

1907 – Eagle Lake Property Owners, Inc. –Fall / Winter 2021 Newsletter

Celebrating 114 years of responsible lake stewardship.

Greetings ELPOI members and friends,

Happy Holidays - hopefully everybody had a splendid Thanksgiving holiday with gatherings of family and friends, food and all the other trimmings as near "normal" as possible.

As Fall has arrived with its usual camp chores and close-ups, I wanted to update everyone on the activities your volunteer ELPOI Board has been working on. The following is a brief summary of events that your ELPOI officers have been involved with or are monitoring.

Weather - Thanksgiving week also brought some weather changes to the lake - Eagle Lake got a quick snow squall around 3pm on 11/26 - here is an image of the result from 11/27. The first time temperatures dipped into the low 30's was November 5th and the first hard frost was November 24th with a temperature of 25 degrees



Water Level - The torrential rains we received this summer made it difficult to maintain an acceptable water level even though the boards had been taken out at the dam. NYS DEC direction is for water level at +/- 4 inches. Officially, the water level is controlled by adjusting boards in the State dam. July's rain total was impressive at some 20 inches. At the height of the rain the lake topped out at plus 10 inches. For those wondering why the lake level might have seemed excessively high this Fall, the lake received some 5 inches of rain from the end of October till the 2nd week in November. A wet season at times for sure.



Image of dock that is normally 18 inches above the water

Beavers and lots of them - On another note about the high water. Beavers were very active throughout the winter of 2020 and spring of 2021. Nearly every weekend time was spent breaking up their dam. The trapper we had caught two beavers in the spring of 2021, but he is no longer available. ELPOI retained a professional trapper this Fall to deal with the constant battle of removing debris from the spillway dam. Our new trapper, Jim Comstock, is a career trapper located in Gansevoort, NY. In one weeks time in early September he was able to set traps and remove an additional 6 very large beavers. He commented that they looked well fed, this is not surprising as the beavers love to eat the lily roots found in the channel from the boat launch to the dam. After their removal the water was flowing unhindered over the dam. However, after a few weeks our volunteer dam spotters/ maintainers found that there is probably still one beaver, maybe more, working the area as every week there is still some debris piled on the dam. With the distance the trapper needs to travel to daily check his traps he has asked if there is a local resident that wouldn't mind doing such and report to him any activity that he needs to address. One of our residents has agreed to do this and hopefully they can work together to catch the last of this year's beavers. This work will start when the lake ices over and the trapper is able to access the Beaver lodge. On the positive side of this, a mid October kayak paddle down the lake from the boat launch to the spillway did not show any dams in the channel where the beavers have in

the past loved to build. With the beavers under control lake level adjustments will be back in our hands as opposed to the beavers. Excessive or deficient rains still trump all of our efforts.

Winter drawdown/ Spring fill up - Please be advised that the normal draw down occurs the weekend following Columbus Day. All the boards are removed from the dam at this point. Winter lake levels should be (without beavers) around minus 6-8. Boards will be replaced in early spring around the time all ice is out and then it's up to mother nature to fill the lake with rain and any remaining snow melt. Please keep these dates in mind for boat launching and haul outs.

Ice eaters and winter safety With winter's arrival several folks on EL are considering or are currently using de-icing tools such as bubblers or propeller driven water movers (ice eaters). With their use comes responsibilities for those installing and using them. Use of a de-icer (bubbler) does not generally require a DEC permit around a private dock or breakwall, etc., however safety issues must be considered since the open water area can become excessive. While the goal of using an ice eater is to keep the item that remains in the water protected from ice damage, without proper observation and or electronic controls, extensive excess open water around the item can be created causing safety hazards for those snowmobiling or walking the lake. It is generally recommended by manufacturers of these devices, other lake associations and local governments regulating them to:

- not be an absent user, ie. someone who sets up the unit in the Fall and returns to turn it off in the Spring,
- only open up approximately 3 feet of space beyond the device being protected,
- use a marker light and post safety warning signs,
- Install clock times, duty cycle and temperature monitoring controls so that the "ice eater" only runs when conditions are appropriate to build ice.
- Monitor the system either in person or with remote video, and adjust it according to need and conditions.

With the more recent use of bubblers on EL, it poses an invisible danger to those long-time residents and visitors using the lake ice for

winter recreation, as it may catch them off guard from what they historically expect. Please be considerate of our neighbor's and visitors' privilege to enjoy the lake's frozen wonders of ice fishing, walking, snowmobiling, etc., as well as your interest in protecting your property.

According to information on the DEC website, "a bubbler with a ½ hp motor will keep a 50 foot diameter and a ¾ hp motor will keep a 75 foot diameter area clear of ice in quiet waters. Keep in mind also that open water in winter, invites waterfowl to "winter-over", rodents to burrow under your dock into the shoreline and encourages early growth or continued winter growth of both desirable and invasive aquatic plants. Neither of which is desirable for them or us.

Let us work together to avoid a conflict or tragedy.

Treasurer's report regarding membership -

This year's membership count is very similar to years past. Fifty of our lake residents have joined together again this year to support the mission of the ELPOI to monitor and protect our mutual interest in the lake's water quality. Five businesses and six associates have also joined in this effort. To date \$2,200 has been deposited and we thank all those that joined/ paid their dues and made additional contributions. But on this note, in the past two years ELPOI has seen income revenue drop from \$4,000 to the current level of \$2,200. With this year's current expenditures of \$2,000 for water testing, beaver control, donations to local service organizations and a few other miscellaneous expenditures, we will for the first time in decades just have enough income to cover expenditures. Two caveats that are related to this are that in 2021 we had a significant expense related to beaver removal, and in years past International Paper, now Sylvamo, has provided us with a grant (we have not been notified if this will be possible in 2022). On the bright side ELPOI has been able to, over the past few years, build a reserve and our bank account balance is \$20,000. There is also ELPOI members' monies (from reimbursement of the NYS DEC 2007 milfoil project grant) for invasives monitoring and control (or other expenditures as voted on) sitting in a bank account managed by the Town of Crown Point. These funds total \$34,000.

Name Change - International Paper got a new name, Sylvamo, and some new operating guidelines this Fall. In conversation with Communications Director Donna Wadsworth, about possible future grants, she expressed great promise for future growth of the company under the new direction and is optimistic that grant monies might be more readily accessible because decisions related to them would be made locally. IP has in the past, and we hope in the future, been a great supporter of the ELPOI with many thousands gifted in grant monies, milfoil project materials, newsletter printing and many other items. Thanks Donna for making the arrangements on these!

Gooseneck water by Steve M.

Excerpts from an email received from Steve M.

“As of October 13th, the Board of the Town of Ticonderoga has not taken official steps to 1. Make a decision on the request to not be included in the proposed new water district, 2. Officially approve the MPR (Map, Plan, Report). No date has been set to take actions on them.

The person I talked to believes that when the Board does, it will be all or none. They will not allow any requests to not be included. Everyone who was a contract user in the initial MPR will be in the new district. No exceptions. Or, the Board will decide not to proceed with the replacement system.

The Town has submitted the MPR to the State. Because it is a “high cost district” (exceeding \$887 per year), the MPR needs approval from the State Comptroller’s Office.

If the Town and the State approve the MPR, there will be a 30 day period in which a referendum can be requested so the property owners can vote on the proposed water district. This should be detailed in the Questions and Answers on the Town website.”

Town of Ticonderoga Water District Proposal

- Approximately 105 property owners along Route 74 (Chilson and Eagle Lake area) are being affected by the proposed June 2025 Gooseneck Pond closure. The Town of Ticonderoga was ordered by the state and

federal governments to shut down Gooseneck Pond as a water source. Much to the surprise of those residents who have been receiving town water, they are considered "contract users", not "district users". The town has had several public meetings to explain three options of requiring those residents to form their own water district at an enormous expense. The least expensive option is approximately \$2,700 per year for 30-40 years depending on the funding. This entails running a water line from the town well on Street Road to a holding tank on Chilson Hill. The water would then be pumped to Chilson Hill and further on to Eagle Lake residents. Some have requested to "opt out" and to drill private wells. The town has not yet given their permission on these requests. The town is seeking grant funds from the state and federal governments to help offset the cost of a water district. The residents are still waiting on definitive answers. For further information, visit the Town of Ticonderoga website.

ELPOI and the water district - the ELPOI's mission does not directly cover any issues related to the Gooseneck water issue. The mission of ELPOI is specific to covering lake water quality issues. The information provided above about the water system is provided by those volunteers that have attended meetings, have asked questions for their personal knowledge and have the interest to share it with us. Please direct any questions to them or directly to the Town Supervisor. If you have any information to share please direct to one of the ELPOI officers.

Water Testing - No fecal testing of the Eagle Lake water was conducted in 2020 due to the closure of Darrin Fresh Water Institute's lab due to the pandemic. A lab in Ballston Spa was able to accommodate our samples for 2021. Rolf and Chris collected and delivered them. Results are available on our website at eaglelake1.org, look for the archives tab and scroll to the bottom of the list for water quality reports. Results for this year's tests are the same as past years with only very small amounts of fecal matter being detected at a few locations, the tests can not discriminate between human and bird etc.. With this said the lake continues to be suitable for our recreational endeavors.



Volunteer Chris H. grabs an "at arms length" water sample for fecal testing on a brisk September morning

CSLAP water testing - ELPOI volunteers continued this year to collect and pre-process 8 bi-monthly water samples for the Citizen Statewide Lake Assessment Program. This program in cooperation with NSFOLA and the DEC provides chemical and analytical observations for lake water quality. Eagle Lake has been sending samples for the past 21 years. The latest report indicates only minor fluctuations in the observed data over this time period, most relating to water clarity and temperature - observations for all other analyticals have been stable. All previous reports are available on the ELPOI website under archives/ water quality reports/ CSLAP.



Photo of Rolf and Dianne T completing a Sechii disk depth measurement

Route 74 Radar Speed Sign - The Town of Ti once again honored our request for a light-up speed sign along Route 74. It was set up for about a month, followed by intermittent radar patrol by the New York State Police, the county Sheriff's and the Ti Police. A New York State Officer on duty one day was verbally thanked for his patrol. Written thank you notes have been

sent to all involved parties along with requests for them to continue the monitoring/ enforcement in 2022. Remember that we, too, must comply and if we get stopped we have only ourselves to blame. Due to the narrowness of Route 74 the officers patrolling often find it difficult to find a place to park for their patrols. As a request, if you would not mind having a patrol use your driveway for this, please let Keith P. know by email (officer@eaglelake1.org) or letter (ELPOI, C/O Keith Park, 31 Barkwood Ln., Clifton Park, NY 12065) and he can forward this on to the officers, as they need written permission to utilize private property for this.

Route 74 Roadside Clean-Up - Dave Cerny has volunteered to undertake the task of roadside clean-up. He is looking for assistants and politely asks that you consider picking up in front of your own property should someone leave their trash there. Tonya Condon performed this task for us for decades. This spring, Debbie Mulcahy cleaned along the east end and Dave Cerny cleaned the west end. Thank you for doing this. We want to preserve the beauty and health of the lake. Should you have extensive amounts of roadside trash Dave can maybe help with making arrangements for using the DOT dumpsters to get rid of this.

Adopt-a-Highway is complete for this year. I, Dave C., picked up approximately 12 bags of garbage from the "flower house" to the snow plow turn around. The DOT let me use their dumpster.

Welcome Packet - We have had at least 12 properties change ownership in 2020-2021. Jack has been greeting the new owners with a welcome packet and encouraging new membership. There are more visits to follow up on.

Sponsors - This summer as a result of selling numerous houses on EL for our old friends and to our new neighbors, Glebus Realtor, Brenda Wells, Associate Broker has offered to help support Eagle Lake's mission with a sponsorship ad. Please consider using Glebus for your future real estate transactions.

GLEBUS REALTY

Associate Broker Brenda Wells

Your Hometown Realty!

I grew up on the lake and know the lake and area like no other agent.

Cell: 518-260-4807



bwells6@nycap.rr.com www.glebusrealty.com

Future Activities -

Boat launch: We continue to stay in contact with NYS DEC regarding the proposed barrier at the current launch site. If the barrier is installed, no trailered boats will have lake access. We have continued to express the hardship this would cause for many property owners.

CSLAP and Fecal testing - the ELPOI officers have voted to continue with this testing in 2022.

Annual Business Meeting/Picnic - Due to CDC requirements during the COVID pandemic, the ELPOI Board could only hold the annual meeting by socially distancing. It is our hope that we can resume our normal picnic and social time after our 2022 business meeting. At this time, we are seeking volunteers for 2 vacant Board positions. We also need someone to take over the duties of gathering news and publishing our Eagle Lake Newsletter. Steve Phelps remains our EL Facebook contact but needs to pass the torch on to a new Newsletter publisher. A big thank you to Steve for his years as our newsletter publisher! Please consider helping out.

Causeway Project 2022-2023

The new bridge will be located in the same location as the existing culvert and will consist of a prefabricated design with pre-cast concrete and a 20'-30' wide opening and approximately the same height. Some minor road widening may occur around the bridge itself but most of the causeway will remain untouched.

Discussions are still taking place relating to the Dry Hydrant that may be installed but no determinations have yet been made other than it would be installed at the bridge location should that happen. DOT and the Chilson Fire Department are still discussing subjects such as

maintenance. Location of staging for equipment involved in this project is yet to be determined.

The project will commence in the Fall of 2022 with preliminary site preparation and installation of micro piles to support the new Bridge. During this phase of the construction traffic will be reduced to one alternating lane with temporary traffic lights controlling traffic.

Traffic would be returned to 2 lanes for the winter of 2022-23.

Spring 2023 Construction would resume in April and the installation of the new bridge would take place. This would happen over a 72 hour period with complete closure of the roadway, likely over a weekend prior to Memorial Day. Detours would be set up on Route 8 to the south and "as yet to be determined" to the North. The plan is to have the project completed prior to Memorial Day Weekend in 2023.

(Notes taken from DOT meeting by Keith P.)



Website summer drone images and Cameras for winter viewing

- EL web guru Michael T. has been busy posting all kinds of new information to our website, eaglelake1.org. Some of the most recent postings are a collection of drone images from around the lake; they can be accessed from the photo albums page for the year they were collected in. These images do a great job in capturing the milfoil beds, which this year did very well. Also being posted are time lapse images captured from 4 public cameras stationed around the lake, one looks out northwest from Ti Bay, one looks east towards Conklin's Island, a third southwest towards Hurd Point and the fourth a "winter season only" looks due south from across from

Hurd Point. Thanks to those making the website and other technology used to make these possible.



Image of Milfoil on the east side of Hurd Point bay by Rt. 74

Politics - For those that keep track of the elections in Ticonderoga - Town Supervisor Joseph M. Giordano, lost his bid for reelection to Mark Wright. Joe has been a good person to work with and provided good direction for the town, including Eagle Lake. We thank him for his service, and look forward to reaching out to new Supervisor Mark Wright to continue with unfinished projects and start the new ones that come along. A bio of Mark can be found on his Facebook page.

Until then, have a safe winter and we'll see you in the spring of 2022.

Respectfully,

Your ELPOI Board

Jack Mulcahy Pres.
Chris Hyde - Vice Pres.
Rolf Tiedemann- Treasurer
Keith Park- Secretary
Dave Cerny- Board Member