

GALWAY LAKE CAMPERS ASSOCIATION INC.
Lake Preservation Committee Report for 2011

General:

The recreational quality of Galway Lake during the 2011 season was the best that it has been for the past several years. The impact of invasive weed growth on recreational activity was significantly less than in previous years; there were no significant algae blooms and all bacteria tests taken at lake beaches were within safe limits.

Storm Water Runoff Study:

During the winter and spring of 2011, the Darin Fresh Water Institute (DFWI) conducted a study to determine whether storm water and spring runoff are a significant source of lake nutrients and/or bacteria.

Prior to the study, measures had been taken to help neutralize the runoff from a farm in the north end of the lake that was suspected to be partly responsible for the major algae issue in North Bay during the 2007-8 seasons. These measures involved improvements in farm manure management and a project to divert storm water runoff from the farm that ran directly into the lake. The 2011 DFWI study focused on inlets and storm water sources in North and West Bays and involved the analysis of numerous water samples taken at a variety of locations after rain events and during the spring thaw.

The primary conclusion drawn from the 2011 study was that storm water and spring runoff only account for a small portion of the nutrients and bacteria flowing into Galway Lake, and that lake nutrient and bacteria issues should be attributed to sources such as; septic leachate, direct runoff from shore line lots (fertilizer/ garden waste etc.) and waterfowl.

Weed Control:

In October 2011, the Darwin Freshwater Institute (DFWI) published a study that compared the results of weed surveys they conducted prior to and following the deep drawdown of 2010-2011. The study concluded that the draw down resulted in a substantial reduction in the growth of Eurasian Watermilfoil and that lake level drawdowns are not having a particularly negative impact on native aquatic plant species. This is the third time, since 1989, that a deep drawdown has been used to effectively control Eurasian Watermilfoil growth in Galway Lake. The 2011 Weed Survey also found a new invasive weed known as Brittle Naiad, but, DFWI does not expect this plant will have a significant impact on the future recreational use of the lake. Anyone interested in reviewing the DFWI Weed Survey Reports may do so on the Association Web site.

Invasive Threats to the Recreational Quality of our Lake:

A new invasive aquatic plant known as "Hydrilla" has moved into upper NY State. This plant is

very aggressive and, like Eurasian Watermilfoil, it can quickly and significantly impact a lake's recreational quality. Other invasives, such as the Asian Clam, are spreading and infesting new water bodies. Lake George has spent over a half million dollars attempting to control a localized infestation of Asian Clams, but, despite their best efforts new and larger infested areas have been found in the lake.

The primary manner, by which hydrilla and other invasives (plant and animal) migrate from one water body to another, is by boats or equipment that is not effectively cleaned prior to being moved.

Last year we provided an attachment to the Lake Preservation Committee Report which discussed "How Campers can help protect our lake". One of our most important tasks is to detect a new invasive plant or animal as early as possible. The more eyes we have working on this task, the higher the probability that we will detect the problem early and be able to address it successfully. Therefore, all Campers should become familiar with the plant and animal invasives that threaten our lake and report any probable sightings to the contacts listed at the end of this report. Pictures and descriptions of the invasives are attached to this report.

Septic Pumping:

De Jong Septic will provide association members a \$40.00 discount on septic pumping services. The rate for 2012 is \$145.00 plus tax and a \$10.00 fuel charge for a 1000 gal tank. For septic pumping and other related services call: Rena De Jong at 842-1540.

Galway Lake Integrated Management Plan:

Association members are encouraged to review the revised Management Plan which is on the association web site.

Attachments:

The 2010 Report contained two attachments that we are providing again this year because of their importance to the lake preservation effort and need to keep campers aware of health risks.

Blue- Green Algae: Blue-green algae blooms can present a significant health risk to both humans and animals. The attachment provides information that should help campers identify and deal with this problem.

How Campers Can Help Protect Our Lake: This attachment identifies several ways that campers can help to minimize the impact of nutrients, bacteria and invasive plants or animals.

Pictures of the Invasives that threaten our lake.

Lake Preservation Committee Points of Contact:

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