

**LAKE MORAINES ASSOCIATION
SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER**

LMA Board of Directors:

Mike Cragolin – President
Jane Clement – Recording Secretary
Kate Smith – Treasurer – LMA
Craig Lawson – Treasurer Aquatic Tax District

Directors - Tom Ashmore, Jr, Shawn Daley, Ed Dinski, Eileen Fehlner, Dave McDonald, Ann Palmiter, Greg Reuter, Nancy Ries, Terry Spooner, Alan Tuttle & Martha Young

President’s Message:

Hello to all of our Lake Moraine Association Members and Neighbors,

Hoping everyone had a safe and enjoyable winter, wherever you spent it. As usual, Carol and I spent 3 months in Central Florida and enjoyed some really great weather while we were there this year. The last couple of weeks we were there the daytime highs were in the upper 80’s and low 90’s. Happy to report, besides the weather, we also enjoyed a lot of great fishing days on the inter coastal near New Smyrna and also managed to play a round or two of golf every week. It was pretty warm in New York when we first got back, but unfortunately more recently, got back to normal “this time of year” temperatures and April Showers.

The LMA board had its first meeting of 2023 on April 20th and we will be sharing some highlights from that meeting, as well as, other important reminders in this newsletter.

One topic that I wanted to address personally, that continues to be of interest to all, is the status of the Lake Moraine Dam Reconstruction Project. The drawdown is still scheduled to begin in the fall of 2024. You may have noticed recurring activity on and around the earthen dam, spillway and in the valve house, that has continued off and on through the end of 2022 and into 2023. This has been described by the Canal Corp. as primarily related to scoping, testing, analysis and planning for the project itself, in addition to normal routine inspections and maintenance. As part of this scoping, a piezometer was installed in the earthen dam in mid-February to facilitate measurement of ground water levels.

One development that was initially observed by Canal Corp. during a routine safety inspection late last summer was a leak in the valve house. That leak has been closely monitored by their personnel since it was initially discovered and has been categorized as a situation that requires ongoing monitoring but does not pose a safety hazard. This development has also added to the frequency of Canal Corp. personnel in proximity to the spillway.

I would once again like to recognize and thank Tim Peach for his oversight of the lake level during the seasonal drawdown this past winter. Tim was very diligent in monitoring the lake level and immediately contacted Canal Corp. whenever the level was too high or too low. The rapport with his contact at Canal Corp paid off again this year, as the lake surface level remained low enough while frozen, to avoid any damage to shoreline structures. Additionally, the lake level was down sufficiently when the initial hard freeze occurred to kill most of the weeds along the exposed shorelines. Great job Tim!

Of course, I would be remiss if I didn't thank all those individuals that contributed to the content of this edition of our newsletter, especially Michele Howgate and Martha Young for their editorial, publishing and distribution efforts.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our first 2023 full membership meeting on Saturday, May 27th.

Mike

Updates from the Board Members:

The General Membership Meeting dates for 2023:

- Saturday, May 27th – Appley Center – 9:30 a.m. coffee – 10:00 a.m. meeting
- Saturday, July 1st
- Saturday, September 2nd

Dr. Bill Harmon, from the SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station will be attending our Saturday, May 27th LMA General Membership Meeting. Dr. Harmon has been invited to provide an overview of the Plant Survey process his Intern Program conducts during the three Lake Moraine samplings they do each year and discuss the findings and recommendations summarized in their 2022 Annual Report.

2023 LMA Membership Dues

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.

If you would like to pay your dues before the General Meetings you can mail your check 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 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.

4th of July Festivities

- Monday, July 3rd – Lighting of the Lake
- Tuesday, July 4th – Boat Parade

Board Meetings – 3rd Thursday of the month starting at 7 pm in the Cleveland Building (April through October)

Septic Update

- Rebates for electric/gas/compost toilets will be 30% of the cost of the unit, but not the cost of installation. The refund would not be more than \$1,200.
- Septic clean-out rebates are 50% up to \$350 per clean out available once a year for everyone, island and mainland property owners.
For reimbursement, please send a copy of your bill to:
Craig Lawson, 19 Summit St, Norwich NY 13815
- Contacts: Craig Lawson 607-226-4214 or Martha Young 315-796-7023

Eroding Shoreline / No Wake Zones – Our shorelines are continuing to erode. Please be sure to follow the “No Wake Zones” when you are traveling between the islands, when you are close to shore and especially in Cook’s cove. There are many island residents that use Cook’s cove to get to the mainland. When you are traveling in that area (beginning at Greg Reuter’s camp) be sure you do not have a wake behind you. If you do, you are going too fast and are contributing to the erosion of the shorelines. We are asking you to be respectful of your neighbor’s shoreline/property.

DEC Permit Process - DEC permit applications take over 12 months to be approved or denied. 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.aspx>)

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.

There are other permits that could be required.

Boater Safety Responsibilities & Equipment Reminders for Lake Moraine Boaters

Motorized watercraft should always be mindful of their distance, speed and wake responsibility, especially when in proximity to non-motorized watercraft.

The information below is from the New York State Boater's Guide, 12/22 edition, Published by the New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

Boater Safety Courses – Who needs a New York Boating Safety Certificate - If you were born after January 1, 1983, you are required to obtain a Boating Safety Certificate to operate a motorized boat or PWC in 2023. As of January 1, 2025, all operators of motorized boats or PWCs in New York are required to be certified.

The regulation, education class information, and more information can be found at <https://parks.ny.gov/recreation/boating/education.aspx>

Safety Equipment Reminder:

1. **Life Jackets** - Watercraft including canoes, kayaks and row boats are required to have a wearable life jacket for each person. Watercraft 16 feet and longer, except canoes and kayaks, are required to have an approved type IV throwable flotation device.
 - a. **Who is required to wear a life jacket:**
 - Children under the age of 12 on all watercrafts including canoes, kayaks or row boats.

- Everyone being towed (wakeboarding, water skiing, tubing, etc.).
 - Everyone on watercraft less than 21 feet in length, including rowboats, canoes, and kayaks, between November 1st and May 1st.
 - Everyone on a Personal Watercraft.
2. **Visual Distress Signals** - All boats 16 feet and greater, except rowboats, kayaks and canoes are required to carry approved day and nighttime visual distress signals. All boats, except rowboats, kayaks, and canoes, are required to carry approved nighttime visual distress signals when operating from sunset to sunrise. All boats should carry visual distress signals when operating between sunset and sunrise.
 3. **Navigation Lights** – Required on all watercraft operated between sunset and sunrise and at times when visibility is restricted. This includes rowboats, canoes and kayaks which are required to display a white light (lantern or flashlight) in time to prevent a collision.
 4. **Fire Extinguishers** - Boats less than 26 feet must have at least One B-1, 5-B or 10-B fire extinguisher.
 5. **Engine Cut-off Switch** - If your boat is equipped with an engine cut-off switch, you are required to use the engine-cut-off switch with the associated lanyard attached to the operator.
 6. **Anchor** - All mechanically propelled boats, except PWC, must carry an anchor and line.
 7. **Sound Signaling Device** - All motorized and non-motorized boats must carry a sound signaling device that can be heard from 0.5 miles away. A mouth whistle fulfills this requirement.
 8. **Additional Suggested Equipment** - First Aid Kit, Oar/Paddle, Tool Kit, Compass, Bilge Pump/Bailer, Marine Radio, Boat Hook, Spare Parts.

Types of Boats –

1. **Paddle Craft** - Increasingly popular paddle craft, kayaks, stand-up paddleboards and canoes, are considered boats and operators need to know the fundamentals of safe boating as well as be aware of the potential risks associated with small boat recreation. Paddlers should generally avoid heavily trafficked areas of any waterway. Everyone is strongly advised to wear a life jacket and appropriate clothing designed to retain body heat. When operating at night you are required to carry a white light to show to prevent collision. All paddlers must carry a whistle or other means of making an efficient sound signal to attract attention when in the vicinity of power and sail vessels. Take a FREE Online Paddle Safety Course: www.paddlecourse.com
2. **Water Skiing** - Any boat towing a water skier, or other similar device, must have on board, in addition to the operator, an observer who is specifically charged with watching out for the person towed. The observer must be at least 10 years of age. Anyone towed by a boat, water skis, inner tubes, parasails, inflatable devices, must wear a securely fastened, approved personal flotation device. The skier is considered a passenger and is to be counted against the maximum passengers allowed. Exceeding that number can be considered reckless operation.
3. **Fishing and Hunting** - Fishermen and hunters generally consider themselves sportsmen rather than boaters. However, if they are using a boat to hunt or fish, all boating laws apply.

4. **Personal Watercraft - Mandatory Education Requirements** - New York requires anyone operating a personal watercraft to complete an approved course in boating safety or otherwise be accompanied, on board, by someone 18 years of age or older who is the holder of an approved boating safety certificate. Certificates are required to be carried at all times when operating the personal watercraft.
- **Minimum Age for Operating a Boat** - Operator must be a minimum of 14 years of age. Operators must hold an approved boating safety certificate or be accompanied by a person over 18 years of age who is the holder of a boating safety certificate. It is strongly recommended that small children not be permitted to ride forward of an adult as it may lead to serious personal injury. It is also strongly recommended that no person be permitted to ride a personal watercraft if he or she cannot hold on to the person in front (or hand hold) and cannot keep both feet on the deck in order to maintain balance during operation.
 - **Life Jacket** must be worn by each person on or towed behind.
 - **Engine Cutoff**, if so equipped, must be functional and attached to the rider.
 - **Horn, Whistle** capable of a two second blast, audible ½ mile.
 - **Visual Distress Signals** a fluorescent orange flag (1-foot sq) or other approved day distress signaling device.
 - **Backfire Flame Arrestor** manufacturer installed, do not remove, prevents explosion/fire.
 - **Ventilators** manufacturer installed, do not remove, removes potentially explosive vapors from engine/fuel space.
 - **Hours of Operation** between sunrise and sunset. The installation of an after-market light kit will not allow you to legally operate a PWC at night.

Prohibited Operation of PWC -

Reckless Operation strictly prohibited, examples:

- Wake jumping too close to another watercraft.
- Weaving through congested traffic.
- Last minute swerving to avoid collision.

Reminder a PWC is a recreational boat which means that its operator must obey the rules of the road. PWC operators should also be mindful that group riding in one area may annoy other waterfront users/owners, and may in fact become dangerous, particularly if one's attention is limited to having fun while neglecting other traffic or hazards.

Lake Moraine CSLAP – From the Desk of Eileen Fehlner - The Lake Moraine 2023 CSLAP season will begin in early June. CSLAP, Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program, is a volunteer lake water quality monitoring program run by NYS DEC and NYS Federation of Lake Associations. Water samples are collected, prepared, and sent to a certified lab for analysis by Lake Moraine CSLAP volunteers. About 200 NYS lakes participate in the CSLAP program.

Some of the parameters that are analyzed include observations such as water clarity and color, shallow and deep-water temperatures, aquatic plant coverage, invasive weed occurrence, invasive fauna species, harmful algae blooms, and overall recreational value. Laboratory analysis include

PH, chlorophyll a, total phosphorus, total nitrogen, ammonia, chloride, calcium, total dissolved nitrogen, and conductivity. Yearly CSLAP reports summarize current and historical information about water quality, biological stressors such as invasive species, and perception of lake uses. I will share the 2022 CSLAP report at the May LMA General Membership meeting.

Town of Madison – From the Desk of Greg Reuter

- Short Term Rental Moratorium was approved by New York State on March 27, 2023.
- Solsville Road bridge construction will begin April 2024.
- Town of Madison weed harvester will be operational this year.
- Town of Madison Board Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7 pm.

Elections - 2023 is an election year.

If you are interested in being a candidate, please contact Earl Ewing, Chair of the Nominating Committee. Earl can be reached at 239-247-4660 or by email - e2square@aol.com. You can also contact Tim Peach – 315-404-9022 or David Young – 315-723-4449. You must contact one of these individuals before June 25, 2023.

You must be a member of the Board of Directors for 2 years to be nominated for President and 1 year to be nominated for Vice President. Positions available: President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer of the LMA, Treasurer of the Tax District, Board of Director (11 positions).

Protecting Lake Moraine from invasive species and fish diseases- The NYSDEC provides specific regulations, a significant amount of documentation, as well as, educational posters on their website designed to help protect New York's waters from invasive species and fish diseases. In summary, if a motorized, non-motorized watercraft or trailer has been in another body of water it is important to clean, drain and dry the watercraft/trailer before it is launched in a different body of water.

We would like to remind lake residents and non-resident users to exercise caution to ensure they do not introduce invasive species and fish diseases into Lake Moraine. We also employ part-time stewards at the boat launch on weekends from late May to early September. These stewards assist our visitors with a free boat inspection to look for invasive species and educate them on the importance of cleaning, draining and drying their watercraft and trailers.

Please visit our web site at: lakemoraineny.org

and our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/LakeMoraine/>