



The Oquaga Lake Improvement Association Inc.

Deposit NY 13754

Summer 2016

Dear Fellow Oquaga Lakers,

Hopefully by the time this letter reaches you the dock is in, water is turned on, and the cottage is open for the season. Let's hope Summer 2016 brings a safe, fun, sunny season.

NEW OUTLET

While the Lake was lowered this last Fall the outlet gate and piping were inspected and found to be in very rough shape. Gary Holdrege, Dick Havich, and Joe Rogers got busy. The old gate, the lifting screw and frame were shot and needed replacement. An inspection of the outlet pipe showed it was collapsing and partially blocked. Joe mobilized his mini excavator and dug up the pipe and replaced it with new. Thanks to Gary, Dick, and Joe for a job well done.

The Association allocates a portion of the annual dues for maintenance and repair of the outlet. The recent repairs were held to approximately \$6,800 by doing much of the work ourselves.

NEWS

Please visit www.oquaga.com for the latest news, announcements, event schedule, and links to the Town Zoning Code.

WHO ARE WE?

The stated mission of the Oquaga Lake Improvement Association as stated in the By Laws is:

" To preserve, improve and protect Oquaga Lake and the lands adjoining the same and bordering thereon, all located in the Town of Sanford, Broome County, New York; to develop and promote the said territory as a summer resort; to prevent the contamination of the waters thereof; to further and advance the social and general welfare of the said territory and the owners and occupants thereof and the members of this Association; to do any and all acts necessary to carry into effect the foregoing objectives, including acquiring and holding title and property rights in and to the said Oquaga Lake, adjoining lands and springs and water courses in the vicinity".

Fulfilling this mission requires a persistent, ongoing effort, more than the Board can handle by itself. Please consider helping fulfill our mission by joining a Committee.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Enclosed is the Schedule of Events for the 2016 season. Over the last couple years we tried introducing several new activities such as the Boat Parade, Ice Cream Social and Talent Show. We are hoping to continue provided there is interest. We would like your feedback in this regard. Please provide comments to Barbara@oquaga.com

An opening reception will be held Friday evening, July 1st at Scott's Lakeside Room.

The Fourth of July falls on a Monday this year. For this reason, our Independence Day celebration will be on Sunday July 3 when we will have the J Elmer Crowley Fishing Tournament in the morning, followed by the Boat Parade and Ice Cream Social in the afternoon, and the Ring of Fire will be in the evening.

The Annual Family Day (always the first Saturday in August) will be held on Saturday August 6 with the field events in the morning and the water sports after lunch. The Family Picnic at the Lookout Cookout will start at 5:45.

Mark your calendar for the Annual Membership Meeting on Friday, August 26 (always the last Friday in August).

See the enclosed Event Calendar for details and more information will follow in mailed and e-mailed reminders. Please note the Independence Day Events are on the reverse side of the calendar.

LAUNCHING YOUR BOAT

Scott's will allow Lake Association members and their guests access to the Lake through their boat launch area. The Scotts have requested that we follow a few simple rules:

1. Please pay the launch fee using registration form, pick up the key to the launch and sign the launch log book.
2. Bring your boat and trailer to the launch by going along Playhouse Road and backing into the launch.
3. The gate must be locked when you finish launching your boat.
4. Exit the launch area by driving by the farm house to the main road.
5. Please stay off the grass on either side of the launch access.
6. Do not leave your trailer in the launch area.
7. Return the key when done.

LAKE CLEANUP DAY

Last year's Lake Clean Up Day was poorly attended. Still, Kathy and I (yes, just the two of us) managed to fill two large garbage bags on our walk around the lake. This year's Clean Up Day is July 9. We will be meeting at Gieskes's (48 Hanson Road) for a walk around the Lake to pick up litter and trash from along the road. Please meet at Koen's house at 10:00. Gloves and trash bags will be provided. We need your help to keep the Lake clean.

INVASIVE SPECIES

New laws in New York are aimed at protecting fresh water lakes from invasive plants and animals. If your boat has been on another water body it is extremely important that the boat and trailer be cleaned and free of any vegetation, zebra mussels, etc., before launching. This includes cleaning the bilge. Remember, it only takes one person failing to properly clean their boat to introduce an invasive species to the Lake.

LAKE MONITORING

The 2016 water quality monitoring program is approved for funding under the Citizen's Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP). Oquaga Lake has participated in this program since the early 1990s and is considered a baseline waterbody due to the size and depth of the lake. Very few small lakes are as deep as Oquaga Lake. See Mark Millsbaugh if you are interested in assisting with sampling. Water Quality Reports are available on the OLIA website.

BOAT STICKERS

Don't forget to place your orange stickers on all your watercraft for identification. If you need new stickers contact Barbara Marko at [467-1897](tel:467-1897) and she will assist you. We will also have stickers available at all official Lake events.

BOAT SAFETY

We continue to see very unsafe boating on the Lake including water skiing and tubing with no spotter in the boat, speeding after dark, speeding near shore and tubers not wearing PFDs, to mention a few. Boaters also need to be courteous of others using the Lake. Please be mindful of your wake. There have been instances of swamped boats due to large wakes. Under NYS Navigation Law a boat operator is responsible for damage caused by their wake. Small boats and canoes always have the right of way over power boats. Large wakes create an unsafe condition for small boats. Please be courteous and avoid tubing and putting out large wakes near small craft. Also, if the Lake is glass and skiers are starting out please consider holding off tubing until skiers finish. Negotiating large waves is unsafe for skiers. A boat safety sheet is enclosed as a reminder.

STAR GAZING

Consider embracing the dark. Since we were kids we have been awed by the night sky at Oquaga Lake. The stars really pop especially on moonless nights. However, over recent years there has been an increase in excessive outdoor lighting around the lake including flood lighting of docks and shore. Outdoor lighting makes star gazing difficult, if not impossible. Please consider minimizing outdoor lights at bedtime. The night sky never disappoints. Turning off the lights also lowers your NYSEG bill, a win/ win. Free apps for smart devices provide real time information and maps showing the position of stars, constellations and planets. For example, SkyView is pretty cool. Be sure to check out the Persied Meteor Shower on August 12 & 13.

COMMITTEES

At the last several annual Association Meetings we discussed the need to involve more of the Lake Community through the committees and activities. A list of standing Committees is on the website. Call any Board Member to become involved.

TICKS

Please carefully check children and pets. The New York State Department of Health website is a good source of information about how to protect your family from ticks and Lyme disease. <http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/lyme/>

BEARS

Please recognize that we live in bear habitat. Bears are attracted to food and garbage so please keep all food and garbage indoors and secured. Clean up outdoor eating areas and barbecues. And be particularly attentive to any small children and pets. A copy of the *There Are Bears* annual mailing is enclosed. Laminated copies, suitable for posting, are available from Barbara and at any official event.

FRIDAY NIGHTS

Scotts will be operating on a limited schedule (Scott's Lite). The Friday night tradition of gathering for a social hour of fun and frivolity continues at Scott's or River Run or Koo Koose or whoever will have us at 5pm until whenever. There will be a message on Barbara's answering machine ([467-1897](tel:467-1897)) with this week's venue, and you can find it at the top of the NEWS page on the website: Oquaga.com. Come and join with your Lake Friends and Neighbors for an hour or two of fun.

DUES

Enclosed with this letter is the invoice for your Lake Association dues. Your prompt attention to this invoice will help to control expenses and insure our financial security. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

The Oquaga Lake Improvement Association is a Not-For-Profit corporation, made up of property owners, businesses and interested individuals, to promote the interests of the entire Lake community. The Association needs full participation from the Lake community.

Your dues allow the association to focus on protecting the Lake environment, preserving water quality and assuring our continued enjoyment of the Lake. The organization is concerned with much more than parties and picnics.

Accomplishments of the OLIA include:

- Promoting safe boating.
- Working with the Town to implement zoning and creation of the Lake Overlay Zone.
- Protecting water quality through implementation of the sewer project.
- Performing annual monitoring of Lake water quality.
- Maintaining and repair of the outlet structure.
- Arranging for trapping and removal of beaver.
- Assisting the Town in overseeing the sewer district operations and expenses.
- Conducting annual fish stocking.

These efforts help maintain your property values and hold down the expense of the sewer system. Everyone benefits, everyone needs to pay their dues.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

For the Board of Directors
Mark Millsbaugh
President