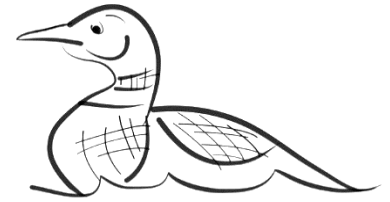


Sounds of the  
Loon



## President's Remarks - Fall 2019

Once again, as President of the Rum Ridge Board of Directors I feel confident in reporting we are continuing to move ahead on a variety of fronts. Many of the issues addressed by your Board are ongoing and we most recently met October 13th, the day after the annual workday. Bob Ludwig, our association secretary does an excellent job keeping the minutes and sharing them with the membership. Please take the time to review the issues discussed at these important meetings.

One item discussed and endorsed by the Board in concept is a program entitled LakeSmart. This is a voluntary assessment of a lake shore property, green belt and properties abutting streams flowing into Lower Wilson Pond. Lower Wilson's water quality is very high and this is an effort to ensure no pollutants are entering the pond. Some Rum Ridge owners have gone through the assessment process and their property has been identified as LakeSmart. LakeSmart does have a web site so please check it out if you are interested.  
([mainelakesociety.org](http://mainelakesociety.org))

I am sure many of you have noted the continuing improvement in road maintenance. Ditching, grading, new culverts and calcium chloride are all a part of this initiative. Woody has done an excellent job assessing our 50 year old culverts and drafted a map of locations and their condition. Some of the worst culverts will be replaced next spring. Thanks Woody!

Bob Ludwig, Chair of the Covenants and By-Laws committee will be moving ahead with this initiative. It was mentioned at the Annual meeting this past July that the focus will be on the By-Laws rather than the Covenants. As noted previously, these provisions were drafted nearly 50 years ago when dwellings were seasonal camps. The first "full time" occupant came more than 15 years later. The goal here is to maintain the integrity of what Rum Ridge was designed to be but also take into consideration progress in the past 50 years. As we all know, it is not a black and white world and finding "common ground" is the mission of this very important committee.

Another continuing topic the Board addresses is renters as they have found Rum Ridge a very popular destination. For the most part this is has been a very positive experience. In fact, some of the recent properties sold here were purchased by previous renter. Unfortunately, as the old saying goes, with the good comes the bad. This past summer we have had incidents with renters where there was totally disregard for neighbors and the shoreline. To some renters, Rum Ridge is no more than another place for a party weekend. The Greenville Police have

been called and responded. Please remember, “you as the Rum Ridge property owner are responsible for your renters”, not your agent! Please be considerate of your neighbors and the consequences in each case when approving your renter!

Last winter was a banner year for those of you who enjoy activities like snowmobiling, snowshoeing, ice fishing and skiing. We had over 12 feet of snow last year and this winter’s forecast is more of the same. I think we would all be happy with half that amount. Our snowplowing contractor did an outstanding job keeping the road open and safe. The two primary factors to keep in mind when driving our roads in the winter months are speed and the quality of your tires. Vehicles don’t drive themselves into the ditch. Slow down and be safe!

Another subject discussed over and over is the future of the Rum Ridge docks as many are really showing their age. The real question is how will we proceed with docks in the future? Do we need outlying docks? Is the Loon Landing dock adequate as it currently exists? The northwest wind really tore up some of the main dock sections this summer. Docks will be an agenda item at our next annual meeting.

All in all, the quality of life, the ownership experience and property values continue to increase in Rum Ridge. This is due, in no small part, to the dedication of your Board of Directors and all of the owners who sincerely care about this community. We are pointed in the right direction. Best Wishes!

Jack C. Sheltmire, President  
Rum Ridge Association