

## **Control fertilizer, road runoff**

**I** have been testing Long Pond in Brewster-Harwich Land sending reports to the Cape Cod Commission and the Brewster Department of Natural Resources since 1994. Tests include surface level, water clarity, dissolved oxygen, temperature, and sampling of the sediment. Studies by water

scientists in 1999 and 2001, including laboratory analysis of samples, identified phosphorus in the sediments as 65 percent as the cause of our algae blooms.

The major surface sources of phosphorus are lawns and road runoff. We must stop bringing our habits from our former places of residence and stop having enhanced lawns, paved streets and driveways that funnel into our surface water attributes.

The major underground seepage problems include flows percolated from lawns as well as nitrates and phosphorus from on-site sanitary systems. New on-site sanitary systems should be not less than 300 feet from surface water attributes. Where existing lot configuration requires less (but not less than 100 feet), piping to municipal systems or enhanced nitrate and phosphorus removal on-site systems should be required for new systems at the time of property title transfer.

Lawns within 300 feet of ponds and streams should be eliminated and banned. Surface water from streets and roofs should be fed to underground leaching pits with a setback of more than 50 feet. A 50-foot minimum band of Cape Cod natural vegetated growth should be required at the boundaries of ponds and streams.

We must overcome the practice of "grand-fathering" inappropriate practices and should enforce new practices that foster the natural well-being of our Cape Cod surroundings. Each individual whose property abuts our water attributes must be willing to pay for the cost of revising these existing conditions in recognition of our privilege of living within these rare attributes.

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