

Lake Moraine Association

HAMILTON, NEW YORK

Visit our website or Facebook:

FALL NEWSLETTER , OCTOBER 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

President's Message

Hello to everyone in the Lake Moraine Community,

I can't believe October is almost over and unfortunately this is the time of the year that our seasonal property owners prepare to close their cottages before the freezing temperatures set in. Weather wise it has been a great spring, summer and fall (so far) on the lake. Unfortunately, the ten foot drawdown, for the Dam Restoration Project, had a significant impact on many of our recreational activities.

The number of motorized watercraft launched on the lake this year was minimal. Many of the property owners did not even take their boats out of winter storage and the number of drop ins was unusually low. If the temporary boat launch is available earlier next year, perhaps we'll see more property owners decide to launch their boats.

The Dam Restoration Project's various phases have been proceeding on schedule according to updates provided periodically by the Project Manager, Joe Dodd. Joe's latest update is included in this newsletter. We're also pleased that the lake has been maintained at the anticipated 10-foot drawdown level with only minor fluctuations over the summer months.

The number of paid Lake Moraine Association memberships this year was similar to what they have been in recent years. The General Membership Meetings at the Appley Center, picnic at Mitchell Point and social at Luna were well attended. Thanks to Ann Palmiter and Carol Cragnolin for taking the lead on the social and picnic respectively. Also, thanks to Jane Clement and Carol Cragnolin for hosting Ladies of the Lake gatherings at their cottages in July and August.

continued

The LMA Board of Directors had its last 2026 monthly meeting on Thursday, October 15th. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the officers and directors for their attendance at the monthly meetings and their commitment to the various responsibilities, committees, projects and activities that they participated in during the past year. I'd also like to recognize and thank outgoing director, Ryan Hurley, for his contributions to the association during his tenure and formally welcome our new directors, Roger Tanner and Miller Oppy, who were recently appointed to fill vacancies on the board.

As always, special thanks to Michele Howgate and Martha Young for their ongoing efforts and contributions to the content in our newsletters, as well as, others who have shared information and updates.

Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable winter, wherever you plan on spending it.

Mike

LMA General Meetings, 2027

Meetings are held on a weekend near Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day at 10:00, locations to be announced – anyone is welcome to attend.

Board of Director's Meetings, 2027

Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month – April through October at 7:00 pm. Locations to be announced – anyone is welcome to attend.

Special Thanks to:

John & Michelle Koen for allowing our Association to have our monthly Board Meetings at the Appley Center; allowing us to have our three General Membership Meetings at the Appley Center, providing us complimentary coffee at our last meeting and helping us have our yearly Social at Luna.

In Memorium: William Stuart Allison

Long-time Sunny Point resident Stu Allison passed away surrounded by his family in Texas on October 4. Many will remember Stu water-skiing and sailing on the waters of Lake Moraine, which he loved.
https://www.hillierfuneralhome.com/obituaries/William-Stuart-Stu-Allison?obId=49815532

2027 LMA Membership Dues

Regular Membership - $30 for 2 people
Associate - $15 per person

Regular Membership is available to any riparian property owner (owning lakefront property). Regular membership entitles the property owner (or owners) of any parcel or parcels on Lake Moraine to one vote, provided current dues have been paid. Regular Membership also includes free admission for up to 2 persons at social events, including the LMA picnic. Additional family members and guests will be charged a nominal fee at social events.

Associate Membership is available to any one individual not owning lakefront property with an interest in the affairs and condition of Lake Moraine. An Associate Membership will be assessed annual dues as established by the Association. Associate members have no voting powers in meetings of the Lake Moraine Association. Associate members and guests will be charged a nominal fee at social events.

If you would like to pay your dues before a General Meeting, you can mail your check to

Michele Howgate
LMA Treasurer
522 Frank Rd
Hamilton NY 13346

Checks should be made payable to the Lake Moraine Association. If you are mailing a check or sending cash, 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. Please let us know if there is a particular aspect of the lake that interests you.

As our meetings are public meetings, anyone can speak at any of the meetings.

Bagged Leaves Pick Up

Please help keep the falling leaves out of the lake; they provide nutrients for the weeds. We will collect your DRY bagged leaves and donate them to Common Thread for compost.

As the leaves begin to fall, we want to remind our neighbors that burning leaves in NYS is illegal. For more information, please click this link: NYS DEC Burning Leaves.

Pickup for bagged LEAVES is scheduled for Saturday, November 7th, at the following locations:

- North of Sunny Point Road entrance, at the East Lake Road intersection, away from the electric meter box and electric pole
- Frank Road opposite the Colgate Boathouse entrance

Please Note...

- Dry leaves must be bagged. No sticks, decomposed plants, plant pots, or other debris, please.
- Please remember it is your neighbors that are picking up the bags, transporting them, cutting them open, and emptying them. If the bag is heavy for you, it's heavy for us to move around too!!!
- Help collecting and emptying the bags on this day is welcomed; if you can lend a hand, please respond to this email or call/text 315-796-7023 with your name, email address, and phone number. We will have crews starting at each of the locations. Board members and general members are all welcome!!!!! It takes about 2 hours, depending on how many bags and volunteers we have.
- Pickup is scheduled for this day only; please don't bring bags after the pickup, or next spring!

Thank you to those that have started piles.

Thank you to those who have volunteered to help. Your assistance is greatly appreciated!!!!! Please bring gloves and a utility knife to cut the bags open. Younger help is appreciated. Pickup trucks with or without a trailer are appreciated. Board members and general members are all welcome!!!

Recent Updates from the Canal Corporation

Joe Dodd, Project Manager, reported that the dam project remains on schedule and is progressing generally as planned.

The Reservoir level is right around the target level. The official gauge on the dam was recalibrated in late September, and the drawdown chart on the website should remain up-to-date. The real-time chart can be viewed at: https://lively-tree-01fa5af0f.1.azurestaticapps.net/

Joe informed us that at this time, there is no plan to change the drawdown during winter. The contractor aims to maintain the level at 1201.2 feet, which is the 10-feet drawdown level. During fall and spring it is typical to experience higher runoff events which could result in greater reservoir level fluctuations. Managing the level through winter may pose challenging, but the Canal Corp's goal is to keep the level near the target.

The Timber Mats out to the islands will stay in place for the duration. We are waiting to hear from Joe whether the floating dock will stay or be removed for winter.

Joe describes the state of play: "The current focus of the project contractor is on the Low-Level Outlet (LLO) Works. The slab for the Upper Valve House (UVH) is complete. Formwork and reinforcing for the first wall section has been going up and the wall will be poured soon. The second wall section will follow and will bring the structure out of the sheeting. The top slab, or roof of the structure, will follow. Preparation to install the pipelines from the UVH out into the reservoir is underway. Placing these pipelines within the reservoir will be a highly orchestrated endeavor involving the barge and crane." Joe notes that "It should be quite the sight." He added that "downstream of the UVH, the pipelines will also soon be laid down the hill and within the trench that is currently excavated. Construction of the Lower Valve House is also currently underway. The subgrade for the structure has been prepared, and the slab will be constructed soon. The discharge chute for this structure is also being formed now (this would be the work closer to the road)."

Joe also reported about the old Brick Valve House, saying that lead paint remediation is complete and dismantling of the old valve house is well underway. As we've reported before, this structure will be carefully dismantled with the help of a historical preservation firm and will be rebuilt in a new location closer to the road. Work is ongoing on the Spillway Cofferdam and on the decommissioning and abandonment of the Left Embankment Tunnel. Joe noted that wellpoints to dewater the outlet of the tunnel are in place. Abandonment of that tunnel will involve excavating and exposing the outlet of the tunnel, constructing a bulkhead, and pumping or tremieing in grout to fill any voids throughout its length.

continued

In the Earthwork and Staging Area, Joe reports that a lot of material has already been excavated from the site for the Lower-Level Outlet pipelines and valve house structures. This excavated material is being brought over to the staging area to be processed and screened. These are the large stockpiles visible from Spillway Road. Suitable material (that meets specification) will be reused to backfill and buttress the dam embankments. The contractor has staged a barge (hopper scow) and excavator on the lake for the placement of stone fill on the inboard slope (underwater) of the left embankment.

Lakebed/shoreline debris removal project *from the desk of Nancy Ries*

Thank you to the 30 or so Lake Moraine residents who responded to our survey about debris in the exposed lakebed sediment. We received many pointers on objects (both expected and unusual) stuck in the sediment in all parts of the lake. Discussions are underway among Lake Moraine Association board members as to next steps in organizing the cleanup. We don't yet have a timeframe but will communicate to everyone when we do. We may reach out to individuals who responded to the survey for more information or to organize access. It is useful and important to do some debris clean-up since we hope the next opportunity will be a hundred or more years from now.

Here is an intriguing and mysterious object that Harold Reeves sent in:



Lifelong Learning Program regarding the Madison Reservoir Dam Rehabilitation *from the desk of Nancy Ries*

On October 1st, Joe Dodd, Project Manager, gave an interesting presentation on the Lake Moraine dam project, incorporating historical information and LOTS of photographs from different angles of the work on the dam. The Palace Theater was full and there were many Lake Moraine residents in attendance. There will be a related program, "The History of the Erie and Chenango Canals" by the director of the Erie Canal Museum, at 3:00 on Wednesday November 11th in the Palace Theater. $10 for non-members.

LMA Visual Archive

The Lake Moraine Association (LMA) is building a visual archive to document the drawdown and dam rehabilitation process, and we need your help!

Dale Rejtmar is curating a permanent record for the LMA archives that will eventually be available for all members to view via a shared link.

If you have photos of the drawdown, please share them to help us capture this piece of our lake's history.

How to Submit Your Photos:

- **Text to:** Dale at 646-247-8405
- **Email to:** dale.rejtmar@gmail.com
- **Subject Line:** 2026 LM Drawdown | [YOUR LAST NAME]
- **In the Body:** Please include when the images were taken (month is fine) and where they were taken (e.g., "*From the Colgate Boathouse*" or "*Looking north from Sunny Point*").

You don't need to label individual image files, but any extra context you provide is always helpful.

Thank you for helping us preserve the story of Lake Moraine! *From the desk of Nancy Ries*

Historic Documents

We have compiled a tremendous number of historical files regarding minutes, documents, photos, events and more related to Lake Moraine. They can be found at: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1TQ4Hjb8dD5W1r_0Q50xPLHf-R9jEl2kl and https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Vjr4U5L9g2F33O4AUj6G2__sAXvkFOSo

CSLAP Update *from the desk of Eileen Fehler*

Thank you to the Lake Moraine CSLAP volunteers for accomplishing four water collections, Secchi disk readings, field observations, and lab preparations for 2026: Ann Palmiter, Tim Peach, Terry Spooner, Alan Tuttle, and Janet Walsh. Thanks to Martha and David Young, and Tim Peach for physically getting the boat in the water before the launch was updated, and to Tim for figuring out a way to install a dock. You all made it possible to complete another year of CSLAP!

The CSLAP volunteers noticed a decline in the water clarity readings of Lake Moraine water in 2026. Readings for 2023 through 2025 spanned from 2.4 meters (7 feet 10 inches), to 6.1 meters (20 feet). In 2026 the range was 1.5 meters (less than 5 feet), to 3.3 meters (10 feet 10 inches). The reason for the decline in clarity can be attributed to the concentration of biomass, sediment, and algae being higher than normal. According to Joe Dodd, the Project Manager for the Dam Rehabilitation Project, the 10 foot lake drawdown removed 500 million gallons of water from Lake Moraine, leaving that much less water to dilute the sediment and algae within the lake.
As the leaves fall from the trees this year, the trees bordering the normal shoreline will be shedding onto a dry lakebed instead of directly into the lake water. If the majority of those leaves stay on the lakebed, fewer nutrients will be entering the water this year. The Cazenovia Lake Association has an article on their Facebook page about the effect of leaves in lake water. They refer to the leaves as being fertilizer bombs, releasing phosphorus into the water that will be available to feed algae blooms next spring and summer. The Lake Moraine water may have a reprieve from the leaves this time around-only to be inundated come lake refill time in 2028 when both the tree leaves and all the plants growing on the lakebed now and next year, will contribute large doses of phosphorus to the water. It may take some time for the lake water chemistry to adjust to a large influx of biomass. https://www.facebook.com/cazenovialake

This is why we ask for property owners not to rake leaves or any yard waste into the water.

On the subject of lakebed plants, it has been interesting to observe the large variety of plants that sprouted from seed and grew, some to maturity, on the lakebed this year. The gardens people have planted are also fun to observe. The mix of the naturally growing plants is diverse and some are native plants while others are invasive plants.

I'd like to comment on two of the invasive plants, Purple Loosestrife and Japanese Knotweed. See pictures below.

Purple Loosestrife is said to be one of North America's most destructive invasive species because it is aggressive and crowds out native species and ruins wetland habitats. One mature plant can produce over two million seeds per year that stay viable for many years

continued

and spread easily. The herbaceous perennial plant grows three to seven feet tall, has square woody stems and tall spikes of beautiful magenta flowers. The best way to control Purple Loosestrife is to pull the entire plant, including all roots before the plant produces seeds. The use of a spading fork to loosen the roots is recommended. Place the plants in a black plastic bag and put in the sun for two weeks until it rots before sending it to a dump. Do not compost this plant. We, as property owners can help control Purple Loosestrife.

Another serious invasive plant to be aware of is Japanese Knotweed. It was introduced to the UK and the US by the landscaping industry in the late 1800s from Eastern Asia. By the 1930s it was officially recognized as a problematic aggressive weed. It is an herbaceous perennial that can reach three to ten feet in height. The DEC has treated two stands of Japanese Knotweed on the dam site. There is a large stand of it on Spillway Road which the landowner is currently treating. There are large stands on Lake Moraine Road, on upper East Lake Road, and on the east side of lower East Lake Road. At least two young stands exist on the west side of lower East Lake Road, one that was established during the culvert project this past summer.

Spreading is intensified by mowing as a tiny piece of root can develop into a new plant. Addressing an invasion when the plants are young is the best approach for eradication. The aggressive rhizome root system can directly damage roads, sidewalks and foundations. Roots can grow through three inch thick concrete or asphalt. Eradication can take several years to achieve.

A comprehensive guide to eradication," A Landowner's Guide to Invasive Knotweed", was published by the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program and is available for free. https://adkinvasives.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/A-Landowners-Guide-to-Knotweed-Control-V2.pdf

Purple Loosestrife



Japanese Knotweed



2028 Calendars - Lee Ingraham has been busy taking pictures for the 2028 Calendar. If you have an event you would like to have included in the calendar, give Lee a call, he would be happy to take pictures. 607-244-2608 or email him at lcingraham@gmail.com.

Town of Madison Leash Law – A reminder from the Town of Madison Dog Control Officer - all dogs must be leashed at all times except on owner's property. All dogs must be licensed as per New York State.

Septic Systems Information -
Most authorities suggest having your septic system pumped out at least every three years. But that could vary quite a bit, depending on how many people your system needs to support, water usage habits and other factors.

For a comprehensive, well written "user manual" for septic systems, click here and you'll be taken to Pipeline, the National Environmental Services Center newsletter dedicated to wastewater issues in small communities.

Pump-Out Rebates
Our Aquatic Tax District provides partial reimbursement for septic clean-out rebates of 50% up to $350 per clean out, available once per year for riparian property owners-- island and mainland property owners, even if they are not members of the Lake Moraine Association. To reduce costs, the Lake Moraine Association strongly encourages island property owners to group with other island property owners to have their systems pumped.

Electric/Gas/Compost Toilet Rebates
Our Aquatic Tax District provides partial reimbursement for modern, alternative septic control systems (chemical/incineration/composting toilets and septic tanks) of 30% of the cost of a new or updated septic system for an owner-occupied property up to $1500. This increased rebate includes labor costs and is valid for any projects completed between 01/01/2025 and 12/31/2027. After 2027, the amounts are subject to change by the Lake Moraine Association Board of Directors.

For reimbursement, please send a copy of your bill to:

Craig Lawson
19 Summit Street
Norwich, NY 13815

If you have questions regarding these rebates or these processes: please contact Craig Lawson 607-226-4214 or Nancy Ries 315-750-0007.

DEC Permit Process

Hopefully, those interested in making changes to their property have already contacted the DEC for permits, and Madison County Soil and Water for assistance.

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 that 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.usace.army.mil)

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 Conservation District. This is what they do, and they are VERY knowledgeable.

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

Other permits may be required.

Boater Safety Courses – **Who needs a New York Boating Safety Certificate -** All operators of motorized boats or PWCs in New York are now required to be certified.

The regulation, education class information, and more information can be found at https://parks.ny.gov/recreation/boating/education.aspx. We also have a list of classes on our website: https://www.lakemoraineny.org/nys-safe-boater-law.

Please visit our website: www.lakemoraineny.org
Please visit our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/LakeMoraine
To send an email: mail@lakemoraineny.org

LMA Board of Directors:
Mike Cragnolin, President
Nancy Ries, Vice President
Jane Clement, Recording Secretary
Craig Lawson, Aquatic Tax District Treasurer
Michele Howgate, LMA Treasurer

Directors: Tom Ashmore, Jr., Eileen Fehlner, Warren Meola,
Miller Oppy, Ann Palmiter, Greg Reuter, Matt Simmons,
Terry Spooner, Roger Tanner, Alan Tuttle, Martha Young