



Ballston Lake Improvement Association Newsletter: March 2014

Please take a few minutes to look through this newsletter. There are many important articles giving valuable information on topics related to Ballston Lake. Some highlights are listed here:

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Union College Students Study Ballston Lake



Donald T. Rodbell, Professor and Chair, Geology Department at Union College has been bringing students from one of his geology classes to Ballston Lake for a number of years. This past January, students took water samples from various depths, looking at how the water in Ballston Lake is stratified. In February, they came back and took some core samples from the bottom of the lake. We hope to have a summary of their data in the next news letter.

VISIT OUR WEB SITE Think Green

Don't forget that you can read our newsletter online: <http://ballstonlake.mylaketown.com>
There is a lot of interesting information on our site. Log in using the name and passcode you received. Don't remember your passcode? Enter your email address and select "Forgot Password?" below the "Log In" box. It will be sent to you. Call Suzanne Bishop (518 469 6062) if you have trouble logging in.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

- The Ballston Lake Improvement Association sincerely thanks the 91 members, as of March 22, who paid dues for 2014. A most special thank you to those who have given extra money.
- The survey results (86 responses) as of March 22 are....
 - Invoices: 15% (13) Yes.
 - Pay dues on the web: 5% (4) Yes,
 - It looks like invoices will be part of our upgrade.

Thank You again for your support. As we face the future of our lake we must increase our membership. The surest way to do that is for a Neighbor Asks Neighbor effort. Ask them if they are a BLIA member and if not ask them to join. I would be pleased to get a membership application in your hands. Call me if you have questions.

Frank F. Shipp 518 399-6506

New York State Boating Course

Starting in May 2014, law A.3471-A/S.1639-A, will be phased in requiring all watercraft operators to complete an eight hour boat safety course and get a certificate to operate on New York State waterways. At this time it applies to anyone 18 years or younger but in time it will be required in for all boaters. Violators could be fined \$100 to \$250

The Mohawk-Hudson Sail and Power Squadron boating course, America's Boating Course, 3rd edition, will be given at the Ballston Lake Fire House on Route 146A on Saturday, May 3rd, 2014 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 10, 2014 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Individuals between the ages of 10 and 18 who complete the course will receive a certificate and be allowed to operate a watercraft in New York State. The course requires eight hours of classroom time, and will be divided into two four hour sessions and will include two exams. A fifty question multiple choice exam on general course material and a ten question New York State exam primarily on State regulations will be given on May 10, 2014. A score of 80% is required for passing both tests. Students must be 10 years old to take the course. Registration for the course can be made by contacting Peter Herman at (518) 399-5803 or by email at pandsherman25@gmail.com. There will also be a registration at 12:30 p.m. on May 3, 2014 prior to the beginning of the course. Due to space restrictions, the course will be limited to 30 people. The cost for the course is \$40.00. This includes all course materials and certificates. The cost will be \$20.00 for each additional family member

To check out the ABC 3 course on line, go to www.usps.org. Click on classroom course under the title America's Boating Course. Click on America's Boating Course, and for complete information on location, click on locate, and the registration information comes up. For additional information, click on America's Boating Course-8 hour.

For questions, Please contact Peter Herman @ (518) 399-5803

Hawkwood Property

The Ballston Town board announced in January that it would pursue purchasing a parcel of land called the Hawkwood Property with funds that it has set aside for development of a passive recreational town park. The 246 acre parcel is most easily accessed at the intersection of Rt. 50 and Middle Line Road. The preservation of the parcel is very important from BLIA's point of view because a major tributary to the lake flows through that parcel. There is no written contract on the property but there has been an agreement in principle between the town and the trustees of the estate to move forward. The probate judge needs to release the title. If you would like further information, search: *Hawkwood Property with Town of Ballston on Google*.

Dolomite Products Brings Suit Against Town Of Ballston

In September, the Ballston Town Board passed a zoning amendment that changed the status of the Curtis Property from industrial to light industrial. This zoning change meant that the proposed Dolomite asphalt plant will not go forward. In January, Dolomite Products, Co. filed a lawsuit against the town. The town has a new attorney, James Walsh, who will be representing the town. On March 25, Mr. Walsh, said that he had received a lengthy amended complaint. The town has a period of time to respond to this. We will update this in our May newsletter.

Bits and Pieces

Board Meetings are on the first Tuesday of the Month at 7:00 pm in January, March, May, August and October. We welcome all residents to attend these meetings. Meetings are held at Carney's Restaurant in Ballston Lake.

Letters to the editor are welcomed. If you would like to submit a letter for consideration in our next news letter, please send it to BLIA, Box 1015, Ballston Lake, NY 12019

To receive email updates on Toxic Algae Warnings, the newsletter and other important notifications, please include your email address with your 2014 dues payment.

Mark your calendar for the Ballston Lake Improvement Association annual meeting. This meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 10th starting at 7:00 pm and will be at the Ballston Lake Fire House on Rt. 146A.

Your Board Members

At the January board meeting Sue Bishop was approved as our new Web Master.

BLIA Board Members:

Peter Herman, President
Sue Bishop, Assistant Membership Chairman
Judy Brodeur, Assistant Treasurer
Greg Adams, VP Newsletter
Drew Hamelink, VP
Ann Pierce, Director
Paul Troidle, Director

Frank Shipp, Membership VP and Treasurer
Dave Duglin, Secretary
Dave Pierce, Lake Management VP
Pete Voss, VP
Scott Miller, Director
John Gill, Director

Town of Ballston Sewer Study - David Pierce

In February, 2013, the Town of Ballston established the Clear Water Committee to evaluate the need for a sewer system in the Town of Ballston and in the Ballston Lake watershed. The reason that this system is needed is that many of the existing septic systems in the town are old and are a health risk to the residents. Water studies done in the last 25 years indicate that many septic systems are malfunctioning and are contributing to the increased phosphorous levels in the Ballston Lake. Over the last 10 years, average lake phosphorous levels have been increasing significantly from 25 to 40 parts per billion (PPB). In addition water samples from storm water along Rt. 146A indicate a significantly high level of coliform and fecal coliform bacteria. The Buell Heights area has a high concentration of homes with old septic systems and water samples from there showed mean concentrations of phosphorous over 140PPB. Buell Heights is not the only area with old septic systems. Many homes on the lake have old septic systems designed for small camp sized homes with drain fields on shale. There is minimal absorption so this water flows directly to the lake.

At this time, the town has hired Delaware Engineering to design the sewer system and to help the town secure outside funding to help pay for this project. Volunteers from the Clear Water Committee have been working on ways to educate the public about the needs for this sewer system. We all see that the lake is in danger. There is too much algae and the water is turbid in color. If we want to reverse this process of deterioration something must be done soon. The fact that DEC has listed the lake as "Impaired Requiring a Remediation Plan", states that a plan is needed to reduce the phosphorous load entering the lake. Therefore the Town of Ballston is developing this project as part of the plan that will reduce phosphorous and septic bacteria in the watershed.

Members on the Clear Water Committee include BLIA Board members, Richard Doyle, Ballston Planning Board Chairman, Bill Goslin Ballston Town Board member, and residents from the towns of Clifton Park and Ballston.

Municipal Water Update- Judy Brodeur

Following last summer's neighbor-to-neighbor drive, the Ballston Lake Improvement Association organized a meeting in September with residents of Eastside Drive and representatives of the Town of Clifton Park. While the meeting was initially intended to allow residents to express their concerns, it focused on the desire to bring both water and sewer to the area. Several meetings have been held since, some involving members of the Town of Ballston Clean Water Committee.

The Town of Ballston put out a Request for Proposal to update the earlier plan to bring sewers to the area around the lake. The contract was awarded to Delaware Engineering in early December. More information on the sewer project will be available after the study is complete (anticipated May 2014). When and if sewers are installed in the watershed area, they will serve properties in both the towns of Ballston and Clifton Park – and representatives of both towns have participated in the ongoing meetings and are continuing to work together.

While the Town of Ballston has taken the lead on sewers, the Town of Clifton Park has moved forward on municipal water. At the most recent meeting held on February 26th at the Ballston Lake Fire Department, Town of Clifton Park Supervisor Phil Barrett introduced Jeffrey Trzeciak of McDonald Engineering and passed out copies of his report outlining two possibilities for establishing a special water district. The residents attending the meeting were encouraged to ask questions at the meeting and to contact Phil Barrett (pbarrett@cliftonpark.org) if they have additional concerns after reviewing the report.

Since most residents agree that sewers are a priority over water – even if water is a bigger problem for some at the moment, meetings are on hold until the report from Delaware Engineering is complete. Postcard notices have been sent to Eastside Drive residents inviting them to previous meetings. If you are interested in being notified when future meetings are being held or receiving copies of the meeting notes including the McDonald Engineering report, email Judy Brodeur at jbrodeur@nycap.rr.com

NYS Designated Inland Waterways

David Decker, a local engineer, informed the BLIA Board that the Department of Environmental Conservation has an Environmental Protection Fund for local Waterfront Revitalization programs. This fund gives grants each year for projects submitted by lakes and waterways on the list of NYS Designated Inland Waterways. In order for Ballston Lake to be placed on the list, several steps are required. The BLIA asked the Town of Ballston to pass a resolution endorsing Ballston Lake be placed on this list. The Town Board passed this resolution at their February meeting. The resolution has been sent to Senator Farley and Assemblyman Tedisco. They must present a bill to the Senate and Assembly requesting Ballston Lake be placed on the list of Inland Waterways. We are hoping this will be accomplished in the near future.

Villago Pizzeria & Ristorante

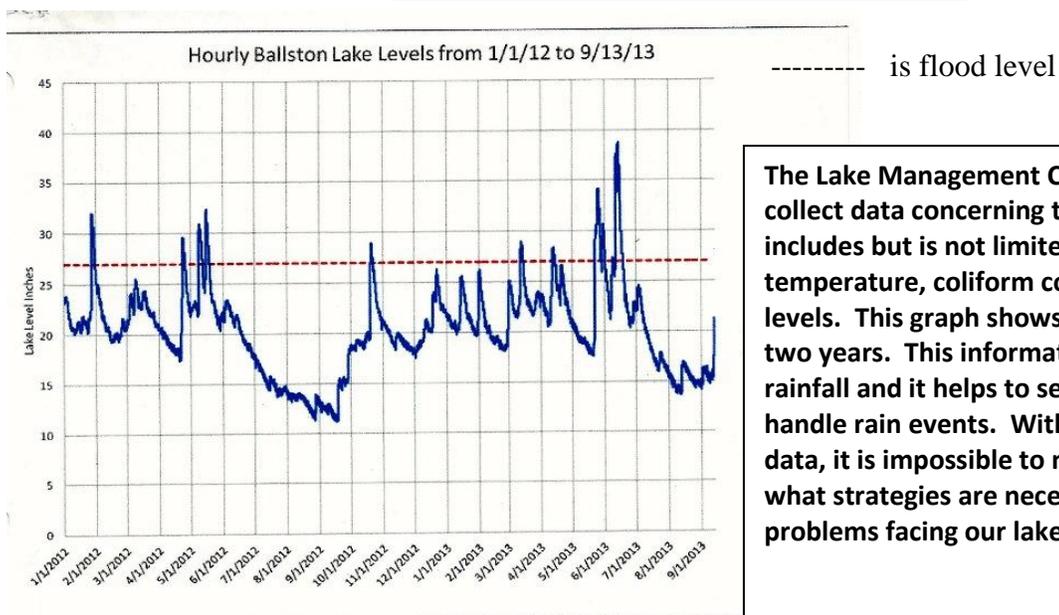
After months of construction, Villago Pizzeria & Ristorante, at the site of The Goodtimes Resturant, opened their doors for business on March 10th. This was a “soft opening” without lots of publicity but a large number of BLIA members turned out to welcome them. The owners of Villago were very cooperative last summer working with the BLIA Lake Management Committee in dealing with the issue of toilet facilities for those people launching boats at the Villago launch. BLIA funded a portable toilet that would be at the launch until the end of the boating season in October.

Shoreline Debris Removal

David Pierce

If any BLIA member wants to borrow an instrument to remove floating debris and leaves from their shoreline and dock area please contact David Pierce at pep416@aol.com. The DeSkuzzer can be tossed into the lake from a dock or boat. It is intended to be dragged thru an accumulation of skuzz until it becomes reasonably full, then emptied into a cart or barrel for disposal. The DeSkuzzer comes with adequate line for pulling or throwing. It is especially useful for removing filamentous algae that collects around shorelines and docks. It does not remove rooted lake weeds like milfoil and pond weed unless they are cut first. It is best to pull out rooted weeds so as not to increase their regrowth thru fragmentation. Removing any organic material from the lake helps reduce the phosphorous levels on the wat

LAKE LEVEL GRAPH



The Lake Management Committee continues to collect data concerning the lake. This data includes but is not limited to: lake level, water temperature, coliform count, and phosphorous levels. This graph shows lake levels for the past two years. This information is charted against rainfall and it helps to see how the outlet can handle rain events. Without long term base line data, it is impossible to make decisions about what strategies are necessary to deal with the problems facing our lake.

Clean Up Day- Mark Your Calendar Saturday, May 3rd

The annual Ballston Lake Clean Up Day will be held this year on Saturday, May 3rd, from 8:00 am until noon. This year, the event is again sponsored by the Ballston Lake Improvement Association and Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Business and Professional Association. Volunteers are asked to come to the Ballston Lake Fire Station on Route 146A for an assignment. Free tee shirts and refreshments will be available to the volunteers.

Areas to be cleaned include Lake Road, Route 146A, Main Street, East Side Drive, West Side Drive and Outlet Road and other side streets. Residents are encouraged to sign up for their own neighborhoods. The Town of Ballston helps with the removal of all the debris that is collected.

We encourage all our members to take part in the worthwhile event. You can also help by spreading the news to community groups. Hope to see you there.

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

