

Indian Lake Smoke Signals

Volume 2, Issue 19a

Summer 2014

OFFICERS

Bob Gates
President
852-6325

Beth Proko
Vice President
856-9598

Treasurer
Open

Maria Leitao-Pina
Public Affairs/
Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Herb Adams
Dennis Head
Isada Martignetti
Peter McKone
John Nadreau
Kevin O'Sullivan
Warren Page
Ed Proko
Michele Sloan

Algae Causes Lake Closure

On July 10th, 2014, Indian Lake was closed indefinitely due to blue-green algae, also known as cyanobacteria. While algae is not uncommon in Indian Lake, bouts of blue-green algae have been few and far between—certainly none that have been confirmed for at least the last 20 years.

While other forms of algae typically bloom and disperse within a few days without concern, blue-green algae can release harmful toxins that can cause serious illness in humans and pets when exposed.

Weekly testing is done by the state's Department of Public Health. The algae test results must be within state guidelines for two consecutive weeks for the lake to reopen.

Many of you may remember the lake being treated for algae in the past. Unfortunately, the state will not allow us to treat until we meet the state guidelines as noted above.

Why is Indian Lake prone to algae? Most lakes experience algae blooms, however, Indian Lake has consistently experienced them for 40+ years. A variety of factors can make a lake more susceptible. For Indian Lake, the shallowness means water temperatures are consistently high; the lake has been noted as having high phosphorous and nutrient loading for many years, likely due to the use of fertilizers with high phosphorous content within the watershed. Another key component is likely the sediment that has washed into the lake over the years.

The good news? District 1 City Councilor Tony Economou filed an order before City Council to create a team of key folks to work on short and long term goals for improving the water quality at Indian Lake. This was approved.

With many studies at our fingertips, we look forward to working with representatives from the City of Worcester, our state delegation and Lycott Environmental/Aquatic Control to create an aggressive plan for Indian Lake moving forward.

It has been very disappointing to lose the use of the lake this summer. We are hopeful that moving forward, something very positive will come from all of this.

Join the ILWA!

Membership dues help us replace and repair equipment as well as to keep area residents informed of important information regarding the lake and surrounding neighborhood. Included in this newsletter is a membership form. **Please send your membership dues in today!**

Parks & Beaches Master Plans

Last winter, Worcester residents had the opportunity to participate in the City of Worcester's master planning process for our parks and beaches surrounding Indian Lake led by Rob Antonelli, Assistant Commissioner, City of Worcester - DPW & Parks. Improvements are planned for Morgan Park, Indian Lake Beach and Shore Park. The next step in the planning process is securing funding.

Plans can be viewed under 'Current Projects' on the Indian Lake Watershed Association's website: www.ilwa.org.

Worcester Gives

Thank you to our wonderful donors for contributing \$275 during the 24 hour 'day of giving' organized by the Greater Worcester Community Foundation! This will really help with some equipment expenses.

'Like' Us on Facebook

New!

Helpful Numbers

If you see illegal or unsafe activity on or around Indian Lake, please do not hesitate to notify authorities.

WORCESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

Main number: 508-799-8606 (any time)

MASSACHUSETTS ENVIRONMENTAL POLICE

Dispatch: 800-632-8075

WORCESTER DEPT OF DPW & PARKS

508-929-1300

Hapgood-Brooks Project Nearing Completion

St. Peter Marian senior Eric Benoit is finishing a report on the history of the Hapgood-Brooks Memorial and submitted wording for a plaque to be placed on the site at the corner of Holden and Grove Streets. We were pleased to learn recently that Karen Greenwood will cover the cost of the plaque through the City of Worcester Veterans' Affairs office!!!! An unveiling ceremony will be forthcoming!

New WPI Project

The ILWA is honored to participate in a third Independent Qualifying Project (IQP) with students in their junior year at WPI! The students will be updating the weed survey and integrating it with the online tools created two years ago by WPI students. They will also be characterizing the sediment in the southern area of the lake between Sears Island and Grove Street. We have high hopes for the lake's reopening so this valuable project can continue as planned.

Pickle Ball at Morgan Park

Longtime ILWA member Karl Bjork is in the process of bringing this fun sport to Morgan Park. Several blue markings have been added to the tennis court so it will serve as a place to demonstrate and play this game when the court is not being used for tennis. Watch for more information coming soon!

WPD Meetings and Contacts

Enforcement of safe boating laws on Indian Lake as well as safe behavior by visitors at the parks and beaches surrounding the lake is an ongoing challenge. The organizations that police these areas, the Worcester Police Department (WPD) and Mass. Environmental Police, have often struggled to support our requests for greater presence with reductions in staffing and resources.

Please make every effort to report unsafe behavior on and around the lake. This helps these organizations know where they need to assign resources.

The WPD also holds monthly Crime Watch meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at Ford's Hometown Services, 549 Grove Street. These valuable meetings are an opportunity for you to meet the officers who work in our area on a daily basis, learn about criminal activities going on in the neighborhood and what the police are doing to help address any uptick in activity.

The calendar for all the city Crime Watch meetings can be found at: <http://www.worcesterma.gov/police/>.

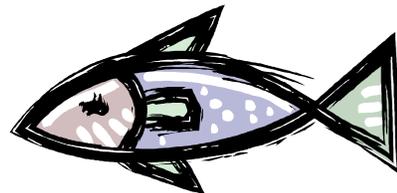
The best things we can do are to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity.

Emergencies: 911

Suspicious activity/concerns: 508-799-8606

Grant Writing

Love to write? As with most nonprofits, our activities and projects are often limited by funding! There are numerous grant opportunities out there. We are looking for volunteers willing to compose grants on behalf of the Indian Lake Watershed Association. If you are interested or have questions, contact Beth Proko at bproko@charter.net.



ILWA monthly meetings are currently held following the 5:30pm WPD Crime Watch, the third Tuesday of the month at Ford's Hometown Services, 549 Grove Street. Enter on left side of building and proceed to the 2nd floor.

For more information, visit our website at www.ilwa.org!!