

MARIAVILLE LAKE AROUND TOWN

Mariaville Civic Association (MCA)

February 2018

Volume 6, Issue 1

MCA President's Corner

Dear Residents:

As I look out the window this morning and see the first ice of the season on the lake, I can't help but think of all the cold days ahead. However, winter is a wonderful time on the lake for many who enjoy ice fishing, ice skating, snowshoeing, or snowmobiling. Year-round, Mariaville Lake provides outstanding recreational opportunities for residents to enjoy thanks in large part to the support of all our Association members who not only provide financial support through their membership, but also provide countless hours of volunteer work. Ensuring that the lake remains a key resource for all to use is no small or inexpensive task. First and foremost, the Association is the responsible party with respect to State oversight regarding the dam. To satisfy those obligations, since 2014 the Association has spent over \$30,000 on repairs and upgrades to the dam. That is in addition to our yearly Association budget which is usually in the \$10,000 range, which includes funds for our efforts at improving the lake's quality. That's

why we are continually looking to increase our membership base and increase donations.

In addition to our lake efforts, the Association is becoming more and more involved in supporting other community activities and events. Part of that involves working cooperatively with other organizations to help meet the needs of those in our community.

To learn more about the Association and get a membership application simply go to www.mariavillecivic.com

Best wishes for a Happy Holiday,
Tom Collins
President



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Important Dates 2018

Board of Director Meetings
**March 13th , April 10th,
May 8th , June 12th,
Sept 11th, October 9th**

Annual Membership
Meeting
July 6th

Spring Clean-up
May 12 and Sept 15

**LAKE PARADE
July 4th**

Take Back our Lake
Day weed pull
July 7th

All meetings to be held
at the Mariaville
Volunteer Fire
Department 7:00pm

Membership News

What does Mariaville
Lake do for you?

- Provide recreation for your family and friends with swimming, boating, fishing, ice skating, snowmobiling, and other recreational activities?
- Provide a scenic view that enhances the value of your property?

- Provide the volunteer fire department with water for fighting fires?
 - Supply water for your household or garden?
- If you answered yes to any or all of the above questions, then you can help share in the responsibility for the preservation of this very vital asset of

the community, by becoming part of the Mariaville Civic Association.

To save money we have enclosed a membership application with this newsletter. Please fill it out and return it with you membership check

Bottle Drive NEWS

The MCA Started the bottle drive in late 2015 and we try to pick up bottles the first weekend of each month. Since that time the MCA has raised over \$2,000.00 and we thank you all for your bottle donations. We will continue to do the bottle drive this year and expand our drive further into the community. The pickup dates this year are planed for the following dates:

- February 3rd March 3rd April 7th
- May 5th June 2nd JULY 14th
- August 4th September 1st October 6th
- November 3rd December 1st

We will be Picking up bottles in the following places: **South Shore Road, RT159 from Lake Road to the Fire house, the New development off 159, Spring Road, Weast Road, Batter street to Shore road, Shore Road .**

You can always drop off your bottles to 794 South Shore Road in the MCA bottle trailer or call to have us pick them up. 518-852-9117

Thank you for your continued support



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Mariaville Lake Dam History and Updated

The Mariaville Lake dam is located along the northern shore of Mariaville Lake, is built across the upper reach of the Chuctanunda Creek. The dam was first built as an earthen dam in the 1700's for a factory manufacturing shovels. In 1830, the dam was rebuilt using clay, fieldstone and a wooden spillway for operation of a gristmill and sawmill. In 1900, the wooden spillway was replaced with a concrete spillway, and then in 1917 the spillway was re-pointed, widened and thickened.

Ownership of the dam was conveyed to the MCA with the primary use being recreation. By the late 1970's the dam was in need of repairs and was determined by the Corps of Engineers in their 1980 "Phase 1 Inspection Report" to have "seriously inadequate" spillway capacity. The Corps also classified the dam as "small" in size and "high hazard, because of its location within the hamlet of Mariaville where several homes located along the banks of the downstream channel face a potential threat in case of dam failure". In 1989, representatives of the MCA submitted a Permit Application for extensive repair work listing the dam hazard class as Class "C" and a Dam Safety Permit was subsequently issued by NYSDEC to do the work. These repairs, completed in 1990, brought the dam into compliance with NYSDEC requirements and generally included capping/replacement and raising the height of deteriorated fieldstone dam walls using concrete walls, and re-facing of portions of the spillway and abutments.

Immediately downstream and buttressing the dam is a roadway embankment carrying Batter Street, which is maintained by Schenectady County (County). The lake outlets water over the spillway into a concrete/stone masonry drop inlet box immediately downstream of the spillway. Water is then conveyed from the drop inlet to a box culvert beneath the roadway embankment and into the South Chuctanunda Creek. In 2004, the deteriorated concrete box culvert beneath Batter Street was lined with a 48-inch diameter smooth bore pipe, the pipe extended, and the downstream roadway embankment slope stabilized, all by the County. Then in 2005, the drop inlet box was re-faced by the County with reinforced shotcrete. In 2007, concerns were raised to the County by NYSDEC that the work had been done without a Dam Safety Permit along with concerns about the hydraulic capacity



Picture above Roger Weakley and Jeff Glick working on the dam
November 2017

of the new culvert pipe. NYSDEC requested that design information and drawings by submitted for review in order to assess the impact the roadway work had on the dam. The County provided this information and the NYSDEC.

Since 2014 the MCA has spent **\$31,509.70** in engineering and dam maintenance fees. According to the NYSDEC regulations the MCA has to have a Engineering Assessment every 10 years, a Engineering Safety Inspection every 4 years and a yearly certification completed by the dam owners. These inspections are mandatory and the associated costs cannot be ignored. The 4 year safety inspection will be due in 2019 with an estimated cost of 5-8 thousand dollars and the 10 year engineering inspection will be due in 2024 with an estimated cost of 10-12 thousand dollars.

The MCA Dam committee continues to keep the costs of maintaining the dam as low as possible by conducting work groups twice a year to maintain the dam in a safe and secure manner. All of our time is volunteer and much of the work done on the dam to keep it in GREAT shape costs the association nothing but costs the dam committee money out of our own pockets.

All we ask for in return from the residents is to be safe, enjoy the lake and **join the association**. Your financial support is needed more than you can imagine. Without it we cannot continue to maintain this precious resource, Mariaville Lake.

Thank you Bob Cuttita—Dam Committee Chairman

MCA has a New Website

Tom Collins

We are committed to keep the community as informed as possible. The MCA has developed a new website. This site will have history along with up-to-date information, and a place to join the MCA right online. If you would like to have something posted to the MCA website see the **contact us** area of the site

Visit the web to see Lake Management Reports, Past news letters, information on Board members, Lake laws and other more.

<http://www.mariavillecivic.com>



Chris Shaver working on the dam down the spillway 2017

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5:30AM - 9:00PM
Sat & Sun 7:30AM - 9:00PM
(Kitchen closes 30 minutes before the store).

Movie & DVD Rentals Free membership, many movies rent for 5 days.

The Future of the MCA and Mariaville Lake

By MCA Board

For the past 28 years, the MCA Dam Committee lowers the lake level by raising the "Top Board" at the dam to lower the water before winter months. This year along with raising the "Top Board" the MCA board decided to lower the lake approximately (1) one additional vertical foot utilizing the new bottom valve. This additional lowering was to create a freeze in the weed beds and cause a weed kill to help with the weed problems in the lake. This year's drawdown took approximately 10 weeks to get the lake to the desired level. On November 15, 2017, the MCA was notified by residents that there were homes that draw from the lake for their water supply to their homes. We took immediate action and closed the valve. We set up meetings with the affected residents, had multiple conversations with DEC and town officials. Conversations continued with DEC Permits division and they notified the MCA that we should have requested a permit for the lake draw down. The MCA has been put on notice that in the future we need to request permits for any lake drawdowns. As with all regulations, the MCA will do what is required however we are in discussions with DEC to get further clarification on this issue. As you are all aware we currently keep the lake level high by closing the top board and lower the lake when we see pending storms. We currently are not sure if this will be permitted by the DEC in the future? We will keep you informed of any updates on this issue on our website. This recent issue has brought up concerns among board members. These issues along with all of the state mandates concerning the dam, the lake and thoughts of liabil-

ity issues have brought concerns for the future of the MCA, our lake and the responsibilities that face us as an organization.

We spoke briefly with the Town of Duanesburg officials and questioned them as to what is the Town's responsibilities on the above mentioned issues. Currently, the Town's position is that the MCA is the stewards of the lake and these responsibilities lie solely with the MCA to maintain and manage the lake. We discussed with them the possibility of the Town taking over the responsibilities of the lake as well as the liabilities associated with it and the town responded that there were three ways they could proceed. **First**, keep things the way they are and continue to have the MCA manage the lake. This will keep the lake semi-private as it is now. **Second**, was to have the town take over the responsibilities of the lake and create a tax district (lake district) to create funding to manage and maintain the lake. This option will create funding from those people in the lake district. This would allow the town to hire staff to keep up with all of the requirements of the state, conduct the lake management operations and insure the lake for any liabilities that arise. The lake would then be open to all those residents in the tax district. The **Third** and the least appealing option is to have Mariaville Lake taken over by the town, distribute that cost over the entire town. This option would then open the lake for all residents of Duanesburg.

As you can see we are at a turning point in the long history of Mariaville Lake. Regardless of the way the board decides to go we need your continued support and need your help. Without continued funding, we will have no choice but to have the town take over the responsibilities of the lake. We

Mariaville Civic Association

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E-mail: ybcut@aol.com

We Are On the Web
WWW.MARIAVILLECIVIC.COM

We need your support join the MCA today

BOARD OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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