

Working Together for the Watershed: A Message from the Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance (AWWA)

As the sun rises on another year, we are thrilled to share some of the exciting strides made by the Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance (AWWA) in collaboration with Lake Ivanhoe. Together, we've embarked on a journey to enhance and maintain the health of our beloved lakes.

Since 2005, AWWA has been at the forefront of tackling non-point source pollution—a silent threat to our lake's water quality. We have identified and addressed potential sources through rigorous monitoring and extensive watershed surveys, most recently done in 2010. Since then, we have been working to address erosion with our Technical Assistance and Youth Conservation Corps Programs to ensure a healthier, cleaner lake for the whole community. This includes collaborative efforts with the Lake Ivanhoe Association (LIA) to engage the community in adopting sustainable practices and reducing pollution at its source.

Cyanobacteria blooms have been a concern across our entire community for some time, and even an extremely healthy lake like Ivanhoe is not immune when faced with an unprecedented deluge of storms. Erosion and stormwater are the primary contributors of nutrients that feed cyanobacteria blooms, and so any effort to reduce these will protect the lake long-term. By raising awareness about the factors contributing to blooms and promoting responsible lake use, we can safeguard Lake Ivanhoe from these occurrences and preserve its pristine beauty for generations to come.

These issues are widespread on the lake and pose significant challenges to water quality, and AWWA and LIA are working hard to implement effective solutions and do the science needed to understand the full scope of the ecosystem's needs. Through community workshops, educational programs, and infrastructure enhancements, we're fostering a culture of responsible land use that minimizes runoff and protects our lake's ecosystem.

None of this would be possible without our community members' incredible support and engagement. Enthusiastic residents, businesses, and lake lovers have joined our cause over the years and volunteered their time to keep Ivanhoe healthy. Your commitment is a testament to our shared love and dedication for Lake Ivanhoe and the watershed.

As we look ahead to Summer 2024, we're energized by this progress and the potential for an even greater positive impact. Together, we will continue to be stewards of this natural treasure, ensuring that Lake Ivanhoe remains a haven for recreation, a sanctuary for wildlife, and a source of joy for all.

Please contact AWWA for assistance with erosion, whether you are a lake-side homeowner or a camp road manager dealing with stormwater and erosion. **We are here to help and can often provide technical and financial support.** Thank you for your unwavering dedication to a brighter, cleaner, and healthier Lake Ivanhoe!

Sincerely,

Jon Balanoff
Executive Director
603-473-2500
info@awwatersheds.org