

Mariaville Civic Association
2023
Annual Report

Letter from the President:

It's a pleasure to provide you with a copy of the 2023 Mariaville Civic Association (MCA) Annual Report. I say that because I and other Board members are often asked what the Association does. So I see this as a real opportunity to highlight the work and dedication of so many volunteers that really make this community better.

As I look back at my seven year tenure as President, I've witnessed a large change in both the community and the organization. A lot of new families have moved into the community and many of those have brought new ideas and energy to the MCA.

We now offer a number of expanded social events, we offer community service scholarships to high school seniors, community contests, donations to needy families, and events with the Fire Department and Ladies Auxiliary.

In addition to expanding the MCA's reach in the community, we also still serve as stewards of the lake. Owning the dam that keeps Mariaville Lake a lake brings with it a large commitment of time and money. Hours and hours are spent dealing with DEC regulations and permit requirements, and thousands of dollar in engineering costs to maintain the dam.

My hope is that each of you will take the time to learn more about who we are and what we do, because we know if you do, chances are you'll come join in the fun and effort. It's all about community.

Sincerely,

Thomas Collins

President

Membership Committee

Hello neighbors!

As we roll into Summer, I wanted to give you an update on membership. To date, we have 63 households that have joined the Mariaville Civic Association. This is down from previous years unfortunately. On a positive note, three new members have joined this year, along with 60 previous members. A very big Thank You to everyone who has supported the MCA again this year. 100% of your membership dollars goes to not only the many activities the MCA promotes, but mainly to the infrastructure that gives Mariaville a lake, the dam.

As I read some of the social media posts, it seems to me that perhaps people need to be more educated about what the MCA is and does for the Mariaville community and why you should join the MCA. Past or present, anything the MCA has done is in the best interest of the lake and much of the community in mind. The MCA is run solely by volunteers who give their time and energy into making not only the lake but the community a nice place to be.

NY State does not give the MCA any funds to support the dam or lake in general. In fact, they would have let the old earthen dam breach and drained the lake. The MCA stepped in and built a new dam. It is solely up to our community to raise the necessary funds to upkeep this dam. NYSDEC has been uncooperative at best in allowing us to purchase a weed harvester. As a work around, the MCA has done countless weed pulls in both the big and small lakes, by mostly the same volunteers each time, who have helped their neighbors “clean up the lake”.

Sure, there are people who have open launch sites along the lake to use. Joining the MCA is not about getting a free key for the boat launch. Joining the MCA allows you to give back to your community even if you are unable to volunteer time.

Here are a few bullet points:

- The MCA is the owner of the dam.
- The MCA is solely responsible for all costs associated with repairs of the dam and all NYS mandated inspections and certifications. It receives no NYS funding or grants.

- In 2024 the 10 year dam recertification must be done at a cost of \$20,000-\$25,000. If the MCA does not follow these stringent and costly regulations the DEC has threatened to drain the lake.
- Mandatory liability insurance coverage is also an ever-increasing yearly MCA expense. NY State has classified the dam as a class C, the highest level of danger, because they provide no funds to support our dam.
- There are approximately 250 properties on the lake, with a view of the lake, or with deeded access and more than 75% of these property owners have NOT financially supported the MCA in 2023.

Without the MCA, a wonderful recreational resource would be gone because there would be no lake. We would have a swamp instead. What would happen to your property value?

Now that you know a bit more about the MCA, there is still time to help your community. Membership applications can be found at mariavillecivic.com or email mcamembership2022@gmail.com and I will be happy to send an application to you and deliver a boat key if you select that option.

See you around the lake,

Linda Hayen, Membership Coordinator

Mariaville Lake Management 2023 Report

Introduction: Lake management plays a vital role in ensuring the health, sustainability, and ecological balance of our precious freshwater resources. It is crucial to acknowledge the significance of effective lake management practices in safeguarding these natural treasures for future generations.

Lakes, with their diverse ecosystems, serve as essential sources of habitats for numerous plant and animal species and recreational spaces. However, they face a multitude of threats, including pollution, invasive species, climate change, and human activities. To mitigate these challenges, comprehensive lake management strategies are indispensable.

Our organization's commitment to lake management involves a multidisciplinary approach that encompasses scientific research, community engagement, and sustainable practices. By collaborating with experts, stakeholders, and our community, we aim to implement strategies that address the complex challenges faced by our lake.

Members:

Lewis & Darlene Needham

Rob Hurry

Chris & Linda Hayen

Jeff Glick

Aaron Major

Gregg Panzanzano

Updates from 2023:

DEC Tree Program: In March, we received an incredible donation of 24 shrubs and trees that were graciously provided to us free of charge. These were promptly planted along the S Shore creek.

CSLAP: This year, we have made a slight adjustment to our CSLAP testing schedule. Instead of conducting eight tests, we will be conducting four tests to ensure the quality and accuracy of our monitoring efforts. The first round of testing was recently completed by Lake Management, marking the successful commencement of this year's CSLAP program.

Weed Pull: Last Saturday (June 10th), we organized our annual weed pull event, and despite having fewer boats available for volunteering, our dedicated onshore volunteers truly went above and beyond. We successfully removed a significantly higher amount of weeds compared to last year, which is a testament to the hard work and commitment of our volunteers. We are planning another round of weed pulling on the small side and will coordinate with our volunteers accordingly. Additionally, I will personally assess the weed situation on the larger side next week and address any spot weeding requirements. Following the weed pull, Lewis and Darlene hosted a BBQ for all the volunteers, fostering a sense of community and camaraderie among everyone in attendance.

Geese: Under the competent leadership of Rob Hurry, our Geese program has been making significant progress. We recently had Shawn from US Wildlife visit our lake, and after conducting a thorough survey, he estimated a population of approximately 60 geese, with the possibility of more. The capture of these geese is scheduled for June 28th, although this date is subject to change based on molting patterns. The

capture process will commence on the side with the largest population, gradually moving to the other side of the lake, and employing a strategic back-and-forth approach.

Oiling of the Eggs: In collaboration with US Wildlife, a dedicated group of 10 volunteers have been diligently working on the crucial task of oiling the geese eggs. This process has been successfully completed three times, contributing to effective population control and the preservation of our lake's ecosystem.

Zebra Mussels: It has come to our attention that the clarity of our lake's water may be influenced by the presence of zebra mussels. NYS FOLA has informed us that depending on the calcium levels in the lake, the severity of the outbreak may vary. As we continue to monitor the situation, we remain cautiously optimistic about the potential impact on our lake's ecology.

Thank you for your continued support and active involvement in the preservation and enhancement of Mariaville Lake.

Sincerely,

Lewis Needham

MCA Social Committee

The Mariaville Civic Association's Social Committee was founded in December of 2020 by Eric Unser and a group of community members that had a vision of building relationships among our community and to help support and maintain our beautiful lake. One way to make this a reality, was by getting neighbors and community members together to hold yearly activities and events in order to raise the necessary funds needed for the lake. This Committee is open to all community members that would like to participate and join us for some fun. For example, some events that we have formed on a yearly basis are:

- Line Dancing in February / March
- Community Walk Around the Lake in April
- Wine Tasting Fund Raiser / April
- Community Garage Sale / May
- Drive Through Chicken BBQ Fund Raiser / June
- Annual Boat Parade / July
- Craft Show / Farmers Market / September
- Annual Soup, Chili & Chowder Stroll / October
- Annual Fire House Trick or Trunk / October
- Christmas Caroling / Tree Lighting / December
- Annual Community Decorating your home for Christmas / December

The Committee welcomes new members and meets once a month on a Wednesday or Thursday evening at 6:30 pm. The Committee is open to suggestions and ideas to enhance and grow our platform. All inquiries can be directed to: mariavillesocial@gmail.com attention Pete Pelkey and Linda Hayen

Thank You

Pete Pelkey, Chair

Linda Hayen, Co-Chair

MARIAVILLE LAKE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

MARIAVILLE LAKE DAM

Location

The Mariaville Lake Dam is located on Mariaville Lake in the Town of Duanesburg, Schenectady County, New York. The dam is located at Latitude N42°49'42", Longitude E74°08'08" on the Duanesburg Quadrangle.

Background

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

DEC DAM SAFETY REGULATIONS

The operation, maintenance, inspection, repair and emergency planning of the Mariaville Lake Dam are to be in compliance with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Dam Safety Regulations. Currently the MCA Dam Safety Committee has reviewed all requirements and the MCA hired John M. McDonald Engineering, P.C. to work on State mandates. The MCA Committee has prepared an (EAP) – Emergency Action Plan and reviews and changes are made yearly. In addition to the EAP we need to maintain a Maintenance plan for the dam which we do. We also complete the following tasks.

OPERATIONAL PLAN

An outline of the operations of the dam and outlet works is as follows:

- With the outlet gate closed, the concrete spillway will serve to maintain the lake at the level normally used for recreational purposes and is designed to pass flows without regulation through the outlet gate.
- The outlet gate will be opened to drain the lake in the fall and pass flows through the winter. Prior to opening gate, check for debris in front of the gate and remove any found
- In the spring, check gate for obstructions and/or debris and remove accordingly. Close gate to allow lake to fill.
- Gate valve 22' below outflow. Open in the event of major flooding event or dam or valve repair.

INSPECTION PLAN

In general, the lake levels, spillway, dam, shoreline, and outlet works should be inspected on a regular basis to note any changes or unusual developments that occur. Unless specifically indicated, most inspections described herein do not require a professional engineer and can be performed by the Dam Owner's personnel, who are most familiar with the dam and environs. Property owners along the dam should also be aware of what to look for and be vigilant of any changes.

Immediately report the following to the Dam Owner:

- Whirlpools, sinkholes, or settlement
- Uprooted tree or debris on the dam
- Leakage through spillway and water "boils" below the dam - ?
- Damage to spillway, dam and outlet works
- Any unusual changes to water levels

Inspections on the dam should be performed at various intervals as follows:

Annually – Spring (prior to closing outlet gate)

- Inspect gate, seats, and operator for damage.
- Check for obstructions.
- Check for any damage below normal summer water level to structural elements of dam including spillway, slab, and abutments.
- Check for any shoreline erosion, washouts, or sinkholes.
- Check for any unusual seepage along length of dam, spillway, and outlet works.
- Check side walls for movement, settlement, and change in orientation.
- Take photographs for a year-to-year comparison.

Annually – fall

- Check and clear front of gate from debris and obstructions, prior to opening outlet gate.
- Check outlet pipe for damage, undermining and erosion of riprap at end, prior to opening outlet gate.
- Verify operator is properly greased and operational, prior to opening outlet gate.
- As gate is opened, verify that gate is lifting properly and water flowing through spillway with no leakage.
- Once lake has reached winter lower level, check along shoreline for any changes from previous inspections. Check for any shoreline erosion, washouts, or sinkholes.
- With lake lowered, check along all visible dam faces, gate valve, outlet works, and break walls for any damage and wear and tear.
- Take photographs for a year-to-year comparison.

Daily

- Check outlet gate for tampering or opening without authorization.
- Check lake level for any unusual day-to-day drop in elevation. If unusual drop, check outlet gate for unauthorized opening, then check spillway and along dam for leakage, whirlpools, standing water, and seepage.
- Check dam, spillway, and outlet works for any day-to-day changes.
- We have fenced off gate and spillway area with 4 foot chain link with a locked access gate.

High Water/Flood Events

- Check along dam for leakage, whirlpools, standing water, and seepage.
- Check lake level at regular intervals through out the event. Watch for overtopping of abutments and earthen dam.

- After the water has receded, check for any damage or changes from pre-flood to post-flood conditions.
- After a major event, a professional engineer should be consulted.

4-year Dam Safety Inspection

- Engage the services of a qualified professional engineer to perform a thorough 4-year inspection and prepare a report and documentation as required by NYSDEC.
- Owner should provide engineer with pictorial and written records of annual inspections to assist in preparation of 4-year report.

10-Year Engineering Assessment.

- Engage the services of a qualified professional engineer to perform an engineering assessment and prepare a report and documentation as required by NYSDEC.
- Owner should provide engineer with pictorial and written records of annual inspections to assist in preparation of engineering assessment.

MAINTENANCE PLAN

In general, the inspection intervals recommended herein should identify any damage or developing problems that should be repaired. As part of the inspection, operation, and maintenance program for this dam, damage and/or seepage should be immediately reported and repaired to their pre-damaged condition as soon as possible. Since the major dam elements consist of reinforced concrete, normal maintenance is relatively minor and limited to keeping the dam cleared, free of debris, and operation of the outlet works. A general maintenance outline is as follows:

- Keep all brush removed from dam faces for proper visual inspections.
- Remove and grub out any dead trees, and do not plant any new trees along the berm.
- Remove and grub any uprooted/blown down trees.
- Grease outlet gate mechanisms.
- Remove debris accumulation from spillway, stream channel, gate valve, outlet pipe, and downstream from spillway.
- Keep outlet gate and spillway access areas clear.

Your MCA Dam Safety Committee is hard at work to keep the dam safe for the community and our enjoyment.

Finance Committee Report 2023

The purpose of the finance committee is to oversee the financial operations for compliance with auditor recommendations and sound financial management of the Mariaville Civic Association.

Besides myself, the members of the committee include Nikki Cuttita (also serves as the Treasurer for MCA), Tom Collins (also serves as President for MCA), Linda Hayen (also serves as Membership Chair for MCA) and Vivian Ferraro.

One area of focus in 2023 was to firm up the process and documentation of the collection of funds from the MCA PO Box. We have established the procedure of my collection of checks and applications from the PO Box, taking pictures of all that is received and then texting it to both the Treasurer and Membership Chair. This creates a three way documentation process to insure accountability for member funds.

As a result of this, we have been able to reconcile the bank funds to membership with regards to funds received through the post office.

We will be looking at membership dues in the near future to evaluate the change in fee structure and its effect on income as well as ways to highlight the importance of donations (in addition to dues) to maintain our long term viability and the safety and maintenance of the dam. The dam is the reason the lake exists. Without it, there is no lake water life, beauty and recreation.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Porter, Finance Committee Chair

Mariaville Civic Association

Statement of Activity

July 31, 2022 - July 4, 2023

	TOTAL
Revenue	
Contributed income	0.00
Donations directed by individuals	2,710.00
Membership Income	7,715.00
Social Committee Income	7,819.95
Total Contributed income	18,244.95
Interest Income	2.39
Total Revenue	\$18,247.34
GROSS PROFIT	\$18,247.34
Expenditures	
Advertising & marketing	0.00
Social media	289.00
Total Advertising & marketing	289.00
Awards & grants to others	500.00
Contract & professional fees	0.00
Accounting fees	1,000.00
Total Contract & professional fees	1,000.00
Donation	750.00
Insurance	0.00
Directors & officers insurance	1,054.00
Liability insurance	1,277.53
Total Insurance	2,331.53
NYS Filing Tax	100.00
Office expenses	0.00
Dues & Membership	300.00
Lake Mgmt Reporting	454.72
Memberships & subscriptions	146.00
Software & apps	506.30
Total Office expenses	1,407.02
PayPal Fees	3.87
Reimbursement for Social Event	463.56
Social Committee Expense	6,438.80
Total Reimbursement for Social Event	6,902.36
Repairs & maintenance	0.00
Website Design	71.40
Total Repairs & maintenance	71.40
Scholarship Funds	250.00
School Tax	62.63

Mariaville Civic Association

Statement of Activity

July 31, 2022 - July 4, 2023

	TOTAL
Supplies	0.00
Supplies & materials	212.74
Total Supplies	212.74
Total Expenditures	\$13,880.55
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$4,366.79
NET REVENUE	\$4,366.79

\$15 discount for MCA members
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