

SAVE CRYSTAL LAKE

Do you love Crystal Lake as we do? Some of you have enjoyed the lake for many years and others have recently moved here. Several years ago the lake was threatened by an invasive plant called variable milfoil. This plant would have eventually rendered the lake non swimmable, non fishable and non boatable.

The Crystal Lake Association (CLA) partnered over the past five years with the town of Ellington to conduct water sampling, performing plant surveys and hiring a company to harvest the milfoil. Good progress has been made in the deep water areas but additional work is required particularly in the coves.

The lake now has two new threats to its existence. The first is the condition of the dam. The Ellington town engineer has stated it is in a gradual failure mode. The dam is owned by a private corporation which stated that they have no funds to repair it. If and when the dam fails the lake will revert back to the original "Square Pond". The attached pictures show how the dam is in a gradual failure mode (water should be going over the top spillway not thru the wall).

The map is how the lake looks now (outer line and what it would look like if the dam fails). The hash marks would now be dry land. Each half inch is equal to 300 feet. Lakefront property, the town beach, the state boat launch, swimming, fishing and boating could be a distant memory.

The second threat is that the owners of the dam also possess water flow-age rights. This means that they can draw down a significant amount of water and potentially sell it to a water company causing a similar water level as a dam failure. If you think this is not possible just check out what is happening to Shenipsit Lake. (see attached newspaper article) A water company will spend 21 million dollars to build a treatment plant and will pipe 2.2 million gallons of water per day to UCONN.

The CLA over the past twenty five years has led the fight to protect, preserve and improve Crystal Lake. Please consider joining the CLA. The more members we have the more influence we will have to petition local, state and federal representatives to assist us in this endeavor.

If you are already a member please consider becoming active in our association. Also please contact your friends and neighbors and encourage them to join.

Enclosed is a brochure and membership form. The dues are only \$35 per year for a family and are tax deductible.

Thank You

CLA Board of Directors