathered to say their final farewells. Larry would have been most pleased with the attendance. In addition to his immediate and extended family, representatives from many of the organizations Larry worked so tirelessly for over the years came to honor him. Representatives from Vermont Maple, Vermont Lions Clubs, Champlain Valley Expo, UVM Extension Service, and the Lake Carmi Campers Association attended.

The setting was perfect; an open pavilion on the shores of Lake Champlain. A cream can containing a sunflower arrangement and adorned with the green and gold of UVM graced the altar. Larry would have approved whole-heartedly and, most assuredly, would have had his camera ready!

Larry was later interred in his family's lot in Enosburg. As Larry's son, Ben, carried the beautiful maple urn containing his father's ashes from the service, a bald eagle swooped in from the west, as if on cue.

RIP Dear Friend & Editor - God Speed 'til we meet again.

Larry's nephew, Brian Rainville, gave the eulogy, which we share here now.

Larry Myott had a ready smile, kind heart, and heavy foot.

Uncle Larry – "Unc," – knew he was racing against the clock. His father, Lawrence H. Myott, died at just 64. And 15 years ago, a stroke nearly ended Larry's story. Thankfully, he was in a physician's office when it struck.

"Unc" was a force in motion, a man of many interests, and a consummate volunteer with deep ties to a diversity of organizations. Larry gave his time and talent freely to the Champlain Valley Exposition, Lions Clubs, VT Maple Festival, Vergennes Area Rescue Squad, and Lake Carmi Campers Association. There were few fundraisers, parades, exhibits, initiatives, and cookbooks in which his hand and photographs weren't visible. Larry continually, deliberately, and meaningfully invested his hands, heart, and mind in Christian service. He was not only a husband, father, uncle and cousin - Larry was a builder of community whose work drew, and continues to draw, rich dividends.

And through it all - he was remarkably unchanged. A man with a bushel of personality, who was deeply rooted in rural life. Although Larry left the farm, the farm never left him. In his work as a county agent and beyond, "Unc" promoted the maple industry with a near evangelical zeal, whether in Tunbridge or Tokyo.

He loved family and friends, and collected people - forging friendships at every stage of his life. "Unc" treasured the concentric circles that took him from Franklin village, to the University of Vermont, into the Peace Corps, and beyond. He was a roving ambassador, not merely for an industry - but a way of life. Larry Myott believed in generosity, courage, respect, and hope.

And as his health changed, Larry found peace and strength in his faith - and the cottage that had been a retreat for Diane's family

since 1956. When Carmi came into view as he drove north on Lake Road, the pressures of the world melted away.

Camp was a place to rest, reflect, and gather. Where a sense of wonder, adventure, and gratitude were clearly evident. The lake was a beloved community, which reinforced one of his core beliefs - that any problem could be solved if good people were willing to work together.

With his ever present camera, "Unc" recorded much of our lives. And he taught his nieces and nephews to be adventurous

and to live life with purpose. He was our peacemaker and fearless piper - unafraid of a 100-foot Ferris wheel or plunging from a bungee jump. His bad back and ironically weak heart didn't matter. Larry found joy in our company. He was quick to initiate conversations which revealed curiosity, affinity, and genuine interest in our lives.

Yet he was not ours alone. That Larry inhabited many spheres is evident in the hundreds of cards and notes that Diane has received - authored by classmates, colleagues, and Congressmen. Together they are a most moving tribute to Larry Myott's considerable energy, ability, and impact. He was a good neighbor, who could both listen and hear. A friend who cherished the joys of the human experience. A writer, editor, teacher, presenter, and a citizen who gave so much to so many. Which is why I dare say: well done, good and faithful servant.



Photograph by Linda Craig