



*Otter Lake Association, Inc.
Otter Lake, NY 13338*

Spring 2008

Greetings from Otter Lake,

Hooray for Spring! We had a real winter this year, including much wind. Those of you who have been away can anticipate finding tree debris, but hopefully no serious damage to your property. Spring came early bringing us a taste of the summer warmth and sunny skies to come, but alas has turned to rainy spring days and the early arrival of black flies. This too shall pass.

As many of you noticed last summer, the stocking of Otter Lake with Grass Carp has resulted in a noticeable cut-back in the amount of vegetation in the lake and improvement in the water quality. Whether you fish, swim, boat or just look at it, this is a much welcome development. Please remember that fishing for Grass Carp is prohibited by order of the DEC and APA. Accidental catches must be safely released. The necessity of lake mapping to monitor the water quality, vegetation and fish for several years to come will continue to be an annual expense for the OLA.

It was determined this winter that there is a balance due the contractor hired to build the new dam/fish barrier. This project was administered with controlling oversight mandated to be the sole responsibility of Oneida County Soil and Water. Under their direction the funded budget was exceeded leaving us with a \$20,000 shortfall. We are actively seeking funding to help defray this unexpected deficit. Additionally, we are looking to you for contributions as well. (Please note contribution line item on enclosed membership form.)

The Hanging Flower Basket program was suspended for the 2008 summer season to facilitate the road construction project on Rte. 28 which will necessitate the moving of some utility poles and removal of guard rails along the roadside. We'll have an update on the road construction at the May meeting.

BTI (Black Fly Control) application expense exceeds over \$6000 per year, which we begin to pay early in January before the season has started. This is a large expense for a small community. The BTI program has been run at a substantial deficit for several years. Continued insufficient funding, with participation by less than a majority of hamlet property owners will have to result in the cancellation of this program. Please let's not let that happen.

Important Dates to Remember.....

Association Meeting Dates: Saturdays May 24th (Memorial Day Weekend), June 28th, July 26th and August 30th.

Dumpster Trash Collection Dates:

Woodgate (old schoolhouse) June 14, 9am - 3pm

Otter Lake (St Mary's Church) August 9, 9am - 3pm

Forestport (town garage) September 6, 9am - 3pm

Accepting: White goods, refrigerators, appliances, furniture, bags of clothes, construction materials, tires off rims

Not Allowed: Garbage, vehicle parts, batteries, hazardous waste

Reminder: The APA and DEC remind us that it is the responsibility of each property owner to know where their septic is leaching to ensure a safe water supply. A Dye-Strip is included in this mailing, for your convenience and health, to test for leaks. If you need your water tested, ask us, we have information on that as well.

Enclosed you will find this years membership and scholarship application forms. Membership dues are minimal; we depend on your additional assistance to fund the programs and endeavors that we provide for on your behalf. Please be generous with your contributions so that we may continue to do so.

Properties often change hands over the winter. Extend a Warm Welcome to your new neighbors and invite them to take part in the community and join your Association. Hope to see you all at our first meeting on Saturday, May 24th.

Sincerely,

Mona Lincoln/President

President: Mona Lincoln

Vice-President: Hubert Velepec

Secretary: Sharon Engle

Treasurer: June Wellman
