

## 2019 ANNUAL MEETING/PICNIC

Please join us for the 2019 annual meeting and picnic Saturday, August 3 at the Byron Park pavilion. This year we will be discussing lake level management, invasive species prevention, water quality, and other topics of concern to lake residents. Guest speaker is TBD. We light the grills at 4:30 and dinner is at 5:15. The annual meeting starts at 5:45 over dessert. Please RSVP with the enclosed mailer or by email and plan to bring your questions, comments and your appetite.

## 2018 ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW

The Association held its 40th annual meeting and picnic on August 11 at the Byron Park pavilion. Joe Hancock and Pete Sinski once again manned the grill and served up some excellent burgers and hot dogs to complete the buffet of salads, casseroles, chips, dips, fresh fruit and desserts. A big thank you to Timberlock for supplying the hotdogs and burgers! The business meeting began with the election of directors. It was noted that Paul Coppock and Richard Vincelette had completed three terms as directors and therefore would be rotating off the board. The members then reelected Maggie Evatt and Autumn Blanchard to their second terms. Jon Voorhees who has served on the board in the past was elected to a first term. Jon is the owner and operator of Camp Driftwood on Indian Lake and has been active in the Indian Lake community in numerous capacities.

The chair also announced that with the retirement from the board of the president, Paul Coppock, and the treasurer, Rich Vincelette, the board would be electing the following new slate of officers:

Maggie Crowley (Evatt), President  
Gail O'Brien, Treasurer  
Marsha King Purdue, Vice President  
Carmen Adler, Secretary

Note: The association would like to sincerely thank Paul Coppock and Rich Vincelette for their leadership and dedicated service to the Indian Lake Association during their time on the Board of Directors. Their tireless efforts helped lead to great progress, including the incorporation of the association and increased membership, among many others things. Thank you Paul and Rich for your efforts and your continued support of the association on our lake.

Rich Vincelette reported that for the past year, revenues from memberships were \$1,755.00 and expenses were \$981.98, yielding a cash balance of \$6,684.41 as of the meeting. The main expenses were for printing and mailing the newsletter and Boater's Guide, the ILA Scholarship, the annual testing of the lake water quality, and the picnic. There were 105 active memberships as of the annual meeting.

An important part of the lake experience is access to an attractive, vibrant community for entertainment, shopping and services. The board decided that town development and revitalization is an issue we should explore. To discuss this subject, Town of Indian Lake Supervisor Brian Wells joined us as our guest speaker. Brian reviewed the many grants and initiatives that the town is pursuing to improve the economic vitality and appearance of our community. There are many volunteer opportunities for our members to assist in these efforts, and to use their contacts for networking with people and resources outside the community. This is a subject the association plans to continue to explore.

The minutes of the 2018 annual meeting are available for your review on our website: [www.ilaadk.org](http://www.ilaadk.org).

## LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

-Jon Voorhees

The year's biggest local event actually occurred at the State level on Election Day, when Democrats finally and resoundingly took control of the Senate in Albany. The State Senate, which had been in Republican hands almost continuously since the Civil War, has been a dependable source of largess for the town of Indian Lake. At last year's ILA picnic, Town supervisor Brian Wells presented an eye-popping enumeration of grants-in-aid and other funds from various State programs received under his tenure. But those days are gone, and the gravy train will probably be making fewer stops at our station.

Since our representation in Albany is solidly Republican, Indian Lake (and all Adirondack communities) will find themselves in a changed world. Our minority party representatives will find it harder to "bring home the bacon." And, since redistricting will be handled by the new majority party after the discouraging results of the 2020 census are unveiled, it's difficult to see this ungenerous political landscape shifting anytime in the foreseeable future.

We better hope that the recent improvements in our infrastructure will be enduring because it's likely that a greater share of future projects will have to be shouldered by local taxpayers. The concern, in other words, is that either property taxes will rise; or things may be allowed to deteriorate. For the time being, it appears that local property and school taxes will again fall below the "2%" tax cap.

More heartening is the news that several new businesses are starting up in town: A professional barber shop opened in Indian Lake at the end of last season. A breakfast and lunch place is supposed to open in the pink building between Marty's and the Theater by July 4. Blue Mountain Lake is to gain a pub in the old Potter's building during 2019. The vintage Blue Line Diner in Blue is also supposed to get up and running this Spring. There are also proposals for a microbrewery in town, a kayak/canoe/paddleboard rental business/paddling guide service, and a hostel for the hut-to-hut hiking trail initiative that's been being tested as a way to utilize the region's marvelous hiking trails. And, thankfully, no businesses closed during the past year.

The Town has still not signed off on the botched up Abanakee dam replacement. And work is likely to begin on the Adirondack Lake dam this fall. That project will use "old" money that was still in the pipeline. The Town continues to struggle to come up with a response to the dwindling number of conventional vacation accommodations. But as the old cottage colonies disappear, short term rentals of second homes through platforms like Airbnb seem to have replaced a certain amount of what's gone missing. In several nearby communities, there's been pushback by residents against this kind of unsupervised rental activity, on account of excessive noise and other misbehavior by renters.

Attracting more visitors will inevitably bring more noise. But a lot of our diminishing peace and quiet has to be attributed to the State's legalization of private fireworks displays. Indian Lake has seen an ever-increasing number of these privately held extravaganzas stretching way out on the calendar far beyond Independence Day - some even at unnerving hours like 2 AM. It seems self-defeating that the State would facilitate this at the same time it tries to promote an Adirondack wilderness experience to visitors.

Here on Indian Lake, NYS's Dept. of Environmental Conservation will begin to implement its plan to defend the Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area by taking 20 of the lake's 55 beloved campsites, which are located on the east shore of Indian Lake, and moving them 150 feet inland, out of sight from the lake. All the onshore sites from across from Griffin Road all the way to the end of the Jessup will eventually be displaced and converted to backwoods, lean-to facilities. This is being done to bring the sites into compliance with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, even though it's sure to create any number of unhappy campers who've long enjoyed what was surely some of the most wonderful tent camping locations on the entire planet. Many of these folks have proven to be dependable allies of Indian Lake and the Adirondack Park over the years.

The first phase of work, during this coming year, will consist of selecting two existing campsites to be entirely eliminated; moving campsite #51 (at the end of the Jessup) inland; and selecting two, brand-new, inland lean-to sites, somewhere on the eastern side of the lake, to be developed later. Relocation of the remaining affected campsites will take place incrementally over a



Indian Lake from Baldy Mt.  
photo courtesy of Daniel Way [www.danielway.com](http://www.danielway.com)

period of years. As this work commences, neither the State nor its surrogates have yet found the money or the will to situate an inspection/wash station anywhere along the first 50 miles of Rt. 9/28 corridor that visiting motorboats use to access the Park. This illustrates the need for greater resolve on the part of NYS in resisting the spread of aquatic invasive species into our priceless waters.

Perhaps the saving grace for this threat will be the deplorable condition of Rt. 28 between Indian Lake village and the North River hill. As I write, it is a pocked and poorly patched moonscape, that provides an obstacle-course-like challenge to drivers. Perhaps it will serve to discourage visiting boaters. Too bad it will likely have the same effect on tourists who are not harboring invaders. Last year the NYS DOT spent a fortune rebuilding the perfectly good road between Indian Lake and Blue Mountain Lake. This year, DOT is doing the road between Blue and Raquette.

For those who drove home on these roads after the idyllic tourist weather of last summer, rest assured: those sublime climate conditions did not last. In the march of the seasons, summer quickly gave way to winter, with gnarly storms before Halloween, which resulted in loads of rollover accidents, including your scribe. We received 36" of snow in November, and

it was 20 below zero on Thanksgiving eve. Continuing out of step, winter seemed to turn to fall, with about zero inches of snow in December, finally averaging out in the end to a regular, old-fashioned winter.

Maintaining its usual clenched grip on things, the State of New York quickly suppressed the threat that we referenced in last year's newsletter: Customers in our electronic marketplace were shielded from the responsibility of comparison shopping, when the State's Public Utilities Commission rebuffed Charter Communications' application to take over Hamilton County Cable TV as "not in the public interest".

And, indeed, how could it have been? The Empire State, representing the public, had already "invested" a half a billion dollars in our favorite (& only) local Internet Service Provider, Frontier Communications. And Frontier had already consumed these funds, strung several miles of fiber-optic cable around town, and blown almost as many deadlines for lighting up that cable as there were miles of the same.

Wall Street has been nowhere near as inclined to invest in Frontier as the State of New York. Since 2007, Frontier's stock has declined from a high of \$237.75 per share to about \$3 per share. The suspense and intrigue of all this has been almost as compelling as

streaming a Netflix series. Think of “House of Cards” or “Shameless”, but grainy, with static and scan lines, pausing every few seconds for a few minutes of rebuffering, before finally experiencing complete signal loss. In the meanwhile, Hamilton County Cable TV ceased its operations in Indian Lake and Blue Mountain Lake, leaving a number of customers without any other options. But Frontier has, at last, activated its wires in Sabael, and residents have already begun signing on for FiOS, using those capacious wires we’ve already paid for with our tax dollars. The deals being offered aren’t bad.

Nor was the State idle during the winter months. It managed to extract a \$174 million fine from Charter for its own yawning coffers, plus \$62 million in refunds for Charter’s actual customers - all this for Charter’s failure to deliver internet at the speed and dependability they had promised in other parts of New York. Acting Attorney General Barbara Underwood said that this should serve as a “wake up call” for all internet service providers in New York. Hopefully, the wake up call that Frontier thinks it’s receiving is not telling it that it’s safer to just postpone indefinitely any further exposure in this dangerous medium. The AG also forced an agreement with all the State’s ISPs to market their internet speeds more honestly in the future. That would be refreshing, wouldn’t it?

Thankfully, good connectivity is not the reason folks like being in Indian Lake. It’s a beautiful place to while away unplugged hours in relative safety. Every year, though, there seem to be a few more break-ins around Town. Just before Christmas, some disturbed soul smashed into Stewart’s with an axe in order to steal two packs of cigarettes.

In response to these types of things, the County Board of Supervisors has begun the process of potentially making the local District Attorney position a full-time job for the first time. Making the prosecution of criminals more than a part-time job may prove to be a wise move. Even though we finally have actual 9-1-1 service now in Hamilton County, using it in the future may become more problematic.

Many experts project a day coming when telephone land lines will be a thing of the past since everyone has mobile phones. Of course, that doesn’t account for senior citizens who’ve resisted hopping on the internet

bandwagon, or those of us down in the shadows of the dark side of Crow Hill, where the squat little cell tower was designed so as to not offend the aesthetics of Park purists. If, in fact, we are bypassed by 21st Century technology, we can still enjoy our beautiful scenery, abundant outdoor recreation options, and the inner peace being a little “off the grid” can bring.

## ILA DICK MERRILL SCHOLARSHIP

Last year the Association’s scholarship of \$300 was awarded to Indian Lake High School Class of 2018 graduate Sydney Benton for the pursuit of studies at SUNY Plattsburgh. The scholarship was named for Dick Merrill, a long time board member, educator and lake advocate. It is awarded to graduates of Indian Lake High School who have exemplified good stewardship of the lake and the environment.

## MEMBERSHIP DUES

Dues are unchanged from the rates that went into effect in 2014. The basic membership options are \$15 for one year or \$35 for three years. In 2014 we instituted voluntary higher levels for members who would like to contribute more, and so far we have received many membership payments at the higher levels. This generosity is helping the Association strengthen its financial position and better prepares us to respond as issues that concern our membership arise.

The current membership dues levels are:

- Lake Level - \$15 for 1 year or \$35 for 3 years
- Baldface Mt. - \$25 for 1 year or \$60 for 3 years
- Dug Mt. - \$40 for 1 year or \$100 for 3 years
- Snowy Mt. - \$50 for 1 year or \$125 for 3 years

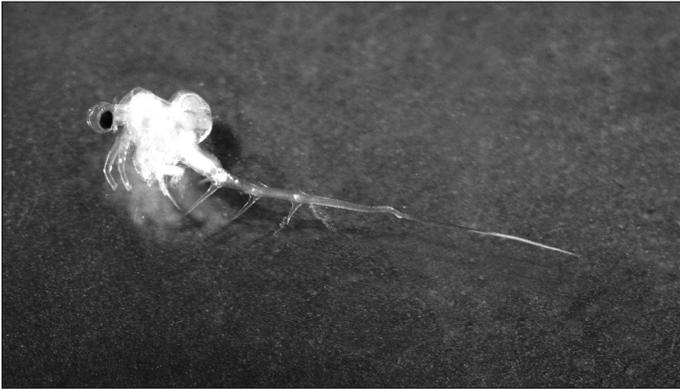
Please note that your membership expiration date is printed on the address label on the last page of this newsletter. Please check to see whether you are due to renew your membership.

## AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

-Paul Coppock

Last summer, our lake association once again participated in the annual survey of Adirondack lakes for identification of any invasive aquatic plants. We are pleased that no invasive plants were found in Indian Lake. As previously reported, the one intruder that was found in Indian Lake in 2016 is the spiny waterflea. This is a tiny crustacean, less than one-half inch in length

including its long barbed tail. The species consumes zooplankton that is an important food for young native fish. The barbed tail prevents smaller fish from eating them. They can collect in gelatinous globs on fishing lines, which can then easily spread the crustaceans to other water bodies. This creature has been found in a number of lakes in our area. It is not known what long term effect the species will have on the aquatic habitat, and the population can cycle through periods of decline and reemergence. The Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) continues to monitor the presence of the spiny waterflea in our lake and others.



Spiny Water Flea (photo enlarged)  
Actual size is less than a half inch including the tail.

We are fortunate that unlike many of the surrounding lakes, Indian Lake has shown no signs of any invasive plants such as Eurasian milfoil, variable leaf milfoil, curly-leaf pondweed and water chestnut. These types of invasive species are spread from lake to lake primarily by hitching rides on boats, trailers and fishing gear that have not been adequately drained, cleaned and dried. For three summers, the Paul Smith's Adirondack Watershed Institute has used grants from DEC to provide boat stewards at the Indian Lake DEC boat ramp to inspect boats for invasive hitchhikers before the boats are launched. Last August, the program added a boat wash station in the parking lot of the boat launch to clean any boats and trailers before entering the water or returning to the highway, if suspected of contamination.

In its 2018 annual report, the Adirondack Watershed Institute stated that the stewards at Indian Lake last summer inspected 2,898 boats and found plant or animal organisms on 110 of the boats and trailers. Most of the organisms were noninvasive or not positively identified, but the stewards did intercept water chestnut and zebra mussel invasives. The full report can be found online at [www.adkwatershed.org](http://www.adkwatershed.org).

This program will be in operation again this summer with two boat stewards assigned to Indian Lake, and the Paul Smith's program just received DEC funding for an additional five years. A boat wash station will again be located in Speculator and a new wash station will be sited on the north side of Route 28 adjacent to Lake Durant to service boaters coming from the west. It appears that one important benefit of the boat steward program over the last three years of operation has been growing boater awareness about the need to drain, clean and dry their boats and trailers.

Our association will be organizing a team of volunteers again this year to survey assigned sections of the Indian Lake shoreline for aquatic invasive plants, concentrating on the most vulnerable areas. The aim is to catch any infestation at the earliest possible time, when removal is easy before the plant spreads causing serious harm to the lake and massive remediation costs. APIPP offers a free half-day training program in multiple locations each June and July to help volunteers locate and identify the target plants. The training session schedule should be announced by late April, and we encourage anyone who would like to get involved to sign up for a session. If you are interested in helping survey our shorelines for aquatic invasives, please contact Paul Coppock at: [pccoppock@gmail.com](mailto:pccoppock@gmail.com), 717-460-4591, or any board member.

## 2018 WATER QUALITY REPORT

-Joe Hancock

Last summer our Association continued participating in the lake water testing program run by the Adirondack Watershed Institute at Paul Smiths College. This was our 16th year in the program. There are about 67 lakes and ponds throughout the park that are tested, results analyzed and tabulated. A report is generated by the Institute and is available on the Protect the Adirondacks website, [www.protectadks.org](http://www.protectadks.org). Protect the Adirondacks is the administrator for the program. Our testing or sampling is done three times each summer season by Russ Evatt and Joe Hancock. The lake sample is taken from the "deep hole" portion of the lake, the sample is then frozen and sent to the Paul Smiths laboratory for analysis.

The good news is that our lake continues to test in a consistent pattern with no disturbing trends in either PH (a measurement of acidity), clarity (a measure of how clear the water is), and levels of chloride and sodium

which is a byproduct of road salt. The sodium/chloride reading is significant as some property owners water wells have become contaminated with high levels of sodium/chloride probably due to road salt.

Our lake has a fairly high “flush rate” due to the many incoming streams and brooks which helps to maintain our good water quality. The watershed that surrounds our lake is quite large ( 33,838 hectares, which is about 83,712 acres) and is largely undeveloped, which typically helps good water quality. We will continue our participation with the program this summer. We can all do our part to help keep our good quality water by keeping our septic systems in good working order and avoiding using lawn and garden fertilizers near the lakeshore.

### INDIAN LAKE DAM STUDY

The Regulating District continues its work on an engineering study of the Indian Lake dam and is entering the final design stage of plans to make improvements on the earthen embankments, the gates, and other technical changes to meet DEC requirements. The District has submitted its plans to DEC for evaluation, and once approved, the District will solicit bids for the construction project. Work is expected to begin in 2021 or later, and should not disturb the recreational use of the lake. Any work requiring lowering of the lake level would be performed during the annual off-season draw down.

### TARGET LAKE LEVELS

As many of you know, the water level of Indian Lake is managed by the Hudson River Black River Regulating District, with the primary purpose of maintaining adequate flow and preventing flooding downstream on the Hudson. The Regulating District also has a secondary goal of supporting recreational use of the lake by aiming for established lake level targets that will help reveal our beaches early in the season and slow the draw down late in the boating season. It can be a tricky balancing act that will be affected by unusual weather conditions.

We are pleased to report that last year the operators of the Indian Lake dam were able to keep the lake close to target levels throughout the boating season despite a dry summer. They were able to maintain a low water

release rate of 110 to 130 cubic feet per second from June through September. The one exception was a spike on July 29 to support the Governor’s Adirondack Challenge rafting promotional event, which lowered the lake about one inch. Last year the lake levels compared to the targets were approximately as follows:

June 1, 2018	-6”
July 1, 2018	at target
August 1, 2018	+2”
September 1, 2018	-6”
October 1, 2018	at target

The Regulating District reported the following data showing the inflow and outflow rates for Indian Lake during the 2018 season as a percent of average:

	Inflow	Outflow
May	113%	113%
June	26%	47%
July	30%	50%
August	36%	53%
September	46%	50%
October	58%	101%

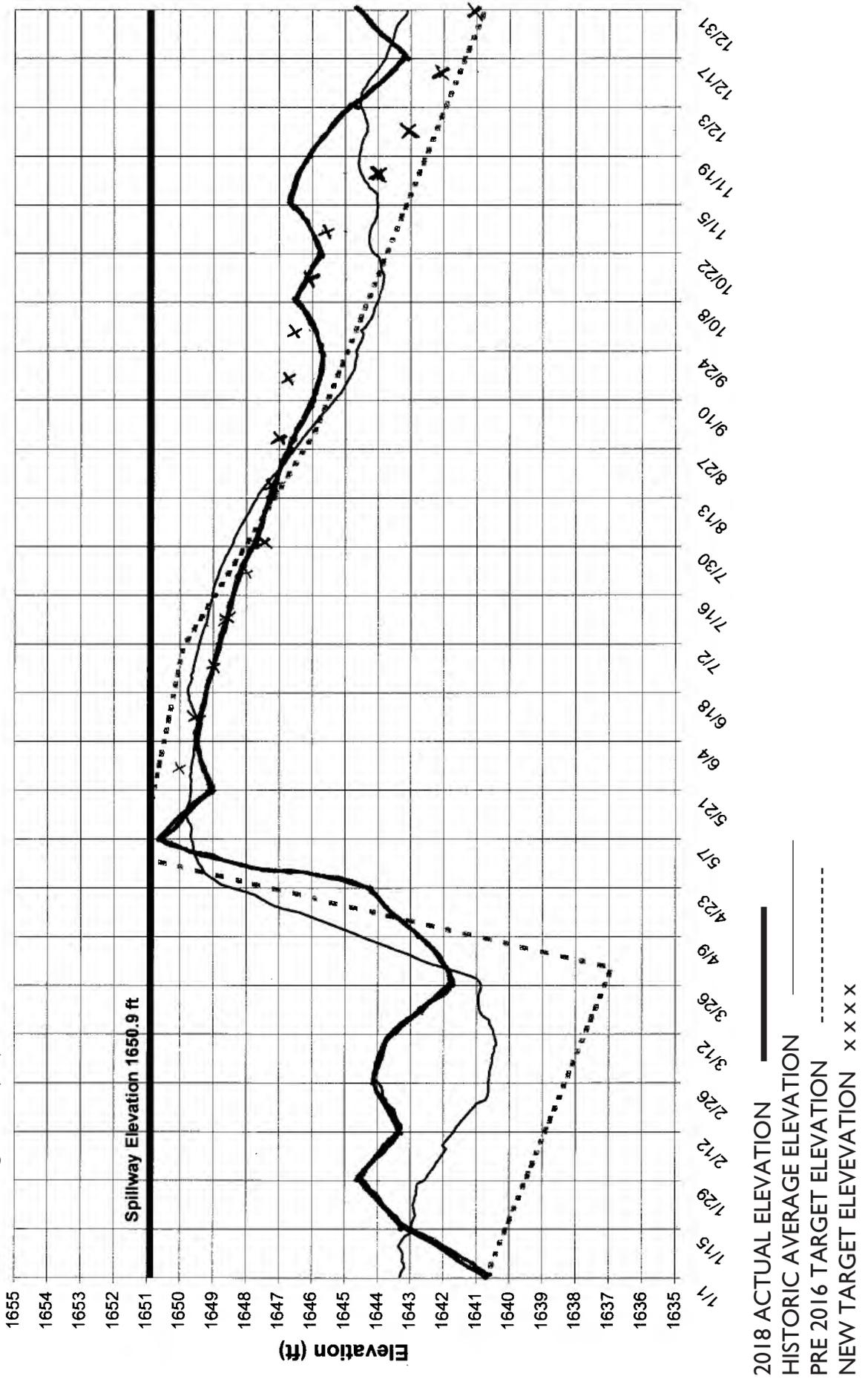
The balancing act that the Regulating District must perform becomes more challenging late in the season, requiring an adequate flow in the Upper Hudson, while slowing the outflow from Indian Lake to keep water levels up. Then after October 1, they need to quickly draw the level down closer to 1644’ (about 26’ by the painted rock gauges) to prepare for heavy autumn rains.

We are pleased that the Regulating District is trying to accommodate recreational concerns with these target levels, while carrying out the District’s primary statutory mandate of regulating the flow downstream as required to prevent flooding, provide sufficient water flow for wastewater treatment, hydroelectric plants, and other needs.

The data regarding lake levels and other information can be found on the Regulating District’s website at: [www.hrbrd.com](http://www.hrbrd.com). The Regulating District has tentatively scheduled its June 11, 2019 board meeting to be held in the Indian Lake Town Hall beginning at 10 a.m. The public is invited and will have an opportunity to ask questions.

## INDIAN LAKE WATER LEVEL ~ 2018

Below is a graph from the Hudson River Black River Regulating District that shows the target water levels agreed on between the Indian Lake Association and HRBRD for the lake in effect prior to 2016 (dotted line), the new target levels effective in 2016 (small 'x's) and the historic average water levels (thin solid line). Added to the graph are the actual levels from USGS data (heavy solid line). The combination of the large drainage area and the relatively small outlets on the dam mean that a large rain event or rapid snow melt can make the lake rise significantly even with the gates fully open.





Indian Lake Association ADK, Inc.  
P.O. Box 973, Sabael, NY 12864  
[www.ilaadk.org](http://www.ilaadk.org)

---

## INDIAN LAKE ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors 2018-2019

President – Maggie Crowley (Evatt)  
Vice President – Marsha King Purdue  
Secretary – Carmen Adler  
Treasurer – Gail O'Brien  
At-Large – Jon Voorhees  
At-Large – Pete Sinski  
At-Large – Autumn Blanchard

CONTACT US: [info@ilaadk.org](mailto:info@ilaadk.org)

ILA Website: [www.ilaadk.org](http://www.ilaadk.org)

## INDIAN LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING & PICNIC BYRON PARK PAVILION SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 2019

4:30 pm – Arrival  
5:15 pm – Barbeque Picnic  
5:45 pm – ILA Business Meeting

ILA will supply the burgers, hot dogs and veggie burgers FREE to ILA members. There will be a \$5.00 charge for non-member guests. The guest fee will be applied to a new annual membership for anyone not currently an ILA member so please invite your friends and neighbors. Each family should bring a dish to share (appetizer, salad or dessert) as well as drinks of your choice.

Please RSVP with the enclosed mailer or contact:  
[info@ilaadk.org](mailto:info@ilaadk.org)