



BELGRADE REGIONAL CONSERVATION ALLIANCE



BRCA conserves the lands, water quality, and natural heritage of the Belgrade Lakes Watershed.

25 Years of Conservation and 18 Years of Erosion Control

Improving our habits living among the lakes can maintain the beauty that the Belgrade Lakes watershed has allowed countless families to experience over the years. Failure to do so will lead to a slow decay in water quality which could have significant impacts to the recreational appeal of our lakes in the future.

Land Conservation leads to water quality improvements by reducing soil entering our lakes to keep them clear and beautiful for generations to come. Increased water quality will help to maintain local economies such as real estate, fishing, boating, and many more that people come to the Belgrade Lakes for year after year.

Problem: The increased development and recreation in the Belgrade Watershed that so many have taken advantage of has caused increased pollutants entering our lakes.

Understanding the core issue: When vegetation is cleared from an area for development, the loss of root structure leaves bare soils. These soils are composed from broken down organic materials which contain nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen. When these nutrients enter our lakes in excess, alga blooms occur and reduce the appeal for recreational purposes. **Solution:** Build and maintain lakeside properties and roads with Best Management Practices reducing the volume of storm water entering our lakes.



BRCA Conservation Corps

Our mission is to encourage property owners to adopt sustainable water management practices. Called Best Management Practices (BMPs) for storm water runoff, the projects completed by the Corps reduce pollution and erosion in our watershed (East, North, McGrath, Great and Long Ponds, and Messalonskee and Salmon Lakes). As of 2013, the Corps has completed more than 950 projects since its establishment in 1996. Each summer, a project director oversees two full-time crews of high school students and crew leaders. Projects like Peninsula Park in the Belgrade Lakes Village (the Corps' first project) and the rain garden and infiltration steps at Day's Store, continue to raise awareness of local conservation issues.

BMP Projects the Corps perform:

- Riprap/shoreline stabilization
- Erosion control mulching
- Rain gardens
- Infiltration steps
- Rain barrels
- Buffer gardens
- Infiltration trenches
- Rubber razors
- Box culverts
- Armored paths
- Dry wells
- Turnouts

Homeowner Project Requests:

The Conservation Corps is constantly seeking candidate project sites. Corps labor is free of charge. Homeowners pay only material and permitting costs. Contact the Conservation Corps director to schedule a property visit and learn how you can improve your lake's water quality. Call us (207) 465-6039 or visit our website:

www.belgradelakes.org

President's Column: Alphabet Soup

I count at least ten conservation organizations in our watershed, and all are best known by an acronym. To complicate matters, the acronyms of many of these groups sound very similar, and only half the letters of the entire alphabet make up all of these acronyms. I've considered wearing an acronym checklist on my wrist, much like football quarterbacks wear listing all their football plays. My checklist might be longer!

It's nearly impossible for most people to keep up with the names of these organizations, much less remember what they do. Most people are familiar with the **BRCA** (Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance) and that it consists of both a Land Trust and a Lake Trust. The Land Trust seeks to preserve land in our watershed for recreational purposes, but more importantly to keep these lands in their natural state to minimize the run-off of phosphorus into our lakes. Obviously the Lake Trust is dedicated to protecting our lakes, and the BRCA runs many programs directly aimed at protecting our lakes. The **YCC** (Youth Conservation Corps) is an example; their mission is to reduce sources of pollution in our lakes by planting trees and shrubs, stabilizing eroding shorelines (riprap), stone lining of eroding ditches and building waterbars and turnouts on roads and drainage ways. In addition I see the Lake Trust as an umbrella organization that assists the five lake associations

of our watershed to carry out their mission; protect our lakes.

The **BLA** (Belgrade Lakes Association) is probably the best known of the five lake associations serving the lakes and citizens of our watershed. The BLA, watching over Great Pond and Long Pond and the first conservation organization in our watershed, has been active for over 100 years! It is and has been a very effective organization. But the other four lake associations serving the Belgrade Lakes are equally as effective in protecting our lakes. The

EPA (East Pond Association) represents our northernmost lake. East Pond drains into North Pond which drains into Great Pond; North Pond is managed by the **NPA**

(North Pond Association). **FOM** (Friends of Messalonskee) manages our southernmost lake. The fifth lake association with a whopping five letter acronym is **MPSLA** (McGrath Pond/ Salmon Lake Association).

But there are more alphabet soup conservation organizations active in our watershed. The **MLS** (Maine Lakes Society), formerly known as **COLA** (Maine Congress of Lake Associations) has a statewide focus, but has been instrumental to the preservation of the Belgrade Lakes.

I do hope you are keeping up with me. Then there is the **MLRC** (Maine Lakes Resource Center). The

MLRC is going into its third year and is the most recent of these groups. The early mission of the MLRC was to build the new resource center building to house the BRCA, BLA, and MLS as well as display educational exhibits explaining how to protect our lakes. The MLRC has also done a great job of uniting the community and spreading the need to preserve our lakes. The MLRC board is presently reassessing its mission to look for opportunities to increase effectiveness.



I suppose if I wanted to really show off my acronym knowledge I'd add the various acronyms of other regional conservation groups and state organizations that help all of us do our jobs better. But I've already covered ten acronyms, enough to keep you busy for a while.

I hope you don't let the confusion with the alphabet soup diminish your wonderful support that you've shown these organizations over the years. By far these organizations are run by volunteers, are doing a wonderful job of running conservation programs and getting those who live on the lakes engaged in preserving our lakes. Each group plays an important role in the preservation of our lakes, and I'm thankful for those who spend long hours ensuring each group does its part.

MDC (Melvin Dwight Croft)

COLLECTIVE IMPACT "Unlike most collaborations, collective impact initiatives involve a centralized infrastructure, a dedicated staff, and a structured process that leads to a common agenda, shared measurement, continuous communication, and mutually reinforcing activities among all participants."

Executive Director's Column:**Harold Alfond Foundation Challenge Grant, BRCA Lake Trust and Water Quality**

The Harold Alfond Foundation has generously agreed to match donations that BRCA receives between August and December 15, 2013. These donations are for water quality and for lake conservation in the Belgrade Lakes watershed. The first \$25,000 of donations that BRCA receives during this period will be matched by the Foundation. To date, BRCA has received \$10,000 towards this goal. Please donate now to help BRCA raise the additional \$15,000 needed by December 15 to leverage the full \$25,000 offered by the Harold Alfond Foundation challenge grant.

This fundraiser is a biannual challenge that BRCA has conducted in conjunction with the biannual Harold Alfond Memorial Golf Tournament that we have held at the Belgrade Lakes Golf Club for the last several years. The golf tournament was a success in 2013 with 18 teams playing on a glorious Belgrade summer day. Between the tournament and the auc-



Olympian Gold Medalist, Seth Wescott, having a great time at the golf tournament.

tion, BRCA netted over \$15,000 for its lake and water quality programs. This initial \$15,000 raised at the tournament does not count towards our goal of raising \$25,000 for the challenge grant.

As noted, all of the money raised in this challenge will be used for BRCA's water quality and lake trust conservation programs. Our membership dues and our program fundraising does not cover all our lake trust expenses and this challenge has become a critical part of BRCA's funding over the last decade. We stretch the money we raise at the golf tournament and through this challenge grant to help fund these programs over a two year period, or until the next golf tournament.

Please help BRCA celebrate 25 years of land and water conservation in the Belgrade Lakes watershed by participating in this challenge and helping us reach this important goal. Thank you.

Charlie Baeder

Books for Sale

The Changing Nature of the Maine Woods is both a fascinating introduction to the forests of Maine and a detailed but accessible narrative of the dynamism of these ecosystems. This is natural history with a long view, starting with an overview of the state's geological history, the reemergence of the forest after glacial retreat, and the surprising changes right up to European arrival. The authors create a vivid picture of Maine forests just before the impact of Euro-Americans and trace the profound transformations since settlement.



There are a limited number of copies available for purchase from BRCA, and \$10 from each sale (book costs \$25) will help support BRCA land stewardship activities. Please e-mail brca@belgradelakes.org or call (207) 495-6039 to reserve your copy.

Conservation Corps

BRCA is proud to be celebrating 25 years of conservation efforts within the Belgrade watershed, and the 2013 Youth Conservation Corps was glad to complete another successful season in the 18th year of service to the residence surrounding these ever improving lakes. Conservation comes in many forms and I was proud to join the BRCA team in their efforts to control shoreline erosion. My name is Jake Skakal and I was lucky enough to be placed in charge of directing the Youth Conservation Corps last spring. I had just finished completing an eleven week training program as a member of AmeriCorps and the Maine Conservation Corps (MCC), and as one of the five new members of the Veteran Community Leader program.

MCC and BRCA supplied me with so much appreciation and respect for our natural environment that I was extremely excited to begin the 2013 season.

The BRCA Conservation Corps performs best management practices or BMP's on erosion control issues for residences around the shoreline to prevent phosphorus and other contaminants from entering the lakes. The solutions come in many different forms: from buffer gardens to granite stone (rip rap) placed down to help prevent further deterioration of shore fronts.

This season the BRCA Youth Conservation Corps had 15 members 16-24 years of age pouring their hearts and souls into the projects within our eight week long season this summer. I am proud to say that we completed

projects on 44 properties on all the lakes in the watershed, with over 100 best management practices installed, bringing the total amount of projects completed since the inception of the Youth Conservation Corps in 1996 to over 950 projects. The seven returning crew members and leaders brought their experience to the eight new crew members creating a team that over achieved in many aspects of the Conservation Corps process, and I believe their efforts this year will help preserve and protect our beloved lakes for many years to come.

The 2014 season is already looking promising, but as always, the BRCA is seeking new projects to reduce erosion throughout our watershed. Please call (207) 495-6039 and ask for Jake, if you have any issues or concerns that you would like us to take a look at. Enjoy your time on the lakes! Remember to do your part helping to preserve this wonderful area so future generations can enjoy the same special place we have all come to love.

Thank you, and enjoy the rest your autumn season!

Jake Skakal
Conservation Corps Program Director

Table 1: Summarizes the 44 properties worked on sorted by town and lake.

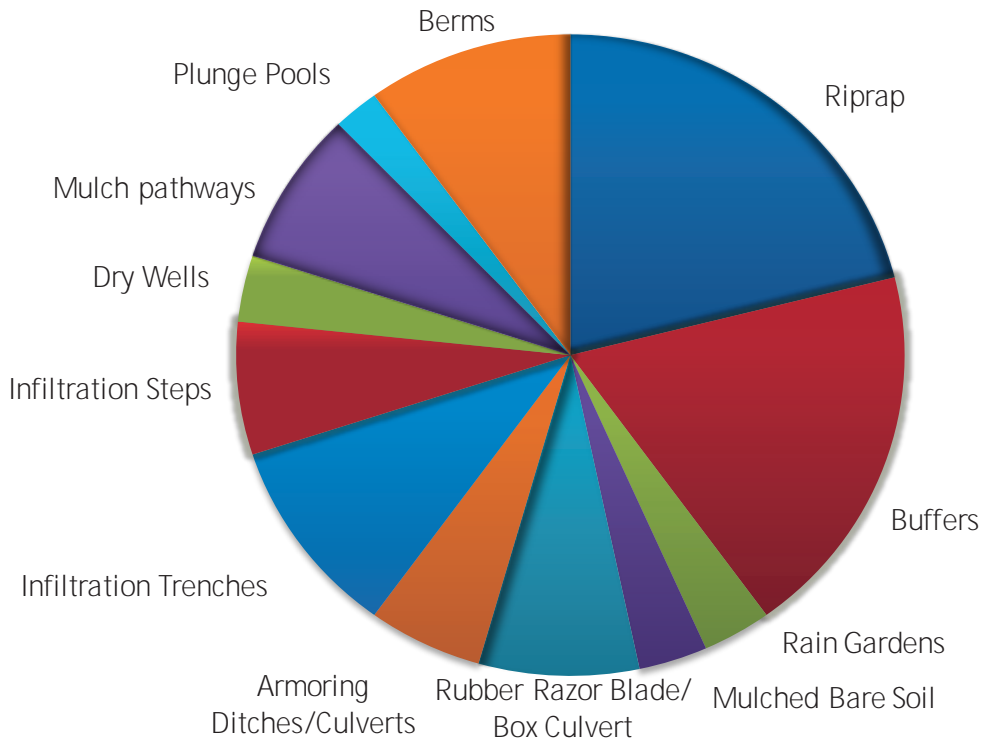
	Belgrade	Rome	Smithfield	Oakland	Mt. Vernon	Total
Great Pond	4	4				8
Long Pond	1	6			1	8
Messalonskee Lake	2			12		14
East Pond			2	5		7
Salmon-McGrath	1			2		3
North Pond			4			4
Total	8	10	6	19	1	44

Table 2: Summarizes the 106 projects completed by town and lake.

	Belgrade	Rome	Smithfield	Oakland	Mt. Vernon	Total
Great Pond	14	8				22
Long Pond	3	16				22
Messalonskee Lake	2			17		19
East Pond			9	21		30
Salmon-McGrath	1			2		3
North Pond			10			10
Total	20	24	19	40	3	106

Letter from YCC Customer excerpt:
Dear BRCA,
First, I would like to say thank you. I am very pleased with the work completed at my cottage this summer by your organization. The shoreline is great. The plants and mulch have added protection and beauty to our property. The steps were an added bonus. I would like to be placed on the list for next summer to finish the shoreline work. I would also like ideas and/or work on a slight sloped area toward the lake.
Sincerely, YCC Customer

2013 BRCA Conservation Corps



Type of Project	Number of BMP's
Riprap	19
Buffers	17
Rain Gardens	3
Mulched Bare Soil	3
Rubber Razor Blade/ Box Culvert	7
Armoring Ditches/Culverts	5
Infiltration Trenches	9
Infiltration Steps	6
Dry Wells	3
Mulch pathways	7
Plunge Pools	2
Berms	9
Plantings	4
Bog bridges (not in graph)	12



Photo: Conservation Corps crew members installing a riprap project to protect Messalonskee Lake from erosion and phosphorus that is deteriorating water quality.

Total BMPs Completed	106
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Our August meeting was hosted by the North Pond Association (NPA) at the Fairview Grange located on North Pond in

Lake Trust Corner

The Lake Trust arm of the BRCA administers various programs focused on lake preservation, including all of our invasive plant programs and the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC). The Lake Trust also reaches out to the five lake associations in the Belgrade Lakes

watershed to help communicate ongoing activities, lessons learned, and best management practices. Our meeting schedule has evolved over the past several years, but presently we meet bi-monthly. Each meeting is hosted by one

of the lake associations at a meeting location of their choice, but preferably on a lake. Our August meeting was hosted by the North Pond Association (NPA) at the Smithfield grange located on North Pond. Below is a summary from the August meeting.

North Pond Association (NPA)

NPA is a very active organization and recently formed an alliance with the Smithfield grange with hopes of keeping the grange open for use, plus a plan to make it LakeSmart. Working with the YCC they added rip rap along the shoreline to curb erosion. They also built an effective, attractive buffer of mulch,

shrubs, and ground cover which will trap sediment laden with phosphorus before it flows into North Pond. Such win-win successes, when communicated to the other lake associations, can plant seeds of creativity for others to reap.

The NPA annual meeting went well, but attendance

was down a bit this year. Charlie Baeder, BRCA Executive Director, spoke at their Annual Meeting and Rick Watson, NPA president, feels it is important to have a BRCA staff person attend their annual meeting every year. The other lake associations agreed.

Belgrade Lakes Association (BLA)

Their programs are all going well. The annual meeting was not very well attended, but several "Meet & Greets" were very well attended, with

about 125 people at each "Meet & Greet". One "Meet & Greet" was held on Great Pond at Camp Runoia and the other one on Long Pond at a private

residence. These "Meet & Greets" are NOT fundraisers; instead they are part of their outreach program to educate property owners about lake activities.

McGrath Pond/Salmon Lake Association (MPSLA)

Their annual meeting brought out 25-30 people and some new members have joined since the annual meeting. Charlie Baeder attended the annual meeting to talk about the "Narrows Preserve", which is a BRCA property located

at the narrows between Salmon Lake and McGrath Pond. An IPP (Invasive Plant Patrol) was done this summer with no invasive plants being found. Kim & Dave Hallee did three

"walk abouts" for LakeSmart and will be visiting Camp Tracy to perform a LakeSmart evaluation. They plan on giving information about MPSLA and LakeSmart to new builders on the lake.

Lake Trust Corner (continued)

East Pond Association (EPA)

EPA happily reported that there was no algae bloom on East Pond this year. They aren't sure why there was no bloom, but are looking at various factors that may have contributed.

East Pond had a strong LakeSmart season, with four new awards and several more pending. This makes 30 properties on East Pond that have earned the LakeSmart

award! They also had a strong showing of volunteer Courtesy Boat Inspectors (CBI's) this year thanks to the efforts of several board members.

Friends of Messalonskee (FOM)

FOM has a new president (Mark Fisher) and new Board members. Their annual meeting was held at the Waterville Country Club and was well attend-

ed with over 50 people. They are trying to reach out to people who are new on the lake. Concerns about bass tournament permits being issued for the Bel-

grade Stream and in infested waters were discussed, with several recommendations on how to limit activities in infested waters.

Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance (BRCA)

Word of mouth has been working well for spreading interest to homeowners about the Youth Conservation Corps as there has been a high demand for site visits. The LakeSmart program also refers people to the YCC. This year 12 projects were done on Messalonskee Lake, more than any other lake in the watershed. Lake Association support is important for this program.

The Milfoil Program has been staffing CBI's at all the public boat launches again this year, with increased coverage at the

Messalonskee – Sidney boat launch. Invasive Plant Patrols were done on East Pond, North Pond (incl. Little North), McGrath Pond/Salmon Lake, and paid surveys (paid for by the BLA) were done on Long Pond & Great Pond. Plant removal is still taking place in the Great Meadow Stream and the mouth of the stream in Great Pond. There are three other tributaries to Great Pond that are being monitored for variable milfoil and a small patch was pulled from one. Plant removal will also take place in Messalonskee Lake and Belgrade Stream. The

BRCA has plans to build a DASH (diver assisted suction harvester) boat this winter to be used throughout the watershed. Whitney King with Colby College updated us on a National Science Foundation proposal which they are writing which will focus on building ecological and social resilience in the Belgrade Lakes Watershed. This includes the economics of the watershed, people's attitudes toward conservation, and how to communicate scientific data to the non-scientific community to support "knowledge to action".

BRCA Lake Trust meetings normally last about two hours and as you can see are filled with helpful tips and information. If you are interested in attending a Lake Trust meeting contact your lake association president.

-Mel Croft and Toni Pied; Late Trust co-chairs

Milfoil Program Season 2013

This has been a record breaking year for Courtesy Boat Inspections in the Belgrade Lakes Watershed. Thanks to the hard work of our Courtesy Boat Inspectors (both paid and volunteer), 12,939 inspections were done this summer at seven public boat launches and two private launches in the watershed. Fragments of variable milfoil (an invasive aquatic plant) were found during four separate inspections (3 coming out of Messalonskee at the Sidney boat launch, and 1 coming out of Messalonskee at the Oakland boat launch). Thank you to all of the Lake Associations and Towns in the Watershed for your continued support of this program. Prevention is key to winning the battle against invasive aquatic plants!

The Adopt-A-Shoreline initiative was well received by residents of Great Pond and Long Pond this summer. This initiative is a collaboration between the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance (BRCA) and the Belgrade Lakes Association's STOP Milfoil Program, to stop the spread of milfoil in our lakes. Seventeen Road Associations hosted Adopt-A-Shoreline trainings, and 121 people were trained to identify variable milfoil and survey their "adopted" section of shoreline. Approximately 11 miles of shoreline was adopted this summer! We hope to expand this program on Great Pond and Long Pond next summer, and are also interested in expanding to the other lakes in the Watershed.

There are several good things to report from our milfoil removal efforts this summer. Thanks to the incredible efforts of New England Milfoil and our college student crew, 28,939 gallons of milfoil were removed from the Great Meadow Stream and Great Pond this summer. This was the second summer of a big effort put forth by the BRCA and Belgrade Lakes Association. Although there is still variable milfoil present in the stream and the lake, the volume is decreasing and we are making some headway. The most important piece of this effort is to keep it going and prevent spread to other parts of the lake. Thanks to our summer survey crew and Adopt-A-Shoreline volunteers, no new infestations were found on Great Pond or Long Pond this summer! Our efforts will continue next summer.



Milfoil surveyor, Amanda Couture, next to the pile of milfoil.

Lake	Hours	Inspections
East Pond	1,062	944
Great Pond	893	3,094
Long Pond	869	2,083
Messalonskee Lake	1,303	3,491
North Pond	1,049	1,721
Salmon Lake	2,806	1,606
TOTALS	7,982	12,939

The other big milfoil removal effort in our Watershed took place on the Belgrade Stream and Messalonskee Lake. These efforts focused on containing the current infestation (so it doesn't spread to un-infested waterbodies), and restoring habitat for the endangered Black Tern. Variable milfoil was removed from the Belgrade Stream closest to the Wings Mill Dam and a nearby boat launch area. Variable milfoil plants were also removed from the carry-in boat launch site off Route 27 in Belgrade, and from areas of Messalonskee Marsh that support black tern habitat. Thanks to the support of a cost share grant from the State of Maine, and a grant from the US Fish & Wildlife Service, 9,700 gallons of variable milfoil were removed from the Belgrade Stream and Messalonskee Lake this summer. We would like to continue and expand these efforts next summer. Please consider supporting these efforts by sending a contribution to the BRCA.

There is one other lake in our Watershed that is listed as an "infested" water body. Salmon Lake has been on the infested lakes list since 2008 when Eurasian milfoil was found in a small cove, adjacent to the public boat launch. Since that time, the plants were treated with herbicide and have been monitored ever since. For the third year in a row, no new Eurasian milfoil plants were found in the cove!

Thank you for your continued support in preventing, detecting, and removing invasive aquatic plants from the Belgrade Lakes Watershed.

All donations up to \$25,000 made between August 15th—December 15th will be matched by the Harold Alfond Foundation to benefit the BRCA Lake Trust programs of East Pond, North Pond, Salmon Lake, McGrath Pond, Messalonskee Lake, Great and Long Ponds.

We can't do it without your support!
Toni Pied,
Milfoil/Stewardship Program Director

Stewardship Program: ADOPT-A-TRAIL

BRCA News ~ Fall 2013

BRCA manages over 12 miles of trail with more trails being developed. Each trail needs to be cared for in a variety of ways including clearing, maintaining, upgrading, and marking. The Adopt-a-Trail program is used throughout the country by many organizations, including the Appalachian Mountain Club. Interested groups may include scout troops, youth groups, special interest clubs, families, schools, and groups of individuals.

Trails that are available for adoption vary in length and terrain and there are opportunities for stewards of various levels of experience. You can even choose to adopt a section if you do not want to adopt an entire trail. French's Mountain (0.4 miles each way), Mt. Phillip (1.4 mile loop), Round Top (3.9 miles round trip with a 1.7 mile spur at the top), Sanders Hill (2.9 mile loop), and The Mountain (0.8 miles each way) are all trails currently available for adoption. Round Top and Sanders Hill are most in need of adoption.



Local Boy Scout troop helping steward the new trail on The Mountain in Rome, ME.



CHOOSING A TRAIL

Trails that are available for adoption vary in length and terrain and there are opportunities for stewards of various levels of experience. You can even choose to adopt a section if you do not want to adopt an entire trail. French's Mountain (0.4 miles each way), Mt. Phillip (1.4 mile loop), Round Top (3.9 mile loop), Sanders Hill (2.9 mile loop), and The Mountain (0.8 miles each way) are all trails currently available for adoption.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Interested individuals or groups should contact BRCA Stewardship Coordinator, Toni Pied at 215-2685 or brcamf@belgradelakes.org. Trail stewardship requires significant physical work although some trails are shorter than others and the terrain on some trails may be easier than others. BRCA will provide training and some tools. This is a great way to get outdoors and engage in physical activity, while providing a public service.

Thanks to Brian Alexander, Pete Kallin (in photo), and Dave Axelman for their help installing some new steps on French Mountain Sunday, Oct. 27th. Photo with Jake Skakal, MCC Americorps Veteran Community Leader, and Pete Kallin, BRCA Board Member in Rome, Maine.

BRCA Cell Tower Update – October 30, 2013

BRCA has been monitoring the Rome Planning Board response to a cell tower application since March of 2013. BRCA briefed its members on this application in the summer 2013 newsletter. We are providing this update as the application is still before the planning board. ***The next Rome Planning Board meeting is November 11, 2013 at 7 PM at the Rome Town Office.***

BRCA believes the location and height of the proposed cell tower will have negative visual impacts with respect to views from BRCA properties including French Mountain and Mt. Phillip, and from other locations in the watershed including Long Pond and Great Pond. BRCA’s principal objection to the proposed cell tower location and height are the visual impacts. Rome’s cell tower ordinance requires that visual impacts of cell towers be minimized and BRCA has presented visualizations of the proposed tower to the planning board.

***We want your input. Please let us know:
a) your thoughts about the visual impact of the proposed cell tower, and b) your opinion about BRCA taking a stand on this issue with the Rome Planning Board.***

If you provide us your comments in writing, please let us know if we can share your input with the Rome Planning Board.



View (simulation) of proposed cell tower from French Mountain, DeWan & Associates, May 2013

BRCA hired DeWan & Associates of Portland, Maine to produce visualizations of the proposed cell tower from several locations in Rome (Photosimulations 1A and 2A). These visualizations demonstrate that the proposed cell tower location and height will have an “adverse impact” on “scenic areas” identified in Rome’s Subdivision Ordinance. The impact on the public is likely to be variable – some people and properties will be impacted, some dramatically, and others will be less impacted or not at all. You can find more of these visualizations on BRCA’s website at: www.belgradelakes.org



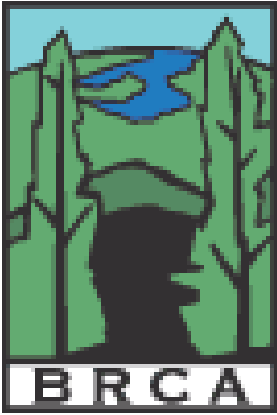
**THERE ARE
POTENTIAL
ECONOMIC
IMPACTS TO
PROPERTY
OWNERS IN
ROME.**

View (simulation) of proposed cell tower from Long Pond,
DeWan & Associates, May 2013

There are potential economic impacts to property owners in Rome. Pat Donahue, a local realtor, and nine property owners in Rome, on Long Pond, and on Great Pond have sent letters or emails to the planning board indicating opposition to the proposed cell tower for a variety of reasons including fear of negative economic impact on property values. Pat Donahue also submitted studies that document negative impacts to residential property values. This is not BRCA's issue but it may be of interest to our members which is why we are mentioning it here.

The Rome cell tower ordinance requires applicants to establish whether cell phone coverage is needed, and to minimize adverse impacts if it is needed. To date, little technical information has been presented by the applicant to the planning board that the existing Rome cell tower on Hampshire Hill is not suitable as a co-location site. Little technical information has been submitted demonstrating that the location of the proposed tower is suitable and that alternative sites are more or less suitable. No technical information has been submitted demonstrating that the height of the proposed tower is suitable and that alternative tower heights are more or less suitable. All of these submissions are required under the ordinance and this technical information has been requested from the applicant.

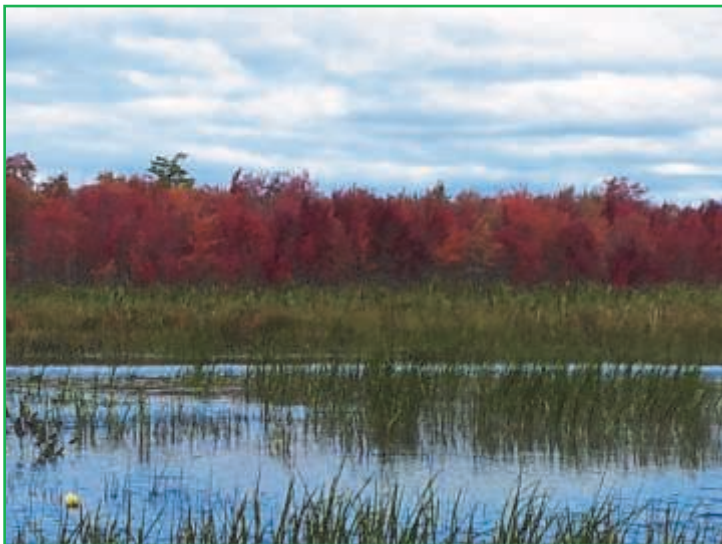
BRCA is not against cell phone coverage – BRCA staff use cell phones every day. However, BRCA intends to make sure that the visual impacts of the proposed tower are minimized in accordance with the cell tower ordinance. BRCA members, the community, and the state have invested over \$5 million in land conservation in the Belgrade Lakes watershed in the last 15 years, and BRCA is working to protect this legacy through additional land conservation efforts, and through public advocacy if needed.



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