



The Oquaga Lake Improvement Association

Deposit NY 13754

Dear Fellow Oquaga Lakers,

The season of 2004 is about to begin, as the lake has shed its cold winter cover. It was another typical New York winter, very cold and very long. And....oh yes – very snowy. The lake is clear and cold, but we believe it will warm up enough to allow another season of swimming, at least for the kids and the young in spirit.

The Lake Association events calendar is again full of summer fun. Attached to this letter is the schedule of events for the 2004 season. It all starts with the 2nd Annual J. Elmer Crowley Memorial Fishing Tournament to be held on Saturday, June 26, 2004. Entrants will need to register with Koen Gieskes at 467-4969 to be part of the event. In preparation for this event and the summer fishing season, Koen arranged to have the lake stocked with more fish from the NYSDEC fish hatcheries. So the lake is ready to welcome all the fishermen for another test of their skills.

The 4th of July weekend will be filled with fun for all. The Annual Ring of Fire will be held on Sunday, July 4. The lighting of the ring is set for 9:30 p.m. Flares, as usual, will be available from Herb and Alice Spach any weekend prior to the 4th of July. Flares will be available at the price of 3 flares for \$10.00. Herb & Alice will be in the upper cottage of their lot while their new cottage is being built on the lower section of the lot.

The 4th of July is also the date for the Annual Adult Opening Party. Again, it will be held at the Chestnut Inn from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. and Gary Kurz has again promised a great event! 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 June 30, 2004, as we need an approximate number of attendees.

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 season the Association implemented the boat decal identification system. Don't forget to display the decal on your watercraft to insure that we can identify the boats which don't belong on the lake. If you have day guests or renters, remember we have available guest IDs you can give to whomever you choose to access the lake on a temporary basis. If you need decals or guest IDs, please contact Barbara Marko at 725-7087.

Gary Kurz, of the Chestnut Inn, has asked that boaters on the lake refrain from interrupting wedding ceremonies being conducted on the dock area at the Chestnut. Blowing boat horns and racing by at high speeds can be a problem while the wedding service is being conducted. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Walt Ottens, Town of Sanford Building Codes Enforcement Officer, has requested to be advised of any new construction at the lake. If you have any concerns, please contact Walt at the Sanford Town Offices. He can assist you with building permits and advice of proper building codes, rules and regulations.

Again this year, Andrew Millspaugh has 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). Our lake expresses sincere gratitude for Andrew's efforts on behalf of all lake residents. Thank you Andrew!

The work on the upgrading of the Oquaga Lake Sewer District is proceeding on schedule. The plan has been submitted to the State for approval, a process we believe will take at least 90 days. As we stand today, the financial impact estimates we shared at the annual Association meeting last August, still look to be good. That is, we should not experience a rise in fees to continue the districts operation. Mark Millspaugh has done a wonderful job representing the Association with the engineering company and the Town Board. We are fortunate to have an expert in such matters working in our behalf – Thank you Mark!

The Town of Sanford has implemented a building moratorium on any new construction within 35' of the lake shore line. The Town is working with the Board to establish new guidelines for construction along the shore line of the lake. We will report progress at the annual meeting.

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 will expire in 2007. Please submit your nominations in writing to the Board of Directors Nominating Committee no later than July 18, 2004. You may give your nominations to any Board member.

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. 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. See the enclosed calendar of events for the schedule.

Enclosed with this letter is your invoice for the 2004 Lake Association dues. Your prompt attention to this invoice will help us to reduce expenses and to continue our financial security. Thank you in advance for your help.

Have a great summer!

For the Board of Directors,

James B. Bennett III
President

JBB/sk