

LAKE MORAINÉ ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2020 NEWSLETTER

President's Message:

Hi Everyone, welcome to lake season 2020. A season that is unlike any we have ever known. I'm sorry this letter is coming out late. I hid out in FL as long as possible to avoid the snow. I returned a week ago and it seems that winter is finally over. Thank goodness. We are quarantining for 14 days after traveling.

I wish for Covid to go away and to not affect any of our friends and neighbors. But that is unrealistic. We have been affected already, either in direct ways or indirect. The best we can do is to stay as safe and healthy as possible. So follow the health guidelines, keep distances, etc. etc. At least we can have some fun in and on the lake and still follow these protocols. We all have wonderful views to appreciate! Relatively clean air and water, locally grown and produced food. Local businesses that are trying to survive and offering innovative, helpful, wonderful products. A community that can pull together and support each other as we all struggle with different issues arising from an enemy that is silent, sneaky and difficult to fight.

I have spent the last week surveying the lake via my almost daily pre dinner lake cruise, and trying to get answers to questions I know you have. I've spoken to a few of you, from a social distance or by phone of course. I'll cover the topics I know you are interested in, and probably some you aren't. I'm sorry there aren't more definitive answers to your questions, but as I learn anything, I'll fill you in. If you learn anything, please fill me in! As you can imagine, this environment has affected all of our partners in lake management.

Dam, spillway, bridge

I have spoken to a couple of people at the Canal Corp. They were totally shut down for 6 weeks and are just getting going again. The only project that continued was the work at DeRuyter. They have not finished the work there. From those who have visited the site, work is ongoing and the lake is still down. The Canal Corp priority right now is getting the canals and locks open for the season. They are weeks behind on their usual activities. I've asked them to get the buoys up across the spillway, and for an update on the dam project. I suspect the project will be moved back. Funding for anything in the state is going to be an issue after the costs are tallied for Covid. As of last fall, the project was getting lots of political attention and traction.

Our contact for valve adjustments (lake level management) has retired. Tim kept a close tab on the water level all winter, but keeping the lake level at acceptable or desirable levels is always tricky. It rose almost 3.5 feet in two weeks. That's how hard it is to keep it adjusted. The valves are set to summer levels now, which should be fine for the summer. Heavy rains will quickly go over the spillways to keep us from levels too high. As always, there is nothing but nature to keep the lake full for the summer. Nature usually provides enough rain in this area, but you never know what we will be faced with next.

I have not been able to get much information on the Spillway Road bridge. The Canal Corp guy I spoke with said he had seen email traffic on it. Engineers are trying to gauge how much water flow it needs to be designed to withstand. That's as much as I know.

Weed/Algae Management

Our contractor for lake treatments is Solitude. They have filed for permits for algae treatments in June and late summer, as we have done for several years. Again we are using copper sulfate, at minimal state approved levels. This treatment has proven effective, and we have avoided significant outbreaks of HABs (harmful algae blooms) so far. We have not needed the late summer treatment for a long time.

I have inquired as to the weed harvester that we were trying to get again in June. Stay tuned, local government has been operating under stress and I haven't heard back on this.

For years now we have contracted with the Biological Field Station in Oneonta for weed surveys. This won't be possible this year. The program relied on interns and can't be done with social distancing in small boats. We will lose a year in our annual trending.

The board decided last year to forego further discussion on chemical treatment of Eurasian milfoil. Although we are seeing it spreading in the main lake, the board felt that spending a lot of money on treatment would be wasted given impending dam work and lake drain. This will allow for a buildup in our aquatic tax account which will allow for expensive weed treatment at some point. We did have the upper basin treated two years ago, and last year it was in good shape.

CSLAP

Latest word is that CSLAP is up and running. Good news on our efforts to continue to participate in this state run effort to monitor water quality. Thank you as always, CSLAP volunteers!

Bottom Core Sampling Project

If you remember, we had interest from a Colgate student and professor to pick up where our intern left off a few years ago on core sampling. Primarily we have been interested in the residual amounts of copper sulfate built up from years of algae treatments. I went out with them last fall as they took samples of muck from the bottom. From my perspective it was very interesting to see the difference in muck from runny to pudding to cake consistencies. Some samples had tiny red worms in it. We did pull up an old anchor. It looked like the one we lost off our boat in the 70's, but it wasn't where we lost it. It now resides in our rock garden by the dock.

Unfortunately, there was to be a second sampling after the new year. But the interruption to Colgate from Covid prevented the second sampling. I do have a fairly scientific report that's about 35 pages from the student. As best as I can glean from her report, her sampling included testing for several substances. She identified more concentration of road salt in sediment along East Lake Road (understandably) and more concentration of fertilizer in the deep water channel with a good current that runs through the center of the lake. She could not complete the copper sulfate study due to loss of access to Colgate's machine after the shutdown. All of the samples are ready to be run on the machine as soon as they can get back into the building. They hope to run them and finish that part of the project and will share that with us as soon as we are able.

Anyone that would like to read this report and make a stab at a better summary of her findings, let me know. I do not have much scientific background so a lot of it was tough for me to follow.

Social Committee

From Earl:

About 20 years ago, there was a survey requested by the LMA to produce a document called "The State of the Lake". Under the section labeled "Needs Improvement" the lack of social activities were cited.

It was at that time I became Social Chairperson. From social gatherings, lake picnics, the boat parade, the Lake Moraine calendar, free raffles, end of the year dinners, coffee mugs, concerts, Ladies of the Lake, along with other events and with help of so many people, I think we have improved.

It is now time for me to step aside at the end of this season. Unfortunately, social functions will be very limited this year; the first social gathering at the White Eagle Lodge and the annual picnic have been cancelled. The boat parade, the second gathering, and the concert on the lake are all in doubt. We are looking at options for the 2021 calendar. Several of the events have been given to very capable people. However, if anyone is interested in taking the position, you may contact me for further details.

It's been fun.

Earl Ewing
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We are looking for someone to lead the Boat Parade, if it happens.

LMA Treasurer

Please show your support and pay your membership dues.
Regular Membership \$20
Associate Membership \$10

Mail to:

Bob Carroll, LMA Treasurer
3162 Lake Moraine Road
Hamilton, NY 13346

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.

Septic System Upgrades

There is now \$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. The rebates for septic cleanouts are also still in effect. Let's take advantage of them.

Reminders

Boating safety courses that are **required** for young drivers and **ALL** PWC (Personal Water Craft, or wave runner/jetski) operators, regardless of age.

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). Governor Cuomo has earmarked significant funding to address this problem. Scientists are hard at work but have not found the causes of the blooms. Our copper sulfate treatments are likely helping our situation, as is our healthy plant population (yes, they are good for some things!).

On another note, for those that are ready to take your online Boating Class, here is a link to the only FREE online class: <http://www.boatus.org/newyork/>

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