



Ballston Lake Improvement Association Newsletter: June 2015

**Annual Meeting- Tuesday, June 16th
7:00 PM- Ballston Lake Firehouse**

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the annual membership meeting of the Ballston Lake Improvement Association. The meeting will begin promptly at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, June 16th at the Ballston Lake Fire House. The agenda of this meeting includes:

- Presentation of an update on the Sewer Project led by Committee Chairman Drew Hamilink,
- Summary of the Town of Ballston's position given by Town Board Members Bill Goslin and Tim Szczepaniak.
- Lake Management Report by David Pierce
- Committee Reports
- Election of Officers

Sewer Project Information Update

The engineers from both towns have been working on the Map Plan and Report. Please come to the annual meeting on June 16th for an up to date summary with question and answer time available. A website has been set up where information will be made available for your review.

www.ballstonsewers.org

Drew Hamelin k-Sewer Committee Chair





MAY IS MEMBERSHIP MONTH

This year's member to member drive took place during the entire month of May. BLIA volunteers set out to knock on doors, recruit members and answer questions about what we do. Thanks to all of you who became new members or renewed your memberships. Your financial support is critical to our mission of protecting Ballston Lake- now and into the future! Our website is also a great place to find and share information. If you are having any difficulty logging in, or need help signing up, please feel free to contact me by email or phone. 518-469-6062. <http://ballstonlake.mylaketown.com>
. Suzanne Bishop kwenebishop@gmail.com



The 2nd Annual Boat Parade will be held on Saturday, July 4th. Decorate your boat, kayak, canoe, Jet Ski and yourself in red, white and blue as we celebrate our nation's history Ballston Lake style. Villago will be offering viewing and appetizers dockside. Join the fun!

Meet at the north end of the lake at 3pm!



Historic Tour --- A small committee is literally making waves with this year's historic tour! Town of Ballston historian Rick Reynolds will be our knowledgeable guide as we learn more about our Ballston Lake history aboard a small flotilla of pontoon boats. Yes, we're taking our guests on a late day water tour with fascinating commentary and a sunset ending. We're looking at a Thursday evening in mid-August (rain date the next day). We're going to need some help: a "sound man" to design and set up a sound system so that all of the boats can hear the commentary, donated boats and experienced captains, donated gathering place(s) with good dock access and parking (on land), and of course your enthusiastic support. As has been the case with historic tours in the past there will be a modest fee and BLIA members will have first dibs on reservations, after which we will open it up to the general public at a higher fee. There may be an optional "no host" supper with Q&A after we dock. If you are interested in helping please contact BLIA Membership Vice President Suzanne Bishop at (518) 399-2779 kwenebishop@gmail.com.

Southern Saratoga Chamber of Commerce --- BLIA has joined the SSCC through a reciprocal membership agreement. Our chamber membership helps elevate the profile of our association among the business community, positions our lake as an important natural resource in Saratoga County and strengthens our network among similar not for profit organizations. We are welcome to submit our events to their community calendar and to put the chamber on our news release distribution list. We were thrilled to be asked to submit a 250 essay and photo about BLIA and the lake which will appear in a Chamber magazine published by the Gazette. Stay tuned to the Face Book page to get a link when the article is published. SSCC's web site is: <http://www.southernsaratoga.org/>

Ballston Lake Improvement Association Face Book Page --- Search Ballston Lake Improvement Association on Face Book and "like" us if you haven't already. We've grown the page considerable and count 277 followers in less than a year. We often post community events and re-post information about businesses and restaurants in our immediate area. Contact Joanne DeVoe 518 573-0773 devoepr@nycap.com if you have news or photos that you would like to suggest for re-posting.

Lake Management Activities Summary
June 2014-2015-Dave Pierce, Chairman

BLIA volunteers completed the following tasks this past year with the goal of improving the water quality of Ballston Lake:

1. Collected biweekly samples for the DEC CSLAP program that monitors water quality of Ballston Lake.
2. Collected water samples in the lake and in the town to test for total coliform and fecal coliform bacteria.
3. Worked with the Ballston Clean Water Committee to supply lake and storm water data to support the Sewer System project for the Ballston Lake Watershed.
4. Conducted a two week study of the lake to determine the depth in the lake that dissolved oxygen drops to 0%. This info is needed to determine the amount of the lake bottom that is anoxic and how this impacts phosphorous release.
5. Conducted a water chestnut removal activity in late July. Over 240 gallons of water chestnuts were removed from the lake near the narrows.
6. We are working to rewrite the 2011 Ballston Lake Management and Protection Plan. The adoption of a comprehensive plan will enable BLIA to apply for grants to improve the water quality of Ballston Lake.
7. Secured funding from the Saratoga Water Quality Coordinating Committee to attend the Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society meeting in Saratoga January 20-22.
8. Attended Ballston Town Board and Planning Board meetings to advocate for decisions that benefit the water quality of Ballston Lake.
9. We are working with Dr. Greg Boyer of SUNY College of Environmental Science to develop a phosphorous impact study of the shoreline of Ballston Lake.
10. Applied to SUNY Oneonta to participate in their graduate program of Lake Science. We were not chosen to participate in 2014 but plan to reapply for 2015.
11. Attended the annual New York State Federation of Lake Association conference May 1-2 in Hamilton NY. Discussed possibility of developing an aeration system for Ballston Lake. This system would oxygenate the anoxic area of the lake north of the narrows and bind the phosphorous in the bottom to the iron that is there. This idea is still being evaluated and studied and grants would be needed to fund this \$200,000 project.
12. Our efforts to improve the water quality center around the goal of decreasing phosphorous in the lake. Less phosphorous results in less algae and clearer water. Remember we can ALL help this effort!
 - Have your septic tank pumped every 3 years.
 - Remove weed debris from your shoreline.
 - Keep the wake from your boat under control and 100 feet from the shoreline,
 - Support BLIA.

Ballston Lake Algae

The first algae to appear are spirogyra in the spring. It is green and slimy mass that can be removed by skimming. Surface water becomes phosphorous rich when the lake turns over in the spring bringing the phosphorous up from the bottom of the lake. The DEC Algae Alert Program is up and running at Ballston Lake. If you see a green paint like appearance to the surface water that is streaky please contact me (Dave Pierce) at 399-6308 or pep416@aol.com and I will come to the location and take a water sample. DEC will notify us within 3 days what the algae species is and the level of toxins that exist. Once we hear from DEC we will send an Algae Alert Email to everyone on the email list. Make sure we have your email address when you pay your yearly dues. Last summer water samples analyzed by DEC did contain microcystis. In 2014 the water did not contain levels of the toxin microcystin above 4ug/L.

Algae bloom conditions:

1. Water temperature above 74 degrees F
2. Wind blows algae to the east side of the lake.
3. Algae accumulates in inlets, coves, and around docks.

4. Concentration is higher near shore.
5. You can not tell if toxin concentration is present by the appearance.
6. When in doubt, avoid entering water that is real green, paint looking, or streaking.
7. Toxins can cause illness to pets that drink lake water and small children.
8. Always rinse off after swimming
9. Wind and waves can break up the algae

Ballston Lake Water Quality Status

Summary of the 2014 DEC CSLAP Report:

Since 1990 BLIA members have been taking water samples of the lake and sending them to NYDEC for evaluation. In addition, this year water samples were sent to NYS College of Environmental Science for algae determination. This is a report of the status of Ballston Lake as stated in the 2014 DEC report and an evaluation of the long term trends.

The biggest problem for Ballston Lake is the increasing Total Phosphorous levels in the lake. Prior to 2000 this value remained around 20-22 ppB. Since 2000 it has risen to 42 ppB. DEC states that the cause of this increase is:

1. Poorly functioning or failing septic systems
2. Erosion of the shoreline.
3. Increased stormwater run off due to urbanization in the watershed.
4. Inability of the lake ecosystem to use or dilute all the phosphorous entering the surface water from the bottom of the lake. As a result of the increasing phosphorous concentrations Ballston Lake experiences periods of increased algae production that is driven by high water temperature. When algae increases chlorophyll increases and clarity decreases.

The following trophic measurements that CSLAP tracks are variable during a summer but the long term trend since 1990 is relatively unchanged:

1. Ammonia level
2. Total nitrogen
3. Color
4. Calcium
5. Water clarity
6. Aquatic plant coverage.

In addition to the CSLAP water quality sampling, BLIA has also sampled the lake for fecal coliform and total coliform bacteria. These bacteria enter the lake from problematic septic systems in the watershed and from animal droppings that wash into the lake.

During the summer 8 water samples were taken and analyzed by Darrin Lab at Lake George. The average for total coliform was 54 colonies/100 ml and fecal coliform 13 colonies/100 ml. These values are relatively low compared to the standards for contact recreation of 2400 colonies for total coliform and 200 colonies for fecal coliform.

However the fecal coliform level of 13 colonies is above the standard for drinking water. The final issue with Ballston Lake is that the pH has decreased from 8.3 to 7.5 since 1990. This means the lake is more acidic than it was in 1990. This present level of 7.5 has been maintained since 2000.

DEC states that Ballston Lake is stressed for contact recreation and threatened for drinking water. Care must be taken when using the lake. Drinking water should be purified to remove bacteria, sediment, and algae. Intake pipes should be at least 10 feet deep and not more than 30 feet deep. Recreation use of the lake is OK. I would recommend rinsing with fresh water after swimming to remove algae and debris from your skin.

Boating Course

The United States Power Squadron Basic Boating Course will again be offered to the residents of Ballston Lake by BLIA Board President Peter Herman. The course certificate will be issued upon completion of the required hours and the successful passing of a final exam. This card will allow operation of a personal watercraft at age 14 and operation of a power boat in New York State between ages 10 and 18.

The two classes will be taught at the Ballston Lake Fire House on Rt. 146A on Wednesday, July 1st and Wednesday, July 8th from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

The cost of the course is \$40.00 for the first family member and \$20.00 for each additional family member. This fee included all class materials. Please contact Peter Herman to sign up for the course.

If you have any questions regarding this course, you may contact Peter Herman at pandsherman25@gmail.com or call at 518-399-5803

New Non-Profit Status for BLIA

On Wednesday, April 15, 2015, a special meeting of the membership of BLIA was held at the Ballston Lake Firehouse. Amendments to BLIA's two fundamental documents, the BLIA Articles of Incorporation and the Constitution, were unanimously approved paving the way for BLIA to become a 501(c)(3) corporation. Following this vote, a completed application was submitted to the IRS. On April 30th, we received formal notification from the IRS that our filing was approved. Achieving this designation will (1) allow your contributions to become tax deductible; (2) enable us to receive grants without using a surrogate that charges us 10%; (3) allow us to be sales tax free; and receive other minor benefits. Special thanks to Frank Shipp and Judy Brodeur for their tireless efforts in completing this process.

Carney's to Reopen

BALLSTON LAKE, NY--- Historic Carney's Tavern, 17 Main Street Ballston Lake has re-opened following a 6 week long hiatus. During that time, owners Matt and Stephanie Finnigan have brought in a new chef along with a few other new team members. A tavern friendly menu has been created by the Finnigan's along with re-equipped and deep cleaned kitchen, bar and dining areas. The pool table is back in its rightful spot along with an English dartboard (donated by one of the many faithful locals). New summer hours have been established; new air conditioning and a rebuilt rear entrance with two handicapped parking spaces have been added.

Carney's Tavern new summer kitchen hours are Tuesday and Wednesday 4-9 PM. Thursday 12 noon-9:30 PM, Friday 12 noon- 11 pm, Saturday 4- 11 PM, Sunday 2-7 PM and closed on Monday

SUMMER PICNIC

- Tuesday, August 4th from 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm. Held at Lakeside Farms Pavilion
- Bring a dish to share and your own beverage. Grills will be available
- Plates, utensils, etc. will be provided.

Meet new lake residents, see old friends. Please bring a neighbor along.
For more information, call Greg Adams 399-5875

Everyone is busy... Don't be too busy to support the group of people that work very hard to try to improve your lake.



**Be at the annual meeting of the
Ballston Lake Improvement Association**

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Ballston Lake Firehouse**

**Ballston Lake Improvement Association
BLIA
P.O. Box 1015
Ballston Lake, NY**

