

# Lake Waramaug Association

May 2018

Celebrating Our Centennial  
1917 - 2017

## 101<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting Sunday, June 10, 2018, 2:00 PM Lake Waramaug Country Club

We look forward to re-convening at the 101st Annual Membership meeting of the Lake Waramaug Association in the newly-constructed Lake Waramaug Country Club house, where we will hear from Sean Hayden, Executive Director of the Lake Waramaug Task Force, who will present the annual State of the Lake report on behalf of the Task Force. See you “up top,” the new and improved version!

Please join us in celebrating Independence Day along our shores. This year, as last, the fireworks will be launched from North Shore Road on Saturday June 30th, with a rain date of Sunday, July 1. We wish to thank the Vance family once again for their hospitality and generosity in allowing us to use their property as launch site.

### In Memoriam:

It is with great sadness that we report of the passing of Dr. Joseph Edward Rowan, Jr. Joe, a former member of the Association's Board of Directors, was a periodontist in Manhattan with several recognitions and accolades, but locally he was best known as an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hiking, biking, kayaking, skiing and photography. He was also a painter who honed his artistic skills at The Washington Art Association in the Depot. Joe is survived by his wife of 50 years, Diana, his children, Victoria, Ian, and Edward, and his grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, Joe's family asks that you direct your generosity to The Washington Art Association ([www.washingtonartassociation.org/donate](http://www.washingtonartassociation.org/donate)).



*Photo courtesy of Tory Rowan.*

### 100 Acres / 100 Trees:

Although technically we are now 101, our Centennial commemoration continues with our 100 Acres / 100 Trees initiative. We are working with our partner organizations, neighboring land trusts and individuals to preserve enough land to ensure a balanced and healthy environment for generations to come. Helpful information about the planting and cultivation of indigenous trees, an integral part of keeping our preserved watershed healthy, can be found at <http://www.waramaugassoc.org/trees.html>.

### Dues Reminder

Whether you are a new or established member, your participation is important to us. Please return the enclosed envelope to renew your membership as soon as possible. We hope you will consider making an additional contribution to help us fulfill our mission to protect and preserve Lake Waramaug and its environs. For your convenience, you may also log onto [www.lakewaramaugassoc.org](http://www.lakewaramaugassoc.org) and click on “DONATE NOW” to renew your membership and make an additional gift.



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

P.O. Box 2272  
New Preston, CT 06777



## Friend of The Green Award:

The Association is delighted to have been the recipient of The Gunnery School's annual "Friend of the Green" award, given to an individual or group that has contributed to the well-being of the town of Washington through their volunteer efforts. Recognized during a November 18th celebration at the Virginia Hamilton Solley Hall, our Co-Presidents, Anne Block and Gail Berner, delivered an acceptance speech illuminating the long relationship the Gunnery and the Association has enjoyed. Below are their remarks, in their entirety:

"Good evening and greetings to The Gunnery Head of School, Peter Becker, faculty, staff, Board Members and friends of the Lake Waramaug Association and our local friends and neighbors. My name is Anne Block and together with my Co-President, Gail Berner, we are here to accept The Gunnery Friends of the Green Award for 2017. It is our honor to be here tonight and see so many familiar faces.

The Lake Waramaug Association is a membership organization founded in 1917, whose mission is to preserve and protect Lake Waramaug and its environs as a public recreational area and to promote the safety, health and enjoyment of those who use the Lake. The Lake Waramaug Association's first president, Nelson Mead, attended secondary school at The Gunnery and so the long history of a collaboration between the Association and The Gunnery began.

I am often struck as I drive around the Lake each evening of the fortitude and dedication of The Gunnery crew team whether they are rowing on a chilly evening or running around the perimeter of the Lake. Chief Waramaug was the sachem of the Wyantenocks and "Waramaug" means good fishing place and with the addition of 1,700 brown trout this Fall, it had better be!

As we celebrate our Centennial this year, we'd like to highlight three programs that we have introduced to honor the rich history of the Lake Waramaug Association. The first initiative is "Plant 100 Trees" – we are encouraging all residents, whether you live on the Lake or not, to plant a tree. It has been said that we do not plant trees for ourselves but for our posterity. Those who came before us planted the saplings that are the mature trees that grace our homes and sustain our environment today.

The second initiative is "Save 100 Acres Around the Lake" – we are working with partner organizations and individual landowners to preserve 100 acres around the Lake for generations to come. We hope to act as a catalyst and an organizing entity to protect a lasting legacy of enough preserved land to ensure a balanced and healthy environment for generations to come.

Finally, we have had the good fortune to be able to celebrate some of the 100 year families around the Lake. The Hopkins Family, the Randall/Allen Family and the Tallmadge/Allin Family were a few of the families honored at our summer picnic in July of this year. We hope to make this picnic an annual event open to the general public and to raise the profile of the Lake Waramaug Association's work.

Our future depends on an active community invested in protecting what is an environmental jewel in our own back yard. More information can be discovered on our website ([www.waramaugassoc.org](http://www.waramaugassoc.org)) and by speaking to any one of the Board members present tonight (if the Board members who are present tonight could please raise their hands). I'd also like to acknowledge the contribution of Linda and Paul Frank who are here tonight – Paul was the President of the LWA Board for 15 years and much of our success can be traced to his stewardship.

In closing, the Lake Waramaug Association is humbled and honored by this award and we look forward to collaborating with The Gunnery and the Washington Community for many years to come. Thank you again for honoring us. Happy Holidays to all."



*Left to right: Gail Berner, Peter Becker (The Gunnery's Head of School), and Anne Block. Photo Courtesy of The Gunnery.*

### Concerning Repairs to our Dam:

The Town of Washington has awarded New England Infrastructure of Hudson, Massachusetts the contract to replace the faulty valve at the foot of the Lake. Details of the contract have yet to be finalized, as NE Infrastructure investigates the possibility of utilizing a deeper coffer, which may alleviate the need to lower the level of the lake during construction. Plans will be solidified during the summer months, and the Association will update our membership as details emerge.

### Board of Directors

**Anne Block**  
*Co-President*

**Gail Berner**  
*Co-President*

**Maria Mostajo**  
*Vice President*

**John Santoleri**  
*Treasurer*

**Christine Adams**  
*Recording Secretary*

**Betty Sutter**  
*Corresponding Secretary*

**Heather Allen**

**Peter Bonachea**

**Margaret Field**

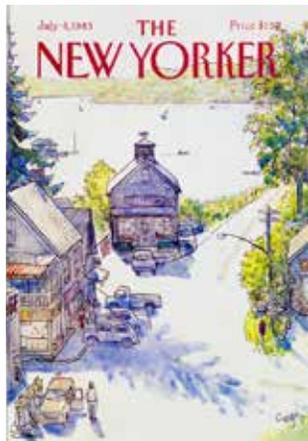
**Richard C. Kleinberg**

**Rudolph Montgela**

**Susan Payne**

**Elaine Peer**

**James S. Weaver**



## A Short History of An Architectural Centerpiece:

*With thanks to the Gunn Historical Museum, particularly the meticulous research of their volunteers David Abington and Robin Melton.*

Pavilion Hall in our beloved New Preston Village is an iconic structure, anthropomorphically overseeing the goings-on about town from its perch at the corner of Route 45 and New Preston Hill Road like a genteel local. The shingle-style, architecturally significant building was built in 1897, and ushered in a new era to New Preston's economy, from that of an industrial mill town to one focusing on tourism. The Pavilion was home to its eponymous Club and supported their activities: literary, dramatic, musical, and social entertainments, as well as public lectures, political meetings and religious services. Over the years, its walls took on several incarnations. In 1910, it was the Second Voting District; in 1917-18, it was headquarters to the New Preston Red Cross, where the Home Guard trained during World War One; in the 1920s, the New Preston Post Office was located on the first floor; and in 1939, a second fire truck was purchased for the town and stored in the left side of Pavilion Hall.

On October 22, 1940, in exchange for unpaid taxes, the Pavilion Club represented by Edward P. and Etta C. Lyman, gave the building and its accompanying eighth of an acre of land to the Town of Washington for public uses and purposes. From that point, it was utilized in generally the same manner, as the site of dances, talent shows, and graduations through the 1940s and 50s, and later as the Boys and Girls Club of New Preston, organized largely by Dorothy Averill. Even in such a low-ceilinged facility, somehow an organized basketball team played here. The late Jack Adams, who scrimmaged

*New Yorker Cover, July 04, 1983  
by Arthur Getz  
Credit: Arthur Getz / The New Yorker  
(c) Conde Nast*

here with Harry Erickson among others, reported some unorthodox game strategies, including but not limited to the pulling down of an opponent's shorts as a defensive maneuver. Ray Underwood reports that due to the installation of the hoop on the wall, even the more "vertically challenged" players could still make a slam dunk, by using the wall for a leg-up.

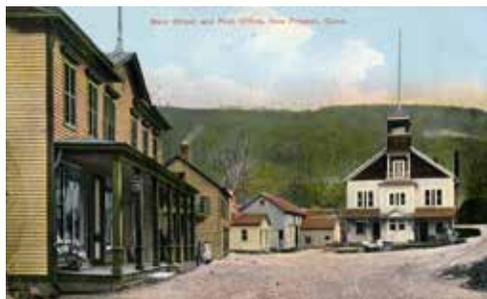
In 1985, the Hall was closed due to multiple fire code violations, and for five years it lay vacant until community-minded Underwood proposed a plan to the Town of Washington to restore her. With the Herculean efforts of a committee of dedicated volunteers, most notably Erickson and Walt Krom, the Harry O. Erickson Pavilion Hall reopened on April 26, 1992. The boys' and girls' club returned, and the Rising Sun Masonic Lodge held their meetings here. New Preston at Night hosted performances and gatherings, the Washington / Warren Food Bank used the facility to store goods and construct holiday baskets for the needy, and the Pilobolus and Momix dance companies used the theatre space upstairs for rehearsals.



*From the collection of the Gunn Historical Museum;  
gift of Harold Stoeffler.*

The Town of Washington decided in 2015 that it needed to sell the building, which fell into disrepair and became economically infeasible to maintain. An invitation to bid was extended, and awarded to an independent buyer with the intent to use the Pavilion as retail space. This choice and the process by which the town has made it has been met with controversy, but at a special town meeting held to vote on the sale, the decision was upheld by Washington constituents: 280 - 112.

The stipulations of the contract of sale require that the structure's façade remain true to the original and that some portion of the business plan include a public use component; so it is with certainty that the grace of the Hall will welcome visitors from its advantageous viewpoint for years to come.



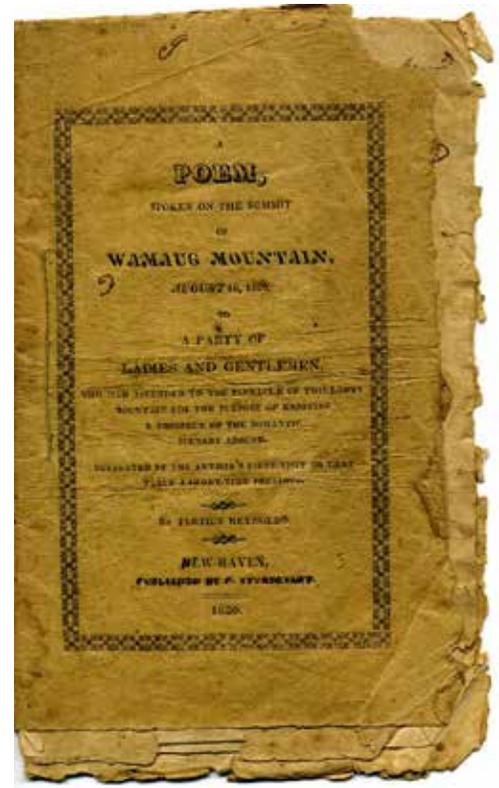
*Photos courtesy of the Gunn Historical Museum.*

**Excerpts from:** *A Poem, Spoken on the Summit of Wamaug [sic] Mountain, August 16, 1820 to A Party of Ladies and Gentlemen, Who Had Ascended to the Pinnacle of this Lofty Mountain for the Purpose of Enjoying A Prospect of the Romantic Scenery Around,* By Tertius Reynolds, New Haven, Published by P. Sturtevant, 1820.

And I stood fearless on this famous spot.  
 Well have our fathers sought and found thy name;  
 Methought thou wast the Pinnacle of Fame.  
 Around on every side my vision strays,  
 Pleas'd with the objects which it there surveys;  
 Fields white for harvest, or with prostrate grain;  
 Meadows and corn-fields that divide the plain;  
 Hills, forests, fountains, streams and silver lakes,  
 With varied graces a rich landscape makes:  
 On every side around, the gazer sees  
 The rural dwelling rising 'mid the trees;  
 The smoke, in columns, rising from the top,  
 As if to heav'ns high arch it were a prop –  
 Amidst the groves see stately domes arise,  
 And rear their snow-white turrets to the skies;  
 The mighty prospect which this mount surrounds,  
 A full half sphere its vast dominion bounds.

Whence was produc'd yon strangely fashion'd lake?  
 That turns and winds like some malicious snake?  
 Where in the wreck of Empires didst thou glean,  
 Those ancient relics I have round thee seen?

Yonder, where lies that crooked winding lake,  
 Which thy wild fancy liken'd to a snake,  
 there lies a deep, a bottomless abyss,  
 Where sunk the waters as their fury ceas'd;  
 The tumult ceasing left this peak so high,  
 Like ancient Babel tow'ring to the sky.



**Relationship Status:  
It's Complicated...**

Any Lakeside resident knows that our relationship with the Canada goose is a complicated one. Pictured here is a monogamous pair with their adorable, downy offspring, seemingly idyllic and fitting for the scene; and yet experience tells us the once solely migratory birds have now become year-long dwellers, soiling our lawns and wreaking havoc for other native species of birds.

The parents pictured here are banded, a practice heralded by the Connecticut DEEP, so that aviary experts can track their migration habits, or the lack thereof. In the Early 1900s, a subspecies of non-migratory geese was imported to populate our wildlife refuges at a time when the goose population was of grave concern. They thrived. Milder weather patterns, large bodies of water and abutting pastoral lawns are irresistible for the non-migratory birds and their population soared.

The solution is far from Swiftian, and quite simple, really: buffer plantings, which as it turns out, are triply beneficial. Predators hide in high reeds, brush and other native lakeside vegetal habitats, a real deterrent for fat geese. They also act as a natural filtration for run off, keep our waters clean, and retain soil at our banks providing protection from erosion.

For more information about protective and environmentally sound plants, please see <http://www.waramaugassoc.org/regs.html#landscape>.

**Founders' Day Regatta**



*Scullers prepare for competition at the Founders' Day Regatta, Lake Waramaug State Park, Sunday, May 6, 2018.*

*Full results can be found at [www.row2k.com/results](http://www.row2k.com/results)*

**The Lake Waramaug Association  
is on Facebook!**



Please "like" us to receive up-to-date information surrounding our Centennial Celebrations, as well as other important news relating to the Lake.