



Ballston Lake Improvement Association Newsletter: Spring 2015

President's Message

It is that wonderful time of year when we can look forward to another spring and summer on Ballston Lake. While we have all been dealing with this endless winter, I would like you to know that there are some very special people who have been working very diligently to protect and improve the quality of Ballston Lake.

I would like to recognize Drew Hamilink who has taken over the monumental job of Chairman of the Lake Sewer Committee. This commitment has required endless hours of special meetings and his learning a vast amount of new information. After listening to the report that Drew presented to the BLIA Board on 3/25, I knew we had the right man for the job. Thank you, Drew, for stepping up and taking over the great start that Joe Pollard initiated, and carrying this project forward.

Frank Shipp decided it was time to leave the BLIA Board last summer. At his departure, Frank made one last commitment to pursue the possibility of the BLIA becoming a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. This designation has two major benefits: our BLIA dues are tax deductible and with this designation, many new opportunities for grants are available for BLIA lake projects. Through the extensive efforts of Frank, aided by our treasurer Judy Brodeur, this process is nearly complete. We should all personally thank Frank and Judy for their hard work. One important step is to hold a special membership meeting where necessary changes to the BLIA bylaws can be presented and a membership vote can be held. This special meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 15th, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the Ballston Lake Firehouse. Please make every effort to attend this important meeting.

The team of Wes and Joanne DeVoe did an amazing job organizing and setting up the paperwork for the informal survey that was done last fall to determine the degree of support for the sewer project in Buell Heights area and around Ballston Lake. This couple developed the necessary forms, recruited survey volunteers, kept accurate records of the results and accurately compiled the findings. Their efforts provided the favorable survey results and became the driving force to move this project forward.

There are many people who refer to Ballston Lake as a "gem." We are very fortunate to have these residents who are willing to step up to the plate and make the required efforts to see that this lake will be a "gem" for many more years.

Pete Herman- President

Volunteer Opportunity- Identifying Open Space Resources

We are looking for 4 to 6 volunteers to help BLIA map out the important landscape features of the Ballston Lake watershed. We will provide maps to be marked up identifying important open space resources such as water, forest, scenic, and wildlife. We will then meet to compile a composite resource map to be forwarded to the Towns of Ballston and Clifton Park. Contact Scott Miller (millerrs@mindspring.com) or Dave Pierce (pep416@aol.com) if you are interested.

Sewer Project Information Update

Progress on the sewer project has been steady, if not rapid. You may have read the article in the Gazette about our recent discussions with the County Sewer Commission. The county commissioners unanimously voted their support for our project contingent on working out the final details of a maintenance agreement. The agreed on plan is slightly different than the original. Rather than upgrading and connecting to the Stonebridge pump station (which would have maxed out that facility leaving no flexibility for future connections) we will now extend our line and connect directly to the main sewer line at Shenentaha Park. The new plan will include enlarging the line along the west side of the lake which will provide some limited additional capacity for future extensions. We have also been working with both the Town of Ballston and Clifton Park on their policies regarding charges for vacant lots. In the original plan all vacant lots greater than .2 acres were to be charged a full share. Under the new plan lots less than .5 acres will bear no charge. Lots between .5 acres and the zoned building lot size will be charged a half share and lots of zoned building size will be charged a full share. Final cost calculations are being made and we will communicate those as soon as they are available. Preparations are also being done for a mailing from the towns to the involved residents about the project.

The engineers from both towns are working on a required document called the Map Plan and Report. When these are completed the towns must vote whether to proceed. If they do, that would trigger the call for a public meeting where details will be presented and residents can voice their opinions to the Boards.

Finally, a new website has been set up where information will be made available for your review.

www.ballstonsewers.org

Drew Hamelin k-Sewer Committee Chair



Boat Launch At Villago's

As of this time, the boat launch at Villago's will be operating under the same procedures as last year. There is a lock box at water's edge for payment of the launch fee. Sandy Foster, owner, said that they will extend the same courtesy as last year for lake residents regarding the annual launch of watercraft. Only one fee will be required for the annual launch.



Thanks to all of you who responded to our appeal to show your love of the lake and renewed by Valentine's Day 2015. Nearly 70% of our members became eligible for the "Fly Over" and at the March 24 Board meeting the lucky winner was selected. Congratulations to Agnes McCarthy. We will be waving to you as you pass overhead!

We continue to ask for support for all the activities which BLIA conducts to insure the preservation of the lake's quality: most notably water testing and promotion of the sewer project. But we also seek to build a sense of community around this unique body of water with events like the Clean Up Day, 4th of July Boat Parade, summer picnic and others held throughout the year. Your participation and financial support are critical.

Please consider joining or renewing your dues using the form provided. This year we will be conducting our Neighbor-to-Neighbor Drive during the month of May hoping to recruit even more members. Volunteers are always welcome to help. It would involve a preliminary planning meeting and then as much time as you would be willing to give in your neighborhood.

As you may have noticed, we are making a concerted effort to communicate using email. This is an inexpensive and efficient way to keep members informed. It helps us reduce printing and postage costs and serves as a positive environmental example. Please be sure that we have your email address by emailing me at kwenebishop@gmail.com

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>

Looking forward to another wonderful summer on the lake! Suzanne Bishop



Facebook – Like us on Facebook along with some 240 other "friends". We try to post interesting items and photos and repost community activities. If you have a photo you think would make a good post e-mail the jpeg to devoepr@nycap.rr.com



A Historic Tour covering up to 10 community properties, including "The Castle", White's Beach, The MacDonald Grave and more, is in the planning stages. Watch for updates.



May 2 - Saturday *CLEAN UP DAY*
April 15 - Wednesday *NON PROFIT REPORT*
7:00 pm at the BL firehouse.
July 4, "Happy Birthday America" *BOAT PARADE*



BLIA

Ballston Lake Improvement Association

Annual Dues and Donation For

BLIA is the ONLY organization dedicated solely to the protection and improvement of the lifestyle and water quality of Ballston Lake. Its activities are supported by the annual dues of its members. We are ALL stakeholders who profit from the efforts of this dedicated group. Your INVESTMENT is vital!

Please join us in protecting our lake as a:

- Friend (\$40)
- Partner (\$75)
- Steward (\$100)
- Trustee (\$100+)

Name _____ (RENEWING? NO CHANGES? Leave the rest blank!)

MAILING ADDRESS _____

PROPERTY ADDRESS _____

PHONES HOME _____ CELL _____

EMAIL ADDRESS(ES) _____

Want to volunteer?

_____ social activities _____ public relations, membership _____ website management

_____ newsletter, communication _____ water testing and other lake management activities

Please fill out this form and return it along with your check made payable to Ballston Lake Improvement Association.

BLIA Treasurer P.O. Box 1015 Ballston Lake, NY 12019

Thank You!

<http://ballstonlake.mylaketown.com>

Backhoe Through The Ice On Ballston Lake

The Ballston Journal reported that on February 23, 2015 a backhoe that was being used to clear the ice for a motor cycle event for the Electric City Riders hit a spot where there was a natural spring and went through the ice. Additional equipment was brought on the scene to free the backhoe from the ice. It was reported that the Department of Environmental Conservation was at the scene and there was no oil or hazardous material spills into the lake. To see the complete article, visit the website at: theballstonjournal.com. (photo courtesy of Saratoga Office of Emergency Responders.)



Invasive Species Update:

The Lake Management Committee, under the direction of Chairman Dave Pierce, continues to monitor invasive species in the lake. This past year there were new sites where water chestnuts were found. A crew of people is needed to help remove these plants when they are found. It is most easily done from canoe in deep water, or by wading if the water is shallow. If you would be willing to help with this ongoing project, please contact Dave Pierce: pep416@aol.com

Clean Up Day



The annual Ballston Lake Clean Up Day will be help on Saturday, May 2 from 8:00 am until noon. This event is sponsored by BLIA, The Burnt Hills/ Ballston Lake Business and Professional Association and the Town Of Ballston. Register at the Ballston Lake Firehouse and choose are area of the town you are willing to work on. T-Shirts and refreshments are provided by the sponsors. Get your neighbors together for this worthwhile event. Photo: Patti and Bill Goslin at Clean Up Day 2014.

NOTICE OF A SPECIAL BLIA MEMBERSHIP MEETING TO BE HELD

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2015 - 7PM AT THE BALLSTON LAKE FIREHOUSE

Purpose: To approve amendments to BLIA's two fundamental documents, the BLIA Articles of Incorporation and the Constitution, so we may become a 501(c)(3) approved corporation. Our documents have been reviewed by a NYSFOLA attorney who is guiding us in the process. We are voting on specific changes that he has recommended. A copy of this notice and relevant documents were mailed to all eligible voters on April 1, 2015. Contact Sue Bishop at kwenebishop@gmail.com if you would also like to receive a copy by email.

Why Become a 501(c)(3): 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.

Who Can Vote: Members paid in 2014 or 2015 are eligible to vote.

How to Vote: Cast your vote at the Special Meeting or complete & return the ballot that you received by mail/email before April 15, 2015. (BLIA, Box 1015, Ballston Lake, NY 12019.)

If you have questions, you may call Frank Shipp at 518-399-6506.

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

