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## The Dam Sluicer's Son

"The sluicer raises the gates more or less, according to the quantity of water required, and closes them carefully at night, in order to avoid all possible danger of an over-supply.... or the water would soon overflow it, and inundate the surrounding country.... Even the little children of Holland know that constant watchfulness is required to keep the rivers from overwhelming the country, and that a moment's neglect of the sluicer's duty may bring ruin... to all."

*Excerpt from: "Hans Brinker, or The Silver Skates" by Mary Mapes Dodge*

We've all heard variations of the legend about "The Little Dutch Boy," the dam sluicer's son who saved Holland by plugging his finger into a hole in the dam until the community arrived in force to avert a major disaster. I've had a chance to revisit the original story, and in it, the tale of the little Dutch boy is being read aloud in a classroom. At the end of this narrative, two students are discussing the story they just read. One student says he did not think the story was true; the second student responds that of course it is true, because the actions of that one boy represent the spirit of Holland – that there would always be a "million fingers" ready to stop it.

*A million fingers? Really?*

I was reminded of the Little Dutch Boy story after hearing from the general membership that attended our annual meeting in August. The KLC Board's Dam Committee gave its report about yet another huge and critical improvement needed at the dam just two years after the KLC invested \$123,000 into the dam. KLC's cash reserves were seriously impacted by that investment, which benefits ALL lake residents. It took years to accumulate that reserve from generous donors and frugal budgeting. And here we go again.

Several members in the audience asked why the balance of riparian owners are not contributing financially to help solve the huge lake management and dam repair issues we are consistently faced with. In other words, KLC members are wondering why non-member riparian land owners are not helping to tackle these huge problems that affect us all.

*Fran Sindlinger*

The KLC is struggling with the equivalent of a "hole in our dam" that needs to be addressed. Imagine the possibilities if everyone adopted "the spirit of Kinderhook Lake" and imagine the problems we can solve if every household on the lake joined us. Just one membership from each household can make a huge difference in our efforts.

After all, we lake residents are all sluicers-by-proxy and we each bear responsibility for our lake and dam. As the story goes, even the little children of Holland know that.

How can you help? Ask your neighbors if they are KLC members. If not, please encourage them to join us.

We want to believe the second boy in the story is right, and that our community will show up in our hour of need to help those that have been loyally and patiently holding their finger in the dam for years.



## Did You Know?

Last September, NYS Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed new legislation, effective May 1, 2014:

All individuals born on or after May 1, 1996, will now be required to successfully complete an approved NYS Boater Safety Course in order to operate a motorboat.





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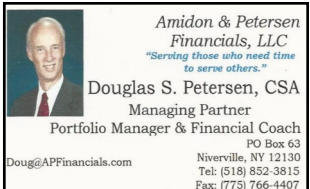
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## Annual Notice of Treatment of Kinderhook Lake with Copper Sulfate

KLC has applied to NYSDEC for a Permit to treat Kinderhook Lake with Copper Sulfate in 2014 (EPA Registration No. 46923-4). It is an herbicide which is used broadly to control algae. The levels used will be within the limits permitted by NYSDEC to kill blue-green algae without affecting other forms of algae.

In early spring, when water temperatures are low, white algae, called Diatoms, multiply rapidly. Those algae, as well as several other forms of brown and green, are produced as the water warms; they are excellent food for crustaceans, mollusks and fish fry. However, when water temperatures reach 68 degrees F, blue-green algae begins to multiply rapidly. Since blue-greens are not consumed by other organisms, they grow at the expense of the edible forms. If left untreated, levels will rise, water clarity will decrease and an unsightly, odor-producing scum of blue-green algae will form on the surface. Blue-green algae are not toxic to humans but may be to some dogs and other domestic animals.

Swimming, eating of fish and watering of domestic animals will be restricted for 24 hours following treatment. Persons wishing to register their disapproval with regard to the proposed treatment may do so by writing or calling Mr. Mark Solan, NYSDEC Region #4, 1150 N. Wescott Road, Schenectady, NY 12306, (518) 357-2045; persons wishing to do so have twenty-one days from the date of this mailing. No response from riparian owners will be considered consent for the applications.




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*Don't forget ...*

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Photos of available merchandise can be found on our website.

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(new and improved reprints now available)

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## Welcome Brochure

*D. Langer*

The KLC has produced a "Welcome to Kinderhook Lake" tri-fold brochure to be provided to new community residents in an effort to introduce them to our Lake and the KLC. The brochure includes basic information about the Lake location, features, history, water quality, watercraft and fishing. It also explains the purpose of the KLC and lists what the KLC does to maintain the dam and lake for all to enjoy. We hope this will help new residents better understand our community and encourage them to support the KLC via membership. The brochure will be published locally in small quantities, so changes can be made to future editions if new ideas or suggestions are implemented. If you would like to see what the brochure looks like, it is posted on our website.

## Important Dates to Remember

### April 15

Approximate date to close down the sluice gate and start refilling the lake. Actual date is weather and ice dependent.

## Costs On the Rise

*Paul Winslow*

The KLC Board of Directors has authorized a modest increase in the basic annual membership to \$125.00/yr and boat launch key rental to \$15.00/yr. The sustaining and benefactor membership rates will remain the same as last year, \$150.00/yr and \$200.00/yr, respectively.

This is the first increase since 2008 and was determined necessary due to a general increase in costs. The cost of copper sulfate has more than tripled in the last six years, insurance and other expenses have increased substantially, and we are facing repairs to the dam which may exceed the balance of our dam reserve fund.

## Dam Progress Report

D. Langer

Construction for the latest dam repair started on December 3, 2013. The contractor installed a coffer steel dam and de-watered the area in front of the sluice gate. Upon inspection, it was learned that the gasket around the gate, which was the suspected cause of the leak, was in fine condition. However, several of the surrounding wedges were missing, which was the root cause of the leaks around the gate. The wedges were replaced and the sluice gate now has a good seal. Although the final tally is not yet in, alternative methods of installing the coffer steel for dewatering and replacement of the wedges instead of the entire sluice gate gasket may have reduced the cost of Phase I work to less than half of the original estimate.

Once dry, the sluice pipe was inspected and it was determined that the pipe needed to be relined. The contractor is preparing an estimate to reline the sluice pipe. Depending on the estimated cost and funds available in the Dam Reserve Fund, it is hoped that work to reline the sluice pipe and repairs to the dam's facade can be completed this coming spring. In the meantime, the water level has been returned to its normal winter level. However, the coffer steel dam remains in place, limiting full control of winter water levels. As mentioned in the last newsletter, this may cause thinner ice and more hazardous conditions. Use extreme caution when venturing out on the ice this winter. If you are not sure, please stay off the ice.

## One Step at a Time

D. Langer

It's always humbling to look back and see how we did over the past year, if we actually made some positive progress. Well, we did. So here's a look back at our accomplishments over the past year or so and a look forward towards some goals for 2014.

This past year the KLC created and posted new Recreation Guidelines listing boating speed limits and appropriate behavior around the lake. In the spring, the KLC Board, along with many volunteers, cleaned the Rt. 28 launch site and installed a new easy to read Member's Launch sign. Progress was made in educating members on issues related to the spread of invasive species and ways to clean boating and fishing equipment to reduce the spread of invasives. Russ Camadine suggested and oversaw the well attended Kayak Race (Gymkhana) as a new 4th of July event. The KLC received a permit from DEC to repair the dam sluice gate and outlet pipe, and a committee was created to oversee construction. Dam construction was started in December 2013 and the committee managed to reduce the cost of Phase I work to less than half the original estimate. A NYS Boater Safety Course was arranged in the spring and attended by over 40 people. New fundraising

goals were created to be pursued in 2014. A new Welcome Brochure was produced and will be distributed to new lake community residents to educate them on the lake history, available recreational activities, and the duties of the KLC.

In 2014, the KLC hopes to continue with many of the initiatives started in 2013. A fundraising committee will be assembled from member volunteers and empowered to pursue our fundraising goals, including increasing riparian membership, improving profits at the summer picnic/fundraising event, raising funds for completion of the dam (if needed), and other purposes. Dam repairs will be completed (depending on available funding). The Board would like to continue to educate members on methods of reducing the spread of invasive species and explore methods to improve water quality and reduce the spread of weeds.

All-in-all, the KLC can be proud of its accomplishments in 2013. With the support of it's members, we look to accomplish even more in 2014 and beyond.

Not too shabby!

## Board Notes

Discussed at recent Board Meetings:

- Report on water quality and weed control issues
- Committee report on dam repairs/contractor selection
- Insurance cost increases
- Review of fund raising goals
- Review of Welcome Brochure for new residents
- Review of 2014 membership application

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**KLC News Editor:**  
Daniel Langer

## 2014 Budget

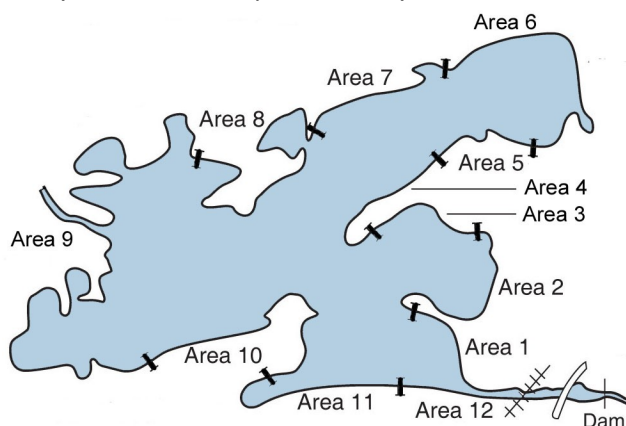
	2013 Actuals	2014 Estimate
<b>Operating Income</b>		
Contributions & Net Fundraising Events	35,574	35,490
Board Designated Funds to Dam Reserve *	(10,200)	(10,200)
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>\$ 25,374</b>	<b>\$ 25,290</b>
<b>Operating Expense</b>		
Water Quality/Weed Control	8,692	12,000
Insurance Expense	4,851	5,000
Postage, Supplies, Utilities	2,031	2,335
Equipment Maintenance	84	900
Fish Stocking Expense	2,200	1,000
Professional & Program Fees	1,139	1,635
Online Payment Merchant Fees	182	230
Licenses, Dues & Permits	439	450
Dam & Property Maintenance	955	1,740
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 20,572</b>	<b>\$ 25,290</b>
<b>Surplus (Deficit) Before Dam Improvements - Operating</b>	<b>\$ 4,801</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>Dam Reserve Income</b>		
Contributions to Dam Reserve	1,061	1,000
Board Designated Funds From General Fund *	10,200	10,200
<b>Total Dam Reserve Income</b>	<b>\$ 11,261</b>	<b>\$ 11,200</b>
<b>Dam Reserve Expense</b>		
Dam Improvements	1,635	31,500
<b>Total Dam Reserve Expense</b>	<b>\$ 1,635</b>	<b>\$ 31,500</b>
<b>Surplus (Deficit) Dam Reserves</b>	<b>\$ 9,626</b>	<b>\$ (20,300)</b>
<b>Organizational Surplus (Deficit) December 31</b>	<b>\$ 14,427</b>	<b>\$ (20,300)</b>

\* Note: Each month, the Board transfers \$850 from the General Fund to the Dam Reserve Fund.

Liquid Assets	General Fund	Dam Fund	Total
December 31, 2012	\$ 27,690	\$ 60,096	\$ 87,786
December 31, 2013	\$ 32,491	\$ 69,722	\$ 102,212

## Area Directors

KLC Directors are responsible for certain programs and for representing residents in shoreline areas indicated on the map. If you have concerns, please contact your Area Director.



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Area 2	Mike Weldon	518-784-3651
Area 3	Dan Langer	518-221-8689
Area 4	Bill Cleary	518-784-3914
Area 5	Ken Bosen	518-456-1542
Area 6	Rick Thieriault	518-573-5088
Area 7	Paul Winslow	518-784-3361
Area 8	Drew Nelson	347-721-6930
Area 9	Sharon Grubin	518-392-3427
Area 10	Bernie Kelleher	518-784-4717
Area 11	Russ Camadine	518-784-2087
Area 12	Mike Franceour	518-784-2651