

# LAKE OSCAWANA DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

## Summer Greetings from Town Supervisor Bob Tendency

I hope you are all enjoying this beautiful summer. We live in a town that is an oasis of environmental splendor! We are blessed with beautiful lakes, and the jewel of them all is Lake Oscawana, a gorgeous 386 acre lake.

The Lake Oscawana District is an "aquatic plant control district." As with many lakes in the country, there has been a continuous battle against a) invasive non-native plant species, and b) excessive external and internal phosphorous loading-- which can lead to c) excessive algal growth. These problems are not unique to Lake Oscawana, but the Lake Oscawana Advisory Committee is working to improve them.

Lake Oscawana District Committee advises Town Board about lake issues and problems, how to manage/remedy them and how district taxes will be used to maintain and improve the lake. Its importance as a committee is vital to our community.

After consulting this committee, our professional advisors, and receiving input from lake residents, including the Lake Oscawana Civic Association, at two public information meetings, the Town Board applied to NYS DEC for a permit to stock sterile grass eating carp for our lake. These measures, and other measures taken over the years to protect the lake, are some of the things that the Lake Oscawana Advisory Committee does.

If you think you would like to inquire as to getting involved with the committee, please feel free to contact me at 845-526-2121 (office); or 845-222-0980 (c); or [btendency@putnamvalley.com](mailto:btendency@putnamvalley.com).



**There will be a district meeting on October 18th 10 am at the Library to review the status of our lake and your tax dollars at work. A Town Board representative will attend. If you received this newsletter you live in the district and you pay taxes for the upkeep of the lake.**

## **Lake improvement projects successfully completed in the past 3 years:**

- 1) Annual stocking of Walleye fish to maintain the balance of zooplankton in the lake bottom.
- 2) Federal grant of \$400,000 applied to watershed management projects including phosphate filters in existing catch basins, creation of new catch basins, creation of biofilter on West Shore drive
- 3) \$300,000 State grant with \$100,000 matching funds from our tax district used to manage stormwater runoff



4) Purchase of new harvester; purchase of a newer truck to haul the weeds; additional employee so that harvesting can be continuous during the week.

5) Introduction of a 3 year septic pump out regulation, tied into a monitoring system in the assessment office; Ban on phosphate fertilizers in the watershed.

### **STATUS OF THE LAKE:**

We have been overtaken by invasive weed species (milfoil and curly leaf pond weeds) which have made the density of weeds 30% of our acreage. As a result the town has applied to the DEC for a permit to place sterile grass carp in our lake. That application was completed in January 2014 but the DEC has not made a decision. The application included outlet barriers so the carp cannot escape downstream. An engineering plan has been submitted as well to accomplish the construction of the barriers on the outflow streams.

Our fish population however is doing well and we have plentiful bass, walleye, pickerel, perch, catfish.

In the past 3 years our nutrient load (phosphates and nitrogen) in the lake has improved. We are awaiting this year's monitoring data.

### **PLANS FOR THE FUTURE:**

- 1) **Continue to monitor the lake for nutrient loading. Consider other lake interventions if necessary.**
- 2) **Assess the impact of the carp on our lake. We are advised that it will take 2 years before we see results.**
- 3) **Increase involvement of the folks who use the lake and admire the lake so that we all participate in its upkeep.**

**PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO WORK ON THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE. WE MEET ONCE A MONTH AT THE LIBRARY AND ADVISE THE TOWN BOARD ON PROJECTS AND USE OF OUR TAX DISTRICT MONEY.**