



OQUAGA LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Oquaga Lake – Deposit NY 13754

Dear Fellow Oquaga Lakers,

The 2011 season at the Lake is about to begin. The winter was unusually cold and windy, but the spring and summer promise to be better. We look forward to a quiet and peaceful summer, because there will be no gas drilling in the NY area around the lake as the State of New York still hasn't come to grips with all the requirements to allow for safe drilling of the natural gas. We will keep you posted if anything changes. There is, and will continue to be, drilling on the Pennsylvania side of the border.

We hope all of the noise at the Lake comes from all the residents having a great time on the water of our beautiful lake.

BASE LINE TESTING

It has been requested by some of our neighbors that we conduct a base line test of the lake's water quality as a measuring stick against future changes that may occur in the lake's water quality as a result of any gas drilling that may occur near the lake. The Board has agreed to conduct the test with a reputable testing facility. This project is being guided by our resident water expert Mark Millspaugh and will occur as soon as the State of New York authorizes drilling to start.

THE CHESTNUT INN

It is sad to report that the Chestnut Inn will again be closed for the season. The owners are still offering the Inn for sale or long term lease in hopes that it can be opened again someday. In the interim we can only hope that the Chestnut will live another day.

OPENING PARTY

The Adult Opening Party will be held on Saturday, July 2 at Scott's on the waterfront starting 1PM.

Each property owner of the Lake Association may purchase, for \$12.00 per ticket, up to two tickets to the party. The tickets will 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 at least one week prior to the event.

THE FOURTH OF JULY

This year the Fourth of July falls on a Monday and means that our activities will be both Saturday and Sunday.

THE ELMER CROWLEY MEMORIAL FISHING DERBY

The Ninth Annual Elmer Crowley Memorial Fishing Derby will be held on Saturday, July 2nd starting at 7AM with registration at the Old Fishing Masters dock. That is the Koen Gieskes dock. The old 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. Last year we had record lake trout caught, 28" long and over 4 pounds in weight, caught by Danny Rogers.

Please call the old fishing master himself at 467-4969 if you have any questions.

THE RING OF FIRE

The Ring of Fire will be held on SUNDAY, JULY 3. The lighting of the flares will be at 9:30 PM. Flares will be available from Koen and Annelie Gieskes at their cottage Big Bird at 48 Hanson Road. As was last year, flares will be \$6.00 a piece or three for \$15.00. The flares will be by the garage starting the week before the 4th.

ANNUAL FAMILY FIELD DAY AND PICNIC

The annual Family Day activities are scheduled for Saturday, August 6 to start at 9AM with a family event, followed by a 10:00 start for the kids field events with water events 1:30. All events will be at Scott's. Larry Tremonti has put together a special day with trophies being awarded at the family picnic. The picnic will begin at 6PM at "Lookout Cookout".

Volunteers are necessary, so please call Larry for the day's events at 467-5198, and Jim Bennett for the evening picnic at 467-5575.

LAUNCHING YOUR BOAT

Again this year, the folks at Scott's have graciously allowed Lake Residents and their guest access to the lake through their launch area. The Scott's have requested that we 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 book.
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 motor boat and all your water craft for identification. If you need new stickers contact Barbara Marko at 467-1897 and she will assist you. Stickers will be available at the opening party.

BEAVER WARNING

There has been some evidence of the return of beavers to the lake. They can be destructive critters and we don't want to hit one with a boat, so if you have a beaver sighting please call a board member and we will arrange for the animal control officer to catch the little devils.

POACHERS

We have also had some uninvited fishermen. Remember: crossing private property to access the lake is trespassing and against the law. We stock the lake at our expense for the benefit of the lake residents, not poachers who fish illegally. Check for their boat stickers and ask violators to leave ASAP.

WATER TESTING

We are continuing our water testing of the wells around the lake. Mark Millspaugh is our project leader coordinating the results of the testing. Barbara Marko (467-1897) and Jim Bennett (467-5575) have sample kits available. You can take your samples to:

BEACON WATER COMPANY
Route 12A
Chenango Bridge, NY

Barbara has also volunteered to drop them off if you leave them at her cottage; call in advance to make arrangements. Samples must be processed within 24 hours to be acceptable. The fee is \$21.00 with check made out to Beacon Water Company. Please send a copy of your results top Mark Millspaugh, 800 Avon Crest Rd, Schenectady, NY 12309. Or drop it off with Barbara. She can also make a copy, if you need one.

SEWER SYSTEM UPDATE

The Oquaga Lake sewer system has been in operation for over 25 years and now appears to be in need of some major repairs. There have been some leaks in the pipes that surround the lake and as a result, well contamination is a serious risk. Also the line running down Hanson Road has been questioned as to its proper size and capacity to handle the loads being generated on the system.

Additionally in each of the sewer holding tanks, located on individually owned property, there is a "control box" which operates the pump that delivers the sewage to the sewer system in the road around the lake. The design of the control box is obsolete and, when repairing, uses three relays which cost \$275 each or \$825 per box plus labor and sometimes additional parts, like wire etc. This is about \$1000+ for each incident. The cost is currently being paid within the maintenance line of the sewer system budget. The incidents of failure are rising, as well as the cost, which is putting a serious strain on the operating budget in terms of both money and manpower. Also the parts are available from a single source who threatens price increases or to simply stop making the parts any longer. We are evaluating a newer pump with a lower Initial and operating costs. These will help hold our sewer tax cost stable for the next several years.

And, finally, the holding tanks also are requiring repair as many of the tanks are no longer water tight . This condition allows the effluent water into the sewer system causing large overloads on the system while leaking sewage into the area around the tanks, putting your well water at risk of contamination. Replacement costs can be as high as \$6500 per tank. We have discovered new repair system which we believe will fix the tanks. It needs to be tested to determine if, in fact, it fixes our problem. It is a new technique of repair which looks very cost effective.

As a consequence of all these issues two projects are being initiated this summer.

1. Each Individual tank will be inspected for required repairs. Pumps that fail will be replaced with the new design. This will occur on an as-failed basis and will be paid out of the annual maintenance budget.

2. The Town of Sanford and OLIA has agreed to engage an engineering firm to study the condition and capability of the pipes around the lake. The firm of Barton and LoGuidice have been given the contract to do the study. We plan to have the report in July or August 2011 so that we may know the required course of action prior to the OLIA Annual Meeting.

When you see people on your property to check the tanks and pumps, please assist them as they may require.

FRIDAY NIGHTS

As you know Friday nights are special on the lake. Friday night is the weekly meeting of the Lake Association's "Singing and Drinking Society". The society meets at Scott's on the Waterfront, starting at 5PM. Also this year, some of our neighbors have offered to open their homes for a Friday "Bring Your Own Beverage and an Appetizer" event. More information to follow. Please plan to join your friends every Friday night.

DUES

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

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

For the Board of Directors
James B Bennett III

President