

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2014

ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW

Members of the Indian Lake Association gathered at Byron Park on July 27 for the 35th annual meeting combined with the association picnic. Thirty adults were in attendance, last years minutes were reviewed and approved. It was reported that we had a balance of \$1606.75 in the bank with 89 active members and 72 others not current in their membership. We mailed out 130 newsletters in May of 2013 which included the more recently lapsed members. It was clear that we needed to reach out to past members and remind them to renew so a letter was sent out in April of 2014. 500 boaters guides were printed and distributed at the NYS launch, Indian Lake Marina, The Lake Store and Pines Hardware. There was continued discussion on changing the association into a not for profit corporation to allow for easier banking, liability protection and most important, allow grant funding for future projects like lake stewards and invasive plant education. Joe Hancock ran a successful, positive, campaign and was re-nominated and voted in for his third term on the board.

Michael Clark, the executive director of the Hudson River Black River District was the guest speaker. He offered an excellent history of the HRBRD, it's mission and the challenges of managing the waters of Indian Lake. The HRBRD manages not only Indian Lake but also Great Sacandaga Lake, Stillwater, and lakes in the Fulton Chain. The operations of the HRBRD were originally funded by a charge to the hydroelectric plants on the Hudson but have shifted to charges assessed to downstream counties who benefit from the flood mitigation management. Mr. Clark discounted the possibility of hydro power at the dam due to development difficulties. He also explained the challenges involved in managing the water level of Indian Lake. There are target elevations agreed upon with the ILA in the 1980's, but with the steep surrounding slopes and 131 square mile watershed, coupled with a relatively small outlet at the dam, the lake level can rise

quickly with a big rain event or rapid snow melt. The HRBRD continue to maintain the 1898 dam which they report is in excellent condition.

LOCAL NEWS

Indian Lake's winter started on schedule in December, with some fluffy and timely snow but unfortunately rain took it away, as well as the next snowfall which discouraged visitors from venturing to town for the Christmas break. Afterwards a bitter cold settled in for much of January that seemed to stalk the townspeople like some remorseless monster in a horror film.

It has probably happened before, but Squaw Brook completely froze over, from the iced-in lake all the way up stream, as far as the eye could see, solid white, wall to wall. With all the cold weather came no new snow, and no business for the village. Everyone was happy to tear January's page off the calendar and welcome in February with longer days and a hint of heat from the sun... presidents' week.. snowcade... new hopes for prosperity. Unfortunately, February just provided more of the same and we didn't have good snow conditions until March, when things finally began to resemble normal, though still exceptionally cold. The Town water and sewer workers reported frost levels down to 7' in some plowed and traveled areas. Try jackhammering that out in below zero weather to get your water running, and you'll have some idea of where the property tax dollars go.

The lake seemed to experience an unusually deep draw down, and is likely to be slow in refilling, particularly since we had below normal snowpack (not including any upcoming April, May or June blizzards). Nevertheless, it would be hard to imagine that by the time you're reading this, the lake won't be brim full and the feeling of being blessed to live here will return triumphant and smiles will grace the frostbitten faces of the survivors who'll greet you in town.

A year where the worst thing we have to talk about is the cold weather is really not such a bad year at all, especially since (as far as I know) no one actually froze to death. Not a tremendous amount of real newsworthy stuff happened. There was a happy conclusion to the classification of the Nature Conservancy/Finch Pruyn lands. The Town got a long-desired snowmobile connector trail to Newcomb and other points north. Park advocates got a major increase in Wilderness acreage, and there will be some incredible, new hiking attractions to O.K. Slip Falls and the Essex Chain of Lakes, not to mention new paddling venues. No interest group was entirely pleased with the outcome, but none seemed too put out by it either. Things don't often work out so well.

Tax-wise, the line was held locally... pretty much. New York State and other points higher up the food chain seemed another matter, however. The State balanced its budget through some creative sleight-of-hand that seems to show everything balancing out by about 2018. In the meanwhile, it's hard to get a clear picture of where we stand today through all the smoke and mirrors. Governor Cuomo entered a spending competition with Mayor DeBlasio of NYC to see who could throw the most money the fastest at universal, full-day Pre-K. Pre-K no doubt has its merits but a billion and a half dollars is going to seem a bit ostentatious in a state which has been starving its school districts for aid for so long that many dozens of them can no longer even afford to have Kindergarten classes. From where I sit on our local school board, it has also been fascinating to watch as the public has finally taken notice of the potentially enormous increase in the number of students who may not be graduating from high school, as the state's top-down stiffening of academic standards catches older students unprepared. This is the "Common Core" curriculum, that you've no doubt heard about, as well as toughened standards for Regents diplomas. This, coupled with the statutory elimination of the "local diploma", told me a long time ago that we needed to get ready to support a lot more unemployable people on welfare.

Now the State Department of Education has realized that they have an impending disaster on their hands and is scrambling to cover their hindquarters. Hopefully, they won't do a complete flipflop, since a lot of educators have gone to an incredible amount of trouble to try to raise the bar as best they could so that students

who do graduate would be finally "college and career ready", after decades of softened standards that were designed to inflate the reputations of bureaucrats and politicians.

Over the years, at my business, I have provided many of the local kids with their first work experience. The ability to perform this necessary task for society will become more difficult by the State's whopping increase in the minimum wage. Regardless of its merits for single mothers who are supporting their families, there just aren't too many fourteen year olds who are worth nine dollars an hour right out of the gate. Since they are named as dependents on their parents tax returns, I am mystified as to why they've been included in this measure. But as non-high school graduates, not knowing how to work may not be that big a deal. Excelsior! That's our State's motto. And that's the reason why so many of these newsletters are mailed to out-of-state addresses. Ever upward, my friends!

~ Jon Voorhees

ILA DICK MERRILL SCHOLARSHIP

Last year's scholarship was presented to graduating senior Matt Moore of Sabael. Matt mentioned in his thank you note that he is the first of his immediate family to attend college. The scholarship was named after Dick Merrill, a long time board member, educator and lake advocate. It is given to Indian Lake High School graduates that demonstrate interest in Environmental Studies.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

In an effort to increase our annual scholarship and enhance our invasive species monitoring program, the board decided to raise the basic membership dues and create additional suggested membership levels. The levels above the basic "lake level" membership are completely voluntary and designed to guide members if they desire to help further the mission of the association. The new levels take effect after July 1, 2014 and are designated as follows:

- Lake Level - \$15 for 1 year or ○ \$35 for 3 years
- Baldface Mt. - \$25 for 1 year or ○ \$60 for 3 years
- Dug Mt. - \$40 for 1 year or ○ \$100 for 3 years
- Snowy Mt. - \$50 for 1 year or m \$125 for 3 years

WATER QUALITY

It is our tenth year participating in the Adirondack Lake Assessment Program sponsored by Protect the Adirondacks. Over the summer, three samples of lake water are collected, frozen, and sent to the Adirondack Watershed Institute at Paul Smith's College. A report is generated detailing characteristics of the water quality and with ten years of data, trends can be identified.

The health of a lake is classified as oligotrophic, mesotrophic or eutrophic as determined by measuring different water quality standards. A lake classified as oligotrophic is typically clean and clear, with low levels of phosphorous, low levels of chlorophyll and high transparencies. A lake that is eutrophic has nutrient-rich waters with high levels of phosphorous and chlorophyll and low transparencies. And finally, a lake classified as mesotrophic has moderate levels of all three standards. Indian Lake is currently classified as mesotrophic.

Chlorophyll and phosphorous are naturally occurring but in high amounts contribute to algal blooms. Indian Lake has shown considerable variation in phosphorous and chlorophyll values over the ten year study period. This year, the chlorophyll value was the lowest it has ever been. However, the reading was so different from others it may be an anomaly.

Nitrate levels are another indicator of algal growth. Indian Lake's levels were greater in July and decreased through summer.

The color of the water affects light penetration and is influenced by suspended and dissolved particles. Indian Lake's color has been trending up over the past few years, a trend observed in many of the other lakes surveyed.

Transparency is a measurement of water clarity. Indian Lake has exhibited a negative trend in clarity over the ten years of data.

The pH is a measure of the acidity of the water. The optimum value for most aquatic life is between 6.5 and 8. Historically, Indian Lake has been a slightly acidic water with an average pH of 6.7. The pH has indicated a positive trend over the ten years and suggests good buffering capacity.

Sodium is a naturally occurring element but can be found at elevated levels where road salting occurs. Chloride is another element affected by road salt. The levels of sodium and chloride in Indian Lake are higher than lakes without paved roads adjacent and suggest that road salt is a factor but not at a level well below EPA drinking standards.

Calcium is a good indicator of the potential for zebra mussel growth. Indian Lake's levels are below the minimum concentrations for zebra mussel growth.

INVASIVE SPECIES UPDATE

There is still good news for Indian Lake on the aquatic invasives front. Our surveying of Indian Lake during the 2013 summer season came back with no invasives observed in the areas covered. Johnny Mack Bay and the Jessup River were not surveyed this time. Many thanks to Paul Coppock, Ellie Menz, and the Dave Gott gang for their much needed help in covering as much of the 39 miles of shoreline and islands as we did.

We need more help! If you are interested in joining this cause to protect our lake, please contact me at 518-648-0404. Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) training classes are scheduled for June 24, 2014 in Bolton Landing on Lake George and June 26, 2014 at Paul Smith's College. If you are unable to attend one or the other of the 4 hour classes I can also provide information for you. Lewey Lake also needs to be surveyed. It is a great 2 hour paddle with fantastic views of Snowy, when you're not observing underwater plant life. Based on the number of volunteers, Indian Lake has been split into sections to prevent overlapping surveys. With more volunteers, smaller areas can be surveyed and a greater chance to get a complete survey. The survey must be completed sometime between mid-July and mid-September.

New York has regulations in the works to prevent the possession, sale, transport and introduction of both aquatic and terrestrial invasives within the state. The penalty for violations will include both monetary fines and imprisonment. Jurisdiction/enforcement will be under the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. However, this does not negate the need for lake stewards and/or other inspection methods, as DEC employees, at this time, are not required to

inspect for invasives. The NYS launch and the private marina are the main access points to the lake but there are also numerous private ramps so self policing is very important. Indian Lake gets over 2000 boat launches a year from many corners of the country and Canada. Before you launch and after you retrieve your watercraft from any waterway please inspect, clean, drain EVERY boat, trailer, bait well, and all gear including fishing, PFD's, and paddles. And don't forget your dog. Help keep our lakes free of costly, fun spoiling invaders.

See you on the water.

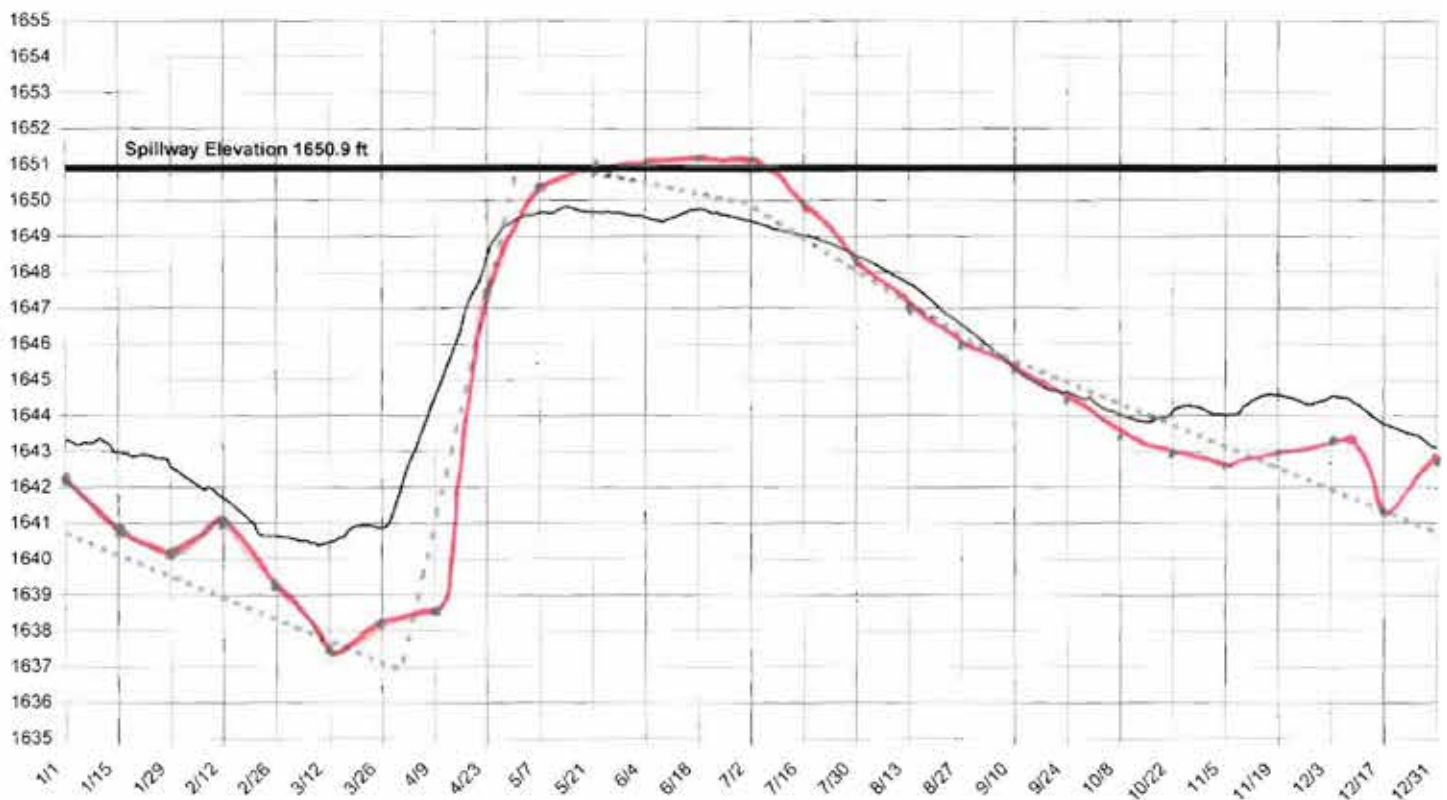
Jeremy Gorss

BOARD CHANGES

There are three vacancies to fill on the board this year due to expiring terms. Bruce Catlin, Jeremy Gorss and Russ Evatt will be ending their third, three year term and are ineligible for another consecutive term. Don Woodmansee and Pete Sinski have finished their first three year term and, if willing, need to be nominated and voted for another term. Carmen Adler has agreed to join the board and will be nominated at the annual meeting. Carmen and husband Dave, have owned a camp on Lake Shore Drive for many years and have much to contribute, including website design and not for profit experience. The board is looking for other members who might consider joining and hope to confirm nominations by the annual meeting. **If you agree that property owners and others who enjoy Indian Lake should have a voice in it's future, then it is essential to maintain an association. Please participate in whatever way you can...by volunteering your time, your ideas or by contributing financially.**

INDIAN LAKE WATER LEVEL - 2013

(data from HRBRD and USGS websites)



2013 ACTUAL ELEVATION - heavy line
HISTORIC AVERAGE ELEVATION - thin line
TARGET ELEVATION - dotted line

TARGET ELEVATIONS

March 31 - 19.0 | 1636.9 |
May 1 - 33.0 | 1650.9 |
July 1 - 32.0 | 1649.9 |
Aug. 1 - 30.0 | 1647.9 |
Sept. 1 - 28.0 | 1645.9 |

NEW YORK STATE LAW

RULES OF THE NAUTICAL ROAD

- ✓ Operation of a pleasure vessel on Indian Lake must be careful and prudent. Violations constitute a misdemeanor.
- ✓ Speed limited to 5 mph within 200 feet of the shore, a dock, pier, raft, float or anchored boat.
- ✓ Speed limit of 45 mph during daylight and 25 mph during nighttime.
- ✓ Powerboats must give way to boats under sail, rowed, paddled or anchored.
- ✓ Two boats approaching head on - keep right.
- ✓ Two boats crossing - vessel on your right has right of way.
- ✓ One boat overtaking another - vessel being overtaken has right of way.
- ✓ Navigation lights must be used on power boats between sunset and sunrise. Sailboats and boats rowed or paddled must carry a lantern.

SKIPPER'S DUTIES

- ✓ Never operate a boat while impaired or intoxicated by drugs or alcohol.
- ✓ Must be 18 to operate a power boat without adult supervision, unless you have passed an approved Boat Safety Course.

- ✓ Must have an observer over 10 years old when pulling a skier or tuber.
- ✓ No skiing, surfboarding, parasailing, tubing or use of a related towed device between sunset and sunrise
- ✓ Don't harass wildlife. Avoid nest areas.
- ✓ No debris or sewage dumped in lake.

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT

- ✓ Operator must have completed an approved boater safety course or otherwise be accompanied, on board, by someone 18 years or older who has completed such a course.
- ✓ Driver and each other person must wear a securely fastened PFD at all times.
- ✓ All personal watercraft must be equipped with: a horn; a device for arresting carburetor backfire; and a distress flag florescent orange at least one square foot in size.
- ✓ No operation between sunset and sunrise.
- ✓ No operation within 500 feet of a designated swim area.

- ✓ Reckless operation strictly prohibited.

- ✓ No wake jumping close to other vessels.
- ✓ No last minute swerving games.

- ✓ Any maneuver which unreasonably or unnecessarily endangers life, limb or property, including carrying more passengers than is recommended by the manufacturer.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

- ✓ An approved Type III (PFD) personal flotation device for each passenger. Between Nov. 1 and May 1, operators of pleasure boats and all passengers must wear appropriate PFD's at all times.
- ✓ Boats over 16 ft. must also carry one throw able PFD.
- ✓ All children under 12 must wear their PFD.
- ✓ A whistle or horn.
- ✓ A visual distress signal suitable for day and night use, as approved by the US Coast Guard (except for open sailboats not equipped with mechanical power).
- ✓ A fire extinguisher for all in boards, in-board/outboard or decked outboard.
- ✓ Anchor and line.
- ✓ Navigation lights.

REGISTRATION

- ✓ All powerboats and PWC must display numbers and registration stickers.



INDIAN LAKE ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors 2013-2014

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 26, 2014

4:30 pm - ILA Business Meeting
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:
Pete Sinski -psinski@gmail.com