

MARIAVILLE LAKE AROUND TOWN

Mariaville Civic Association (MCA) News

November 2020

MCA President's Corner

Dear Neighbors & Friends;

I hope this letter finds you all safe and well as we move toward the holidays. It's been a trying year for all of us that's for sure. The Association's efforts at maintaining community spirit and engagement have unfortunately been slowed by the continuing concerns of Covid-19 spread.

However, as we look forward to 2021, you will read in this newsletter about our new Social Committee and some of the great ideas we hope to be able to move forward with in the coming year.

Also in this edition is the latest update on our progress to purchase a weed harvester to help control weed growth in the lake. I want to thank all of you who have donated and assisted in our fundraising efforts. We are now in a position to put a down payment on a machine and finance the balance.

However, prior to the purchase we sat down with the State Department of Environmental Conservation to be sure the machine we wanted was allowable for use. The restrictions they cited have put things on

hold for the time being. Read more in the article.

As always, we continue to ask for your support since membership dues are the life-blood of the organization, and they allow us to maintain services and programs that enhance the quality of life in our community.

Please visit our webpage www.mariavillecivic.com for more information or news, or email me at collinscomm@gmail.com with questions.

Thomas Collins,
President



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throughout the year include bringing back the "Welcome Wagon" concept to welcome all new families .

Decorating your home for the Christmas Holidays.

Ice skating

Cross country

Breakfast, Brunch, Lunch and Dinner events.

Coffee and dessert Parties

Pig Roast

Block Parties and MORE... We want to work with other organizations around Mariaville, enjoy our beautiful surroundings and Have FUN.

No Idea is a bad Idea look forward to hearing from you,

Check our website and Facebook page for a yearly calendar of events.

Eric Unser, Chair

MCA Supports a Social Committee

The rationale for this committee is to bring the Mariaville neighbors together to meet one another and develop friendships. The MCA is urging everyone interested in joining the social committee to contact Eric Unser VIA Email; Eric.unsersr@aol.com

Membership in the MCA IS NOT REQUIRED to enjoy all of the benefits of the Social Committee.

The social committee platform is a place where Neighbors can share their ideas and recommendations. We encourage all of the Mariaville

community to participate.

We also want to welcome the new families that have recently moved or will be moving to the area, and invite them to participate in the festivities.

Some MCA sponsored events / outings we hope to organize

A Short History of the Mariaville Civic Association

By MCA Board

Brief History of the MCA New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Records show:

July 12, 1912 Letter to Mr. Kim from John McKeone claims that Mrs. John Lasher owns the land under Mariaville Lake, but not the water that is used for and controlled by Walpole Grist Mill.

July 16, 1912 Letter to Walpole, Dam Owner, directing him to fix the dam, from DEC

Walpole sold to W.S. Gahagan of Brooklyn, NY sometime between July 12, 1912 and April 25, 1917

May 8, 1917 letter from J,B Thompson to Commissioner of DEC how that Gahagan (does) and Walpole (did) own all water rights to Mariaville Lake

Sept. 21, 1920 Record deals with George Peeke's boat livery and his need to obtain necessary water rights from dam owner in order to operate boat livery

Some time prior to June 23, 1954 Gahagan sold his property including the dam to Franklin Kalteux

June 23, Franklin Kalteux sold the Dam to Mariaville Lake Dam Corporation,

September 14, 1987 Mariaville Lake Dam Corporation sold the Dam to the Mariaville Civic Association Inc.

WHAT THE MCA HAS DONE THROUGH THE PAST 40 years

This outline of the past 40 years may not be exact dates as to when the events took place but the event did occur somewhere in the bracketed years used for this timeline beginning in the late 1980's.

LATE 1980's – Per a DEC mandate the old earthen dam had to be rebuilt to the Current standards or they would breach the Mariaville lake Dam. MCA members of the time (some still serving on the board) formed a committee to raise the money and successfully did so. MCA raised the money and rebuilt the earthen dam to what we have today. What was the result, the MCA satisfied the DEC's mandate and saved Mariaville Lake.

1988 DEC mandated the MCA to bring the dam up to current standards. The MCA complied with the States mandate by raising funds through fundraisers, receiving a small grant as a not for profit organization and a door to door plead campaign. Every effort to obtain funds from local, county or the state was met with **"Sorry Mariaville is a private lake"**

Over the past 40 years DEC looks to the Mariaville Civic Association for required permits on the following items:

- MCA Dam
- Copper sulfate application
- Weed Control
- Lake Management plans
- Emergency Action Plan for operation of the Dam
- Operation and Maintenance documents for the dam operation
- Flow Studies
- Weed control plans and required permits
- CSLAP Program

Monies received via grants obtained were administered through DEC to the MCA

EARLY 1990's – MCA sponsored community wide party's on Weast

Road as fund raiser and for community enjoyment. (Some residents still serving on the board) Lake was treated for algae once or twice per year with what was acceptable practice at the time (Copper sulfate). Ad hoc committee within the MCA were finalized and created The Lake Management Committee.

MID- 1990's- Mostly routine issues with Lake condition and some discussion was started about a sewer district as being the future of good lake water for everyone's use. MCA board members petitioned the town to be on the community wide Sewer Committee so Mariaville could be heard.

LATE 1990's – The MCA was contacted by several residents over the use of Mariaville Lake for commercial use by another resident. Further concerns over the future commercial use of the lake by anyone. This turned into a full-blown issue with Town and the MCA. MCA was petitioned by residents and worked with the Town to pass a local ordinance supported by over 250 resident signatures. MCA agreed with the residents and lobbied against commercial use of the Lake by anyone.

MCA Receives 501C-3 status

EARLY 2000's- The town passes an ordinance No Commercial Ventures on Mariaville Lake. This created tension between community groups and created legal trouble as to who owned the Boat launch. This was property that MCA members had used for 20 plus years prior to these most recent concerns. Much legal wrangling and monies were spent by both organizations for 3 years until a legal court agreement was reached in 2004. The agreement was that the MCA would help maintain extra insurance on the property with the Mariaville Fire Department and that agreement is ongoing today. Today both organizations work together for the betterment of the Mariaville Community as a whole and work tirelessly for the betterment of Mariaville residents.

a. Several issues occurred during this time including a lot of work by the MCA Board to establish sewer district.

A SPECIAL NOTE: Our properties in Mariaville would not be worth what they are today without the installation of the sewer system. More likely the DEC and the department of Health would have mandated the sewer system on the residents of Mariaville especially around the lake due to declining water quality of the lake at that time. At today's prices can you imagine the cost of sewers without the forwarding thinking members of the MCA Board at the time.

MCA joining the statewide CSLAP program to gage the health of the lake and took aggressive measures to insure its health. MCA board members plotting weed beds and many other functions to gage the health of the lake going forward.

MID 2000's- Not mentioned in the earlier recaps, every year several discussions during meetings as to getting more residents involved on the board, on committees, residents on the east basin to join etc And yes the creation of a LAKE Tax DISTRICT has been a recurring topic for years. Currently there approximately 250 properties that live on the lake, have a view to the lake and or have deeded access to the lake. Year after Year MCA no matter how hard we try can only get approximately 1/3 of the entire population to join the MCA voluntarily.

2005 Sewers for Mariaville Finally, Sewer#2 is installed, and the district starts operating in 2005.

LATE 2000's- Several LAKE issues with residents wanting to establish open boat launches, seawalls etc. MCA Board takes legal action on open boat launches. most objections were dismissed by DEC, not for lack of trying to

stop these "public" launches from being installed. Due to MCA's work DEC did agree that these launches could only be used by the property owner and a few of their friends stopping the open launch issue.

- a. Business as usual with CSLAP monitoring and getting results on water quality after sewers operational.
- b. Established by actual committee a Lake Management component from board members with separate functions and reporting. First chair S. Scott, then E. Blood followed by his son M Blood. Currently the position is open, and we need someone to step up and become involved in this extremely important committee
- c. Discussions periodically about liability insurance needs, and lake district to support financially among every property owner and the ongoing functions of the care of the lake

2010 to 2012-

Began evaluation of dam condition via engineering studies. Necessary per NYSDEC Unfunded mandate

- a. Led to more questions about having Lake Tax District for financial reasons and guaranteed support.
- c. Renewal of our last 10 years on launch with MVFD. That agreement is ongoing today
- d. Permits obtained and yearly weed pull begins as a measure to fight weeds. Hiring harvester, weed mats available for small areas, discussions about chemical use, weed eating fish ongoing.
- e. Efforts made to have safety gates installed on certain access to lake near roadways. town Mixed. Could be revisited.

2011 What a year. We had major rain, wind, tornados, earthquakes and yes, a hurricane. The 2011 year really showed all of the Mariaville Community just how hard your MCA volunteers work for you. Many of the board members kept constant watch over the dam after each one of these events. During the major rains MCA board members made sure that floating debris did not clog the dam spillway. After the earthquake your dam committee did an assessment of the dam and filled out the reports required by the MCA's Emergency Action Plan(EAP) and DEC and during the flooding of the Hurricane your MCA members forecasted the potential disaster and opened the dam almost 8 days before the event ever hit the northeast. It did not stop there in the middle of the hurricane your MCA dam committee members kept constant watch over the dam and removed several floating docks from the front of the spillway to help reduce the flooding of resident's homes.

After each one of these events your MCA members completed all of the documentation required and updated the EAP as mandated by DEC. Meetings with the County Emergency Management team and working with our dam engineers on our next course of action continues throughout the year.

2013- 2014- More work on the dam

- a. Physical inspection of the dam by divers, Lower valve replacement needed to maintain the lake
- b. Need persists for steady revenue stream for dam
- c. Need persists since forming of MCA for community to support and people to serve on board
- d. Lake District information gathering meeting authorized by board.
- e. Lack of response from local representatives has tabled this discussion. Can be revisited if needed in the future by the

board.

2014 MCA - Replaced the bottom valve on the Mariaville Lake Dam at a cost of approximately \$35,000.00 for engineering, installation, and materials.

2015 First engineering report of the Mariaville Lake Dam by Engineer Tom Bates of McDonald Engineering.

MCA Board members work on the Emergency Action Plan (EAP) and attend multiple DEC meetings. EAP is submitted to DEC, the Town of Duanesburg, the County of Schenectady and Emergency Management.

MCA Board member work on the Maintenance plan for the Dam

2018 MCA updates the MCA Bylaw's

Although not a complete history dated back to its formation the past 40 years should give all involved and anyone wanting to know what the MCA has done to make this a better lake and community to live in. To all who have served and moved on, who now serve and will move on, and especially those still serving from the good old days the community owes a large debt of gratitude. Where would things be without the accomplishments already done by your MCA Board and looking into the future of things that still need to be completed

Without your MCA

No dam fix, overgrown with weeds, commercial activity on the lake, and no sewers just to name a few items.

As always we need more participation from the community, not just financial but serving on the board, heading a committee, or becoming a member of a committee (you do not need to belong to board for these things) recruit your neighbor's to become a member and become involved with your community will also help.

MCA is currently working on the purchase of a weed harvester and are very close to this purchase due to several members really stepping up with major donations for this cause, Current estimates are around \$85,000.00 for the harvester and extra for the trailer. Once again your MCA Board is working on financing and securing the harvester for the future and continuance of Mariaville Lake.

So, as you can see the MCA Board is not always out front in the community showing what we do or bragging of our accomplishments. We are behind the scenes working to protect your investments, your homes, your properties and our lake. Your MCA Board is a volunteer organization spending thousands of man hours every year without any compensation for the betterment of the community. Remember we do it for the love of Mariaville, the Love of this community and the love of our neighbors. I don't know of many organizations that work this hard for the protection of all with the membership of so few.

Please get involved. Thank you



Bottle Drive NEWS

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 I59, Spring Road, Weast Road, Batter street to Shore road, Shore Road and anywhere we get a call to pick up.**

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



Weedo weed harvester MCA is working toward



Membership News

Thank you to all our members who have donated their time and money to keep our beautiful lake alive and healthy. Our volunteers are involved in monitoring and maintaining the dam, weed control, maintaining boat launch, attending various meetings with DEC, town officials etc, road and lake cleanup, and planning and carrying out community activities. The membership form for the new 2021 year is available on our website, Mariavillecivicassoiation.com. Your membership is vital and we Thank You.

Vivian Ferraro
Membership Coordinator

Gene Bannon
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MCA UPDATE ON THE WEED HARVESTER PURCHASE

Just as the MCA Board was getting ready to approve the purchase and financing of a weed harvester, BAM State Regulations stopped us dead in our tracks.

On September 25, 2020 - MCA board members had a Phone / WebEx meeting with New York State DEC concerning the MCA purchase of a weed cutter / harvester. DEC representative for our region and DEC biologist from our region met with MCA representatives. On the call were Robert Cuttita, Jeff Glick and Tom Collins of your MCA and we also invited the Weed Cutter / harvester company Weedo Owner Terra Lorida and her sales representative Bobby Shields.

The meeting started with R.Cuttita giving a background and history of weed control efforts. About 20-25 years ago the MCA received through a NYS DEC grant, sponsored by Senator Farley, to purchase two Hockney weed cutters. The grant was administered by DEC for the purchase and use of cutting the weeds in Mariaville lake. Years later the MCA had a dispute with a lake resident who put in a complaint to DEC that the cutting of weeds on Mariaville lake was not authorized and DEC issued a stop cutting order and would not let MCA cut lake weeds any further without "harvesting". The MCA dismantled one of the cutters (Mr. Blood) and gave the other one away to a local resident who lived on another lake. Since that time the MCA has been issued hand Harvesting and bar pulling permits. This is what we are doing today.. Tara Lorida the owner of Weedo gave a quick presentation of her company

- Main company and factory is in West Palm beach and NY
- Has been in NYS for over 15 years
- Has boats in NY, Conn, Trinidad
- Has in the past met with Senator D'Amato and the governor
- Currently worked with DEC on Caugua lake cutting 500lbs a minute at a depth of 12'
- Boat has many attachments such as a skimmer, a bucket, a cutter, a mudsucker.

DEC Biologists explained that Large portions of Mariaville Lake are Wetlands covered and controlled and permitted by DEC. All activities on the lake are considered under DEC control and many items need to be permitted to include but limited to:

- Lake drawn down by the Dam
- Dam maintenance
- Shore line maintenance by residents
- Weed control, Cutting, chemical treatment, and lake drawdown

And many other activities

The DEC is not saying the MCA can not get permits to Harvest weeds on Mariaville lake however if we purchase a weed cutter/harvester the following must be completed before a permit would be issued to the MCA:

- Have an up-to-date lake management plan;
- Create a weed control plan to include the following items;
 - ◆ Identify the **invasive weeds** in our lake system as they will be the **majority** of the ones that will be permitted to be cut;
 - ◆ Create a targeted lake area map identifying the invasive weeds with a plan of cutting;
 - ◆ Identify take out points in the lake to coincide with the cutting area. DEC does not want the cut weeds to be brought across large portions of the lake for removal;
 - ◆ disposal locations and people responsible for the weeds being removed;
 - ◆ weight of the weeds and types of the weeds being cut and removed from a particular area;
 - ◆ understand the spawning times of each species of fish in the lake so as not to cut during these times;

The cost of the Weedo cutter/harvester is around \$86,000.00 with the trailer delivered. MCA management has tried to get funding for the boat however as we are not a mandated organization, governmental entity and really have no assets. It is almost impossible to get funding for this endeavor without paying an extremely large interest rate. The way the MCA was going to proceed was to put down \$25,000.00 from our funds and borrow the rest from a private resident about \$60,000.00 at 7.5% interest over an 8 year period.

The major question now is **Do we or Don't we purchase** this expensive piece of machinery with so much looming over our heads? MCA is going to research the possibility of hiring a weed cutting company for the removal of Mariaville weeds and explore the costs involved with this type of venture.

As we move forward we will keep you all updated on our progress.

R, Cuttita

Any comments and suggestions please contact me at ybcut@aol.com or our president Tom Collins at collinscomm@gmail.com

Mariaville Honors a Great Man



Roger A. Weakley passed away on Saturday, June 20, 2020. He was 69 years old. A life long resident of Mariaville, Roger attended Schalmont schools. For 42 years, Roger worked as a plumber/steamfitter at General Electric, and for a time served as the Local 128 union president. He retired from General Electric in 2011. Roger was a founding member of the Mariaville Lake Ski Club and the US Water Ski Show Team. He was a member of the Mariaville Volunteer Fire Department, the Mariaville Civic Association as well as an honorary member of the Schenectady Veterans Club. At anytime, you could find Roger in the garage fixing his tractors or watching the races. He loved a crisp Miller Lite on the pontoon boat while wearing his signature cowboy hat. And on a sunny day, he spent his time cruising on his beloved 1974 Harley-Davidson Sportster or taking a ride with Aunt Flow. Above all things, Roger cherished his family and the time they spent together.

Roger was much more than a great husband, caring father, understanding grandfather and a great guy, he was a friend to many but a confidant to few. When ever I had a problem or needed advice Uncle Rog was ALWAYS there. He always made decisions on what was right for the majority no matter how difficult it was instead of what was EZ and never made a decision for his own gain. While Sue was taking care of the kids and the extended Mariaville family, Roger was in the garage teaching those that wanted life lessons. Always willing to help anyone in need Roger was a great man and will be missed by many.

A fitting tribute to Roger as the Mariaville Community came together to put on a boat parade in his honor while the Mariaville Volunteer Fire Department Sprayed a stream over the boaters and the Sheriff's Office ran their lights to provide traffic safety. Everyone knew the love Roger had for this lake.



Personal thoughts

Uncle Rog I never thought I would have to be writing a farewell to you but I hope you knew how much you were loved by the entire community and especially the Cuttita family. Not only a father to your own, when we moved to Mariaville you took us under your wing and took a bunch of "Flatlanders" and made us part of this great community as well as part of your own family. You helped raise your rent a kid and although you were on this earth way to short you touched many lives in the most positive of ways. Although you are gone from this place you will never be forgotten. Rest in Peace but don't rest to much as we still need your guidance and now you can keep an eye on all of us 24 / 7.

Keep watching over us and believe me we need it and we hear you. Love and miss you lots. The Mariaville Community and The Cuttita Family

MCA DAM UPDATE

Robert Cuttita—Before and After



Deteriorated Spaulding Spillway



Roadway overgrown and muddy by Dam



Road in front of Dam Holding Water causing deterioration to dam face



Road work on being Completed by Schenectady County DPW



Newly Shot created repaired spillway



Completed roadwork Infront of our Dam with proper drainage

MCA Board members Tom Collins and Robert Cuttita worked with Schenectady County DPW Director Joe Landry to get the work done. Not only on the dam but down stream. Thank you Schenectady County for your help with this very important project.

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Mariaville Civic Association

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We Are On the Web
WWW.MARIAVILLECIVIC.COM

We need your support join the MCA today

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