

# **The Three Bays Monitor**

**Vol. 4 - December 2000**

## **WATER QUALITY QUESTIONNAIRE IS OUT: PLEASE FILL IT IN**

Recently, we sent out our Fall 2000 Water Quality Questionnaire. We hope you'll take a few moments to fill it in. The information is important to an organization like Three Bays Preservation because while we rely significantly on scientific research, much of our work depends on the keen observations of our members. We don't expect you to call the office with nitrogen counts, but your opinions on water navigability, shellfish populations, and even, yes, odors, help us understand the progress we've made and where more effort is needed. Just as important, the questionnaire seeks your input on what we as residents are willing to do to improve water quality in the Three Bays, including modifying septic systems and changing lawn fertilizer usage. If you didn't receive a questionnaire, please call the office at 420-0780 and we'll get one out to you. We look forward to hearing from you.

## **ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY**

Also in your mail box recently: A letter from Three Bays President William Gahagan asking for your continued support of an organization that, in three short years, has made significant strides in protecting and enhancing the aquatic environment of the North, West, and Cotuit Bay area. Consider the accomplishments:

- We improved the tidal circulation in the bays by dredging the Cotuit Bay entrance, the Seapuit River, and the West Bay channels.
- We rebuilt Dead Neck Island and formed a partnership with the Mass. Audubon Society.
- We produced the first comprehensive report on water quality in the Three Bays area.
- We engaged the Town to take action to solve the nutrient-related pollution problem.

Of course, none of this could have happened without the strong support of our members. Ours is a community organization, and our success is testimony to the good will of friends like you.

## **THREE BAYS PRESERVATION PLAYS ROLE IN TWO-ACRE ZONING ADOPTION**

The recent unanimous vote of the Barnstable Town Council to adopt two-acre zoning is a giant step forward for our communities and owes much to the contributions of Three Bays Preservation. Not only did the board vote unanimously to support the change, board members spoke at one of the public hearings and Program Manager Lindsey Counsell served on the Smart Growth Committee, which researched and recommended the forward-thinking zoning move.

Moreover, the decision to tackle runaway growth in Town stems, at least in part, from the increasing nitrate-loading problems in our southern embayments - problems that Three Bays has worked diligently to document and publicize.

The zoning change, which covers about two-thirds of the Town, reduces Barnstable's developable lots from 6117 to 2685.

## **O'LEARY STATE SENATE CAMPAIGN GETS BOOST FROM THREE BAYS MEMBERS**

No doubt, Rob O'Leary, the new Cape & Islands State Senator has many people to thank following a short but intense campaign. Among these are Three Bays Preservation members who know Rob as a Barnstable County Commissioner who was a friend to the organization when we were planning the first dredging in 1998. With a strong environmental background and with the perspective of a local resident (he lives in Cummaquid), Rob understands the battle we're raging against pollution in the Three Bays area. Increasingly, the organization will rely on elected and appointed officials at all levels of government to accomplish its mission, and we look forward to having a sympathetic ear on Beacon Hill.

It should also be noted that one of Rob's strongest campaign volunteers was none other than our very own Program Manager, Lindsey Counsell. Whether lugging lawn signs from Woburn or carting boxes of flyers to newspaper printing plants, Lindsey was indispensable. Yes, Lindsey and Rob play on the same softball team. But Lindsey didn't work so hard in tribute to the new senator's fielding success on the diamond. No, the engine that pushed Lindsey in the campaign was the same that pushes him for Three Bays Preservation: concern for the environment.

## **ALL HAIL THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

Three Bays Preservation is pleased to announce the appointment of three new board members.

Sally Sharp Lehman is the Regional Director for the Southeast and Islands Region of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. She is responsible for guiding, developing, and coordinating all of Massachusetts Audubon's conservation, advocacy, and environmental education activities in this large and diverse region of the state. In this capacity, Sally oversees the management of nine staffed sanctuaries plus 34 additional parcels of land, all of which represent 6,993 acres of protected wildlife habitat.

Anthony Will describes himself as "another struggling cranberry grower." In 1996 he co-founded Cousin Cranberry Co. LLC, and he can often be found in or around 10 acres of bog in Carver. Many of you may know him as Commodore of the Wianno Yacht Club. Anthony also has solid experience in the fields of construction, landscaping, and real estate management.

Mike Egan became the sixth employee of EMC Corporation after graduating from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, in 1983. In 1991 he formed Carruth Capital Corporation, a real estate investment company, and three years later he founded Carruth Management LLC, a private investment company that he still serves as a Managing Member.

Welcome all!

### **THREE BAYS PUSHES FORWARD ON DREDGING**

If all goes as planned, Three Bays Preservation will launch its third year of dredging at the end of December. In cooperation with the Town of Barnstable and the County, Three Bays will dredge West Bay to increase both tidal circulation and water quality.

The organization has also applied for a permit to dredge 6000-7000 cubic yards of sand in the Cotuit Channel entrance and use that sand to create new bird habitat on Sampson's Island. The Massachusetts Audubon Society has suggested this improvement because beach grass on the island is encroaching on existing bird habitat. If the proper permits are obtained, Three Bays could begin this dredging next year.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!**