

Galway Lake Campers Association, Inc.

25 Washington Road, Scotia, New York 12302
A Privately Owned Membership Lake Located in Galway, New York

June 25, 2010

Dear Member,

Welcome to the 2010 summer season at beautiful Galway Lake. I would like to thank Kurt Ladu, who volunteers his time and effort to monitor the level of the lake and adjust the tower gates. Due to Kurt's diligence we all will enjoy a full lake this summer. The 2010 refill was completed 38 days ahead of 2009, 46 days ahead of 2008, and 36 days ahead of 2007. Regaining a full lake in the spring is the principle responsibility of the lake level committee and I would like to remind you that if you leave a dock or boat on the lake bed you do so knowing it may be damaged or destroyed during the refill process.

Reducing the total amount of nutrients allowed to enter Galway Lake is critical to its future. Each of us can positively impact the health of the lake by maintaining an effective septic system, eliminating the use of fertilizer on our property, not disposing of leaves and yard waste into the lake and by discouraging waterfowl from making Galway Lake their home.

During the summer of 2007 we noted the first significant filamentous algae growth on Galway Lake. During 2007 this growth was restricted to the northwestern and northeastern corners of the lake with a smaller growth in Maywood Cove. The summer of 2008 brought with it an expanded growth of filamentous algae and lake weeds to include: the Adabar shoreline from the North Bay Inlet to the Harts Grove boundary; the north end of the Harts shoreline and the West Bay Cove and Inlet. The presence of filamentous algae is an indicator for the presence of excessive nutrient levels within an affected area.

In 2009 the GLCA undertook the following steps, in addition to our ongoing lake preservation work, to more fully understand and address these issues:

- 1) The Darrin Fresh Water Institute (DFWI) was hired to identify the nutrient and contamination sources described above and to provide recommendations to remediate the issue(s) based upon their findings. As part of their study the DFWI performed a detailed aquatic plant survey in accordance with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's standards. This survey is a required step to attain the permits, which are necessary, to take remedial action when addressing the above noted issues. DFWI completed this project and delivered their report *An Assessment of Aquatic Plant Growth and Filamentous Algae Problems in Galway Lake, Saratoga County, New York* in March 2010. The complete report is available on the Association website at <http://www.galwaylakeassociation.com> within the News & Information section. Enclosed you will find the Executive Summary from the DFWI report.
- 2) The GLCA participated in a program offered by the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services to remove the resident goose population from Galway Lake. This work took place during the 2009 molting season and was highly successful. This action significantly reduced the amount of nutrients entering the lake, as each goose is responsible for adding approximately one pound of fecal matter per day into the water column.

Upon receipt and review of the DFWI report the GLCA board has authorized the following immediate actions to address our nutrient and invasive weed issues while we work to develop and implement an integrated lake management plan (ILMP):

Short-term

- 1) This fall the GLCA will conduct a deep drawdown following the method presented within the DFWI report. This drawdown will commence the week after Labor Day and we will drawdown the lake 12' at a rate of one-to-two inches per day until we have reached our goal. The lake will remain at this level until early January at which time we will close the gates and initiate the refill process.
- 2) During the drawdown we ask all lakefront landowners to take this opportunity to clean the lakebed in front of your home. By removing the exposed plant material you will remove nutrients that would otherwise be recycled within the lake. The GLCA is putting together an information sheet on how best to take advantage of the drawdown and will distribute information with regards to the type of activities that will be helpful and how best to accomplish them.
- 3) This fall the GLCA will remove sediment and install a settling basin within the West Bay inlet and examine the feasibility of installing a basin within the area of the North Chuctanunda Creek inlet to aid in the control of sediment entering the lake from the two primary inlets to the lake.
- 4) The GLCA board has approved funding for extended testing to identify external sources of nutrients. We will contract with the DFWI for further testing in order to identify and remediate point sources of nutrients.
- 5) The GLCA will continue to work with the Town of Galway to address failed septic systems. The Town Code Enforcement Officer, Mark Concilla, has been very helpful in addressing failed septic systems as they are identified. During 2009 this partnership led to the replacement of systems within Maywood, Adabar and Jeffers Groves.
- 6) The Town of Galway has agreed to undertake a stormwater diversion project along Hermance Road. When completed this summer this project will divert nutrient rich water from directly entering the lake in order to allow time for the nutrients to be absorbed by the ecosystem prior to the water entering the lake.
- 7) The GLCA would like to remind you to pump your septic tank. By removing effluent from your system you are limiting the amount of nutrients that enter the lake. This year the GLCA has contracted with De Jong Septic, LLC. De Jong Septic is a locally owned business located on Ridge Road within two miles of Galway Lake. They are offering a discounted rate of \$145 per thousand gallons plus applicable tax. Over 1,000 gallons up to 1,500 gallons is an additional \$75. Prices do not include digging to uncover tanks, however, that service is available for an additional fee from De Jong. You can schedule an appointment by calling Rena De Jong at (518) 842-1540.
- 8) The GLCA continues to work with the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services to monitor the resident goose population on Galway Lake. The 2009 effort was successful and we have signed up for the program again in 2010.

Long-term

The GLCA's Lake Preservation committee is developing an ILMP for Galway Lake. During this time the committee is examining all proven means to control nutrients and invasive weeds within the lake. These include Aquatic Herbicides, Harvesting (mechanical), Rotovating & Hydroraking, Dredging, Weed Suppression Mats, Draw Down and Biological Controls. Once completed the ILMP will become the living document by which we will manage Galway Lake and measure our success.

Protecting the lake is at the forefront of the GLCA's efforts and taking the above steps accompanied by the ongoing efforts of the GLCA's Lake Preservation Committee and the New York State Department of Conservation CSLAP program is providing the information necessary to allow the GLCA to make the proper decision(s) to address these issues. For further information on our efforts and suggestions on how you can help in protecting the quality of Galway Lake please be sure to read the DFWI report and attend the Annual Meeting of the Association on July 10, 2010.

Dr. Bruce Rowell will also present a presentation titled, *Human Impact on Galway Lake*, July 17th at the Ruback's Store starting at 10AM. This is an ideal opportunity for you to learn a great deal about Galway Lake and the impact we all have on it. Bruce recommends that campers bring their cup of coffee and youngster (10 or older) to the 10AM presentation/discussion at the Ruback's Store. He intends to start with some background via a Power Point presentation and then involve the audience in a more or less open format discussion for the remainder of the hour. Hopefully all will leave the session more aware of the fragile nature of lake dynamics.

While you and your family enjoy the lake this season please remember to abide by all laws when operating a boat on the lake. Please remember that a life preserver must be in the boat for each person on board. For your own safety a life preserver should be worn at all times you are in a boat. Boats with electric motors must be licensed with the State of New York. Identify your boat(s) and raft with your camp number in the event that they are found adrift they will be easily identified as belonging to you. Please use a "catch and release" policy if you are fishing for sport on the lake. We all value the peace and quiet of Galway Lake, so please be considerate of your neighbors while preserving this special place. The Association does not support the use of fireworks on or around the lake, as it is illegal "to possess, use, explode, or cause to explode fireworks in the State of New York," unless you have a license to do so -- New York State Penal Law, Section #270.

It is especially important that you have your home identified with numbers and letters that are at least 3 inches high and clearly visible so that emergency services can find your home in the event of an emergency. Any Grove where year-round residency exists has the responsibility for maintaining its roads to allow year-round access of emergency vehicles and personnel. The Galway Lake Fire Department needs a minimum clearance of 14 feet to navigate its equipment to your home. If your road is not maintained with the proper minimum clearance you are greatly increasing the likelihood of disaster.

This year the Board has approved a tentative assessment per camp of \$220. This assessment level will provide for a prudent budget that includes funding for the capital reserve fund to meet future expenditures for capital improvements.

Following is the tentative budget for 2010 – 2011. If this budget is approved at the Annual Lake Association Meeting that will be held at the Ruback's Grove Pavilion on Saturday July 10, 2010 at 7:00PM, the assessment per camp will be: \$220.

2010 – 2011 Budget

Taxes	\$29,662.00
Legal	\$10,000.00
Audit & Tax Preparation	\$1,500.00
Donations	\$1,500.00
Insurance	\$33,000.00
Maintenance	\$4,000.00
Clerk Office Expenses	\$4,500.00
Federation of Lakes Dues	\$400.00
Capital Reserve Fund	\$10,000.00
Water Testing	\$2,800.00
Darrin Fresh Water Institute Study	\$4,000.00
Reserve Fund	\$6,000.00
Engineering Study – (to address DEC Dam Safety Requirements)	\$25,000.00
Sediment Excavation and Settling Basin Construction	<u>\$40,000.00</u>
	\$172,362.00

I would like to encourage you to attend the annual meeting on July 10th to understand more about the lake and present any questions or concerns that you may have with regard to Galway Lake. If you are unable to attend please use the proxy provided below to designate someone else to represent your interest. Please send your proxy to Ms. Lois Seyse, Clerk, 25 Washington Road, Scotia, New York, 12302.

Sincerely,



J. Glen Rundell,
President

--PROXY--

TO: Ms. Lois B. Seyse, Clerk
Galway Lake Campers Association, Inc.
25 Washington Road
Scotia, New York 12302

I hereby appoint _____ to act for me in matters to be enacted at the July 10, 2010 Annual Meeting of the GLCA.

My Grove is _____ Signed: _____
My camp number is _____ Date: _____

Please sign and return this proxy if you do not plan to attend the meeting