

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2015

ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW

The Indian Lake Association held its 36th annual meeting on July 26 under the Byron Park pavilion, and for the fourth year in a row fired up the grill at the end of the business session for the association picnic. This was the final meeting for three directors whose terms were expiring after nine years of dedicated service. President Bruce Catlin, Secretary Jeremy Gorss, and director Russ Evatt all completed their final terms. Fortunately, they continue to help the association with a range of issues including invasive species control, water quality monitoring, picnic logistics, and publication of this newsletter. We are grateful for their past service and continuing commitment. We were fortunate to be able to nominate Jon Voorhees and Carmen Adler to help fill the vacancies, and they were elected to three year terms. Jon is a former director and past President of the association, and Carmen brings nonprofit organization and grant writing experience. Bruce is succeeded by Paul Coppock as President, and Carmen succeeds Jeremy as Secretary. Directors Pete Sinski and Don Woodmansee were reelected to serve for their second three year terms.

The previous year's minutes were reviewed and approved. The treasurer reported an account balance of \$2,814.34, a significant increase over the prior year's balance of \$1,606.75. This reflects strong receipts of \$2,050.00 in the prior year, resulting from the renewal of lapsed memberships, addition of new memberships, and the new dues structure that brought in some voluntary enhanced dues payments. Expenses for the year were \$842.41. Our paid memberships increased from 89 in 2013 to 113. Prior to the meeting, Rich Vincelette had developed an Indian Lake Association web site which David Adler has now completed and is managing. This site will be a valuable new central source of information about our association and the lake. Take a look at www.ila-ny.org.

We mailed 90 newsletters in May of 2014, and we printed 500 boaters guides which were distributed at the NYS launch, Indian Lake Marina, The Lake Store and Pines Hardware.

Navigation Officer John Rathbun of the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office gave a presentation on boating regulations and safety, drawing on his 34 years of experience as an officer on Indian Lake and elsewhere. All boaters should take note of the relatively new requirement that anyone born on or after May 1, 1996, must pass a boater safety course before operating on New York waters. During boating season, Officer Rathbun is on the lake three to four days a week enforcing the water safety laws. He can be reached at 648-5306 if needed.

~Paul Coppock

NEXT ANNUAL MEETING & PICNIC

Please join us for the 2015 annual meeting and picnic Saturday August 8 at the Byron Park pavilion to enjoy some good food, a game of horse shoes, and to see your neighbors. Share your views at our meeting and get an update on the new boat launch procedures that are being implemented to prevent the spread of invasive species in the Adirondack lakes. We will have a representative from the Adirondack Lakes Alliance report on the latest developments. The Alliance is coalition of lake associations that was formed last year and is working with DEC to fight the spread of aquatic invasive species, with the help of recently appropriated state funds. Be ready for lots of answers and some new questions about how these still evolving boat inspection and decontamination procedures will work, and what we can do to keep Indian Lake the largest invasive free Adirondack lake. See the information about the meeting and picnic on the back of this newsletter and RSVP with the enclosed mailer or by e-mail.

LOCAL NEWS

Young grooms in upstate New York are often advised by their more jaded elders that marriage is like a long cold meal with dessert served at the beginning.

This year, before winter fully moved in and unpacked her bags, she served the finest, most beautiful looking dessert I have ever seen in all my years in Indian Lake. Every tree and branch and blade of grass was glazed with a thin coating of ice then blanketed in lush Thomas Kincaid style marshmallows of powder snow, so that their limbs bent in a posture of obeisance toward their enthralled human admirers. The trees actually closed in a quilted canopy over long stretches of the back roads of town. Not a puff of wind stirred for more than ten days, and what would normally disappear as soon as you got up in the morning and noticed how pretty it was lingered instead through the first week and a half of winter, like a breathless honeymoon.

The exquisite beauty of the season's first caress, soon clenched into a long, cold death-like grip. That first snow washed away, and for a second year in a row the peak business times of Christmas and Presidents' Week were pretty much a bust. For awhile, you could have skated the length of Indian Lake. But if you wanted to ski, snowshoe or snowmobile, forget it. The ice settled in on the lake over three feet thick. Nobody wanted to come to Indian Lake and spend their money with 20 below temperatures and no snow. The cold was unceasing and remorseless.

When Spring finally came, it was as if by surprise. Folks were just so resigned to winter, that they'd forgotten that Spring could ever even come around again. Stumbling into the light, blinking and scuffling for the last scrap of bark, that last chip on the woodshed floor... was that a bird singing? Has January thaw finally come...? What month is this...?

Imposing as it was, much more than just winter happened here over the last several months. Chris King, proprietor of King's Collision, passed away at the tragically young age of 54, working in the garage until almost his last day. Swifty's went out of business. The Adirondack One Stop sought and received permission to expand their store and begin offering a much wider selection of groceries. Pastors Miller and Hartwig each retired from their respective Baptist Churches, ending their 28 and 43 years of service to this community.

Paul and Shirley Miller will continue to reside in Indian Lake, on Lake Shore Road; but Al and Grace Hartwig will be relocating to the Binghamton area to live near some of the kids and grandchildren. Frontier Communications ran fiber optic cable down Rt. 30. Members served by this line should find dramatically increased internet bandwidth this summer. Darrin Harr, the brilliant meteorologist and founder of the phenomenally popular ilsnow website was chosen to take over the operation of the Chamber of Commerce Information Booth. Indian Lake Central School District was recertified with "Middle School to Watch" recognition. It's still the only K-12 school in New York State to receive such an honor.

Last year's Valedictorian, Shannon Farrell, completed her first year at Russell Sage College, having entered with a full year of college credits already earned right here at ILCS. The school's achievements were accomplished while holding the line on taxes again in this year's budget. The Town and County brushed off the Property Tax Cap, however; deciding instead to try to go all in for government stimulated economic revitalization. Among the plans is the acquisition of the Townsend Chevrolet property on Main Street, for possible use as an industrial development zone.

Retirees Richard Leonard and his twin sisters, Mary and Pat, re-retired from their years of service to Indian Lake and moved on to senior housing in Glens Falls. A testimonial dinner for them occurred on the same day as one for the Hartwigs. Never have the Town's stomachs been so well-filled at the same time their hearts were so emptied. The Leonards had served as leaders of the Garden Club, the Ambulance Corps, the Library Board and St. Mary's Church, as well as countless other key functions in Town. When I took the boys for their annual midwinter swim at the Glens Falls Y and we stopped to see a showing of "American Sniper" afterwards, we were charmed to meet Mary and Pat in the audience.

Perhaps the most interesting recent event has been the explosion of interest in the problem of invasive species. The Indian Lake Association worked with a coalition of interests to first help push for a new law that prohibits the transport of aquatic invasive species across New York. After this was achieved the coalition worked to gain actual funding in the State budget to begin to build a Park-wide boat inspection and decontamination

network. Thankfully, it appears that one of the new Boat Steward positions is going to be assigned to the State Launch site on Indian Lake. This is of particular interest to property owners here because Indian Lake is now the largest remaining uninfested body of water in the entire Adirondack Park. It took a tremendous effort to achieve what has been accomplished so far. And it brought together a tremendously disparate group of interests that included Fred Monroe from the anti-APA Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages linking arms with Peter Bauer from the ultra-preservationist organization PROTECT to raise the alarm and help craft proposed laws and regulations.

As gratifying as this has been, I am concerned that the gradual and incremental nature of the progress that is occurring is going to prove too little and too late. While it is now illegal to transport invasives, the penalties established for doing so are trifling (a couple of hundred dollars for the third offense). And the amount of money dedicated to prevention so far is a mere one million dollars, which will only establish the thinnest framework of stations for inspection and decontamination. Nor is there any indication that inspections or decontamination will be mandatory. While they are certainly positive developments, they really only represent an extremely timid, drop-in-the-bucket response in comparison to the magnitude of the potential damages that could occur.

As you can imagine, invasives have a potentially very negative effect on property values and water quality. It is certainly the issue that our organization needs to keep first and foremost on its agenda.

~Jon Voorhees

ILA DICK MERRILL SCHOLARSHIP

The 2014 scholarship of \$200 was presented to Matt Moore of Sabael, a 2013 graduate of Indian Lake Central School, to help him continue his studies beyond his completed freshman year at Mohawk Valley Community College. The scholarship was named after Dick Merrill, a long time board member, educator and lake advocate. It is awarded to graduates of Indian Lake High School who have exemplified good stewardship of the lake and the environment.

BOARD CHANGES

There is one existing vacancy to fill on the board this year to reach our full complement of nine directors. We are pleased to nominate Autumn Blanchard for the position. Autumn has lived on the lake since 1966 and has family roots in Sabael stretching back generations. She was a park ranger and now serves as a facility supervisor for DEC. Autumn has been a staunch advocate for prevention of invasive species contamination and has been a volunteer in the annual Indian Lake invasive species survey. Also, Eric Hanson will finish his first three year term and is nominated for reelection to another term. Paul Coppock and Rich Vincelette are completing their second three terms and are nominated for reelection to final three year terms. The board recommends a vote in favor of electing these candidates. You can vote at the meeting or if unable to attend, by proxy via the enclosed RSVP card.

We will have more openings in the future and we continue to seek individuals who would like to serve as an active member of the board or serve in some other volunteer capacity such as surveying for invasive species, communications, web site maintenance, newsletter publication, member recruitment or the annual picnic.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Dues are unchanged from the rates that went into effect July 1 last year. The basic membership options are \$15 for one year or \$35 for three years. Last year we instituted voluntary higher levels for members who would like to contribute more, and we received a dozen membership payments at the higher levels. This generosity is helping the association strengthen its financial position and better prepares us to respond as issues that concern our membership arise. The current membership dues levels are:

- 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 ○ \$125 for 3 years

Please note that your membership expiration date is printed on the address label on the last page of this newsletter. Please check to see whether you are due to renew your membership.

INDIAN LAKE WATERSHED, HAMILTON COUNTY, NEW YORK

In an effort to better understand where Indian Lake's beautiful water comes from, we have prepared the map on the facing page to show the watershed area. Here are some quick facts on Indian Lake's watershed:

- The watershed includes all land and waterways that drain into Indian Lake.
- The lake's watershed is in the greater Upper Hudson watershed, and borders the Mohawk and Sacandaga watersheds to the south and southeast.
- The lake's watershed area is 78,700 acres, or 123 square miles, not including the lake itself, which has an area of 4,307 acres, or 6.7 square miles. The lake's watershed area represents a little over 1-percent of the land area in the Adirondack Park.
- The lake's watershed is in the towns of Indian Lake, Lake Pleasant, and Arietta, with the largest portion in the town of Lake Pleasant.
- The rivers and streams with the three largest watersheds draining into the lake are the Jessup River, the Miami River (via Lewey Lake), and Squaw Brook, which drains into the northwest portion of the lake.
- Public (i.e. NYS Department of Environmental Conservation) land in the lake's watershed includes:
 - o 32,707 acres of Wilderness (Siamese Ponds and West Canada Lakes)
 - o 17,896 acres of Wild Forest (Jessup River)
 - o 49.7 acres of Primitive Area (Dug Mountain)
 - o 156 acres of Intensive Use - Campgrounds (Indian Lake Islands and Lewey Lake)

The total area – 50,808 acres – represents 65-percent of Indian Lake's watershed area.

- Private land in the lake's watershed includes:
 - o 2,258 acres of land designated as Rural Use, Low Intensity, and Moderate Intensity, representing 3-percent of Indian Lake's watershed.
 - o 25,372 acres of land designated as Resource Management, representing 32-percent of Indian Lake's watershed.

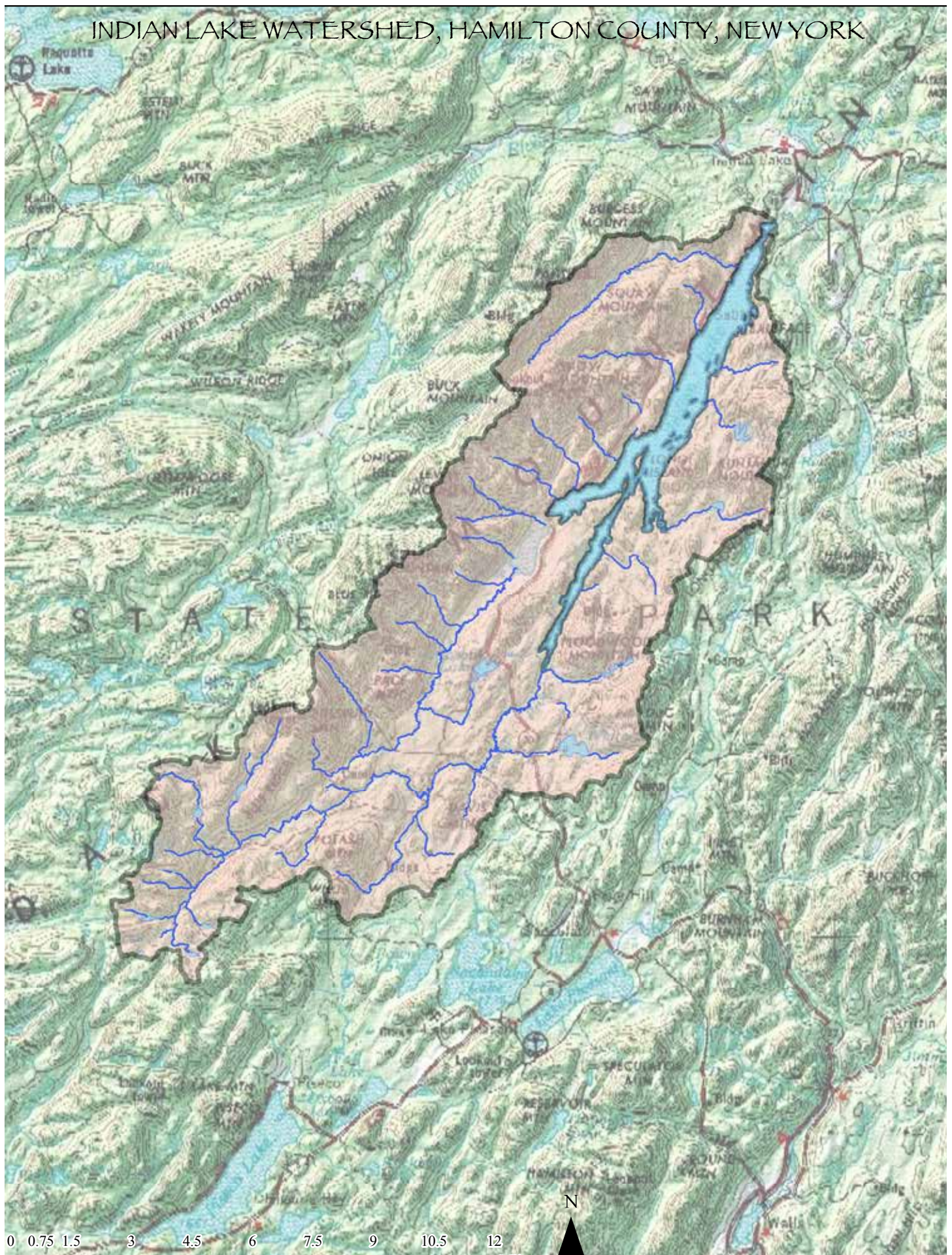
This land area represents the remaining 35-percent of the watershed area.

- The only major road in the watershed is New York Route 30, for a total distance of 23.8 miles.
- The most intensely developed portion of the watershed is along and proximal to the northwest Indian Lake shoreline, from Griffin Road northward to Beech Trail Road.
- The highest point of Indian Lake's watershed is Snowy Mountain, at an elevation of 3,899 feet.

The Indian Lake Association will be working on an interactive watershed map, with the goal of having this accessible via the ILA website. We will keep you posted!

~Eric Hanson

INDIAN LAKE WATERSHED, HAMILTON COUNTY, NEW YORK



AQUATIC INVASIVES

No aquatic invasive species were observed during 2014's summer season survey of both Indian and Lewey Lakes. Unfortunately, I was unable to complete all of my section resulting in the southern half of Lewey Bay not getting surveyed. Lewey Bay is of course where the state boat launch is located. If we had more volunteers

A big thank you to the returning volunteers we do have, Paul Coppock, the Dave Gott cohort, Ellie Menz and family, and Ellen and Pete Sinski. This may sound like a lot of people. It is not, given Indian Lake's size and I am grateful for them, as we all should be. These volunteers set out alone or in teams, doing something wonderful for our lake, discovering along the way a greater knowledge and intimacy with the water and woods we all enjoy. Currently, Indian Lake's thirty-nine miles of shoreline is divided into four sections plus the islands for surveying. And then there is Lewey Lake spilling into Indian.

Last summer, Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program's Erin Vennie-Vollrath agreed to organize a Lewey Lake paddle and for anyone interested to join her. It was an Adirondack damp, dreary Friday but Erin and stalwarts Ellie, Paul, and Pete and newcomer Dan Dipaola from Timberlock made it a day. No invasives were found.

Last summer, Bruce Catlin of Timberlock, suggested their teen adventure camp, Timberlock Voyageurs, could survey a section of the lake as part of their program. Bruce has been in touch with Erin at APIPP and they have made plans for another training session in June for the Voyageur leaders and any ILA members interested. One of the leaders, Dan Dipaola participated in the Lewey paddle last summer. For more information, get in touch with Bruce at Timberlock (518) 648-5494 or Jeremy.

We still need more volunteers to cover the large expanse of shoreline and to better ensure the survey's yearly completion. Please join us. APIPP provides free training for the survey at three locations, usually in mid to late June. Pick the date and location best for you and spend an easy four hours learning what aquatic invasives are all about. Contact me for more information at 518-648-0404 or email mrjeremy@frontiernet.net with the subject line "APIPP".

PLEASE REMEMBER

Clean it, drain it, dry it!

Before launching or retrieving your watercraft and gear from any waterway. Tell your visiting friends and family. Help preserve the quality of Indian Lake. See you on the water.

~Jeremy Gorss

WATER QUALITY

Our Indian Lake Association participates in the Adirondack Lake Assessment Program that is run by the Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) at Paul Smiths College. This is the eleventh year that we have participated. This past summer, ILA board members Russ Evatt and Joe Hancock sampled the lake waters three times, once each in July, August and September. The samples were frozen and sent to the AWI lab for analysis and data tabulation and a report was generated on the results.

Our procedure for testing is to go out to the "deep hole" in the lake. There we collect a sample of the lake water approximately two meters deep. We also take a clarity reading of the water using a secchi disc. This is an eight inch circle of metal painted with alternating white and black triangles on the entire surface. After attaching a line to the disc it is lowered until it is no longer visible. Typically we have depth readings of about four meters. If it has been wet and rainy the readings tend to be less and if it is a dry summer they tend to be higher.

The samples are sent to the AWI lab for analysis and an annual report is generated. The report that we have received back shows very little change from the previous seasons. Our lake is considered slightly mesotrophic which basically means the water quality is average with little potential for algae growth (eutrophic status) or oligotrophic (very clear). The PH of the lake is around 6.5 which is acceptable for fish and plant life but is close to being considered acidic. The main threat currently to the lake is road salt that is flushed into the lake from the roadways that surround it. Acid rain has become less of a threat in the past few years as emissions from coal burning power plants have been reduced. Our lake also has a very high "flush rate" with a lot of feeder streams and rivers and a healthy outflow which also helps the water quality.

The long term data collection has shown that our lake has maintained itself very well over the years.

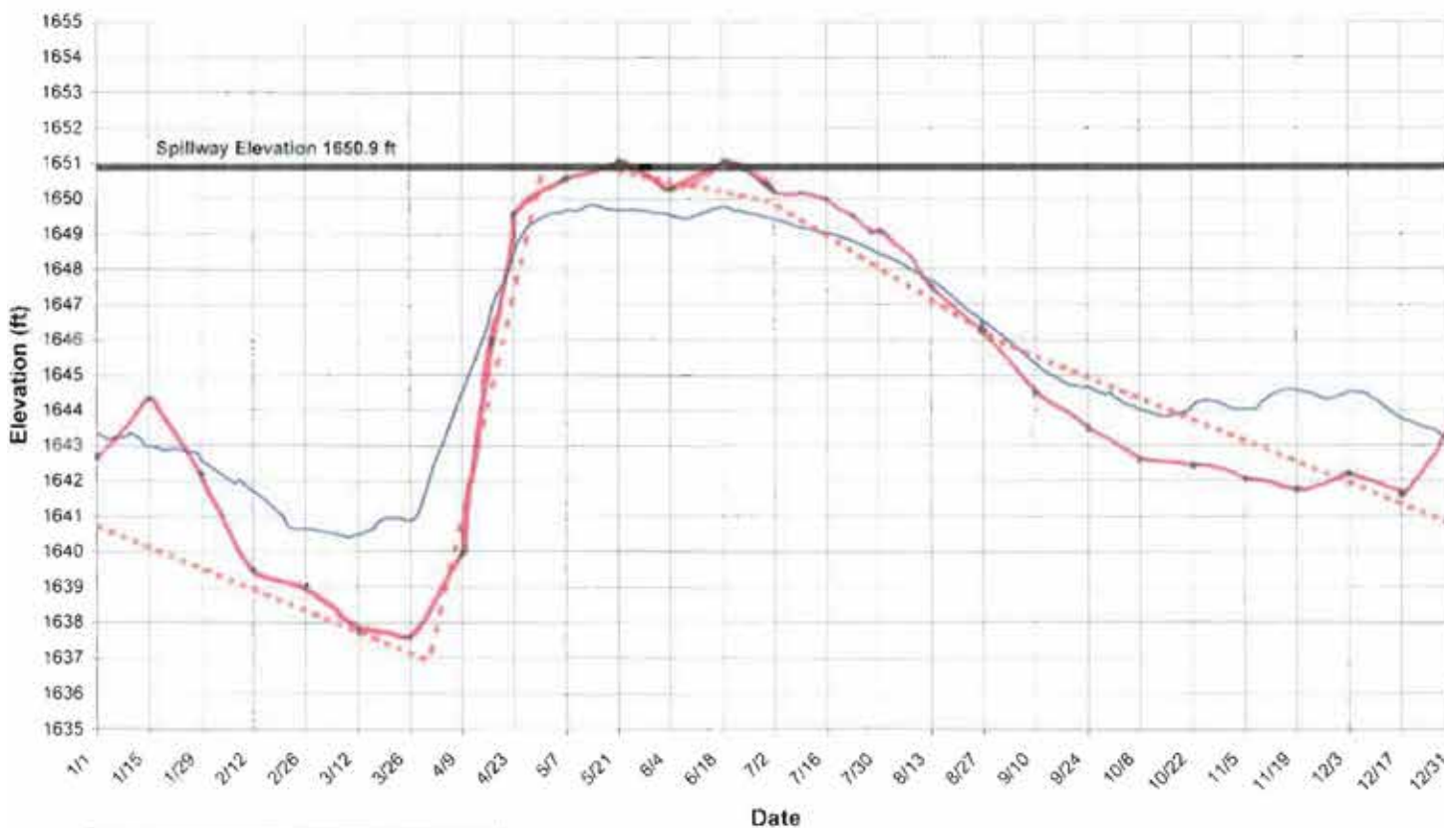
As responsible property owners we can all do our part to minimize our impact by keeping septic systems in good working order, avoiding fuel spills in the lake and reducing run-off into the lake by maintaining a buffer of vegetation along the shore and limiting the use of fertilizers. If anyone would like a copy of the 2014 AWI report please feel free to contact me.

~Joe Hancock



INDIAN LAKE WATER LEVEL - 2014

Below is a graph from the Hudson River Black River Regulating District that shows the target water levels agreed on between the Indian Lake Association and HRBRRD for the lake (dotted line) and the historic average water levels (thin solid line). Added to the graph are the actual levels from USGS data (heavy solid line). The combination of the large drainage area and the relatively small outlets on the dam mean that a large rain event or rapid snow melt can make the lake rise significantly even with the gates fully open.



2014 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 2014-2015

President – Paul Coppock 648-0762
Vice President – Joe Hancock 648-5934
Secretary – Carmen Adler 648-5395
Treasurer – Richard Vincelette 648-5542
At-Large – Eric Hanson 648-5020
At-Large - Pete Sinski 648-5980
At-Large - Jon Voorhees 648-0300
At-Large - Don Woodmansee 648-5649

ILA website: www.ila-ny.org

INDIAN LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING & PICNIC BYRON PARK PAVILION SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2015

4:30 pm – ILA Business Meeting
5:30 pm - Discussion with Adirondack Lakes Alliance
Representative
6:00 pm – Barbeque Picnic

ILA will supply the burgers, hot dogs and veggie burgers FREE to ILA members. There will be a \$5.00 charge 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 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