



The Oquaga Lake Improvement Association

Deposit NY 13754

June 2005

Dear Fellow Oquaga Lakers,

The winter of 2005 is in the history books. It was a very cold winter, but the winter sports on the lake were enjoyed by all who tried them. Ice fishing, ice skating and snowmobiling led the hit parade of fun events on the lake. It was fun, but thank goodness it's over. On to the summer fun. The lake is warming, the fishermen are out and shortly we will be swimming and boating at our beautiful lake.

The Lake Association events calendar is again full of summer fun. Attached to this letter is the schedule of events for the 2005 season. It all starts with the 3rd Annual J. Elmer Crowley Memorial Fishing Tournament to be held on Saturday, June 25, 2005. 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.

Independence Day weekend will be filled with fun for all. The Annual Ring of Fire will be held on Sunday, July 3. The lighting of the ring is set for 9:30 p.m. A cannon will be fired to signal the start of the lighting of the flares. 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 and 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 3rd of July is also the date for the Annual Adult Opening Party. Again, it will be held at the Chestnut Inn from 4:00 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, 2005, 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.

Green decals were issued to insure we can identify the boats which belong on the lake. The color is not as visible as we had hoped, so we have changed colors to an orange-red decal. If you wish to change to the new color, please contact Barbara Marko at 725-7087. If you have a day guest or renters, remember we have available guest ID's you may give to whomever you choose to access the lake on a temporary basis. Barbara has the guest lanyards also! We will have them available at the opening day party.

Again 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.

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 contracts have been awarded and the work is proceeding. Although the budget costs were raised, as we discussed at the annual meeting, I'm happy to say that the work is in line with the upgraded budget.

The Town of Sanford has passed a new zoning ordinance with regards to construction on the lake. You should have received a letter from Code Enforcement notifying you of the changes. Please check with the Town to get approval for your project. Dock work between May 15 and September 15 has been restricted, so please check with the Town offices.

Remember 2005 is the year in which we lower the lake 5 feet so that shore line maintenance can be done. Plan your projects accordingly.

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 2008. Please submit your nominations in writing to the Board of Directors Nominating Committee no later than July 24, 2005. 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 2005 Oquaga 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
OLIA President

JBB/sk/blm