

Long Lake Association Blog  
February 2024

By Hallie Bond, Long Lake Historian, and Barbara Taylor, President, Long Lake Association

The current Long Lake Association (LLA) is a community-based organization that was established in the early 1990s by a small group of concerned Long Lakers. It is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization. *Our mission is to preserve and enhance the health and beauty of the lake and to promote its wise use for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.* Since Long Lake is an asset to all that live in the Town, all residents (full and part-time) are part of the LLA. At this time, the LLA is not a membership organization and relies on a Board of Directors and volunteers to actively participate and support its mission.

In historical material collected by Tom Bissell, a former Town Supervisor, the following notes were found by Hallie Bond:

Re: Association of Tax Payers of Long Lake, NY (1909-1916). Long Lake was at the apogee of its population in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> C—over 100 in 1910. Assoc. was mostly wealthy camp owners and a sprinkling of politicians. Mentions “T.D. Sullivan, exSupervisor, county Judge and henchman of the Moynehan lumber interests...and Ben Lahey, another Moynehan spear-carrier.” Specially interested in public health/sewage. “The town even established a pest house near the corner of Rice and Mix roads in some undermined year and in 1908 the Supervisor was authorized to purchase the Dickson place as a second pest house. This was up the hill behind Roy Hosley’s house on the old Carthage Road. Once the town had a pest house, those afflicted with contagious disease were forced to move to the pest house where contact with the outside world was prevented by guards. This was truly serious business—at one point in 1904 guards were stationed on the Blue Mountain Road to prevent anyone entering Long Lake who had come from Indian Lake which had had an outbreak of smallpox.” Sewage discharged into bodies of water around town. The Association tried to promote septic tanks. Shaw’s Brook was a main problem and beside raw sewage there was the matter of sawdust from Shaw’s Mill—the same problem occurred in South Pond outlet and Lake Eaton outlet, and apparently sawdust stank when decomposing.” Town Board did nothing. The Association also concerned with roads, especially one to Sabattis and “proposed” on to Tupper. “But Long Lake merchants opposed this.” “Dr. Brannen, a charter member of the Association, was interested in promoting town activities and had founded a hockey club around 1911. Under this leadership the Association had also put-up money for prizes for the Long Lake Regatta. For the one-mile rowing race (guide boats) the Association proposed a cash award to the winner of \$35, but the rowers demanded \$75—in today’s money this would be close to \$1000.” “Dr. Brannen was also interested in backing school projects such as library aid” and an Athletic Club with magazines, a pool table and the like, “the purpose of which was to keep the children out of saloons.” More amusing stuff about school. “Mr. Terry reported in 1910 overhearing two prominent Long Lake natives saying, “If the Association thought it could run the Town it was very much mistaken.”

In other historical material, a Long Lake Association existed by 1930, when the officers were Erik S. Lagerquist, Pres, Hon Timothy D. Sullivan, 1st VP, Harry D. Stone, 2nd VP, E.J. McSweeney, Secy-treas, H.D. Jennings, Assist secy. Lagerquist was a seasonal resident, but Stone, McSweeney and Jennings were all locals. The group had a number of committees: Executive, Water Sports, outboard motorboat races, conservation betterment (“...to work on the New York Central Railroad for the improvement in train service and the remodeling of the station at Sabattis, NY”), and a committee to cooperate with the Long Lake Board of Health. Additionally, there was mention of “...cooperat[ing] with [the] Central Adirondack Fish and Game Association to secure legislative action for diverting the flow of Cold River. This could be referring to an historical proposal dating back to 1846, but more research on this is

warranted. Lots of locals were active in the committees, along with seasonal residents. Statements of purpose or mission were not found in the archives.

In the 1940s there was the Long Lake Improvement Club, active from the 1940s at least and as late as the 1970s and referred to sometimes as “the Woodchuck Club.” That group seems to have been focused on boosting and publicizing. An undated booklet was found touting “The Unspoiled Playground of the North.” They also sponsored boys to the state conservation camp, put on fireworks, and sponsored theatre plays and a two-day regatta in 1947 (at least). As the century closed, we quietly continued to monitor our lake health and practice conservation measures. Our top priority remains protecting the health of our lake and preserving its history for the community and our visitors.

For over 15 years, our current focus is on preventing the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). To this end, we have collaborated with several organizations, including the Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI), the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP), the Nature Conservancy, through the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program, and the NYSDEC. To augment existing water quality testing, the LLA joined the Adirondack Lake Assessment Program (ALAP) in 2016 to maintain our high standards of lake health and works cooperatively with the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District.

In 2019, the town established the Long Live Long Lake Fundraiser campaign to ensure the continuity of various programs that address the prevention of AIS which include the daily lake steward and boat wash coverage, water quality programs, and education and outreach activities. Our small community's dedication to lake health is evident through this campaign, the volunteers that support the LLA, and the Town of Long Lake. Without their help, we would face a very different situation on our beautiful lake.

We are pleased to report that the most recent full lake survey, conducted in 2022, showed no spread of the variable leaf milfoil (a species of great concern) which was first identified in 1999. This is a significant achievement for our entire lake community. In 2023, ADK Research conducted a targeted survey to identify any changes in previous documentation and a full survey will be carried out in 2024 to assess the impact of the catastrophic July 2023 inland floods on the spread of AIS, and drained Jennings Pond and Shaw Pond.

The LLA is proud to be a part of the initiatives to engage with the community. Activities such as the Annual Loon Census, Fishing Line Recycling, and NYS DEC Lean2 Rescue Program are all important programs that strengthen our community and highlight our commitment to ecosystem health. We also provide safety boats for the annual 90-miler canoe race and Long Lake Regatta in coordination with the Northern Forest Canoe Trail, which bolsters our economy and encourages additional tourism in Long Lake.

One often overlooked role of our lake is that it serves as an integral part of the headwaters of Adirondack lakes that flow into the Raquette River. This northern-flowing river (the 2<sup>nd</sup> longest in NYS) eventually reaches the St. Lawrence which feeds into the Great Lakes Basin. Thus, our role as lake stewards extends far beyond our shores. We hope our visitors and community members recognize this and encourage the community at large to get involved.