



Fall 2023

Friends of Lake Quannapowitt

"Preserving and enhancing the waters of Lake Quannapowitt and its surrounding lands"

Letter from our President

At the FOLQ October Board of Directors meeting, the Board welcomed new board member Brie Reynolds and new Associate Member Rich Walter. Brie, previously an Associate Member, has been working with the landscaping subcommittee on beautification efforts at Colonel Connelly Park and will manage and maintain all of our social media efforts.



Margaret Coppe

Rich Walter has been a Wakefield resident for 34 years, and is looking forward to getting to work and helping with all FOLQ events.

A few notable items in the lake or in proximity to the lake. 1) Restrooms will be installed at Veteran's Field in proximity to the softball field in the spring of 2024. 2) The Conservation Commission has applied for a pilot program grant to install a floating garden island that will not only be an attractive addition to Lake Quannapowitt, but will help purify the water in the immediate area where planted. The FOLQ board has voted to support the grant application. 3) The Board is closely watching Town Council discussions related to revamping Main Street to include a dedicated bike lane, with other modifications, which could include the elimination of parking spaces. At this point, the Board has not taken any position on this issue, which is still in the planning stages.

By the time this newsletter arrives in your inbox, FOLQ will have participated in the Wakefield 101 event at the Civic Center for new residents, the fall Lake clean up by Galvin 5th and 6th grade students and volunteering to direct traffic for the Run for All Ages.

Last but not least, please join us at the Annual Breakfast on November 19, a great time to have a delicious breakfast and catch up with your friends and neighbors, while learning more about FOLQ programs. Note that this year the breakfast will be at the Crystal Community Club on Preston Street.

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season.

Annual Breakfast - November 19

Please join us for the FOLQ Annual Breakfast!



When:

Sunday, November 19, 2023,
8:00am - 11:00am.

Where:

Crystal Community Club
77 Preston Street, Wakefield.

What:

Agenda includes a **delicious breakfast** of pancakes, scrambled eggs, bacon, potatoes, sausage, and more! Also enjoy the presentation of the **Gertrude Spaulding Award**, given annually to an individual whose efforts have contributed to lake improvements or the preservation and beautification of its surrounding areas.

Cost:

\$25 per person, \$10 for children under 12.*

* Tickets may be purchased by visiting our website at <https://folq.org/event/annual-breakfast>. If you prefer to use US Mail, send payment and membership information to: FOLQ, P.O. Box 517, Wakefield, MA 01880. For more help purchasing tickets, you may also send us an email at mail@folq.org to make a reservation.

FOLQ Membership 2023 Reminder

This Fall newsletter is our last dues reminder for 2023! Your membership and the financial support it provides help us to continue to preserve, protect, and improve the lake and its surrounding areas. Dues annually are \$25 for an individual membership and \$35 for a family membership. A commercial membership is \$150. Two new and convenient ways to pay are:

1) Capture the QR code to the right on your smartphone and complete your membership and payment information.

2) Visit our website at <https://folq.org/join>.

If you prefer to use US Mail, send payment and membership information to: FOLQ, P.O. Box 517, Wakefield, MA 01880.



This QR is live!

Landscape and Goose Control

In 2022 FOLQ landscape committee and the Wakefield DPW combined on a number of improvements to Gertrude Spaulding Park including; planting shade trees, invasive plant removals in shore areas and pollinator garden planting.

In Spring this year, seasonal flowers in planters at the flagpole were installed. In Fall, safety railings on granite steps, providing safety and greater access to the shore were completed. FOLQ board member Brie Reynolds and her landscape team have continued to enhance the pollinator garden by planting additional native species this fall. Thank you to staff at Weston and Sampson in Reading for providing help with the plantings these past two years.

For the past two years, the numbers of Canada Geese counted by FOLQ board member Bill Butler at the lake have exceeded historic highs and are often creating unpleasant conditions for visitors to Lake Q. Looking toward next year, expect that the DPW, the town's goose control contractor Atlantic Goose Management and FOLQ will be looking at additional measures to limit the number of geese in 2024.



Native bumble bees enjoying our native *Bombus impatiens*.

New Water Quality Testing of the Lake



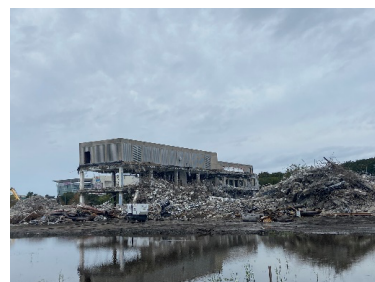
Bill Conley and David Miller from the FOLQ Water Quality Committee.

Recently the FOLQ has restarted testing of the lake. The new testing program focuses on four key components that contribute to algae blooms in the lake. They are Phosphorus, Nitrate, Microcystis, and Cyanobacteria. Along with the four components, we are also performing what is called a Secchi Disc reading, which tells us to what depth the lake is clear. The new program is essential to create a new baseline of the lake's health. The baseline and continued

testing will be used to measure over time the lake's health as improvements within the lake's watershed take place. Improvements include stormwater treatment from the new 200 Quannapowitt development site at the head of the lake, which will collect and treat the stormwater under the MADEP regulations. In the future, the Town will also embark on a Main Street Improvement project that will consolidate 18 outfalls into 11, and improve the water quality for the lake with bio retention/rain gardens.

What's Going and What's Coming

At the head of the lake, the Comverse Building is being demolished, making way for a new residential complex. Demolition of the concrete building began in May 2023



and is expected to be complete by November 2023. Due to the size and type of building, demolition is accomplished by using both hydraulic and chemical pressure to minimize dust, flying debris and noise.

200 Quannapowitt Parkway is a redevelopment parcel fully permitted for 440 multifamily residential units. The project includes a lakeside walking path and a landscape program. The project will also include a 3,600 SF restaurant space. The first units are expected to be available for rent in 2025.

