



The Oquaga Lake Improvement Association

Deposit NY 13754

June 2003

Dear Fellow Oquaga Lakers,

This past winter has been unusually long. Snow came to the lake in November and didn't leave for even a day until the end of April. And snow... Boy did we have snow. At times the snow was 5 and 6 feet high, many a roof looked to be in great stress, but they all made it. It didn't stop new construction, as we have some new additions to the lake. The snow did stop the beavers. They had no desire to fight the several feet of snow to show up this season. The water is just a tad cold, but signs of warming are on the way. I believe we will be able to continue the tradition of actually going into the water again this year.

Again this year, the Association has fun plans for the summer, and attached to this letter is the schedule of events for the year 2003. It all starts with the annual Ring of Fire on Friday July 4th. The lighting of the Ring of Fire will be at 9:30 (pm). Flares, as usual, will be available from Herb and Alice Spach weekends prior to the 4th of July.

On Saturday the 5th of July, the Association will hold the opening adult party at the Chestnut Inn from 4 to 7 pm. Last year's event was an overwhelming success and Gary Kurz has promised an event as good as last year's.

Each property owner member of the Lake Association can purchase, for \$10.00 per ticket, up to two adult tickets to the party. The ticket price includes two drink tickets for beer, wine, or soda drinks at the bar. Guest tickets will be \$20.00 per person and also includes two drink tickets for the bar. After use of the two drink tickets, there will be a cash bar. We look forward to a great turnout and a great party (no speeches). Please make your reservations with Barbara Marko at 725-7087 no later than July 4, 2003.

The fishing at the lake ought to be great again this year. The Fish Committee has arranged for many new visitors to our waters again this year. The fish were placed in the lake on Mother's Day in May. We're also pleased to announce that Oquaga Lake will sponsor the first Oquaga Lake fishing derby. It will be called the J Elmer Crowley Memorial Fishing Tournament. This is to honor the great friend of the lake, Elmer Crowley who passed away last year. This event will be held on Saturday, June 28, 2003 and Koen Gieskes will be the sponsor and chairman of the event. You will have an opportunity to register for the event by contacting Koen personally.

This year again, we have had a large number of people fishing on the lake without the permission of any property owners. The Board felt it was unfair to pay to stock the lake for the benefit of people poaching on the lake. The Board unanimously agreed to post signs around the lake reminding people that the access to the lake is across private

property only. Therefore, people who fish, without property owner's permission and entry access, are trespassing. If you give permission to any guest to fish at the lake, remind them to enter the lake properly and insure that they know that they must have your permission.

Again this year, the folks at Scott's have graciously allowed lake residents and their guests access to the lake through their boat launch area. The Scott's have requested that people using the launch follow a few simple rules:

1. Please stop in at the lobby of the hotel to pick up the key to the launch and sign-in on the launch log.
2. Bring your boat and trailer to the launch by going to the Playhouse Road and backing into the launch.
3. Exit the launch area by driving by the farm house to the main road.
4. Lock up the launch area and return the key.
5. Please stay off the grass on either side of the launch access.
6. Do not leave your trailer at the launch area.

Last year I reported that a young man, Andrew Millspaugh, had volunteered to institute a water quality sampling and monitoring program, sponsored by Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) managed through the NYS Federation of Lake Associations (NYSFOLA). We received Andrew's report and again our lake water was found to be among the cleanest in the State. Andrew has provided a lengthy report which can be made available for your review if you wish. Our lake expresses sincere gratitude for Andrew's efforts on behalf of all lake residents. Thank you Andrew!

The Lake Association's by-laws require that we elect four people each year to the Board of Directors to fill the expiring terms of four current Board members. The Board is asking for your nominations for Board seats which expire in 2006. Please submit your nominations in writing to the Board of Directors Nominating Committee no later than July 18, 2003. You may give your nominations to any Board member.

At the first Board Meeting of 2003, the financial report for 2002 was presented and I am pleased to inform you that for the second consecutive year your Board conducted lake business under budget. We were able to contribute funds to the lake reserve fund and prepared a budget for 2003 which we believe will allow for all lake business and provide again, a slight contribution to the lake reserve fund.

Attached to this letter is your invoice for 2003 Association dues. Your prompt attention to this will help reduce lake expenses. Thank you in advance.

As you know, Friday nights are special at the lake. Friday night features the weekly meetings of the Lake Association "Singing & Drinking Society". The Society meets at the Chestnut or Scott's on alternating Friday nights, according to the following schedule.

The cannon firing at 5:00 p.m. signals the start of the activities. Plan to join your friends every Friday night. We look forward to seeing you.

June 6 – Chestnut	July 25 – Scott's
June 13 – Scott's	August 1 – Chestnut
June 20 – Chestnut	August 8 – Scott's
June 27 – Scott's	August 15 - Chestnut
July 4 – Chestnut	August 22 – Scott's
July 11 – Scott's	August 29 - Chestnut
July 18 – Chestnut	September 5 – Scott's

Have a great summer!

For the Board of Directors!

James B. Bennett III
President