

LAKE OSCAWANA AQUATIC PLANT GROWTH CONTROL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

THE LAKE OSCAWANA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Steve Axinn - Cayuga Road
- Luisa Costa-Garro - Wildwood Knolls
- Ellen Friedman - Noswal Park
- Kathleen McLaughlin - West Shore
- Martin Mitchell - Chippewa Road
- Patricia Perlman - West Shore Drive

There are vacancies on the Advisory Committee. The Committee meets monthly throughout the year.
Lake Oscawana needs YOU!

Committee Members are appointed by the Town Board. If you are interested in serving on the Committee, please send a letter with a short bio/resume to the Board at Town Hall, 265 Oscawana Lake Road, Putnam Valley, NY 10579 or fax it to 845/526-2130.

The Town Board Liaison to the Lake Oscawana District is Supervisor Robert Tendy. The District Clerk is Judy Travis, 845/526-2160. The Committee Chairperson is Kathleen McLaughlin

DISTRICT HARVESTER IS 20 YEARS OLD:

Given its age and the need for expensive repairs after last season, the District purchased a new harvester. Its anticipated delivery date is the week of July 20. The District wishes to express its appreciation to the harvester operators throughout the years, our current and past operators, Frank Cassidy and Matt Florio, Jay Quaille, et al. as well as the commitment of dedicated volunteers, i.e., Glenn Lefurgy and the late Everett Turk, for their hours of service to maintain the harvester.

GRANTS AND STIMULUS FUNDS

During a recent visit to Lake Oscawana, U.S. Congressman John Hall, NYS Assemblywoman Sandy Galef, NYS Senator Vincent Leibell as well as representatives from Governor Patterson and the NYSDEC advised that they would assist the Town with regard to funding for projects. However, Assemblywoman Galef voiced the sentiments of these elected officials when looking at development and homes around the Lake. She said that the residents have to do their share to undertake activities on their own property that would protect the Lake. Supervisor Tendy has submitted an application for funding of the Lake Management Plan under the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the District is currently working to complete the supporting documentation for consideration of this proposal.

We all live in a watershed -- the land that drains into Lake Oscawana.-- and our individual actions on our properties can directly affect the Lake.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Many of the synthetic cleaning products or other chemicals used around the house can be toxic to humans, pets, and wildlife. These products may reach the ground surface or end up in the water.

Inadequate treatment can also allow excess nutrients to reach Lake Oscawana, promoting algae or weed growth. Algal blooms and abundant weeds not only make the lake unpleasant for swimming and boating, but they also affect water quality for fish and wildlife habitat. As plants die, settle to the bottom, and decompose, they use up oxygen that fish need to survive. (University of Minnesota Extension)

HOW TO KEEP YOUR SYSTEM IN SHAPE: HAVE YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM PUMPED!

If you live in the Oscawana watershed, here are several BMPs you can follow to keep your septic system in good working order to protect Lake Oscawana and our groundwater resources.

- Conserve water. Excessive water use is the most common cause of septic failure, so reduce water used for bathing, laundry, and flushing the toilet.
- Identify and repair leaking pipes, sticking float valves in toilets, and dripping faucets to reduce water waste. A dripping faucet can waste 15–20 gallons per day.
- Shorten shower times and choose showers over baths to minimize wasted water. A full bath uses 50–60 gallons, while a shower uses only about 5 gallons per minute. Of course, a 20–minute shower is not a savings over a bath.
- Install low-volume toilets and low-flow showerheads. Typical toilets use 5–6 gallons per flush, providing nearly half the wastewater from a house. Flush toilets using 1 1/2 gallons of water are available.
- Keep a container of drinking water in the refrigerator. This saves having to run water until it's cold.
- Use toilet tissue that breaks up easily when wet to help prevent clogging. To test tissue quality, place a piece in a jar half full of water and shake. If the tissue breaks up easily, it is suitable. The color of tissue has no effect on septic system action.
- Do not use the toilet as a wastebasket. Don't flush facial tissue, diapers, tampons, or any kind of plastic down the drain.
- Eliminate the use of garbage disposals. Ground-up garbage does not decompose easily, causes rapid buildup of solids in the tank, and may move out of the tank into the drainfield, clogging distribution pipes and soil pores. If you have a disposal—don't use it. When building or remodeling—don't install one.
- Never put coffee grounds down your drain.
- Dispose of household hazardous waste properly. “

SEPTIC MAINTENANCE DISTRICT:

The Advisory Committee has requested that the Town Board consider expanding the coverage of our existing District so as to include septic maintenance with the goal to reduce aquatic plant growth and protect the water quality of the Lake.

DON'T FLUSH MEDICATIONS to protect our groundwater:

Don't flush them, no matter whether the medication is a liquid or a solid. The US EPA has deemed flushing expired medications—otherwise known as PPCPs (pharmaceuticals and personal care products) in domestic sewage systems as the "least desirable way to dispose of any drug." According to the EPA, "If you throw your PPCPs down the drain or flush them down the toilet, and if your home is connected to a municipal sewage system, some of the PPCPs would typically be discharged into lakes,