

Andover Community Church August News and Events

Selling food at August 7 Old Time Fair

Donna Thompson
Andover Community Church

It is hard to believe we are in August already. We have been so blessed with the great weather we are having. The month of July was very busy.

At the Fourth of July celebration, Andover Community Church had two booths. One was for the Outreach Missions. There were games and prizes which all the children enjoyed. The other booth was our cotton candy. Everyone seemed to enjoy this sweet treat. We added an extra flavor this year – maple.

The wind certainly made for a very entertaining day for everyone. We couldn't have been blessed with a better day. Looking forward to next year.

The rummage/bake/pre-made meals sale continues to be very popular. It is awesome to see so many returning people every

month. The money raised is going towards either painting or vinyl siding for the Highland Lake Grange Hall. Monies needed to reach our goal for this are \$41,000. We invite you to stop in to say hello.

Here's what's going on in August:

See Church on page 18



Donna Thompson of the Andover Community Church volunteered to operate the cotton candy booth at the Fourth of July celebration this year, but got more than she bargained for when the wind picked up and dressed her in the sticky stuff. All in all, the day was fun and entertaining. Photo: Bill Blomquist



The neighborhood watch continues as the two loon chicks, named Tuft and Tumble, grow. Photo: Ally Resch

Highland Lake Loon Chicks Continue to Grow and Thrive

Swooping eagles keep loon parents on alert

Donna Baker-Hartwell, East Andover

On June 27, after approximately 28 days of nesting, two fuzzy light brown loon chicks arrived on Highland Lake. Because the nest is on the very edge of shore, the chicks tumble into the water and swim shortly after hatching. This year they seemed to hatch just hours apart. It is not uncommon for the second chick to arrive a day after the first.

Loons are egalitarian mates. Our adults and chicks spent more than a week near the nesting site, taking turns fishing for minnows, feeding the chicks, carrying them on their backs and under their wings. After dark, they usually huddle together under the cover of overhanging bushes along the shore.

On June 6, a team of loon biologists from the New Hampshire Loon Preservation Committee came to Highland Lake after dark to band the adults. One of our adults was banded in 2011. This loon turns out to be the male. He received new leg bands matching the original: his left leg has a green stripe over a solid green and his right leg has a blue stripe over silver.

The female, who was never banded, now has a yellow stripe over a red band on her left leg and a blue stripe over silver on her right. The biologists also noted that one chick is markedly smaller than the other, which is concerning but not uncommon. Blood samples were also taken.

As I write this update, our chicks are 18 days old and growing. Both are actively swimming and “diving” – more like dipping underwater for 15 seconds

or more. They have spent many days at the northern cove where it is quiet and safe from speed boats.

At this time, they are moving all around the lake. At least one adult is always tending them. They remain vulnerable.

A lake resident reported on July 14, “An eagle swooped down on them twice, with much noise and flapping on the part of the loons.” Eagles are nesting on Webster Lake. They have a strong presence in the lake region, and they will feed on loon chicks.

We can only hope that our two chicks, affectionately named Tuft and



Donna Baker-Hartwell caught this picture of the young loon chicks with a parent when they were only three days old. At this point, she said, the chicks spend “most of their time tucked under an adult wing or perched on top of their back.”

Tumble by photographer Ally Resch, will remain safe under the protection of their parents.

It is important that human approach towards the loons keep a 150-foot distance. We wouldn't want to distract the adults from keeping their attention on other threats, such as an eagle swooping from above.

Loons will, however, swim close to humans if you are on the shore or sitting still in a boat. It truly is a joy to have the opportunity to observe them.

In the weeks ahead, providing that See Loons on page 19

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