



Oneida Lake Association
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Greetings!

WHAT'S UP?



We are highlighting one of each of the 7 Oneida Lake Rescue Boats in our OLA Bulletins. The Fall 2017 issue - due out soon - will highlight Constantia's squad.

The Constantia Fire District purchased 8WR1 in 2008. Built by Brunswick Commercial and Government Products (BCGP), headquartered in Edgewater Florida, the 27 foot Boston Whaler 'Vigilant' is powered by twin 275HP Mercury four stroke outboards.

Pay your dues, and HELP PROTECT ONEIDA LAKE!!!!

I-81 HIGHWAY CLEANUP

George Reck assembled a team of Directors and two members to help pick up trash along the OLA 'adopted' section of state highway. On September 22 we worked about 2 hours along the northbound off ramp to Bartel Road, including removal of trash left along the angler access beneath the I-81 bridge over the lake. Helpers were George and his father, Member Steve Drummond, and Directors Colesante, Darby, Guifre, Novak, Pierce, and Shupe.

If we only had as many members as cigarette filters!!! Sadly we picked up one needle and bent spoon (or perhaps gratefully in that it was only one). Please do not drink and drive, and in general, do not litter our roadsides, launch sites, or lake. Should there be a winter this year, ice fishermen, please police your area.

Plastic and other debris do not belong in our lakes, fields, woods, and roadsides.

This water bottle coated with quagga mussels was pulled from Oneida Lake in late September. Litter can spread

invasive species to other waters in a bad example of 'bait bucket biology'.



ERIE CANAL BICENTENNIAL

On April 15, 1817 the NYS legislature authorized construction of the Erie Canal. It was completed October 26, 1825 at an actual cost of \$4,143,789 (today \$97,627,669, not accounting for differences in labor rate, tort or contracting requirement obligations!!). By 1836 it had turned into the state treasury more than it cost. And development of the western frontier (Ohio and beyond) is history.

The original canal floated boats up to 75 feet long, 12 to 14.5 feet wide and drafts of 3.5 feet. This rather fits the dimensions of the Durham Boat discovered in Oneida Lake, the only known wreck of its type. At that time, the Erie Canal did not come into Oneida Lake, rather it ran from Utica to Rome, to Canastota, Chittenango, and DeWitt well south of the lake. The section from Rome to the Seneca River was completed in 1819, and on April 20, 1820 the first packet boat – the Montezuma - arrived in Syracuse.

With some imagination and investment, the CNY paddling community could scout out untapped routes into and from Oneida Lake, circling back to the Erie Canal Parks in Rome, Chittenango, and DeWitt Wide Waters.

Mucking out the debris in the canal along Rt. 46 between Rome and State Bridge, and south would be wonderful. Perhaps town justices could consider some public service sentences? The present day Barge Canal from launch sites near Sylvan Beach could easily connect at the Erie Canal at the bridge over Rt. 46. Paddlers could continue west to Chittenango.

Town Fathers in Sullivan, Minoa, and DeWitt could facilitate paddlers and reduce flooding and ice jams in one stroke. Enable volunteers, DPW's, and petty criminals to remove fallen trees and debris from Chittenango, Limestone, and Butternut Creeks. Canoe routes from their respective junctions with the Erie Canal could open access between them and Oneida Lake! These would create one more unrecognized recreational resource in CNY, and a tourism promotional opportunity in the bicentennial period of the Erie Canal.

ALL WATER MATTERS!

FRANK FLACK RETIRES

NYSDEC Region 7 Fisheries Manager – and OLA's *2016 Conservationist of the Year* – will start enjoying retirement in November.

We wish Frank the best, and many years in a happy retirement. If you see him, say "Hi!"

CORMORANT SIGHTINGS

On October 8 two flocks of over 1,000 nuisance birds moved along the south shore, leap-frogging positions toward Lakeport. A good portion of the migrating cormorant population from Canada and Lake Ontario will temporarily reside on Oneida Lake for days.

Answering your BOD's call for action, NYSDEC began harassment activities April 27, ending October 2. While there is an established target of having no more than 100 birds on the lake, reported average numbers varied from about 150 birds in late May and June, declining to 99 in July, then rising to 400 in early August and well over 1000 for all September.

The Federal Government permitted NYS to 'take' 220 birds for scientific study of their diet, seeking to determine if the goby - first confirmed only 3 years ago - is now a significant part of the cormorant forage. Cornell's long-term walleye-perch predator-prey wisely needs to update the cormorant-goby relationship in our fisheries studies.

The diet results will be reported once analyses is completed and vetted by our friends at the research station on Shackleton Point.

STURGEON

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) Invites the Public to Comment on Lake Sturgeon Recovery Plan

The purpose of this recovery plan is to ensure perpetuation of the species in this State, restore self-sustaining populations, and remove the species from the Threatened Species list in New York. To achieve that goal, recovery metrics are defined that must be achieved in six of seven geographically defined Management Units to support removing lake sturgeon from the list of threatened species in New York. At a minimum, 750 sexually mature fish must be present in each Management Unit coupled with 3 year classes of wild reproduction in a 5 year period, to consider that unit recovered. The NYS DEC seeks to gather enough evidence of recovery of lake sturgeon to initiate removal from the list of Threatened Species in New York no later than 2024.

The plan may be accessed here: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/111557.html>

NYS DEC will accept public comments on the draft plan until November 25, 2017. To comment on the plan, send an e-mail with the subject line "Lake Sturgeon" to rarefish@dec.ny.gov or send written comments to Lisa Holst, NYS DEC - Division of Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Fisheries 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233.



“It’s Your Lake. Keep it Clean.”

That slogan is as important today as it was many decades ago when the Oneida Lake Association chose it as part of its mission. Fortunately, the OLA has remained unwaveringly dedicated to that goal from the day it was first developed. Perhaps some of the most tangible pieces of evidence of that goal are the many signs that dot the lake’s shoreline, reminding both residents and visitors to help preserve the quality and beauty of the lake. These large, permanent signs are posted along the roadways that surround the lake. Each displays an outline of the lake, each with the slogan “It’s Your Lake. Keep it Clean.” The signs also bears the name of a sponsor who provides financial support to keep the signs in good shape. There are a total of twenty signs in all [See the diagram for locations].

The idea for these signs dates from the mid-1960s, when OLA members Dick Percival, Ed Olmsted, and Earl Pierson took on a campaign to spread word about the OLA’s mission. Dick and Ed did the marketing and billing for the signs, while Earl did much of the construction. These three OLA members, along with friends and family, did all of the hard work, from digging the holes for the support posts to constructing and erecting the signs themselves. They raised most of the initial cost and materials with the help of Board members, as well as with the help of interested lake supporters. Sales revenue and yearly subscriptions continue to help support these signs.

Many of the signs’ sponsors consider it a matter of pride to keep “their” signs up-to-date and looking good. According to current OLA Board member Kurt Snyder (also a sign sponsor!), “Olmstead (now Aegis) or Johnny’s Pier 3 1 Restaurant have to be a couple of the oldest tenured sponsors, but I’d be surprised if there wasn’t some competition for that title.”

According to Snyder, the logo and slogan appeared in the OLA bulletins and other publications before the mid- 60s. He stated that, “*It’s Your Lake, Keep It Clean* goes back to the era when the Association sponsored and lobbied for a septic inspector that used go door to door trying to get people to let him drop dye pellets into their toilets, looking for failed systems.” That effort was short lived!

Although much of our lake is now served by municipal water and sewer systems, the OLA remains faithful to its mission of the last fifty years. It is indeed our lake, and we’re all thankful for the reminder from these signs—“Keep it Clean!”

If you would like to sponsor one of these signs, please contact us through the OLA website.

[OLA Board member Kurt Snyder was invaluable for providing material for this article].

Help OLA function. Memorials and contributions to our program are most welcome. OLA is a 501(c)4 organization serving protection of the Oneida Lake environment.

**Pay your dues, recruit your non-member neighbors and friends, and
HELP PROTECT ONEIDA LAKE!!!!**

SHORELINE AND STREAMBANK PROTECTION OR DREDGING FOR BOAT TURNING BASINS – IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO WORK BELOW THE MEAN HIGH WATER MARK, YOU SHOULD GET A PERMIT FIRST

This notice was issued in a recent *Environmental News Bulletin* issued by NYSDEC:

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) Region 7 Office proposes to issue General Permit GP-7-17-001, Shoreline and Stream Disturbance, Freshwater Wetlands (FWW) and Docks. The General Permit (GP) covers a group of common activities pertaining to lakeshore and stream bank stabilization, erosion protection, dredging, demolition, repair and replacement of certain in-water structures, small boat ramps, culverts, dry hydrants, and protection for individual lake front water intake structures.

Permits Applied for:

Article 15 Title 5 Excavation & Fill in Navigable Waters

Article 15 Title 5 Docks, Platforms and Moorings

Article 15 Title 5 Stream Disturbance

Article 24 Freshwater Wetlands

Section 401 Clean Water Act Water Quality Certification

Project Location:

NYS DEC Region 7 Counties including Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga, Oswego, Tioga and Tompkins.

State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Determination:

The project is an Unlisted Action and will not have a significant impact on the environment. A Negative Declaration is on file. A coordinated review was not performed.

SEQR Lead Agency: None Designated

Opportunity for Public Comment:

The draft General Permit is available at the NYS DEC - Region 7 office in Syracuse. **Comments must be submitted to the contact person listed below in writing no later than October 20, 2017 or 15 days after the publication of this notice, whichever is later.**

Contact: David L. Bimber, NYS DEC - Region 7 Office, Division of Environmental Permits, 615 Erie Boulevard West, Syracuse, NY 13204, Phone: (315) 426-7440, E-mail: DEP.R7@dec.ny.gov.

If you are working on or near a streambank or lake shore, DO SO PROPERLY!!!

This means having the proper design, tooling, labor, equipment and permits. Sedimentation into the lake is of concern to the Board of Directors. Undoubtedly many of you have witnessed heavily stained plumes of water coming from the southern tributaries after rainstorms. If you know of a specific section of streambank that is noticeably eroding along a tributary, snap a photo and send specific location and dimensions and details to any one of the Directors listed on our website.



[Website](#) [Who We Are](#) [What We Do](#) [How to Help](#)

The Oneida Lake Association is a member of the New York State Conservation Council <http://www.nyscc.com/> and the New York State Federation of Lake Associations <http://www.nysfola.org/>.

Report environmental violations. Please remember to obey all laws, rules, regulations, and codes of ethics as they pertain to boating, fishing, hunting, and

management of Oneida Lake and its drainage basin. Be civil. *1-844-DEC-ECOS*
(1-844-332-3267)
