

Cazenovia Lake Summit

Saturday Nov. 15, 2008

Looking back, To see ahead

Presented by

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1847

- Over 100 residents sign the “Petition Against the Use of Cazenovia Lake for Canal Purposes” as it would:

“seriously injure their village in three of the chief elements of its prosperity: its beauty, its salubrity and its water power.”

1957

Concerned about the development on and around the lake, and conversion of summer homes into year-round, the Cazenovia Lake Association (CLA) was founded by ***Stewart Hancock, Jr., George Ledyard, Mrs. John Stanley, John Daley, Jr., Charles Gregg, Joseph Davoli, George Bond, Jr., Chester King, Jr., Donald Hart and George Shattuck***, for the purpose:

“to promote the common interests and the physical and moral welfare of its members and of the residents of the Town and the Village of Cazenovia; to promote and encourage the development of the area surrounding Cazenovia Lake to the end that it may be maintained and improved as a pleasant, healthful and safe residential community; and to foster the use of Cazenovia Lake for fishing, boating and swimming in such manner as will endure the safety and enjoyment of its members and the public”

Many founders being lawyers, the CLA was Incorporated as a not for profit 501(c)3

1967

- CLA purchases 2600 lbs of Copper Sulfate (26 - 100# bags)

1976

- CLA purchases an Underwater Weed Cutter

1978

- Letter indicates that CLA stopped chemical treatment due to “chemical poison” scare and started more extensive weed harvesting thru a third party contractor.

1982

- Lakefront land is assessed at average of \$200/front foot \$25,000/acre

1983

- Newspaper notice that CLA intends to treat lake to control algae, restricting swimming in treated area for 24 hours.

1984

- Letter sent to residents advising that CLA would be chemically treating 40 acres with 40 gal of Diquet
- Town of Cazenovia issues Land Use Guide

1985

- CLA purchases 500 lbs of Copper Sulfate and 60 gal of Diquet

1986

- CLA sells 1976 Underwater Weed Cutter and 1981 Aquatic Engineering Weed Harvester to DeRuyter Lake Assoc. for \$3,000

1988

- CLA purchases 500 lbs of Aqua Kleen, treats 5 acres
- CLA spends 325 hrs harvesting and screens 22 areas (20' x 50')
- Presentation made by Scott Kishbraugh at Annual meeting in August
- CLA starts participation in the Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP).

Volunteers from the CLA take samples four times during the summer at two locations. NYS DEC analyses the samples and issues an annual report.

- CLA initiates it's "**War On Weeds**" lead by Ed Green with goal to raise \$150,000 in pledges paid over several years.

Over half is budgeted for a new harvester and its operation, balance for chemical treatments and other mitigation techniques.

1989

- \$144,000 pledged for “WOW”
- CLA gets permit from DEC to chemically treat 10 acres (spends \$4,985)
- CLA spends \$60,000 for new harvester, subcontracts with Lakeside Management to operate.

1990

- Town of Cazenovia adopts chapter 107: Land Disturbance code – defines Critical Environmental Area (CEA)

1992

- Coastal Environmental Services releases *Cazenovia Lake Restoration and Management Plan* which recommends:
 - support of existing ordinances
 - change in current septic ordinance and CEA restrictions
 - erosion control projects
 - develop stormwater management ordinance
 - public education of product (non-phosphorus fertilizers, etc.) use
 - continue harvesting

1994

- CLA proposes to apply for permit to use herbicide 2,4-D in selected areas of the lake to supplement harvesting. Estimated at \$3 to \$4 per lake front foot.

1997

- Cazenovia Lake Foundation was founded as 501(c)3 for the purpose of building an endowment fund of assets (cash, stocks, land, etc.) for the long-term health and benefit of the lake. \$50,000 seed money contributed by CLA.
- First stormwater retention basin installed along Rt. 92 at Sunset Cove by NYS DOT

1998

- *Prioritization of Management and Restoration Alternatives for Cazenovia Lake* by Princeton Hydro, LLC prioritizes the list of alternatives to:
 1. Stormwater management
 2. Septic management (entire watershed)
 3. Macrophyte (weed) control – supplement harvesting with herbicides and biological controls,
 4. Public Education
 5. Fishery survey
 6. Hydrologic analysis of the effect of the canal on the lakes water balance
 7. Review and analysis of the CSLAP data.

Princeton Hydro estimated a cost of \$82,450 to do in-depth study, analysis and specific recommendations on the 7 items above.

1999

- Helen L. McNitt State Park established as result of gift of 133 acres of land including 1300 ft. of shoreline.

2000

- US Army Corps of Engineers *Advantages and Disadvantages of Aquatic Plant Management Techniques* by John D. Madsen discusses:
 1. Biological
 2. Chemical
 3. Mechanical and Physical Management Techniques and
 4. No Action: **“environmental consequences of doing nothing may be high, possibly even higher than any of the effects of management techniques”**

Conclusion: *“...there is no single cure-all solution to aquatic plant problems, no single best choice.... Rather, it is up to each management group to select the most appropriate techniques for their situation given a set of social, political, economic and environmental conditions.”*

2001

- NYS DEC Memo from Scott Kishbaugh (remember him from 1988, he's here today!) *Aquatic Plant Control in Cazenovia Lake* wherein he:
 - defines the problems
 - addresses possible solutions
 - and then summarizes with a combination of whole lake strategies, harvesting and herbicides, along with local management, hand pulling and benthic barriers.

2002

- Town and Village of Cazenovia adopt the Cazenovia Lake Watershed Protection Plan As part of the Water Quality Protection Strategy in the CAPP.

2003

- CLA Position Paper released by Ralph Monforte, CLA President, with emphasis on continued, but more economical, harvesting while addressing:
 - storm water management
 - on and off-site septic and sewer systems
 - education and dissemination of information

2004

- Town adds Watershed Impervious Surfaces Law to code

2005

- CLA launches its new Website – www.cazlake.org

Great source of information and communications tool for Education and Environmental Lake Management

Contents include:

- List of many publications produced by CLA and others
- Links to websites of related interest
- Education section:
 - Boating Safety Programs
 - School Programs
 - Research Reports
 - Newsletters
- Hot topics section:
 - Weed harvesting including production results since 1987
 - Storm Water and Shoreline Management
- CSLAP Interpretive Summary report by the NYS DEC recommended:

“focus on reducing nutrient loading to the lake, through maintaining septic systems, shoreline buffer zones, limited use of lawn fertilizers, minimizing land disturbances in the near-lake watershed and localized stormwater management.”

2006

- NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation makes public presentation for opening McNitt State Park to the public for “passive recreation.”
- Dr. Neil Ringler SUNY ESF engaged to do a fish survey and study
- Bob Johnson, Cornell University, engaged to do a survey of herbivores feeding on milfoil (weevils and moths)
- Presentation on Special Tax District at CLA annual meeting

2007

- CLA celebrates its 50th anniversary at Nottleymere Cottage event
- Final NYS Parks plans and timetable for McNitt Park announced
- Lake Book published by CLA thru funding by CACDA

2008

- Village holds public hearing on lake access in January
- Village opens Lakeside Park to non-residents under permitting system

Some Facts and Figures

- Cazenovia Lake is approx 4 miles long x ½ mile wide, 1100 acres
- Approx. 50,000 linear footage around lake
- Approx 3000 taxable properties in town assessed at \$450 million
- Approx 800 taxable properties in watershed assessed at \$190 million
- Analysis of CLA fundraising averaged over 4 year period – published in 1996 Newsletter
 - 385 contributions totaling approx. \$46,000
 - 245 lakefront properties assessed at \$115 million (\$2300/front ft)
 - 150 lakefront owners contributed 60% of all CLA funds raised
 - 40 lakefront Stewards contributed 30% of all funds
 - 95 (38%) lakefront owners were non-contributors

Some Facts and Figures

- Special Tax District – presented at the 1996 Annual Meeting
 - Tax imposed on specific parcels or areas for a specific purpose or benefit
 - Examples of special tax districts:
 - CAVAC, Library, Fire Protection, Sewer and Water Districts*
 - Various ways to allocate tax – by lot, assessed value, front ft or combination
 - Other considerations – tax exempt properties, commercial vs. residential – needs approval of 51%
 - Pros: Spreads cost fairly to all who benefit
 - Guarantees \$ for harvesting and other mitigation techniques
 - Lake Assoc can spend more volunteer energy on other activities
 - Lower costs, efficient utilization of town employees and assets
 - Cons: CLA loses control of harvesting and budget
 - CLA may have difficulty raising money for other activities
- Risk to CLA – not getting approved and loss of support

In Conclusion

Past

- Cazenovia Lake considered private by residents
- CLA and CLF supported by private donations
- War on Weeds has been going on for a long, long time
- CLA spends 80% (\$38,000) of contributions and volunteer time on harvesting

Present

- Donations declined dramatically in 2008
- Harvesting erratic in 2008, weeds considered worst ever
- Lake may be considered public due to access
- Volunteerism may be waning
- Very gloomy economy

Future

- Is there a better way?
- Is CLA harvesting sustainable?

Would you rely on a volunteer organization funded by private donations each year to plow the roads?

- Is a more global or comprehensive approach needed?
- Where will the funding come from?

Special tax district, special assessments, bond issue, grants

- Whose responsibility is it?