

GRANITE LAKE NEWS

Working Together to Preserve Our Lake

May 2025

A Letter From the Granite Lake Association President

DAMIAN LARGIER

As I write this in mid-April, the last vestiges of snow are on the ground, the lake ice has melted, the eagles have nested, loons have returned and I've even seen the first hopeful fisherman putter around the lake – all signs of the change of seasons. I would like to start with a heartfelt thanks to Derek Walton, our previous president, who did a marvelous job seeing us through the turbulence of the dreadful storm two years ago, and working with local towns and residents has overseen a process that will make Granite Lake more resilient to future challenges. We all appreciate your dedication and efforts.

Last fall we experienced the rare event of a deep draw-down of the lake. The Village District Commissioners are to be congratulated on their careful consideration not only of the residents around the lake but also to the potential impact a draw down might have on the local ecology. One of the opportunities it afforded us was a more detailed inspection of the dam and I have asked Victor Pepin to give us a brief summary of the findings of the inspection in this newsletter. It is sobering to realize that without the dam we would be in a permanent state of draw-down! One other opportunity was to repair the ditch that had developed at the base of the boat ramp. Thanks to Tom Newcombe for organizing and to Nelson Town for their rapid response, this has now been filled with rock which should make boat launch and retrieval both easier and safer.

Over the winter the committee had a discussion on the role we as an association can play to help preserve the beauty and cleanliness of our lake. We felt that one opportunity we had not taken full advantage of was the Lake Smart program from NH Lakes.

Although Lake Smart accreditation is the ultimate goal, many of our properties (mine included) fall well short of that goal. Speaking with a friend who lives on a lake in Swanzey, he reassured me that NH Lakes are wonderful at reviewing your property and giving you some advice as to what would make it more 'Lake Smart' – fully aware that this will not be achieved immediately. They give constructive, non-judgmental and optional advice on improving your yard. So much so, that over 30 residents around his lake took up the free opportunity from NH Lakes. We have asked Sam Parkman from the Lake Smart program to address us at our annual meeting this year and we'll be inviting members to volunteer to take part in the program – starting with the committee members themselves!!

It appears that the bald eagles have decided to nest again this year on Granite Lake. Considering that bald eagles were close to being a threatened species 30 years ago it is wonderful to see such a successful breeding pair. However, what has been clear to many around the lake is that since the eagles have taken residence, we have not seen any baby loons. Over the last few years the GLA has engaged the Loon Preservation Society to see if they would be interested in placing a protective loon nesting raft on Granite Lake.

Continued on page 4



A Letter to My Neighbors and Lovers of Granite Lake

This has been one of the busiest summers I can recall. I am a new grandma and I spend several days a week babysitting my precious new grandson. What a gift!

I've packed up several houses with family moving here and there. And then spent time getting the moved ones settled in. I've started a new part-time business, am maintaining another very small venture and have lots of family and friends coming and going. Amidst family obligations, maintaining a household, gardening, social commitments, and shopping and cooking for crowds of loved ones- there is one lovely respite that soothes my busy soul. Every Thursday from 12 to 2 PM I am privileged to sit at the boat ramp and participate in our Lake Host Program. I take a long, slow, deep breath and gaze out at our beautiful lake. Some days there are boats arriving and pleasant conversation with visitors wanting to experience all that our lake has to offer. Some days families come to swim or others arrive with their dogs in tow to enjoy the clear, clean water. The sweet peace that accompanies this particular commitment waters the garden of my soul.

Getting here is half the battle, but one worth winning! Which brings me to the reason I'm here. To keep an eye out for invasive species so that we may all keep enjoying our lake forever. In a nutshell - the Lake Host Program needs volunteers to be effective, it needs all of us to working together to keep our lake, clean and clear. It's not difficult. Anyone can do it! It just requires a brief training session and you're all set.

And in return for the investment of just two hours a week, you will receive the greatest gift of all - giving back to and preserving this lake we all get to call home!

xox ~ Joann Bartolotta

LAKE LOVERS WANTED

By Sharon O'Brien Iagulli

Invasive species are NOT welcome here! The Lake Host Program of New Hampshire Lakes offered a talk on this subject last summer which was quite informative and prompted five new Granite Lake Lovers to understand the importance of keeping watch of our beautiful natural resource. They volunteered to become Lake Hosts: a simple process which doesn't take much time and can be flexible ... the only important fact not mentioned in Joann's introduction, which, if didn't entice you, perhaps a free t shirt and hat will?!! This will be explained when you contact your co-coordinators.

There are 20 valued volunteers (several of whom have been volunteers for YEARS!) but still there is a spot for YOU! There is also a need for paid weekend "educators." The more people who are interested, the less hours one would have to work. If you are interested in earning \$15 an hour for very important but easy work, and perhaps just wish to work 2 to 4 hours every other weekend, contact me soiagulli@hotmail.com.

Sharon's Annual Camp Song (to the tune of MICKEY MOUSE)

M-U-N, S-O-N, V-I-L-L-E

Munsonville, Granite Lake!

Munsonville, What's at stake?

We don't want invasive species so help-the-community-out!

Come along and sing this song and volunteer some time.

G-R-A, N-I-T, E-L-A-K-E

**CLEAN.
DRAIN.
DRY.**



Protect Our Lakes from
Aquatic Invasive Species



Photo credit Jane Ojala Stone

WATER QUALITY REPORT

BY TOM NEWCOMBE

The 2024 VLAP [Volunteer Lake Assessment Program] water monitoring program included lake and tributary sample collections on July 8th and August 27th.

The July sampling occurred following a period of very dry weather, so most of the tributaries were dry or stagnant. Only four samples could be collected, all located along North Shore Road. With such limited flow, the water at these sites was very clear, having very low turbidity and phosphorus, as would be expected.

The August sampling was done right after a heavy rainfall, so most of the tributaries were flowing rapidly and twelve samples were collected. Turbidity measurements were



almost ten times higher than the July samples for two of the four tribs. collected in July, and six times higher for the other two. This illustrates the effect of watershed erosion during storm events, which is the source of most of the harmful nutrients such as phosphorus in our lake.

Overall, lake water quality remained high for the summer season, with favorable clarity and biological measurements at the deep spot near the center of the lake. Transparency was almost 10 meters, the best reading in over ten years. Phosphorus and chlorophyll levels were back within the normal, low range for our lake after spiking to historic levels in 2023 during the severe rain and flooding events that occurred. As in past years, the only observation of concern continues to be the trend of increasing conductivity / chloride, which is primarily from road salts applied during the winter months. The highest source levels are from the Inlet Brook (which flows from Nye Meadow along Rt. 9) and the culverts along Granite Lake Rd. – both of which measure significantly above the state median level. The level at the deep spot in the lake is lower, but still slightly above the state median level.

DES recommendations for protecting Granite Lake's water quality are the same as previous years – managing and limiting stormwater runoff within the watershed, especially along the roads, driveways, and waterfront properties around the lake. Extreme rain events like we had in 2023 are expected to occur more frequently, which increases the urgency of investing in preventive erosion-control measures.

The detailed VLAP report from DES – which contains charts, graphs, and technical explanations of the lab results – is available on the GLA web site.

There are very effective erosion control actions that individual property owners around the lake can perform on their own. DES continues to recommend the Lake Smart Program, sponsored by NH Lakes Association, which contains numerous practical landscaping and property management techniques for controlling stormwater on lakeshore properties. The GLA will be actively promoting this program during the 2025 season, as we will discuss during the annual meeting in July.

IN MEMORIAM MIKE GUIDA

by Judy Guida

Mike Guida, a 70 year visitor to Granite Lake, passed away at his home in Connecticut in April, 2024. Mike was five when he first visited the Granite Lake area after his family purchased the farm at the top of Old Towne Road. He developed his love of the area throughout the years, from staying overnight at 'the farm', to hunting with the guys, fishing in the early morning, water skiing at the lake and learning to ski at Granite Gorge back in the day. After sharing his family's property for many years, he and his wife Judy and their family purchased their lake house on West Shore Road in 2004. They grew their family there, enjoying all the fun and good times their house could provide... swimming, skiing, boating and holidays throughout the summer. During fishing season, Mike could be found on the lake in his Boston Whaler with his 'other brother' Bill Robinson. Evenings were Cribbage and Setback with Bill & Marie Robinson and Mike & Judy. We won't tell if the guys or gals won more games but we sure had many laughs!

In the fall, Mike could be found hunting and raking leaves. Some of Mike's best memories were spending time with his nine grandchildren, teaching them the lore of the lake and the village, how to swim, hunt, water ski, and, the importance of maintaining the land.

Mike's dream came true when he built a second home on the lake. He could be found at the building site every day overseeing the construction, putting in his two cents and talking to everyone walking around the lake. One thing that could always be said about Mike was 'he was a friendly guy'.



LOON NESTING RAFT INSTALLED!

BY DAMIAN LARGIER

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Since the eagles arrival, loons have not successfully nested on Granite Lake. The presence of a 'nesting raft' may protect the loons and their eggs during the incubation period as well as the chicks in the early period after they hatch. The raft floats just offshore and protects the loons from both land based and aerial predators. To that end the Loon Preservation Committee has placed a nesting raft on the east side of Blueberry Island not far from where the loons nested in the past. Nesting rafts are not usually employed unless a pair of loons has failed repeatedly at a natural site, or there are exceptional circumstances, as in this case. The plan is to have the nesting raft put back in situ each year for the next 5 years in the hope that it is used by the loons. The Loon Preservation Committee will be checking on the raft during the course of the season and I will keep you updated with respect to progress. It would be wonderful to have baby loons back on the lake – keep fingers crossed!



A few points for boaters to consider:

1. While the nest is empty there is no restriction to boating;
2. If the loons decide to nest, it is requested the boaters minimize boat wake on the east of the island, and keep at **least 150 feet** from the nesting raft;
3. Most common nesting times are between **mid-May and mid-July**;
4. If there is no sign of nesting by the end of July it is **unlikely to occur** for that year;
5. The chances of the loons nesting in the first year of the raft is approximately 30% - and so nesting is not inevitable;
6. If the loons do nest it is most important to keep your distance and **avoid disturbing** them during the typical **28 - 30 days of their incubation period**.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER CONT. FROM PAGE 1

This summer you will see the raft placed close to Blueberry Island in the hope that the loons will use it to breed. Loons generally nest from mid-May through mid- July. This has proved successful on many NH lakes including some in which the raft is placed in close proximity to an eagle's nest. It goes without saying that we as residents should respect the nesting loons and keep our distance through the summer.

Finally, a call out to our Lake Host volunteers. This program is the heart and soul of the association. Sharon Iagulli and Jennifer Pepin have done a wonderful job organizing the program and liaising with the NH Lake Host team. However, they will need a combination of volunteers and paid (weekend) hosts to make it all work. Those who get involved love the opportunity not only for a bit of 'time out' but also to meet new people as they come to launch their boat on the ramp. I know many of you have thought about it but not made the commitment – I encourage you to do so now and contact either Sharon or Jen. This is the program that keeps our lake beautiful for our grandkids.

In closing, a huge thank you to the committee who give selflessly of their time. Little would be achieved without them. I look forward to seeing you all at our annual meeting in July 19 and of course at the second annual boat parade that follows on the same afternoon. Wishing you all a wonderful, happy and safe summer with family and friends.

What Is LakeSmart?

LakeSmart is a free, non-regulatory, and voluntary education and recognition program encouraging community members to adopt habits that protect lake water quality, wildlife habitat, and property values.

Why Should YOU Become LakeSmart?

You and your community can be heroes for your lake! What happens on your property affects the lake—whether you live along it or miles from it. LakeSmart communities create clean, clear, and healthy water, protect property values, and improve wildlife habitats. Your community can inspire others to make lake-friendly living a way of life throughout New Hampshire.

How Do I Become LakeSmart?

- ✓ **SIGN UP** Learn about and adopt lake-friendly living practices. Sign up and create a profile at nhlakes.org/lakesmart
- ✓ **GET A FREE EVALUATION** From your LakeSmart Profile, you can submit photos of your property online for review.
- ✓ **SHOW OFF!** When you receive the LakeSmart Award, show it to family, friends, and neighbors to encourage participation!



Owl in Snow photo credit Jacob Jarvela



Mergansers photo credit Jacob Jarvela

NH DES WEED WATCHERS

VOLUNTEER MONITORING FOR AQUATIC INVASIVE PLANTS



Aquatic invasive plants are those that are not naturally found in New Hampshire's lakes, ponds and rivers. Because they are not native, they have no predators or diseases, which allows them to grow quickly and dominate the freshwater systems, native plants, fish and aquatic insects already present. Aquatic invasive plants can lead to **reduced shorefront property values**, water quality impairments and problems with the aesthetic and recreational values of waterbodies. The spread of these plants to other uninfected waterbodies often occurs by transient boat traffic. If accidentally introduced into a waterbody, they grow at explosive rates, some between an inch to as many as six inches a day! Many times, new infestations are not discovered until the plants become a nuisance requiring expensive control methods. Once fully established, they are virtually impossible to eradicate making education, vigilance and early detection key components in keeping these non-native plants in check.

"Weed Watchers," is a volunteer program dedicated to monitoring the lakes and ponds for the presence of aquatic invasive plants formed by the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) in 1988. The GLA is working to get the most dangerous invasive weed images uploaded to the GLA website so that plants can quickly and easily be identified by residents while they are kayaking, walking or swimming. To learn more or browse the Weed Watcher packet contact Naomi Risch. nrisch@protonmail.com or visit NHDES.gov.

UNDERSTANDING THE DAM

By Victor Pepin



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The GLVD annual meeting was held on April 26, 2025. At the meeting it was mentioned that the commissioners would provide information about the village district and its purpose in the Granite Lake Association newsletter.

What is the GLVD?

The Granite Lake Village District was established in 1992. Its primary responsibility is to manage the impoundment of Granite Lake. A village district is a type of municipal entity within a town, often established for a specific purpose, like impounding water for dams. These districts have their own governing body, often a Board of Commissioners, and separate budgetary processes. They are essentially political subdivisions within a town, formed to address specific needs or manage certain resources, like a dam and its related water management.

Who comprises GLVD?

Community members who have deeded water rights on Granite Lake. Taxes are assessed to each GLVD member and there is a precinct line item on your Stoddard or Nelson tax bill to cover the cost to maintain the dam, insurance, and to build a capital reserve for current or future dam related needs.

Who are the GLVD commissioners and officers?

The commissioners are Butch Roeder, Derek MacAllister, and Victor Pepin. They are elected to a three-year term (non-concurrent) by village district members at the annual meeting held in the spring of each year. The GLVD dam commissioners are responsible for controlling the level of the lake, including dam care and maintenance. The GLVD officers are elected for one year and include moderator, John Halter; treasurer, Bob Maden; and clerk, Sally Ripley. All commissioners and officers are volunteers.

Is there any relationship between the GLVD and the Granite Lake Association (GLA)?

No, the GLA is an entirely separate non-profit association whose aim is to preserve and protect Granite Lake's scenic, recreational, and environmental interests. Membership is open to all owners (and their families) of property situated

around the lake including those in the watershed of the lake and the environs of Munsonville Village. You do not need to be a waterfront owner to be part of the association.

How does the dam work?

The dam is located at the end of the mill pond and consists of two components to adjust the lake level; one, a mechanical gate, and two, boards that sit on top of the spillway. The gate consists of an 18" opening at the base of the dam that can be opened or closed by turning the wheel at the top of the dam. The commissioners manually operate the gate throughout the summer season based on weather conditions to keep the height of the lake properly regulated.

The boards are placed in the spring and removed in the fall and sit on top of the spillway. They are held into place by four pins that are designed to fail in the event of a major flood. Once the water reaches the desired height for the summer or winter season, the gate is closed and only operated as needed.

What is the desired height of the lake during the summer and winter season?

Prior to the summer season, the boards are placed on top of the spillway to raise the level of the lake by 24" inches. The proper height of the lake was determined the Department of Environmental Services (DES). During the winter, the boards are removed to lower the water by 24" to the height of the spillway. This is done to protect the shoreline from ice damage and for other ecological reasons based on instructions from the DES.

The timing of the board placement and removal can vary depending on the weather conditions and maintenance needs of the dam. The boards are usually removed on or around Columbus Day weekend and put back into place during the month of April, once ice is out and it is safe for the GLVD to do so. The height of the dam is managed at the discretion of the Commissioners.

CPR/AED (CARDIO-PULMONARY RESUSCITATION/AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR) COURSE OFFERED

We are fortunate to have three AEDs located around the lake, one at the Chapel, one at Nicoletti's, and one at Englund's. For lake residents, an AED is located within a mile of your home. Those previously certified more than two years ago should consider signing up again for recertification. This year's course will again be taught by a certified CPR/AED instructor of the Keene Family YMCA in late July or August at the Chapel-by-the-Lake with tuition fees to be paid by GLA. Mannequins will be available for CPR practice, as well as AED units for (non-shocking) simulated practice. At the July 19th Annual GLA meeting, I will pass around a sign-up sheet, but if anyone wants to sign up in advance, please email me at bobenglund42@gmail.com.

THIS PARADE WILL FLOAT YOUR BOAT!

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SAVE THE DATE FOR THIS YEAR'S PARADE: SATURDAY JULY 19TH AT 5:00PM

Last summer's boat parade was deemed a rousing success! Plans are in the works for a second so start brainstorming your theme today! Once again, boats will line up in a counter clockwise direction starting at the boat landing. This year the parade will proceed at a slower pace and closer to shore to allow dockside viewers a better chance to see all of the details. Boats can tie up in the middle afterwards for a festive happy hour so don't forget themed food! Enjoy just a few of last years amazing boat themes! More pictures can be viewed on GLA homeowners facebook page!



Christmas in July



Willy Wonka



America!



Out of Africa Safari



Happy Hour Boat Tie Up

COMMUNITY PAGE

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CHAPEL BY THE LAKE

The Chapel by the Lake hosts many community events including knitting club, pancake breakfasts, an Apple Festival and more. Community led services every Sunday at 10:30, communion every first Sunday.

The chapel hosts several donation boxes including one for a Nelson school children focused program End 68 Hours of Hunger to help eliminate food insecurity over the weekend.

529 Granite Lake Road Nelson, NH



SIGN UP FOR THE BLACK FLY EXPRESS
at [Nelson In Common.org](http://NelsonInCommon.org) for local news and events.



OLIVIA RODHAM MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The ORML Library is located at 7 Nelson Common Road in Nelson. The new website highlights their wide range of activities including music and writing events, summer series, cookbook club, summer reading program, seed catalog, After school "Monday is Funday" meet-up, coffee hour and more. Don't forget the free or discounted museum passes!

OPEN HOURS

Monday & Thursdays 1pm - 6pm

Wednesday 3-6pm

Tuesday & Saturdays 10am - 12pm

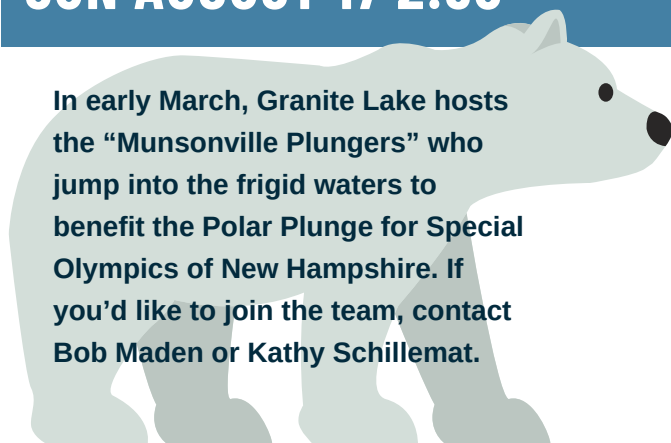


POTLUCK PICNIC WITH THE NELSON TOWN BAND

Join old neighbors and meet new friends at the annual potluck picnic held on the shore of Sandy Beach. **ALL ARE WELCOME TO THIS AMAZING TRADITION!!** Bring a dish to share. Call Donna Hamilton 847-3288 or Angel Nicoletti at 847-9547 with questions or to **VOLUNTEER!**

SUN AUGUST 17 2:30

In early March, Granite Lake hosts the "Munsonville Plungers" who jump into the frigid waters to benefit the Polar Plunge for Special Olympics of New Hampshire. If you'd like to join the team, contact Bob Maden or Kathy Schillemat.



DAVIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Davis Public Library is located at 1391 Route 123 N in Stoddard. There are frequent events and many resources available all of which can be found on their website DavisLibrary.org. The librarian Inga Dellea or any of the staff will be able to help you at 603 446-6251.

OPEN HOURS

Monday & Friday 3pm - 7pm

Tues & Weds 1-5pm

Thursday 10am - 5pm

Saturday 10am - 2pm

Visit GRANITELAKENH.ORG for previous year newsletters and lots of great information!

Is there anything **YOU** would like to contribute or see in the next Granite Lake Association newsletter?

If so, please contact Jen Pepin, editor at JLPEP3@gmail.com or 603-283-8634. Thank you!

THE 76TH ANNUAL GRANITE LAKE ASSOCIATION MEETING

SATURDAY JULY 19TH, 10AM AT THE CHAPEL-BY-THE-LAKE

The Association works for the protection and betterment of Granite Lake. The annual meeting is the forum for discussion of common concerns and for the determination of appropriate action.

2025 MEETING AGENDA

Salutation and Call to Order	Damian Largier, <i>President</i>
Pledge of Allegiance	Damian Largier
Secretary's Report	Sally Ripley, <i>Secretary</i>
Remembrances	Damian Largier
Speaker: "LakeSmart Program"	Samantha Parkman, NHLakes
GLA Annual Reports:	
Treasurer's Reports	Tom Newcombe, <i>Treasurer</i>
Membership Report	Joann Bartolotta
Lake Host Report	Sharon Iagulli / Jen Pepin
Water Quality Report	Tom Newcombe
AED / CPR Training 2025	Bob Englund
New Business:	Damian Largier
Approval of AED/CPR training costs	
Date for 2026 annual meeting July 18, 2026 (third Saturday)	
Donations to Chapel by the Lake for meeting space	
Other Business not on the Agenda	

Motion to Adjourn

GLA 2024 - 2026 OFFICERS

President Damian Largier
Vice President Naomi Risch
Member at Large Mitch Greenwald
Treasurer Tom Newcombe
Secretary Sally Ripley
Membership Joann Bartolotta
NH Lakes Lake Host Program
 Sharon Iagulli & Jen Pepin


GUEST SPEAKER SAMANTHA PARKMAN




Community Engagement Coordinator
 Samantha Parkman provides support through our new Community Cyanobacteria Mitigation Grant Program and provides support to our advocacy and conservation programs. She graduated from Saint Joseph's College of Maine in 2023 with a B.S. in Marine Science and a minor in Biology. The past two summers, she worked with the Lakes Environmental Association in Bridgeton, Maine, removing and surveying invasive milfoil in the Sebago Lake region. In her free time, Samantha enjoys most outdoor explorations including hiking, swimming, running, and kayaking. If you don't find her outdoors, you'll certainly find her curled up in bed with her cat binging on reality shows or spending time with friends and family.

GRANITE LAKE ASSOCIATION
JOANN BARTOLOTTA, MEMBERSHIP
150 NORTH SHORE ROAD
MUNSONVILLE, NH
03457

THE GRANITE LAKE ASSOCIATION IS A MEMBER SUPPORTED NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION.
YOUR MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTION IS NOW A (501C3) TAX DEDUCTIBLE CHARITABLE DONATION.
PAYPAL QR CODE BELOW -OR- MAIL YOUR CHECK (\$50 FAMILY, \$35 SINGLE) ALONG WITH INFO BELOW TO:



GRANITE LAKE ASSOCIATION
THOMAS NEWCOMBE - TREASURER
701 GRANITE LAKE RD
MUNSONVILLE NH, 03457



NAME _____

SUMMER ADDRESS _____

WINTER ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____ I CHOOSE TO RECEIVE DIGITAL COPY ONLY _____

WINTER TELEPHONE: _____ LAKE PHONE # OR CELL _____

WILL YOU VOLUNTEER TO HELP?

☐ LAKE HOST ☐ PICNIC ☐ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ☐ NEWSLETTER ☐ WEB SITE

HELP US KEEP OUR MAILING LIST UP TO DATE!

FOR 2026, PAID MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE A PAPER COPY OF THE GRANITE LAKE NEWSLETTER
IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO BE A MEMBER BUT WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE A DIGITAL COPY
OF THE NEWSLETTER, PLEASE EMAIL A REQUEST TO GRANITELAKENH1949@GMAIL.COM