

Successful First Year for OLA

To the Editor:

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Journal

Now that the summer is winding down and the Otsego Lake Association has one year of hard work under its belt, I want to extend my thanks for some of the successes that OLA has realized in helping to preserve the region's most precious resource.

First, there are our members - now numbering over 250. Many have spoken out on issues from lakeside development, safety, exotics and shoreline erosion, just to name a few. Members have turned out at local government meetings to exert their influence on these matters, all of which are related to the Lake Management Plan, which is the OLA's agenda. Indeed, our membership - many of whom are residents of the area - are making local elected officials heed their concerns. The County Board was responsive to pressure to partially resume the Sheriff's lake patrol, and fortunately the DEC has filled the gap necessary to install the buoys. The county has assured the association that adequate patrols will be there in the future.

Springfield has made a par-

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tial attempt to close their landing to non-residents and member pressure will be maintained for the town to make a meaningful effort to abide by the plan which it signed and which specifies that exotics must be kept out of the lake.

The Glimmerglass Queen has slowed its speed and made its wake manageable, not only because of OLA efforts, but also concerns expressed by others.

While this recitation only covers part of one year's accomplishments, it is to our active membership that I owe thanks. But there's more that needs to be done to implement other facets of the Lake Management Plan. That requires a bigger membership base and more financial resources. Please join the effort! Contact us at PO Box 13, Springfield Center, NY 13468.

- BOB EINREINHOFER,
President, Otsego Lake
Association

WSC and Septic System Program

Ted Peters reported at this week's WQCC meeting that the NYS Department of Health has approved the new regulations and procedures for septic system inspections. This is a major step forward in that the WSC now has the regulatory authority to undertake routine inspections of septic systems in the Otsego Lake watershed. Inspections of watershed septic systems will focus on those systems 500' from the lake and 100' from the lake's tributary streams. Inspections are planned to begin in 2005, with 500+ systems to be inspected over a 5-year period. The 5-year inspection cycle will then be repeated. Next year, 2004, will be a preparatory year and will include public education, an inventory of all systems, and training for inspectors.