

# Otsego Lake Association

News Update #1

January, 2003

The last meeting of the Otsego Lake Association was held on 10/12/02 in Middlefield. Since then your Officers, Board of Directors, Technical Advisor, and other members of the Association have been very active in expediting the implementation of the Lake Management Plan. The following is a summary of some of the activity.

## **By Laws**

On 10/30/02 there were 66 individuals, families, or businesses eligible to vote on the By Laws previously approved by the Board of Directors at their 10/24/02 meeting. The By Laws were accepted by a vote of 51 accept, 0 reject, 15 no response. A majority (34 votes) was required from the membership for final approval.

## **Election of Officers**

Since our formation as the Otsego Lake Association on 7/27/02, Bobbie Reed has served as Treasurer and Dan Rosen has served as spokesman in my absence. Motions were filed and unanimously approved by the Board of Directors to appoint Bobbie Reed as Treasurer and Dan Rosen as Vice President. Dan will also remain as one of the Directors representing Springfield. The elections were in accordance with Article IV of the By Laws which states that all officers, except the President, shall be elected by a majority vote of the Board of Directors and that the Vice President must be a member of the Board.

## **Brookfield Development**

The owners of the Brookfield property, a 2.4 acre lakefront parcel just north of the Lake and Pines Motel in Springfield, went before the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) to request a subdivision into four single family lots. The variance was requested because the town has an ordinance (Local Law #3) that provides a minimum of five acres per dwelling for lakefront properties. The primary reason for such large lots has to do with limiting septic discharge and concerns for the quality of the lake.

The OLA opposed the granting of the variance based on the intent of Local Law #3 and the Lake Management Plan which is concerned with nutrient loading in the lake coming from residential and commercial development.

The request for a variance was denied at the ZBA meeting held in November. A special thank you to our members and to the Advocates for Springfield who attended the meeting when we made our presentation and/or wrote letters opposing the variance.

## **OCCA**

Win McIntyre and I will be meeting with Teresa Winchester, Executive Director and Ed Wesnofske, President of OCCA in early January. We submitted an agenda and are looking forward to a very productive discussion regarding the relationship between the two organizations and our mutual concerns with the Watershed and Lake Management Plan.

## **No Wake Zone Buoys**

Otsego and Cooperstown have approved the \$200 annual maintenance fee for the No Wake Zone buoys. Springfield and Middlefield have chosen not to support the fund. OLA made presentations at their Town Board and budget meetings, to no avail. (See attached letter to the editor.) OLA will seek alternative sources to cover the shortfall.

## **Boat Washing Stations**

Springfield has turned down the OLA's offer to donate a \$2,600 power wash unit that the town would operate. (The associated costs could have been off-set by a boat wash fee.) Springfield has opted instead to close its public launch to non-residents. However, this does not insure that boats used elsewhere will not carry an exotic into Otsego Lake. OLA is investigating other sites in Springfield for a boat washing station.

Cooperstown trustees endorsed a plan that will allow the Village to control boater access to the lake. The resolution states that boat owners will be strongly requested to have their boats washed prior to

launching if there is any chance of mussels or larvae being on the boat trailer. The resolution also establishes a fee structure for launching at both the Fair St and Fish Rd sites. The fee includes a free boat washing. Barriers will be placed across the launch sites from May through October and an attendant will be on duty 12 to 15 hours a day. Boat washing will still be at the Linden Ave site. The fee schedule will charge \$10 for one launch, \$20 for four launches or one week, \$75 for 25 launches, and \$100 for a season pass.

### **Membership**

Our membership drive for the 2003 season will commence in March. Dan Rosen is heading up a team that will address the fee schedule and other membership issues. Paul Lord, one of the Directors representing Otsego, has given a presentation to the Otsego Lake Sailing Club as well as other groups and was successful in recruiting new members. Beginning in the spring, OLA will be giving presentations to the Cooperstown Rotary and other organizations to better acquaint them with our association and to increase our local business membership.

### **Team Projects**

Projects have been established to address a number of issues involved with the implementation of the Lake Management Plan. A Director or the Technical Advisor has accepted responsibility for each project and will oversee a team, if required, to accomplish the goal. Team members may include Directors, OLA members, or others as required. Status will be reviewed at the next Board of Directors meeting. (Jan 23) The following is a list of projects and responsible directors:

- \* Boat Wash Position (2003) - Carl Good
- Membership Drive – Dan Rosen
- Education/ Public Relations – Dan Rosen
- Sportsmen’s Clubs Liaison – Paul Lord
- Logos / Merchandise – Mary Clarke
- Land Usage – Doug Willies
- No Wake Zone Buoys (2003) - Win McIntyre
- Law Enforcement Liaison – Butch Weir
- Non-Profit Status – Carl Good
- Signage – Karin Svahn
- Walleye Fundraiser – Paul Lord
- Septic Systems (TBA)

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Officers I want to thank you for your support in 2002 and wish you and your family a happy and healthy 2003. - Bob Einreinhofer