

LAKE MORAINÉ ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER

LMA BOARD of DIRECTORS:

Ann Palmiter – President

Kevin Walsh- Vice President

Jane Clement – Recording Secretary

Bob Carroll - Treasurer (LMA)

Craig Lawson – Treasurer Aquatic Tax District

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President's Message:

Yipee, it's lake season again!! (At least the thawed lake season! Some are here playing in the winter months.) I know we are hoping for a more socially close season this year. It looks promising as more of us are vaccinated and the CDC and state lift restrictions.

We had a hard time influencing the lake level this winter. Despite our best efforts, response from the Canal Corp. was sluggish at best. Part of this was due to the condition of the valve house. They finally found a way to enter it, by cutting a hole in the roof and lowering someone into the building. That finally got the lake level down in early winter, but it came back up quickly when they got to the target 3 feet and closed the valves again. I hope the ice damage was minimal. I haven't cruised around the lake yet, so I can't determine the extent of damage.

This is an election year for the board and officers. Stay tuned for information on nominations and the election. I am stepping down after this summer as I will have completed two (2 year) terms. Time for a new leader!

We have some extra money in our Lake Moraine Association account due to COVID cancelled traditional social events last year. The LMA fund comes entirely from dues and is traditionally used for social events. If you have ideas, let us know. We are scheduling concerts again this year as this was a popular COVID safe activity last year. The White Eagle Lodge can have up to 50% capacity, which is 75 people. We usually get about 50 to our socials, so we are hoping to renew this popular event this summer. Stay tuned.

I have been asked to encourage all to take advantage of the White Eagle Lodge offerings. I've been watching the specials each week from FL and they sound delicious! They are open Friday and Saturday for dinner. I'm told that Friday nights are busy, but

Saturdays not so much. Get out and have dinner at the White Eagle! Especially on Saturdays! You can boat in to the dock, they have pick up meals, or enjoy the deck or indoor dining! You can't beat the view or the great menu. Dessert offerings are getting very interesting too!

I hope you all saw the notice on email about the leaf pickup last fall. It was extremely successful! Fortunately, we had a great team of volunteers that handled almost 3 times the number of leaf bags from the year before. Good job everyone – getting the leaves raked and sent to the Common Thread farm keeps the leaves out of the lake. They just provide more nutrients for weeds in the lake. Thank you everyone!

Kudos to Greg Reuter for communicating with the DEC to clean up the excessive litter along the shoreline near the boat launch! Tim Peach and Eileen Fehlner also spent some time on the outskirts of that area hauling in 2 bags of bait containers, beverage containers, and assorted fishing apparatus packaging. Thank you for helping keep that part of the lake clean!

FYI, I received an email earlier this year from Aurora Roe and Caitlin Pfohl. Aurora has been renting on East Lake Road next door to her grandparents Stanley and Sylvia Roe. She and her best friend Caitlin Pfohl own a small marketing company in town called Scrap Paper Social. They offer Hamilton and Lake Moraine themed merchandise, including pennants and flags.

You can shop these products at www.scrappapersocial.com/shop. They offer local pickup/delivery and can ship these products as well.

There are quite a few new folks on the lake as several properties have turned over. We are aware of many of these and have added names to the mailing list. If you know of anyone that is new and possibly not on our list, please send their information to back to the Lake Moraine Association email address.

Here's to a happy and safe summer everyone! See you soon as we cruise on our NEW PONTOON BOAT!!!

Ann

General Meeting May 29:

We can probably have a meeting in the Cleveland Building if we don't have tables. The current rule is 50% capacity, but may be more by May 29th. We usually have about 50 people. But maybe more this year with so many new residents. We must be socially distanced and wearing masks. Gathering at 9:30, meeting at 10:00.

Stewardship Program:

Ava Walsh is heading up the program. Looking for adults interested in working an 8-hour shift on weekends and holidays. Minimum wage. Training will be virtual May 26th and 27th. Please let Jane Clement (315-225-9032) know if you are interested or have questions.

Dam project:

The only thing I know for sure is that the dam project will not begin this fall. That means next fall at the earliest. Mayor Loveless recently spoke with the Canal Corp. contact who said she would provide some news on a timeline "soon."

Good news – the valve house is under repair! I dropped in to check on the progress on Thursday. I spoke to the engineer who gave me a brief tour. There are two masons on the job right now. The walls are being repaired and repointed. They have some twisted metal that is flexible that they are working into the gaps between the bricks before new mortar is applied to provide extra strength. The rods holding the walls up have now been removed. They are working on getting a new door in place. Most of the gray (lead) paint that was falling off has been removed. The bricks are in remarkably good condition.

The building is very interesting. It's an octagonal structure with fancy brickwork. There are double walls with about a 9-inch gap between them. The engineer told me that LOTS of snakes live between the walls!!! I'm hoping the disturbed snakes aren't migrating in large numbers my way. I'm ok with a couple to help with the mouse problem, but they do give me quite a start when I run across them.

Anyway, work should be completed easily within another month. Then it will be safe for the valves to be adjusted, hopefully more regularly than this past winter.

Spillway Road:

The bridge was completed on time and an opening ceremony was held in mid-November. Looks like it should last 100 years or so. It's sooo nice to have the road open again, especially for those on East Lake Rd!

Ladies of the Lake:

The Ladies of the Lake will hold their first meeting of the summer on Thursday, June 3, from 1:00 to 3:00 PM at Sue Myers' cottage (4755 East Lake Road). If it's nice weather, please bring a chair. In case of inclement weather, the meeting will be held inside. But we recommend vaccinated folks only for an indoor meeting.

LMA Treasurer:

Our treasurer is Bob Carroll. Please submit your \$20 membership fee to:

Bob Carroll
3162 Lake Moraine Rd
Hamilton NY 13346

Associate members, \$10 for those that do not own lake property.

Septic System Upgrades:

There is now a \$300.00 rebate from the Lake Moraine Association to any riparian landowner toward the cost of a newly installed burn/compost toilet. Reduce the need for expensive holding tank pump outs!! There is a pre-existing condition and anyone interested should contact Kevin Walsh at [315-263-8850](tel:315-263-8850). The rebates for septic cleanouts are also still in effect. Let's take advantage of them.

Septic Cleanout:

Remember to get your septic tanks cleaned out. LMA covers ½ of the bill up to \$100 for mainland work, up to \$150 for island work. Send a copy of your receipt to Bob Carroll (address above.)

REMINDERS:

Never swim in or let pets drink or swim in algae blooms. We have been much more fortunate than other NYS lakes that have experienced large HARMFUL ALGAE BLOOMS (HABs). -HABs are not always easy to identify, so if in doubt, stay away from algae. -One thing that helps keep toxic algae in check is to reduce the leaching of phosphorus into the lake water. If you must fertilize your lawn, please be sure that the fertilizer contains no phosphorus!

We expect to treat the lake in June with copper sulfate as usual. A side benefit of the algae treatment is that it gives us super clear water.

Muskrat Love (Submitted by Diane Fenton)

Getting to know our cute, but somewhat creepy neighbors.

Adult muskrats weigh 1.3–4.4 lbs, with a body length of 8–10 in. They are covered with short, thick fur of medium to dark brown color. Their long tails, covered with scales rather than hair, are their main means of propulsion. Muskrats spend most of their time in the water, and can swim under water for 12 to 17 minutes. They live in families, consisting of a male and female pair and their young. To protect themselves from the

cold and from predators, they build nests that are often burrowed into the bank with an underwater entrance. Muskrats feed mostly on cattail and other aquatic vegetation, but also eat small animals.

Muskrat Trivia (In case it's ever a Jeopardy category.)

Native Americans have long considered the muskrat to be a very important animal. Some predict winter snowfall levels by observing the size and timing of muskrat lodge construction.

Muskrats have sometimes been a food resource for North Americans. In the southeastern portion of Michigan, a longstanding dispensation allows Catholics to consume muskrat as their Friday penance, on Ash Wednesday, and on Lenten Fridays (when the eating of flesh, except for fish, is prohibited); this tradition dates back to at least the early 19th century.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police winter hats are made of muskrat fur.

In several Native American creation myths, the muskrat dives to the bottom of the primordial sea to bring up the mud from which the earth is created, after other animals have failed in the task.

We have seen muskrats pop up through holes in the ice, hang out a little and pop back down. Almost like watching whack-a-mole with an invisible hammer!

Congratulations!

Congratulations to our neighbor Nancy Ries, professor of anthropology and peace and conflict studies, is this year's recipient of the Jerome Balmuth Award for Teaching. The Balmuth Award, named for the late Jerry Balmuth, Harry Emerson Fosdick Professor of philosophy and religion emeritus, was endowed by Mark Siegel '73 in 2010 to honor University faculty members whose teaching is "distinctively successful and transformative." Very nice recognition!

Check out our Facebook page!

<https://www.facebook.com/LakeMoraine>