Chautauqua Lake Association, Inc.
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We would be remiss if we failed to mention that 2015 was also a year of continuing collaboration with sister organizations.

We were active at the NYS Federation of Lakes Annual Conference (NYSFOLA), the WNY NYSFOLA Conference, and the North American Lake Management Society's Annual Conference.

We are also a founding member of the Chautauqua Lake and Watershed Management Alliance.

The Chautauqua Lake Association, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) Charitable Organization.

2015 Conservation Days

2015 Ice Pick Competition

2016 Dragon Boat Race

EVENTS

2015 involved participation in many community awareness and fundraising events and we have many more planned for 2016! We started the year with the annual ***Chautauqua Lake Ice Pick*** event that predicts when the ice will leave Bemus Bay. If you haven't entered before, visit our website and take a chance! It is a fun way to raise money for the lake. Other events we held or participated in include:

- ***Light the Lake*** on the Fourth of July with over 12,000 flares sold to light the lake's shoreline
- ***Lake Rallies*** held in Mayville and Bemus Point
- ***Conservation Day*** involving students from all over Chautauqua County
- ***Cummins Engine's Environmental Day*** focusing on health, safety, and the environment
- Chautauqua Bird, Tree & Garden Club's ***Lake Walk Program***
- ***CLA Night*** at Brazil Craft Beer and Wine Lounge in Jamestown

2016 will start with our annual Chautauqua Lake Ice Pick Event (*www.clakeicepick.com*), Chautauqua Lake Dragon Boat Festival (*www.chqdragonrace.org*), and new this year will be a formal fundraising gala to benefit the lake!

Check your mail or visit us on Facebook to stay up-to-date on all the excited new things happening in the coming year!

CHAUTAUQUA LAKE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

VOLUNTEER PROJECTS

WELFARE TO WORK

Once again the CLA worked with NYS and participated in the Welfare to Work program. This program provided 516 hours of service. Participants worked on the barge crews, alongside CLA employees, cleaning the shores of Chautauqua Lake.

CUMMINS ENGINE

A special thank you goes out to Cummins Engine this year. Not only did they continue their volunteer service several Fridays this season but they also helped the CLA with the cost and installation of important invasive species awareness signs at five public boat launch ramps.

The signage reminds boaters of actions to take to avoid the spread of invasive species along with providing photos of invasive species of concern.

Without Cummins Engine's assistance this valuable signage program would not have occurred.

2015 RECAP - IN THIS ISSUE

A Year of Change
Volunteers
Non-Profit Solutions
Upcoming Events

A YEAR OF CHANGE

With the retirement of long time General Manager Paul Swanson came changes in the CLA management. Doug Conroe stepped down as board president and became Executive Director to ensure that we didn't miss a beat with the upcoming summer season. Doug was formerly Director of Operations at Chautauqua Institution until his recent retirement. He has been active with the CLA for 35 years, serving as our first Executive Director and subsequently as a volunteer board member including serving as board president from 1989-1992, 2003-2004, and 2013 through this past June.

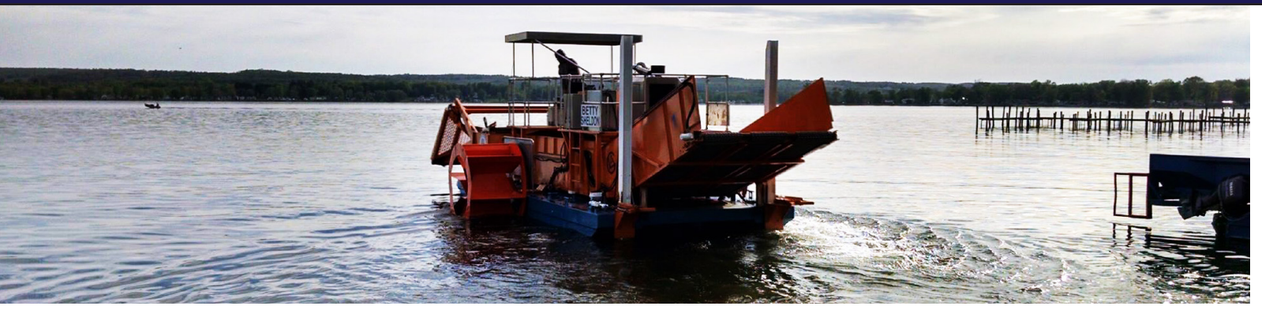
Board Vice President Don Emhardt also stepped down to become our Operations Director. Don is a retired union electrician and currently the Town of Chautauqua Supervisor. He also has served as chair of the former Chautauqua Lake Management Commission's Intermunicipal Committee and currently serves a Vice Chairman of the Chautauqua Lake and Watershed Management Alliance. His vast knowledge assured that last summer's work program was able to continue on as planned. This past fall he also supervised special dredging projects.

Don and Doug both work on a half-time basis and continue to be supported by Heather Nolan and Virginia Anderson in the office and James Cappalino in the shop along with the seasonal staff.

Paul Swanson displays his reception cake.

In addition other changes have also occurred..
A new phone and security system has been installed. Buffalo TV-7 has installed a weather station at the CLA headquarters. A lake cam is now viewable on our website and is used by the Channel 7 morning weather program. A new ventilation system has been installed in the shop. And, a new harvester and shoreline conveyor have been received thanks to a generous grant from the Johnson Foundation.

Chautauqua Lake Association, Inc.



PRINCIPLES FOR USEFUL LAKE MANAGEMENT

Though harvesting aquatic vegetation is our most efficient, cost effective, and least environmentally intrusive way of managing nuisance plant growth in Chautauqua Lake, early detection and rapid response regarding new invasive species is key to preventing new invasive species from taking hold. CLA employees are trained to be on the watch for new species. Management is called upon the observation of any suspected invasion to immediately assess the situation in order to develop a response action.

In 2015 we utilized invasive species awareness trained interns, volunteers and employees using our traditional equipment along with kayaks that were gifted to us in order to perform early detection and suppression responses.

Contain, Suppress, Eradicate…what is the answer? Everyone has their own opinion of what should be done to help Chautauqua Lake… here is what we have to say:

*"Harvesting is the only **AFFORDABLE** method that allows for **ALL** lakeside communities to be serviced and is the **LEAST ENVIRONMENTALLY INTRUSIVE** way to manage the aquatic vegetation in Chautauqua Lake"*

Do you involve science in your decision making?

Oh yes. We contract annually with a biologist to monitor and assess plant conditions and herbivore activity. NYS utilizes water quality samples that we collect in their decision making processes.

Environmental Conservation and Health Departments utilize our special Harmful Algal Bloom monitoring program data for lake use advisory decision making.

Also, we are constantly updating our website and Facebook page so they can be a resource to the community!

Why don't you spray?

We agree that under the worst of conditions or upon a significant presence of new invasive species spraying should be considered. At the same time we've shown that when fully funded we can control over-abundant nuisance growth conditions. Spraying eradicates plants. Plants are needed to absorb nutrients. Plants are critical for the lake's important fishery. And, without plants the algal blooms will increase tremendously!

What about dredging?

Even if all the environmental challenges could be surmounted, dredging remains very cost prohibitive. It is as simple as that.

Did You Know?

Our 2015 Fund Drive remains $30,000 short of reaching the goal that is needed to balance the budget. Your year-end contribution can make a difference for the benefit of Chautauqua Lake!

"A Clean Lake is Everyone's Business!"

EYE ON ALGAE

The Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB) of 2013 and 2014 were major wake-up calls to the community. CLA volunteers immediately mobilized and collaborated with health, environmental and academic agencies in order to assess conditions and to keep the community informed of those conditions. That collaboration continued into 2015 even though conditions were less impacting and is scheduled to occur again in 2016. Significant amounts of data have been collected and are being analyzed.

Algae is present in Chautauqua Lake in many forms. Algae is a key component for a healthy lake and it plays an important role in the aquatic food chain. Chautauqua Lake's fishery is known world-wide and is dependent upon the presence of algae. Algae management thus becomes a serious undertaking.

The CLA's management goal is to advocate for the mitigation of the presence of over-abundant algae and to encourage actions that will reduce the occurrence of HABs, especially toxic HABs, while avoiding actions that might either increase or eliminate the presence of algae in Chautauqua Lake.

No single action alone will manage algae. Reducing the inflow of nutrients is believed to be the achievable action that can be taken to reduce the level of nutrients in Chautauqua Lake. Such actions include:

Reducing storm water runoff, Reducing sediment inflow from tributaries, Removing phosphorus and nitrogen from sewer plant discharges, and Improving/eliminating near-lake and tributary septic systems.

Did You Know?

Chautauqua Lake, lying southeast to northwest across the county at an elevation of 1,308 feet above sea level, is one of the highest navigable lakes in the nation. *(http://www.townofbusti.com/chaut_lake.html)*

The CLA's mission is to provide effective and efficient lake maintenance services for the benefit of all Chautauqua Lake users.

As the "Stewards of the Lake," the CLA serves to promote and facilitate the ongoing scientific monitoring of Chautauqua Lake and its ecosystem.

For more information about the Chautauqua Lake Association or to learn about membership, visit us online at www.chautauqualakeassociation.org or call 716-763- 8602. You can also stay updated by visiting us on Facebook!

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