

**Minutes
Dunhams Bay Association
Annual Meeting
July 14, 2012**

Algal Bloom Monitoring and Awareness Project (2008-2012)

Guest speaker, Kathleen (Kathy) Bozony, Natural Resource Specialist with the Lake George Waterkeeper, Fund for Lake George, provided a Dunhams Bay specific follow-up to her 2011 presentation showing the sobering results of the Algal Bloom Monitoring Project throughout the Lake George basin.

Anyone who missed the meeting slide show and presentation are urged to go to the following website to view the dramatic photographic evidence produced by the survey project: <http://www.fundforlakegeorge.org/index.asp?lg=1&w=pages&r=30&pid=64>

Since the 2011 meeting, Kathy has snorkeled Dunhams Bay and taken under-water photographs of the shorefront. Of the approximately 60 waterfront parcels in the bay, there are about 12 that show algal blooms indicative of fertilizer use and/or septic failure. Although the Waterkeeper's office has identified where these blooms are occurring, no property owners were identified at the meeting.

Anyone interested in seeing pictures of the underwater area in front of their cottage may contact Kathy Bozony at the Waterkeeper's office and she will share the information she has. Everyone is encouraged to look at their property and take every opportunity possible to make changes (perhaps enhancing a buffer, meandering a walkway or adding permeable pavements or a rain garden) that will further protect the lake. For the handful of cottages that have greater problems, the Waterkeeper's office can help owners go about identifying and fixing the source of the problem.

You can contact Kathy as follows: By mail: Kathy Bozony, Lake George Waterkeeper's Office, 2199a Route 9 / PO Box 591, Lake George, NY 12845. By telephone: 518-668-5913. By e-mail: kbozony@lakegeorgewaterkeeper.org

Summary of Kathy's presentation:

Algal blooms are a symptom of excess nutrients. Lake George is an oligotrophic lake (characterized by high clarity, low activity, low fish population). Over the centuries, as lakes age, they eutrophy (characterized by waters rich in mineral and organic nutrients that promote a proliferation of plant life, especially algae, which reduces the dissolved oxygen content and often causes the extinction of other organisms). The effects of the dramatic increase in nutrients added from human activity (storm water runoff, fertilizers, failing septic systems) around the lake is causing the "cultural" eutrophication of Lake George (quick and untimely eutrophication).

- Lake George has a small watershed (5 to 1; land mass to water). Lake George water quality is changing. There are massive algae blooms with 45 different types of algae identified.
- Excess algae growth depletes oxygen in the lake as it decomposes and contributes to the deep water "dead zone" where fish and other organisms that need oxygen cannot live.
- Unmanaged storm water runoff (chemicals, oil, sediment) is also fueling the "dead zone".
- Lake dredging projects cause demonstrated and dramatic spikes in algae growth due to the resulting nutrients released. Dredging also opens area for invasive plants after native plants are removed.
- Lawn (and other) pesticides and fertilizers (even if phosphorus free) add nutrients and chemicals to the lake. There are currently no pesticides safe for use around water. See: <http://www.fundforlakegeorge.org/index.asp?lg=1&w=pages&r=72&pid=81>
- The Town of Lake George has banned fertilizers containing phosphorus. The Town of Queensbury has banned fertilizer within 50 feet of water and requires any lawn fertilizer used between 50 and 200 feet of shorelines to be phosphorous-free. New York State prohibits the use of fertilizers that contain phosphorus on lawns (except when a new lawn is being established or a soil test has indicated a need for additional phosphorus).
- Every shorefront owner can help (and some need to more than others) by creating buffers (trees, shrubs, bushes, perennials) at the shore.
- Homeowners need to do everything possible to get storm water into the ground so it doesn't run directly into the lake.
- Homeowners must do regular septic system maintenance. (The "Do-It-Yourself Water Quality" guide for landowners outlines what shorefront owners can/should do. It is available free of charge by contacting the Fund for Lake George at 518-668-9700.)
- The Town of Queensbury is the only lake town which requires buffers (for new construction but unfortunately not for renovation).

Water Quality Awareness Committees

Kathy spoke about the Water Quality Awareness Committees that she has worked to form on Assembly Point and on Cleverdale/Rockhurst. Kathy envisions similar resident groups around the lake to help encourage towns, counties and the Park Commission to address water quality issues. Kathy encouraged the DBA to form a Water Quality Awareness Committee.

The members present were interested in working with the Waterkeeper's office to create a Dunhams Bay Water Quality Awareness Committee (DBWQAC) and several said they would be willing to participate. Barbara Simms volunteered to chair the committee. A kick-off meeting will be scheduled for early August. Anyone interested in participating can contact Barbara Simms by telephone at 518-656-9072 or by e-mail at LSimms@roadrunner.com

The DBWQAC will work to foster awareness and initiate remediation projects. Later this season, the Waterkeeper's office and the DBWQAC will reach out to any property owners who have been identified as having algal blooms in front of their properties (and have not already contacted Kathy Bozony) in an effort to identify and resolve the problem.

Dunhams Bay Association's 2012 Annual Business Meeting

Dunhams Bay Association (DBA) President Cheryl Baldwin opened the meeting by welcoming the DBA members. Ted Brothers mentioned his new neighbors (and new DBA members), the Dunton family. Len Simms acknowledged the Ginsburg family as new members, as well. Cheryl welcomed guest speaker Kathy Bozony, Natural Resource Specialist, Lake George Waterkeeper's Office, of the Fund for Lake George.

Old Business

1. Cheryl Baldwin provided an update on the DBA's latest request to the NYS Department of Transportation to reduce Route 9L speed limit around Dunhams Bay. In NYSDOT's May 3, 2012 response they indicated that a field review will be done this summer. DOT will also review the accident history in the area and then get back to the DBA. Cheryl indicated that the field review was scheduled for mid-July. It was agreed that the DBA will wait for the DOT response before taking any additional action.
2. Cheryl Baldwin asked for approval of the 2011 Meeting minutes. The motion was moved by Ellie Strack and seconded by Ted Brothers.
3. Len Simms distributed a copy of the "DBA Member Address List" including both US mail and e-mail addresses and the "DBA Member E-mail List". Members present were asked to review and, if necessary, update their current mail and e-mail addresses. The updated "DBA Address Book" will be distributed to members with the meeting minutes (see attached). The names of members who have paid their 2012 dues will be in bold print.
4. Len Simms distributed the revised map of Dunhams Bay property owners showing owner names and parcel id numbers. Any errors should be brought to Len's attention.
5. Membership dues for 2012 (\$20.00) should be made payable to the Dunhams Bay Association and sent to:
Lenton Simms
8 Burnt Ridge Road
Lake George, NY 12845

New Business

1. **Noise in the bay:** Cheryl Baldwin and other's with cottages at the head of the bay expressed concerns and complaints about the excessive noise from the Dunhams Bay Resort (DBR). The noise is usually associated with wedding receptions (including one unannounced fireworks display) held in the tent over the patio area at the back of the Lodge. The noise typically continues until 11 PM. John Salvador felt that the DBR's latest site plan review limited events to 10 PM. Cheryl Baldwin and others were concerned that their properties are beyond the 500 foot notification zone (from the DBR) so they do not know when there are actions involving the DBR (such as site plan reviews) before town boards. Arkley Mastro indicated that some towns will accept requests from other interested parties to be notified if/when such actions come before town boards and/or committees. John Salvador indicated that the DBR's interim site plan is to be revisited again this fall in anticipation of final approval. When the review is scheduled, it will be available on the Town of Queensbury home page (<http://www.queensbury.net/>) in the "Upcoming Events" section in the right hand corner.

Len Simms volunteered to gather the information on the DBR site plan review, look into the notification process, and make sure that members are aware of upcoming events related to the DBR. (See below.)

President Cheryl Baldwin assigned Len Simms to attend any town meetings related to the DBR. Len indicated that he will gladly accompany other members to the meeting but, since he has never heard the noise, he did not feel qualified to speak on the subject. Len also indicated that he will try and visit the area in the late evening when he sees a wedding at the DBR. Len also invited members to contact him when a noisy event is going on and he will come down to witness the noise.

Information Len Simms obtained: *Noise from the tent:* There is no town noise ordinance that might provide relief. Town Zoning Administrator, Craig Brown (518-761-8218) and Pam Whiting in the Town of Queensbury Planning Office let Len review the Dunhams Bay Resort's Site Plan Review files. After reviewing all the meeting transcripts and the preliminary resolution passed by the Town Board, Len found that there was extensive discussion of noise issues during the 6/15/2010 hearings (including noise concerns raised by neighbors) yet the Site Plan approved by the Town Planning Board on July 20, 2010 did not include any noise restriction. Although repeatedly delayed, Craig Brown hopes the DBR Site Plan will be revisited in September 2012. Len Simms will draft a letter from the DBA president to the town urging that the site plan be revisited. **Individual letters from affected neighbors to the Town Supervisor and Craig Brown asking that the site plan be revisited and that noise issues be addressed might provide the needed catalyst.** *Noise from fireworks:* Town Fire Marshall Mike Palmer (518-761-8200, ext. 8206) indicates there is an extensive town permit process for fireworks but that process does not include notification of nearby neighbors. This year's "surprise fireworks" were not properly permitted. The Sheriff's Department could have been called and could have taken appropriate action to stop the display.

2. **Anchoring in the bay:** Ellie Strack raised a concern about the large cruising sailboat that was anchored in the bay, in front of her cottage, for about a week this spring. Ellie reported that she called the Lake George Park Commission to ask how/why this boat could be moored where it was. Apparently the boat's owner was staying at the Dunhams Bay Resort and had anchored in the bay for the duration of his/her visit. Ellie learned that, under current rules, as long as they are at least 100' from shore and, unless otherwise prohibited (Sandy Bay and Paradise Bay are well known exceptions), boats are allowed to anchor anywhere, on Lake George. Elsie was concerned that the boat was not clearly visible to other boaters when at anchor. Ellie indicated that the boat did display a light at anchor as required by the "at anchor" Coast Guard rules that apply on Lake George.

3. **Boat traffic in the bay:** Cheryl Baldwin summarized details of a letter from Lt. Harold Barber, Senior Environmental Conservation Officer, in response to the DBA's letter to the Lake George Park Commission concerning speed limit enforcement within Dunhams Bay. The letter addressed lake-wide enforcement but was noticeably short on details about Dunhams Bay enforcement. The only advise...contact the Marine Patrol through the Warren County Sheriff's dispatch by telephone or by marine channel 16.

Len Simms promised to include the telephone number again this year so everyone will have it:

The Warren County Sheriff Office headquarters may be reached at 518-743-2500 (or 911 in an emergency).

Several members mentioned boaters who flagrantly (and in some cases regularly) ignored the 5 MPH speed limit from "head to foot" of the bay. Others reported boaters speeding out of the bay until reaching the three 5 MPH buoys as they entered the main lake where upon they slowed down in confusion.

Mary Lou Lempert pointed out the lack of 5 MPH signs for boaters coming into the bay from the Parillo marina on the other side of the Route 9L bridge. Mary Lou suggested the DBA pursue signs to alert boaters entering from the marina to the 5 MPH speed zone. John Salvador recounted the removal of the previous sign when the Route 9L bridge was redone by the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT).

After discussion, it was agreed that the DBA should attempt to have a 5 MPH sign posted at the marina and/or on the Route 9L bridge. The DBA will reach out to DBA member Mr. Frank Parillo and the NYSDOT for permission to erect effective sign(s).

In a related discussion, Bud Maddocks and Arkley Mastro questioned the visual adequacy of the three existing 5 MPH buoys. It was suggested that, if necessary, the DBA might pay for 5 MPH signs to be placed at the bridge and for refurbishing the three markers at the mouth of the bay. (After the meeting Len Simms examined each of the markers at the mouth of the bay and found that the markings were clear, bright and visible from the water.)

4. **Election of Officers:** The following slate of officers was submitted, accepted, seconded by Ellie Strack and passed:

President – Cheryl Baldwin
Vice President – Phil Mitchell
Secretary and Treasurer – Len Simms
Board Members at Large – Sharon Davies, Kathy Ervolina

5. **Financial Report:** The report was given by Treasurer, Len Simms. Len indicated the accounts have been reconciled to TD Banknorth statements and reported a positive cash balance, after mailing and luncheon expenses, of \$600.00. Mary Lou Lempert moved that the financial report be accepted as submitted, the motion was seconded by Doug Wrigley and the report accepted (see attached).

6. **Donations to Other Organizations:** Mary Lou Lempert moved, and Doug Wrigley seconded, that the DBA make the following 2012 donations:

\$100 Fund for Lake George
\$100 North Queensbury Rescue Squad
\$100 Mountainside Free Library
\$100 Lake George Land Conservancy
\$100 Lake George Association

Other Business

Len Simms passed around informational flyers on invasive Chinese Wall Lettuce that has taken hold in the Assembly Point/Dunhams Bay area (see http://poststar.com/news/local/article_693bd782-83ce-11df-bafb-001cc4c002e0.html). Len encouraged members to be vigilant in pulling up and disposing this aggressive invader if they find it on their property. Anyone who is interested can see an example of unchecked Wall Lettuce growing next to and behind George and Patty Pensel's property at the dead end of Lake Parkway on Assembly Point.

2013 Meeting

Cheryl Baldwin proposed, and members agreed, that the 2013 DBA meeting be held on July 13, 2013 at 11 AM at the Sans Souci Restaurant.

2012 Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned shortly after 12 PM.