



## OQUAGA LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Oquaga Lake – Deposit NY 13754

May 2009

### **Dear Fellow Oquaga Lakers,**

Spring has sprung at the lake, the trees are beginning to bloom, the ice is gone, and the days are warmer. Another winter has come and gone and the lake beckons us all to return for another Summer full of enjoyment at Oquaga.

The season should be quiet as there will be no activity on the Natural Gas drilling front. Everything has come to a halt in New York as the State tries to find a way to control and TAX the activities. This could take them a while to do. We will keep you advised when all this is resolved and activity begins, but for now it looks like a quiet Summer. (We hope.)

### **THE FOURTH OF JULY**

This year, the Fourth of July is on a Saturday and that means all our activities will start on the Fourth: Fishing Derby, Opening Party, and Ring of Fire. All in one day! A Busy Day.

### **Fishing Tournament**

The Seventh Annual Elmer Crowley Memorial Fishing Derby will be held starting at 7AM with registration at the Fishing Master's Dock. That is the Koen Gieskes dock. The Master himself will be there to judge the fish and award the prizes. Remember there are both Adult and Child categories with World Class prizes for the winners.

Please call the Fishing Master himself at 467-4969 if you have questions.

### **Opening Party**

The Adult Opening Cocktail Party will also be held on the Fourth...At last year's Annual Association Meeting, it was suggested that the Opening Party be on a Saturday rather than Sunday. Surprise...your Board listened and it will be held on Saturday at the Chestnut Inn starting at 1PM.

Each property owner of the Lake Association may purchase, for \$12.00 per ticket, up to two adult tickets to the party. The tickets cover the cost of the meal and two drink tickets for beer, wine or soda. Guest tickets will be available for \$22.00 per person. Please make your reservations with Barbara Marko at 467-1897 by Friday the week before (June 28). *Please see the Secretary's Notes, enclosed.*

### **Ring of Fire**

The excitement of the Fourth continues, as the Ring of Fire will be held at 9:30 that evening. Flares will be available from Herb and Alice Spach any weekend prior to the Fourth of July. Flares are \$6.00 a piece or three for \$15.00. Herb and Alice will be in the upper cottage of their lot at 421 Oquaga Lake Road.

## **LAUNCHING YOUR BOAT**

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 Scotts have requested that the people using the launch follow a few simple rules.

1. Please stop at the lobby of the hotel to pick up the key to the launch and sign the launch log.
2. Bring your boat and trailer to the launch by going to the Playhouse Road and backing into the launch.
3. There is a new gate that must be locked up 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 to the lobby of the hotel.

## **Boat Stickers**

Don't forget to place your orange stickers on your boat for identification. If you need new stickers contact Barbara Marko at 467-1897 and she will assist you. We will have them available at the Opening Party.

## **CHESTNUT REQUEST**

The Chestnut has again requested that boaters on the lake refrain from interrupting wedding ceremonies being conducted on the dock area. Blowing boat horns and racing by close to the dock at high speeds can be a problem while the service is being conducted. Your cooperation is appreciated.

## **BUILDING ON THE LAKE**

The Town of Sanford has passed a zoning ordinance with regard to construction on the lake. Please check with the Town to get approval for your project. Work between June and September has been restricted, so please check with the Town offices.

## **FIELD DAY AND FAMILY PICNIC**

The Annual Family Day and Family Picnic is scheduled for Saturday the 1st of August. As usual we need volunteers for the morning and afternoon events. Please call Barbara Marko to volunteer for the days activities at 467-1897, and contact Jim Bennett at 467-5575 to volunteer for the picnic needs.

## **NEW BOARD NOMINATIONS**

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 the Board seats that will expire in 2012. Please submit your nominations in writing to the Board of Directors Nominating Committee no later than August 8. You may present your nomination to any member of the Board.

## **FRIDAY NIGHTS**

As you know, Friday nights are special at the Lake. Friday night features the meeting of the Lake Association's "Singing and Drinking Society". The Society meets at the Chestnut or Scott's on alternating Friday nights. The festivities start at 5PM. Plan to join your friends every Friday night: we look forward to seeing you. See the enclosed Calendar of Events for the schedule.

## WATER TESTING

At the last Annual Meeting we brought to your attention a problem with well water contamination at several cottages on the west side of the lake. During the Winter months a lot of work was done to try to get to the source of the problem, but as of this date there is no discovery as to the cause. The Town of Sanford officials, cottage owners, and the OLIA Board are working to try to identify the scope and source of the problem.

While the problem seems to be isolated to the west side of the lake, the Board of Directors has decided to take a very conservative approach in working on this problem. Our primary interest is in protecting our Lake and assisting the cottage owners with the problem.

As you know, we have had an ongoing project to test the quality of our lake water every year, and as an extension of this program we would like to take a step further and build a database of the water quality of wells around the Lake. Our Lake is exceptionally clean and we believe the well water is also, but we want to be sure. To that end, we are asking all cottage owners to arrange to have their well water tested for purity and to share the results with the Lake Association. We have asked Mark Millspaugh to guide us through this process and he has agreed to be our project leader. We would ask that you have your well tested by any independent water laboratory and send a copy of your report to:

Mark Millspaugh  
800 Avon Crest Rd.  
Schnectady NY 12309

Or, you can also drop off your report at the Marko cottage (799 Oquaga Lake Rd). Barbara has a copier at the cottage, if you need one. We would like to accomplish this by July 15 as we have a project meeting with the Town of Sanford officials on July 30. This will provide enormous assistance in resolving the water problems.

We have arranged with a local water testing facility to assist in the process. You may use them or arrange for your own testing. We will have test kits, including instructions for performing the test, available to be picked up from Jim Bennett, Koen Gieskes, Dick Havich, Barbara Marko or Mark Millspaugh Saturday's after 10AM. The water sample must be taken from the cold water faucet of your cottage. The sample must be processed within 24 hours to be an acceptable test. The test will be done by Benchmark Analytic of Waverly PA for a fee of \$21 and includes a written report that is mailed to you. Please include a check for that amount made out to *Benchmark Analytic* with your water sample.

You may take the sample to:

BEACON WATER EQUIPMENT  
Route 12A  
Chenango Bridge, NY

Barbara Marko has offered to drop off your sample at Beacon on her way to work any day Monday to Friday. Samples may be dropped off at the Marko Cottage (799 Oquaga Lake Road; phone 467-1897 or 725-7087) evenings (except Friday or Saturday night) or mornings prior to 7:30AM (except Saturday and Sunday morning).

There are two tests offered: we want you to check the box for the MPN test. This will give us a numerical rating on your well for our data base analysis. If you choose to use another Lab, remember to ask for the MPN test. If you have any questions you may speak with any member of the board.

This is a very important undertaking and we know we can count on your assistance.

## **SEWER DISTRICT**

The Town of Sanford is starting the project of pumping the sewer tanks on our individual properties. This is a four year project and if you have a cottage on Hanson Road, you will probably be contacted this summer. Brad Hubbard and his crew do an excellent job of maintaining our sewer district and are always commenting how friendly and cooperative the lake people are. Please do whatever you can to assist them with this preventive maintenance effort.

## **DUES**

Enclosed with this letter is the invoice for your 2009 Lake Association dues. Your prompt attention to this invoice will help us reduce expense and to continue our financial security. Thank you in advance for your support.

**Have a great summer!**

For the Board of Directors  
James B Bennett III  
President