

The Lake Reporter



October 2015 | Volume 15 | Issue 4

Living with Blue-Green Algae / Cyanobacteria

By Stephen Lewandowski

Canandaigua Lake has been living with an advisory to avoid contact with “blooms” of blue-green algae/bacteria since summer heat returned on August 29 of this year. September of 2015 was one of the hottest, calmest and driest months on record. The blooms have come and gone and been moved around the lake by breezes. They were first sighted in the shallow north end of the lake off the mouth of Sucker Brook. They have been terribly inconvenient, coming during some of the hottest days of the year when a swim in the lake would have been most welcome. They disrupted the Labor Day weekend.

But let’s keep this issue in perspective. Blue-green algae (or cyanobacteria) are some of the oldest and most common organisms on earth. Only when they proliferate in freshwater do they become problems. We don’t know enough about what causes them to grow and bloom.

Certainly they respond to temperature, and, according to Dr. Bruce Gilman of FLCC, the surface water of Canandaigua Lake has increased by two degrees in the past several decades. They also like calm waters and have shown a tendency to grow in sheltered areas. Filter-feeding Zebra and Quagga mussels have only been in Canandaigua Lake since 1993, but they have a distaste for blue-green algae, so they spit them back out. In other words, they eat all the other algae, which creates space for blue-green populations to grow. Finally, we know that, like all growing things, blue-green algae capitalize on nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorus

(except that blue-green algae is also capable of “fixing” atmospheric nitrogen for its own use). It’s worth noting that, of all these factors, we can only hope to control the nutrients entering Canandaigua Lake and the other factors are beyond our control.

We should be concerned because some blue-green algae such as *Microcystis* can generate toxins to defend themselves, and we need to limit our exposure—external and internal—to these toxins. So if you see the tell-tale streaks of blue-green floating on or near the water’s surface, it’s better not to swim in that spot. We have heard anecdotally of skin, eye and nose irritations possibly caused by contact. Likewise, if you draw water from the lake in a pipe that’s in less than 40 feet of water, you may want to add on to the intake. When there’s another heavy outbreak of blue-green algae, we suggest using bottled water for drinking and cooking.

CLWA is very concerned about this problem, which is likely to recur in another season when the conditions are right. We will be sponsoring a forum on October 20th featuring the work of scientists who have studied the growth of blue-green algae/bacteria (see pg. 12 for full details). We will be looking to them for ways to limit the nutrients running off the watershed and into the lake. Animal manure, commercial fertilizers for lawn, garden and farm fields, and septic systems (4000 in the watershed) are certain to be scrutinized. Stay tuned for more.

Q:
Where is that foam coming from?

A:

A lot of people seem to be noticing it for the first time but it’s been around since at least 1997. Some laboratory testing seemed to indicate that the foam is produced by a whole age-class of mussels dying off together. They release a fatty surfactant into the water that causes bubbles to last longer. A wind causes waves, bubbles and a standing foam that arranges itself on the lake according to something called “the Langmuir effect.” The foam isn’t dangerous or toxic. The Zebra mussels that started the foaming have been largely replaced by Quagga mussels, but they seem to have the same effect. This year’s foam is being analyzed by Dr. Greg Boyer of SUNY ESF, and we will have more to report in the near future.

President's Message - Fall 2015

Time to Close Up for the Season

Well, all in all, it's been a great summer. A rare combination of too much rain followed by too much heat. Vegetation that had all the water it could handle, and then some. Then a dry spell that has brought an early browning to the leaves of some species. Along with the heat came the toxic blue-green algae, usually suffered by the "little" lakes to the west, but this year affecting Canandaigua and even giant Seneca.

Nature has its way. We can't do much about it, except protect ourselves and the things we hold dear from the all to frequent (or so it seems) extremes.

As the days grow shorter, it is time once again to close up for the winter. Whether you live in the watershed year round or just spend the warm months in the region, there are things to put away, take out of the lake or shelter from the elements. For those of us on the lakeshore, remember, the water will rise by spring so boats and docks and boat hoists left near the water must be stored well up from the water. Likewise, anything that will float away in the spring or sink into the lake if blown off permanent docks or platforms. Other things like leaves, tree limbs, the charred remains of lake shore fires, outdoor furniture and the like need to be safely secured or disposed of.

Please don't sweep leaves, twigs, flare residue and other debris into the lake. Bag vegetation for the landfill or

compost it on your property; make kindling and firewood of twigs, branches and fallen trees; and collect and bag the phosphorous remains of Genunduwah flares and put them in the trash.

If you fertilize, dust or spray weed killers in the fall using powder or liquid materials, take care to do it on windless days and use materials without phosphorous.

Take a final boat ride and marvel at the wonders of nature that surround us. Build a fire, enjoy a drink, s'mores or popcorn with the kids as you watch the full moon around Halloween.

And give thanks (especially, if we don't have snow) at Thanksgiving!!

Share the Memories, Live the Legacy, Do No Harm



Tom Zimmerman
President, Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association

Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association

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Leaves and the Lake

By Edith Davey

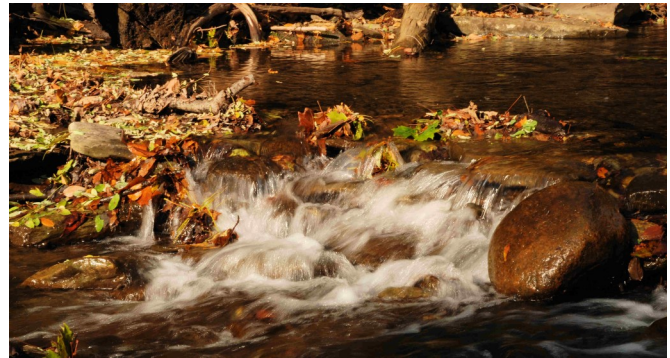
Much justified concern has been expressed over the condition of the Canandaigua, Seneca and Honeoye Lakes this summer. Blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) blooms and beach closings are toxic to tourism and property values as well as to unfortunate animals and individuals who suffer from exposure or inconvenience.

Many persons have asked what can be done, so here are some practical answers. The lakes cannot be drained or dredged. Nutrients already in the lakes are largely going to remain and promote algae/plant growth into the foreseeable future.

Autumn leaf-fall is imminent: raking or blowing leaves into tributaries or lakes adds nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen) to lake water. Raking or blowing grass clippings into the water does the same. Disposing of these organic materials into the lakes or storm drains that connect to streams entering the lakes directly feeds the algae and "seaweed" (aquatic macrophytes) that we deplore – and spend money to remove.

Leave grass clippings on the lawn (this also reduces the need for fertilizer). Shred leaves on the lawn or compost them for natural fertilizer, or bag them for pick-up. It is true that natural forests drop some leaves into streams, but most leaves stay on the forest floor and are decomposed there. People need not add to the total entering the water.

Soil- test your lawn before fertilizing. If your grass can't use the nutrients, the water weeds and algae will. One



pound of phosphorus entering any fresh water lake supports the growth of 500 pounds of water weeds/ algae.

Allowing dog waste to enter streams or lakes adds nutrients and bacteria to the water. Dog waste contains twice the bacterial load of human waste and can carry parasites that infect humans. If owners do not clean up after their pets, stormwater carries the feces to storm drains, then to streams and to the lake. Storm drains do not connect to the sewage treatment plant.

If a co-worker had not personally witnessed a seasonal cottage owner cleaning out a summer refrigerator by throwing unused food into a lake (because they had always done it that way) I would never have thought to list this as an unwise and unacceptable practice. There have been some bad traditions as well as good ones.

Local municipalities, agencies and associations are doing what they can to prevent further contamination of our water resources. Simple, responsible, good-housekeeping practices by residents can go a very long way toward achieving that goal.

Will we do what it takes to protect the lake?

By CLWA Member Jennifer Kleinman (From the 10/10/15 Daily Messenger)

Our beautiful lake is struggling. Driving back from Canandaigua from Naples on October 4 the streaks of algae are still visible across the surface of the water. Do some research and you will quickly discover that this is a very difficult problem to solve – Canadian lakes are in deep trouble with this same issue. (By the way, there is a talk on October 20th at the middle school by Dr. Greg Boyer, a leading authority on harmful algal blooms.)

We have a tendency to pass the buck and blame it on weather patterns, farmers, etc – anyone but ourselves, so that we do not have to change our practices. Well, perhaps it is time that we collectively look at what we can do – for example, can we, will we skip fertilizing this year? Will we consider the ramifications of further development on a lake that is already stressed and at a tipping point?

Imagine, for a moment, the implications of having a lake in which you cannot swim, you cannot let your dog in, you cannot take kids tubing, skiing, etc. – no longer the stuff of fiction because we experienced it this summer. Since (sadly) we as a culture tend to think first in economic terms, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to see that the consequences to our area would be devastating. The long-awaited north shore project would be a bust in many ways if swimming at Kershaw is taken out of the equation.

For heaven's sake, let's be as proactive as possible and not have our collective heads in the sand.

Perhaps we should let the lake determine if and when development is possible – right now I believe her vote would be no. The lake is speaking – will we listen?

Minutes from the CLWA Annual Meeting

Thanks to all that attended our Annual Meeting on Saturday, August 22, 2015 at FLCC Stage 14.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Zimmerman at 9:00 am at Stage 14, Finger Lakes Community College. Approximately 80 persons were in attendance.

Opening remarks included welcome to attendees and a synopsis of the structure, goals and recent accomplishments on the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association.

Mark Whitmore, Forest Entomologist in the Department of Natural Resources of Cornell University presented information on the scope and consequences of the invasion of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid into New York State. The aphid-like insect is native to Asia and the Pacific Northwest and has no native predators or parasites. It has destroyed multiple thousands of hemlock trees in the southern Appalachian mountains and threatens forests in the northern areas of the continent as it spreads easily and appears to be adapting to colder winters. HWA infestations have been identified by Dr. Bruce Gilman in areas of the Canandaigua Lake watershed. As hemlock is a foundation species (base of a broad food web) in this ecosystem, it is extremely important that the infestation be well managed. A biocontrol program utilizing predator beetles was piloted in 1993 and continues to expand. Hemlock hedges are anticipated to be the best source of growing predator beetle populations for release in forests. Chemical controls are available and provide effective protection for individual trees. Conservation of outstanding genetic stock is of vital importance to maintaining hemlock stands. Hemlocks are the predominant species in gullies and ravines, where their extensive root systems hold soils in place, preventing sedimentation of the lakes.

A panel discussion - ***Watershed Matters!*** – featured Elizabeth Newbold, Finger Lakes Land Trust; Dr. Bruce Gilman, Finger Lakes Community College; Kevin Olvany, Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council; and Al Kraus, CLWA Board Member, Aquatic Invasive Species Program Director.

Elizabeth Newbold explained the purpose of Land Trust activities and highlighted current projects within the area. Bare Hill focus area has been expanded by addition of an upland area and a waterfront property. CLWA assistance in cleaning the beach and disposing of scrap from the waterfront area was appreciated. A conservation easement (Purchase of Development Rights) was obtained for a farm with assistance from the Town of Canandaigua. West River/Hi Tor area; 86 acres of former vineyard has been acquired and is now native grass/ grassland bird habitat. This area is of high interest to the Native American population due to its proximity to culturally significant sites.



CLWA Recognized representatives from the Town of Canandaigua with a "Partner in Protection" award. Edith Davey (Ontario County Soil and Water Conservation District) was presented with the Rohrer Stewardship award for her work in conservation education.

Dr. Bruce Gilman outlined the participation of FLCC and FLCC students in monitoring the lakes during their studies and field camp. Identification and management of invasive species is part of their training. The first identification of Asian clams and quagga mussels, starry stonewort and discovery of an infestation of water chestnut at the south end of Canandaigua Lake are examples of this work. Cooperation with other entities such as DEC, Finger Lakes Institute, the Water Resources Council, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, PRISM (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management) and Nature Conservancy has featured water chestnut removal, ground-truthing of land use maps, and positive identification of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid infestation locations. Mercury accumulations in fish flesh will be a focus of investigation.

Kevin Olvany said that the Memorandum of Understanding among the 14 watershed municipalities has been renewed, maintaining the Watershed Council in its present form and for the purpose of protecting the Lake and the drinking water supplies derived. An updated watershed management plan has been produced and is available to the public. Olvany is active in securing funding for the Council, and assists various other entities in issues of watershed protection. Drainage and flood plain assistance is given to DOTs and to the public. Assistance to planning and zoning boards with site plan reviews and observation of erosion and sedimentation problems during storm events are part of the work. Grant requests are being submitted for restoration efforts in Sucker Brook, the Watercraft Steward Program (in cooperation with CLWA and Finger Lakes Institute) and for further work in Lagoon Park.

Al Kraus was commended by Tom Zimmerman for his efforts to implement the Aquatic Invasive Species signage and disposal stations project. Kraus said that 16 invasive species are present in the Lake, many others have been identified in the area and can be easily spread. The goal of the AIS project is to ward off further invasive species and to prevent those present from being spread elsewhere. 15 launch sites around Canandaigua Lake have been enhanced by signage and disposal stations. Watercraft Stewards are present to educate and assist boaters in removing materials from their boats every day at the two main NYS state boat launches and on reduced schedules at other launch sites.

In response to a question from an attendee, it was noted that CLWA and the Land Trust both utilize citizen volunteers for projects, and that citizens are the “eyes and ears” of the Lake and that problems are often first reported by the public.

Carol Benner, CLWA Treasurer, outlined budget expenditures and donations for the year. Report was approved by motion of Marty DeVinney, seconded by Jodi Kaufman. Motion was approved unanimously.

Checking Account	\$48,482.87
Legal Defense Fund	\$11,911.41
Investment Account	\$62,696.74
Lake Legacy Fund	\$29,488.80
Petty Cash	\$237.07
Total Assets	\$152,756.89
Liabilities	\$0.00
Total Liabilities + Equity	\$152,756.89

Tom Zimmerman presented the **slate of officers**:

Zimmerman to continue as Chair; Wade Sarkis, Chairman-Elect; Jack Daily, past Chairman; Bob McCarthy secretary; Carol Benner, Treasurer; Neil Atkins to join the Board. Nominations were approved by motion of Marty DeVinney, seconded by a member at large, motion was approved unanimously. Don Sheive was thanked for his years of service.

Photo Contest results were announced and displayed by Katrina Busch. More than 70 entries were received. Mike Linse, Jack Haley and Ricci VanCamp judged entries for creativity and aesthetics. Entries will be featured on the website and Facebook page and may be used for other publicity purposes. Sponsors of prizes were thanked and the sale of Ring of Fire flares announced. Winners:

- Honorable Mention: Dave Ducharme
- Most Popular: Stephanie Kuczme
- 3rd Place: Allyson Lane
- Second Place: Julie Andzulis
- First Place: Dave Ducharme

Check out our Facebook page to see all the amazing entries.

Jack Dailey presented the CLWA Stewardship Award to Pam Helming, Supervisor of the Town of Canandaigua in honor of the Town’s update of the Planning and Zoning codes and their effectiveness as a partner in protecting the watershed. It was noted that the no variances have been issued and that adherence to the Comprehensive Plan and zoning codes is exemplary. Pam Helming, Tom Schwarz, Oksana Fuller, Chris Lyon, Joyce Marthaller and Al Kraus were commended for their leadership (See image, page 4). Helming noted that the Town has promised \$150,000 toward the effort to clean up Sucker Brook, an amount that exceeds additional income generated under the allowed tax cap at this time. This is a strong indication of the Town’s commitment to the lake and the watershed. (See article, page 8)

Steve Lewandowski presented the Rohrer Stewardship award to Edith Davey, Ontario County SWCD educator (and CLWA staff) for efforts in environmental education. (See article, page 9)

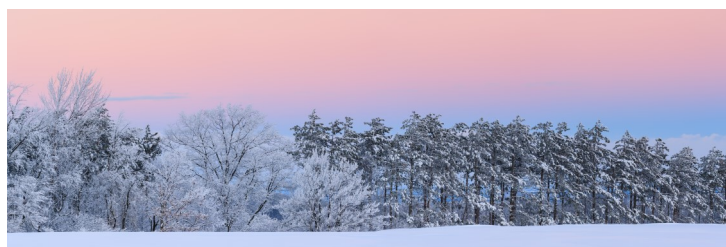
Thanks were expressed to Steve Lewandowski and Lindsay McMillan for their good work for CLWA.

Ted Carman provided an overview of Projects Committee work. The Old Brookside revegetation project, Lagoon Park invasive species replacement, Land Use and Zoning Task Force , Seneca Heritage Day support, Middlesex Steep Slopes regulations, Watercraft Stewards, the Aquatic Invasive Species and Take a Dip programs were mentioned.

Development projects within Canandaigua Lake Watershed were discussed. These represent the three largest as-yet undeveloped portions of the shoreline. Issues of concern for each were expressed.

- RSM: Reduction of number of houses planned is welcomed. At issue is status of the shoreline parcel under the Docks and Moorings regulations.
- Everwilde: Rezoning to permit commercial development within a Rural Residential area, drainage, wastewater management on poor soils, and steep slopes are of concern.
- Middlesex: Construction on extremely steep slopes in an environmentally sensitive area has been in negotiation for a number of years.

The CLWA position paper regarding Everwilde is on the CLWA website. The meeting was adjourned at 11:34.



2015 1st Place Winner



2015 Annual Appeal Donors

We are proud to publish this incredible list of Annual Appeal supporters. Because of your support, CLWA will be to fund several special projects that we have identified to have a lasting impact on watershed protection - above and beyond what membership dollars support.

\$5,000 +

Anonymous

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Robert Younger
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Douglas & Bridget Zimmerman

In Memory of Phyllis Taylor

Our sincere condolences go out Phyllis' family and friends.

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Frances Rae
Jane Steinhausen
Roslyn Thayer
Susan VanDerStricht
Robert Vavrina & M. Robin Vavrina
Al and Andrea Vittum
Ernest C. & Marie Whitbeck Iii*

In Memory of Charles Brigham

Who enjoyed boating on Canandaigua
Lake

From Ms. Joyce Keeney

Stewardship Awards *Presented at the CLWA Annual Meeting*

In Recognition of the Town of Canandaigua

This year your Association is pleased to recognize the Town of Canandaigua as a key partner in progressively protecting the lake, its water quality, its vistas and its heritage as the "Chosen Spot". With us today to accept our thanks are supervisor Pam Helming, Tom Schwartz, chair of the Planning Board and Chris Lyon, the Town Assessor.

A few words about Pam Helming, the current Town of Canandaigua Supervisor. Pam was first elected to the Town Board in 2010; after her first term she was designated by both parties to be the supervisor candidate and was elected. Prior to her civic calling, Pam served as an environmental officer at Cassella. She is a graduate of Hiram College in Ohio and lives in the area with her husband and 2 kids.

Since taking office, Pam has initiated an update of the Town's Comprehensive Plan which has resulted in better definition of lot coverage and protects the lake from over development of the shoreline. Since the zoning changes, the ZBA has not had to grant any variances; developers have gone back to the drawing board to create projects that meet criteria.

The town has established five project teams staffed by residents whose mission is find ways to implement goals set in the Comprehensive Plan and to codify those groups. The groups are focused on steep slopes, ridge line and shoreline development as well as natural resources. She has fully staffed the town with a development officer (Doug Finch) and a code enforcement officer who has credentials in the area of storm water run-off - certainly of concern for us given the recent micro bursts. We mention in our newsletter a work group whose mission is to develop common zoning, site plan requirements, and ridge/slope guidelines. Pam has been most supportive of this activity at the Watershed Council level helping her cohorts appreciate the importance of common values to be shared within by each lake community.

By no means are these efforts limited to the lake. In 2014, the Town purchase development rights on 600 acres of farmland. This will assure the owner can continue to farm but development will be limited. The Town also looking to establish a greenway, a swath of land that would encourage farmers to continue operating and avoid overdevelopment of these lands.

Pam is also very interactive with the community by postings to Facebook on town events as well as interesting events or places in our community. She has over 250 friends and would certainly welcome you to join. You can also check her out LinkedIn which assures connection to other professionals in the business and government community. CLWA would like to thank Pam for her concerned and progressive leadership

We would also like to recognize a key staff member who is part of the Town of Canandaigua team, Tom Schwartz. Tom is Chair of the Planning Board and is accused of being at town hall 24/7 working on land use issues that effect the town. He is the liaison from the Planning Board who works with the project groups, other town committees and the Town Board in assisting with the development and interpretation of town code. Tom is a wealth of knowledge and serves 24/7 as a volunteer. CLWA thanks Tom Schwartz for his wisdom and dedication.

As noted earlier, Chris Lyon is the assessor for the town - though not directly involved with watershed protection but certainly is a critical part of the town's success. Assessments along the lake run at 11.8k per foot; we have also often heard ourselves reported as the second most valuable lake community following Lake Tahoe. We are a diverse area with farmland, non lake residential, commercial, steep slopes, woodland. A pretty good mix of properties. CLWA wishes to thank Chris Lyon for his knowledge and expertise in appraising these properties and assuring everyone is treated equally...and also listening to our complaints.



Town of Canandaigua Planning Board Chair Tom Schwartz, Town Assessor Chris Lyon, Supervisor Pam Helming, and CLWA Past President Jack Dailey

Award was written and presented by CLWA Past President Jack Dailey.

Stewardship Awards *Presented at the CLWA Annual Meeting*

In Recognition of the Achievements of Edith Davey

When Edith Davey arrived here in 1988 from Havensville, Kansas, Kansas lost and New York gained a great environmental educator. She had a farming and ranching background and taught grades 1 through 6 and many special programs in Kansas schools.

Here she was hired by Cornell Cooperative Extension to develop a recycling program for Ontario County. A waste incinerator had just been defeated in the county, and citizens wanted a good alternative: recycling. An education program was needed, and many of us first learned about waste recycling from the children whom Edith had reached.

In 1989, she was delegated by CCE to work on the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Task Force, a public policy education program to build support for protecting Canandaigua Lake by protecting its watershed. She wrote a weekly column for the Messenger, developed a coloring book which was reproduced in 30,000 copies, wrote plays such as "Drip and Drop on Their Way to Canandaigua Lake" and "Mr. Punches' Picnic" (puppets) and produced them in watershed schools, wrote "Soil Erosion Control for Single Family Dwellings" that was copied elsewhere in the country, did outreach to elected officials, municipalities and civic groups, assisted with stream sampling, took children on stream walks, published "Nonpoint Source Pollution and Watershed Planning" for the Ontario County Water Resource Council, assisted a SUNY ESF graduate student in researching and writing "Scenic Resources of the Canandaigua Lake Watershed" for a Masters, worked with others to produce the assessment document "State of the Canandaigua Lake Watershed in 1994" that led to the formation of a legal intermunicipal organization, the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council, and assisted the Council in devising a water quality monitoring plan, hiring an employee, and creating a Watershed Management Plan for Canandaigua Lake adopted by all watershed municipalities and New York State in 2000.

In 1991, Edith returned to work with Cornell Cooperative Extension as an environmental educator. She developed a fishing program for children, a well-testing program for owners of private wells, received EPA grants that paid for a groundwater model and watershed model, developed water quality programs used in area schools from pre-school to high school and in some local colleges, assisted the Marcus Whitman Eco School, managed the Envirothon and Conservation Field Days for Ontario County high school and sixth grade students, respectively, and developed septic system programming.

In 2000 Edith Davey was hired as a Conservation Educator by the Ontario County Soil and Water Conservation District. She manages the District's newsletter and website, mounts displays for the Ontario County Fair, holds workshops on water quality for realtors and contractors, teaches erosion control and steep slopes mitigation. At the same time she has served as the Watershed Association's Secretary since 1995, was a NYS Woman of Distinction in 2004, and serves on the Town of Canandaigua's Environmental Conservation Board and Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee and Ontario County Agriculture Enhancement Board. She has also worked with the Ontario-Wayne Stormwater Coalition, Seneca Lake Pure Waters, and the Honeoye Valley Association. When the Watershed Association wanted to mount its own Watershed Education Program, she assisted and mentored its leaders.

The common themes over 27 years here are children, water, education, land use, and in the best sense of the word, "better housekeeping" for our beautiful backyard. We honor Edith Davey for her long association and good work for these agencies and organizations. She has worked diligently to educate students from pre-schoolers to senior politicians that the world we inhabit is connected in surprising ways and is more than the sum of its parts. We appreciate her attention and assistance with organizing and promoting the work of the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association.



Edith Davey being presented the Rohrer Stewardship Award by Steve Lewandowski

A special congratulations also goes out to Edith Davey for her recent Athena Award nomination!

Award was written and presented by CLWA Consultant Steve Lewandowski.

2015 Boating Season Summary Report

Activities of the Ontario County Sheriff's Marine and Recreational Vehicle Division

By Stephen Lewandowski, with information from Lt. William J. Gallagher, Jr.

This boating season (May-September) Ontario County Sheriffs:

- Conducted regular patrols on Canandaigua and Honeoye Lakes
- Handled 167 navigation related complaints
- Assisted with 36 disabled vessels and towed 22 vessels to safety
- Responded to 4 off-hour call-outs, including person in the water
- Recovered 4 boats including one that sank
- Inspected a total of 214 vessels
- Monitored speed in launch channel numerous times
- Issued 111 warnings on speed, lights and/or PDF to 32 vessels, speed during high water, 22 on not wearing PDFs during cold water
- Removed 22 navigation hazards following runoff events
- Issued 26 tickets: 7 no observer, 3 speed in channel, 5 no safety certificate, 2 expired registration, 4 no PDF, cell phone use, reckless operation, leaving scene of accident
- Investigated an accident
- Instructed boat safety class for 47
- Issued 5 HIN numbers
- Assisted with several fireworks displays, Ring of Fire, Grape Festival, Triathlon
- Assisted Sheriff's dive team with drills
- Serviced trucks and boats as needed
- Investigated boat crash with BWI arrest and 2 other crashes
- Maintained boat house at Onanda
- Installed a new radar unit on Marine 2

2015 Watercraft Steward Program Comes to a Close

Fourteen stewards worked on Canandaigua launches in Canandaigua and at Woodville during the course of the summer: Jennifer Harrell, Kyle Mehlenbacher, Emilee Millet, Tyler Hatton-Bullock, Ethan Hall (pictured, right), Kim Falbo, Jacob Maslyn, Rob McLean, Cynthia Smith, Jason Hanselman, Colin Clark, Daria Sparks, Jen Geck and Bridgette Dean.

The Finger Lakes Institute at Hobart & William Smith College has provided training and is handling the scheduling and payroll.

CLWA has provided all Stewards with hats and shirts bearing the logos of the Finger Lakes Institute, Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council, and the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association.

Coverage of the launches has been complete on weekdays (8-4), weekends (7-6) and the holidays (7-6) with multiple stewards assigned to handle heaviest traffic at the north launch.

Over 7,000 boats have been checked for invasive species before launch and leaving the lake. Monitoring of the boat launches ended September 30, so a full season report will be published in the next newsletter.

General impressions are that Stewards were very successful in educating the boating public about the need to CLEAN DRAIN AND DRY BOATS. The project was expensive but did not exceed our expectations.

Our Stewards have served as excellent representatives of the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association and ambassadors to boaters using the lake.



Rezoning Application in South Bristol: CLWA Position

The below letter was submitted by CLWA to the Town of South Bristol on September 17, 2015 in response to the Rezoning Application of LAD Enterprises of Canandaigua, LLC for Everwilde Inn and Spa

Dear Supervisor Welch and South Bristol Town Board:

The Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association is a thousand-member, non-profit organization dedicated to preserving, protecting and promoting Canandaigua Lake and its watershed for future generations by supporting scientific research, sound public policy, and community education. We actively partner with the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council, the Finger Lakes Land Trust and the Finger Lakes Institute to preserve and protect Canandaigua Lake and the surrounding watershed.

We were concerned with the earlier plans for development of this area and made our objections known; we oppose this effort for those same reasons, but are even more concerned, given the complexity of this project, the effects it will have on the watershed, its vistas, the rural character of the area and the dramatic zoning change required, which does not reflect or respect your Comprehensive Plan.

We are concerned that the development of Everwilde Inn and Spa would do serious damage to the watershed and lake through increased runoff, insufficient safeguards and buffers, and damaged views. More sediment and nutrients reaching Canandaigua Lake would likely fuel more obnoxious weed and blue-green algae growth. We are also concerned that the applicant's current development proposal does not comply with the Uniform Docks and Moorings Regulations (UDMR) for Canandaigua Lake on which the Town of South Bristol was one of six signatories.

However, the proposed re-zoning for this land is the foremost of our concerns. In response to earlier development proposals, the Town of South Bristol went through a planning and zoning exercise that resulted in changing the project area from Residential with One Acre Minimum Lot (R-1) to Residential with a Three Acre Minimum Lot (R-3). In addition, South Bristol changed the minimum lot frontage on the lake from fifty to one hundred feet, indicating that future proposals needed to be held to a higher standard.

The applicant seeks to re-zone property, previously subdivided into twenty separate parcels, from R-3 to Planned Development (PD).

We contend that, while PD may be a convenient zoning for some, including the applicant's plans, it is not justified by those plans for a hotel, spa, restaurant and banquet center. These activities are all commercial enterprises. Will the proposed development "prevent overdevelopment of land and undo concentration of population...conserve and preserve natural beauty of the land, its scenic overviews, lakes, streams, forests and hills [and] guide future development so that we maintain the rural atmosphere of the Town"? (*Quotation taken from the Statement of Purpose in the Town of South Bristol Comprehensive Plan*)

We believe it makes no sense to rezone the property to a PD in order to allow commercial development. The site sits in the middle of a residential area that has been growing more residential by the year. Five hundred feet to the north of the project area, the Town of Canandaigua's zoning is Rural Residential with a 3-acre minimum lot size, and several adjoining parcels have even greater restrictions on their development. In this stretch, Seneca Point Road is rural in nature with many children, driveways and walkers in season. The actual conformance with the 3-acre minimum lot size is high in adjacent areas of both South Bristol and the Town of Canandaigua. Placing either a strictly commercial PD or a Commercial designation on this property seems to encourage conflict with neighbors and other residents, who were there first, with the rural residential zoning classification in place.

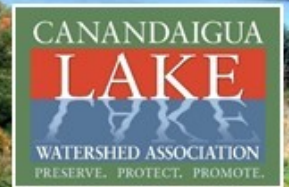
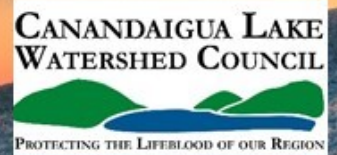
The project area lacks adequate roadways, sewer and water infrastructure to support the proposed development. Site conditions are such that installing either water or sewer service for a facility, whose use will vary considerably through the seasons, will be difficult, at best. Given the site problems already mentioned, development in accordance with R-3 standards affords at least enough land per parcel to support both a private well and septic system without their functions conflicting or adversely threatening the watershed. Providing vehicle access to 20 residential (R-3) parcels on existing roadways in the area is far less demanding and intrusive than traffic resulting from a wedding banquet for 300 people plus other concurrent on-site commercial activities.

The facility being proposed conflicts directly with the Town's Comprehensive Plan, which speaks of "preserving rural character," "protecting the water quality of the lake," and "protecting scenic vistas." To promulgate zoning changes so out of context with the Comprehensive Plan would be contrary to the intent of current law and the implied protection offered by the town's zoning regulations.

In our opinion, taken in combination, the lack of suitable infrastructure, difficult site conditions, and the demands that a hotel/inn, spa, restaurant and banquet facilities of this scale would place on this parcel and surrounding infrastructure make the proposal an unacceptable intrusion into the watershed of Canandaigua Lake.

The South Bristol Comprehensive Plan, in its vision states, "... officials are acutely aware that South Bristol is part of a larger lake and watershed community and cannot function independently in dealing with common issues and opportunities...." Further, "...special attention is always given to potential impact on surrounding towns...".

We hope that the town will act decisively in this matter and deny the request for rezoning.



Community Discussion: 2015 Blue Green Algae Event

What were the causes of this unprecedented increase in Blue Green Algae and associated toxins in Canandaigua Lake?

What can we do to reduce the chances of this happening again?



Join us for this important forum with experts from around the State to discuss the factors that influence algal blooms in our aquatic ecosystems, and what we can do moving forward. Our expert presenters, along with Dr. Bruce Gilman (FLCC), will also be available for an extensive Q & A session.

Our Expert Panel of Presenters:

Dr. Greg Boyer - *Director of the Great Lakes Research Consortium, and Professor at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry*

Dr. Boyer has done extensive research on biologically active natural products produced by algae. As Director of the Great Lakes Research Consortium, he works with affiliates in NYS and Canada on all aspects of Great Lakes science, policy, and ecology.

Scott Kishbaugh, P.E. – *Chief, Lake Monitoring and Assessment Section, NYS Department of Conservation Division of Water*

Scott has expertise in Blue Green Algae blooms through his work for the NYS DEC. He is also the Program Director for the Citizen's Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP), which is a volunteer-based lake monitoring program across NYS that focuses on eutrophication indicators.

Kevin Olvany, *Watershed Program Manager, Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council*

Kevin has worked for the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council (consisting of the fourteen watershed and water purveying municipalities) since 1998 coordinating the Comprehensive Watershed Management program including the lake and stream sampling program, watershed plan updates, stream and wetland protection projects, land use code updates, land cover/natural capital studies, development reviews, grant writing and associated projects.

Event Details

WHEN:

Tuesday, October 20th, 2015
6:00 PM

WHERE:

Canandaigua Middle School
Auditorium
(Parking off Chapel Street)
Canandaigua, NY 14424

RSVP:

Event is free and open to the public, but pre-registration is welcomed by calling (585) 394-5030 or emailing CLWA.Lindsay@gmail.com.

Viewpoints

Seminar Series

Presented by CLWA &
Canandaigua Lake Watershed
Council



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Become a Friend of Canandaigua Lake.

The Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association has a strong base of supporters and a long history of protecting Canandaigua Lake and its watershed. Because of many complex and escalating challenges to the health of the watershed, we need YOUR support.

Please choose your tax-deductible level of support.

- _____ \$ 45 Guardian
- _____ \$ 60 Partner
- _____ \$ 100 Lake Leader
- _____ \$ 250 Watershed Steward
- _____ \$ 1000 Benefactor (your gift supports our environmental education efforts)
- _____ \$ BUSINESS MEMBER (Business Memberships start at \$100 and include a special listing in an upcoming issue of **The Lake Reporter**)

Membership year will begin with receipt of your application and extend to the end of the calendar year. All information you provide will be used for the sole purpose of communicating with you. We will not share it with others.

Name / Business Name _____

Principal Address:

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Lake area township: _____