

GALWAY LAKE CAMPERS ASSOCIATION INC.

Lake Preservation Committee Report for 2010

General:

The Recreational quality of Galway Lake was generally good during the 2010 season: weed growth was not as aggressive as it has been in recent years; early season problems with blue-green algae and water clarity cleared up by mid- season and bacteria testing at lake beaches did not reveal any significant problems. However, there were elevated fecal coliform readings at off lake locations in North Bay and at the inlet and cove in West Bay.

2010-2011 Drawdown:

A deep lake drawdown was conducted in the fall of 2010 to address the dense growth of Eurasian Water Milfoil that has been impacting the recreational quality of the lake. The draw down reached the target level of 12 feet below the seasonal level in November and during the next few weeks we had freezing temperatures that froze the exposed sediment to a depth beyond the 4 inches required to destroy the root system of target plants. Sustained freezing temperatures enabled the lake refill process to begin on the 19th of December which was earlier than the target date for this event.

A weed survey will be conducted in August of 2011 to determine the effectiveness of the draw down in reducing the density and growth areas of Eurasian Water Milfoil and other aquatic plants that are impacted by a draw down process.

West Bay Cove Excavation:

On the 30 of November the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation issued a permit granting permission for the excavation of a settlement basin in West Bay Cove. The Settlement Basin Project was designed to help reduce the volume of sediment entering West Bay from the West Bay Inlet Stream and to remove some of the nutrient rich sediment supporting a dense growth of Eurasian Water milfoil and Filamentous Algae in West Bay Cove.

The contract for the project was awarded to Ferguson Trucking and Excavating who completed all tasks associated with the project just prior to Christmas 2010. Project tasks included: the removal of 1 to 4 feet of sediment (approximately 2,000 cubic yards) from a 28,000 sq. ft. area just south and west of Elm Beach; the modification of the cove stream bed and the restoration of Elm Beach which was utilized for access to the project site. The total cost of the project was \$29,000.00 (\$11,000.00 less than what was appropriated).

Prior to the start of the project, the West Bay Cove weed suppression mat located in the project area was removed and most of it will be reused in other shoreline locations. The mat outside the project area (about 360 feet) has been restored and will continue to provide a weed free channel into the cove.

Integrated Management Plan for Galway Lake:

An Integrated Management Plan has been developed to provide an historical perspective and blue print for the variety actions required to identify, monitor and mitigate factors that threaten our lake. The Plan is a working document and will be updated as required to address the current status of actions and activities. Campers can review the Plan on the Association Web Site galwaylakeassociation.com.

Goose Capture:

During the 2010 season the Association contracted with the Wildlife Services Division within the US Department of Agriculture to remove 31 resident geese from the lake. The periodic thinning of the resident goose population reduces the impact of goose fecal matter on camper health and property as well as lake water nutrient levels.

Storm Water Runoff Study:

During 2010 the Association contracted with The Darin Freshwater Institute to expand a study involving the quality of surface water entering the lake from the 2 major inlets and selected storm water streams. The earlier study was focused on the quality of surface water entering the lake during the summer of 2010. The expanded study looked at similar surface water sources during the lake refill process in the late winter and early spring of 2011. The purpose of the study is to determine if selected surface water sources are contributing unacceptable levels of nutrients, bacteria or other contaminants that stimulate aggressive weed and algae growth.

Storm Water Project:

During the summer of 2010, the Highway Department in the Town of Galway completed a storm water project requested by the Campers Association. The project involved plugging a culvert under Hermance Road that allowed storm water from a farm on Ridge Road to go directly into the north end of the lake. The storm water now flows in a new swale which redirects the water a considerable distance down Crooked Street before it enters the lake. This project was completed at no cost to the Association.

Discounted Rate for Septic Pumping Service:

De Jong Septic in Broadalbin has again agreed to provide Association members with a discounted rate for septic pumping services. The rate for 2011 will be \$145.00 plus tax and a \$10.00 fuel charge for pumping a 1000 gallon tank. Campers who arrange a group service call can split the fuel charge. Additional services, such as pumping larger tanks and digging out buried tank covers, are available for an additional fee. For discounted service call Rena De Jong at 842-1540.

Attachments:

There are two attachments to this report, which should be retained for future reference.

Blue-Green Algae: The NYS Department of Health has issued an advisory regarding health risks associated with the toxins produced by some forms of blue-green algae. The attachment on this topic explains these risks and provides information that should help campers identify and deal with this problem.

How Campers Can Help Protect Our Lake: Protecting our lake is a shared responsibility. The attachment on this topic lists several ways that campers can help to minimize the impact of nutrients, bacteria and invasive plants or animals.

Lake Preservation Committee

4/1/11