

**MILLCREEK POOL CLUB  
CREATION AND  
FIRST TWENTY FIVE YEARS**

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## **FOREWORD**

*Written by Jim Barr*

Five or six years ago began the journey to a written history of the club. At that time I wasn't sure what the outcome would be nor how difficult the journey. Thinking it would make an interesting and alternative style senior project I looked, unsuccessfully. I put the idea aside, concerned that opportunities for firsthand knowledge of the early years were fading.

I don't remember how, but by some means I discussed the concept with former board President and longtime member Amie Kulak. She liked the idea, had a real interest in the project and liked to write. We agreed this would cover her 3 hours of maintenance and I gave her access to boxes of records.

Little did either of us know how much work this would be. Little did I know how perfect Amie was for the project. Ultimately this took far more than 3 hours and one summer project. Finding people, coaxing responses, waiting, writing, more coaxing, rewriting actually took four years and I assume hundreds of hours. (I don't think anyone really knows or wants to admit.)

I certainly want to thank Amie for all of her hard work. She was a perfect choice ~ firsthand knowledge, excellent contacts and a passion to finish. This project so exceeded my expectations and could not have been done as it started. Amie developed a wonderful approach and was able to find many key people. The presentation will bring back memories for some, explain traditions and set the bar high for the current caretakers of this magnificent club.

This club has been blessed by many great volunteers and talented people over the years. From the very beginning, through the years and even today. It has exceeded the vision of the founders, providing something special for many generations of Webster families. Please enjoy this glimpse into the past or trip down memory lane for many.

## **PREFACE**

*Written by Amie Lewis Kulak*

As we approach almost five decades of enjoyment of Millcreek Pool Club in Webster NY, there is an opportunity to collect and document the early history of this beloved family gathering place.

The history which follows is a collection of memories as written or told by those members whom helped to organize and build the pool club or joined during the early years of operation. Jim Barr, long-time and current pool manager, provided me with many boxes of paper files which I sorted, purged, shredded, scanned and retained digital versions of meeting minutes, financials, newspaper clippings, legal documents, and member correspondence.

As I began this project, I immediately reached out for assistance from my Dad (Duff Lewis) who was a member of the original group who worked together to bring an idea to fruition. I made my best effort to gather memories from as many of the original founding members whom I was able to locate. The story which follows demonstrates how one idea, volunteer hours, and collaboration of a group with one mission can have a lasting impact reaching multiple generations of families.

The Millcreek pool board monthly meeting minutes, the annual member meeting minutes, financial reports, member pool newsletter, and several legal documents are the basis for the overview of the first 25 years of pool history. The only year for which there were missing records was the Oct 1992 to Sept 1993 season. Millcreek Pool Club fiscal year was October 1 to September 30.

The overview is intended to provide you with a comprehensive and factual review of pool operations, as reported in records by the many board members over the years. In addition to club records, I have also included memories from some previous members of times "back in the day", which are included as unedited contributions.

As a non-profit organization, the club relies on many, many hours of volunteer contributions. The names and number of volunteers were too many to list in this document and the lack of mention should not detract from the significance and generosity of their time to maintain a club which has provided much joy to three generations.

## THE FIRST YEAR

*This history was written by Duff Lewis, charter Treasurer, as he remembers it as of November 2014 with the help of the September 8, 1971 Webster Herald article and many early documents saved in the Club files. He regrets and apologizes for not remembering or knowing details about many other major contributions made by individual members of the Team that were crucial to the success of the effort.*

### A Very Brief Summary of the First Year

Having first started as only an idea at a weekly neighborhood beer party at The Woods at Mill Creek subdivision one Friday night in March of 1971, the Pool was opened less than six months later in late August 1971 albeit only for a few weeks that first season. The bathhouse was only partially constructed but the pumps and filters were operational, and the club operated with a temporary permit from the Health Department allowing the use of portable potties. The newly built pool was filled with water thanks to the Webster Fire Department and a long string of borrowed lawn hoses that came over the hill from the neighborhood. Opening night was a gala champagne party catered with food. Eleven residents of The Woods at Mill Creek subdivision of O'Brien Homes were responsible for the conception, organization, acquisition, marketing, financing and building of the Mill Creek Community Club, Inc. 2015 marked the 44th anniversary in August and the 45th season of operation of the "Pool Club."

### The Founders, Who Were They?

Eleven homeowners in The Woods at Mill Creek were the founders of the Mill Creek Community Club, Inc., better known as the "Pool Club." In alphabetical order by last name, the eleven and their responsibilities were:

Travis Brown, a Rochester Telephone exec.....community relations, policies and procedures

Chuck Costich, of the Sear, Brown, Schsen, Berger & Costich engineering firm...engineering planning

Steve Custer, a self employed excavator.....operations

Bob Dell, a VP at Central Trust Company, a large local bank.....finance

Ed Fischer, head of Merkel Donohue, an office furniture supply firm.....membership

Jack Johnson, a Kodak professional.....construction and contract administration

Duff Lewis, a Kodak financial professional...Treasurer, accountant & financial requirements

Tom (TO) Miller, a Kodak financial professional (with a Civil Engineering degree)... President

Pete Palermo, a Kodak marketing professional ... Vice President

Don Pike, a Kodak professional ... Secretary

Phil Smith, a Xerox corporate attorney.....legal matters

When the group that supported the March 1971 Friday night beer party idea boiled down to those that were serious and a few others were recruited, there were eleven; and importantly, within this group were included the skills, experience and connections necessary to make it happen. All but two lived in the "woods" part of the subdivision and were motivated by the fact that it was not possible to have a backyard pool. At the outset, none of them had any idea or any imagined conception of the final scope of the project or for that matter, what the hell they were getting into! Most of the group put in multiple hundreds of hours each that first year. Only three volunteered to be on the Pool Board for the second year.

Although officers were elected to satisfy filing requirements, no one was "in charge" or reported to anyone else. The group and its individuals all reported to the goal of building a pool club and being able to swim in 1971 as promised to their neighbors, who were all those other first year members that joined the pool club when it was just

a concept. There was never a suggestion to quit! Using today's jargon, the group of eleven was "Team Pool Club."

Most of the team met frequently on Saturdays at Tom Miller's and Ed Fischer's homes to scheme, plan, review recent progress, discuss next steps and accept individual responsibility for future needed efforts. Many other quickly arranged meetings and innumerable phone conversations between members took place in addition to the individual efforts which accomplished much of the necessary work.

#### Locating Property

Finding the appropriate property for a pool turned out to be difficult. The solution called for considerable effort and some luck. At the time the idea was first conceived to build a neighborhood pool at a Friday night beer party in March 1971, the simple notion was to procure a couple of building lots from O'Brien Homes, the builder of The Woods at Mill Creek. Once a group of neighbors with a serious interest to build a pool club formed, that idea was quickly scrapped due to the high cost and limited size. A second attempt was made to procure the land on Woodhull Road behind the house on the northeast corner of Holt and Woodhull. After checking with the Town of Webster regarding regulations for setbacks and parking, it was determined that the size of the property would leave enough room for a bathtub.

So a search was conducted to find a sizable piece of property in close proximity to the neighborhood. Fortunately and luckily, the property at 1231 Woodhull Road, which adjoined the tract, was for sale. Unfortunately, the owners would only sell the entire property including the house and land and to someone that agreed to farm the land. Trav Brown spent many evenings talking to Lyle Denny and his wife and was finally successful in getting them to agree to sell the back five acres and a right of way from Woodhull Road for \$18 Thousand plus a sweetener which would allow the owners and their children to utilize any pool built without cost. This breakthrough allowed the group of serious neighbors, which now numbered eleven, to try to put together serious plans for a pool club.

#### Planning A Pool Club

Once a suitable property was located, it was determined to try to size the pool for as many families as possible; perhaps the entire Woods at Mill Creek neighborhood if feasible. Financing was a major obstacle! Marketing what was only a concept to prospective members was a huge challenge. Two break-throughs involving financing enabled viable planning to progress.

Phil Smith, an attorney at Xerox, took on the responsibility of filing the necessary papers with New York State to create the Mill Creek Community Club, Incorporated as a not for profit corporation in the state of New York. The incorporation papers are dated May 4, 1971 which provides some idea as to how fast planning progressed.

#### Financing

The initial financing of the club took place when \$25 was collected from each of the eleven founders in order to open a checking account at Central Trust to enable a check to be written to pay the filing fees for incorporation.

Two VERY BIG breakthroughs occurred close together and changed the efforts to build a pool club from a half baked idea to a viable business endeavor.

Bob Dell, a VP at Central Trust Company, was successful in securing a line of credit at Central Trust at 8% interest, a very reasonable interest rate at the time considering the risk, enabling the club to offer memberships to prospects at half price with the other half financed, if they chose to do so. These members signed \$500 personal notes at 8% interest in favor of the club at the time they joined; the notes were then later endorsed in favor of Central Trust as collateral. By October 31, 1971, \$30,000 had been borrowed.

Several members of the Team negotiated with O'Brien Homes, the developer of The Woods at Mill Creek, and put together a WIN-WIN deal enabling the Pool Club to be sized to accommodate future buyers of homes in the tract. O'Brien bought 26 memberships at \$1000 each to be paid back as future home buyers joined the Pool Club. Importantly, O'Brien wrote a check for \$26,000 and also paid the annual dues during the time that it held a membership.

## Regulations

Federal, State, County and Town Governments all presented hurdles that had to be overcome. Trav Brown, Chuck Costich, Phil Smith and others worked with the Town of Webster to satisfy many requirements. Permission to build the pool and establish the right of way was negotiated which required the size of membership to be restricted to 110 families and the hours of operation curtailed at night. Importantly, membership was offered to close neighbors of the would-be pool to avoid a protracted approval process. Webster Town approval was negotiated starting in April and finalized on June 16, 1971.

Regulations of the County Health Board played a major role in planning the operation of the pool. Several members of the team became very familiar with government regulations regarding the construction and operation of the pool, pool chemistry and safety requirements such as a fence and the requirement that two lifeguards be on duty during operation. One decision made was to use in lieu of chlorine, the more expensive bromine which was not as offensive and not as harsh on bathing suits.

Duff Lewis spent many lunch hours meeting with Federal, State and County officials to determine the requirements of a financial nature for the newly formed not for profit corporation. Federal and State income tax withholding requirements and unemployment insurance for employees, State and County sales tax requirements for membership dues, and other matters of a more mundane nature were discovered and implementation took place as required. The favorites were the need to obtain labor law posters to display to employees and a NY State filing requirement to obtain permission to pay wages by check in lieu of cash. A valid reason was required for permission to pay by check. Approval was granted on the basis that a lifeguard's cash could easily be stolen at a swimming pool setting. Duff was also able to procure liability insurance for the Club.

## Utilities

During the building of the pool, providing for utilities presented several very major obstacles to success but ingenuity prevailed. Providing electricity turned out to be the easiest ... a matter of arranging, in conjunction with the electric company, for the installation of the poles and running the wires.

But let's back up to the very important Percolation Test, the success of which was required by the town before a septic system could be installed. (The Perc Test is a test to determine the absorption rate of soil for a septic drain field or "leach field".) Having purchased the land, which had absolutely no access to sewers, it was imperative that a septic system be approved by the town in order to proceed. There were problems with the Perc Test at first. Here was a prime example (not the first and certainly not the last) of having the necessary skills, experience and connections embodied in the group of the eleven founders.

Chuck Costich, a principal in an engineering firm with much experience in Webster, solved the problem. His firm had designed the layout of The Woods at Mill Creek, and he personally took responsibility for laying out the pool. We (10 of the 11) were never sure whether the layout was changed to accommodate a better location for the septic field, or Chuck's relationship with the town solved the problem. Even after the pool layout was later dramatically changed to save THE TREE (see below), the Perc Test was not an issue.

Providing for water became a major issue. Upon completion of the large pool, before the deck and other parts were finished, filling the pool with water was initiated. Garden hoses were borrowed from neighbors and a very long connection of garden hoses was run from Trav Brown's back house spigot over the hill to the pool. (Yes, we paid that month's water bill!) When it became obvious that the garden hose was not going to be sufficient, the Webster Fire Department was kind enough to transport enough water to fill the pool in time for the Grand Opening. A better solution was put in place the following year. A connection to Webster Town water with a meter was installed on Stockbridge Road in front of Trav Brown's house (the house on Stockbridge Road closest to the pool with a long driveway running back to the home) and a hose of sufficient size was run from the meter to the bathhouse through a couple of neighbor's back yards.

Some years later, one of the neighbors whose land was used to transport the water to the pool through the large hose created a problem; and a different solution was needed. Fortunately, by this time, Webster Town water had been run up Woodhull Road in front of the pool driveway. Keith Gilliland took responsibility for organizing a volunteer group of pool members and procuring the necessary equipment and piping to connect the Pool Club directly to Webster Town water. A ditch was dug alongside the driveway, pipe was laid and the project was completed inside of one summer season.

At the time of the Grand Opening, the Bathhouse was only about half complete. The pumps and filter were in place and functional, but no bathroom facilities were available. Special permission was obtained from the County Health Department to open the pool for a short time the first season using Portable Potties.

### The Tree

The right of way and five acres constituting the pool property were purchased from the owners of 1231 Woodhull Road. The acreage had been used as a farm many years earlier and was cluttered with a large number of small trees that had grown up over the years without any attention. In addition there was one very tall Norway Spruce located toward the rear of the property. Chuck Costich laid out the property to accompany a rectangular pool, which included a wading pool at one end with decks and a bathhouse that the Team had approved, taking into consideration the topography of the land and its boundaries and setbacks from neighbors. The land had to be cleared of the scrub trees and the tall Norway Spruce had to be taken down to accommodate the planned layout.

The scrub trees were removed one weekend utilizing a volunteer workforce from the neighborhood and a tree chipper, with use donated with no charge by the prominent tree firm at the time ... no doubt with an eye on future business opportunities in The Woods at Mill Creek. Plans were in place to have the tall Norway Spruce removed until the women in the neighborhood rebelled. The tree is still there today 43 years later albeit in a damaged state from an ice storm. At the time the pool was built and for many, many years after, this Norway Spruce was a spectacular tree that would have been a candidate for either the White House Christmas tree or the Christmas tree in Rockefeller Center. It deserved to be saved and the women appeased; however, that required a complete redo of the planned layout requiring much fill dirt to be put in place where the Baby Pool is now located.

### Finding A Pool Builder

Finding a pool builder was not easy even after financing was available. Several of the team went in search of prospects, and one prospect even made a presentation at one of the Saturday team meetings. After telling us, based upon their experience, that we would not have time or be able to plan for a pool in 1971, they promised to try and work us into their schedule for 1972 ... Next Year!

Then someone found Clapphanson (sp?) (how could you forget a name like that !) Mr. Clapphanson had a solid reputation for building backyard pools and was eager to showcase his expertise by building a larger club size pool. He used the Gunite spray on steel method, which was accepted by our team "experts" as the way to go. It enabled a design that included diving and swimming areas and a separate baby pool with a fountain. A contract was signed and building started about July 2nd. *The pool has survived over 40 years with no unexpected maintenance. Nothing else needs to be said.*

### Building A Bathhouse

At the time that plans were being made to build the bathhouse, it was becoming apparent that the grandiose Pool Club envisioned was going to cost more than the \$110,000 planned. (\$125,000 was ultimately spent upon completion in 1972.) It was decided not to hire a contractor but to sub contract the construction to save money. Several members of the Team took responsibility for locating firms and negotiating terms for concrete, carpentry, water, electric, roofing, painting, etc. separately. Tom Miller, Jack Johnson and others were heavily involved in overseeing construction of the pool and bathhouse.

### Marketing Memberships

The plan that had developed was to offer 110 family memberships at \$1000 each, enabling a pool club costing \$110,000 to be built. One half financing was available.

Presentations were made to groups of neighbors on several occasions outlining the pool club plans and financial estimates. Don Pike spent many hours knocking on doors selling memberships. Surprisingly, he would come to the Saturday meeting occasionally with a check for \$1025 from a relatively new neighbor. (There was trust back in those days!) Most members signed up for the \$25 / \$500 / \$500 plan. The extra \$25 was called an organization fee and replicated what the original eleven members had contributed at the outset to fund a checking account.

A sweetener was provided to attract original members allowing them to sell their home with a pool membership

guarantee for the buyer, provided that the original member dropped their membership.

Importantly, membership progressed in a satisfactory manner:

17 by the end of March

75 by the end of April including the O'Brien commitment

92 by the end of May

110 by the Opening Day, August 26, 1971 with a waiting list of 7

Later, in 1974, permission was obtained from the Town of Webster to increase membership to 125 families.

### Social Events

During the early years of the Pool Club, Saturday night parties were held fairly frequently and served as a social gathering for Woods at Mill Creek residents. In the beginning, all pool members were Woods at Mill Creek residents with the exception of a couple of members with property adjacent to the pool, who were allowed to join for obvious reasons. The tract was only partially completed at the outset with most of the residents signing up as members.

The very first pool party was the Grand Champagne Opening on August 27, 1971 (one day after the pool opening) which was catered with food and early in the evening covered by the Webster Herald. The planning group had allowed for considerable champagne; the thinking being that most participants would be in a celebratory mood. Very early into the party, we were running out of champagne! Thankfully, it was early enough that the liquor stores were still open and more champagne was procured. During the late stages of the party it was "proclaimed" by vast majority consent that everyone had to go into the pool. Most had brought bathing suits and had been in the pool, the pool being an instant novelty at that point. Those that didn't have bathing suits were bodily thrown into the pool; luckily no one was hurt. The one exception to being thrown into the pool was a lady who was 8 months pregnant at the time. (Amie Lewis (Kulak) attended the grand opening as a pre-born.)

A later party had a 1950s theme. All participants were supposed to wear something from The 50s. Military uniforms, pretty dresses with petty coats, etc. were prevalent and added to the party atmosphere. Late in the evening, an "Everyone into the Pool" was proclaimed by vast majority consent. An attractive lady from the "Woods" part of the Tract, who had worn her wedding dress from the '50s, did a perfect swan dive into the pool from the high board wearing only her bra and panties!

Note: the original diving boards were of different heights, one being higher than the existing boards. At that time, there was also a high sliding board, requiring a ladder climb to the top before sliding into the pool, located at the point where the diving pool adjoins the lap pool, on the side opposite the Bathhouse.

A popular social event was the weekend sleepover involving the construction of what looked like tent city alongside the pool. Trying to get the kids to sleep was an adventure.

### Other Remembrances

Steve Custer took responsibility for recruiting lifeguards and surprisingly was able to attract several to cover the couple of weeks that the pool was open at the end of the first year.

Pool records kept track of family members allowing for certain statistics to be kept. It was determined that of the first 100 babies born while their parents were residents of The Woods at Mill Creek, 98 were girls. We had a father /daughter group called Indian Princesses that functioned entirely inside the neighborhood for many years.

### Financial Perspective

It is revealing when the financial contents included in this History are put in today's terms using the change in CPI as an inflation adjustment. It provides for a much better perspective of the accomplishments of that day.



The Pool Club was initially estimated to cost \$110,000. That is \$647,000 in today's dollars when adjusted for inflation.

The final cost to build the Pool Club of \$125,000 converts to \$733,000.

\$30,000 the amount borrowed from Central Trust converts to \$176,000.

\$26,000 the amount advanced by O'Brien Homes, converts to \$152,000.

\$18,000, the cost of the land and right of way converts to \$106,000.

A membership cost \$1025 or \$525 with \$500 borrowed. That converts to \$6009 or \$3077 with \$2931 borrowed. \$1000 (\$6,000) was a lot of money back then for families who had just bought their new home and had a large mortgage. The interest rate for the Central Trust borrowing and the \$500 note from members was 8%, very reasonable considering the risk. That rate compared with 7 1/2% at the time for a conventional 30 year mortgage with a down payment. For those that forget, the 70s experienced very high inflation compounding over 7.8 % per year for the decade.

## **MEMORIES OF INCEPTION**

*Written by Travis Brown*

It all began because neither my neighbor Charlie Costich nor I, at 1220 Stockbridge, could place a pool in our backyards without taking down many beautiful trees, and being perilously close to the creek bank. Our homes were the first to be built in the "Woods at Mill Creek". We felt that many present and future neighbors would face the same dilemma. Thus, we talked about putting a pool on O'Brien property, or somewhere in the woods on the other side of the creek on a part of Costich's or my land.

Talking with Eddie Fischer, we thought that access from Woodhull Road with members driving a short distance to the pool would be preferable, and cost effective. We discovered a choice piece of property, and talked to Lyle Denny and his wife. We negotiated a price for ownership of an access road to sufficient land at the rear of Denny's property for the pool with diving well, extra large deck, bath house, and parking lot. With some persuasion (which Eddie was very good at) they said yes after a sweetened agreement that they, and their family could use the pool without paying dues.

In the interim, I built a bridge across the creek on my property. It provided safe walking access to the pool through the woods for neighborhood children and adults. Also, my four children and I had dammed up the creek as a temporary swimming hole. The dammed up creek also provided for ice skating in the winter. Charlie Costich later built an elaborate bridge across the creek making the pool even more accessible, as did Eddie Fischer.

The property required considerable clearing, assisted by a local Boy Scout Troop. Financing was provided through Bob Dell at Central Trust. Bob got the job done expeditiously, and on very fair terms. Duff Lewis and several other Kodak men contributed their skills in many important ways, as did several Xerox guys, and men from other area businesses. I feel very good as I look back upon what we all created, especially because it continues to thrive today. The pool is healthy fun for sure, and shallow at both ends to facilitate a gathering place for new neighbors to chat, and splash.

Exhibit A - Webster Herald Article, Opening Day

THE WEBSTER HERALD, Webster, N.Y., September 8, 1971

**about our  
arrangement**

- Rentals from \$165.
- Some Pet Buildings.
- Heat Year 'round.

**Gardens**  
on Ridge Rd. W.  
10

**W & SALE  
HOUSE**  
PENFIELD

1 A.M. TO 10 P.M.  
1 A.M. TO 9 P.M.

AR

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NS™

TICIANS  
PENFIELD  
ES. & FRI 9:30-8



ERGREENS  
SEASON  
S \$2.99  
1972 SKI-DO  
SERY, Inc.  
-8671  
'EBSTER), ONTARIO



POSSING DURING THE OPENING OF THE NEW MILLCREEK Community Swim Club facilities on Woodhull Road recently are the group's officers and directors. President is Tom Miller; Peter Palermo is Vice President; Donald Pike is Secretary; and Duff Lewis the Treasurer. Directors include Travis Brown, Ed Fischer, Steven Custer, and Chuck Costich. Three other directors--Jack Johnson, Phil Smith, and Bob Dell--were absent.

**Community Swim  
Club Forms**

A \$114,000 swimming complex occupying more than five acres of land and including a huge pool, two diving boards, a slide, a separate kiddie pool complete with fountain, and a bath house has been opened on Woodhull Road in Webster.

Dubbed the Mill Creek Community Club Incorporated, the new facilities are owned and operated by a membership of 110 families--all Webster residents--who have banded together so that each family would not need individual pools. Members of the club built the pool facilities themselves. The 110-family roster is full now, with a waiting list of seven other families as of the end of August.

Elected to administer affairs of the club were four officers responsible for the business end of things, including Thomas Miller, 1212 Gerrards Cross, president; Peter Palermo, 1206 Gerrards Cross, vice president; Donald Pike, 1238 Bucks Run, secretary; and A. Duff Lewis, Jr., 1231 Stockbridge Road, treasurer. Directors, each a chairman of a functioning committee, are Travis Brown, 1220 Stockbridge Road, community relations, policies, and procedures; Charles J. Costich, 1222 Stockbridge Road, engineering planning; John Johnson, 1185 Severn Ridge, construction and contract administration; Stephen Custer, 1210 Gerrards Cross, operations; Edward Fisher, 1108 Gerrards Cross, membership; Philip Smith, 1237 Bucks Run, legal; and Robert Dell, 1200 Gerrards Cross, finance.

Clerks for the new club are Mrs. Donald Pike, 1238 Bucks Run, and Mrs. A. Duff Lewis, 1231 Stockbridge Road. Mrs. Pike serves as secretary; Mrs. Lewis is bookkeeper.

Ruffel-Kuhn

**Community Calender**

(Deadline for this column, Fridays at 5 p.m.)

- WEDNESDAY:**  
8 p.m. Newcomers Board meeting at home of Mrs. Frank Vischer, 925 Little Pond Way.
- THURSDAY:**  
8 p.m. Town Board meeting at Town Hall, 1000 Ridge Road.  
8 p.m. Newcomers Group Activity meeting at home of Mrs. Robert Hamna, 522 Licia Lane.  
8 p.m. Village Manor Garden Club at the home of Mrs. Harold Quigley, 958 Gaywood Lane. Co-hostesses are Mrs. Dale Knapp and Mrs. James Stein.
- SATURDAY:**  
12:30 p.m. Newcomers Fall Luncheon at Happy Acres, 440 Salt Road.
- MONDAY:**  
7-9 p.m. Registration for Adult Education courses at Schroeder Junior-Senior High School.  
7:30 p.m. Webster Board of Education meeting, board rooms, Spry Junior High School.  
7:30 p.m. Webster Jaycees meeting at Heritage House, 602 Ridge Road, West Webster. All young men between 21 and 35 invited.  
8 p.m. Village Board meeting at Village Hall, West Main Street.
- TUESDAY:**  
10 a.m. Webster Literary Club, home of Mrs. Jurkiewicz, 856 Partridge Lane.  
4 p.m. Varsity soccer, Webster at Spencerport.  
7 p.m.-9 p.m. Registration for Adult Education courses at Schroeder Junior-Senior High School.  
8 p.m. Eastside Nursing Council at Webster Baptist Church. Speaker-Roger E. Smith, on recent developments in medications and drug therapy.
- WEDNESDAY:**  
7-9 p.m. Registration for Adult Education courses, Schroeder Junior-Senior High School.

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**BOB WOOD'S  
PARKVIEW LANES**

4204 CULVER RD.

## THE FIRST TWENTY FIVE YEARS

*Written and Compiled by Amie Lewis Kulak*

On Memorial Day weekend May 27th 1972, the opening day of the first full pool season, the temperature recorded at 77 degrees as a high that day at the Rochester airport. The first pool season ended on Sunday, September 24th with the temperature recorded at 72 degrees as a high that day.

### Membership

Membership was sold out prior to the inaugural opening on August 27th 1971.

*In March of 1971, we moved into our newly-built O'Brien home in the Woods at Millcreek. Early that summer, a delegation called by one evening soliciting members for a proposed Community Swim Pool. Though we certainly had no cash to spare (in those days, a 30-year mortgage at 7.25% required a 20% up-front payment!), we signed-on with an installment plan Swim Club Bond. Before the end of the summer, the pool was up and running!.....Bob Nash*

At the beginning of the 1974 summer season, the membership was full at 110 families with seven on the waiting list. However, the operating budget was projected to experience a loss of \$3,600 which resulted in a special assessment in September 1974 of \$33 per family to cover the expenses. 1974 was the first season a full-time pool manager was paid at a salary of \$2,500 for the summer operating season. The reasons cited for the loss were unexpected maintenance, higher than expected chemical & utilities expense, and legal costs associated with objecting to town proposal to install cross-town sewer through pool parking lot and entrance road. To address the shortage, the board determined increasing revenues was the best option and a board membership chair was established in September 1974. In September 1974 the town zoning approved a request from the pool board to increase membership from 110 to 125 families. Membership climbed from 110 to a high of 125 in July 1976.

*When we moved into the Millcreek neighborhood in 1973 membership was restricted to tract residents and there was a waiting list to join the pool club. We put ourselves on the list shortly after our daughter Sara was born, and within a year we were members. The pool club was largely as it appears today, and nearly everyone in the neighborhood thought it was a good idea not to have a pool in every backyard. I was just beginning my career at Xerox and liked the thought of my family having access to a better facility than I could ever hope for on my own.....Bob Karz*

After a high of 125 in 1976, membership then remained approximately around 110 families between 1977 and 1980 and 100 between 1980 and 1983. Membership consistently fluctuated from lows following resignations after the end of the season between October-March (105 in 12/77, 104 in 12/78, 97 in 1/80, 86 in 10/80, 85 in 10/81, and 84 in 4/83) to highs by July-September at the height of each season (114 in 7/77, 113 in 7/78, 110 in 8/79, 103 in 7/80, 101 in 8/81, 96 in 9/82, 102 in 8/83).

*Our biggest problem was the membership "dip". Pool clubs are basically for families with younger children. By the time the kids are teenagers, pool use drops precipitously for most of us, and we resign. Thus, as our Millcreek neighborhood "aged", membership dropped. Some of the slack was taken up by families outside the neighborhood who were now able to join, but the board was concerned that membership could drop too low to sustain the club. We worked hard to recruit members outside the neighborhood and ultimately were successful. By the time I left the board we had a waiting list. I was membership chair for a while, and I used to joke with perspective members that "I can be bought", that is, until someone actually tried to bribe me to move up the list. I didn't joke about the waiting list after that.....Bob Karz*

To discourage resignations, in April 1979 a senior membership (existing members with no children who have paid dues for at least 5 years) at a dues rate of one-half was approved with room for up to 5 existing families to convert for the 1980 season. Likewise to encourage membership, in 1982 a couples membership was approved (any member with no children) at a dues rate of three-quarters the cost of a family membership.

A membership committee had been formed and actively pursued new memberships with initiatives through the 1970-1980s including:

- Flyers/Brochures to Webster Swim Team, Welcome Wagon, Newcomer's Club, Webster Tennis Club
- Connections made to local realtors and builders
- Member referral bonus
- Local newspaper advertisements (e.g. Penny Saver)
- Open House with personal invites
- Cold-calling prospective members from referrals and the pool guest list
- Ads in neighborhood newsletters
- Distributing brochures to homes via US mail and hand delivery
- Financial incentives to join in the Spring

The late 1970s and early 1980s national economy was noted for low economic growth, inflation (peaked at 14% in April 1980), stagflation (increasing inflation and unemployment), high interest rates (prime rate hit 21.5 in December 1980). The economy was impacted by the oil crises of 1973 and 1979 and a global recession which ended in the U.S. in 1982. (Source: Wikipedia). These factors may have certainly impacted pool membership levels in a negative way during the 70s and 80s. During more recent economic downturns, membership may have been positively impacted due to a desire to stay close to home rather than travel far (known in this decade as a "staycation").

Beginning in May 1984 membership was 94 families but returned to 112 by August 1984. In 1985 membership ranged from 104 in April to 121 by mid-summer. By May 1986 membership had reached the 125 limit, only previously reached 10 years prior! By October 1987 there were 36 families on the waiting list. In October 1987 the town zoning approved an increase above 125. The board proceeded cautiously with increasing membership and initially added only 5 families bringing total membership to 130 for the 1988 season. In October 1989 there was a waiting list of 47 families which was an approximately 3 year wait. In October 1991 the membership was increased to 140 families for the 1992 summer season.

*I remember shortly after moving in getting a knock on the door from Bob Karz who said "Have you heard about Millcreek Pool Club?" and spent the better part of an hour talking about the club and selling the membership.....from a conversation with Linda Condry*

*My dad was the membership chair for years. Starting in the spring, we'd start getting more and more phone calls from prospective members. By summer, it felt like my dad spent hours and hours on the phone each week talking to people about the pool club. It got to the point where I'd heard his spiel so many times that I'd start (inexpertly) fielding calls when he wasn't home, and trying to remember all of my dad's talking points. At that time there was a pretty long waiting list, so people were very eager to add their names. I was probably about 10.....Sara Karz Reid*

*When I was in second grade, my parents announced to my sister and I, that we were moving to Webster. Webster? It might as well have been in another galaxy for all I was concerned. I wasn't interested, period. At this point my parents shared the critical information that the house came with a pool club. Not just any pool, this pool had a slide. I was still pretty bummed about leaving my brand new wallpapered bedroom....but I couldn't wait to try out that slide. Thus began my love affair with Millcreek and summers by the pool.....Deborah Myers*

During the late 1980s and early 1990s, several new housing developments went up in close proximity to the pool club which contributed largely to the membership increase at that time. Those housing developments continue to feed members to the club ever since.

*Though initially drawing members just from the Woods at Millcreek, the pool club managed to keep a full membership thanks to the arrival of young families in nearby housing developments. Now, some of the founding members even have married children who have joined!.....Bob Nash*

### Member Bond

Original bond holders from 1971 to 1979 were given the option to purchase a \$1000 bond (Class "B") or a \$500 bond plus \$500 note owed to pool club (Class "A"). The \$500 note was charged interest paid to the club quarterly at an annual interest rate of 8%.

On Oct 1 1979 a bond assessment of \$75 was added to each members bond refundable upon termination of membership. These funds were raised in order to cover the cost of moving the water line from Stockbridge Road to Woodhull Road, new pool cover, and new water pumps. At the same time, the board approved an increase in the bond requirement. New members going forward would fund new member bond with either: 1) \$1,250 or 2) \$625 plus \$625 loan at 10 1/2% interest rate.

In 1983 the original mortgage of \$50,000 (at 8%) had a principal balance of \$23,500 with balloon repayment due to Central Trust on Feb 1 1983. It was decided to refinance the loan for a total of \$35,000 (at 1% over prime, at the time prime was 10.5%) and re-issue new bonds (Class "C") to all members in the amount \$750.

This meant original bond holders (Class "A" and "B") would be repaid the difference between 1983 bond value (value dependent on how much of bond loan was paid off and timing of new membership status) and the new \$750 value of the bond. This decision to reduce bond value to \$750 to all was intended to encourage new membership at a reduced initial investment than \$1250, keep all members on even billing, and maintain consistent cash flow with bond repayment between new and old members.

In October 1987 the board approved a \$100 assessment for all members to be added to the bond as a refundable deposit which resulted in an increase of the bond to \$850. This assessment funded a new pool heater.

During the 1989 season, the \$35,000 refinanced mortgage loan was paid off.

In October 1994 the board approved a \$150 increase to the bond value for all members which brought the total bond value back to \$1,000 which was the original value in 1971. The funds were used to replenish the reserve fund balance which had been depleted in 1993 for a pump room filtration system.

### Membership Dues

(Dues quoted on annual basis)

Since inception, membership required payment of a one-time refundable bond, a one-time non-refundable \$25 application fee, and quarterly dues. The dues were budgeted in the early years of the pool club to cover expenses (including depreciation) for a net break-even at fiscal year-end September. The 1972 swim season operated on \$19K in dues & application fees (\$16,600) and interest (\$2,300) with budget neutral expenses including \$6,600 on lifeguard salaries, \$1,600 in chemicals/pool supplies, and \$1,500 for water/electric.

Dues were budgeted to be \$146 in 1973, were reported to be \$176 in 1974, and \$191 in 1975. These increases were based upon a projected budget using actual expense data from the prior year. There was full membership at 110 families, but expenses were increasing every year from \$19,042 in 1972 to \$20,233 in 1973, to \$21,861 in 1974.

*My recollection is that dues were \$56 per quarter and you purchased a \$1,000 bond (or a \$500 bond and a \$500 note owed to the club). The expense was not trivial (perhaps equivalent to about \$270 per quarter and a \$5,000 bond in today's dollars), but affordable for an Associate Scientist like me.....Bob Karz*

To cover the immediate shortfall for the 1974 operating loss of \$2,894 (despite full membership), dues in 1975 increased to \$191. In 1976 dues were then reduced to \$188 based upon a budgeted membership level of 120 families. There was full membership of 125 families as of July 1976. Dues were further reduced in 1977 to \$184 based upon projected membership of 125. However, in May 1977 membership level was 102 and rebounded to 114 by July. For 1978 and 1979, dues increased to \$222 and \$232, respectively, based upon projected membership of 110 and increasing operating costs and maintenance/repairs.

Dues were \$268 for 1980, \$280 for 1981, and \$300 for 1982. During the 1982 annual meeting in September, a \$20 maintenance fee was established in order for the maintenance burden to be shared more equitably across the membership. It was decided the annual labor fee may be worked off with four hours of labor. Including the \$20 maintenance fee, dues increased to \$330 for the 1983 season, then up to \$360 by 1984. Dues held at \$360 for 1984-1991. The maintenance fee was increased to \$36 or 3 hours labor in October 1988 for the 1989 season. Dues increased \$50 to \$410 for the 1992 season, which was the first increase in 8 years. Dues increased 4% for the 1995 season. For 1996 budget, dues were projected to be \$448.

Reserve Fund

Beginning in 1972 (through at least 1981), the operating budget included a line item called either depreciation or reserve for replacement of facilities which was established to cover major repairs in the future. During 1972-1981 the amount allocated was \$2,500-\$3,450 annually. It was noted in the 1981 annual meeting minutes that the depreciation expensed annually was typically used for major repairs rather than reserved for a longer term capital replacement project. In 1982, an effort was made to maintain a reserve fund in cash held in a money market for long-term projects, however cost of required immediate repairs drained the reserve fund at times.

In 1986 the pool board was approached by a local builder regarding approval for a 20' easement through the pool club property in order to connect the sewer line of a residential development. The board approved the easement in exchange for \$8000 and labor for hooking up the pool club to the sewer lines as well (currently on septic). The \$8000 was earmarked for the reserve fund. This sewer hook-up eventually eliminated the practice of "back washing" pool water into the creek nearby. From 1971 to 1989, the pool club was permitted to back flush pool water into Mill creek. The DEC permit allowing back flush into creek waters ended December 1988. In 1989 the back flush waters were hooked up to the sewer lines.

Maintenance and repair expenditures were an important part of operating the club and continuing the long-term viability of the facility. Major (for purposes of this list, major defined as > \$1,000 from 1972-1983, or > \$3,000 from 1984-1994) individual expenditures were captured as follows:

1974	\$ 1,117	Gravel and Grading
1980	\$ 1,500	Water line move to Woodhull Rd.
	1,000	Resurfacing baby pool
1984	\$ 8,000	Rebuild pump room walls
	6,500	Pave Parking Lot
1985	\$10,050	Resurface pool walls & bottom
1988	\$ 9,200	New pool heater
	3,300	New shower heater
	6,200	Roads paved
1992	\$ 6,200	Pool resurfacing
	3,380	Sink Replacement
1993	\$13,100	Filtration System
1994	\$ 3,200	Painting

*A unique problem we had was the pool water heater. We used to keep the pool at a constant temperature all season (80 degrees I believe), and nobody complained. One day the heater broke and the pool cooled down. I soon heard from a number of angry members who wanted the heater fixed which of course was done. Shortly thereafter I heard from other members who wanted the pool colder. From that point onward, there was always some group who were unhappy with the pool temperature regardless of the setting.....Bob Karz*

*I remember one incident where a pipe was inadvertently pulled apart in a way that resulted in the pool water being drained into the pump room. At one point we had kids holding their hands over the exit pipes in the pool until a short-term fix was in place.....from a conversation with Linda Condry*

## Water

The pool was drained and refilled annually for the first ten years requiring 137,000 gallons of water each year. In May 1979 the pool was pumped out by the West Webster Fire Department Explorer Scout Troop. In previous years, water pumps were rented.

A more permanent winter cover was purchased in Fall 1980 with chemical treatments planned in the fall to eliminate the need to drain the pool in the spring. Despite best intentions, chemical treatments were not administered in the fall 1980 and the pool was drained in the spring of 1981. Beginning in the spring of 1982 the pool was not drained and a solar cover for summer use was purchased to aid in maintaining water temperature during chilly nights.

*In the springtime, in those days, the pool was drained and the Gunitite walls were sprayed with hydrochloric acid. This treatment certainly killed off the algae film and turned the pool walls to a glistening white; however, as the years went by, this acid treatment eroded the Gunitite, and eventually a chemical "shock treatment" was used to clean the post-winter gunky water.....Bob Nash*

In 1984 the pool was partially drained to fix underwater lights. The pool was drained in 1985 to be resurfaced, 1986 and 1988 for scrubbing and patching, then 1992 to be resurfaced. Following 1988, the board records do not report on a spring draining effort.

*An only slightly less dire issue (than membership dips) was the water line. When the club was built, there were no water mains on Woodhull, so water was piped in from the Millcreek neighborhood with a water line running over the ground through two back yards. The idea was that neighborhood "pressure" would keep the spigot opened. This proved not to be true. One of the homeowners decided to charge us to run water across his property, and as a result, we were obligated to pay a not insignificant sum annually for access to water. This continued for several years until the town ran a water line down Woodhull and gave us direct access to town water.....Bob Karz*

*In the early days, the total water supply for the pool came via a 2" black plastic pipe that snaked through the woods to a connection on Stockbridge Road! Later, a connection was made on Woodhull Road. Eventually, a sewer connection to the back of the Sagebrook housing development was laid across the pool club land (presently marked by a wide strip of parched grass!), and in return for this easement the pool was finally hooked up.....Bob Nash*

### Moving The Water Line Written by Keith Gilliland

*The initial water supply for the pool ran cross country from Stockbridge Road, with a meter pit/manhole in front of the house of Trav Brown. Two inch plastic pipe then ran from the Stockbridge meter cross country above ground to the pool. When water eventually became available for the houses on Woodhull Road, it was decided to move the water source to Woodhull to be a more permanent underground and much shorter distance.*

*The manhole cover, meter pit, piping, and the rental of the ditch digger from Taylor Rental cost \$1,500 in the fall of 1980. The piping was purchased at cost on our behalf by a member, Ron Thurston/Thurston Bros. Inc.*

*The project entailed installing a large precast concrete meter pit with manhole cover on the Woodhull Road south side easement, just east of the pool club driveway. From the meter pit/manhole, we used a trencher to dig about a 3 foot deep trench for installation of 2 inch plastic pipe, down the east side of the pool club driveway to the stream culvert, almost near where you turn slightly left to go into the parking lot. At the culvert, we ran 2" galvanized pipe from the east side to the west side using pipe hangers attached to the metal culvert roof. On the west side of the culvert, we started trenching again, for the 2 inch plastic pipe, towards the*



*pool up the right of way space between the tree lines till we got somewhat near the north pool fence (maybe around 10 feet from fence) then headed west to the north west corner, then south along the old west fence line (maybe still around 10 feet) and then passing under the north fence (I think west of the big Norway Spruce tree). After getting outside of the north fence, we dug east, south of the driveway outside of the pool club house until we intercepted the cross country line. The cross country line ran underground near the club house to get under the driveway and enter the pump room.*

*Many worked on this project in the fall of 1980 (installed new water line) and spring of 1981 (moved the water meter from Stockbridge Rd to Woodhull Rd). Since then, when Randazzese built his tract off rte. 250, he installed a sanitary sewer and water line cross country from Woodhull for his tract. The pool club now receives sanitary sewer and water from those lines.*

### Board of Directors

The first two annual meetings of the Millcreek Community Club were held in November 1971 and 1972 at the Parkview Pavilion in Webster Park. The third annual meeting was held in August 1973 at the White House Lodge in Webster Park. Beginning in 1974, annual meetings were held at the Parkview Lodge in Webster Park in August ('74 and '75) or September ('76 to '82) until 1983 when the meeting was held at the Webster Presbyterian Church in September ('83 and '84), October ('85 to '94), or November ('95). BOD meetings were held monthly at BOD Committee member homes on a rotating basis.

*A few years after joining I was asked to be on the governing board, and a year after that asked to be president. I quickly learned to appreciate the work volunteer boards such as Millcreek's do. It's amazing how many problems and headaches a pool club can generate, and during my tenure we had some big ones.....Bob Karz*

*I learned how efficient board meetings and organizations can function when run well by experiencing a range of styles. Both a hazard and accomplishment of being on a volunteer board is the feeling of ownership in the pool club. You may feel obligated to fix a leaking toilet when you notice it, but also take pride in how the club looks and operates. A significant learning I gained was that everyone should give back to make a lasting impact on your community.....from a conversation with Linda Condry*

Throughout the 1970s to early 1990s, there was a phone committee in place which used a well-known tool called the "telephone tree" to communicate invites to social events, member surveys, and member votes.

In early 1973 interest was expressed in building tennis courts. In 1974 a tennis committee was formed to assess the viability of building a tennis facility on the Millcreek Pool Club property. This effort led to formation of the Webster Tennis Club of Webster with facilities previously located on Phillips Road in Webster.

A paid Secretary/administrative assistant role was budgeted and filled by Marilyn Means from 1973 to 1981, Betty Goff from 1981 to 1983, Kathy Goodsell 1983 to 1991, Janis Williams 1992 to 1994. Beginning in 1995 the administrative position was eliminated due to a change in combining pool manager and administrative assistant roles with the hiring of the Kendrick Corporation.

In January 1984 the Apple II system was demonstrated to the BOD as a "mechanized record keeping" system intended to make future pool management easier. After research of the alternatives, an Apple IIe computer, disc drive, printer, and screen were purchased at a cost of \$1,765. From the February 1984 meeting forward, a computer print-out, rather than a type-writer generated document was used for BOD meeting minutes and records.

In July 1989 an ad hoc committee was formed to address difficulty in finding board replacements.

*Amazingly, the club has always had some members who've been willing to serve as officers, and this volunteer spirit has kept things running smoothly for the past 40 years!.....Bob Nash*

### Lifeguards

Lifeguard salaries for 1974 were \$85 per week for returning lifeguards, \$80 per week for new lifeguards, and \$100 per week for the head lifeguard. The salaried season was 11 weeks from June 16th to September 2nd. Other days were paid at \$2.35 per hour or \$2.50 per hour for head lifeguard. In 1974, the NY state minimum wage was \$2.00 per hour.

Lifeguard wages established in February for 1988 were a base rate \$3.48 per hour with increments per hour paid for the following qualifications: \$.25 WSI, \$.15 CPR, \$.15 First Aid, \$.10 for each year of experience, \$.25 head guard, and \$.25 chemical handling. In 1988, the NY state minimum wage was \$3.35 per hour.

In July 1988 a petition was submitted to the board by a group of the lifeguards at that time requesting increased compensation while also outlining required (Advanced Lifesaving and CPR) or optional certifications (Water Safety Instructor) obtained by the individuals in the group and the responsibilities/job duties of the lifeguards expected (included cleaning pool and locker rooms and weeding). The request was a baseline of \$5.75 per hour. In August 1988 the board offered the guards extra maintenance jobs at \$6.00 per hour and in September 1988 agreed to increase the guard wages by 11% for the 1989 season.

*As a summer job, it was hard to beat lifeguarding at Mill Creek. It didn't pay as much as scooping ice cream at Friendly's, but it was a rewarding job introduced me to many members of the neighborhood, as well as all kinds of summer weather, from hot and sunny to chilly and rainy. I can still hear thunder from miles away, and find myself searching for a whistle to blow to clear the pool..... John Nash*

*The kids all developed a fast-walk/almost-run gait on the deck so that the lifeguards wouldn't yell at us for actually running..... Sara Karz Reid*

*Our guards helped raise our kids. They were usually former swim team members, and the little ones looked up to them, listened to them, and learned how to swim from them, because many of them became Red Cross certified Swim instructors! It made the guards act responsibly around the pool, with so many adoring little eyes watching them.....Peg Proctor*

### Pool Visitors (wanted and not wanted)

During the early 1975 season, an excessive number of non-member guests visited the pool club. Twenty non-member guests used the pool 163 times from May 24 to June 18. Attendance was taken by lifeguards on duty at the entrance table as you walk into the only entrance to pool via locker rooms. A board meeting with members invited was held to address the issue and resulted in a more restrictive guest policy limiting any particular guest no more than five visits per season.

During Halloween eve and Halloween nights during many years starting in 1972, the pool property was guarded between 8pm and midnight by member volunteers. Despite this coverage, there was a history of trespassing. In 1973 it was reported in board minutes that chairs and wood were thrown on top of the cover. In 1980 an alarm system was installed connecting to Bob Karz's house which eliminated the annual Halloween watch.

Over the years there were numerous reports of trespassing in board minutes. The pool board responded with letters to parents, required pool service by offenders (members children in this case), and charges & police reports filed. Steps taken to discourage trespassing included nighttime lights and close neighbors on watch.

*Back in the '70s "trick or treat" was a bit more "trick" than it is today, and the club was the site of some illicit activity (drinking, minor vandalism), particularly around Halloween. We set up a Halloween watch from a few days before Halloween until a few days after with volunteers in pairs shivering in the changing rooms in the chilly October evenings. I know because I shivered several evenings myself.*

*I was (and still am) a ham radio operator, so to improve our coverage and reduce the effort required to police the club, I set up a Citizens Band radio as a rudimentary alarm system with*

*the transmitter hooked up to switches on the doors of the changing rooms and a receiver at my house set up to ring a buzzer if the radio at the club was activated. Testing involved several trips from the club to my house and back (remember, this was before cell phones), and it worked reasonably well. No one broke in after it was installed, and it certainly was an improvement over our Halloween sit ins.....Bob Karz*

In 1983 the Webster Girls Varsity Swim Team utilized Millcreek Pool for one week of practice during the start of the varsity season due to repairs being made at their home Thomas pool. The cost was a total of \$187.50 for 18.75 hours at \$10 per hour.

#### Pool Manager

In 1973 the Board communicated plans to hire a full time pool manager following two seasons with the "Operations Chairman" fulfilling the role in a volunteer capacity. Even at this early stage of the club's history, there was already evidence of lack of volunteers necessary to maintain a pool club serving 100+ member families. The first paid pool manager, Casper Pizzo, was hired for six seasons from 1974 to 1979 at a salary from \$2,500 to \$3,250 in 1978.

*Initially, keen young members handled the day-to-day pool chores, but eventually the thought of a corporate lawyer doing chemical water tests was a bit too scary. Therefore, Casper Pizzo (then an R.L. Thomas teacher and locally-famous fisherman) was hired to run the daily operations.....Bob Nash*

During a cash flow crunch, the Board Operations Chairman served as a volunteer in 1980 and for a \$750 salary in 1981 as pool manager. Following that, Tom Alloway served as operations manager in a volunteer capacity as a board member during two seasons 1982 to 1983, after which the board determined he should be compensated. Tom received an annual pool membership in exchange for his seven additional years of service from 1984 to 1990, as there were not enough funds to support a full-paid pool manager until 1991.

In the spring 1991 Carmen Gumina (now superintendent of Webster schools) was hired to be pool manager for one season, followed by Gary Tirohn for three seasons from 1992 to 1994. Beginning in 1995 the pool board eliminated the pool manager position and decided to hire a real estate management company called "Kendrick Corporation" to manage billing, administration, long-term planning, and seasonal operations (lifeguards and chemicals). The cost of both a pool manager and administrative assistant had most recently cost the club \$8,400 and was to be replaced by a \$6,000 annual contract with Kendrick. The Kendrick management contract continued through the 2004 season.

In 2005, member Jim Barr stepped up as pool manager, a position for which he continues to serve today. Jim's tenure has been the longest and arguably one of the most challenging given the age of the pool facilities. By all accounts, Jim has been a devoted and hard-working steward of our beloved pool club and deserves continued gratitude.

#### Swim Team, Diving Team, Water Ballet and Swim Lessons

Swim lessons started in 1972 and a swim team was formed in 1974. The swim team participated in the Rochester District Private Club League which included many local community club and country club pools located within Monroe County. The first swim meet Millcreek participated in was located at Thunder Ridge on July 16 1974. In 1977 there was an Invitational held at Millcreek Pool Club.

*Mill Creek is where I learned to swim. The swim team is where I learned that so many other "community pools" are part of golf country clubs, with a much different feel than our cozy neighborhood pool. I learned to hold my breath and dive deeply to 11 feet down to fetch pennies with little black marks on them. I hid under the water from horseflies, and I threw a lot of tennis balls back and forth to my brother.....John Nash*

*When we swam against other clubs, we were often listed as the "Millcreek Country Club". We always thought that was funny. In retrospect we had the amenities of a country club without the*

*pretensions and the large fees.....Linda Condry*

*Swim Team and Water Ballet were a part of everyone's life, and every family shared in buying popsicles and hugging the winners and non-winners after each race!.....Peg Proctor*

In 1974, a water ballet program started with a show performed for club members on Labor Day.

*In 1980, at the age of 10, I participated in Water Ballet at Millcreek pool club. Every week, about 15 young girls would get together and learn how to float on our backs, lift our legs in the air, do the "clam", and swim in a circle all the while keeping our heads above water. Fun was an understatement. As an artistic type of child, I absolutely loved the feeling of creating a design in the water. Swimming was not always my favorite pastime in the summer unlike some of the other kids. I tended to be a bit slower than most. I dreaded those relay races! But water ballet allowed me to be part of a team where everyone was on equal footing and where we could have a creative outlet. "Whistle While You Work" was the song that we used one year and I remember loving the part where we got to whistle. We did a performance for all the families at night and the ambiance was like theatre. Those black sequins bathing suits with gold musical notes all over them made me feel special as they picked up the lights around the pool. I bet all the mothers made those. I felt so honored to be wearing something so shiny and fancy..... Michele Addino Colchin*

*One year a life guard who happened to have the physical limitation of deafness (that never seemed to limit her) was also the water ballet instructor and taught the kids sign language for the water ballet show. She was one of the best lifeguards the pool had ever had.....from a conversation with Linda Condry*

### Unorganized Play

There is much discussion, both written and non-written, on the benefits of unorganized play for children. Millcreek Pool Club offered a safe, monitored, fun venue for unorganized play during a time where organized summer activities and day camps were not as prevalent as today.

*My dad didn't have the time to go to the pool nearly as much as my mom, sister, and me, but I've got lots of fond memories of going back to the pool after dinner with my dad. It was always a little cooler, a lot quieter, and a great time for a swim before bed.*

*Lots of "Minnows, Minnows, Come On Over," "Marco Polo," keep-away games with other kids. I remember the slide, and when there was one low board, and one high board. I still miss the slide.*

*There was one particularly memorable game of keep-away that spontaneously developed one day, Dads v. Daughters. I'm guessing I was 9 to 11 or so. We girls discovered that if one of us faked crying or being hurt, the dads would immediately go into Dad Mode and check it out. The girls would immediately take possession of the ball and start doing victory dances in the water. The dads only fell for it two or three times.*

*Usually by the end of the summer I could swim the entire length of the pool underwater on one breath. I was inordinately proud of this at the time.*

*As I got older it became interesting to watch the older kids (who we all looked up to). We'd watch them flirt with each other, and take note of what music they listened to out of their boom boxes, because that music became instantly "cool" to the littler kids. I remember one summer it felt like the only song anyone played was "Ghostbusters."*

*Every day after getting home from the pool, Lisa and I would demolish whatever fruit we could find in the fridge (usually watermelon or cantaloupe). Swimming always gave us huge appetites!*

*Drying off on a pool towel on the deck, maybe reading a book, and listening to the buzzing sounds of the bugs in the trees (to this day I still have no idea what kind of bugs those were), and regular splashes as kids jumped into the pool is an incredibly relaxing memory. It is the epitome of being a kid on summer vacation.*

.....Sara Karz Reid

*Whether we walked through the wood trails, or have our Moms drive us, we would meet at the pool daily. I remember bringing a towel, goggles, shampoo, clothes and sun lotion. There were not any tables or chairs. Parents would bring their own chairs. The kids would have a huge row of towels next to each other. We would pass the entire day swimming, playing games, diving for rings, jumping off the board, going down the slide, and making up our own games. Literally, we would meet in the morning, bring lunch and have our parents picking us up from the pool at 5:00 for dinner. Thinking back, it was the perfect way to pass a day and for that matter, childhood. How lucky to have such wonderful MillCreek memories!.....Kim Gilliland Finkbeiner*

In addition to unstructured play resurfacing as headline news, "free range parenting" has recently made headlines as a form of parenting style for which kids are able to roam within a set geography of their home un-tethered from a parent's watchful eye. Many youth of Millcreek Pool Club experienced the 70s and 80s forms of free range parenting (at that time called "go play outside") with the pool as a popular destination.

*There was no need to send the kids to summer camp as they had the hiking, biking, activities, and swimming all right at home.....from a conversation with Linda Condry*

In 1972 the pool rules required a child under the age of 7 or child of any age who cannot swim shall be

accompanied by an adult or responsible person over the age of 14. In 2015 this same rule requires a child under the age of 10 to be accompanied by an adult. In addition, a child age 10 or older may be left without adult supervision only if they have completed level IV swim instruction, swim length of shallow end with ease, tread water in the deep end for two minutes, and jump off the diving board and swim to the ladder with ease and without swimming aids.

### Social Events

From the pool opening to the present, social events have been a consistent part of the Millcreek Pool Club experience. A volunteer Social Chairperson as a member of the Pool Board organized and set the social calendar.

A Good Neighbor Party was held at the beginning of the first full season on June 17 1972 poolside for all neighbors residing in the Woodhull/Burnett Road area. At that time, there were no subdivisions or roads developed off Burnett or Woodhull, aside from Hemlock Trail and "The Woods of Millcreek" (Stockbridge, Severn Ridge, Gerrads Cross, Fox Hollow, and Bucks Run). Given the expected traffic flow during the future summer months and the construction during the previous summer, this was likely an opportunity to have good relations with those neighbors who had not joined.

A Champagne Opening Party was held poolside beginning in June 1973 and for every year thereafter for records reviewed through 1987 (no record to confirm 1982 or 1984 but assumed it took place) to mark the season kick-off. In both 1975 and 1985 the opening champagne party included 1950s sock hop theme (in 1975 a tent and live DJ were rented). In 1987, a square dance (with caller included) was held as the opening party, however champagne was replaced by beer and wine. 1986 appears to have been the last year champagne was served by the club during the season opening party.

Beginning in 1974 until 1982, there was an annual dinner dance event held at Hedges Restaurant on Lake Road (usually in the spring before pool opening) and records indicate it was always well attended. The annual spring dinner was moved to Hunan Restaurant for two years in 1983-1984, followed by Colleen's Italian Restaurant on Lake Ave. in 1985, then Shadow Lake in 1986. In 1987 there was a "Spring Opener" scheduled for May with a square dance caller hired for the event. There was mention of 17 couples attending a "Spring Opener" in May 1988, but no additional details mentioned.

Clambakes (1972 and 1975), Hawaiian Luau (1973), Teen parties, ever-popular Children's party, June Mother's Day Luncheon (initiated in 1985 and rained out first two years), Annual Camp-Out (first held in 1985), Memorial Day and 4th of July picnics, Volleyball games, and Swim Team pizza parties were all favorite events which were scheduled annually during many years in the 1970s and 1980s.

*The pool was built intentionally with two shallow ends to allow for congregating and socializing.....Bob Dell*

*The parties were great. I remember jumping in after the pennies in the penny toss, and the smell from the grills and waiting impatiently to eat..... Sara Karz Reid*

*Over the years the Board would try lots of different activities. Someone organized a Square Dance. I believe the guards instigated the "family campout" at the pool, and even were in charge of cooking us all pancakes! The Sunday afternoon Volleyball league was a huge success, for both kids and adults!*

*Shortly after moving to Webster I was asked to help with the annual children's party. At the pool we moved from in Maryland, we would always have a "goldfish hunt". Sooo, we decided to have a "catch and name your fish" contest in the baby pool for all the little kids. It was chaotic, hysterical, and messy...and the kids LOVED IT!!!! Of course it never occurred to us that unless each family had a proper aquarium or goldfish bowl, the whole experience would lead to their 1st experience with death of a pet!! (They survived, just as they survived drinking hose water, walking alone through the woods to the pool, standing at the bus stop without every Mom on the block watching them, making tree forts in the woods, swinging on vines*

over the creek, yadayadayada).....Peg Proctor

### The Tree (A large Norway spruce next to the Bathhouse)

This story would not be complete without mention of the tree. Beginning with the re-design of the original pool plan to accommodate the tree up to the more recent landscaping underneath the tree's canopy undertaken to accomplish aesthetics, as well as eliminate the hazard of children falling on the roots, the tree has had its supporters. However, the tree has been mentioned numerous times in the board minutes and member communications during the first 25 years and the tone has not always been portrayed with fondness. Below are various mentions of "the tree" in the pool records.

- February 1 1972 Letter to Members in describing possible risk scenarios whereby insurance may cover the loss rather than the club on a self-insured capacity. "The 'tree' fell down, we lost one wall and some roof, etc. Estimated loss - \$8,000."
- In April 1988, the pool board minutes reflected Operations Chair recommendation "Board should consider building deck underneath the 'sacred tree' next year", which was later estimated to cost \$3,000-\$4,000."
- In 1991 the tree sustained significant damage during "the ice storm". The pool board elected to professionally remove the damaged branches (at a cost of \$1,230) and keep the tree.

### Lasting Impact

*My predominant memories of the club were as a place of fun both for the kids and adults with picnics and pot luck dinners and occasional parties. It was a place to go on hot summer days before we had air conditioning. It was a safe place where my kids learned to swim at a far younger age than I did. It was a place to get to know the neighbors better and a place where friendships were formed that have lasted lifetimes. Now that my daughters are grown, moved away, and have families of their own, they both would like to join a club like Millcreek. Lisa has found such a club in Northern Virginia. Sara in Massachusetts is still looking.....Bob Karz*

*It felt like we lived at the pool all summer. The place was always filled with friends and neighbors (who may as well have been family, considering how close everyone was). It was great to have such a wonderful community pool. It meant that the neighborhood had relatively few tiny, pools used by individual families on their own. Instead, we all had access to a huge pool together, and always someone to hang out with. Looking back at it now, as a parent myself, I bet my own parents were thrilled by how much time we spent there, and how easy it was for us to get out and be really active with our friends.*

*I have yet to find anything like the Mill Creek Pool Club where we live now (western MA), and I feel badly for my kids that they're missing out on a similar experience. At least I do get to take them to Mill Creek once or twice a summer when we visit my parents! My parents don't belong to the club any more, but some of the neighbors do, and always offer to bring us up as guests.....Sara Karz Reid*

*The pool club was a great place for all the kids in the neighborhood to congregate, play, compete and have a great exercise workout by swimming all under supervision of both the lifeguards and parents. They had the opportunity of visiting various swim clubs throughout Rochester by swim meets and synchronized swimming competitions. They learned good sportsmanship and to be comfortable in the water, which is a life skill. Finally, the pool has added financial gain to the house values in our tract by having this asset available for most family units.....Nancy Gilliland*

*When I reminisce back to my childhood, Millcreek Pool Club was a big part of my memory. Our neighborhood, Millcreek, was full of children that enjoyed playing together on a regular basis. Our fathers came together to design a pool club for their children to pass time. It was*

*brilliant!.....Kim Gilliland Finkbeiner*

*Millcreek Pool Club was a great way for the kids to grow up and for new friendships to be formed. Shortly after moving to the neighborhood I had the opportunity to host a baby shower for a neighbor who had recently turned 40 and felt comfortable enough to invite about 30 new neighbors.....from a conversation with Linda Condry*

*Millcreek was more than a pool with a slide (and a deep end with TWO diving boards) it was a community. It was a place:*

- *where my sister and I would walk thru the woods to be with our friends and have a little independence*
- *where I learned that I really liked to compete in the pool*
- *to have great cookouts with other families*
- *to learn about backflow preventers and lifeguarding*
- *to work on my tan*
- *to learn about the dangers of skin cancer from a member dermatologist*
- *a place for birthday parties*
- *to teach other kids how to swim, and not to run on the deck,*
- *if you run on the deck, where the band aids are kept*
- *to make lifelong friends with so many*

*.....Deborah Myers*

#### The Woods of Millcreek

The housing development off Holt Road which enabled the creation of Millcreek Pool Club is a tight-knit community of neighbors who have kept in close contact through the years throughout transition of home ownership, moves, marriages, deaths, divorce, illness, and lots and lots of children and grandchildren. There are a dozen or more original residents who have chosen to remain in "the woods" and children of those families who have also established homes in the same neighborhood or nearby, including myself. The pool club has been and continues to be an integral part of life in the neighborhood many families and generations of families call home.

*It was really exciting when Lisa and I were old enough to go to the pool on our own, either riding our bikes, or cutting through the woods behind Stockbridge to walk there..... Sara Karz Reid*

*Mill Creek was a major part of my childhood. Having a neighborhood pool a short bike ride or walk away was great for always having a go-to active and social activity..... John Nash*

*The pool Club was a huge part of life in Mill Creek. Every day in the summer as soon as the pool opened, all the kids would ride their bikes to the yard next to McLaughlin's and walk over a bridge over the creek, leave their bikes, and take the "short-cut" to the pool so no one had to ride on that narrow road. (Woodhull). Well, as luck would have it, a huge storm washed the bridge out. All the Dads chipped in and bought new lumber, rebuilt the bridge, getting the approval of the people who owned the land. 2 months later they moved, and the new owners would not let the kids leave their bikes there, so we went to "Plan B", a new route behind Proctor's house. Scott gathered a bunch of big stones, and John Williams brought palettes from work and the 2 of them re-established a safe way for kids to get to the pool! I still remember smiling every time a kid would ride his bike through our backyard!!..... Peg Proctor*

The pool club hosted many social events, which often inspired neighborhood socializing.

*After leaving a neighborhood much like Mill Creek, with lots of fun loving young mothers, I really wanted to get to know people. I decided to start a "Bridge Club". Soooo, I invited lots of Moms over, had tables set up, snacks and wine. Of course everyone sat around my dining room table, chatting, and while I was refilling someone's glass, they hid my cards, folded up*



*the extra tables, and informed me that "Bridge" would be held every 2 weeks, at rotating houses, from September through April, and the only requirement was no cards, and lots of wine! Occasionally we would have WAY too much fun, and wind up carrying on the "TP-ing" peoples' yards tradition started years before, going sledding down McLaughlin's hill in the dark, all very mature activities, some far too mature to mention.*

*When Janis Williams found out she was pregnant, at age 40, the neighborhood rallied and had a "Sock Hop" at Bob and Carol Reynolds house, crowning Janis "Queen of the Hop".*

*A Group of us attempted to have a "Gourmet Group" for awhile...a wonderful start, Nancy Lewis put on quite a spread, as did Mary Jo Peters, etc...then we had a total disaster when one couple tried to do a jambalaya, and although the food was excellent, the smoke alarms were going off every 5 minutes! We decided to be a "Twinkies and Ice Cream group" instead.*

*Speaking of disasters, one year we had the idea that for New Years' Eve we would have a progressive dinner party. I'm still trying to figure out who talked Scott and I into having 10 fondue pots going in my dining room, resulting in the peeling of all our wallpaper, and ruining our carpet!!*

*Every Fall, all the families with "ski-ers" would gather in the Lewis's garage for the annual "ski-swap" Then the 1st outing of the year would be a trip to Brantling on a Sunday afternoon, where the whole family could ski for \$30. Picnic dinners and smiles were all you needed to attend!.....Peg Proctor*

#### The Saw Mill

As a historical note, I would like to mention the existence of a working mill on the south side of Woodhull Road. The mill was in operation from 1816 to 1914 and was owned and operated by Byron Woodhull, William Woodhull, and Mr. Burnett. The mill was located on the boundary of the Burnett and Woodhull properties. In 1990, the pool club had a logo developed (by a talented young member) with the image of both a saw mill and water wheel as a reminder of times gone by. The logo ended up on t-shirts which were sold to raise money for the club.

#### Conclusion

As I think about Millcreek Pool Club from my own perspective, these thoughts come to mind.....my second home, care-free youth, sunburns, and respite from life. Over 45 years, we have estimated up to 1,500 member families and many thousands of guest families who have cooled off in the pool waters and lounged on the deck in addition to the hundreds of volunteers who have contributed to maintaining the facilities. My gratitude belongs with those individuals who have contributed their ideas, time, and talents to a place dear to so many hearts.

The Exhibit B - Original Swim Team Roster 1974

MILL CREEK SWIM TEAM.

GIRLS

Andrea Allen 8  
Kathy FitzPatrick 8  
Laren Kohler 8  
Lorie Pike 8  
Michelle Polermo 8  
Laura Randazzese 8  
Carla Watkins 7  
Chris Charlton 9  
Karen Rupprecht 9  
Lisa Polermo 10  
Pam Jimenez 10  
Linda Lejnieks 10  
Jennifer Landsman 11  
Chris. Allen 11  
Missy Brown 11  
Nancy Headd 11  
Julie Flynn 12  
Lisa Gallea 11  
Renee Watkins 12  
Leslie Allen 13  
Dawn Crandall 13  
Ruth Smith 13  
Susie Rupprecht 6  
Erica Schwarz 6  
Eldy Dale 11  
Kristen Lejnieks 3  
Kara Wylie 4

BOYS

Robert Jimenez 8  
Lee Lejnieks 9  
Hew Nash 8  
Erix Baller 10  
John Polchowski 9  
Vincent Randazzese 9  
Cliff Schwarz 10  
Mark Fischer 10  
Jeff Flynn 11  
Neal Cappellino 11  
Brian DiBona 12  
Greg Rupprecht 12  
Don Crandal 12  
Mike Lomonica 15  
Brian Charlton 13  
John Dell 14  
Paul Helling 6  
David Lejnieks 6  
Paul Randazzese 6  
Bobby Fischer 12  
Chad Dale 9  
Ned Dale 3  
John Nash 5  
Bill Forrester 12

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS  
(Listed Alphabetically by Last Name)

Trav Brown - Charter Board member 1971. Trav currently resides in Davidson, NC.

Michele Addino Colchin - Parents were members from 1974. Michele currently resides with her husband Mark in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Linda Condry - Members from 1982. Board positions from 1984 to 1992 (Treasurer 1984 to 1987, President 1987 to 1992). Linda currently resides with her husband Pat in Webster, NY in the "Woods of Millcreek". Pat and Linda continue to be members of Millcreek Pool Club.

Bob Dell - Charter Board member 1971. Bob currently resides with his wife Pat in Webster, NY.

Kim Gilliland Finkbeiner - Parents were members from 1978. "Renewed" member from 2003 to 2012. Board position from 2007 to 2009. Kim currently resides with her husband Greg and four children in Pittsford, NY.

Keith and Nancy Gilliland - Members from 1978. Keith served in Board position 1978-1979 as Maintenance Chair. In 1979 and 1980, Keith led the project to move the water line from Stockbridge Rd to Woodhall Road. Keith and Nancy currently reside in Webster, NY in the "Woods of Millcreek".

Robert Karz - Member from 1974 to 1995. Board positions from 1975 to 1977. (Maintenance 1975-1976, President 1976-1977). Membership Committee from 1980-1995. Bob currently resides with his wife Myrna in Webster, NY in the "Woods of Millcreek".

Amie Lewis Kulak - Parents were members from 1971. Millcreek lifeguard employment from 1988 to 1992. "Renewed" Member from 2004. Board position from 2005 to 2009 (President 2007-2009). Amie currently resides with her husband Christian and three children in Webster, NY. Amie and her family continue to be members of Millcreek Pool Club and enjoy the unstructured play and exercise the pool has to offer.

Duff Lewis - Charter Treasurer 1971. Held two special committee positions in 1972 (Insurance Committee) and 1982 (Refinance and Bond Reissue). Member from 1971 to 2006. Duff currently resides in The Villages, Florida.

Deborah Myers - Parents were members from 1982. Millcreek lifeguard employment from 1989 to 1993. Deb currently resides with her two children in Brookline, MA.

Bob Nash - Member from 1971. Ann Nash served in Board positions 1979 to 1981 (Legal 1979-1980, Secretary 1980-1981). Bob currently resides with his wife Ann in Webster, NY in the "Woods of Millcreek". Bob and Ann continue to be members of Millcreek Pool Club and are often spotted in the lap lanes.

John Nash - Parents were members from 1971. John currently resides with his wife and three children in Prior Lake, Minnesota.

Peg Proctor - Members from 1985. Peg currently resides with her husband Scott in Livonia, NY.

Sara Karz Reid - Parents were members from 1974. Sara currently resides with her husband Forest and two children in Gill, Massachusetts.