

CLCA Committee Reports August, 2018

Lake Management: Mary Jablonski, Vice President

Environment and Ecology: Dave Graves, Chair: Last summer, the Environment & Ecology Committee of the CLCA, roughed out a draft committee position on water level fluctuation and erosion. Since that time much has happened, including a revised plan for the dam rehabilitation that did not include level control at the dam, as originally called for in the 2006 Ferris Lake Wild Forest Draft Unit Management Plan. The lack of automatic level control at the dam is a significant step backwards in minimizing the frequency and severity of future high-water events on the lake. A subgroup of our committee (myself, Allen Farber, and James Hays) redrafted our committee position based on our updated understanding of the current situation. The full committee was asked to vote on the updated position statement for forwarding to CLCA President, Chris Rohrs, to help him in his discussions with the DEC. Nine members voted strongly in favor. One committee member was not reachable. Three members abstained, pending additional information on DEC plans for the dam rehabilitation. There were no votes against.

Environment & Ecology Committee position statement on flooding and erosion:

Erosion is a one-way process; once eroded portions of shorelines and marshes cannot be replaced. In human terms this erosion is slow and may be imperceptible to some residents of the Canada Lakes, but long-time residents have observed dramatic reductions in the marshes and wetlands over the years. USGS Survey maps from 1943 and 1997 clearly document that significant areas of marshlands around Lily Lake and West are now mostly destroyed. These remaining wetlands are critical for maintaining the ecological health and diversity of the Canada Lakes ecosystem. Flooding threatens loon nesting habitat, compromises septic systems, and leads to contamination from shoreline erosion.

The Canada Lakes Conservation Association's Environment and Ecology Committee is very concerned that high water events and water level fluctuations will become increasingly frequent. Since 1986 when 1543.1 was established as the "normal" summer water level and 1990 when the last renovation of the dam was completed, there have been significant changes both locally and globally that have made it more difficult to avoid flooding events:

1. Removal of the Irving Pond Dam in 1996 eliminated a significant buffer for the roughly 25% of the watershed feeding the Canada Lakes system.
2. The reconstruction of the Pine Lake dam in 2007 resulted in a redesign that is extremely effective at maintaining Pine Lake at a constant level by immediately draining from the lake the roughly 40% of the watershed that feeds Canada Lake. Frequent washouts of the West Lake road and culverts due to intense flows from Pine Lake provide evidence of the problem.
3. National and State agencies report unequivocally that the intensity and frequency of major rainstorms is increasing in our region. In 2006, 2010, and 2017 Canada Lakes

experienced “100 year” flooding events, with waters rising over 22” above the “normal” summer level.

For these reasons the Environment and Ecology Committee recommends that the CLCA work with the DEC to target a lower water level than the current 1543.1. We understand that an automatic level control has been dropped from the 2018 design specifications for the Stewarts Landing dam rebuild. While we hope to maintain good communication to help address proactively significant flooding threats, we also understand that the DEC wants natural flow and minimal manual manipulation of the dam. We also understand the challenge caused by the length and configuration of the channel between Canada Lake and the dam, for by the time the water level has risen an inch at the dam it will have risen many times that at Canada Lake.

A solution that will increase the buffering capacity of the lake system, help mitigate the harmful effects of intense rain events and minimize the management challenges faced by DEC, is to reduce the height of the flashboards on the dam. We also would like to support the state in better marking the rocks in the channel between Canada Lake and Stewart’s Landing that present hazards in both low and high-water times.

Water Level: Bill Fielding, Henry Eifert, Chairpersons: Water level webpage:

<http://canadalake.mylaketown.com/lakelevel>

Additional report at meeting.

Fire Safety: Bill Fielding, Chair: Report at meeting.

Water Purity: Merryn Byrnes, Chair: Report at meeting.

Invasive Species: Michael Durkee and Marcus Harazin, co-chairs: Information provided to the Caroga Town Board at the July Board Meeting, as follows: Further information will be available at the end of August.

Re: Lake Inspections:

Marcus sent an attachment to all Lake Inspectors, with information on how to [visually monitor the Woolly Adelgid infestation from boats](#). This might be a way to help protect the spread of this invasive pest in the Canada Lakes area since most of the shoreline hemlock growth is visible by boat. The Woolly Adelgid information was provided to me by Zach Simek. He is the Terrestrial Invasive Species Coordinator for the APIPP. Mark Whitmore, from Cornell, provided a very eye-opening presentation on this pest at the July CLCA Annual Meeting. The effects on the abundant hemlock population in our area could potentially be devastating.

An Invasive Species Committee Meeting is scheduled for September 1st at 9:00 am at the Town Hall.

Lake Safety: Eric Manning, Chair: Report at meeting.

Fishing: Doug Smith, Chair: Report at meeting.

Property Assessment: Linda Clark, Chair: No current issues.

Stewardship Committees:

Adopt – A - Highway: Shawna Thompson, Chair: No report.

Adopt - A – Shoreline: Deb Hoffman, Chair: Since the water level has been lower than usual this past month, it has been easier to locate large dock sections, boards, etc. Some members of the committee have made several pick-ups since the Annual Meeting, and hope that when the draw down occurs on September 10th, we will be able to do several organized searches along the shores of our Lakes. Thanks to all our Lake residents for their efforts to keep our Lakes free of debris.

Campsites: Betsy Cannon, Chair: No new information.

Fire Tower; Tim Mitchell, Chair: The State has installed a radio repeater on the tower for the use of the DEC personnel operating in the field. John DeSantis, regional forester, Northville, has agreed to inspect the screening on the tower stairway, as it is in need of repair.

The tower and connecting trail system is getting a lot of use. There is very little litter, and it is in great shape, overall.

Island: Rick Fink, Chair: The results of the July 21, 2018 fire drill with non-road access Lake residents and the Caroga Lake Volunteer Fire Department, is reported in the CLCA Newsletter of August 3 – 9. It was a well-attended and successful event.

Lake Organization: Allen Farber, Vice President.

Adirondack: Jim Hays, Chair: Chris Rohrs and I attended the Adirondack Lake Alliance meeting at Paul Smith's earlier in the summer. The meeting focused on road salt Pollution. State highways account for most of the salt applied to road surfaces. This salt eventually finds its way 50% into Adirondack surface waters and even more disturbing the other half into ground waters. The large amount of salt applied to state highways is due to the state's effort to keep these highways open to high speed traffic. They did not recommend substitutes for NaCl as all the substitutes also have issues. Rather find ways to reduce the amount of salt used.

2019 Committee: Same as 2018

By-Laws: Dick Maider: No activity.

2019 Committee: Dick Maider (chair),
Linda Clark.

Directory: Chris Rohrs: The Directory Committee has been inactive this season. It will be fully activated during the 2019 season as preparations for the 2020 Directory commence. Volunteers are welcome in content preparation and ad sales.

2019 Committee:

Chris Rohrs - Chair

Dick Arthur

Julia Butler

Allen Farber

Carole Fisher

Lane Franz

Sue Kasson

Cassandra Lyons

Kathy Rohrs

Barbara Kane Russell

Sandy Sturchio

Fire Department: Alan Peck, Chair: no report at this time.

Lake Publications: *The Echo*: Mark and Christine Moritz, co-Chairs. I do not have much to report, I am probably going with a new printer for next year and as usual since we went full color the price will probably exceed the budget. I need to update deadlines for the 2019 *Echo*. I will send them to you when I'm done.

Legal: Dick Maider: No activity.

2019 Committee: Dick Maider (chair),
Linda Clark,
Diana Leaf.

Membership: Merryn Byrnes, Chair: no report at this time.

From Lois: This year the membership committee contacted via phone or in person 67 members who have normally joined in the past but did not join this year. In addition, *Echos* that did not get mailed and extra Directories that were purchased were hand delivered.

Nominating: John Saunders, Chair: The following Officers and Directors were approved by majority votes at the 2018 CLCA Annual Meeting.

Officers whose term ends in 2019

President - Chris Rohrs

Secretary - Deborah Hoffman

Treasurer - Paul Corr

President Elect - John Saunders

Directors whose terms will end in 2021:

Allen Farber

Dave Graves

Deborah Hoffman

Mark Moritz

Chris Rohrs

John Saunders,

Tom Lyons, and

Eric Manning.

There remains one Directors position to be filled by appointment by the CLCA president. In addition following the annual meeting Chris Rohr had met with newly elected Director Tom Lyons for orientation.

Website: Allen Farber, Chair. The [CLCA Facebook group](#) was launched in June. As of August 21st, there are 45 members. I continue to try to keep the website up to date. The newsletter is wrapping up its third season. I appreciate the willingness of others to help expand the content. As exemplified by the Fire Drill organized by Rick Fink, the newsletter is an effective way to convey information to the membership about important activities and initiatives.

2019 Committee:

Allen Farber, Content Manager and Communications

Merryn Byrnes, Account Manager and Site Developer

Chris Rohrs.

Welcoming Committee: Lois Miller, Chair: This season there were 14 "New Members" to the CLCA. Each received a packet with: a 2015 Directory and the 2018 update of member information, pamphlets including information about the Town of Caroga, the Caroga Museum, Rt. 29A Chain of Lakes in Fulton County, Aquatic Invaders and the Fulton County 2018 Recycling Calendar. Also included in the packet was our \$500.00 Reward poster, our CLCA information card, the NYS Voter Registration Form, a recycling sticker from Fulton County Department of Solid Waste and a Caroga Map with an Area Business Directory. Each packet was hand delivered or a message was left welcoming them to our community. To date there is one more packet to deliver at Stewart's Landing.

The committee will remain the same and I will once again chair this committee. Lois Miller

2019 Committee: Lois Miller (chair),

Julia Butler

Lane Franz

Sue Tantalo

Winter Emergency: Tony Sturchio, chair: no report at this time.

Lake Activities: Lois Miller, Vice President

Boat Parade: Brian and Kristin Franz, co-Chairs: Due to unforeseen circumstances, (knee surgery) Kristin & I were unable to organize and host the boat parade this year. However, we are enthusiastically looking forward to doing so next year with the same cast of characters and within existing budget.

Flare Lighting- Ed Fake, Chair: This year was the first time we had utilized the LED Flares instead of the standard road flares on the island. The island was absolutely aglow! We have found them to be safe, easy to use, and more environmentally friendly. Additionally, they were much easier to locate in the dark after the fireworks concluded.

We would also like to state that these LED flares are very cost effective and will pay for themselves within three years.

This year the flares were placed and retrieved by Karlton, Jacqueline, and Edward Fake.

Fireworks: Mike Manning, Chair: Was informed by Majestic Fireworks that starting next year, for any display on the weekend before or the weekend after the 4th (including the 4th weekend), there will be a minimum charge of \$5000...as I expressed to Chris, it might be a time to reconsider that expenditure.

Sailing: Courtney and Nancy Young, Co-Chairs: This year there were hardly ever any sailboats on the lake. There were no calls for sailing and or swimming lessons. There is no sailing club or interested sailors.

At 80, Courtney is no longer sailing and is not interested in being involved any longer in the sailing club or lessons. He has requested that his name (and mine) be removed from the list as commodore and assistant. This summer he gave his force 5 sailboat with all sails and spars to our former sailing club in NJ and his sunfish at the lake has not been out of the garage in over 2 years.

Neither of us ever thought that this would happen, but it is time for us both to retire from an activity which we both enjoyed for many years at Canada Lake.

Hopefully, there will be an interest in sailing by others at a future time.

Water Sports Clinic: Diana Leaf, Chair: On Saturday July 14th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., the CLCA Water Sports Clinic was held. It was a beautiful day and there was a strong turnout with 20 participants ranging in age from 4 years old to 60 something who waterskied, wake boarded and/or wake surfed. We were fortunate to have the use of 5 waterski or wake board boats which made it possible to give ample instruction and practice time to all the participants.

The clinic was a success due to the enthusiastic team work of the following volunteers:

- The Davis family who graciously hosted the clinic.
- Ann Michalek and Marcus Harazin, Linda Clark, Bob Ryan, Hilary Davis and Don White who provided their boats and driving / instruction time.
- Rick and Kathy Fink, Lois Miller and Jane Davis who were the observers and equipment handlers.

This year, per the new insurance requirements, we obtained signed waivers from all participants without issue. The signed waivers are on file. In addition, we hired Raina Danylak who is a certified life guard. The cost for her services was \$120.

From a budgeting standpoint, we should review the CLCA store bill to identify the refreshment and gasoline costs related to the clinic. Boat drivers were instructed to charge to the CLCA the cost of the gasoline used during the clinic.

2019 Committee: Diana Leaf, Chair

Hilary Davis

Linda Clark

John Olm

Ann Michalek

Marcus Harazin

Bob Ryan

Kieran Ryan

Don White

Social Functions:

Ice Cream Extravaganza: Erin Alexander and Mary Peck, Co-Chairs: The ice cream extravaganza was a great success. Approximately 75 came ... ate ice cream and swam. The ice cream scoopers were Jack Alexander and Kenny Luttmann. Guest scooper appearance by Wesley Franz. All was a success. Left over supplies/ ice cream went to the musicians.

The committee would like to acknowledge the generosity of the Stewart's Shops. Each year they donate ice cream, supplies and party fixings for our Extravaganza.

Luncheon: Kathy Rohrs, Chair: The 2018 Ladies Luncheon was held on Wednesday, July 18, at the Pine Lake Lodge with 54 attendees. Kyle Price and several musicians from the Caroga Lake Music Festival gave a lovely performance before lunch was served. The Pine Lake Lodge, specifically Geri and Colleen, did a wonderful job preparing the back room, serving a delicious

meal and taking care of anything we needed. We collected several cartons full of canned goods which were donated to the North Bush Methodist Church.

Picnic: Mary and Mike Cannon, Co-Chairs: We had at least 85 people attend the 2018 CLCA Picnic. The weather was great once more and everyone seemed to enjoy the BBQ pork, sausages peppers and onions and their favorite sides to go with their beverage of choice. We would hope that we can get more first-time attendees to the upcoming 97th CLCA Picnic in 2019!!!

Youth Activities: Ward Halverson, Chair: Kids Activities had a great big family-focused event on Saturday, August 4th titled Amazing Fun Day At The Lake. About 28 people showed up for a day of ridiculous games, starting with the 2nd Annual Lawn Ball battle, where the rules changed every few minutes and kids had to hop 3 times on each base while yelling lines like “Long live the revolution” and “Dinklesplat!”.

Afterward, teams of kids paddled out canoes, swamped them (awkwardly), and raced back into the shore. Lunch was hosted through the generosity of CLCA and, during the feast, kids drew fancy thank you notes to those who were so kind as to donate. Afterwards, three rounds of whipped-cream Find The Gummy Worms With Only Your Mouth left contestants in need of more swimming, which was intermixed with a porch-area Spear The Balloon and Cardboard Box competition. Winners took home silly prizes from the Canada Lake Store, along with CLCA t-shirts, no verifiable injuries, memories of some silly play, and hopefully interest in returning next year.