



Perkins Pond, Sunapee NH

## New Year Greetings from Robert and Anne

Our 2007 was dominated by Perkins Pond and real estate machinations. We finished designing for a new house and learned that it would cost an absurd amount of money to build. Renovations also seemed too challenging, so we listed it to sell, and got an offer in April. Meanwhile, the place that we had always most admired on the pond became available. It's a real house where everything works, with plenty of land, and a huge garage. Through many days of watching from our boat, we had determined that it gets full sun all day. We made a fast decision and bought it in June. We were very relieved when the notorious Countrywide finally came through with financing that let our buyer take the other place off our hands in August. Anne's sister Ellen and her partner Richard moved into the family cottage at the other end of the pond full-time for the summer, keeping us company. They had major renovations done on their home near Sunapee, and returned to their now beautiful, expanded house just before Thanksgiving.



We love the new place. It's very private at the quiet end of the lake. We had fun furnishing it with extras from our basement, family castoffs, and yard-sale treasures, and building a wall of shelves in the garage. Anne's cousin Peggy and Robert's sister Adria came for weekend visits. Anne undertook to dig up with her toes all the water weeds growing in front. Robert has a workbench in the big garage, and Anne likes working on the big yard. We launched into getting a drilled well and a major rebuild of the stone sea wall. Having year-round heat and running water at the pond is a novelty and a treat. Thanksgiving weekend we enjoyed the sunroom and fireplace, and at Christmas we walked across the pond on the ice and Anne went skating.

Home is still Stow. Robert continues to enjoy working on Linux at Stratus Technologies close to home. Anne's supposedly part-time job as Coordinator of Stow's local access TV keeps expanding as we strive to show every town event on TV and plan to convert from using videotape to a digital file server system.

We made a couple of trips to Florida. This fall Robert's parents near Fort Lauderdale celebrated their 95th and 85th birthdays and 60th wedding anniversary. When visiting, we enjoy staying at one of the few remaining old funky low-rise motels on Pompano Beach. In Anne's family, another happy event of this year was the wedding of nephew Jeff and Elana which brought together family and friends.

Best wishes for a happy 2008.

## Robert and Anne

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