

# 2019 LAKE OSCAWANA DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Newsletter  
2019 Vol. 3

## Lake Oscawana Management Advisory Commission

Kathleen McLaughlin (Chair), Jeff Coren, Steven David, Judy Dronzek, Ellen Friedman,  
John Lafata, Alan Paley, Sam Oliverio, Town Supervisor, Town Board Liaison: Jackie Annabi

Visit the LOMAC website for more information about our Lake:  
<http://www.putnamvalley.com/LOMAC> Facebook page: LOMAC

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## HEALTH OF THE LAKE:

Our lake continues to have improved phosphorus and nitrogen burden compared to other years. There have not been harmful algae blooms as has occurred in other lakes in our county/town. We do have nutrient loading however from the Lee Avenue stream, Wildwood Cove stream and Lost River stream. Bacterial counts emanating from these streams are not high enough to prompt the County Health Department to intervene. LOMAC and the Town have asked the Health department for further assessments and one is planned.

## HARVESTER OPERATION:

Schedule:

**Monday:** Wildwood cove including marina

**Tuesday:** Abele cove

**Wednesday:** Southend and West

**Thurs:** North end

**Friday:** Finish-up.

Please see harvester cutting guidelines posted on the LOMAC website. LOMAC has installed a GPS system so that the harvester does not hit rocks and a tracker system so that the work effort toward dense weeds can be quantified.



Ice Skating on the Lake

Photo by Ben Friedman

## NEW DE-ICER REGULATIONS:

LOMAC has submitted to the Town Board proposed regulations that include a permit to install or use an existing de-icer, use of a GFI outlet, deiced area may not extend beyond 5 feet from the dock/wall to be de-iced and may not cross property line, must have certain type of illuminated signs starting 100 ft from the deicer. Fines will be established for infractions. Town Board has not issued the new rules yet but hopefully will be in effect by early winter. There will be time for community comments before the final rule. There was a serious accident last winter.

[www.putnamvalley.com/LOMAC](http://www.putnamvalley.com/LOMAC)



## INDIVIDUAL HOMEOWNERS RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE LAKE:

LOMAC and NEAR (in the Lake Management Plan) are suggesting that each homeowner control the groundwater from their own homes by taking the following steps:

- a) Limit run off from your property into the lake by decreasing impervious surfaces (grass pavers instead of macadam), decrease lawn size, have buffer zone of taller grasses and plants at the edge of your property
- b) Eliminate pollutants such as phosphate fertilizer, pump and inspect septic systems, repair them quickly, don't dump chemicals into catch basins or drains,
- c) INSPECT AND DRY YOUR BOATS FOR 5 DAYS TO PREVENT INVASIVE SPECIES FROM RUINING OUR LAKE
- d) capture water from your property in rain gardens, and rain barrels under your drain spouts.

**WE ARE LAKE OSCAWANA'S STEWARD TO KEEP IT PRISTINE.**

## WALLEYE

We have been stocking these fish for over ten years but stopped in 2015. LOMAC has recommended and the Town has commissioned a FISH study to determine how the Walleye are doing and what other types of fish live in the lake and their size. Fishermen have seen immature Walleye suggesting that they are spawning. Data about the complex microorganism (zooplankton) suggest however that the Walleye are not adding their expected benefit to the lake's oxygen balance as was hoped. The FISH study will clarify this question and will be completed by late September.

**STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!**  
Prevent the spread of invasive species.

Aquatic invasive species are non-native plants and animals that threaten native plants, wildlife and their habitats. They also affect humans by degrading boating and fishing areas and reducing lakeshore property values and tourism. Once they are established eradication is almost impossible.

**BEFORE AND AFTER BOATING...**

- CLEAN**  
Clean and remove all visible plants, animals, fish and mud from your boat, trailer and other equipment and dispose of it in a suitable trash container or on dry land.
- DRAIN**  
Drain water from bilge, live wells, ballast tanks and any other locations with water before leaving the launch. Disinfect when possible.
- DRY**  
Dry your boat, trailer and all equipment completely. At least 5 days of drying time is recommended. Drying times vary depending on weather & material.

**Watercraft Check Points**

Labels: Hitch, Rollers, Live Well, Aisle, Lower Unit Propeller, Transom Well

**PLEASE DO NOT DUMP BAIT, FISH, OTHER ANIMALS OR PLANTS INTO THE WATER!**

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
For more information visit [www.nystateparks.com/environment](http://www.nystateparks.com/environment)  
or contact us at [invasivespecies@parks.ny.gov](mailto:invasivespecies@parks.ny.gov)

Learn more!

[www.putnamvalley.com/LOMAC](http://www.putnamvalley.com/LOMAC)



## **NEW LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN:**

LOMAC and the Town have commissioned our consulting liminologists (Northeast Aquatic Research-NEAR) to develop a new management plan (the last one was in 2008). This is a program to remediate any lake problems that are identified. Their work has been completed and they are finishing the final report. It will be submitted to the Town for approval and will be presented at our fall DISTRICT MEETING. The recommendations from this plan will lead to action plans to address identified problems. The two problems areas identified are similar to other lakes in the area. We have a significant problem with ground water nutrient loading and we have dense weed growth in our shallow areas of the lake. The two problems are most likely related. Among their recommendations are enforcement of septic pump-out law, repair of failing septs and a plan to have individual homeowners attend to the run off from their properties. Putnam Valley has a law which states that every home in the Lake Oscawana watershed must be pumped out every three years: **PUMP OUT YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEMS EVERY 3 YEARS AND MAKE SURE THE TOWN RECEIVES THE DOCUMENTATION.** This year Lake Oscawana received a \$75,000 grant from the state via the county health department for septic system repair. Nine families took advantage of this offer.

## **ASIAN GRASS CARP ASSESSMENT:**

The data from 2018 have not yet shown an impact of the carp on our weed population. The carp have been seen to be alive and well, growing. It is not true that older carp eat less, in fact they eat more. They also have a long life of over 10 years. Addition of more carp are being considered by the limnologists as part of the weed control. They are monitoring the diversity of the plants in the lake to assess the impact of the carp (carp prefer to eat Pond Weed instead of Milfoil.)



Swimming in the Rain  
Photo by Ellen Friedman

**LAKE OSCAWANA DISTRICT MEETING**  
**OCTOBER 26, 2019 AT TOWN HALL 10:30 AM:**  
**COME HEAR OUR SCIENTISTS (NEAR)**  
**DISCUSS LAKE'S HEALTH AND**  
**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IT'S**  
**CONTINUING BEAUTY.**

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# Lake Oswawana

## Management Advisory Commission

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