Oneida Lake Association
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Greetings!

WHAT'S UP?

At the Annual Meeting a member reported an accumulation of debris and muck at the angler access area along the Muskrat Bay Road adjacent to Oneida Shores. Unfortunately, the accumulation was within the casting range of shore anglers. NYSDEC-R7 Fisheries Manager Dave Lemon provided a response, belatedly reported here.

The team of biologists checking the site found that in the first 40 yards offshore the lakebed was covered in largely organic muck (weeds, silts, etc) that had accumulated in the sheltered bay over the winter/spring season. They did not find any significant amount of trash or large material, and beyond 40 yards offshore the cobble bottom was exposed and debris-free.

It appears that the temporary siltation is a natural result of the seasonal waves, wind, and currents. Depending on weather patterns, one can expect this accumulaton to change over time.

The biologists also checked the culvert and wetland stream on the south side of the road. They found no significant obstruction and no evidence of dumping.

We thank the member for voicing an interest, and for DEC in responding.

OLA Directors hosted town, county, state, and federal employees who work on our lake interests at the annual **August Networking Meeting**.

Our theme for discussion this year pertained to the BOD's growing concern regarding lake sedimentation. We heard from scuba diver Tim Caza, NYS Canal Corporation hydrologist, Howard Goebel, USGS hydrogeologist Bill Kappel, and NYSDEC investigator Robert Johnson who brought a drone display.

Members who attended the 2017 Annual Meeting will recall Guest Speaker Tim Caza revealing 50 dive wrecks that he and his associates located in Oneida Lake. The most significant reveal was that of the state's (Nation's?) only known substantive

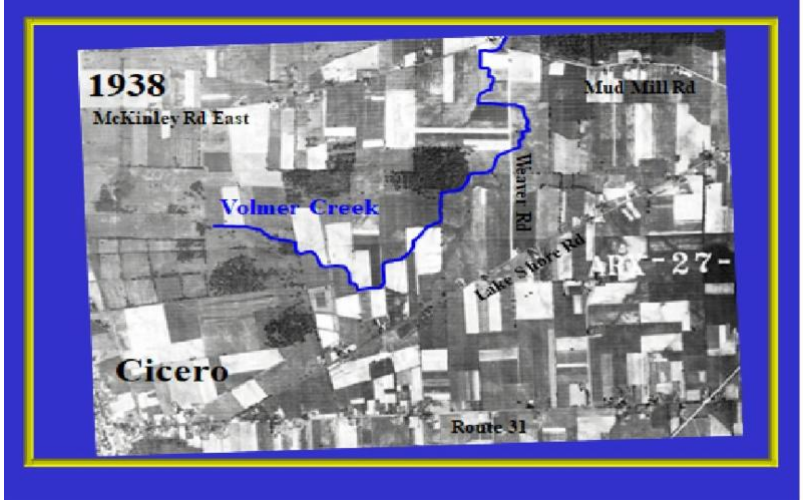
sunken Durham boat - the type of craft that George Washington used to cross the Delaware! That wreck in Oneida Lake was nearly lost, because after 200 years it was covered by nearly 4 feet of silt, with only inches of its outline protruding above the lake bottom. It was that revelation that congealed the OLA-BOD to address long-standing anecdotes and complaints about the amount of sediment entering the lake, All too often significant sediment plumes are visible beyond the mouths of Oneida, Canaseraga, and Chittenango Creeks.

When a landscape is urbanized from open agriculture or forest, less evapotranspiration takes place. Where 50% of the rainfall once infiltrated the soil, and 10% ran off to streams, in highly developed areas only 15% may enter the soil and 55% runs off into the watershed. The landscape change alters not only the immediate area, but also what is downstream. In the three slides below from Howard's presentation, you should be able to interpret the significance of the changes. The area depicted (see below) is in Cicero, between Mud Mill Road, Route 31, and South Bay Road.

As Howard summarized:

1. **The Oneida Lake watershed continues to undergo major changes.**
2. **The Oneida Lake outlet cannot easily be modified to increase its hydraulic capacity and reduce flood impacts.**
3. **Climate Change and watershed development are both impacting runoff.**
4. **Development should adhere to Storm water Management Principles, Better Site Design, and consider the concept of No Adverse Impact to minimize impacts of Oneida Lake and its tributaries.**

The message is for ***ALL*** **town planning, zoning, and codes department staff** to better consider not only what happens in their township, but also to recognize that such development accelerates erosion due to concentration of runoff (the stream did not get bigger), as well as deleterious effects on down slope habitats from what is carried in that unfiltered urbanized discharge.



Bill Kappel, some may remember, headlined some news when the Tully Valley mud "boiled," during a 1993 landslide, destroying several homes on the west valley slope, and when a 2002 landslide in Sheds filled Limestone Creek with sediment that threatened a major power line and put turbid water all the way downstream into Oneida Lake. Kappell also addressed the attendees at the networking meeting.

How do we reduce/control soil erosion/movement to improve the Water Quality of Oneida Lake?

Watershed sediment transport can be controlled to a certain degree by:

1.Modifying land-disturbance practices where possible to slow the movement of runoff which will reduce, in turn, the erosive capacity of moving water.
2. Limit the size of land disturbance at any one time and quickly restore and re-

vegetate exposed soils of any type.
3.a.) Identify locations of current soil erosion (steep hillsides, fragile soils, failing stream banks and slopes) and
b.) design restoration activities, and
c.) prioritize implementation of projects to reduce future soil erosion and infrastructure failure.
4. Increase the time it takes for rainfall/runoff to move to nearby streams and creeks – such as water detention (storage), water retention (infiltration) structures.
5. Design and implement in-stream structures to slowly route water downstream, limiting stream bed/stream bank erosion
6. **Bottom line** – It will take a combined watershed commitment of time and funding to accomplish any effort to retain and limit soil erosion within any watershed.

For further reading, here are some suggestions:

Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board, 2006, Priority Erosion Sites in the Oneida Lake Watershed, 19 p.
http://www.cnyrpdb.org/oneidalake/pdf/WatershedErosionReport_2006-11.pdf

Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board, 2004. A Management Strategy for Oneida Lake and Its Watershed, Syracuse, New York, 122 p.
https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://www.bing.com/&httpsredir=1&article=1043&context=wr_misc

Domack, E.W., Ingmire, S., and Arnold, K., 2004 (draft), Sediment dynamics of the Oneida Creek delta, Oneida Lake, New York, Prepared for the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board, Syracuse, NY, 93p.
http://www.cnyrpdb.org/oneidalake/pdf/SedimentDynamics[HR].pdf

Gao, P., and Zhang, Z., 2016, Spatial patterns of sediment dynamics within a medium-sized watershed over an extreme storm event, Geomorphology, V. 267, p. 25-36.
https://pegao.expressions.syr.edu/wp-content/uploads/Gao-Zhang_Geomorphology_2016.pdf

Gao, P., and Josefson, M., 2012, Temporal variations of suspended sediment transport in Oneida Creek watershed, central New York, Journal of Hydrology, v. 426-427, p. 17-27. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0022169412000558

Makarewicz, J.C., Lewis, T.W., 2003. Nutrients and Suspended Solid Losses from Oneida Lake Tributaries, 2002-2003: Butternut, Big Bay, Chittenango, Canaseraga, Cowaselon, Fish, Limestone, Oneida, Scriba and Wood Creeks, Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board. Syracuse, New York. 53 p.
https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://www.bing.com/&httpsredir=1&article=1074&context=tech_rep

Makarewicz, J.C., and Lewis, T.W., 2000, Nutrient and sediment loss from Oneida Lake tributaries - The South Shore Tributaries, Prepared for the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board, Syracuse, NY, 54p.
http://www.cnyrpdb.org/oneidalake/pdf/SOLWFinal/af.pdf

Tim Caza was also invited to reiterate his advocacy for the **Blue Water Trail**, a scuba diving asset that could boost tourism and an associated part of the local economy.

Divers in Lake Champlain and the St. Lawrence River now dive on wrecks identified by tethered buoys that are anchored in such a way as to swiftly locate a dive site, align divers directly onto wrecks, avoiding the need to drop individual anchors and destroy the wrecks. There is some noise in the Finger Lakes to put buoys out on some wrecks there (Tim and his crew found several more!).

But Oneida Lake has more dive sites almost ready to go, if only Tim and local dive

advocates of an Onieda Lake leg of the Trail can be put in place. OLA support this initiative, and asks that the state agencies, legislators, town and county tourism departments, and the dive community start earnest talks to make it happen.

VOLUNTEER WATER CHESTNUT PULL

On July 14, OLA members Kevin Dudash and Jack Williams, along with Directors Ryan Asmus and Carl Ford gathered at Lewis Point to remove water chestnut plants. Water chestnut is an invasive species that is detrimental to aquatic life and to enjoyment of the Lake by boaters and swimmers. The small volume of plants encountered at this site is a good indication of the success of past efforts there. First identified four years ago, three years of pulling has eliminated most of the plants and nuts that can lie dormant in the mud for years.

Working at a second location that day, a group of Scouts from Troop 2 in Oneida along with a “strike team” from the Finger Lakes Initiative at Hobart and William Smith Colleges participated at the Oneida Lake Marina. They were very effective in harvesting over 900 pounds from boat basins there.

Members and friends of the lake who spot this weed in June can help curtail its spread by removing the plants before seeds are released in late July-August.

Thank you to all the participants who helped make this outing a success, including Susan McCraith from McCraith Beverages for permitting access at Lewis Point.

OLA also thanks members of the Onondaga and Oswego County Soil and Water Conservation Districts who have helped remove plants from waters between the Rt 11 and Rt 81 bridges. This is the site of the first water chestnut infestation called to our attention by late Director and former OLA President Bill Schriever in 2000.

QUESTIONS ASKED OF THE BOARD:

What can OLA do to raise the level of concern regarding beach closures and restricted (voluntary or otherwise) use of the lake due to algal blooms?

In comparing with what the website contained a decade ago, OLA is trying to raise the level of consciousness of our members and visitors. The issues and speakers at our Annual Meetings, and articles in our *Bulletin* and ENews are indeed attempts to heighten concerns for which some action may be taken. Our enlistment of Dr. Greg Boyer to speak at the 2018 Annual Meeting is but one example of OLA's continuing trend for improvement.

Long-time residents can recall days before sewers were installed, and phosphates banned; drought years of the mid-1960s left the lake pea soup for most of July and August. With climate change, there seems to be adverse warming effects that worsen with increased latitude. Locally, the seasonal temperature rise recorded over the last 20 years has climbed (and the number of ice-free days has increased).

At this time, given the geology/soils and nutrient relationship within our drainage basin, we are doubtful that there is any simple measure to consider relative to curtailing blooms. The risk-averse segment of our society will likely to continue to respond with frequent beach closures. Monitoring the actual toxin and toxicity levels near the beaches - as well as *E. coli* bacterial counts - is prudent. However, such tests take time and money. OLA cannot fault those responsible for closing beaches, if only on appearance and fiscal considerations. That is their job. Nevertheless, users - especially OLA members - should avail themselves of opportunities and resources to learn about cyanobacteria, and what is scientifically rational, before succumbing to the hue and cry of social media blurbs bemoaning the health of Oneida Lake.

There *are* some measures, albeit having a small affect, that each of us can take. Educating drainage basin residents to curtail fertilizers (and just plain energy use, in the stream of individual products used and discarded, as contributing to atmospheric heat), completing and upgrading/adding sewer districts around the lake and tributaries, curtailing upland and stream bank erosion and sedimentation into the lake, and even letting grass grow a bit taller to retard rapid runoff of rainstorms.

Pay your dues, and HELP PROTECT ONEIDA LAKE!!!!

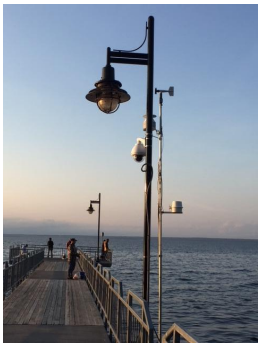
If you have an avocation and interest in serving OLA, please reach out to one of the Directors - our contact info is at our website.
The BOD anticipates that there will be at least one Director vacancy in the next year or so. Directors meet once a month; each Director must serve on at least one standing committee, volunteer for special events, and anticipate advancement to an officer's position after serving for a few 2-year terms.

Talewaters: The NEW TRAFFIC CIRCLE - replacing the intersection of Routes 31 and 298 (Bridgeport Road) - is functional, and sidewalks are being installed. Watch your approach to Bridgeport for then new crosswalks, signage, and speed changes when you enter the round-about. Give the tractor trailers and larger vehicles a bit of space.

Meanwhile, be careful in this area as you adjust to new traffic generated by the casino. There have been several fender benders since it opened. NYSDOTA has not yet begun to built the new turning lane. National Grid has installed new poles, although 'double wood' remains until Verizon and Spectrum complete thier relocations to the new poles. Obey "men working" rules, recalling that "Safety is No Accident".

ANGLERS REPORT that fishing is tough now. Water temperatures and emergence of baitfish have put off 'the bite' until Fall turnover.

TOWN OF SULLIVAN'S CHAPMAN PARK WEATHER STATION AND WEBCAM IS ONLINE



Kudos to the Town for acting on an OLA initiative. The weather station can be seen on the Town's website http://townofsullivan.org/content/Weather. OLA has webcam links on our splash page http://www.oneidalakeassociation.org/.

Lock this site into your mobile phone before ice-fishing season!

Pay your dues, recruit your non-member neighbors and friends, and HELP PROTECT ONEIDA LAKE!!!!

Donate

Help OLA function. Memorials and contributions to our program are most welcome.

OLA is a 501(c)4 organization serving protection of the Oneida Lake environment.

The Oneida Lake Association is a member of the New York State Conservation Council http://www.nyscc.com/ and the New York State Federation of Lake Associations http://www.nysfola.org/.

Report environmental violations. Please remember to obey all laws, rules, regulations, and codes of ethics as they pertain to boating, fishing, hunting, and management of Oneida Lake and its drainage basin. Be civil. *1-844-DEC-ECOS (1-844-332-3267) or 1-800-TIPP DEC (1-800-847-7332)*

Edited by Scott Shupe and John Harmon.
Send us your notes and articles for use in future ENews!