



Ballston Lake Improvement Association Newsletter: October 2014

BLIA WELCOMED SUMMER INTERN, ALAINA LARKIN

President Peter Herman and the BLIA Board of Directors welcomed summer intern, Alaina Larkin. The Dean's List student, who resides in Clifton Park, is entering her senior year at St. Lawrence University this fall. Alaina is majoring in mathematics, economics and multiple languages (Spanish and Italian) and has a keen interest in geology/hydrogeology. She has recently completed a geology class at Skidmore which she took "for fun."

Delaware Engineering, PC sponsored the position for the July and August. "We always look for opportunities to make a real difference in the community that aligns with our business ideals which include environmental issues," said Mary Beth Bianconi, Senior Project Manager at Delaware Engineering. Alaina's projects included assisting with water sampling, data analysis, public education, information gathering, membership and social media.

"This is a perfect match," said Dave Pierce, BLIA VP for Lake Management. "Alaina's courses of study, knowledge of and affinity toward lakes, and general enthusiasm are most welcome. We are all volunteers, and an extra set of hands dedicated to lake quality issues and association business is most welcome."



Gathering of Elders

Congratulations to everyone involved with BLIA's "Gathering of Elders" at the Town of Ballston Library on Oct. 10th. Organized by Suzanne Bishop and facilitated by Mary Sanders Shartle, a Union College professor, the panel reminisced about the "good old days" around Ballston Lake. The speakers included Nancy Bellamy, Edward Clifford, Wes Devoe, Peter Herman, Richard Horstman, Lillian Neal, William Manhey, Beverly Ricks, George Splain and Muriel Swatling. We heard fascinating stories:

A young girl used to deliver papers to Lundy Lane residents by canoe.

One fellow rowed a boat from Eastside Drive to around Lake (but needed a truck to get back home.)

Bathing beauties, studly showoffs and young lovers came from all over to frolic at White's beach.

The beginning of hunting season had people lined up out the door at Ketchum's Hardware.

A wonderful bakery with cinnamon buns and macaroons contributed to yummy aromas on Main Street.

The house between Carney's and the RR tracks was once an ice cream parlor.

And that's just the tip of the iceberg!

A DVD of the "Gathering of Elders" event is being made, and that it will be available in the BH library and in the office of the Ballston town historian.

Sewer Project Information Update

Owners of lake properties in both the towns of Ballston and Clifton Park jammed the Ballston Lake Fire House for two informational meetings about the proposed sewer project. Sponsored by the Ballston Lake Improvement Association, the meetings were held in the Ballston Lake fire house on Wednesday, Sept. 17, with one at 10 AM and the second one at 7 PM.



The sewer project is targeted to ring Ballston Lake and include the Buell Heights, Main Street and Midline Road areas of the Town of Ballston. Eastside Drive, along the south eastern shore of Ballston Lake in the Town of Clifton Park, is also part of the proposed project. Topics included the need for sewers, benefits, costs, time frame and action points. A map showing the designated service areas was available. A lively question and answer session followed the presentations. Seventy five people attended in the morning and sixty nine at night.

Since then the Clean Water Committee has conducted a petition drive attempting to talk to as many residents in the potential phase one area as possible. This effort will end on Oct 26 and then we will tally the results. We have already connected with more than 70% of the residents and are finding strong support for the effort in both the Town of Ballston and the town of Clifton Park. To all those who are carrying petitions for sewers: Thank you for all your hard work! This isn't easy work, and the community is so grateful for your participation. It is so impressive to decision makers in both the Town of Ballston and the Town of Clifton Park that we – YOU – have achieved so much in such a short time.

We plan to present our findings to the town of Ballston at the Nov 6th town meeting. In parallel with this, the Town of Ballston funded an engineering firm to prepare the Map Plan and Report. This effort will take the preliminary plan and work it in further detail to determine the exact boundaries of the district and define exactly who is in and who is out. We expect that the draft of this plan will also be presented to the town at the Nov 7th meeting. A proposal to perform this same task for the Clifton Park portion of the project is being prepared.

As we have talked to our neighbors about this one frequent question is "What happens next"? The draft Map Plan and Report will be reviewed, adjusted as necessary, and then finalized. Then, likely in Dec or Jan, a Public Hearing will be scheduled on the plan. The Town is required to conduct a SEQR (State Environmental Quality Review) and then can formally adopt the sewer district. A reasonable time frame for this activity to be completed would be the end of the first quarter of next year. Assuming the project successfully navigates these steps the project will be committed. The Town can then seek bonding to fund the work. The engineer will do detailed geology evaluations, archeology checks, easements will need to be arranged, and a detailed engineering design done. These steps could take much of next year with actual construction most likely starting in the Spring of 2016.

Membership

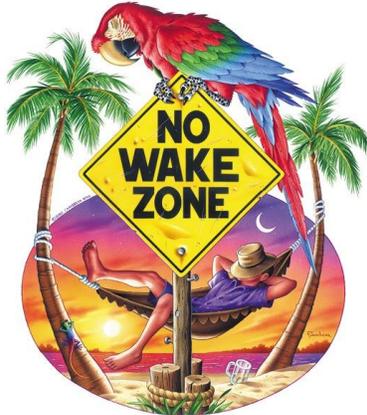
What a great year we have had! You, our BLIA members, proved more generous in your investment (including volunteer time) to BLIA than EVER before and we thank you! In 2014 our membership committee strived to build a sense of “neighborhood” around the lake, as well as advancing our name and reputation within the broader community. The wonderful cooperation and great press we received for our 2014 activities put BALLSTON LAKE on the map.

Watch for 2015 renewal information to arrive in the mail during January 2015 . Thank you in advance for your continued support for all that BLIA does to preserve and protect the quality of our lake.

NOT YET A MEMBER? Visit our website and find the annual dues form under the **membership info** tab. <http://ballstonlake.mylaketown.com>

Committee: Suzanne Bishop, Judy Brodeur and Terry Harlow

Ballston Lake Improvement Association's BLIA Members & Their Guests “Hello Snow...Bye, Bye Birdies”



Some of us are staying...Some of us are leaving...All of us are partying!

Let's get together before the snow flies!

Light Supper Fare of Hearty Tropical Hors d'oeuvres

\$20/ Person – Cash Bar

Monday, November 24, 2014

6-8PM

Villago Pizzeria & Ristorante

Lake Road, Ballston Lake

Free Drawings Include a “Ballston Lake Fly Over” for two in a private Cessna. Winner to book flight for spring of 2015. The prize is transferable. Certain restrictions apply.

Not yet a member? Join BLIA by contacting Suzanne Bishop 469-6062 kwenebishop@gmail.com

Wouldn't miss this! I would like ____ reservations @ \$20 Per Person.

Please make your reservations by Monday, November 17th.

Name(s) : _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail _____

Please detach and send reservation form with a check (payable to BLIA) to:
BLIA, Box 1015, Ballston Lake, NY 12019

FOUND: At the end of July on the east side of the lake in the middle wide water, a 54 inch 1 person towable tube.
Contact David Pierce 399-6308

Lake Management Grant Submission

On October 15, Dave Pierce submitted a grant request to Global Foundries Foundation. This request is for \$10,200 to hire an engineering firm to assist BLIA in preparing a Comprehensive Lake Management Plan for Ballston Lake. Blue Niles and Bob Duncan assisted Dave in writing this application. This amount requested was quoted to the Town by Crawford Engineering earlier this summer.

Copper Sulfate Algae Control

This information is summarized from page 177 Diet of a Small Lake, Scott Kishbaugh DEC, "Case study algacides in Ballston and Kinderhook Lakes."

From the 1960s to the 1990s Ballston lake had a long history of copper sulfate treatments to control excessive algae levels in the lake. There were whole lake treatments after 1973 and in some years multiple treatments. Typically 1200 pounds of copper sulfate were applied in late June and early July. Here were the results:

1. Water clarity in the late 1970s was from 5 to 7 feet. In 2012 it was 4 to 6 feet.
2. DEC did a study in the mid 1990s and found the sediment copper levels were 175 mg/kg. Untreated lakes were 10-20 mg/kg.
3. Copper levels of 175 mg/kg is considered a "contaminated" sediment.
4. Excessive copper levels can be toxic to some fish species.
5. Blue green algae levels dropped immediately after application. This resulted in an increase in 1 foot of additional clarity.
6. Within a week the water clarity readings had returned to pre treatment levels.
7. Within a week blue green algae concentrations increased, "rebound effect".
8. Conclusion: copper sulfate is not a long term solution to algae control.

In addition the following information about copper sulfate is a concern:

1. Copper sulfate works best in water that has a pH below 6.5. The pH of Ballston lake is 7.5.
2. People cannot go in the water for 2 days after a copper sulfate treatment.
3. Copper sulfate causes eye irritation
4. Copper sulfate breaks apart algae cells and the contents in the cells is released into the water. This results in an increase in microcystin toxin concentrations.
5. Copper sulfate is toxic to the zooplankton that consume algae.

Studies show that humans influence the frequency of algae blooms. Our actions have a potential to alter the balance between having a bloom or not. Steps to reduce phosphorous from entering the lake will reduce the incidence of algae blooms. Old failing septic systems contribute to phosphorous levels. In addition, minimizing erosion, controlling storm water runoff, not using fertilizers, and maintaining a shoreline vegetative buffer, all help to limit our impact and preventing algae blooms.

On Sept. 13, Town of Ballston Historian, Rick Reynolds, led 30 participants on a BLIA sponsored tour of the “Forest Park” section of our lake. Mostly a walking tour, it included the area that was once “Forest Park,” a water-side attraction created by the Schenectady Railway Company as a recreational destination in 1902.

The park featured a carousel (which is still fully operational in Congress Park, Saratoga Springs), a dance pavilion, bathing facilities, boat rentals, a dining hall, an inn (which still stand as a private residence) and other amenities. Participants also visited a home with visible pontoons in the basement - proof that in its former life it was a party boat during prohibition.

The tour concluded with a buffet luncheon at historic Carney’s Tavern which served as a rest stop for Teddy Roosevelt as he traveled by train from the Adirondacks to Buffalo to be sworn in as the 26th President of the United States after the assassination of William McKinley. Mr. Reynolds continued the narrative with a short presentation and answered questions during lunch at Carney’s.

This vintage “Party Boat” ended its floating days by being pulled up on shore to become the eventual home of Dorothy and George Splain at 100 Westside Drive. Some thirty lake residents and “tourists” from as far away as California climbed into the Splain’s cellar to look at the giant wooden pontoons.



Thanks go out to Drew Hamilink who did all the interfacing with getting permission from property owners, and he did poison ivy control, to Judy Brodeur who took reservations and kept us organized, to Rick Reynolds for his great presentation, and to Carney’s for providing a fine luncheon.

How Much Does Ballston Lake Rise When It Rains?

Bob Duncan, October 2014

It has been a dry summer and the water in Ballston Lake has been low. When the rains return the lake level will climb back up again – but by how much?

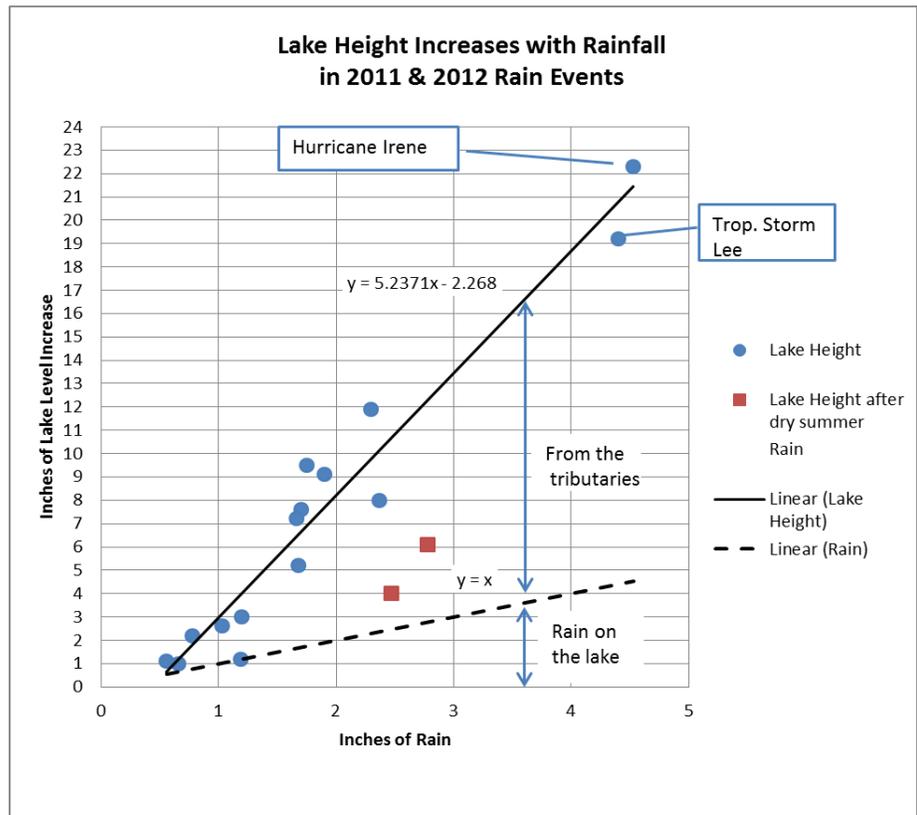
To answer this, we obtained data from our electronic rain gauge and lake level gauges for 16 rain events in 2011 and 2012. We graphed the data using a Microsoft Excel *XY scatter graph*. Each point is a storm’s rainfall (X axis) and the increase in the height of the lake level (Y Axis). We used Excel’s *trend line feature* to draw a line through the plotted points. By eliminating two outliers, large storms after a long dry period (plotted as square points), the trend’s correlation is very strong (0.94 where 1.0 is perfect). Excel assigned a formula for the trend:

$$Y = 5.24X - 2.27$$

The formula tells us that for every inch of rain (x), the lake level increases by 5.24 inches (Y). Of course one of those inches is rain falling directly on the lake. So the contribution from the watershed is 4.24 inches per inch of rain.

The formula also tells us that unless there is at least a half inch of rain there will be no observable increase in lake height. The rain is absorbed at the beginning of the storm,

This is an estimate. There are other factors not considered, such as discharge rates and time. You can read more about our lake’s hydrology, and ecology in our study, *A Study of Phosphorous Loading of Ballston Lake by Tributary Inflow*, published last spring on the BLIA website: ballstonlake.mylaketown.com/Phosphorus-Leve



Ballston Lake Improvement Association Is Going Green



Thinking Green – Saving Green a message from the treasurer, Judy Brodeur

Each year somewhere between 15 and 20 percent of our total spending goes into printing and postage – close to \$1500 so far this year! We could reduce this cost by reducing our mailings.

You may have noticed an increase in BLIA communications using email these last months and we hope to expand its use even more. It would be a tremendous savings if more members would opt to receive their newsletters by e-mail. We know that many members do not have/ or want e-mailings. Be assured that you can continue to receive a paper copy. BUT, starting next year, we plan to e-mail newsletters to anyone with an email address in our database and only send paper ones to those with US postal addresses....or those who specifically ask for this delivery method.

How can you help expand our e-mail address book? Go to our website <http://ballstonlake.mylaketown.com/> And select **JOIN US!** By creating your own profile (with your own username and password) you will be added to the database. THANK YOU! Need more help? Select **GET STARTED** on our home page to find great video tutorials.

Prefer to continue receiving newsletters in the mail? Let Suzanne Bishop know by:
Phone: 518 469 6062 * Mail: 15 France Lane Ballston Lake, NY 12019 * or E-mail: kwenebishop@gmail.com

Ballston Lake Improvement Association

BLIA

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