

LAKE MORAINÉ ASSOCIATION

Fall 2023 NEWSLETTER

LMA Officers:

Mike Cragolin, President
Nancy Ries, Vice President
Janet Clement, Recording Secretary
Craig Lawson, Aquatic Tax District Treasurer
Kate Smith, LMA Treasurer

Directors: Tom Ashmore, Jr., Shawn Daley, Eileen Fehlner, Ryan Hurley, Warren Meola, Ann Palmiter, Greg Reuter, Matt Simmons, Terry Spooner, Alan Tuttle & Martha Young.

President's Message:

Hello to everyone in the Lake Moraine Community,

Well, we've all enjoyed another great spring and summer on Lake Moraine. So far, this fall has been enjoyable as well. By the time you read this newsletter, almost all of the leaves will have fallen, been bagged and the bags collected and transported to Common Thread for disposal. Thanks to everyone for bagging your leaves and to all the volunteers who helped with the collection and disposal.

It won't be long before we snowbirds finish winterizing and closing our cottages for the year and then head south or elsewhere warm for the winter. Others will stay at their year-round homes on the lake and keep an eye on things while we're gone. Like Tim Peach, our water level coordinator, who works with his Canal Corporation contact to ensure the annual drawdown is accomplished before the lake freezes. Additionally, he monitors the lake level to ensure it's maintained between three and four feet down over the winter months to allow work to be performed on shoreline structures, as well as, prevent shoreline structure damage. By the way, the annual drawdown began on October 23rd this year.

The LMA Board of Directors had its last 2023 meeting on October 19th and is scheduled to begin our 2024 monthly meetings on April 18th. I'd like to acknowledge and thank all the board members for their attendance and interactions at monthly meetings and for the many other contributions they've made serving on committees and/or supporting important initiatives during the year.

As most of you know, we have just over 200 properties on Lake Moraine, but less than 100 properties have joined the Lake Association in recent years. This means they aren't attending the three General LMA Association Membership Meetings, the Socials or the picnic. I would

encourage those that haven't joined in the past to do so in 2024. Those that continue to join from year-to-year should also speak to and encourage their neighbors to join. The General Membership fee is only \$20 per property and the Associate Membership fee is \$10 per person. By joining the Association, you will become more informed, have an opportunity to voice your opinions and of course get to meet many other property owners. Last but not least, let's not forget the camaraderie and the great food available at the socials and picnic.

Once again, we have a lot of informative and interesting information to share in this newsletter. I would be remiss if I didn't recognize Michele Howgate and Martha Young for gathering information, editing and publishing the newsletter. I'd also like to thank the board members and others who contributed to the content.

I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable winter, wherever you spend it. I'll be looking forward to seeing everyone again next year for what will hopefully be another great spring, summer and fall on Lake Moraine.

Mike

2024 LMA Membership Dues

Our dues continue to remain the same amount:

- Regular Membership - \$20
- Associate - \$10

Regular Membership is available to any individual, family, group, institution, or association owning lakefront property. Regular membership entitles the property owner to speak and vote at meetings of the Association, provided current dues have been paid.

Associate Membership is available to any individual, family, group, institution, or association not owning property fronting Lake Moraine, but with an interest in the affairs and condition of Lake Moraine. Associate members have no voting power in meetings of the Lake Moraine Association, but may speak at meetings of the Association, provided current dues have been paid.

Dues can be paid at the General Meetings or mailed to:

Kate Smith, LMA Treasurer
215 Salt Springs Road
Fayetteville, NY 13066.

Checks should be made payable to the Lake Moraine Association. If you are mailing your dues, send a self-addressed envelope if you would like your membership sticker mailed to you or you can pick up your sticker at the next General Meeting.

Please join your Association to show your support and to ensure the lake is healthy and safe. Learn how we try to control weeds and protect the lake. We have many committees that need additional participants.

Board of Directors Meetings - Our Board meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m., April through October. At this time, we "assume" they will continue to be held in the Delaware Room at Taylor Grove. All Board meetings are open to the public.

Updates from the Board Members:

No Wake Zone Buoys – The buoys continue to be on backorder. Hopefully, we will have them by Spring. They will be placed near the islands to hopefully reduce property damage and erosion. **From the Desk of Martha Young**

High Water Plan Update - Our High Water Plan has been updated, filed with the NY Secretary of State, and it is law:

1. That during periods of high water on Lake Moraine the maximum speed on any power water craft shall be 5 mph. High water shall be determined when water has risen 6 inches above the water mark reading taken from the two markers that are located at the culvert on the causeway on the north end of Lake Moraine and at the dam on the south end of the lake, which water marks are set at 1211.0 feet above sea level.
2. Upon reaching the high water level, the Town of Madison Offices will be notified by a Board Member of the Lake Moraine Association. Signs will be temporarily posted at key locations along with posting of the speed restriction on the lake website, www.lakemoraineny.org. The Communication Coordinator of the Lake Moraine Association shall also announce the restricted speed limits to persons on the lake and surrounding the lake by means of electronic communication with the words to the effect: "By order of the Town of Madison, no watercraft shall exceed 5 mph during the period of high water."
3. Violation of this local law shall be deemed an offense punishable by a fine of not more than \$100.00 for the first violation, and a fine of not more than \$250.00 for each subsequent violation. **From the Desk of Martha Young**

CSLAP - Many thanks to the Lake Moraine CSLAP volunteers for helping complete the 2023 Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program collection season, Lake Moraine's 39th year of participation. The data from this year's collections will be added to the statewide database, which can help us detect water quality changes.

Harmful Algae Blooms on Lake Moraine in the summer of 2023 were minimal, with a few patches occurring in October and November. Some nearby lakes have reported record amounts of HABs recently. Lake Moraine has fortunately been spared. **From the Desk of Eileen Fehlner**

Madison County Soil and Water – The LMA Board Members met with Steve Lorraine, District Manager of the Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District, on October 18 to discuss the challenges of maintaining a healthy lake in the years ahead.

Board members posed many questions about the condition of the lake such as invasive species and boat monitoring, and nutrient loading. Phosphorous that enters the lake from agriculture, septic systems, lawn fertilizers, and streams remains a concern. Nutrients feed algae blooms, including toxic cyanobacteria and encourage aquatic weed growth. Bradley Brook had extensive toxic blue green algae blooms impacting residents use of the lake this year.

We were urged to test run off from streams after rain events to locate major sources of phosphorous. Preventing excessive plant growth and toxic algae blooms is critical for the future of the lake, as is preventing new invasive species from entering the lake.

After the meeting, Board members reached out by email to Mr. Lorraine and Dr. Harmon for information about points discussed and will follow up in 2024. **From the Desk of Nancy Ries**

Stewardship Program - Do you want to meet new people? Help keep invasives out of our lake? Fish from shore? Work on your suntan? The opportunity is yours if you want to be a Lake Steward.

In the past we have hired young people to sit at the launch to educate the public about “hitchhikers” and examine boats for Eurasian Milfoil and Zebra mussels. We’d like to open this job opportunity to older, experienced adults. You will sit at the launch and talk to boaters about invasive species. You will need a smart phone to input data about the watercraft and any invasives which goes to DEC to compile.

FYI by July 25, 2023, Stewards recorded 332 people in 155 watercraft on Lake Moraine. And that was found on only 21 days of surveys.

It’s not difficult AND you will be paid minimum wage to have this experience. So if you are willing to spend a few hours a week at the launch, preferably early morning, late afternoon weekends, please text or e-mail Jane Clement. 315-225-9032 or js3clement@icloud.com
From the Desk of Jane Clement

Update on the Lake Moraine Dam Rehabilitation Project - NYPA and Canal Corporation officials joined with Madison County officials on Wednesday, November 8th to give a preliminary update on the Madison Dam Rehabilitation Project. As a New York State entity, we always depend on strong relationships with local governments and communities – and especially when we’re performing a project in the area. We feel confident that this first meeting was productive and the beginning of a collaborative effort as the project progresses. We have also offered to share a presentation on the project’s current status with the Lake Association Board in December.

To that end, the project is still in design. Details on a final drawdown level, a construction start date and anticipated project duration are still being worked out. Right now, the drawdown is anticipated to begin no earlier than the fall of 2026 with an initial drawdown of around 10 feet.

However, the date and drawdown level are subject to change and final details will be announced this spring.

As promised, earlier this year, we will be offering an in-person public information session this spring, once everyone has returned to Lake Moraine, to provide answers to the above questions, and to talk about any potential community impacts. We will also provide time for a Q+A session. That meeting will be posted on a dedicated project website for those who are unable to make it in person (it will not be live-streamed – it will be a recording). And, as always, you can send questions to your Lake Association President, Mike Cragolin, or Jackie Schillinger via email at Jacqueline.schillinger@canals.ny.gov. Stay tuned for a time, date and location.

As part of the design process, NYPA/Canal Corporation will also be distributing surveys after the start of the new year to better understand how the lake is used. These answers will help us to mitigate community impacts to the greatest extent possible. The survey will be available online – we will share the web address with you once it becomes available. Printed copies will be available at Madison Town Hall and Hamilton Village Hall. If there is another location where you think we should leave them to ensure as many people can participate as possible, please drop us a note.

We look forward to working together on a successful dam rehabilitation project that will ensure the safety of the entire community and those who maintain the dam, as well as at least another century of enjoyment for those who live on – and love – beautiful Lake Moraine!

Jackie Schillinger,
Manager, Government and Community Relations, NYS Canal Corp.

DEC Permitting Process - DEC permit applications are taking over 12 months to be approved or denied. In order to perform any work, replacement, repair, or changes of any type to your "seawall", permanent dock, lake floor, or anything to do with the lake, you are required to obtain an Army Corps of Engineers Permit **and** a DEC Permit, and possibly others. Many of our neighbors are thinking about changes they want to make during the water drawdown for the dam reconstruction project.

We have some tips and tricks for the permitting process - we recommend that you start soon!!! It is our understanding, the permits are good for a minimum of 2 years, and are renewable, once issued.

First Step: Review the DEC requirements. These 2 websites are a good place to start, depending on what your project is:

- **Proper Shoreline Stabilization** (<https://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/50534.html>)
- **Waterways, Coastlines & Wetlands** (<https://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/96314.html>)

Second Step: Review the Army Corps of Engineers requirements:

- **Army Corps of Engineers** (<https://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/New-York-Permit-Information/>)

Third Step: Call Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District, whose office is located here in Hamilton, 6503 Wes Rd, Hamilton NY 315-824-9849, extension 5. They will come to your property and can give you advice regarding the permitting process, create the required drawings, make the required measurements, and help complete the application paperwork. They also have design ideas and suggestions.

The process is VERY complicated, time consuming, and frustrating; nothing will move quickly. Start early and use the (free) services of Madison County Soil and Water. This is what they do, and they are VERY knowledgeable.

Depending on the job, you may need a Town of Madison building permit also.

There are other permits that could be required.

Septic Update

- Rebates for electric/gas/compost toilets will be 30% of the cost of the unit, but not the cost of installation. The maximum refund is \$1,200.
- Septic clean-out rebates are 50% up to \$350 per clean out available once a year for island and mainland property owners. Exceptionally high bills can be brought to the Board of Directors for additional consideration.

For reimbursement, please send a copy of your bill to:
Craig Lawson, 19 Summit St, Norwich NY 13815
Please make sure your mailing address is included.

- Contacts: Craig Lawson 607-226-4214 or Martha Young 315-796-7023

Boater Safety Courses-Who needs a New York Boating Safety Certificate – If you were born after Jan. 1, 1978, you are required to obtain a Boating Safety Certificate to operate a motorized boat or PWC in 2024. As of January 1, 2025, **all** operators of motorized boats or PWCs are required to be certified in New York State. The regulation, education class information, and more information can be found at: <https://parks.ny.gov/recreation/boating/education.aspx>

Safety Update - We thank our neighbors and visitors for their help in keeping our lake safe and accident free for another season.

We would like to take this opportunity to ask the owners of bed and breakfast rentals to remind their renters of the safety precautions for our lake. Since we are a small lake, all safety precautions are necessary. Enacted laws can be found at: <https://www.townofmadisonny.org/links-resources>. There is also a list on the Board at the Launch Site.

Please visit our website: www.lakemoraineny.org

Please visit our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/LakeMoraine

To send an email: mail@lakemoraineny.org