

Indian Lake Smoke Signals

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Spring 2011

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Spring Cleanup



The ILWA spring cleanup will be **SATURDAY, MAY 14th from 9am to 1pm**. Our goals include tasks at Shore Park, Morgan Park, City Beach, Norton Drive and at the war memorials around the lake. Please meet at Shore Park at 9am. The more participants, the more we can make our neighborhood shine!

Lake Level: Why Change?

Indian Lake, like many New England water bodies, has been fighting non native invasive weeds since the mid 1980's. At one time, Indian Lake had so much of the invasive weed Eurasian Milfoil, the lake actually turned green! It was unusable for fishing, swimming or boating and was an eyesore. These invasive weeds out compete native vegetation.

Although extensive chemical treatments provided temporary relief years ago, there currently is no way to permanently eradicate the invasive weeds. The very best thing that can be done is manage them.

Indian Lake, being a manmade water body, has a dam with controls which can be used to adjust the water level. It was recommended by Lycott Environmental many years back that we use the lake level to help manage the weeds.

Working under an approved order of conditions issued by the Worcester Conservation Commission, the ILWA works with the Worcester Department of Public Works and Parks to coordinate this annual process.

For greater than 10 years, the lake has been lowered at the end of October so that a good portion of the lake bottom is exposed to the cold. Exposed weeds die off during the winter months and much of the remaining are uprooted by the ice. In mid February, the gates are closed and the lake is refilled with runoff from melting snow and spring rains.

The drawdown has been the most effective, least expensive and most environmentally friendly way to manage the invasive weeds. But, the weeds are not gone. By mid August they are quite prevalent in the lake. Yet, it has been many years now since any chemical has been added to Indian Lake for weed management.

In 2009, the ILWA board was asked by local fishing enthusiasts to consider limiting the depth of the drawdown. Their concern was the lack of water may be impacting fish spawning activity.

We went from a 6 foot vertical draw down to a 4 foot drawdown for the 2009/2010 winter. With observations of a stronger fish population and no visible difference in the weed growth the following summer, we agreed to continue with this shorter drawdown for the 2010/2011 season.

We will continue to monitor the weed activity closely. Please consider that the drawdown takes city resources and adjustments require extensive thought and planning. It is a useful tool for this purpose but it is not an option to adjust it on a regular basis.

ILWA monthly meeting are held the first Tuesday of the month at Ford's Hometown Services, 649 Grove Street. Enter on left side of building and proceed to the 2nd floor. All members are welcome!

Helpful Numbers

If you see illegal or unsafe activity on or around Indian Lake, please don't hesitate to notify authorities.

WORCESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

Operations: 508-799-8669 (someone is usually only at this phone during the day)

MASSACHUSETTS ENVIRONMENTAL POLICE

Dispatch: 800-632-8075

Office: 978-630-3748

WORCESTER DEPT OF DPW & PARKS

508-929-1300

Youth Summer Jobs



Frank Kartheiser of Worcester Interfaith recently approached the ILWA regarding an opportunity for summer youth employment that will be beneficial for the Indian Lake area. A cooperative partnership between Worcester Interfaith, the City of Worcester and a grant will provide funding. The positions available will be for 25-30 hours a week for 6-7 weeks this summer. Ideal applicants should be from 16-24 years old living in the greater Indian Lake area. School age applicants should qualify for free or reduced lunch. There will be an opportunity for 5-6 workers and one supervisor. Scope of work will be determined by the ILWA. Interested parties should contact Bob Gates at 508-641-7443 or gatesrandk@charter.net.

Holden St Pumping Station

Joe Buckley, assistant director of the City of Worcester Sewer Operations, has informed the ILWA that upgrades to the Holden Street pumping station are underway!

Indian Lake Crime Watch

The 3rd Tuesday of each month, the Worcester Police Department holds a meeting to discuss neighborhood issues at Ford's Hometown Services, 549 Grove St. The next meeting is Tuesday, May 17th at 6:30pm.

Member Drive

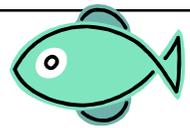
The ILWA is holding a spring membership drive. Not only does increasing our membership help to provide monies for equipment and maintenance but it also helps to keep area residents informed of important information regarding the lake and surrounding neighborhood. If you can assist with the membership drive, please contact Beth Proko at bproko@charter.net or 508-864-9549.

Rain Garden to Benefit Indian Lake

Bancroft School has jumped on board with the City of Worcester's new storm water initiative by offering to build a rain garden at Shore Park. Rain gardens offer an environmentally friendly approach to redirect storm water runoff which can wash pollutants into our local waterways. At Shore Park, water from roof runoff, which has caused an ongoing problem with beach erosion, will be re-directed to an attractive garden created on site.

This will not only be a great benefit for Indian Lake but also be will be a great educational experience for the students and area residents.

Fish Stocking Fund



It has been at least 13 years since Indian Lake was last stocked with Northern Pike and Tiger Muskies. A number of members have expressed interest in restocking the lake. We are moving forward with fundraising to add Northern Pike to the lake over a three year period at a total cost of \$5000. We are fundraising separately so as not to take away from our ongoing costs for equipment maintenance and replacement. We are already at \$3100!!! **Please send your tax deductible donations to support this effort made to the ILWA, 5 North Pond Rd, Worcester 01605. Please put 'FISH FUND' in the memo.** We must have monies in place by November 1st to coordinate stocking in the spring of 2012.

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