

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2012

ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW

The Indian Lake Association held its thirty-third annual meeting on Saturday afternoon, August 6 at Byron Park. For the first time, the annual meeting was combined with a barbecue. In 2010 the association hosted a barbecue separate from the annual meeting to favorable reviews and decided to combine the events in an effort to reduce the number of meetings. It was decided to host the event on a Saturday to make it convenient for as many people as possible. The downside is Saturdays are difficult for owners of tourist oriented businesses, as it is a typical changeover day. Regardless, we had 30 members attend the business meeting, with another 25 arriving for the barbecue and entertainment. Tom Verner, amazed both kids and adults with his magic tricks and stories. We picked up a few new members over the summer with a total of 103 current members and \$1651.89 in the bank.

The board has been exploring the possibility of incorporating or becoming a 501c-3 to facilitate banking issues, increase liability protection and allow for grant funding. The board will continue to discuss the issue.

The board has also been discussing the idea of creating a web page as another way of getting information to our members. Richard Vincellette has been working on a preliminary design and will discuss more at the annual meeting.

The ILA By-Laws were revised and adopted.

LOCAL NEWS

As far as winter goes: it came late, left early, and didn't make much of a ruckus while it was here. Whatever folks saved in firewood and heating oil was more than offset by lost business and lost snow-related work. Fortunately, winter only lasts about half the year in Indian Lake: so, all is not lost. Indian Lake didn't even fully freeze until after New Year's - by far, the latest ever. Lake George never froze at all. The lake remained

partially frozen for at least a month, and it may have posed problems for some folks' docks. It did for mine. Late fall lake level hovered around the same point for week after week, and many docks wound up being iced in where they floated in the coves and leeward areas. Where this may not have been a problem in other years, this time was different. As lake levels fluctuated slightly and winds blew out on the open expanse of water, what ice there was tended to move around a bit too much for my good old dock. Hopefully, if you're a dock owner, you won't have suffered any similar misfortune. Eighty degree weather in mid-March made short work of the ice, and by March 26 (nearly a month earlier than usual) it was gone, except for a quarter mile patch up near the narrows. Then on the evening of March 26 temperatures plummeted into the single digits and parts of the lake tried to re-freeze and all the rest of the state lost its apple crop, after the premature blooming.

While the winter thawed, property taxes in New York State were effectively frozen with Governor Cuomo's "2%" tax levy cap. Although it's not a hard 2%, it has put a lot of pressure on local government to think seriously about spending. There is finally a serious (desperate?) effort being made to share services and trim personnel, if not cut programs. In a sign of the times, Indian Lake's Volunteer Ambulance Corps has finally begun billing for its ambulance runs. Indian Lake replaced long-time Supervisor Barry Hutchins (who retired) with Brian Wells (a former Town and School Board member). Brian seems to share many of the same traits as Barry, and should be a pleasure for the Association to work with. The Town Board's most extreme fiscal hawk, George Virgil, lost his seat by a handful of votes to Jack Valentine, who campaigned on being eager to breach the 2% cap, and somehow won anyway.

Indian Lake Central School was honored by the New York State Education Department as an "Essential Elements School to Watch". This means that its

exemplary policies, practices and student results have made it a school that other districts will send their personnel to observe and study. There have been only 18 other schools in the state and less than 300 in the nation that had been so honored, up to this point. Indian Lake is the first small, rural K-12 school to receive this recognition.

Other items of interest are our two new restaurants: Puterko's Family Pizzeria (next to the Adirondack One Stop) and Swifty's (at the site of the former Mountain Grill/ Ugly Mug/Log Inn/ Papa Tom's/Rosewill's/etc). True broad band internet should be installed throughout the county within the next two years, because of the area's success with its proposals through the Regional Economic Development program of NYS. The long wished-for cellphone tower on Tower Hill is supposedly going to be installed this spring. And, on a much sadder note, Dick Spring, of Spring's Store, passed away unexpectedly at the beginning of March.

- Jon Vorhees

NOMINATIONS TO THE BOARD

We added two new board members to bring us to our required nine. Don Woodmansee was nominated through last year's newsletter. Don is a longtime member and past president of the board. Pete Sinski, also a longtime member, was nominated from the floor of the annual meeting along with the three expiring term directors, Bruce Catlin, Russ Evatt and Jeremy Gorss. Included was a catch up nomination for Joe Hancock for 2010. With no objections from the members, the nominations were combined in a single vote. The first terms (3 years) for Richard Vincelle and Paul Coppock expire this year and if they are willing, will be re-nominated at the annual meeting. Paul Kietzman has been a director since 2003 and his third and final term expires this year. He has been a tremendous help to the ILA with major contributions to the By-Laws and Boaters Guide. Thank you Paul.

ILA PUBLICATIONS

The Association publishes a boaters guide and an annual newsletter. The boaters guide has been updated for 2012 and will be available for free at the NYS boat launch, Clarkes Marina, the Lake Store and other locations in town. It contains a synopsis of the NYS Boating Regulations as well as phone numbers to report problems on the lake. The annual newsletter continues to be our main form of communication sent

to all members with up to date dues payments. We also send to members that are within a year out of date with their dues in hopes they will continue their membership. Your membership dues renewal date is posted on your mailing label.

ILA DICK MERRILL SCHOLARSHIP

The ILA has been providing a small scholarship to Indian Lake High School graduates that demonstrate interest in Environmental Studies since it's early organization. Last year the scholarship was awarded to Henry "Hank" Evatt, an outstanding young man with great support for and interest in the lake. The Association received a note with a grateful thank you from Hank.

INVASIVE PROGRAM UPDATE

In 2011 most of Indian Lake was again surveyed for aquatic invasive plants and again, no invasives were observed. A great thank you to survey volunteers Autumn Blanchard, Paul Coppock, Jeff Gorss, Ellen Sinski and Pete Sinski for all their efforts. If you or someone you know would like to participate in the aquatic survey please join us! One day training sessions offered by the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program are scheduled for June 21, 26 & 28, 2011 at three locations in the Park. Please contact Jeremy for more information.

It should be noted that Indian Lake and Lewey Lake are becoming surrounded by waterways already invaded. These invasives include aquatic and terrestrial plants along with other organisms such as zebra mussel, spiny water flea, and emerald ash borer (firewood – burn it where you buy it). Characteristics of Indian Lake once thought to preclude invasives from our waters no longer safeguard us. This stuff adapts! Careless humans are most responsible for the transport of these invasives. Every one of us needs to be vigilant in defending our lakes as well as all the Adirondacks. APIPP has a great web site full of information at www.adkinvasives.com. Please educate yourselves, your guests, your neighbors about invasives and how to prevent their transport. If you see what you think might be invasive plant life in the lake, please identify its exact location and call me at 518-648-0404. Hamilton County Soil & Water, 518-548-3991, is also invested in prevention and eradication of all invasives. We are at war.

See you on the water.

- Jeremy Gorss

WATER QUALITY

Joe Hancock and Russ Evatt, in cooperation with the Adirondack Watershed Institute, sampled the lake water at the south end of the lake three times over the summer and early fall of 2011. The samples were collected, kept in a freezer and then sent to the Institute in September. After the samples were analyzed a report was generated.

The health of a lake is classified as oligotrophic, mesotrophic or eutrophic as determined by measuring three different water quality standards; the level of total phosphorous, chlorophyll-a and secchi disk transparency. Oligotrophic lakes are typically clean and clear with low levels of total phosphorous, low levels of chlorophyll-a and high transparencies. Eutrophic lakes are on the other end of the scale, with nutrient-rich waters and high levels of total phosphorous and chlorophyll-a and low transparencies. Mesotrophic lakes have moderate levels of all three of these water quality parameters.

Based upon the results of the analysis, Indian Lake is considered to be a mesotrophic water body with moderate levels of total phosphorous and chlorophyll-a and good transparency.

The data also show a water body that is moderately sensitive to acidification at this time with moderate pH levels and good buffering capabilities. Oxygen levels vary depending on where and when the samples were taken and show certain areas as ideal for fish survival and others less so.

With eight years of data on record, water quality trends can be detected. According to the 2011 report, Indian Lakes water quality is very weather dependant. In general, a year with heavy rain and runoff tends to raise the phosphorous level in the lake which has led to increased algae growth and decreased transparency readings while a dry year has led to the opposite trend. 2011 appears to be a bit of an anomaly, since it was an above average year for precipitation yet the phosphorous level was down. Perhaps the timing of the rain events plays a role.

There will be copies of the report at the annual meeting but if anyone would like an electronic copy you can email Bruce - bruce@timberlock.com

INDIAN LAKE WATER LEVEL - 2011 (from HRBRD and USGS websites)

HISTORIC AVERAGE ELEVATION - thin line

2011 ACTUAL ELEVATION - heavy line

TARGET ELEVATION - dotted line

TARGET ELEVATIONS

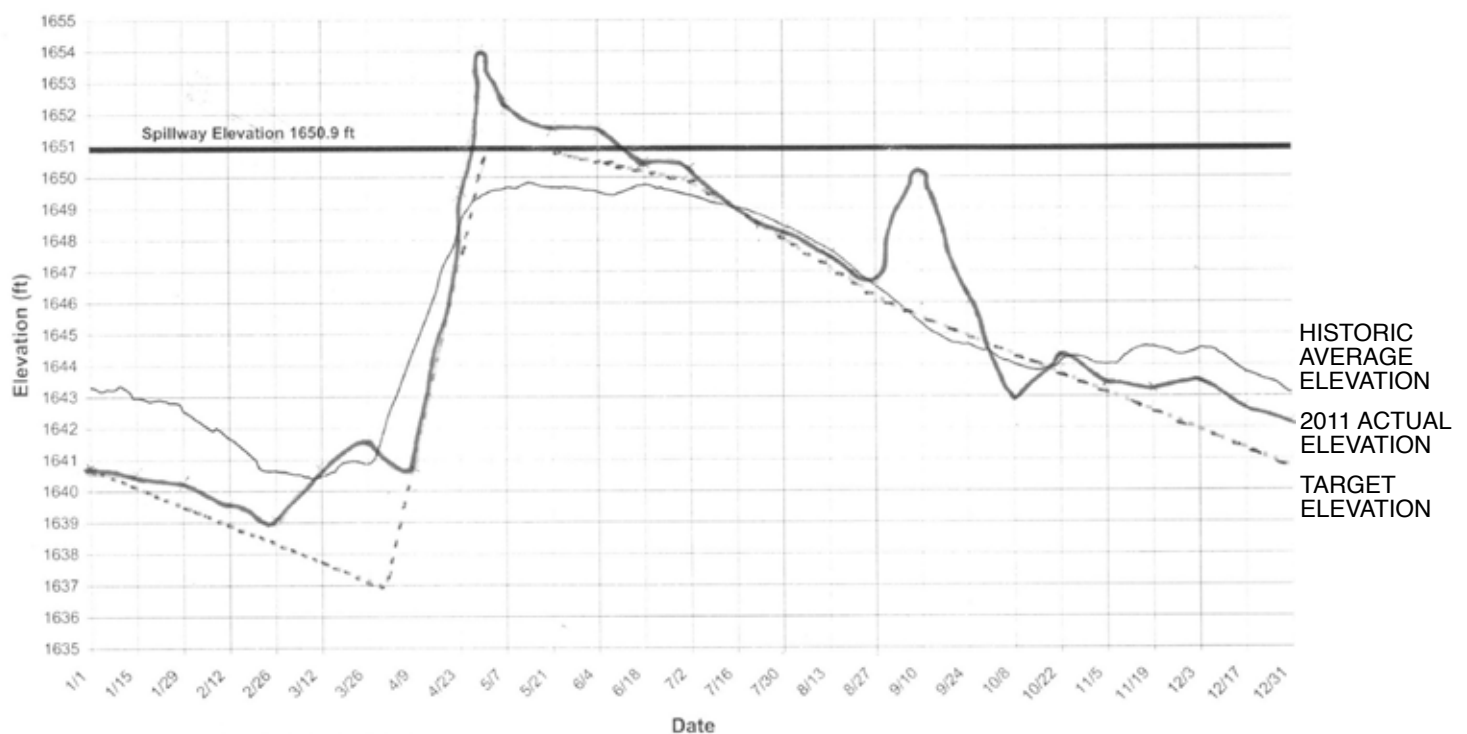
March 31 - 19.0 1636.91

May 1 - 33.0 1650.91

July 1 - 32.0 1649.91

Aug. 1 - 30.0 1647.91

Sept. 1 - 28.0 1645.91





INDIAN LAKE ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors 2011-2012

President - Bruce Catlin 648-5494
Vice President - Joe Hancock 648-5934
Secretary - Jeremy Gorss 648-0404
Treasurer - Richard Vincelette 648-5542
At-Large - Russ Evatt 648-6326
At-Large - Paul Kietzman 648-5557
At-Large - Paul Coppock 648-0762
At-Large - Don Woodmansee
At-Large - Pete Sinski -648-5980

At the request of our members, local phone numbers of the board have been included.

INDIAN LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING & PICNIC BYRON PARK SATURDAY, JULY 28, 2012

4:30 pm - ILA Business Meeting
5:30 pm - Barbeque Picnic

ILA will supply burgers, hotdogs or veggieburgers FREE to ILA members. One membership (individual or group) will entitle 2 adults to attend for free. There will be a charge of \$2.50 for children 12 and under and \$5.00 for non-member guests. The guest fee will be applied to a new annual membership for anyone not currently an ILA member so please invite your friends and neighbors. Each family attending should bring a dish to share (appetizer, salad or dessert) as well as drinks of your choice.

Please RSVP with the enclosed mailer or contact:
Ellen Sinski at cepk5@warwick.net or 518-648-5980.