

## **Greensboro Tax Committee Report**

**August 5, 2012**

John Schweizer

The Tax Committee was formed in 2009 to investigate and communicate to the community on how Vermont Equal Opportunity Education Funding Acts 60(1997) and Act 68(2003) have impacted on Greensboro and Caspian Lake.

Much of our initial investigations were presented in the Greensboro Association annual reports of 2010 and 2011. Our investigations revealed that since the implementation of this new funding model, Greensboro property taxes have increased 300%. Greensboro student population has shrunk by 25%. 80% of the education tax burden is paid by non-voting seasonal residents. And less than 50% of our education taxes come back to the community.

During the past year, with the help of Larry Hewes and Carl Sangree, the committee focused on producing a white paper that would provide analysis of derivative impacts on the community. Our intension was to identify the areas of impact, investigate and extrapolate trends. Based upon these findings we planned to create scenarios on how the community might deal with these issues. The areas we investigated were:

1. Education: Student population, cost per student, quality of education
2. Property: Values, turnover , seasonal rentals and subdivisions
3. Environmental: Lake water quality, boat usage, noise, invasive species, fish and wildlife
4. Business: Tourism, Rentals, Willey's, Highland Lodge and the Country Club
5. Community Nature: Change in demographics, arts and recreation

Unfortunately, after many hours of research and several false starts, the overwhelming scope of our task became apparent. It was concluded that the tax committee had neither resources nor expertise to do justice to the project. Therefore, regrettably, the white paper project was abandoned and activities of the tax committee were tabled indefinitely.