



OPEN LETTER TO THE PUBLIC

My name is Dan Bilodeau and I am a Lake Auburn watershed advocate, residing at 207 North Auburn Road near Lake Auburn. I am writing this on behalf of the Lake Auburn Watershed Neighborhood Association (LAWNA), which I am the President.

I wanted to bring to your attention a longstanding grievance with regard to how the two community water systems shift the burden of expense (for being un-filtered) from their respective rate payers in Lewiston, Auburn & Poland to the tax payers of the City of Auburn.

Here are some facts with regard to the very unusual filtration avoidance here in this Community:

- When the LAWPC (Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission) purchases land in Auburn in the expanded Lake Auburn watershed they do not pay taxes on the land and the potential use value has cost the City of Auburn millions of dollars annually. When I speak of use development, I speak only of highly mitigated, low impact development areas outside the State shore-land zoning & City zoned protected areas. These are properties that can be designed to be Lake friendly. This is Auburn's land asset(s) being played.
- The land they buy, the value is most likely been reduced because of a 40 year old local septic ordinance that the State soil scientist has gone on record to say is inefficient and actually causing more harm to the environment by forcing the effluent in deep gravelly aquifer soils that are *recharging* Lake Auburn. Politics, not science has kept this in force. The former State soil evaluator has gone on record to say that the ordinance is "CRAZY."
- Additional tens of thousands of dollars are lost to the City of Auburn every year as they are now required to grant property value adjustments to potential house lots that do not meet the LAWPC supported septic ordinance. Even though most of **those properties are nowhere near the Lake or critical tributarial waters.**
- The LAWPC is required to report to the State every year and the State reports to the EPA in the required maintenance of a very labor intensive and expensive watershed management program. The EPA compliance document, which is basically the water system contract with the EPA, outlines how these water utilities need to reduce recreation, reduce development and take any action necessary, EVERY YEAR, to protect the water quality, making a very adversarial organization among long-standing residents & a broad base of recreational users who would like to live in peace and enjoyment. How do you put a price to the community on all the new restrictions (attached) that have popped up over the years? A recreational report on another community says the price tag is in the millions lost to the lake community every year on a Great Pond, held in trust for all the people in Maine, not just those drawing water from city faucets.
- In the early 80's filtration could have been built and bonded with other "normal" communities the size of Auburn & Lewiston. Instead, one excessive bird fecal year in 2004 and one recent algae bloom in 2012 have put this community on high alert. 14 million was recently spent on UV to meet the two forms of disinfection requirement a few years back; hundreds of thousands of

dollars on studies the last few years; millions for an Alum treatment is proposed, millions for watershed and in-lake remediation; hundreds of thousands for an in-lake copper-sulfate proposal; hundreds of thousands for proposed ground well intakes; thousands now to make the odor and taste issues go away; dozens of chemicals get added to this unfiltered water and the word on the street is, in kinder words, it taste, smells and looks below average bringing folks to purchase thousands of cases of bottled water every year. Looks like hydrogen peroxide this year gets added to this extremely unnatural water delivery process.

- Micro-membrane filtration with a few natural ground well intakes (when algae returns) is the solution. These water systems need to GET OFF THIS WAIVER, start filtering the water and release all the engineers and scientists back to **helping the water systems who meet the Federal EPA requirements in providing, safe reliable and cost effective drinking water**. Speculation from water department management leads to 20-30 million for filtration, this is NOT CORRECT, they have never put the project, or even the concept out to bid on a national level. Meeting national objectives for public water delivery should be paramount moving forward, and yes the mistakes of the past will be forgiving and forgotten in the decades ahead.

Thank you for your time, and please free to contact me for additional questions or comments.

Dan Bilodeau
President, LAWNA

Loss of recreation at Lake Auburn & watershed (auburnwatershed.org)

Historical restrictions like no bathing/swimming and prohibition of dumping and point source pollution had set the tone for excellent water quality protection, but starting more recently in the early 80's recreational access and use of Lake Auburn as a Great Pond dwindled by water regulation. Many restrictions were simply imposed because water authorities did not want to pay for policing; most all restrictions were done without consideration and accountability to the cost to citizens of the community which has slewed the true cost to delivering water to the faucet.

- Restricted area was expanded, all water craft could use only the upper 2/3 of the lake
- No sea planes, no ice fishing, limited Lake Auburn to small power boats
- no windsurfing, even with a full dry suit
- lake ISLAND off limits, and the LAWPC continued to expand ownership of other rec properties
- no atv's or motorcycles on LAWPC property
- closed the north auburn boat launch, it was said a boat might carry and move Lake Auburn mil-foil which was caused by the basin dam blow-out, not by a transient boat

- no motor boats with bathrooms on board (did not even consider boater education)
- closed the very popular and historical Spring because of water testing?? The Spring water still flows into lake auburn, it was temporary bacteria caused by cattle grazing nearby, which no longer takes place
- closed the Whitman Spring Road, Norm Lamie never asked the council to consider their right to leave a public easement for recreation
- no sailboats with bathrooms, no sailboats period unless specifically permitted
- Snowmobiles could always traverse the ice, including the trail corridors in the restricted area to access north/south travel....according to MJ Dillingham no trespassing period
- Banned cars and trucks from the frozen surface during the winter (Oct 1988)
- no treasure hunting, digging for valuables, metal detecting
- no groups of 50 or more near the water without prior permission
- no small kayaks, no rafts or PFD's
- No sail boat moorings, the LAWPC just said "NO" to see if the decision would be challenged
- No cutting brush, widow makers, blow down from existing trails - yet they allow thousands of square feet of exposed soils erode into the lake by the forestry operation
- no new boat docks unless applied for and approved by LAWPC??
- Elderly targeted when their land goes up for sale☹
- almost no dog walking along spring road, finally LAWPC spent money on dog waste kiosks
- LAWPC tried to "steer snowmobiles off of lake auburn" quote by Sid Hazelton, and by Bruce Rioux "that lake Auburn LOOP has to go," serving recreation since the 60's & maintaining the pedestrian paths
- no rowboats/canoes to be kept on the shoreline – AWD staff stopped a retired man from rowing out to fish and keeping his rowboat along the western shoreline.
- tried to stop skating on lake auburn when a group led by former Councilor Mike Farrell was recreating
- NO SWIMMING AT THE OUTLET BEACH for 2013, 2014, now 2015? AWD can clean water for drinking but not for swimming on one small beach?? Meanwhile the entire Lake no-swimming without cause
- Pesticide application restrictions to recreation this summer??? Process delayed.
- NO TRAPPING confirmed by Storer email dated : Wednesday, July 17, 2013 9:21 AM
- Hunter's cannot leave tree stands up overnight
- NO FLY ZONE over Lake Auburn ?? This was attempted and efforts may have now ceased.
- Smaller, private trails on LAWPC property will not be identified?? What has the recent inventory of trails produced?
- Their own LAWPC forestry operation is under environmental investigation and has been issue a violation from the City of Auburn in 2014. LAWPC is proposing elimination of vital shoreline viewsheds.
- Aluminum treatment proposed now in Lake Auburn with direct effect on the fishery??
- Townsend Brook future land use restrictions inevitable?
- Persuading City of Auburn planning officials to allow more development restrictions and costs but not having the rate payers compensate this additional expense or include this in the cost of water delivery?