



China Region Lakes Alliance

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A Lake is the Product of its Watershed...And the People who Care for it

February 28, 2013

Ms. Mary S. Sabins
PO Box 129
N. Vassalboro, ME 04962
Re: Town Report

Dear Ms. Sabins:

This letter contains the *China Region Lakes Alliance's* Annual Report, which summarizes the conservation and water quality protection activities undertaken in 2012. The CRLA has been working hard and steadily to protect our precious Lakes and waterways in Vassalboro and neighboring communities since 1995.

One of the highlights of 2012 was an improvement in the water quality of Three Mile Pond. "It was the best in 25 years", remarked one resident! As you know, CRLA has spearheaded the restoration work – involving hand the clearing of invasive plants and debris – from The Seaward Mill Stream at the outlet of Three Mile Pond. The objective is twofold: first, to enable safe passageway for native sea-run alewife to restore their natural habitat and spawning grounds; and second, to evaluate their 'effects on the net export of internal phosphorus' from the Pond after billions of juvenile fish egress in the Fall. The substantial water quality improvement corroborates the good water quality trend seen in Webber Pond over the past decade subsequent to the re-introduction of this fishery to their waters, as well. Going forward, CRLA is developing an intermediate-term plan to sustain the fish passageway in this section of Seaward Mill Stream in a manner that yields the best outcome for the time and money invested. This project has implications for China Lake water quality via the Outlet Stream, too.

The *Courtesy Boat Inspection* program and the *Youth Conservation Corp* enjoyed another very good season with 20 area high school age students providing services for ecological protection of natural resources. A new information kiosk was designed, built, and installed at the Three Mile Pond public boating launch by the YCC with help from the CRLA Directors. Also, the refurbishing of the kiosk at the East Vassalboro boat launch was completed and the new roof was installed. Local businesses, namely *Lakeview Lumber* and *New England Car Imports*, helped support these specific projects with construction materials and services. The *Public Works Department* and the *Code Enforcement Officer* of the Town of Vassalboro provided essential support with heavy equipment and assistance with permits, respectively. CRLA completed numerous other projects too that mitigated soil erosion to protect our Lakes. The CBI staffed all 4 public boat launches in the area and inspected hundreds of boats and trailers for invasive plants (i.e. milfoil) on weekends and holidays prior to their launching.

A series of photographs of the projects in Vassalboro are appended. CRLA wished to extend its sincere appreciation to the Town of Vassalboro for its foresight, fortitude, and support.

Sincerely,

Jim Hart, CRLA President

Our Mission: To protect and improve the water quality in China Lake, Three Cornered Pond, Three Mile Pond and Webber Pond, and to benefit our local economy through Integrated Watershed Management.

Members: China Lake Association, Three Cornered Pond, Three Mile Pond Association, Webber Pond Association, Town of China, Town of Vassalboro, Town of Windsor, Kennebec Water District

Figure 1 – New Kiosk at Three Mile Pond - After



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Figure 2 – New roof and refurbished kiosk at China Lake – After.



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