

# KINDERHOOK LAKE CORPORATION NEWS

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[www.kinderhooklakecorp.org](http://www.kinderhooklakecorp.org)



OCTOBER 5, 2011

## Annual Drawdown - October 15th!!

Once again, the gate on the dam will be opened on Oct. 15th to lower the level of the lake by about 4 ft. This year the level may go down a little faster than usual in order to begin construction of the upgrade on the dam. A description of the upgrade is included on page 4 of this Newsletter. Since the water level may go up early in the Spring due to rapid snow-melt and rain, it is important to have work on waterfronts done in the Fall rather than Spring.

### The KLC Board

At the Annual Meeting on August 27th, Dan Langer, who lives on Rose Street, and Mike Weldon, who lives on Hawley Road Extension, were elected to the KLC Board to replace Victor Bujanow and Dick Faust who are retiring. Victor was responsible for handling insurance issues for the Corporation and was instrumental in obtaining liability insurance when NY State arbitrarily changed our dam's classification and our insurance was cancelled. Dick assisted in both our alum and copper sulfate application programs and was always willing to assist in other programs as well. Both will be missed and we thank them both for all they did for the Corporation.

The election of the officers of the Corporation, which is the responsibility of the KLC Board, is scheduled for Oct. 14th.

### e-Mail

As the price of postage continues to rise and more home owners and KLC members have access to the web, it is increasingly important to communicate by e-mail. When you pay your dues next year, please consider including your e-mail address for the Newsletter and lake information. Thanks!!

KLC is a non-profit organization formed in 1953 to purchase, maintain and improve Kinderhook Lake. In order to keep everyone informed, all residents, Members and Nonmembers, are sent this Newsletter.

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**WATER LEVEL CONTROL AND SEVERE FLOODING**

As you know, our dam has a gate which is opened and closed manually to assist in controlling the water level. However, the control is through a 4 ft.-diameter pipe which permits only a limited amount of water flow, even when the gate is completely open. To assist in the release of water following heavy rains of the type which we experienced during Hurricane Irene, a 30-ft. section of 18-inch boards on the primary spillway is supposed to bend pipes and be released to permit additional water to flow from the lake. In August 2009, when we experienced extreme flooding and lost our cutter-boat over the dam, the boards did not release and KLC Directors were concerned that the pipes and boards did not meet specifications which were agreed upon with NYDEC in 1994.

However, when the boards were removed in the Fall of 2009, it was found that the pipes had bent but not far enough to release the boards and that they did, indeed, satisfy specifications. In 2010, new boards and pipes were installed and they were the ones in place when the rains of Hurricane Irene hit this year. As indicated in e-mails and on the web site, this time the boards released and prevented flooding from being even worse than it was. However, when new boards and pipes were installed and we experienced the heavy rains of Tropical Storm Lee, the pipes bent, but, once again, did not release the boards and flooding was severe. The present pipe-board system was installed many years ago and has never functioned as originally proposed - sometimes it releases, sometimes it does not. When the possibility of heavy rains was reported on the news on August 26th, the gate was opened and the water dropped about 10 inches. However, when the rains came, the water level increased 3 ft. the night of Aug. 28th and the flow through the lake was so great that it washed a large number of bogs loose from the old streambed and floated them to the dam. This is the first time in memory that an entire line of bogs were ripped from the bottom and brought to the surface all at once. Many of them piled up in front of the dam and it is suspected that some of them, which weigh tons, hit the boards and caused their release. A huge pile was cleared from the emergency spillway after Irene and a pile, which washed in front of the spillway after Lee, is still there, along with a long dock and a tree.

Obviously, the pipe-board system is not functioning properly and should be replaced by one which would permit the spillway to be opened when heavy rains are expected. With our present system, once flood water is pressing against the boards, it is impossible to move them. In fact, during recent floods, water was flowing so violently over the boards that it almost washed away the bridge over the spillway - it was dangerous, even to approach the bridge. Even under conditions of normal rainfall, it is extremely difficult and time consuming to operate the gate and maintain constant water level. Records of gate control for the past two years indicate that it had to be changed at least twice a week in the summer - it is a time-consuming, thankless job. Since a number of automated systems are available to handle water flow over spillways, the KLC Board is looking into those systems to determine which one would be best to install. Of course, automated systems are expensive but we must improve our system to provide better control and avoid serious flooding. Once the present dam upgrade is complete and the KLC Board has a better idea of the financial condition of the Dam Reserve Fund, they will move forward with plans to install a better system.

**Annual Raffle Drawing**

Winners in the Annual Drawing held at the Annual Meeting on August 27th at the Niverville Fire Hall were as follows:

- 1st Prize - \$250: Dorothy Eckert
- 2nd Prize - \$150: Rob Warrington
- 3rd Prize - \$75 Steve McLaughlin (Donated to KLC)
- 4th Prize - \$35 in KLC Merchandise: Greg Reeves

**Brooks BBQ**

The KLC Board was shocked by the large response to the Brooks BBQ which was held August 27th at the Niverville Fire Hall. Chickens in the BBQ were gone within 30 minutes and some individuals who were planning to purchase dinners were upset that none were available.

If the event is held next year, those who wish to purchase dinners will have to arrange for them in advance to be sure that KLC orders a sufficient number to cover the demand.

**Fish Stocking**

On September 16th, the Fisheries Division of NYDEC stocked the lake with 1,100 10-to 12-inch tiger muskies. KLC was not notified in advance of the stocking. DEC personnel involved in the delivery said that the lake has so many white perch that other species will not survive. Last year, DEC indicated that they would attempt to stock walleyes but the individuals who brought the fish indicated that walleye survival is not good; no less than 10,000 would be needed and DEC did not have enough for stocking this year. They said it is important to stock large predator fish because our white perch are getting larger. Two years ago DEC stocked tiger muskies and very few have been caught. They said this year's fish are about 2 inches longer and many should survive. They were asked to please inform KLC before stocking again.

**KLC Christmas Gifts**

Check out the merchandise on the KLC Web site for gifts for Christmas. Call Ken Bosen, 4546-1542, to place your orders.



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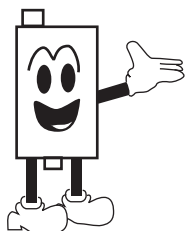
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## The Dam Upgrade

A contract has been signed with Keller Construction Corp. to begin the process of upgrading the dam as soon as the water is down to winter level in October. Depending on the weather, completion should be sometime in November. Stan Cruden, who has negotiated the contract and will follow the construction, indicates that KLC has sufficient monies in the Dam Reserve Fund to cover the upgrade but does not want to give a specific figure for the Program because we do not know exactly what will be found when construction is begun.

Heavy equipment will be required to drive coffer steel and pour concrete so the fence on the west side of the dam will have to be removed during the construction and replaced when complete. When the task is done, the front of the dam will be completely covered with coffer steel and should be sound for many years to come. Once an improved spillway system is in place, as presented on page 2, Kinderhook Lake will be much better prepared for heavy rains than ever before.

## NYDEC Phosphorus Study

On August 3rd, KLC received an 83-page report from NYDEC on phosphorus in Kinderhook Lake. The study was done in 2008 and 2009 to determine the sources of phosphorus in the lake and how they might be reduced. The study was performed by the CADMUS Group, Inc. of Watertown, MA and must be expensive because it analyzed virtually every source of phosphorus in the watershed. An important finding was that, as a result of our alum program, no significant amount of phosphorus is coming from the bottom whereas a prior study by NYDEC in 1997 indicated that one-half was coming from the bottom.

Their conclusion is that input of phosphorus from septic systems must be decreased in order to significantly reduce phosphorus levels in the summer. They recommended that a major effort be undertaken to have all septic tanks pumped at least biannually and to identify, by dye testing, any system that is not functioning properly. In 2012, KLC will recommend repeatedly that all lakeshore residents follow these guidelines.

## KLC Area Directors

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Mike Weldon	2	Rick Tieriault 356-2554	6	Bernie Kelleher 784-4717	10
Dan Langer 784-2158	3	Paul Winslow President 784-3361	7	Russ Camadine 1st Vice President 784-2087	11
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