

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2013

ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW

The Indian Lake Association held it's thirty-fourth annual meeting on Saturday, July 28th at Byron Park. This was the second year combining the business meeting with a barbecue. Many thanks to the board members and spouses for their efforts in organizing the event. We had 46 adults and 6 children attend. Our treasurer reported 35 renewals and 11 new memberships during the year, for a total of 96 current members and \$1819.48 in the bank. Paul Coppock and Rich Vincelle were renominated for a second 3 year term and Eric Hanson was nominated as a new board member. All nominees were accepted by the membership. We bid a fond farewell to outgoing board member, Paul Kietzman for his nine years of service to the board. We continue to print the Indian Lake Boaters Guide and distribute it to area merchants and boat launch sites. We printed 300 last year and plan on 500 this year. The portion of the Boaters Guide pertaining to NYS law is included on page 5. Water levels and the management of the dam were discussed. It was noted that with the low snow pack from the previous winter and dry spring, the lake was a foot or more below normal throughout the summer. As most of you know, the Hudson River Black River Regulating District operates and maintains the dam. In conversations with Michael Clark, the executive director of the HRBRRD, he reported that there are no plans to alter the management of the dam and the physical condition continues to be excellent. He also mentioned they were recently able to free up a previously frozen gate which should help in managing high water events. We continue to have a good relationship with HRBRRD and Michael has agreed to speak at this year's annual meeting.

LOCAL NEWS

The good old town of Indian Lake managed to hold its own this past year. Winter itself got off to an exceptionally slow start, that looked like it would hurt the local snow dependant businesses again. The lake

never froze until the day after Christmas... about as late as it ever has but we were finally blessed with just enough snow pack to keep everyone perking along, but not quite enough to require roofs to be shoveled. Once winter did finally get settled in, though, it made itself so comfortable that it hung around long past its customary bitter end. Snowmobiles rode the lake into the beginning of April.

The gapes and gaps in the local commercial scene on main street wobbled around a little, but never quite healed up. The Pick-It-Patch building was sold and is being rehabbed into a new flooring store, which will be operated by David Ameden. There will be an accountant's office upstairs, and the Ice Cream Garden will continue to operate. Unfortunately, the opportunity for David to establish his business arose because of the sad passing of Pete Hutchins. Pete's widow made the unfortunate decision to close the businesses that they owned or rented on the corner, in the vain hope of selling the property. So, now Pete's has replaced the Pick-It-Patch as a defunct space at the intersection. Jane and Cathy's restaurant also closed, and now accounts for yet another empty slot in the Town center. The old Misty Mountain Bakeshop is going to be reopened as a restaurant, so I guess we could conclude that the Town did not diminish any more than it already had. The One Stop is even in the process of expanding, in order to offer more groceries. School and property tax bills shouldn't be too jarring this year. The Town managed to hold the line. County government was another story, however, with a whopping 16% increase. No one pays much attention to what goes on at the County level. So, it's become a convenient burial ground for all the unwanted mandates and functions that the higher ups don't want to take responsibility for. Look for ever more of your hard-earned dollars to disappear behind this mysterious curtain. The school dodged a bullet after Hamilton County, alone in all New York State, was inexplicably slated for a massive, surprise cut in state school aid. This was on top of the

predictable "Gap Elimination" cuts that have taken away a half million dollars in funds from the district over the last four years. This latest, unexpected cut would have provided the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back. Fortunately, the community and the district mounted a well-orchestrated voice of protest, and the aid was restored. So, school taxes should not increase significantly. Indian Lake Central School also received permission to begin hosting a foreign student program next year. This should be a tremendously stimulating program for our local students, as well as being a benefit to the local economy and a revenue gain for the district.

One of the biggest things looming on the horizon for Indian Lake is the addition of the Gooley Club and O.K. Slip Falls tracts into the Forest Preserve. NYS has completed the acquisition of the Gooley Club land, at the end of Chain Lakes Road, and will shortly close on O.K. Slip Falls and surrounding territories, both of which are being acquired from the Nature Conservancy, which had acquired them for this purpose from Finch Pruyn. These are going to be major hiking and paddling attractions, easily on a par with anything else in our area. O.K. Slip Falls is thought by some to be the highest waterfall in New York State. There is a great debate going on right now about how the Gooley Club lands should be zoned. Park conservation organizations are lobbying for Wilderness classification throughout. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's recommendations are somewhat more versatile, however. While they include a large Wilderness component, they also propose to accommodate a few snowmobile trails, motorized access points to take out canoes from downstream paddles along the Hudson from Newcomb to the confluence with the Indian River, handicapped accessible areas, and some limited float plane access. What it will boil down to is how far the public will need to hike in to access the dozens of lakes, ponds and the extensive river frontage on the magnificent 22,000 acre parcel. Should it be decided that the access will be wider, rather than limited, Indian Lake may be at a disadvantage to the communities to the north. Chain Lakes Road verges too close to the Indian River Wild River Corridor to be legally used by motorized traffic Unless it can be proven that this was, at one time, a public road (which is commonly believed to be the case), or unless the road is rerouted; then visitors from our side will have to walk a very long way in to anything on the tract. Newcomb and Minerva will

then offer much closer jumping off points, and will no doubt benefit enormously from the number of people who are going to be eager to explore these newly opened lands.
~ Jon Vorhees

ILA DICK MERRILL SCHOLARSHIP

The ILA has been providing a small scholarship to Indian Lake High School graduates that demonstrate interest in Environmental Studies and the lake since it's early organization. In 2010 the scholarship was named after Dick Merrill, long time board member, educator and lake advocate. Last year, the scholarship was awarded to ILCS senior Dalton Aldous, an avid outdoorsman and volunteer firefighter.

INVASIVES & PROPERTY VALUES

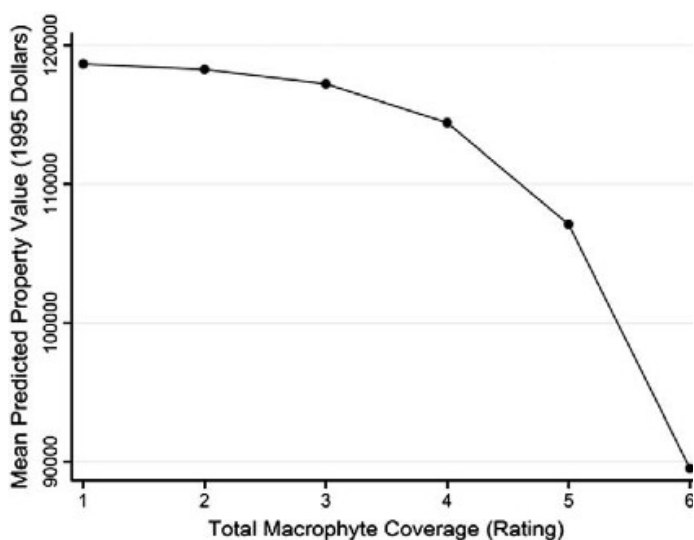
We are indeed lucky that no invasive species have been observed in our beautiful Indian Lake. According to the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program, infestations of exotic plants such as Eurasian watermilfoil, Curlyleaf pondweed, and Water chestnut are not yet predominant across the Park, but they have a high potential to spread - undermining the ecological and recreational value of lakes and ponds throughout the area. Invasive plants such a milfoil can reproduce extremely rapidly and can infest an entire lake within two years of introduction to the system. Therefore, it is in all of our best interests to prevent the introduction of invasive exotic plants into Indian Lake. It is a far better option to control invasive species infestation by prevention through programs such a rigorous boat inspection and cleaning rather than invasive species management and control thorough practices such as herbicide applications and mechanical harvesting. Indeed, eradication of milfoil is rarely ever successful because of the ability of this plant to reproduce from small fragments.

Of significant concern to lakefront, seasonal camp, and tourism-related property owners is that property values could also be negatively affected by invasive plant infestations that can interfere with recreational activities such as swimming, fishing, water skiing, and boating. In Vermont, Eurasian watermilfoil infests about 60 lakes and several rivers, including Lake Champlain, which is located between Vermont and the Adirondack Park. A 2010 report, The effect of an aquatic invasive species (Eurasian watermilfoil) on lakefront property values, by Congwen Zhang and Kevin J. Boyle published in Ecological Economics discusses this issue in detail.

Previous studies indicate that invasive species reduce property values, and that the presence of milfoil in a lake can result in a substantial reduction in property values.

The region for the Vermont study was four lakes and a pond in Rutland County, Vermont. These waters were selected because they have established milfoil infestations and the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation could provide data on the extent of milfoil coverage on the lake surface in front of each sold property. The milfoil infestations in these lakes, which occurred as early as 1982, are sufficient that each lake has experienced multiple types of control actions.

Results of the 2010 study indicate that Eurasian watermilfoil substantially affects lakefront property values. As Eurasian watermilfoil infests a lake, adding to the total aquatic plant growth, property values can diminish by 1% to 16% for incremental increases in the infestation level. Using actual property sale price information, the authors of the study developed a model to predict the impact on property sale prices with differing levels of aquatic plant coverage, ranging from 1 (less than 1% coverage) to 6 (81-100% coverage). The following graph shows the results of predicted average property values calculated at total aquatic plant coverage values ranging from 1 to 6.



The bottom line is that the Vermont study documents the decline of lakefront property values that is directly related to the level of invasive aquatic plant coverage. Therefore, policies that successfully prevent infestations have significant economic benefits to owners of lakefront properties and local communities.

If Indian Lake's condition were to deteriorate, the value of the lakefront property could substantially decrease, affecting the Town of Indian Lake's tax base and the local economy. Indian Lake residents, both seasonal and year-round, should be aware of the potential of invasive aquatic plants to infest the lake and support programs to prevent infestation. Indian Lake is invasive plant-free now; let's all work keep it that way!

~ Eric Hanson

INVASIVE PROGRAM UPDATE

In 2012 all of Indian Lake, with the exception of some island shoreline, was again surveyed for aquatic invasive plants and again, no invasives were observed. A big thank you to volunteers Autumn Blanchard, Paul Coppock, Ellie Menz, Ellen Sinski and Pete Sinski for all their efforts. Professionals Scott Kishbaugh of NY's DEC and Lenny Croote of HamCo Soil and Water surveyed Lewey Lake at the end of the season and found no invasives there. Scott had offered their help at the training session I attended in June and I readily accepted. If you or someone you know would like to participate in the aquatic survey please join us! The one day training sessions lasting approximately four hours are offered by the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) and are scheduled for June 20, 25 and 27, 2013 at three locations in the Park. Please contact me for more information (518-648-0404).

Indian Lake and Lewey Lake are becoming surrounded by Adirondack waterways already invaded. These include Algonquin, Brant, both Carogas, Champlain, Cranberry, Daggett, Durant, all the Fulton Chain, George, Great Sacandaga, Long, Placid, Raquette, Rock Pond, Sacandaga, the Saranacs, Schroon, and Tupper. There are at least 88 waterways within the Park that are invaded and many more elsewhere in the state including the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers. These invasives comprise 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. Invasives adapt.

Careless humans are most responsible for the transport of these invasives. Along with our New York neighbors, we also host a fair share of out of state boats on the lake. All boats, trailers, paddles, motors and gear can harbor invasives and need to be inspected

and cleaned. In July 2012, Governor Andrew Cuomo signed into law the Invasive Species Prevention Act which will eliminate the sale, purchase and transport of prohibited invasive species. Every one of us needs to be vigilant in defending our lakes as well as all the Adirondacks. APIPP's web site full of information is www.adkinvasives.com. Please educate yourselves, your guests, your neighbors about invasives and how to prevent their transport and infestation. 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.

See you on the water.

~ Jeremy Gorss

WATER QUALITY

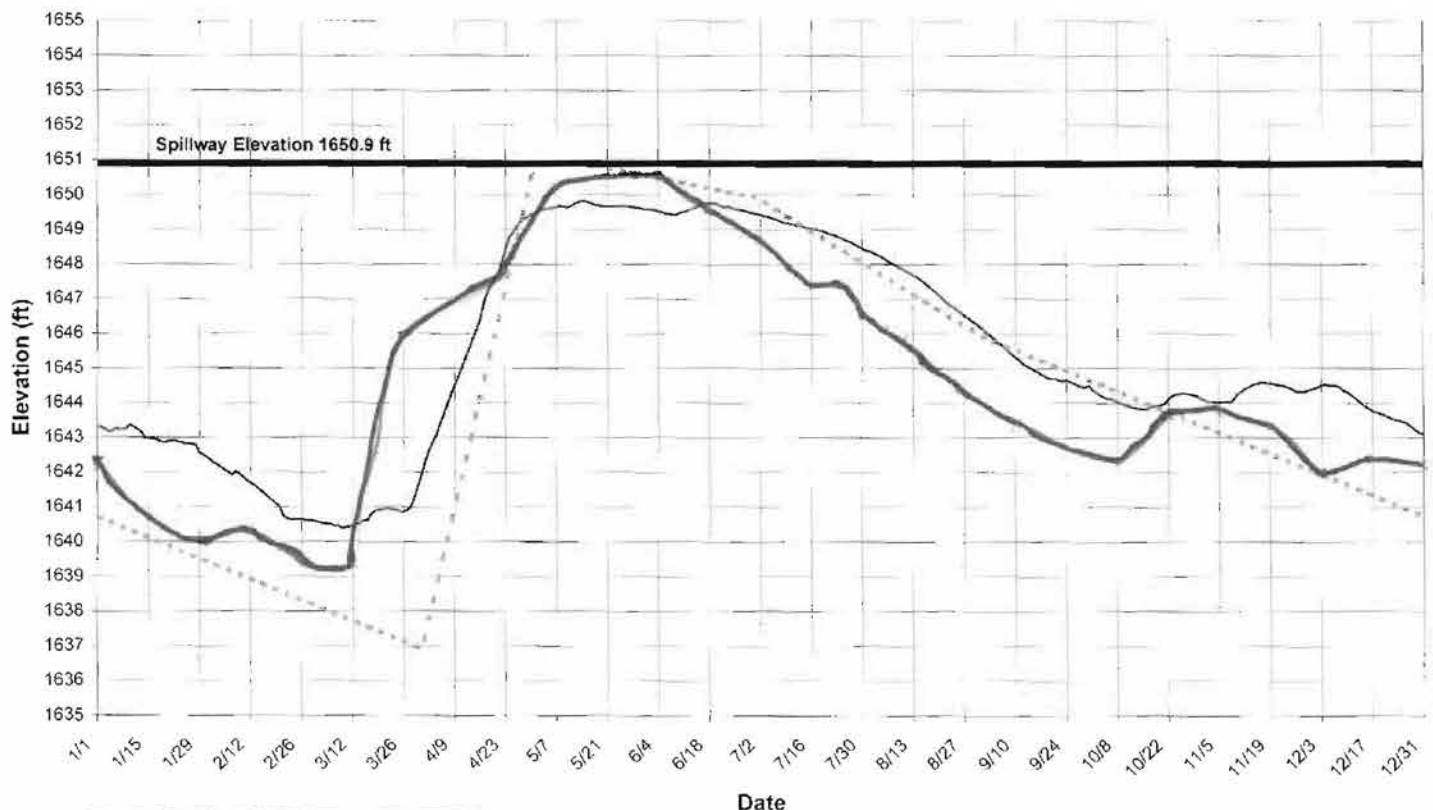
Our Indian Lake Association continues to participate in the Adirondack Lake Assessment Program that is sponsored by Protect the Adirondacks. We have been participating for 9 years now. Over the summer 3 samples of lake water are collected, frozen, and sent to the Adirondack Watershed Institute at Paul Smith's College. A report is generated and based on the results Indian Lake continues to test satisfactorily for PH which indicates the current threat from acid rain is minimal. Other tests include alkalinity and phosphorous which when readings are high indicate the ability of algae to grow. During the early part of last summer there was very little rainfall which resulted in very clear lake water and somewhat higher readings for PH and alkalinity.

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

~ Joe Hancock

INDIAN LAKE WATER LEVEL - 2012

(data from HRBRD and USGS websites)



2012 ACTUAL ELEVATION - heavy line
 HISTORIC AVERAGE ELEVATION - thin 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 2012-2013

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 Coppock 648-0762
At-Large - Don Woodmansee 648-5649
At-Large - Pete Sinski 648-5980
At-Large - Eric Hanson 648-5020

INDIAN LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING & PICNIC BYRON PARK SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2013

4:30 pm - ILA Business Meeting
5:30 pm - Guest Speaker - Michael Clark HRBRRD
6:00 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.