

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Environment Committee:

We have lived as year-round residents on Bashan Lake for 30 years. It's been sad to see what has happened to the coves around our beautiful lake. They look more like wild fields of weeds. It's even sadder to see idiot motorcyclists and dirt-bikers race on what should be environmentally protected (as well as an area likely rich in historical artifacts) lake bottom. There is no protection for the lake, its residents or the water fowl that help make this a special place.

While we understand the necessity of repairing the coffer dam, we also feel the state that ordered the repair and which owns this lake needs to be *actively and immediately* involved in restoring Bashan Lake to its rightful pristine condition.

We pay a high tax for the privilege of living on (all right, along the shoreline of) such a glorious body of water. The state must now bear its fair share to help restore and maintain its beauty. Not sharing the financial burden might mean fewer residents along the lake and might mean fewer taxes paid into a state reeling under an already well-publicized deficit. Failing to adequately restore the lake will have a deleterious effect on property values...and will not help bring in much needed funds to a depleted treasury.

Please consider the natural and ethical benefits of keeping Bashan Lake the jewel that it is. It is a wonderful place to live and one of the best things about living in CT.

Sincerely,
Janie Pittendreigh