



Lake News

P.O. Box 1015 • Ballston Lake, NY 12019 • www.ballstonlake.mylaketown.com

Fall Newsletter-2019

President's Message

At the BLIA annual meeting in June, the resignation of past president Peter Herman was accepted and there was a unanimous vote naming Wes Devoe as the new president. A complete list of board members is available on the BLIA web site. Here is Wes's first President's Message.

As the new President of BLIA, I quickly became very impressed by the makeup and talents of our elected board members and non-board volunteers. The BLIA "Team" represents a wide range of volunteerism, from Millennials to Seniors like myself, with a wide range of career and life experience backgrounds that work well with BLIA's needs. We are so fortunate and appreciative to have so many of our members step forth into responsible leadership positions. The old adage "Many hands make light the work" is particularly meaningful when it comes to organizations like BLIA. We have seasoned veterans in charge of lake management, watershed issues and domestic water usage solutions. A few of our Board members are virtual town and state government watch dogs on legislative and environmental issues that affect the lake. We have a strong presence on the BLSD sewer project which is critical to Ballston Lake's wellbeing. Lake Safety is monitored extensively. Our Annual Cleanup Day remains an extremely important collaboration with the greater community, the BH-BL BPA and the Town of Ballston. We get together socially for fun and camaraderie and to share ideas. BLIA's communication tools are being updated with enhanced social media, website and database management; all complimented by pertinent "e-blasts" and our newsletter. Our "image" has been heightened by our "Welcome to Ballston Lake" brochure and through several print media opportunities. I personally thank you for your membership support and encourage you to get involved. Please utilize our new tools to communicate ideas and concerns to BLIA via email.

[<mailto:Ballstonlakeassoc@gmail.com>](mailto:Ballstonlakeassoc@gmail.com)

Wes Devoe- BLIA President

Sewer Committee Update



As has been previously reported, the sewer contract low bid in January was \$18,629,509.00. This was well above the previously approved funding. Based on discussions with both bidders and non-bidders the project was rebid as several smaller projects with some modifications to requirements that were designed to make the project more attractive to contractors and less costly. The rebidding process has now been completed with a series of projects totaling \$14,213,806.15. This is a significant improvement but still above the currently available funding.

Additional grant funding has been applied for. We hope to receive approval for additional funds in December which would allow contracts to be finalized with work to begin in the spring.

Ballston Lake Watershed and Lake Management Plan

On June 14, 2019 the Town of Ballston was awarded a DEC grant of \$19,635 to complete a DEC 9 Element Ballston Lake Watershed and Lake Management Plan. This is a matching grant that the Town of Ballston has voted to fund with \$6,545 to bring the total to \$26,180. I have been working with the town clerk, and other members of the Town Lake Management Committee to move this project forward.

At this time we have developed an RFP (Request for Proposals) that will be posted so lake management companies can bid on this project. It is hoped that at completion of this project, there will be suggestions to enact, that will improve Ballston Lake. Problems should be identified and solutions should be suggested so BLIA and the towns of Ballston and Clifton Park can proceed to improve Ballston Lake. Without this management plan any mitigation efforts would only be speculative and misguided.

Aquatic Plant Survey

This year BLIA received a \$3800 grant from the Capital Mohawk PRISM. Under this grant BLIA hired the Darrin Fresh Water Institute to conduct an aquatic plant survey. They completed this in August and will submit the results to us in November.

In addition, \$800 from this grant has helped BLIA to spread the word about invasive species on Ballston Lake. This June the plant population of curly leafed pondweed was significant in the 0-12 foot levels of the lake. This September as this plant has died back we have had excessive growth of coontail. Water chestnuts were removed from two locations on the west side of the lake. Location #1 was in the wetlands about 300 yards north of the narrows. Location #2 was mid way south of the narrows and the south end of the lake. This invasive plant is being controlled by yearly pulling but everyone needs to be aware of it since it doesn't grow in the same place every year.

Lake Testing Summer 2019

During this summer the lake was at its highest in April and the lowest at the end of September. The variability of these two extremes was 16 inches.

The Town of Ballston has funded bacteria testing of 8 sites on Ballston Lake. This summer, the fecal coliform bacteria levels from all 8 sites was below 50 colonies/100ml. The critical level established by NYDOH is 200 colonies/100ml. The water was tested every 3 weeks during June, July, and August and analyzed by Darrin Fresh Water Institute on Lake George.

The 2018 CSLAP water testing results showed a decrease in phosphorous and an increase in clarity from previous years. The summer of 2019 continued to show that clarity was about 6 feet and zebra mussels are abundant. There were no significant algae blooms in 2019. BLIA will receive the full CSLAP report from DEC in March.



Membership

We thank the nearly 160 members who have renewed this year and welcome new members to our organization! We are the only organization dedicated to preserving and protecting Ballston Lake and its watershed. As we come into the Fall, we want to celebrate our common interest in the lake and celebrate Fall at Carney's on November 3rd. Looking forward to seeing you all!

Nick Trotta
Membership Chair

Thank you to our business members:

MAIL 'N' MORE
SHIPPING & COPY CENTER



TIME FOR BLIA'S "FALL BACK PARTY"

Sunday, November 3, 2019



1-5 PM



CARNEY'S TAVERN

SOCIALIZE, MEET & GREET!

FREE FOR BLIA MEMBERS

INVITE A GUEST

SHARE A DISH * CASH BAR *MUSIC

RSVP: BALLSTONLAKEASSOC@GMAIL.COM



KIDS: NAME THE HERON



MUSICIANS: CALL 518 573-0773 FOR



"OPEN MIC" TIME SLOT



BLIA and Social Media

Did you know Ballston Lake Improvement Association is on Facebook? We are also on Instagram and twitter. Follow us @ballstonlakeassoc to stay up to date about events and news about the lake!

<https://www.instagram.com/ballstonlakeimprovementassoc/>

<https://twitter.com/LakeBallston>

These are some photos from our posts.



Let's Light up the Night!

Ballston Lake Labor Day Eve—Sunday, September 1, 2019

Put on a light show for evening boaters and your neighbors across the lake!

- Build a Campfire
- Decorate with Twinkle Lights
- Stab Flares into the ground (great use of dated boat flares)
- Use up your candles
- Illuminate the boat



Just think how cool the reflection in the lake will look!



BALLSTON LAKE ROCKS CANCER

GREAT FOOD & MUSIC FOR GREAT LOCAL CAUSES!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2019

2 PM – 8 PM

98 WESTSIDE DRIVE

Recognition Ceremony for Peter Herman

On June 18th at the annual meeting of BLIA, Peter Herman was recognized for his years of service to the Ballston Lake Community and to the Ballston Lake Improvement Association. The Ballston Lake Fishing Pier and Access has been designated as the Peter G. Herman Ballston Lake Fishing Access Site.

There was a ceremony to commemorate this honor on October 9th that was coordinated through the efforts of the BLIA Board, Ballston Town Board, Supervisor Tim Szczepanic, Town Council Member Bill Goslin and Highway Superintendent Joe Whalen. Lakeside Farms provided use of their pavilion and Martin Haig coordinated refreshments.



Senator Tedesco, Councilman Goslin, Peter Herman, Supervisor Szczepanic, Assemblywoman Walsh

SAVE THE DATE! HERE ARE SOME “DON’T MISS” EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR!

Did you know that members are always invited as guests at BLIA Board Meetings!

- Board Meeting: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 pm at Carney's
- Board Meeting: Tuesday, January 7, 2020 , 7pm at Carney's
- Clean Up Day – Saturday, May 2, 2020
- BH-BL BPA Community Flag Day Parade – Thursday, June 11, 2020
- BLIA Annual Meeting – Tuesday, June 16, 2020
- 4th of July Boat Parade – Saturday, July 4th, 2020
- BLIA Annual Pot Luck Picnic – Tuesday, August 4, 2020
- Light Up the Lake – Sunday, September 6, 2020
- 3RD ANNUAL Fall Back Party – Sunday, November 1, 2020

"Water, water everywhere, Nor any drop to drink" (Coleridge, 1798) are lines from "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" referring to sea water. Do those same lines of poetry apply to lake water? It depends; it definitely applies to consumption of untreated lake water. However, with the proper set up, use and maintenance of a home treatment system, it is possible to use lake water for domestic purposes.

The municipal water sources for many communities are lakes. Treatment systems designed and employed by municipalities that use lake sourced water are typically complex and require constant monitoring and maintenance. Private residential treatment systems might have some components that are similar to municipal systems and are typically designed based on a number of factors including:

Location of intake, average daily water use, contaminants and type of use (consumption, cooking, irrigation).

Our lake contains biological as well as chemical contaminants (the chemical contaminants are both man-made and nature-made). An effective system can remove or reduce contaminants to an acceptable level if water is to be used inside the home for consumption, cooking or cleaning. The system might be comprised of several elements to remove suspended particulates, man-made chemicals (oil, gasoline, etc.), biological's (E. coli, cryptosporidium, zebra mussel larvae, etc.) and unwanted tastes and odors.

Particulate removal should begin at the point of intake as the first line of defense. This would be some type of filtration medium that removes any particulates 20 microns or greater in size. This includes zebra mussel larvae. Without this first line of defense, zebra mussel larvae could enter the home's entire water system and grow in every water line inside the home. If this occurs, mussels will continue to grow until they entirely block the flow of water and would require all of pipes removed and replaced at costs that might exceed \$10,000. An inexpensive filter at the point of intake would be the easiest course of action to address that risk. Additional sediment or particulate filters (1 to 5 microns) can be installed inside the home, which improves water quality and makes it easier to access the filters for replacement or cleaning.

Chemicals and unwanted tastes and odors can be removed with a whole-house carbon filtration unit. Additional point-of-use carbon filters at a kitchen sink for example, will further improve the taste and reduce the "lake" odors from drinking water.

Biological's (other than zebra mussel larvae) are not necessarily removed from the water, but are instead rendered harmless by disinfection elements in the treatment system. Chlorination is an effective and economical means for disinfection and is typically paired with carbon filtration to reduce the chlorine taste and odor. Ultraviolet water treatment units are also an economical way to disinfect water.

The design, sequencing, layout and sizing is best left to professionals that specialize in making lake water suitable for domestic use.

A final and most cautionary note: there are no certified treatment systems or elements for the removal of toxins created by blue-green algae in private residential treatment systems. Boiling or disinfecting water will actually cause blue-green algae cells to burst and release toxins into the water. Municipal water systems that are susceptible to blue-green algae have industrial means for monitoring and removing the toxins. They typically have trained technical staff for analyzing water and taking immediate remedial action. Unfortunately there is no "scaled-down" version of these complex systems for private residential water treatment systems. Other than visual observation of blue-green algae collecting on the surface of the water, there are no means for immediately testing for or determining the presence of blue-green algae and the toxins they might create. Most home water treatment system professionals are unaware of the dangers of blue-green algae toxins and that there is no method of treatment.

While most contaminants can be eliminated, the risk of coming in contact with blue-green algae toxins remains until science or invention discovers an effective treatment. The risk/benefit decision is of course up to the individual homeowner.

Patrick Whitton, a long time resident of Ballston Lake, has been spending time metal detecting around the lake, finding items that are part of the Ballston Lake History. One of his focus areas has been historic Forest Park, concentrated around the south end of the lake.

Patrick Whitton reports "So far I have found several coins and personal items from the time period during which the park was in operation. I'm gathering all these finds together to make displays to show the history of life in the park. You can follow my hunts on youtube under the channel named amphibious detecting. While it can be a challenge at times being in the swamp or underwater detecting, I love the history and will continue to explore as long as people give me permission to do so."

You can see one of his videos at the following site. [Episode 12: Forrest Park](#)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_dPX6gKR02Y&t=881s



A photo of the finds above and below the water at Forrest Park, a former amusement park located at the southern tip of Ballston Lake.

Town Park at Hawkwood.

This wonderful gem has been mentioned before in this newsletter but another reminder of this park won't hurt. It has become a more popular destination as it is discovered as a place to hike, walk dogs and explore without spending lots of time in your car. Visit it at the corner of Middleline Road and Route 50. There are miles of well marked trails, informative displays at the historic remains of the Hawkwood mansion and lots of nature to observe.



An informative video of an archaeology dig at Hawkwood that was led by town historian Rick Reynolds can be viewed on Youtube at the following link.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LnB0FvB6AQw>



As we approach the winter season please be aware, and let others know, where there are docks that have "bubblers" around them. The ice can go from being thick and safe to being extremely thin and dangerous in a very short distance. With recent warmer winters and changing ice conditions it has become even more important to have a line or throw rope at your ready, or even better, available on your dock.



Mark Your Calendar

Fall Back Party

Sunday, Nov. 3 from 1-5 PM
Carney's Restaurant. (Details , pg. 3.)

Board Meetings:
December 3, 2019, 7:00 pm at Carney's
January 7, 2020, 7:00 pm at Carney's



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