

## CANAAN LAKE ASSOCIATION 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Canaan Street Lake is the major drinking water source for Canaan Village and has a popular public beach and boat ramp. Its surface area is 291 acres with an average depth of 10 feet and maximum of 20 feet. It is fed by springs and six tributaries. The Canaan Lake Association (CLA) is a non-profit organization and works with the Town of Canaan and the NH Department of Environmental Services (NH DES) to ensure the health of the Lake. This includes water quality testing, lake hosting (boat inspection) and providing education about safe recreation and protection of the Lake and its watershed. The Town contributed \$2,000 in 2025 to support the CLA. Other funds come from member dues and donations, the NH Lakes Association and hundreds of volunteer hours.

**2025 Highlight:** Upon encouragement from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NH DES), and the recommendation of the 2025 updated Canaan Street Lake Source Water Protection Plan, **The CLA launched The Canaan Street Lake LakeSmart program.** LakeSmart is a free, non-regulatory, and voluntary program administered by NH Lakes ([LakeSmart | NH LAKES](#)). Its purpose is to educate property owners about how to reduce pollution from their land through voluntary actions in order to protect lake health, wildlife and property values. Experts are invited by owners to tour their property and receive feedback specific to their home, driveway, shoreline, and lifestyle. LakeSmart awards are given in recognition for properties and living practices that are "lake friendly".

In 2025, 18 properties received LakeSmart Tours, including the Town beach. All owners received feedback on practices specific to their living situation and property to implement to become more lake friendly. Eleven properties earned LakeSmart awards and 7 properties are making progress towards their awards.

LakeSmart recommendations for the Town Beach focused on slowing runoff from the parking area and boat ramp into the Lake. The recommendations are to:

- Temporarily place coir logs or [firehose diverters](#) to help slow and divert runoff water from the parking area.
- Develop a long-term solution to prevent runoff into the Lake. Several relatively low-cost practices were proposed, including vegetated swales, dry wells and infiltration trenches as well as resurfacing the boat ramp with permeable pavers ([TruGrid is one example](#)).
- Install a dripline infiltration trench for the Historical Museum.

The Canaan Lake Association also became a LakeSmart Community, with the opportunity to earn a LakeSmart Community Award. More information is available here: [LakeSmart Community Description](#)

**Water Quality Testing:** A summary of the Volunteer Lake Assessment Program's (VLAP) water quality values and trends are shown in the Table. For all the values shown, lower is better. Conductivity and chloride are measures of salt concentration. Phosphorus (a nutrient for algae) degrades habitat and stimulates growth of algae and potential for cyanobacteria blooms. Chlorophyll-A measures algae and cyanobacteria. The detailed report for the 2024 VLAP water quality testing is found here: <https://www.des.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt341/files/documents/2024-canaan-st-lake-canaan.pdf> The annual summary of results for 2025 will be provided in March of 2026.

**2024 Water quality values for Canaan Street Lake from the Epilimnion (upper layer).**

<b>Parameter measured</b>	<b>Canaan Street Lake</b>	<b>NH Median</b>	<b>Historical Trend</b>
<b>Conductivity</b> (MicroSiemens per centimeter)	93.4	42.3	Significantly worsening
<b>Chloride</b> (milligrams per liter)	14	5	
<b>Total Phosphorus</b> (micrograms per liter)	7	11	Stable
<b>Chlorophyll-A</b> (micrograms per liter)	3.5	4.4	Stable

Based on the water quality testing results, the NH DES recommends that the following actions be taken:

**Reduce the amount of road salt used.** In 2024 the CLA asked the Selectboard to request that a low salt zone be designated on a portion of Canaan Street within the Historic District. This request must be to the New Hampshire Department of Transportation; however, the Mascoma School District would not support the request, so the request to the NH DOT was not made.

**Consider writing a Watershed Management Plan.** The CLA has representation on the Town's Source Water Protection Plan Committee, which published an updated plan in 2025 that can be found on the Town website.

**Encourage shoreline properties to be certified LakeSmart through NH Lakes.**

**Lake Hosting:** Lake Hosts performed 748 courtesy boat inspections in 2025. Several of the waterbodies that boats arrived from are infected with aquatic invasive species.

**Weed Watching:** Weed watchers inspected the Lake several times over the summer and have not found any milfoil and other exotic species that threaten water quality. However, the Lake continues to experience an explosive spread of invasive Chinese Mystery Snails. The NH DES recommends removing snails that are golf ball sized (and larger) and disposing of them away from the water (e.g., in the trash or 50 feet away from the shore). In response to this threat, CLA hosted a volunteer snail removal day on August 28<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers from CLA, the community and Hypertherm helped remove enough snails to fill a 30-gallon garbage can.

**Loons:** In 2025, no Common Loon nesting pairs were observed, though loons were seen nearly every day. In 2024 a deceased adult female loon was collected from near the shoreline and examined by the Loon Preservation Committee. She was found to be an adult with active ovaries, so was likely to be from the nesting pair the has been returning to the Lake in recent years. Although CLA uses signage to protect nesting loons and newly hatched chicks, the Board is now discussing ways to provide more protection, and especially for chicks, which are newly hatched around the July 4th holiday.

**Canaan Lake Association membership is open to ALL.** Annual dues are \$30. More information about Canaan Street Lake and the Canaan Lake Association's efforts to keep it healthy is available at:

<https://canaanlakenh.org/> Our Facebook page is found at  
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100091394480756>

We look forward to continuing our work with the Town to help assure that Canaan Street Lake remains the asset that it is today far into the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Canaan Lake Association Board of Directors

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