

# Lake Moraine

## Information from the Lake Moraine Association

It is the mission of the LMA to improve the water quality of the lake through weed control, waste/pollutant management education, and other methods while at the same time maintaining the recreational use of the lake, encouraging water safety, and protecting the environment.

### Short History

The Chenango Canal was opened in 1836 to connect the Erie Canal to the Susquehanna River, and Utica to Binghamton. Madison Brook was dammed up to create Madison Reservoir as a 260-acre water source for the canal.

After it became popular as a recreational site, Madison Reservoir was renamed Lake Moraine in 1905, in recognition of the glacial moraines on its shores. The lake is now under the jurisdiction of the Canal Corporation of the NYS Power Authority.



<u>Statistic</u>	<u>Upper Lake</u>	<u>Lower Lake</u>
Acreage:	79	182
Max depth	12 ft	47 ft
Mean depth	3.7 ft	16 ft
Narrowest point:	Mitchell Point to the East shore ~325 ft	
Widest point:	1,650 feet wide	
The lake is approx. 1,220 ft above sea level		



### About the Lake Moraine Association

The Lake Moraine Association (LMA), consists of a 16-member Board of Directors whose long-range goals are to improve water quality, maintain the recreational use of the lake, and implement safety standards. The Board also manages funds generated by membership dues and district tax assessments.

### Membership

According to the LMA bylaws, "Membership is available to any individual, family, group, institution or association owning lake front property. Members will be assessed annual dues as established by the Association. Membership entitles the property owner to speak and vote at meetings of the LMA provided current dues have been paid. The property owners of any parcel on Lake Moraine have only one vote. Associate membership is available to any individual, family, group, institution or association not owning property fronting Lake Moraine, but who have an interest in the affairs and conditions of the lake. Associate Members will be assessed annual dues as established by the Association. Associate members have no voting powers in meetings of the Lake Moraine Association, but may speak at meetings of the Association provided current dues have been paid. Only one person may represent any property owner (or owners) of one or more parcels." (continued on the next page)

### About the Association (cont. from p. 1)

Membership is free to new property owners during their first year. For others, the current annual dues amount is \$20.00. Checks payable to the Lake Moraine Association should be sent to Kate Smith, 215 Salt Springs Road, Fayetteville, NY 13066

### Meetings:

All LMA members are encouraged to attend the three membership meetings held each year. These meetings take place around Memorial Day, early July and Labor Day.

Normally held in the Cleveland Building in the White Eagle Grove, meetings generally last about an hour and a half, and cover such topics as weed and algae control, water quality, water level, boating safety, erosion control, septic systems, and social activities. Coffee and pastry are available at 9:30 a.m. and the meetings begin at 10:00 am.

### Socials:

The LMA Social Committee organizes several get togethers for members, including the 4th of July Boat Parade, the LMA picnic and informal gatherings throughout the summer. If you have ideas for additional events, please contact Kate Smith at 315-558-4561.

**Lake Moraine Aquatic Plant Growth Control District:** In 1989, the Town of Madison created a special assessment district to ensure the maintenance of Lake Moraine's water quality. An Aquatic District tax, currently \$131.07 is levied by the Town on all properties fronting Lake Moraine, or otherwise having immediate access to the lake, including parcels on the lake islands. In 1990, by resolution of the Town board, the LMA board was also designated the Lake Moraine Aquatic Plant Growth Control District board, thus gaining authority over the spending of tax revenues.

### Fishing and Wildlife

Lake Moraine is a natural habitat for a number of fish, including large and small-mouth bass, bluegill, pickerel, sunfish, catfish and perch. The NYSDEC most recently stocked 1,200 tiger muskies in 2022.

In addition to the more common species—you might also spot fox, mink, muskrat, opossum, beaver, turkey, loons or cormorants. While once rare, our majestic, resident bald eagle family can be spotted often perched among the shoreline trees or flying overhead.

### Septic System Rebates:

The Aquatic Tax District offers rebates on septic pump outs for all property owners. The District will reimburse all property owners for 50 % of their expenses up to a maximum of \$350. Additionally, a refund of 30%, up to \$1,200, will be issued for a burn toilet system. Under special circumstances, the LMA board holds the right to adjust these caps. Septic cleanouts must be done by a certified contractor. To receive a rebate, mail a copy of your paid bill to Craig Lawson, 4381 East Lake Road, Hamilton, NY 13346

LMA Website:  
[www.lakemoraineassociation.org](http://www.lakemoraineassociation.org)

### Communication:

The LMA Newsletter is available online and is sent to all lake front property owners 2 times a year, via e-mail. Please ensure that your email address is current with Martha Young at [mail@lakemoraineny.org](mailto:mail@lakemoraineny.org) All lost and found items are sent out via email as well.



### Spillway Control:

The Canal Corporation of the NYS Power Authority monitors and maintains the water level in Lake Moraine. The LMA requests that the water level be lowered in late fall in order to allow property owners to repair, maintain or build their waterfronts; this also protects against flooding during the spring melt runoff.

**Lake levels are expected to be significantly lowered** so that the Canal Division can make repairs to the valves and the dam, to better protect the town and surrounding areas from catastrophic flooding due to failure of these controls. **Date of work is TBD.**

## BOATING

Lake Moraine attracts a wide assortment of watercraft, including a significant number of non-resident vessels entering the lake from the Causeway launch.

Given the lake's modest size and its figure-8 configuration, it is important for everyone's enjoyment and safety that all relevant state and local boating rules and regulations be rigorously observed. The operation of power boats in a **counter-clockwise** path around the lake, at least **100 feet** from shore, are key elements in this regard, as is granting **right-of-way** to all non-motorized craft, including sailboats, canoes, kayaks, paddleboats and rowboats. Please encourage others to clean, drain and dry their boats before putting them into the lake to keep invasive species out of Lake Moraine



### **Wakeboard boats are strictly prohibited on Lake Moraine.**

All powerboat operators should familiarize themselves with **New York State "The New York State Boater's Guide"** can be downloaded from the Internet at [http://nysparks.state.ny.us/boating/docs/boaters\\_guide.pdf](http://nysparks.state.ny.us/boating/docs/boaters_guide.pdf) The Guide is a complete reference source with all of the rules and regulations you need to know in order to boat safely and legally. All persons operating a motorized vessel must have a **Boating Safety Certificate by January 1, 2025.**

### Shoreline Improvements:

Any changes to the shoreline require advance approval of the NYS DEC and the US Army Corps. Of Engineers. The process:

1. **File an application for a permit.** Visit [www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6338.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6338.html). Or contact NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation, Division of Permits at (315) 426-7438.
2. **Complete a joint application and an environmental request assessment.** Send completed applications to the DEC; they will forward it to the Army Corp of Engineers in Buffalo. Approval by both agencies is necessary.
3. **Expect the approval process to take upwards of three months** after you file your application.