

MOUNTAIN VIEW ASSOCIATION

Indian Lake

The Channel

Mountain View Lake

VOLUME 7, NO. 1, FALL 2015

NEWSLETTER

WWW.MOUNTAINVIEWASSN.COM

WATER QUALITY AND WEED CONTROL

Jerry Hickey

The summer of 2015 had us deal with a variety of lake issues. From dense “native” weeds on Mountain View Lake to water depth concerns through much of the summer, we saw how sensitive our small lakes and shorelines are to both environmental and man-made changes.

Elodea Canadensis, an aquatic plant, is considered native to the region. After a quick warm-up in late May, it propagated to a thick level in most of Mountain View Lake. Boating became difficult and the beauty of the Lake was greatly diminished. Lake experts provided no definitive answer as to what caused this unusual density. It was agreed however, that Mountain View’s shallow waters in combination with its nutrient-rich bottom were major contributors. We also learned that elodea fragmentation creates new plants, hence the request for boaters to avoid weed areas and to collect and dispose of weed “balls” created by their motors. Fortunately, elodea has not been an issue in Indian Lake or in The Channel.

To minimize the spread of both elodea and Eurasian watermilfoil, opening a boating lane through the weeds from the Mt. View boat launch to The Channel and to Indian Lake became a priority. With 68 volunteers, a channel was created on two days in July. Volunteers from the lakes and hamlets supported the effort that removed trailer loads of plants. The Association (thanks to Martha Dishman and Mary Fredenburgh) provided a lunch for workers thus enabling us to work four hours each day.



In all honesty we have absolutely no idea what the summer of 2016 will bring in Mountain View Lake. With the Lake’s continuing problems the prognosis may not be very good.

Ongoing issues with Eurasian watermilfoil seemed to pale in comparison to elodea this year. This invasive, however, still must be dealt with. In the past we saw how it can spread into The Channel and Indian Lake. Divers from Aquatic Invasive Management (AIM) worked for three weeks pulling 499 bags of milfoil – almost seven tons. With the Association’s dedication through the years, Indian Lake has remained largely milfoil free, with only five bags pulled from the Lake in 2015. This number has been consistent for several years.

So, what about the lake depths? Increasing bottom level (sediment, muck, etc.), questions about the dam, and a lack of occasional, heavy, soaking rains, are contributing factors. Our hoped-for dredging project (see Martha Dishman’s article) is expected to address the bottom build-up in much of Mountain View Lake, The Channel and along the eastern shore of Indian Lake. Eventual repair of the dam should address lake levels, and some help from “above” on a regular basis will fill our lakes with much-needed water.

Representing our Association, Martha Dishman, Chastity Miller and I attended the first symposium of the newly formed Adirondack Lakes Alliance in July. Lake associations, towns and New York State government and agencies from all corners of the park were represented. Much of the day’s focus was on the dangers posed, economically and environmentally, by invasive species in our lakes and how we can work together in this common fight. I came away with a strong sense of pride that our Association is well established and organized, with a strong volunteer cadre, as compared with many other associations. I also learned how several of the larger associations (like Upper Saranac Lake) succeed in large measure due to the availability of membership funds or by being a regional tourist center (like Lake Placid). We’ll continue to work hard with creative fundraising and look for grant opportunities to support our efforts.

In past Newsletters you can see what one should and should not do to protect the lakes and shorelines. Past Newsletters can be read on the Association’s website, and we trust that you’re knowledgeable about these beneficial practices and responsibilities, and that you work to protect the lakes. Thank you for taking active steps to keep our little corner of the Adirondacks as pristine and healthy as possible.

Finally, through summer 2016 we will be transitioning leadership for the Association’s Water Quality and Weed Control work. As with any organization, change helps us move forward with fresh ideas, renewed commitment and a recharging of energy. The time for such a changeover for our own organization is here. Please consider how you can contribute your time and talents to this all-important work, and think about how you can support the Mountain View Association during this time of change.

Fall Greetings,

What a different summer we had. The most disruptive occurrences of the summer were the escape of convicts from Dannemora with 1200 law enforcement officers in our area and the long-term construction of a new bridge over Ragged Lake Stream leading into Mt. View Lake. The summer was one of unusually heavy weed problems in Mountain View Lake described by Jerry Hickey - so this year our volunteer weeding efforts were centered on Mountain View. We are very grateful to all of our volunteers who showed up and took a total of nearly 7 tons of weeds out in two days. The divers from AIM (Aquatic Invasive Management) were here in July and August to remove weeds. You can read about all of our efforts in this Newsletter.



President Tom Harrison

Elsewhere you will read about all the partnerships we have built to help strengthen the Association and reach our goals. In particular, we have moved a step closer to an important solution to a very big problem we face, the sediment build up in our lakes. The Town of Belmont funded the initial study of our lakes, with Ecologic completing the second step needed for a Dredging Feasibility Study by taking core samples in various locations in the lakes. The results of this step were reported at the August Town of Belmont Board meeting with positive results. This is a very significant step.

A second Fourth of July Chicken Barbeque was held at the Trailside Restaurant amidst rain showers.

We all had a great time at the Pot Luck Supper; many thanks to all the volunteers. Please remember to support our important local organizations and businesses that donated prizes. The raffle and 50/50 winners were delighted as usual. Special thanks to Tom Munschauer and Doug Johnson for organizing the event.

The day after the Pot Luck, a Community Event was held at the old Mountain View fire house property. Two hours plus of live music was provided by the Original PBR Band with food and beverages available. The event was well attended and appreciated by all. Thanks to Bill Hungerford for arranging his band, to Belly and Beth for the use of their property, and to all the volunteers who made this event possible.

Of note for the MVA Board of Directors is the changeover of Treasurer from John Needham to Mike Carley and Secretary from Mary Hart to Chuck List. Both John and Mary have served faithfully and well in those capacities for the past seven years.

Support the Owls Head Post Office; buy your stamps for the holidays. Remember to support the Owls Head/Mt. View Fire Department, 4-H Camp Overlook and the Town of Belmont Food Pantry.

Wherever you spend the winter, stay safe and think of the lakes.

Tom Harrison, President

LEGACY FUND

Tom Harrison

The Legacy Fund was founded by MVA members a few years ago to build a fund that would, in the long term, be self-sustaining to aid us in preserving all three bodies of water: Mountain View Lake, Indian Lake, and The Channel. The current status of the fund is that we have \$87,000 of deposits and another \$209,000 in pledges that predominately are in trusts and wills. The most significant thing that we did this summer is move the bulk of the "cash" portion from a low interest account to an American Funds investment account through a local investment broker. This account is not a high paying investment, but it is low risk and pays a substantially better return than a bank savings account.

As always, we encourage people to help us build the Legacy Fund so that in the future we will be able to perform our tasks of caring for the lakes without major fund raising actions. Please consider donating the close of this fiscal year using the envelope provided.

SUPPORT THE ASSOCIATION THROUGH AMAZON SMILE

Just go to <http://smile.amazon.com>, and look for the Mountain View Lakes Foundation Inc. and check us as the charity you are supporting. Remember, if you want Amazon to donate to us, you need to start each shopping session at <http://smile.amazon.com>; then Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to the Association.

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LAKE RESTORATION UPDATE - OR - WHEN CAN WE DREDGE? *Martha Dishman*

This summer has moved us closer to a solution to our weed problem and the ultimate goal of a permit to dredge. This will also give the Town of Bellmont the ability to apply for funds to accomplish that goal. The Town has added the highly regarded engineering firm, Anchor QEA, to the project team. They will complete the unit cost estimates and preliminary engineering designs for the permit applications. This will be done based on the bathymetric maps completed this summer by The Associates and Franklin County Soil and Water of Mountain View Lake, the Channel and the east side of Indian Lake.

Work is being done to determine the priority areas to determine volume estimates. A survey of rare, threatened and endangered plants was also completed this summer to factor into this assessment. Additionally, boat tours of the lakes were arranged for the DEC on August 18th and for the APA on September 16th. This was productive, especially for them to see the excessive weed growth we had this summer.

Currently efforts are underway to identify sediment handling and disposal options including ultimate disposal. A CFA application to the State was submitted by FCSWCD on behalf of the Town this summer to fund the engineering report needed for the final design and permitting. The grant awards should be announced in the fall.

A fall meeting is planned with the project team (Town Supervisor, Bruce Russell, Liz Moran, EcoLogic, Chastity Miller FCSWCD, Martha Dishman and Jerry Hickey MVA, Anchor QEA) and the APA, DEC and the Army Corps of Engineers.

BROADBAND UPDATE

Martha Dishman

Those of you who get our email blasts recently received a request from SLIC to fill out a survey about your interest and needs for broadband. SLIC needs this information to increase their line of credit in order to move our project forward. As you all know we are past the promised deadline; this is due to delays in reimbursement from the state. The awarded funds are still available and the plan is still in place to provide broadband to our area. If you haven't completed the survey please do so.

BECOME A PROUD MEMBER!

In the past, being a member of the Mountain View Association meant you probably owned a camp on one of the lakes or The Channel. Often, just one person from the camp household was a member. The dues in those days were \$5, \$10 or \$15 and helped fund our social events, primarily the Potluck Supper. We didn't need much of a fund balance to conduct business. A member was also entitled to vote at our annual meetings. It was vacation, a time for rest and solitude. There weren't as many weeds, sweatshirts were without logos and the Potluck Supper was just delicious food.

Being a member of the Mountain View Association is a privilege and a responsibility and more important than ever. Members still enjoy the aforementioned benefits but also know it is an action-oriented organization dedicated to protecting our local lake environment. Members enjoy the respect of State and local agencies. The Town of Bellmont, DEC and APA know the Mountain View Association is a group of people passionate about the environment. The Association works in concert with these agencies to protect the waters we enjoy.

Many of you reading this newsletter are long-time active members of the Mountain View Association. We appreciate your loyal support and dedication to our organization. Thank you! We want to invite others who enjoy the lakes to unite with us in working to preserve the precious gift we have. Please consider joining the Mountain View Association as we strive to improve and maintain water quality. The most important benefit of Association membership is unity and strength in numbers.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Michael Carley

We have had another good year financially due to a modest decrease in spending on our weeding. Our fiscal year doesn't end until December, and but the bulk of our income and expenses are in. We still plan on receiving additional dues and donations to the Weed Fund and Legacy Fund before year end. We should break even or a little better. The following table shows where we stand for the year as of the end of October:

	Income		Expenses
Dues	\$7,530.00	Weed Removal	\$22,714.00
Weed fund donations	\$10,865.00	Community donations	\$1,000.00
All fund raisers	\$11,643.93	Postage & Printing	\$1,883.90
Investment account	\$1,179.96	Lake testing & dues	\$565.00
Other	\$382.89	Insurance	\$2,081.60
		Other	\$2,172.77
Total Income	\$31,601.78	Total Expenses	\$30,417.27

In addition we have had \$10,985 in donations to the Legacy Fund.

BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS

Burt Emory

Three returning Board members were elected at the August Membership Meeting: Connie Burton, Tom Munschauer, John Needham. One new Board member was elected by the Board to serve as Secretary and new Board Member: Chuck List.

Connie Burton resides in the greater Boston area with her husband (Doug), children (Kate and Tom), and dog (Cocoa). She and her husband have a camp on Indian Lake and she has been coming to the Lake for more than 25 years. Indian Lake is a special place for Connie and her family. In addition to being a happy mom, Connie is a labor and employment attorney.

Tom Munschauer was born in Buffalo NY sometime in the last century where he excelled at every endeavor and succeeded in every quest. Presently he is a companion animal veterinarian living in Middlebury, Vermont. He shares a camp on the south side of Indian Lake with Doug and Debby Anderson. Between them they have three dogs: Hazel, Henry and Willie. He is beginning his second term on the Board.

John and Roz Needham have a home in the Toledo, Ohio area. They keep busy with their four kids and many grandchildren. John first became familiar with Owls Head through two of Roz's aunts and uncles who had adjoining camps on Indian lake. Fifteen years ago they realized their dream when they purchased their own camp on the East side of Indian Lake. John is a retired human resources executive.

Charles List (Chuck) and his wife Beth Dixon bought their camp on Mountain View Lake in 2013, and spend summers there and visit whenever they can. Both Chuck and Beth are professors in the Philosophy Department at SUNY Plattsburgh. Chuck's research interests include environmental ethics and outdoor recreation. He is past president of the Lake Champlain Chapter of Trout Unlimited and a current Hunter Education instructor. He teaches a course on fly fishing at SUNY occasionally and hunts frequently with his bird dog Cassie.

MOUNTAIN VIEW ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY – UPDATE

Connie Burton

Earlier this fall, the Association published its first Membership Directory. The Fall 2015 Directory was sent to all Association Members who provided an email address to us. We hope that the Directory will allow us to communicate and keep in touch with one another. We will update the Directory in the spring of 2016 so, if you were not included in the Directory this time, it is not too late to be included in the Spring 2016 Directory. Simply renew your membership by completing the membership form included with the Fall Newsletter and make certain to check off on the form that you give us permission to include your contact information in the Directory.

COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

Connie Burton

Over the past few years, the Board of Directors has been hard at work in trying to determine the best way(s) to communicate with our membership. This spring, the Board voted in a new Communications Policy which provides for four primary methods by which the Association will communicate with its membership on a timely manner about relevant matters. Specifically, the four methods are:

1. The Bi-Annual Newsletter – (Published in the Fall and Spring) -- The Fall issue focuses on the season just passed informing members of Association activities and relevant local government actions for the year. The Spring issue provides information and schedules for the forthcoming summer season.
2. Weekly Email Blasts -- (Summer Season) – Weekly Emails will be sent to members on Sunday nights during the traditional summer season (from Memorial Day to Labor Day) to keep members informed of upcoming events in a timely manner.
3. Monthly Email Blasts (Off-Season) - Monthly Email Blasts will be sent to members at the beginning of each month during the traditional off-season (from October through April).
4. Association Website and Facebook - Association Website and Facebook will be regularly updated to keep information current for the membership.