

INDIAN LAKE ASSOCIATION

in the Adirondacks

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2026



A PRESIDENT'S VIEW

~Helen Glass

Serving as your President this past year has truly been both a pleasure and an honor. As you know, our former President, Glenn Van Norstrand, resigned at last year's Annual Meeting. I am grateful to Glenn for his years of service and for inspiring many of the initiatives and improvements we've implemented in recent years. His dedication to the Association helped lay important groundwork for where we are today.

Leadership evolves over time, and each season brings different needs and priorities. This past year, the Board has focused on steady, thoughtful progress and maintaining a collaborative, solutions-oriented approach. While it may have seemed quieter on the surface, that quiet has reflected stability and intentional work behind the scenes.

Although the departure of Glenn and Dan left the Board a bit "light", nevertheless we continued working diligently to advance the Association's goals and aims. We have in fact made inroads with our state Senator Mark Walczyk, about the dock issue. We are awaiting spring to see what if any damages to our docks occur at ice out. PLEASE – if you have dam-age – let me know – with photos and a description. The more ammo we have to approach our representatives – the stronger case we can make.

We were also privileged this year to be able to donate ILA Calendars to the benefit of Jasper Gadway, an infant with rare cancer, awarded our annual scholarship to Kira DeLong who expressed an interest in forestry.

We also bolstered our donation to the Indian Lake Theater, and contributed towards last year's town Fourth of July fireworks. Fish stocking will once again be at the Marina, improving the stock of lakereels. We continue discussions with HRBRRD to maintain target lake levels, and of course, we continue to attend most of the Indian Lake Town Board meetings on your behalf. We have once again sponsored the Community Pride Day Clean Up this year and will launch our first Adopt-a-Highway clean up at the Overlook, and hope many of you will participate.

Interestingly our most controversial issue was the Wake Boat survey, which some of you found to be biased and others thought was not biased enough! To condense the otherwise tortured story – the issue was



ANNUAL BREAKFAST MEETING

CAMP PIERCE BARN
9:30 AM

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2026

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

LIMITED SEATING

"The Secret Lives of Nesting Loons"

By Denise Silfee

*Director of Education & Communications
Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation*

and

JOHN CALLAGHAN

Executive Director, HRBRRD

Final Update Indian Lake
Dam Restoration

*Because of this Special Program
ONLY MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING
MAY ATTEND AT NO COST
ALL GUESTS WILL BE CHARGED 25.00 per person*

Abanakee Studios

**Antiques * Gifts
Gallery * Workshops**

Check our website for special events



Route 28 & LaVergne Rd, Indian Lake
 AbanakeeStudios.com
 518-648-5013
 AbanakeeStudios1@verizon.net

split almost exactly 50/50. Responses ranged from “Bah, I don’t want ANY motorized boats on Indian Lake”, to “YEAH I love my wake boat.” Let’s face it folks, we are an extremely diverse group. If diversity truly IS our strength – we are Superheroes!

I remember when I was a young woman back in the 60s here. I LOVED to waterski, and would beg Mom and Dad to go “just one more time.” I’m sure the wakes from *Pretty Penny* disturbed some, but the sight of me on one ski, with my signature Ray Bans and usual hat pleased others. Now that I’m older, but not necessarily wiser, I curse the skiers, wake boarders, and tubers that make constant circles in front of my camp. The waves have recently been so severe they caused a cleat to literally fall off my jet boat, and I have to replace the snubbers on my dock lines on a regular basis. Point is that throughout our lives, our perspective changes. In one phase we love creating wakes to jump over as collateral damage from the enjoyment of our sport. In another phase we rue the appearance of boats that create those very waves we used to jump over with joy.

Diversity after all implies a tolerance for the views, likes and dislikes and opinions of others. IF we can treat each other with respect – whether it be the Sunfish sailor, the fisherman trolling a line, or the dock sitter trying to read a book on a sunny day, let’s all allow others to enjoy the lake as they wish and not impose our own likes and desires upon others. WE are incredibly privileged to have the unique experience of enjoying a severely

under utilized lake. Other lakes may indeed need the kind of regulation that was proposed to regulate Wake Boats – We Do Not. So, although ILA will not be supporting the proposition to ban or regulate Wake Boats that is sure to come before the Town Board, we will urge our members and all boat operators in Indian Lake to be COURTEOUS to others.

As you will see from our Treasurer’s Report, the Association’s finances are in very good shape, so much so that, for the first time in many years, we are intentionally planning to take a modest loss at our annual meeting. This year, we will be hosting our first-ever paid speaker, and we are excited to bring this opportunity to our members. To help support this effort, we ask that you give generously if you are able, and come prepared to support the Association by purchasing a Calendar or Boater’s Guide, and especially by participating in the Silent Auction. These fund raising activities allow us to continue providing breakfast at the meeting to our members without charge, expand our donations to community causes, and keep membership dues low.

Please note that, this year, memberships must be current prior to the meeting in order to attend without charge. Guests will be asked to pay \$25 to cover the cost of breakfast and the presentation by our speaker from the Loon Conservancy. Thank you for your understanding as we work to balance financial responsibility with providing a meaningful Annual Meeting.

Speaking of donations, money is not the only thing you can donate – we need graphic designers, social media gurus, lawyers, and accountants to launch this organization to the next level. Ready to jump in? Give me a call, a text, and e-mail, or even stop by to talk. PLEASE, you have the talent and expertise to allow us to do even more, and we really need your help.

In closing I thank everyone who has contributed to our success this year, even if it was only to renew their membership or respond to our survey. I also want to send a special thanks to Bruce Catlin, who magically lays out the newsletter and David Adler, who without fanfare, has silently kept our website up to date and running. Let’s hope this summer will be good as last year as far as weather is concerned, and that the lake level stays high enough to keep those pesky rocks away from our propellers! See you on the Lake.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

~Jon Voorhees

It's been said, "If you take a long enough view, everything always averages out."

Last spring was so cold, damp, and persistently rainy that pollinators weren't able to do their job the entire time that apple trees were in blossom; and most local trees bore no fruit. That dank season gave way to a summer of perfect tourist weather (AKA: a severe drought). One halcyon day after another drove lake levels to the lowest in memory. By the time the jet stream finally sprang back to life, and winter descended with a roar; the booming tourist season felt quite overextended to fatigued hospitality workers.

Our "short season" has ballooned over the years. Once upon a time, Labor Day was the Grand Finale. The Adirondacks breathed a collective sigh of relief, and certain local wiseguys adorned themselves in togas and stood at the bottom of the North River hill waving goodbye to the hordes of retreating flatlanders, largely oblivious to just how much those same visitors underwrote their standard of living. Over the years, without anyone asking, it bled into Columbus Day. Nowadays it's edging toward Veterans Day. Last century's conversations about the merits or demerits of "July people" vs. "August people" seem quaint. Now the big effort is to persevere in preventing hospitality from turning into hostility before tamarack needles and worn-out workers finish dropping. Such are the

vicissitudes of cramming twelve months' worth of work into six, so that personal income can "average out" for the year.

We are thankful, though, that our region's allure is irresistible; and the tourists keep on coming - helping local businesses puff up sales tax revenues and enabling many locals to eke out a living. This inflow has been calculated to be worth over \$4,000 in tax savings per household per year in Hamilton County. Any revenues extracted from out-of-town pocketbooks will become increasingly attractive, since New York State's fiscal disabilities are rapidly and inevitably pushed downstream toward our community. Largely as a result of the leverage our spendthrift State brings to bear on us, its weaker partner, it appears that the school will be overriding the 2% tax cap again this year. The Town's budget season doesn't begin for another few months, but they'll also be under tremendous pressure to hold the line. It would only take at most seven years of double-digit increases to double what we owe in taxes.

Too bad spring still lags as a boom time. The world hasn't yet noticed how the second hatch of black flies (the white-legged ones) has gone missing these last few years, or that punkies have almost disappeared from the scene. Word of these wonders might further loosen the world's purse strings to our benefit. What is apparently a worldwide collapse of the insect population surely does not bode well for nature, but locally these clouds could have a silver lining. That silver lining may wind up being dimmed, though, by the fact that the Town is ending its BTI program. This non-persistent bacteriological treatment of blackfly larvae has been carried out here for decades with absolutely no discernible harm to the environment, but NYS licensing requirements and application restrictions have finally grown too onerous for the program's continuation. Whether the blackfly population maintains its downward trend or reverts to mean will certainly be one of the more anxiously watched parts of nature's ebb and flow as the spring unfolds.

Of course, many of the losses we're experiencing from our changing environment are not as beguiling as the decline of biting insects. The loss of mature beech trees (and their copious amount of nuts) has altogether changed the life of the white-tailed deer, forcing them to decimate decorative foliage and soon to extirpate cedar and hemlock trees from our Adirondack forests.



Contact us at:
(518) 648-5459
indianlakemarinany.com

2026 Opening Day: May 20th

- New Veranda Luxury Pontoon Boats for Sale
- Dry Dock and Wet Slips Available
- New Pontoon and Fishing Boat Rentals

*Open 7 days a week after May 20th
for rental boats, gas, and store!*



Emerald ash borer has reached our doorstep and will likely soon represent an enormous financial burden for many local property owners. Once the ash borer does its work, the dead trees quickly become brittle and dangerous to remove. I've been preemptively taking down a lot of my younger ones, before they can become the towering expenses their parents will represent. The cost of this plague will be further multiplied by the number of power outages toppling trees will cause. But, at the end of the day, the woodlands will not have turned to desert, and the eye will continue to behold a seemingly endless sea of green. The unfortunate changes to our forests are not the result of climate change; they're a latter-day manifestation of the 534 year old Columbian exchange - a hidden cost of global trade. Parasites and pathogens arrive as part and parcel of the cheap, imported goods that have blessed out modern lives, entering our forests more than a century ago in the form of chestnut blight and Dutch elm disease.

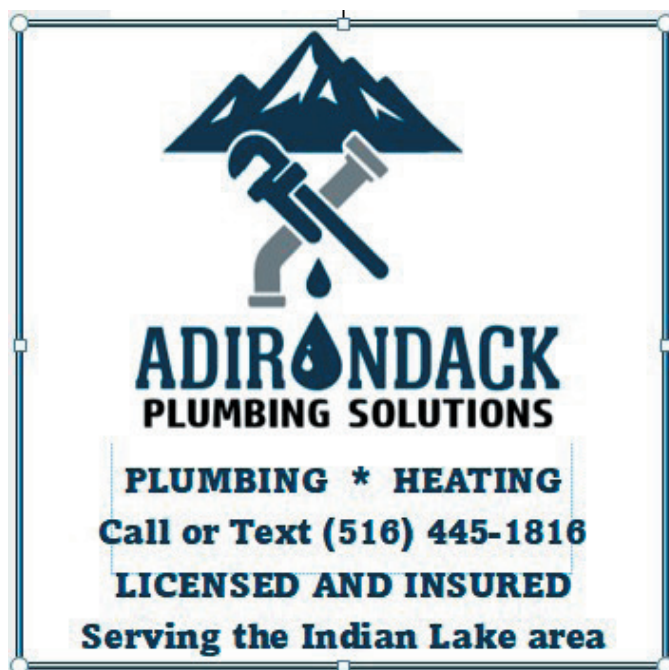
Indeed, there is no free lunch in this world, apart from the grace of God. While that grace is ever present; warm weather, unfortunately, does not last forever. This past winter's onset came quick and harsh, almost Judgment-like. The first week of November seemed terribly early, but only because we've become so accustomed to it arriving late. Unlike summer, winter felt like it would never end. But the sun shone plenty; and it was not one of those bleak, achromatic winters when it's a shock to see any color, and all the world seems to consist only of gray or white. Even so, snow fell often but yielded mostly only trifling amounts at any one time. But the persistent icy temperatures guaranteed that we hung onto just about every flake we received, and it felt like

a "warm spell" when the temperature got up to 15 degrees. The snowpack wound up being two or three times what we'd been growing used to.

In reality, though, except for the ceaselessness of the cold, 2025-26 was just a statistically average, old-fashioned winter - certainly old-fashioned enough to give our roadways a good old-fashioned thrashing. Snowmobilers enjoyed the finest trail conditions in years; and Snocade was perhaps the best ever - plenty of snow for a change; wonderful, well-attended events; and no rainouts; no fog outs; no freeze outs; and only a single day's activities altered on account of weather. But there's never a year that Punxsutawney Phil doesn't see his shadow in the Adirondacks, and the season's remorselessly frigid grip held tight way past Presidents Week. Sap didn't begin to flow until a full month later than it did in 2025.

By the time all these precipitation numbers are added up and all the daytime highs and lows are spread out across the year's calendar, this will probably be recorded as a statistically perfectly normal year. Doesn't matter what it felt like. What in the world ever does seem normal anymore? Nevertheless, the relief of re-leafing could not have been more welcome.

As the metal roofs shrugged off their winter coats and the snows receded, owners were able to venture forth and investigate how their docks fared in their first winter in exile from their old abode in Norman's Cove.





After banning them, DEC posted a threatening sign at the entrance channel; but they never lifted a finger to clean the place up. The derelict wrecks that had disappeared did so by the Herculean efforts of past ILA President Glenn Van Norstrand and other members of the board, in an attempt to make the problem vanish; so that DEC would relent on the ban. When it became apparent that the effort was futile, the work ceased, leaving one lonely ramshackle sentinel dock, which will no doubt stand vigil through endless time, waiting in vain for DEC to finish the job. Perhaps, since that remaining dock is the former property of folks who are no longer among the living, DEC's reason for not completing the cleanup may be that since the dead are found to vote in so many jurisdictions, then perhaps fines can also be clawed back from assets in the afterlife. Despite the best efforts of the ILA, it would appear that an amendment to the State Constitution would be required to gain the State's permission to store docks in Norman's Cove over the winter. That's not going to happen.

But I'm wondering: what if docks were given boat registrations and just happened to navigate over to the cove in the fall and anchor in the deeper parts that don't drain out during the winter? Even if not dry docked on the cove's shore, which would be illegal, they would still be far more protected than anywhere else they wind up on the main body of the lake.

Navigable water laws are battle tested and they are Federal; therefore, they supersede any State regulations. They are defined, in part, as waters that (A)re presently used, or have been used in the past,

or may be susceptible for use to transport interstate or foreign commerce. A determination of navigability, once made, applies laterally over the entire surface of the water body, and is not extinguished by later actions or events which impede or destroy navigable capacity. In other words, like the transporting of logs down Indian Lake, back in the day- logs which became lumber and paper that were sold hither and yon. Registering a dock as a boat might be a little more problematic, since a dock has no VIN number. But the State does allow you to apply for an equivalent registration for homemade watercraft or canoes and such things, which have no VIN. It's called a HIN (hull identification number/ form OPS-420). Vessels with living quarters are prohibited from anchoring on State land which is underwater for more than 24 hours. But I find no mention of boats without living quarters.

Maybe some of our legal minds could consider whether or not such "boats," that happened to get icebound in otherwise navigable waters could legally remain there until freed, and other questions, of which I'm sure there are many. I am not such a mind, so this should not be construed in any way as sound legal advice. For now, this is just one of those screwy things that come to mind at 3AM, when I'd rather be sleeping. But hopefully it will stimulate others to think creatively. Wouldn't it be wonderful if, now that the Cove is mostly cleaned up, the reasonable storage of floating docks could be resumed, even if by hook or legal crook?

In the meanwhile, life goes on in the real world. And work, too. The dam is nearly done and sports a very new look after its thorough makeover. There's a massive, new, functioning log gate, to help expel more water than the sluices can handle in emergencies; a new steel walkway; an imposingly grander earthen embankment on the east side; more lights; a fluorescent boom; and a stucco-like coating over a lot of the old masonry. This has yielded a structure that lacks some of the quaint charm of the leaky old dam, but one that speaks authoritatively of serious business and safety first. Everything was scheduled to have been done this past year, but an unforeseen problem of great magnitude and complexity was discovered at what was supposed to be the last minute: the foundation of the gate house was found to be unstable. A lot of the work on this hard-to-reach area has been performed underwater, much of it by divers. Remarkably, from beginning to end, no drawdowns to aid the work were made

throughout the entire rehabilitation. The debased lake level that everyone lamented was simply a tribute paid in exchange for splendid weather. It speaks well of all the parties involved that apparently no corners were cut in the course of completing this contract, and each and every challenge was met head on and successfully dealt with.

Unlike the contractors for the Lake Abanakee Dam, who left the Town fathers wringing their hands in anguish and fumbling fruitlessly through their picked pockets, C.D. Perry, LLC did a first-class job on both the Indian Lake and the Town's Adirondack Lake dam renovations, with skilled help from Bergmann Associates and Colliers Engineering & Design. We should be thankful to them and to the Hudson River Black River Regulating District for seeing this challenging job through to its proper conclusion. That conclusion is likely to come in late summer or early fall, when the new earthen embankment and the other affected areas are raked clean, re-seeded and the last of the equipment is moved off site. The Regulating District faced another challenge, when the USGS issued new requirements for measuring real time elevation data that would have resulted in a brutal cost increase. As a result, real time data has been absent on the RD website for some time. But recently they've come up with vendor who'll be able to satisfy the USGS at a cost the RD can afford. Data should be going live again by around Memorial Day.



SEE WHAT'S SHOWING

Movies: Adults \$8 | Kids 17 & Under FREE
Cash, Credit, or purchase online
Showtimes: Thurs. Fri. & Sat. 7 PM; Sun 2 PM
Open 7 days/week beginning July 1 - Labor Day



CHECK OUT OUR SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY MOVIES & SPECIAL EVENTS



VISIT THE INDIAN LAKE THEATER
 6311 NYS Route 30, Indian Lake, NY
 518-648-5950 | www.indianlaketheater.org

As boats begin to repopulate our waters, it's worth noting that the Marina's success has been such that it's enabled them to purchase the old Stephenson's Lumber yard, to expand their winter boat storage capacity. Nor was that the only change in our business community. Sadly (tragically, in fact) the owners of the enormously successful Axes & Irons announced that the business will close on June 1, because of health issues. But, at the same time, new faces began popping up in town – sort of. The One Stop was renamed “The Indian Lake Market.” A Smoke Shop opened at the prime location at the corner of 28 & 30 and then quickly closed, leaving only a sign on the window as evidence of its



**CUSTOM FOOD TRUCK,
CATERING &
RUSTIC AIRBNB**



We Cater Weddings,
Special Events, Take Out
Catering & Much More

(518)-859-6652
 5720 NYS RT-30
 Indian Lake, NY 12842
www.adkheart.com
www.adkbunkhouse.com

Your Relaxing
Getaway Awaits!



Scan For
More Details





Scan For
More Details

short existence. A breathless rumor surged through town that a cannabis dispensary would be opening opposite the Theater. Turns out it is supposed to be a vape shop. But a cannabis dispensary is supposed to appear in North Creek; so there may be that freedom of choice, when it comes to what people decide to fill their lungs with. If the vape shop comes to pass, our street-front businesses within the Village center will consist of two non-profits and a Government-sponsored purveyor of free materials and surplus food; two purveyors of highly-processed snack food and gasoline (one of which is making a determined effort to live out the ill-fated Smoke Shop's ambitions), four places that will give you a place to sit and prepare proper meals for you, in three of which you can imbibe legal beverages; an income tax and accounting service; a bank that had to be coerced into keeping this local branch open; a staging area for a blacktopping company; a rafting outfitter's office; two barber shops; a defunct smoke shop; a vape shop; an occasional antique store; and a self-storage facility. Thank God for Pine's, where you can actually buy a nut or a bolt, to fix something yourself; because if anything breaks down, like your car, which you need to be able to drive out of town to buy groceries, you better know how to fix it yourself; unless you have AAA to help you get it towed to O'Connor's in Lake Pleasant.

This is in no way a belittlement of the enormous efforts of the many individuals who have dedicated themselves to local enterprises. It is truly brave and admirable to attempt to raise up a business, even one that's a non-profit, in this place and in this time. The meals are good. Things are well stocked, well kept, and cheerfully dispensed. The haircuts are first class. The blacktopping is the best that money can buy. The white water is the most thrilling east of the Mississippi. You can even get organic milk if you want it. A lot of the free clothing still bears its original sales tags. The efforts of all the individuals making these things happen contribute enormously to the quality of life that we enjoy here. Yet I wonder if an economist who tried to divine the meaning of such a disparate collection of entrails of the chicken that is our local economy, and weighed them against the counter forces thrown at us by NYS, might find it hard to identify a happy place for the human species to occupy at the end of his divinations and prophesying. In the big, final, profit/loss report, would people here be counted as an asset or just an expense? And will they themselves be consumed

by their various avenues of consumption? At least, in our strange and wondrous little local simulacrum of a free market economy, we are broadly reflective of the Empire State as a whole. And, no doubt, when those in charge of telling us what we need to know give us their final tabulations, everything will be said to have nicely averaged out.



FINANCIAL REPORT

~Mary Prusko, Treasurer

The opening bank balance on January 1, 2025, was \$13,519.88. Total receipts were \$7,389.86. Total expenditures were \$5,615.89. We purchased a 9-month non-profit Certificate of Deposit for \$5,000 at a rate of 3.585% on 12/12/2025. Our ending cash bank balance (exclusive of the CD) as of 12/31/2025 was \$10,293.85.

Receipts include

Membership Dues: \$2,430
Poly Boater's Guide: \$1,045
Paper Boater's Guide: \$940
Silent Auction: \$765
Calendars: \$1,003

Expenditures include

Meeting: \$2,027
Printing: \$1,679
Town Support: \$1,182
Admin Expense: \$727

Our membership decreased from 142 to 131, while our Face book followers increased from 464 to 526. We continue to use Square for collecting membership dues and donations. However, we still accept checks payable to the Indian Lake Association, ADK, P.O. Box 973, Sabael, NY 12864, Attn: Mary Prusko, Treasurer. If you would like to receive a copy of the financial report, please e-mail your request to: treasurer.ila.adk@gmail.com



SECRETARY'S REPORT



~Helen Glass

Our 47th Annual Meeting was once again held at Alan Pierce's Camp Pierce Barn, and was well attended by over 90 members and friends. We are ever so grateful to Alan and Leslie Pierce for allowing us to use their venue, as well as

to all the volunteers who made the effort to set up the evening before, and fielded purchases, inquiries and everything else in between at the meeting. Also thanks to Lisa Karam and Justin Moore, who provided the delicious breakfast goodies, and to Jeff Goldstein whose awesome sound system allows all of us to enjoy the many presentations.

Then President Glenn VanNorstrand called the meeting to order and welcomed guests John Callaghan, Executive Director of HRBRRD, and Caitlin Stewart, District Manager, Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District and "RJ" from the Indian Lake Marina. Later John Cohoon was re-elected as a director, and then John Callaghan gave an update to the dam rehabilitation project. Caitlin Stewart rounded up the program with presentation on Storm water Management Practices. A synopsis of both presentations can be found on the ILA website at ILAADK.ORG

President VanNorstrand and Director Dan Way resigned for personal reasons at the conclusion of the meeting. We thank them for their service and inspiration and wish them the best of luck in the future. As many of you know, I was elected as President at our Board meeting immediately following the Annual Meeting, and I've been wearing two hats ever since.

Since Dan and Glenn resigned, and John Travis will not be standing for re-election, we have several directorship vacancies. So, if you've got what it takes, and want to help us continue to build this organization, I urge you to step up and run to be an ILA Director. We need folks who are willing to roll up their sleeves, and put the pencil to the paper and work to make this organization better than ever before, not just be figureheads. Skills in marketing, graphic design, accounting and legal matters

are sorely needed so step up – Why Not? Feel free to contact me before the meeting in August.
WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU ABOARD!

Many of you completed our Annual Survey and most of those responding supported an increase in our town sponsorships to \$1,500.00; All of those responding believe we should continue to publish our ILA Calendar (although only 14 were sold at the meeting – Huh??); And you were split on "merch" sales. A majority of said you would support paying a speaker for our next meeting. So, we will be preparing a better, improved Calendar for 2027, and upped our budget to \$1,500 for town support. We have engaged with the Center for Loon Conservatory to have their Executive Director, Denise Silfee present, *The Secret Life of Nesting Loons* at our Meeting in August, and will continue to work to effectuate your aims and goals. We appreciate your feedback. Another survey will be available at the end of this year's meeting. Please complete it. Your input matters!

**2027
Calendar**

**Purchase our new
2027 Calendar at our
Breakfast Meeting**

The New 2027 ILA-ADK Calendar will be on sale **EXCLUSIVELY** at our Annual meeting in August.

Support our organization by purchasing one of these unique calendars featuring breathtaking scenes of Indian Lake taken by our members.

The calendar features many beautiful photos plus Indian Lake specific events!

Only a limited number have been produced—Get one at our meeting

\$20.00

Unfortunately, ILA was unable to do anything about the weather last year. The summer was in fact spectacular, with warm, even hot days, warm lake water, and little or no rain. Although the weather was absolutely fantastic for tanning, and those late night boat rides, the lack of rain unfortunately caused HRBRRD to draw the lake down faster and further than we have seen many in years, and many of us had to pull our boats earlier than expected. BUT as we know, Indian Lake as a reservoir has a larger purpose than our recreation,

they have to draw water to regulate the salt in the Hudson River way down south, and we are the donors to that cause. Many of us (including me) discovered rocks that haven't seen daylight or scraped a propeller in years! We can only hope that it rains (at night) this summer, and that our lake remains at a decent level at least through Columbus Day.

Our Treasurer, Mary Prusko, presented the financial report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. Our closing balance as of the Annual Meeting was \$14,771.74 inclusive of a \$5,000. CD purchased in March. Detailed financial information is available from Director Prusko upon request. Mary's updated report can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

We continue to engage with our state representatives about the dock issue. As far as I know, no one stored their docks on state land this winter and all found alternatives at or near our camps. The outcome is at this point, however, unknown. Our hope is that this alternative works, but suspect that some of us will have damage when the now almost 24" thick ice coating breaks apart. It could be a gentle ice out, or all hell** could break loose. We ask that you send photos of any damages that occur this spring as a result of the ice going out of the lake. If you have damages it is important that you document and quantify them, so we have something to present as ammunition in our quest to find a resolution. You can assist by contacting our state representatives or the DEC directly.

Joseph Zalewski DEC Region 5 Director
518 897-1211 dep.r5@dec.ny.gov

Robert Smullen District 118 Assemblyman
518 762-1427 smullenr@nyassembly.gov

Mark Walczyk 49th District Senator
315-782-3418 walczyk@nysenate.gov

Our 2026 ILA Calendar was a huge success and sold out! We donated 5 Calendars to the benefit for Jasper Gadway, and sold 54 additional copies. This year we have collected many breathtaking photos of Indian Lake for the 2027 Calendar. But you will have to wait for our Annual Meeting in August to see them (although there may be some teasers in this newsletter) Many thanks to our members and photographers who generously and enthusiastically contributed their work. If you submitted

a photo, please contact me at:

SecretaryILA.ADK@gmail.com to purchase your advance copy. Otherwise, calendars will be available for purchase at our August meeting and at local retailers until sold out. Further thanks go to Treasurer Mary Prusko, who moderates our Face book page, "Indian Lake Association in the Adirondacks." Thanks to Mary's efforts, our follower count has grown to 552! If you haven't already, please Like, Follow, and Share our page!

Our Boater's Guide has been enthusiastically embraced by the boating community, and we thank the Marina and Pines for donating all of the proceeds from the sales. It continues to evolve with each rock or sandbar I encounter. Our latest innovation was printing it on waterproof poly paper. They will be on sale at the Annual Meeting, so buy an extra and throw it into the boat! If you have any suggestions or encountered a rock not on the map – please let me know – I'm certainly open to improvements.

Our Third Annual Silent Auction, in addition to items from Revolution Rail, Raquette Lake Navigation and other local merchants, will feature an original watercolor by member and acclaimed artist, Sarah Yeoman and a fantastic print by local talented photographer, Sylvia Vidal. We thank them both for their unparalleled generosity, and hope you will honor their work with HIGH Bids. Either work will make a wonderful addition to any camp or a great gift! Be sure to sign up for one of Sarah's Workshop at Abanakee Studios, and (if you lose out on the bidding) to purchase a print from Silvia – she is at many local craft fairs and is active on Face book.



Your generous support of ILA merchandise helps offset the cost of our Annual Meeting, Newsletter, Scholarship and support of Town programs. Without these purchases, we would face a dues increase, or a cutback in our programs. Although we are excited to have Ms. Selfee speak at this years' annual meeting, we have had to pay a fee to the Loon Conservatory for her services. Thus, unless you contribute generously, our Annual Meeting will run at a significant huge loss, meaning we will have fewer funds to support Town Programs etc. So PLEASE plan on purchasing a Calendar, a Boater's Guide and participating in the Silent Auction this year.



ILA DICK MERRILL SCHOLARSHIP

Last June, the ILA awarded Kira DeLong, a 2025 Indian Lake Central School graduate, with it's annual Dick Merrill scholarship. Dick Merrill was a long time Indian Lake Association, ADK, Inc. board member, educator and lake advocate. The scholarship is awarded annually to an ILCS graduate who has demonstrated academic achievement. Kira is interested in Forestry and plans on working as a Forest Ranger in the future. Kira is attending SUNY Adirondack where she studies Environmental and Natural Resources, Conservation, Forest Technology and Land Surveying Technology. Recently, Kira told the author that she is enjoying her studies and looks forward to next year. She graduated ILCS with an 88+ grade point average. Kira enjoys helping people, being outdoors and helping animals. She has had an interest in some form of law enforcement since an early age and has her eyes on a profession that allows her to combine her interests. Being a Forest Ranger is her

"dream job". Kira has played numerous sports at ILCS and is active in the marching band. She is a National Honor Society member and on the Yearbook staff. Her community service includes the ILVF Ladies Auxiliary and volunteering for Community Pride Day as well as other town events.

We wish Kara the best and much success in her future career.



Kira DeLong
with her favorite cat, Mushu

SECRET LIFE OF NESTING LOONS

Did you know that Loons can live up to 30 years, and commonly re-turn to the same lake to breed? And that they usually do not breed until they are at least six years old?

Learn all about Loons and their breeding and nesting behaviors at this exciting presentation. Presented by Denise M. Silfee.



Denise M. Silfee

Ms. Silfee has served as the Director of Education and Communications at the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation in Saranac Lake, NY since April 2024. Prior, in 2023, she and her husband sent six months hiking the Appalachian Trail, time she describes as "well spent."

She earned a Masters of Arts in Teaching as well as a BA in Comparative Literature and Art with a concentration in Writing. She also completed the graduate program in journalism at the University of Oregon. From 2020 to 2023 she worked as an independent photographer, story-teller and educator. Her career has also included working as a high school teacher and community college instructor in Oregon; a Peace Corps Volunteer and as an English Language Fellow funded by the U.S. Department of State in Sudan. She was the interim Director of the English Language Resource Center at

Al-Azhar University in Cairo, Egypt, and completed three English Language Specialist projects funded by the U.S. Department of State; working with Mexican teachers to create English language podcasts; facilitating a Science Communications course for Russian science professionals, and teaching a virtual introductory podcasting class for teachers in Yemen.

She loves to travel, read, backpack, canoe, ride horses, ski, fly fish, cycle, hike and eat new foods (preferably cooked on sticks along roadsides around the world).



THE SEA MONSTERS OF INDIAN LAKE'S 3 HIDDEN LAKES

~Ed Sokol Jr.

Imagine yourself trolling on a boat, surrounded by fog so thick—that you lose sense of what direction you're traveling. When the fog lifts, you find yourself in a totally different place from where you thought you were. That's Indian Lake, in the summer, at many perfectly still daybreaks. It's an entirely different world than most people ever experience.

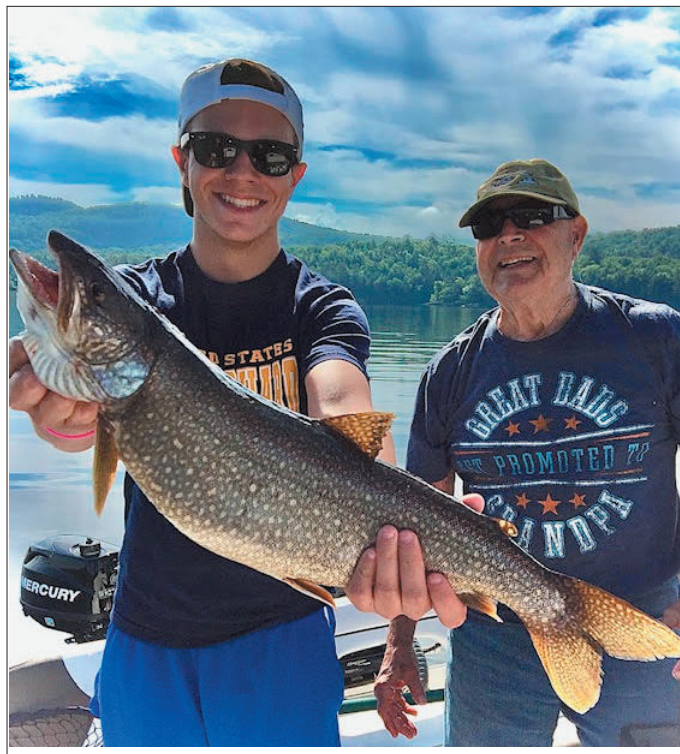
On its surface Indian has many faces. It can be motionless, like a giant mirror. Other times, it can be severely nautical. The majority of mornings however, there's a moderate breeze, often from the southwest, with a little chop of waves, which certainly makes it fishable.

This is our home turf. My father and I, have fished here regularly for over 40 years, chasing Indian Lake's most

dominant apex predator; *salvelinus namaycush*, more commonly known as lake trout. Seeing a big one for the first time, may seem like something out of Jurassic Park. They live in the deepest waters, namely, where the three original lakes once existed before the dam was built. The lakes still exist of course, they're just topped off with a little over 30 feet of water. These are the only places you'll find lake trout in the summer, on Indian Lake.

So, where are these hidden lakes? Well, if you stand where Indian Lake Marina is today, and the dam wasn't there, you would be looking out over the southernmost edge of the first lake, which went all the way across to the east shore. To your left, it would look very similar to how it does in modern time, with a slightly receded shoreline. The northernmost edge was 3/4 of a mile up north from about campsite #1 on the east, to the Point (Twin Coves) on the west. This is the largest of the three, and was about 47 feet at its deepest spot (80 feet today).

The second lake is between this one and the Narrows. The Narrows itself is the third, and by far the smallest, yet it was around 35 feet at its deepest point (68 feet today). Everything to your right (South from the marina), was land with the Jessup River flowing through it.



The Author's father, Ed Sokol, Sr., and son-in-law Giovanni Lisi, with their catch of the day.

The 3-hidden lakes of Indian, have an entirely different ecosystem than the rest of the lake. Unlike all water south of the marina, here, below 40 feet, life revolves around smelt. Millions and millions of them. How many millions? In late August, when they stack-up in bigger schools, we mark pods of them on our depth finder, sometimes 20-feet thick and 20, 30, 40 yards long. Smelt, here, are typically a little bigger than a canned sardine. So, imagine how many it takes to create a 20-foot thick, 30-yard long—black mass.....that’s a lot of smelt. And, that’s just one of many schools we’ll troll over that same day, albeit various sizes. It’s the most important link in this deep water food chain, especially for lake trout.

Native American Indians fished for lakers in these waters for thousands of years. Today, there are a number of different techniques used to catch them. Ours, is a traditional, old-school method called; “hand-lining”. While trolling, we let out a sinking line with a spoon attached, then, we hold the line in our hand. When the line is pulled by swinging the arm, it causes the spoon to imitate a nervous bait fish swimming away. When the arm returns to a relaxed position and pauses—the line goes slack and the lure sinks, fluttering downward. This imitates an injured bait fish, failing, unable to swim.....making an easy target for a laker.



8/31/25 Above, shown on our depth finder in 72.4 feet of water, is an enormous school of smelt, approximately 20 foot thick and over 30 yards long. In this image, the lake bottom appears to be 50-55 feet. However, from 50-55 feet all the way to the actual bottom at 72.4 feet, is a solid wall of smelt.

Sounds easy right? Yep, sure does.....but, it’s not as easy as it sounds.

Unlike juvenile and adolescent lake trout, the big ones are lazy. They usually won’t tire themselves by chasing one small bait fish. So, as my grandfather would often say; “you gotta hit ‘em on the nose”. Which means;



TOYOTA

STEET TOYOTA OF JOHNSTOWN-GLOVERSVILLE

STEET TOYOTA OF YORKVILLE





TWO LOCATIONS TO BETTER SERVE YOU

Genuine Parts

ToyotaCare

Service Center

NEW AND PRE-OWNED SALES * SERVICE * PARTS

your spoon needs to get close enough for them to effortlessly grab it. That's a tiny target in a big lake.

My grandfather fished Indian Lake with us from the beginning in the early 1980s. In the early 90s, my brother-in-law, Jim Durivage, became a regular. Both, fished here until they passed. Property owners around the lake may remember seeing Jim, hand-lining from his white Pro-Line center console boat over the years.

Today, my daughter, Dayna, and my nephew, Tim, fish with us when they can. My son-in-law, Giovanni, also joins us from time to time. We retell them stories about the old days of chasing lakers, our dangerous encounters, funny situations, moments of success, and of the big ones that got away. Those memories cross four generations now. We all grew up as fishermen.

So, in the mornings of spring and summer, if you look out over the hidden lakes of Indian and see a white, Key-West, center console boat trolling along, that's Dad and me.....maybe with Dayna, Timmy, or Giovanni, still chasing The Sea Monsters of Indian's 3-Hidden Lakes.



THE TRUTH ABOUT WAKEBOATS

~ Mary Prusko

In January 2026, a survey was conducted of ILA members to gather their insights on the potential regulation of wake boats on Indian Lake. This survey suggested a potential local law limiting the operation of Wake Boats to 1,000 feet from shore in waters at least 30 feet deep. The impetus for the survey was a webinar presented by Scott Ireland of the Adirondack Lakes Alliance, which explored damages allegedly caused by Wake Boats. The webinar explored topics such as water depth, distance from shore, invasive species, dock damage, shoreline erosion, and damage to nesting Loons. The damages alleged to be the fault of Wake Boats are summarized in the Graphic accompanying this Article. Although there are currently few wake boats on Indian Lake, the issues raised in the webinar are significant. This article aims to compare and contrast

the claims in the webinar with various scientific reports and studies to determine the truth about Wake Boats.

Amidst the growing allure of wake surfing on our cherished freshwater lakes, the non-profit conservation organization Wisconsin's Green Fire (WGF) unveiled a pivotal report titled "The Effects of Wake Boats on Lake Ecosystem Health." This analysis delves into scientific studies that address critical issues such as the spread of invasive species, escalating shoreline erosion, damage to aquatic plants, and the adverse effects on wildlife—especially nesting loons and spawning fish—impacted by wake boats. Recognizing the limitations of time and expertise, I find it invaluable to examine the insights from this crucial report for a deeper and more informed understanding, inspiring us to protect and preserve the delicate balance of our lake ecosystems for future generations. The full report is available on Wisconsin's Green Fire website: <https://wigreenfire.org/wake-boats-and-lakes-new-report-from-wisconsins-green-fire/>.

Shoreline Erosion and Lateral Distance Research over the past 40 years has shown that shore erosion is primarily driven by natural forces such as ice, runoff, and wave action (and here the effect of the yearly drawn down of the lake). The sheer power of wind-driven waves dwarfs that of boat-generated waves, enduring for hours compared to the fleeting bursts from a boat. To match the energy of a 20-mph wind, a wake-boat wave would have to pass within 200 feet of shore every minute. While we cannot control the effects of wind-driven waves, we hold the power to manage man-made waves. Over 170 studies have examined the impact of motorboat waves on shore erosion.

The 2015 study by Goudey and Girod, commissioned by the Water Sport Industry Association (WSIA), found that over 70% of boat-generated wave energy dissipates

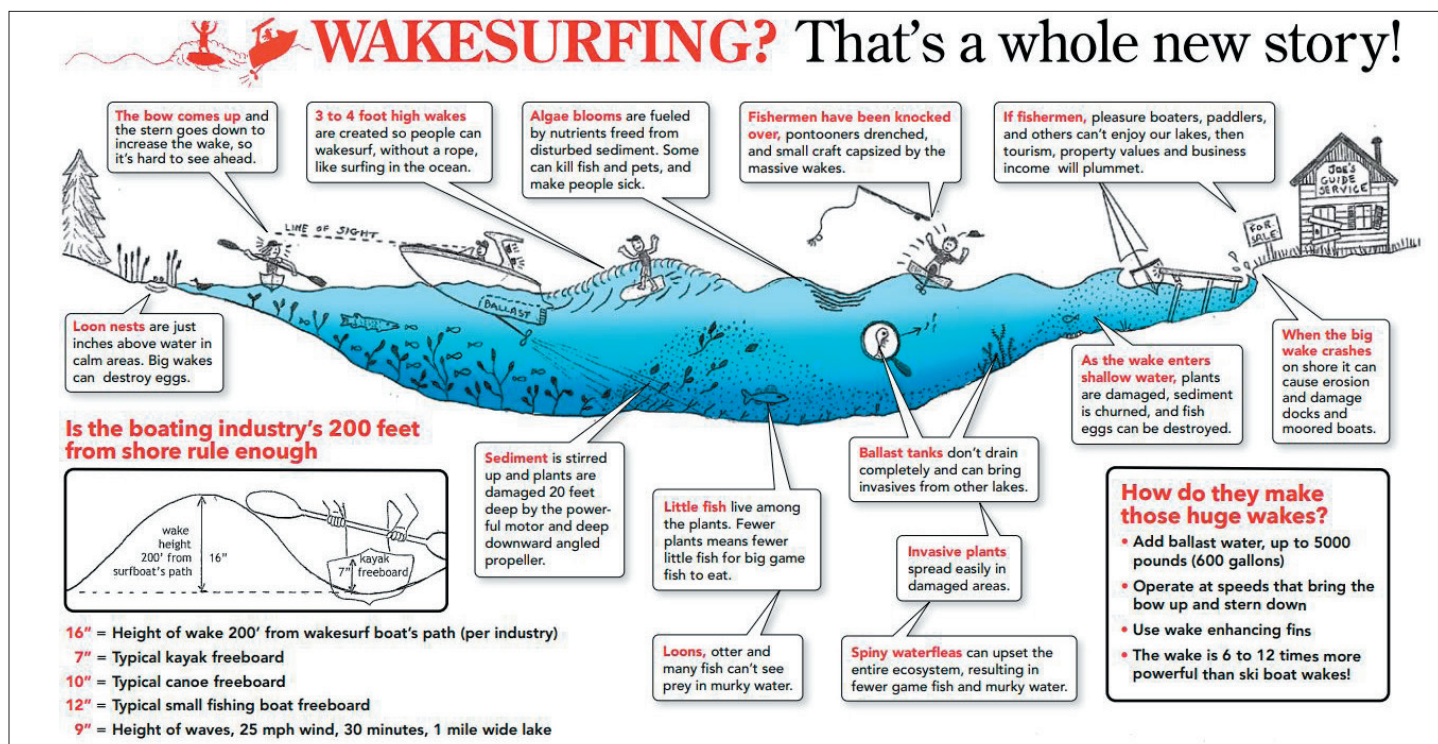
ACORN HILL CONTRACTING
Commercial & Residential Carpentry



PO Box 26
Indian Lake, N.Y. 12842
(908) 303 1099
acornhill64@gmail.com

Fully Insured

Richard D. Hoffman



within 200 feet of shore, highlighting the waves' lower impact compared to wind-generated waves that travel over a mile. In a 2018 study by Macfarlane at the Australian Maritime College, University of Tasmania (AMC), revealed that wake boats operating 200 feet from shore produce waves that fall below erosion thresholds. Furthermore, the AMC study emphasizes that non-wake boats can generate wave energy comparable to that of wake boats, underscoring the importance of considering the cumulative effects of various watercraft on shoreline health.

Research by Marr et al. (2022) at the St. Anthony Falls Laboratory (SAFL) discovered that wake boats traveling at speeds of 10 to 12 mph generate significantly higher waves than their non-wake counterparts. While non-wake boats can produce large waves during acceleration or deceleration, the duration of those waves is shorter. To combat shoreline erosion, SAFL recommends maintaining a lateral distance of 425 to 500 feet from the shore. Malibu Mfg., the manufacturer of a premier line of wake boats, however, suggests that 200 feet is adequate, per WSIA guidelines. With differing perspectives on the appropriate distance for wake boats—ranging from 200 to 500 feet or more—ongoing discussions and research remain vital. Indian Lake already has a local law limiting operation of motor boats to “no wake” speeds within 200 feet of shore. Coincidentally this restriction covers most of the lake from a bit south of Long Island through nearly

all of the Jessup River section, as well as the area north of “The Narrows” near the dam. A commonsense approach would seem to be most logical here, with Wake and Ski boats staying towards the mid line of the lake.

The depth of water beneath a vessel can transform the waves it creates. SAFL researcher Andy Riesgraf discovered that wake boats in surfing mode interact with the lake bed at depths of 9 and 14 feet. The study implies that recreational boats operate in at least 10 feet

**Experience the THRILL of
Whitewater Rafting
take a guided trip**

**ADIRONDACK
MOUNTAIN OUTFITTERS**

**Guided Hiking, Canoeing, Fishing and
Hunting Trips also available**

INFLATABLE REPAIRS* CPR/FIRST AID INSTRUCTION

6627 Rt 30, Indian Lake * (518) 401-7449
 (just before Cedar River Golf Course)
 Adirondackmountainoutfitters@gmail.com
 www.adirondackoutfitters.com

of water to safeguard water quality, while encouraging wake boats to seek at least 20 feet of depth. Malibu Mfg. highlights that optimal wake surfing conditions flourish in water at least 12 feet deep, with deeper waters being even more advantageous. Most studies urge us to embrace the wisdom of operating wake boats in 20 feet or more, reminding us of our responsibility to preserve our beautiful aquatic environments.

Most of the shoreline in Indian Lake is rocky and drops off quickly. However, as most of us are well aware, some from unfortunate “learning experiences,” and due to the varying water depths throughout the season, a stray rock may be present within shouting distance of land. Fortunately, therefore, only the severely reckless run at speed in less than 20 feet of water in Indian Lake.

Aquatic Invasive Species present a critical challenge in Indian Lake, with the Spiny Water Flea standing out as a pressing concern due to its confirmed presence in the area. This large predatory zooplankton threatens to out compete native species and jeopardize food availability for fish that depend on zooplankton (Walsh et al., 2016; Yan et al., 2002). Therefore, minimizing their spread in Indian Lake is not just important; it is vital.

Research reveals that nearly half of boaters leaving a lake have aquatic plants and invertebrates clinging to their trailers (Rothlisberger et al., 2010). By rinsing trailers and boats with pressurized hot water, we can significantly curb the spread of AIS, since hot

KEEP IT LOCAL!
We Ride Stronger Together



SNOWARRIORS
 INDIAN LAKE, NY

Proud sponsors of Irish Road Bowling

Edward LaScala, President
 PO Box 534
 Indian Lake, NY 12842

www.snowwarriors.org
www.facebook.com/ILsnowwarriors
ilsnowwarriors@gmail.com

We are closing the doors as of June 1st

Axes & Irons began as a dream to bring indoor recreation to our small community that we love so much. Thanks to YOU, it was an incredible success, which makes closing our doors that much harder.

We never imagined the incredible relationships that we would build with customers who turned into dear friends....for that we close with immensely grateful hearts.

Thank you again for your extraordinary loyalty and support of our small business. We'll see you on the lake this summer.

water at 140°F, effectively neutralizes most invasive species within 10 seconds. Spiny Water Flea eggs, however, require treatment for at least 10 minutes at 122°F, to prevent hatching (Branstrator et al., 2013). Despite this, studies show that only 56% of boaters and approximately 80% of professionals successfully removed all AIS in controlled settings (Angell, 2023). This under-scores the importance of ongoing training and inspections for AIS stewards and professionals.

Wake boats pose a unique risk of AIS spread due to their internal ballast systems, which typically hold over 700 gallons of water when loaded. For trailering, wake boaters empty the ballasts, but the tanks often retain a significant amount of water – up to 8 gallons of water in many cases, making proper sanitation especially difficult. To adequately sanitize the internal ballast of a wake boat, it is recommended that owners flush hot water into the ballast, raising the temperature to at least 122°F.

However, wake boats are not the only AIS carriers. Consider the number of kayaks, canoes, and other “roof top” boats that are launched into Indian Lake each summer, not to mention the few seaplanes, sea-gulls, and other birds that regularly land on our lake. Thus, while wake boats almost certainly contribute to the spread of AIS, they cannot be held solely responsible for the spread of these pests. We urge owners of Wake boats, as well as all others to be aware of their contribution to the spread of AIS, and to responsibly clean, dry and drain their boats and trailers.

Although we have few Aquatic plants in Indian Lake, those that are present are located primarily in shallow “back” bays and along the shore of the most southern Jessup River section of the lake, and they never the-less play an invaluable role in our ecosystems, serving as vital nurseries for fish species and providing essential habitats for smaller fish. Their presence stabilizes lake bottoms and helps combat shoreline erosion, underscoring their importance in maintaining balance in our natural world. Without aquatic plants, lakes become vulnerable to harmful algal blooms. However, they face threats from boats, which can uproot or sever their roots.

Wake boats boast deep hulls, with propellers that extend up to 3 feet (dramatically below the waterline), a high bow angle, and larger wakes. While frequent boat passes in lakes with deep-water plants increase turbulence in lake sediments and put pressure on aquatic plants, leaving bare patches known as “propeller scars.” In our lake, aquatic plants are almost exclusively found in shallow-water areas. Thus, it does not appear that wake boats, which, because of their deep draft, have a damaging effect upon aquatic plants. Other boats, such as fishing boats with trolling motors, or small outboards, should, however, operate with care, in shallow water so as not to uproot these essential plants.

Loons are remarkable birds, loved for their soothing nighttime calls and sudden daytime appearances. They unfortunately have great difficulty walking on land because their legs are positioned far back on their bodies. Because of this distinction, they build their nests at the water’s edge. Since our lake is drawn throughout the season, and the presence of natural predators, Loon nests typically do not fare well here. Nevertheless, boat waves can pose risks to Loons and their young during incubation and critical developmental phases, typically from late May through the end of July. Research reveals that any boat activity within 200 feet of the shore-line can be detrimental. Thus, we cannot single out wake boats for any detriment to the Loon population caused by wakes.

While several states have implemented regulations regarding wake boats, including lateral limits ranging from 300 to 500 feet from shore and limiting operation to waters exceeding 15 feet. Oregon is proposing an excise tax on wake boats – a proposal which will surely enrage a segment of their population! These restrictions have had varying levels of success, with Vermont



BLUELINE EXCAVATING
518-648-5765

BLUELINE EXCAVATING
SEPTIC FOUNDATIONS STONE GRAVEL SAND
(518) 648-5765

All of your Excavation needs
Foundations * Grading * Clearing
Stone * Gravel * Septic * Sand



PIG II DELI
(518) 648-5251

Sandwiches
Salads
Soups
Daily Specials

All reasonably priced
Friendly atmosphere

Open Tues-Sat
8 am to 3 pm



High Mountain
Tree Service

“Covering the 518”

INDIAN LAKE, NY

518-775-8509

MARINE AND SMALL ENGINE REPAIR



*Spring Tune Ups—Engine & Gearcase Repairs—Winterization
Snowmobile Repairs and Maintenance*

**Located in downtown Indian Lake
dockside service available**

UNBEATABLE PRICES
Shaun T. Fredette, Certified Technician
Call or text 838.249.6130

having to retract its first set of regulations. While those regulations may serve as examples for consideration if Indian Lake moves toward introducing new boating regulations, we do not believe such restrictions are appropriate for Indian Lake for the following reasons:

 Our lake is a long, narrow lake – limiting wake boats to a lateral distance from shore will, of necessity, concentrate them in the widest section of the lake, which incidentally is the only section containing residences. Indian Lake already has a local law restricting the operation of motor boats to low speed within 200 feet of shore – presumably sufficient to protect shorelines and personal property.

 Indian Lake has a mostly rocky shoreline, with, for the most part, deep and sudden drop-offs. Aquatic plants are not present in deep water where motorboats can operate at high speed. The deterrent of a bent prop or a destroyed lower unit is more than sufficient to prevent the near-shore high-speed operation of wake and other motorboats.

 We have a few Loons in Indian Lake, presumably because of fluctuations in lake levels and drawdowns from spring to fall, rather than boat wakes. What Loon nests survive are most likely tucked into the way backs of deep bays, and not subject to waves. Why the few that do survive, given the drawdown and lake fluctuation, is an unsolved mystery.

Bab-a-Dew's
Wood Fired Pizza *Dew'in Pizza Right!*

Look for one of our trailers at your favorite local events & places!

Available for events & private parties!

Traditional Italian Fare with Artisanal Adirondack Flair!

(607)434 5134
babadewspizza@gmail.com
babadewswoodfiredpizza.com

Visit our website or Facebook page to see where we will be today!





FOLLOW US

 AIS deterrence laws are already on the books. Although not strictly enforced, state law requires inspection and cleaning of all boats launched in our lake. This is carried out by the boat wash stations at various road-side stations as well as the state Launch site.

 Indian Lake is severely under utilized. Given the size of our lake, there are very few boats in operation at any given time compared to other lakes. In fact, at last count, there were only three wake boats on Indian Lake throughout the summer.

 Enforcement will be difficult or impossible. Indian Lake lies partially in the towns of Indian Lake and

6236 State Route 30 518-648-6364

GROCERIES * GAS * CAR WASH * LAUNDROMAT

NEW OWNERS WELCOME ALL!

SANDWICHES * PIZZAS * SUBS
WINGS * FRIES
HOMEMADE SOUPS & SALADS
COLD CUTS * FRESH BREAD & ROLLS
COLD BEER * SODA * FRUIT DRINKS

OPEN 7 DAYS PER WEEK
ALL YEAR ROUND
6 AM TO 8 PM
(Deli closes at 6:30)

Lake Pleasant – to implement a local law affecting the entire lake, both towns will have to agree. Further, while the Sheriff's Department and the DEC are responsible for ensuring boating compliance, they might hesitate to enforce any new regulations

 As operators of wake boats, be aware of your surroundings and operate in areas with the fewest private residences. While wake boarding, do not go in circles – your rider will appreciate it. We have nearly 10 miles of the “main lake.” Use it all.

 Do not operate at high speeds less than 200 feet from shore and more if possible. When leaving shore, leave perpendicular to the shore-line. Drop off riders in the middle of the lake – don't attempt “dry” landings.

 Respect the laws requiring you to clean, drain, dry, and flush ballast tanks with hot water over 122 degrees.

 Enjoy the lake, but respect others who want to enjoy it also. Give wide berth to sailors, fishing boats, kayaks, and canoers. No one wants to spill their drink because of your need to show off! Be aware that state law holds you legally liable for any damage that your wake causes.

 With a bit of cooperation, some education, and a lot of courtesy, we can all enjoy the lake and protect it, too, without the need for another regulation.

 Wake boat surfing stands as a thrilling testament to watercraft innovation, inviting all to share in its joy. As devoted stewards of our lake, we carry a vital responsibility to protect our shorelines and environment through responsible boating practices. By understanding the impact of our actions, enhancing our situational awareness, and sharing knowledge, we can nurture a culture of accountability on the water.

Together, let's create a safe and uplifting experience for everyone to treasure.

References to all the studies cited in this article are available from the author at Treasurer.ILA.ADK@gmail.com

ALL MOTORBOAT OPERATORS

AS OF JAN 1, 2025

You MUST have a Boater's Safety Certificate to Operate any Motorboat or a PWC.

- ⇒ **Out of State Boater's Safety Certificates ARE recognized in NYS for non-residents**
- ⇒ **The Sheriff is out there!**
- ⇒ **Education saves lives!**



ADIRONDACK FLOATING DOCKS
20 years experience
adirondackfloatingdocks.com
518-648-5073

Thomas Palopoli
5824 NYS Route 30
Indian Lake, NY 12842
tpalopoli1127@gmail.com



EST.  1967

**HOWARD
HANNA**

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

SOLD

FREE
MARKET ANALYSIS
FIND OUT THE
VALUE
OF YOUR HOME

Call text or email me and let's see what your home is worth in today's market!



"Your neighbor and selling real estate in Indian lake for over 10 years"

Allen Van Hoff, RSPS Licensed Real Estate Salesperson

c. **518-441-2640**

e. allenvanhoff@howardhanna.com w. allenvanhoff.com

Queensbury | Glens Falls | Lake George | 63 Quaker Road | Queensbury NY 12804

LPI LUXURY
PORTFOLIO
INTERNATIONAL

HANNA  LUXURY

**ALLEN
VAN HOFF**
REAL ESTATE TEAM

PLEASE SHOP LOCAL
SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS
AND
MENTION THEIR AD




SUMMER HRS—JULY 1—LABOR DAY
Tues–Sat 4 pm–8 pm
Closed Sunday & Monday

Pizza
Wings*Hot Subs
Wraps*Salad*Dinner

6240 NYS Rt.30 ~ Indian Lake, NY
(518) 648-0007

 [FACEBOOK.COM/PUTERKOSPIZZA](https://www.facebook.com/PUTERKOSPIZZA)



JOIN US ON A MEMORABLE RAILBIKE EXCURSION THROUGH THE BEAUTIFUL ADIRONDACKS.

WE HAVE RIDES FOR ALL AGES, AND EVEN COMBO RAILBIKE/TUBING EXCURSIONS THRU THE SEASON.

**BOOK YOUR RIDE AT
RevRail.com**

**Use code
WeLoveILA-ADK for a
10% discount
during the month of
June 2026**



MEET THE CANDIDATES FOR DIRECTOR



Pete Sinski

Pete Sinski and his wife, Ellen, have been full-time residents of Indian Lake for 15 years. They moved here full-time after Pete retired from teaching in Oakland, New Jersey. Prior to retirement, Pete had spent every summer on Indian Lake since 1966. He enjoys boating, fishing and lake life.

Ellen's parents owned and operated the Lake View House in Sabael from 1952 through 1983. Ellen's father, William Daubenschmidt, was a founding member of the ILA. Pete and Ellen purchased the Lake View House from her parents in the early 1990's and used it as their family's vacation home until Pete's retirement. After Pete's retirement, they demolished the Lake View House and built a more efficient year-round home on the property.

Pete and Ellen, each served as past ILA board members, and on behalf of the ILA, they participated each summer in the invasive weed survey of the lake. While serving on the ILA board, Pete was a member of the ILA's incorporation committee. Pete hopes to serve on the ILA board again to help preserve the beauty and health of the lake for generations to come.



Doug Zacker

In October, Doug and his family will celebrate 10 glorious years in Indian Lake. Doug was born and grew up in NJ, then attended college in Wisconsin. He met his wife, Marietta, while teaching with Teach For America in Houston. Two of Doug's daughters were born in Atlanta where he earned an MBA and worked on communications at The Home Depot's corporate headquarters. Things came full circle twenty years ago when they moved to New Jersey, had their third daughter, and Doug decided to return to his original professional plan of becoming a professional photographer.

About twelve years ago Doug and Marietta started looking for a second home away from the busyness and congestion of New Jersey. Although Doug and Marietta grew up spending more time on the beach than on lakes, Doug at the Jersey Shore and Marietta in Puerto Rico and Miami, over the years they both became enamored with the serenity of lake life. Doug's college years were spent on Lake Mendota in Madison, WI, and they both spent considerable time at a friend's camp on Twitchell Pond in Maine. Despite realtors leading them in one direction, they serendipitously found their secluded spot on Griffin Rd. While skiing and mountain biking are his biggest passions, Doug loves and embraces every bit of Adirondack living, from the fun to the hard to the laid back, and is always game to do anything. He never misses an opportunity to talk to people about the history of Indian Lake, and what went on around Griffin Road before he and his family arrived. With their youngest kid in college, Doug is excited to be on the board of ILA, and to give a little bit back to a place that continually gives him so much. He's hoping to use his photography and engagement skills to further the goals of the ILA.

INDIAN LAKE ASSOCIATION ADK, INC.

Annual Meeting & Breakfast

Saturday – August 8, 2026 - 9:30 am

**at “The Camp Pierce Barn” 5441 NYS Rte. 30, Indian Lake, NY
(across from the Lake Store Building)**

**WE ARE TRYING TO SAVE YOU THE EXPENSE OF POSTAGE
DO NOT USE THIS FORM UNLESS YOU CANNOT RESPOND VIA THE QR CODE BELOW or
SIGN UP VIA OUR WEBSITE AT ILAADK.ORG**

OR

simply send an email to Treasurer.ILA.ADK@gmail.com and let us know your intentions

Will you be attending our Annual Meeting & Breakfast?

☐

Yes

☐

No

**If attending, number adults expected to attend _____
number of children under 8 _____**

Print Name: _____

Email: _____

Please do not return without a valid email address

**MEMBERS – FREE
GUESTS - \$25. PER PERSON**

**NO NEW MEMBERSHIPS WILL
BE ACCEPTED AT THE MEETING**

PROXY

We expect to elect new Directors at our Annual Meeting, and may have other business to come before the general membership, requiring a vote. If not attending, do you appoint Helen Glass, Secretary of ILA as your proxy to vote for all matters that come before the meeting?

☐

Yes

☐

No

Signature (Print name below)

**Please return these forms if you must (with payment if appropriate) to
Indian Lake Association ADK, Inc., PO Box 973, Sabael, NY 12864**

**SIGN UP FORM
VIA THIS QR CODE**



**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
OR RENEWAL FORM QR CODE**



INDIAN LAKE ASSOCIATION ADK, INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL FORM

**If you wish to pay via credit card DO NOT use this form – SAVE POSTAGE – Complete the Application Form at ILAADK.ORG
or USE THE QR CODE on the facing page instead**

Please complete as much of this form as possible. Do not leave any of the fields blank even if you think we already have the information.

☐ New Membership		☐ Renewal	
Name		Middle Initial	Last Name
Occupation or if retired Former Occupation		Employer	
Email Address		Best Phone No.	Alternate Phone No.
Permanent (home) mailing address		City	State Zip
Camp (Indian Lake) address			
Indian Lake Phone No.			
Please tell us when you are most likely to be in Indian Lake circle one or write your own. (ie. Weekends, all summer, last two weeks of July, I live here all year round.)			
Comments:		Preferred method of communicating (Circle all that apply)	
		Email	
		Telephone	
		Text	
		Zoom meeting	
		Person-to-Person	
		Other (specify)	
MEMBERSHIP LEVEL & TERM			
☐ Gold – Three year membership @ \$80.00 ☐ Silver – Two year term @\$55.00 ☐ Bronze – One Year Term @ \$30.00		Payment Amount \$ _____ ☐ Check enclosed Payable to ILAADK Mail Payment to Indian Lake Association ADK, Inc. PO Box 973, Sabael, NY 12864	
I hereby agree to abide by the rules of the Indian Lake Association, ADK, Inc., and agree to receive electronic communications from the Association.			
Signature:		Date:	

**WE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTING ANY NEW OR RENEWAL MEMBERSHIS AT OUR ANNUAL MEETING – IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND
THE MEETING AT NO CHARGE, YOU MUST HAVE SIGNED UP BY AUGUST 1, 2026**

2026 INDIAN LAKE EVENTS

Dates subject to change check first at
Indian Lake Development
at development@indianlakeadk.com

or stop by the Welcome Center for more information

MAY

- 6 Community Pride Day (clean up)
- 22-24 Great Adirondack Yard Sale
- 23 Chamber of Commerce Vendor Fair
- 23 ILVFD Ladies Auxiliary Bake Sale
- 27-30 Americade

JUNE

- 8 Citizen of the Year Announced
- 13 Black Fly Challenge (ending in Indian Lake)
- 20 Monarch & Pollinator Festival

JULY

- 4 250th Independence Day, Fireworks,
& Concert with Mark Arsenault
- 4 ILVFD Chicken BBQ
- 18 Concert @ 7 PM w/ Finger Diddle
- 25 Poker Paddle

AUGUST

- 7 ILVFD Ladies Auxiliary Tricky Tray
- 8 Concert@7PM w/ Grit N Grace
- 15 Concert@ 7PM w/ Psycho Mutton Chops
- 15-16 Indian Lake Paint Out—Plein Air

SEPTEMBER

- 5 ILVFD Pig Roast
- 11 90 Miler in Blue Mountain Lake
- 6-9 Rustic Street Fair in Blue Mountain Lake
- 11-13 Rustic Street Fair—Blue Mt. Lake
- 18-20 Antiques Show / Sale Indian Lake & Blue
- 26 Concert @ 4 PM w/ Rocky & the Moose Men
- 26 ILVFD Ladies Auxiliary Turkey Dinner
- 26-29 Great Adirondack Moose Fest
- 28 Moose Festival daytime concert w/ Rocky & The Moose Men

OCTOBER

- 10 Car Show

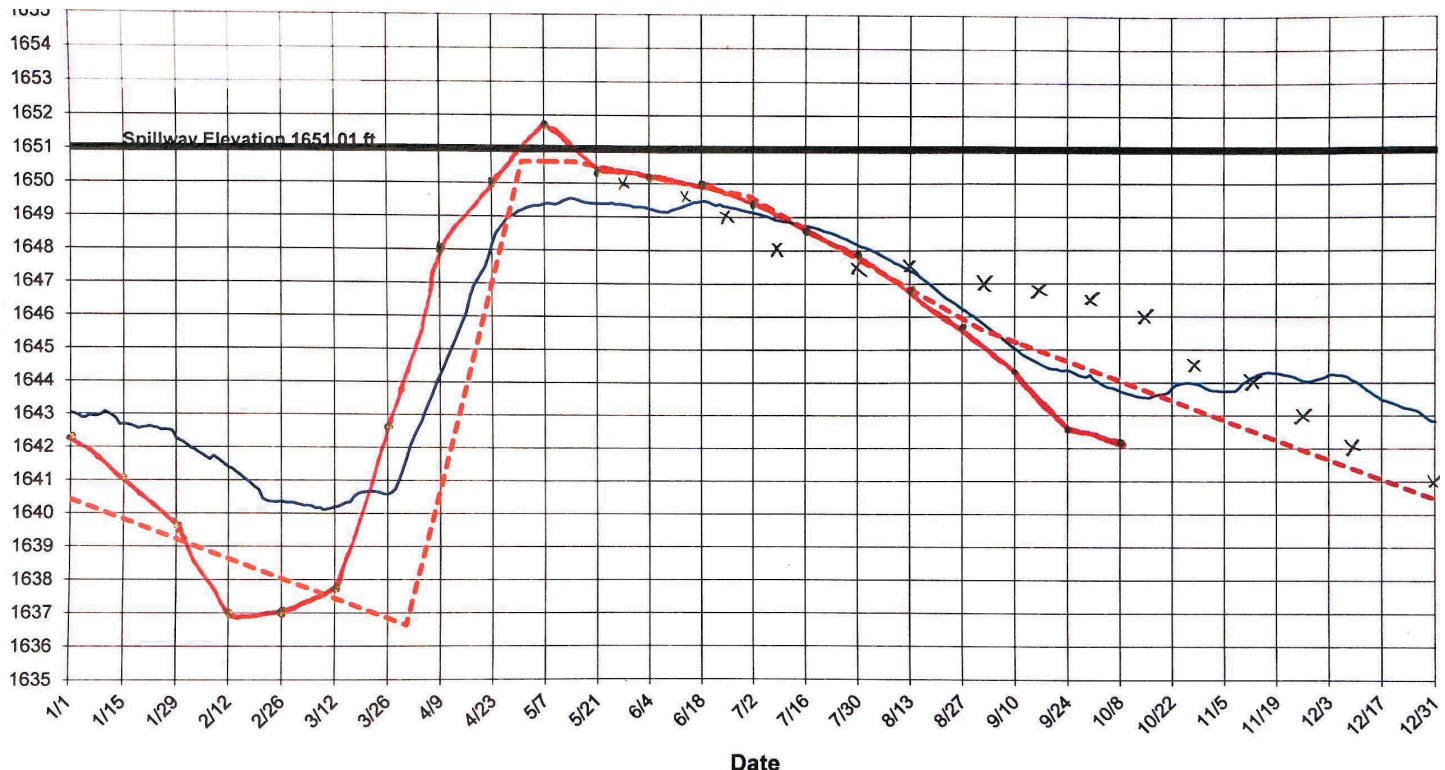
NOVEMBER

- 11 Veterans Day
- 22-23 Country Christmas Tour

FARMERS MARKET AT ILCS
EVERY FRIDAY—JULY-SEPTEMBER
10 AM TO 2 PM

INDIAN LAKE WATER LEVEL – 2025

Below is a graph from the Hudson River Black River Regulating District that shows the Indian Lake Association target water levels accepted by the Regulating District for the Lake in effect prior to 2016 (thin dotted red line), the new target levels suggested by ILA in 2016 (small x's) and the historic average water levels (thin solid blue line). Added to the graph are the actual levels from USGS data (thick solid red line). No USGS data after late October.



2025 ACTUAL ELEVATION

HISTORIC AVERAGE ELEVATION

PRE 2016 TARGET ELEVATION

NEW TARGET ELEVATION



Indian Lake Association ADK, Inc.
P.O. Box 973, Sabael, NY 12864
www.ilaadk.org
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ILA ADK, INC. Board of Directors 2025-2026

President/Secretary – Helen Glass
Treasurer – Mary Prusko
At-Large – Wendy Clark
At-Large – John Cohoon
At-Large – Scott Smith
At-Large - John Travis
At-Large - Jon Voorhees

CONTACT US: info@ilaadk.org
WEBSITE: www.ilaadk.org

JOIN US

INDIAN LAKE ASSOCIATION 48TH ANNUAL MEETING & BREAKFAST

9:30 AM—AUGUST 8, 2026—CAMP PIERCE BARN —5441 Route 30, SABAEL, NY

BREAKFAST BY LJ CATERING & MOORE * MEMBERS FREE—GUESTS \$25.00

NO NEW MEMBERSHIPS ACCEPTED AT THE MEETING



DENISE SILFEE
*Director of Education and Communications
of the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation*
Presents
“The Secret Life of Nesting Loons”



SILENT AUCTION!

JOHN CALLAGHAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - HRBRD
WILL UPDATE US ON THE DAM RESTORATION

2027 CALENDARS!