

* News of Blue *

An informal newsletter for Blue Mountain Lake residents, friends and all who want to nurture the town and to protect the Eckford Chain: Blue Mountain Lake, Eagle Lake and Utowana Lake

Blue Mountain Lake, NY

May 2020



Ice-Out on Blue Mountain Lake happened on April 8 (or 9). See page 2 for fun Ice-In and Ice-Out history. Photo by Justine Franklin.

BML and Hamilton County and Covid-19

Hamilton County, as of May 22, had only five documented cases of coronavirus, the fewest of any county in New York State. One of the cases, reportedly, was a DEC forest ranger who was sent to New Rochelle to help in that early outburst of cas-

es. Another ranger, Blue Mountain's own Jason Scott, was sent to New York City to help set up the Javits Center hospital. On his return, he quarantined for two weeks and is, apparently, just fine.

North Country opens in Phase One. See page 12 for current message from Hamilton County.

es. Another ranger, Blue Mountain's own Jason Scott, was sent to New York City to help set up the Javits Center hospital. On his return, he quarantined for two weeks and is, apparently, just fine.

Local residents are wearing masks, keeping their distance, making few trips, and taking "the pause" very seriously. Of course, it's been mud season when people hunker down for a couple of months, so, for many, not much has changed, especially considering this cold and snowy spring.

Good news happened on May 15: the North Country section of New York State

"Downtown" Blue Mountain

Blue Mountain Lake has looked a little different this spring. The first thing residents lament is the discontinuation of coffee for everyone at the Fire Hall. "They've stopped having the daily 9 to 10 o'clock coffee. This is usually a great welcoming place for people in Blue on a cold, gray day."

The three churches, of course, are shuttered, but the Methodist Church is Zooming both services and mid-week check-ups for the congregation and others. To get on Pastor Nina Dickinson's Zoom list, see page 8.

The Indian Lake and Long Lake libraries aren't open, but a tiny one has taken their place—the little "take one/leave one" book box by the public beach has reportedly become very popular, with books coming and going more than usual.

Many miss Nanette Shovea's yoga classes at Blue, but she's now, through the help of The View in Old Forge, Zooming yoga classes online and anyone can join. To get on her Zoom list, call her at 315-360-7144.

A few unfamiliar faces—at least for this time of year—are around town. Some local residents worry that visitors regard their BML & Covid.....see page 4



Above, Blue Mountain Lake, early May
Top: A "closed" sign in Blue.

Middle: A quiet main street.

Bottom: Post office with signage: "Protect yourself and others," "Only one person at a time at the window."

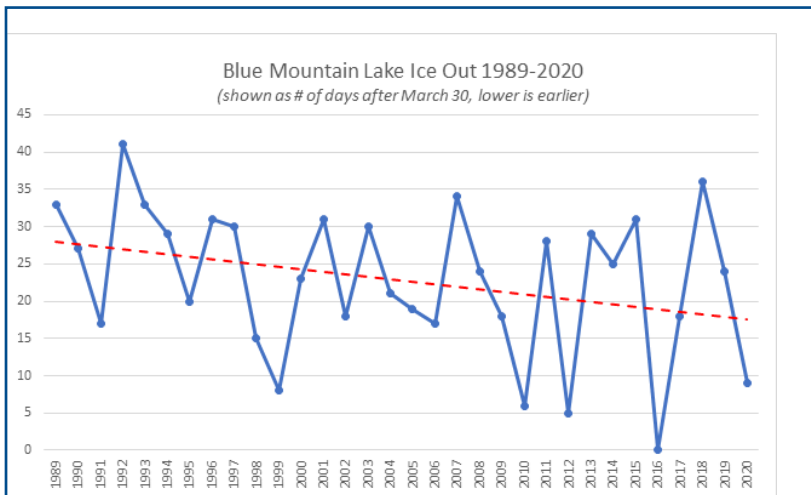
Photos by Lori Bennett.

Faces of the lake

MAY 2 1989	APRIL 23 2008
APR 26 1990	APRIL 17 2009
APR 16 1991	APR 5 2010
MAY 10 1992	APR 27 2011
MAY 2 1993	APR 4 2012
APR 28 1994	APR 28 2013
APR 19 1995	APR 24 2014
APR 30 1996	APR 30 2015
APR 29 1997	MARCH 30 2016
APR 14 1998	APR 17 2017
APR 22 1999	MAY 5 2018
APR 22 2000	APR 23 2019
APR 30 2001	APR 8 2020
APR 17 2002	
APR 29 2003	
APR 30 2004	

Above: Evelyn Thompson recorded Ice-Out dates observed by Bruce Butters since 1989.

Below: Andy Coney took the dates and plotted them on this graph.



Ice-In and Ice-Out are iconic markers of the yearly calendar in the North Country. The exact dates for early winter Ice-In and for mid-spring Ice-Out make for enthusiastic conversation and occasional controversy. This year, Ice-In was reportedly on December 7, and Ice-Out on April 8 or 9.

Over the years, Blue Mountain Lake has had watchful eyes logging the lake's behavior, especially in the spring when Ice-Out anticipates spring. Bruce Butters, yearly, noted Ice-Out and reported it to Evelyn Thompson who kept a running tab. Evelyn's daughter, Tina Pine, gave the tab to Ellen Collins who gave it to Andy Coney who has just put it on a graph. *Talk about team work!*

John Collins was also an observer. Ellen said that, for years, John kept a record, and she's continuing with that. "It is not complete and not official and may differ with someone else's records but this is what Johnny had in his calendar and I have tried to keep it up."

Ice In	Ice Out
12/9/10	4/27/11
12/18/11	4/4/12
12/26/12	4/29/13
11/29—12/7/13	4/24/14
12/31/14	4/30/15
1/5/16	3/31/16
12/11/16	4/17/17
12/15/17	5/5/18
12/23/18	4/23/19
12/7/19	4/9/20

Greetings at this strange time:

We're doing an early newsletter this summer to report on what's happening in Blue Mountain Lake. The immediate past, present, and near future all promise to be more interesting than any of us want, but, as Dolly Parton said, "Storms make trees take deeper roots."

Please be healthy and enjoy the beautiful outdoors, safely. Contact us with suggestions and comments.

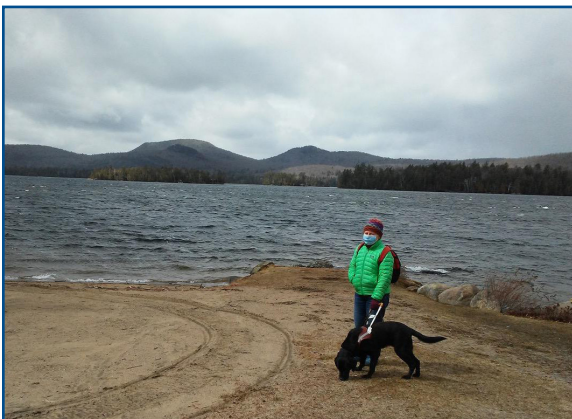
Paul Monroe: paul@drpaulmonroe.com

Andy Coney: AndyConey@PObox.com

Or me: meakaem@aol.com

Thanks,
Mea Kaemmerlen, editor

P.S. Please forward this to anyone interested or send us their email address, and we'll put them on the list.



After Ice-Out. Ellen Collins took this shot on April 10: "Here's a view of the choppy but open lake on our daily walk around the 'block,' socially distanced and masked and dressed for the cold windy conditions." Models are Betsy Folwell and Hartlyn.

Weather in the Adirondacks is a constant surprise and makes for good conversation. The following are recent comments from Blue Mountain Lakers, all pretty much ready for spring.

Ellen Collins, December 8, 2019

Yesterday the lake was frozen over apparently except a small section west of Long Island but Tom Riley let me know it is indeed all frozen over after our zero-degree night. So I think you could say December 7 is Ice-In date, unless our above-freezing temperatures up to 46 degrees Monday and Tuesday opens it up again.

Bruce Butters, early 2020

This winter? It was like we had four mud seasons. It was either zero degrees or 50 degrees, not much in between.

Ernie LaPrairie, early 2020

It was a warm and rainy winter, after a lot of snow in early part.

Betsy Folwell, April 7, 2020

Indian Lake will be out in a few days. Raquette and Long already out (or almost). It's very early for Ice-Out. The early snow and winter didn't last. Skiing at Gore and elsewhere closed earlier than usual because of the warmer days and coronavirus.

Christine Pouch, April 8

Blue is very grey, ready to go out. Indian Lake and Abanakee almost out.

Ellen Collins, April 9

Ice-Out today. It was windy with snow in the air and probably more tomorrow.

It's Groundhog Day weatherwise! Snow every morning....

Ellen Collins, April 10

[We saw a] choppy but open lake on our daily walk around the "block," socially distanced and masked and dressed for the cold windy conditions.

Betsy Folwell, April 20

It's Groundhog Day weatherwise! Snow every morning, not enough green out there yet. We're all a little tired of this.

Ellen Collins, April 20

Crocus, scilla, and February Daphne are blooming. As well as coltsfoot and daffodil buds WANT to burst but these cold nights don't help.

Ellen Butz, April 21

It snowed again today, just a dusting. We are longing for 50-degree temperatures.

Ernie LaPrairie, April 29

Several days ago had 6 inches of snow. Every morning it snows.

Betsy Folwell, May 1

Almost warm today and we do get a break tomorrow. Yippee!

Ellen Collins, May 4

This past weekend was marvelous, sunny and breezy and no biting black flies. Today is cold and drizzly. It is a little too early for planting most vegetables but the WEEDS seem to be thriving.

Ellen Collins, May 4, later in the day

Mayflies are present, and I fear black flies are lurking.

Bruce Butters, May 5

We had a nice weekend, but right now it's 36 degrees, going down to 26 tonight. It's grey, snowing, windy, cold. You know, six-foot of separation is no problem up here. If you're on Curry's beach right now, there aren't many people!

Ellen Butz, May 10 (Mother's Day)

It's freezing, and it snowed all day yesterday. We got 5 inches, but it is melting.

Ellen Butz, May 11

Good news, Thursday is supposed to be warmer

Ellen Collins, May 20

Warm and sunny and buggy this week.... ✱

January plunge: a cautionary tale



ATV pulled out of West Bay in Blue in mid-January.
Photo by Jason Scott.

In the beginning of January, an ATV was tooling around the ice in West Bay and tooled right through to the bottom of the lake. Andy Coney continues the story (on Blue Mountain Lake's *Nextdoor* website):

"Thursday [January 16] saw a professional recovery crew arrive in town to extract an All Terrain Vehicle which an ice-fisher had lost through the West Bay ice two weeks earlier about 400 feet offshore from the Hinkley boathouse. The recovery crew had been waiting for stronger ice. But, faced with daily fines from DEC, the owner had to act quickly. The brave SCUBA diver descended 80 feet to hook on. Must have been mighty dark and lonely down there. Fortunately the ATV was almost new and there were no leaks. Many thanks to Ranger Jason Scott for a nifty picture." ✱

remote hamlet as a safe place to shelter, and, thus, will bring in new Covid cases. Certainly, on nice weekends, the trailhead parking lots have been packed with cars.

Major shut downs

One by one, we heard of the summer cancellation of Adirondack institutions. For many residents counting on seasonal jobs, this is devastating and extremely worrisome. For local businesses, a decrease of visitors to Blue is concerning. For vacationers who enjoy Blue's seasonal bustle, summer might lose a bit of its pleasure.

In Blue Mountain Lake, the first to announce was the Adirondack Experience on April 1: "We have decided to reach out to our visitors virtually in 2020 rather than welcoming them to the museum. Our campus will not be open to the public for the 2020 season."

Then in mid-April, Great Camp Sagamore: "After careful thought, we have decided that Great Camp Sagamore will remain closed for the 2020 season."

Then on April 27, Adirondack Lakes Center for the Arts: "After careful consideration, the Adirondack Lakes Center for the Arts has decided to embrace the unified message of 'New York on Pause' ... by not opening our doors to the public this season."

Blue Mountain Center (see page 7 for BMC's community action), the Ausable Club, Elk Lake Lodge, Seagle Music Colony, Lake Champlain summer camps, and others followed suit. With them, seasonal



State hiking trails, such as Blue Mountain, are open, but campgrounds are closed.

Photo by Lori Bennett.

employment, the counted-on influx of summer visitors, and the revenue-producing summer season were all, like New York State, "on pause."

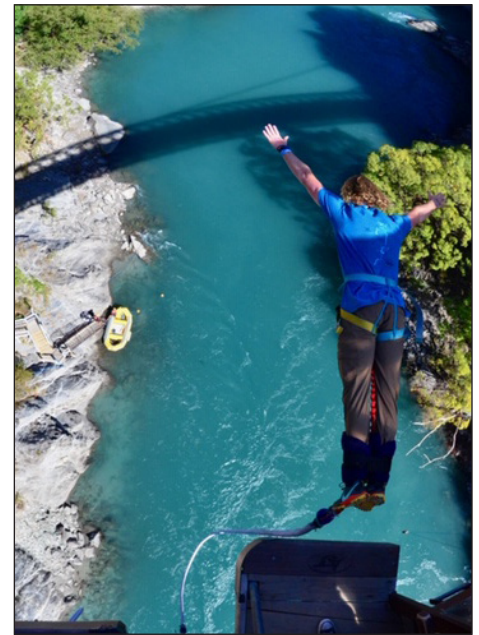
Sleepless in Inlet—on Kiwi time

Matt Parent lives in Inlet, and, for three years, has spent time in Blue working at the Blue Line Market, owned by his parents, Frances and Bill Parent. But, recently, he's been on the other side of the world.

Matt's a junior at St. Lawrence University, majoring in physics and business. He chose to do a semester abroad this spring—and ended up at the University of Otago in New Zealand. "It was wonderful," says Matt. "I loved it. Good classes, but also the Kiwis [New Zealanders] took us bungee jumping and white water kayaking." Then Covid-19 came along, and St. Lawrence brought all its study-abroad students home. "It was a big shock and disappointment. New Zealand was faring better than the US in terms of the coronavirus, but St. Lawrence wanted us back."

Now he's finishing the semester while sheltering at home. His professors are teaching in New Zealand which is 16 hours ahead of New York State. Therefore most of his 20-hours-each-week classes meet, for Matt, in the middle of the night. His physics lab runs from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Not an easy schedule.

This summer, he'll be back at the Blue Line Market helping his parents. He also has assembled a work crew and is available to do paint, carpentry, and manual



Matt Parent took the plunge—first to study for a semester in New Zealand and then to try bungee jumping.

labor jobs around Blue. So far, he has become quite expert in mucking, raking, and using pitchforks to clean up beaches around the lake for private homes. For more information, call him at 518-744-4345 or email at mparent611@gmail.com. *

But on the brighter side, dogged optimism

Pete Sahler, Potters Resort

"Potters will be open. We'll have the rooms and cabins, with some kind of vendor, and, hopefully, the Strong Rope pub will return. Jason [Pete's nephew and owner of Strong Rope] just bought property in Red Hook, Brooklyn, so we'll see. But Potters will be open."

Frances Parent, Blue Line Market

"I'm cautiously optimistic this year. We thought about closing our doors, but no. Now it's no more five-year plan or ten-year plan. It's a two-week plan, and we're excited to get going." (Go to page 11 for Frances's more detailed description of this year's Blue Line Market.)

Tom Warrington and Betsy Folwell, Blue Line Diner

"In spite of delays in equipment delivery and the fact that workers are involved in emergency jobs, we're moving forward.

We have a chef and hope to be open soon." Andy Coney reported in January that "the booths are in place and look fabulous. Shiny new equipment continues to arrive and be installed. It won't be long before we'll be eating omelets."

Kathleen Peartree Moon and Elizabeth Kentra Gorey, Blue Mountain Designs

"We will be open this season and are looking at a mid-June opening date. We will start with curbside pickup for our Schoolhouse Grounds Café and Blue Mountain Designs, as permitted. Also, coming soon is the Blue Mountain Bottle Shop—wine and liquor!"

Sarah Vander Molen, Steamboat Landing

"Yes, Steamboat Landing is open for the season. We open the end of June. Our news? We won 'best cabins and cottages' in the Adirondacks for 2020. See Adirondack.net."

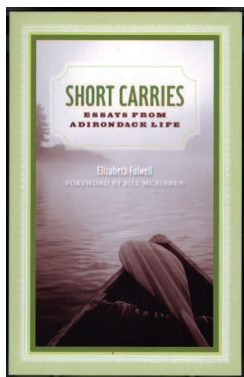
Two great listens and an audio book

Betsy Folwell's Short Carries

Over the years, in addition to many other jobs at *Adirondack Life*, Betsy Folwell contributed a regular essay called "Short Carries," documenting her observations about Adirondack community life, nature and history. In 2009, the essays were collected into a book, *Short Carries*.

Soon, that book will be available as an audio book, ready to download on iTunes, Amazon or Audible. We'll look for it. Until then, we have the pleasure of hearing two of the "Short Carries" essays on Youtube, narrated by Linda Jones, superb professional audio book narrator who will be reading the final book. On Youtube, it's fun to see Linda in her closet recording these powerful essays.

See and listen to Betsy's "Elemental" at <https://youtu.be/NESIrLgb85U>. And "Seeing in the Dark" at <https://youtu.be/NoFb-v6JNqHk>. *



ALCA online and a sad announcement

While the Adirondack Lakes Center for the Arts is closed, its website (www.adirondackarts.org) and Facebook page has lots of fun things to see, do, and buy.

First, the sad announcement: popular ALCA director of many years Christine Pouch, has recently resigned. Stay tuned for more information.

Online, the Center's charming "stage" is called ALCA-Seltzer and features music, classes, and "Funny Parodies." Don't miss the parodies: George Cordes, opera singer and ALCA artistic director, belts out "Social Distancing" to Gilbert & Sullivan. Mary Leach, music teacher, sings her Covid-19 version of "Yesterday" with guest appearance by her husband Tim coughing into his elbow. Music-wise, fiddler Gretchen Koehler, singer Bob Stump, pianist Nicole Wang, songwriter Ryan Leddick, and others provide classical, folk, roots, and rock performances.

Volunteers plug the 2020 Census

"It makes a big difference"

The 2020 census data collection will continue through the year, but this is the time to respond. So say Al Pouch and Brenda Valentine of Indian Lake. As does Brian Wells, administrator of Indian Lake Township. Brian is hoping every person in Sabael, Blue Mountain Lake, and Indian Lake will be in the final count because numbers can make a big difference in future funding for health, welfare, senior, and lunch programs, services for handicapped, and more. Get this: the census determines where \$1.5 trillion (12 zeros) in federal spending goes. Why not to Indian Lake?

Those who don't respond by mail or online will have a knock at the door and a census taker will ask a few very simple questions about who was part of your

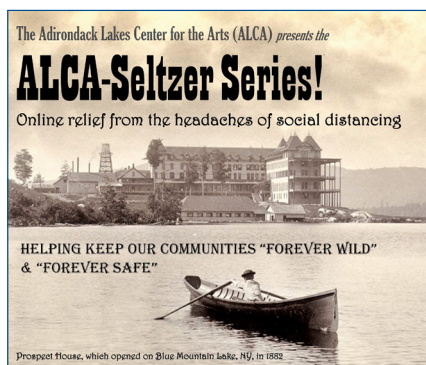
household on April 1. But who wants that in this time of Covid-19? It's much safer to respond online or return the form you were sent in March. Note: it's quite possible that many residents haven't received the hard copy in the mail because it is sent only to physical addresses, not to PO boxes. This could easily result in rural populations being undercounted.

Al Pouch is vice president of the Indian Lake Community Action Agency, and Brenda Valentine is president. They are embarking on an educational program to convince Indian Lake Township to step up to the plate and be counted. "We'll use social media and every other means," says Al, "to encourage people to fill out the form online. It takes just a few minutes and is simple." Go to www.my2020census.gov. *

The 2020 Census Questionnaire

- ☐ It's quick and easy. It takes about 10 minutes to complete.
- ☐ It's safe, secure, and confidential. Your information and privacy are protected.
- ☐ Your response helps to direct billions of dollars in federal funds to local communities for schools, roads, and other public services.

To get counted, go to www.my2020census.gov.



In partnership with the Indian Lake Library, ALCA-Seltzer has several classes for adults and kids: vermiculture ("for Earth Day, let's talk about worm poop") and straw-bale gardening ("let's bring the garden up to you") from librarian Susan Rollings.

ALCA's online gift shop features one-of-a-kind handcrafted local art, jewelry, and art supplies. Christine Pouch notes that, last year, \$8,000 went back to local and regional artists from sales at ALCA. "Who knew the arts center was such a powerful economic engine?" *

Helpful mailing to township residents



Where to get tested for Covid? Is the bank open? Where's the nearest food pantry? To respond to these and many more questions, the Indian Lake Community Development Corporation (CDC) partnered with the Blue Mountain Center to produce a mailing for the entire community. On March 25, it was delivered to every resident in Indian Lake, Blue Mountain Lake and Sabael, all part of Indian Lake Township.

Brenda Valentine, president of the CDC, helped compile the information. She says, "We listed what the health centers, food pantries, and churches are doing, what's open, who delivers, where to get a test, the hours of the Community Bank, who to call for senior meal delivery, which stores you can enter and which you must call first." A second expanded mailing went out in the beginning of May. *

NEWS

Blue Mountain Lake Association

At the April 30 Blue Mountain Lake Association board meeting (via Zoom), a number of items were discussed:

\$5,000 grant

In March, BMLA provided a \$5,000 donation to the Warren-Hamilton Counties Community Action Agency, which administers programs for senior, disabled, and in-need residents of Warren and Hamilton Counties. Currently it is supporting needs specifically brought on by the coronavirus pandemic. (Following suit, the Adirondack Experience contributed the same amount.)

Races on hold

Blue Mountain Lake's two summer fundraising races—the July BluMouLa-BuFuRa ("If you can paddle it, bring it.") and the August Blue Mountain Sizzler (5K running and walking race)—are on hold, but may still happen: Stay tuned.

Eckford Chain Septic Initiative Extended

Last summer, 19 lucky homeowners had their septic tanks pumped out at half-price thanks to BMLA, Water Watch and the Blue Mountain Lake Fund.

The incentive to take immediate action to improve our lake's water quality has been extended for 2020. Septic tanks located in the Eckford Chain watershed (Blue Mountain, Eagle, and Utowana Lakes), which have not been pumped in at least three years, are eligible. And, if we can get enough interest, we are working on hiring a barge to carry the septic pumping truck to island camps and other water-access-only sites. ***The grant offers half-price pumping services, up to \$145 per tank.*** To get on the list for the program, please contact Ellen Butz (ecb12812@gmail.com), Christine Blakeney (cjbblml@gmail.com) or Andy Coney (AndyConey@PObox.com).

To schedule a septic cleanout please call Cindy at JH Schrade in North Creek, 518-251-3115, and mention the Eckford Chain Septic Initiative.

Let's all do our part to help keep the lake we love clean.

Membership

As of April 30, a number of BMLA members had not renewed for 2020. It's simple and your \$25 supports improvements

throughout the town. The easiest way to renew is simply to go to www.runreg.com/bmla and put your dues (and, possibly, an extra donation) on a credit card. Alternatively, fill in the form below and send it and your check to BMLA, PO Box 245, Blue Mountain Lake, NY 12812. Of course, new members are very welcome.

Well is well, and other things are, too

Paul Monroe and Ralph Coon both spoke recently with Brian Wells, Indian Lake Town Supervisor. Some of Brian's comments:

☐ The town is coping well during the Co-

vid-19 situation, politics having been put aside. Hamilton County's Director of Public Health, Erica Mahoney, is doing a good job.

☐ The town has been approved for a grant for the continuation of the Blue Mountain Lake water well system, being dug below the museum. Brian has worked on this project for years, and we thank him for his perseverance.

☐ The town and county appreciate the \$5,000 contributions each made by the BMLA and the Adirondack Experience to the Warren-Hamilton Counties Community Action Agency.

BML Association..... see page 11

Blue Mountain Lake Association annual dues and donation

▲ Membership runs from January 1 to December 31.

▲ Your contribution is tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

▲ Thank you for your support!

Please print page, cut it out, fill it out, and mail it to:

Blue Mountain Lake Association
PO Box 245
Blue Mountain Lake, NY 12812

or sign up online at www.RunReg.com/bmla

Name(s) please print _____

Dues (for individuals, families and businesses) **\$25.00**

My additional contribution of \$ _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

I/We are (check one): ☐ Year-rounders ☐ Seasonal residents ☐ Resort guests
☐ Renters ☐ Frequent visitors ☐ A business

Permanent address _____

City, state, zip _____

Blue Mountain Lake street address _____

Primary E-mail _____ E-mail addresses of other family members _____

Phone (permanent) _____

Phone (Blue Mountain Lake) _____

☐ Check if YES: If the BMLA were to publish a paper directory of members, only for its members, do you prefer to be included?

BMLA and Water Watch

are both alive and well. Dates for events and meetings for both are still "to be decided," but their shared goal continues: keeping a close watch on the health of Blue Mountain Lake and its surroundings.

The Blue Mountain Lake Association is a community-based group dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of the economic, cultural, and physical facets of the Blue Mountain Lake community for the benefit of current and future generations.

Paul Monroe, chair
Andy Coney, vice-chair
Barbara Sullivan, treasurer
Pamela Aall, membership
Open, secretary
Belinda Block, Beautification
Ellen Butz, at large
Ralph Coon, Transportation/Highways
Bob Curry, Fire and Ambulance
Mary Lynne Heldmann, Water Watch
David Kahn, The AdkX
Sarah Lewin, at large
Open, Adk Lakes Center for the Arts

Water Watch is a group of community members, working with and through the Blue Mountain Lake community, to maintain the high quality of the Eckford Chain waters and shorelines. The group is seeking interested board members. For more information or to join, contact Dick Cunningham at rcunningham@passonpaints.com.

Mary Lynne Heldmann, co-chair
Paul Monroe, co-chair
Dick Cunningham, treasurer
Lee Williams, secretary
Christine Blakeney
Phyllis Georges
Charlie Pietrow *

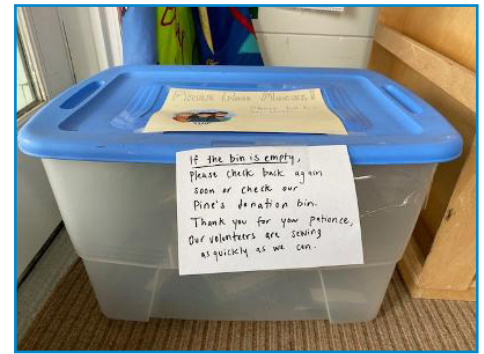
Boat wash

Reportedly, the boat-washing station at Lake Durant parking lot will again be in operation to protect Adirondack lakes from invasive plants and animals. Go to <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/104777.html> for current information. NOTE: Boaters, make sure your boat and trailer are cleaned of attached plants and animals, and, if you move from one lake to another, have it power-washed at one of the authorized boat wash stations. *

Masks Become Community Effort

At the Art Center in Blue and at Pine's in Indian Lake are plastic bins with an assortment of masks for the taking. "They are very popular. We have to keep filling the bins," says Brenda Valentine, president of the Indian Lake Community Development Corporation. Early in the corona epidemic, she realized her husband needed extra good masks because of his many doctor appointments for cardio issues. She didn't sew, so she got in touch with North County Crafters. The next day, she was given two very good masks. "I cried." She partnered with Blue Mountain Center to organize mask-making, and soon the Crafters and others in Indian and Blue were making masks to give away. Those who couldn't sew, like Brenda, could cut. "I felt like a drug dealer," laughs Brenda. "A sewing friend and I met, socially distanced, in the parking lot. She left the bag with fabric on top of her car. I went over, grabbed the bag, took it home and cut the fabric to the pattern. Then I returned the bag to the parking lot, and my sewing friend grabbed it off the top of my car."

Pine's donates clear bags for each mask before they go into the bins. More than 125 people have made over 500 masks. *



Bins of free masks are at Blue Mountain Lake's art center and Pine's Country Store in Indian Lake. Photo by Lori Bennett.



An archival photo of the North County Crafters. Photo by Bill Quinlivan.

Blue Mountain Center initiates projects to fill the cracks

The Blue Mountain Center (BMC), usually a contained hub for visiting artists and writers, has reached far and wide into the community during Covid-19. "We have made the difficult decision," says Ben Strader, BMC director, "to reschedule our spring conferences and defer all 2020 residency acceptances to our 2021 season. We are now serving the urgent needs of our local community."

A major effort has been the creation of a website, Hamilton Helps (www.hamilton-helps.org). In collaboration with a dozen

governmental and not-for-profit organizations, foundations, and resident groups, the website is a clearing house for information on the many resources available to residents of Hamilton County. Says Sawyer Cresap, a BMC staff member, "Our goal is to support local essential services and our community and to work day-by-day to navigate this new normal." The site is a wonderful place for helpful links, updates, good information—and for good news—in the area.

A high priority for BMC is food security, which has for some time been an issue in Indian Lake Township. With no local grocery stores, it's considered a food desert. BMC is collaborating with the Community Action Food Pantry to deliver boxes of food from farmers in Essex County to residents in need, free of charge. "We've also been helping organizations write grants for needs that aren't otherwise met," says Sawyer. "and we've partaken in a movement to make masks. There are so many different moving parts right now. We're just trying to plug in where we can." *

Lake steward

Once again, the Eckford Chain—Blue, Eagle, and Utowana Lakes—will have a full-time lake steward, Ava Anderson. In past years, Ava has worked with former lake steward Jake Collins and knows the lakes and islands. Daily, she will patrol the water for fires, invasive aquatic plants, unruly campers, educating as she travels. Tim Leach will substitute for Ava when necessary. *

Adventures in cabin-ing up

or

“What’s happening? Not much. It’s mud season!”

Bruce Butters

Blue Mountain Lake

“We’ve been quarantining since the second week in March. It’s really not much different from our regular lives, especially during mud season. The Post Office is still open 12 to 4, but that’s it. One very positive thing: the tail-gaters on the hill coming down into Blue are staying home. Usually drivers come tearing down the hill like they’re still on the Northway. You put your life in danger if you want to turn into your own driveway. It’s a pleasure that they’re gone. By the way, tonight [May 5] it’s down to 26 degrees with snow forecast. As people say, we’re already crazy to be living here, so a little coronavirus makes no difference.”

Karen Butters

Blue Mountain Lake

“This is a forced slow-down. I realize I don’t need to do so much. But I do miss going to Saranac once a week to conduct rehearsals for the chorus. We’ve had to cancel our spring concert and sessions at nursing homes as well. I’m catching up on my reading and have brought out my sewing machine to make a few masks.”

Pete Sahler, owner of Potters

Bradenton, FL, & Blue Mountain Lake

“I’m still in Florida, still flying for Delta, though 80 percent of its business is down. I’m mostly flying international. Just back from South Korea, delivering medical supplies out of Shanghai. When I get back from a trip, I have to isolate from Connie. Can’t wait to get to Blue Mountain and open up Potters.”

Christine Pouch, director ALCA

Indian Lake

“I’m sheltering at home but am in Blue every other day to get the mail. I see folks at the post office. We stand six feet apart and chat. No one really has any news, but it’s great to visit with friends and neighbors. Now and then I see people walking, and some I’ve never seen before. I really miss the 9 to 10 a.m. coffee at the Fire Hall.”

Gregg Thompson

Blue Mountain Lake

“I’m as busy as always. I’ve got 13 camps I’m trying to get a jump on. I’ll be opening them soon for summer people, but right now I’m making sure the water works and the docks are in. I also work at the Indian Lake School and, because no kids are there, we can go in and paint and clean. Kim, my wife, works six days a week in the Long Lake post office. They’re pretty safe there, with clear shower curtains at the counter and only one customer allowed up at a time. I work at Hedges in the summer, but who knows how that will go.”

“I see folks at the post office. We stand six feet apart and chat. No one really has any news, but it’s great to visit with friends and neighbors.”

Cathleen Collins and Peter Bauer

Blue Mountain Lake

“Cathleen takes her job as kindergarten teacher seriously and conducts classes online. She’s able to keep their attention for at least seven or eight minutes,” says Peter, her husband. Well done, Cathleen! Peter, executive director of Protect the Adirondacks, works from home, keeping up with latest issues impacting the forests, lakes, and mountains of the Park.

Ralph Coon

Albany and Blue Mountain Lake

“I’ve been retired from the State for 20 years, so I know how to keep busy. But it’s hard to be cabined up! I’m working on my house in Blue which had a tree fall on it in the recent big wind. I’m also volunteering in the parochial school my kids and grandkids have gone to. I help with maintenance and also order supplies for the school. Sanitizer and toilet paper have been back-ordered for weeks!”

Ernie LaPrairie

Blue Mountain Lake

“We’re really busy, working around the house, finishing an addition and gardening. We had to cancel our trip to Mexico in March because of Covid. Our daughter Evangeline and her two kids stayed with us for six weeks because her husband works for the ambulance corps in Indian Lake.”

Sherry Nemmers

New York City & Blue Mountain Lake

“Lush, verdant Central Park is laced with pink cherry blossoms and white hospital tents. NYC has never been this quiet, silence broken only by inevitable sirens (though there is no traffic) and cheers for the medics every evening. We are living in interesting times.”

Nina Dickinson, Pastor, Methodist Churches in Indian, Long & Blue Mountain Lakes

“I’ve started a 10:30 Zoom service for all three churches. It gives people a chance to see each other and maybe it encourages people to think of these three communities as one. I feel this is working because, counting my regular people who might not have Zoom and the Zoom attendees including those from other churches, we have about 62 people which is more than the 15 or less we usually get in each church.

“Before Covid, I had a service at each church—9:30 in Indian, 11:00 in Blue, and 1:00 in Long Lake. It was hard on me going from church to church, and, of course, every congregation wants the 11:00 service. It won’t be easy to go back to in-person services in the churches. People volunteer to do the cleaning, and we can’t ask them to scrub down and disinfect the churches several times a week.

I do a Zoom mid-week check with prayer and devotion with my congregation on Zoom. Before Covid, I had a class at Blue Mountain Fire Hall on the food in the bible. Half way through, we had to go to Zoom so I was in my own kitchen, and it worked out very well.

If you’d like to get on Nina’s Zoom list, contact her at 518-648-5302 or email her at nldb67sigrid@gmail.com. *

A letter from our EMT to YOU and ME

Blue Mountain Lake's vastly valuable Emergency Medical Service now needs its own emergency medical treatment. You'll see what the issues are below in a letter to the BML community. It discusses options available in light of a lack of volunteers to perform life-saving transportation and medical aid to our community. Comments can go to Bob Curry at rcurry@frontiernet.net.

By the way, Captain Tim Leach has lined up several EMT/paramedics to stay in town and get the EMS through the summer, but volunteer drivers are still very much needed. These drivers require little training. Any volunteers?

Blue Mountain Lake Volunteer Fire Department & Ambulance Corps

To the Blue Mountain Lake Community

May 3, 2020

When the fire siren sounds in town, you probably wonder what the emergency is: a fire, a medical problem, a motor vehicle accident, or maybe it's just 7 p.m. Tuesday. For a small group of your neighbors, however, pagers start beeping and the county dispatcher alerts us to the nature and location of the call, and we respond regardless of the season, time of day, or weather.

In recent years the Blue Mountain Lake Volunteer Ambulance Corps has **struggled to provide emergency service to our community**. The small group of volunteer EMTs who respond to calls will soon diminish to two people, both retirees in their sixties. The lack of volunteers, combined with increasing NYS requirements, reflects a national trend that is hitting rural communities especially hard.

Fortunately, Indian Lake Volunteer Ambulance Corps (ILVAC) has been able to assist on numerous occasions, but the Fire Commissioners are searching for a more sustainable arrangement. We have had discussions with ILVAC, the Town of Indian Lake, and Hamilton County EMS officials to determine our best course for the future.

Here are some ways to address this critical community need:

1. Hire an EMT to answer calls during the busy summer months, perhaps in cooperation with neighboring towns.
2. Change our ambulance to a non-transporting, first responder agency that would provide emergency care at a scene while transport, if needed, would be done by Indian Lake or Long Lake.
3. Contract with ILVAC or redraw our ambulance district so that ILVAC would be responsible for covering Blue Mountain Lake.

Each of these options **would cost much more than our current budget** and would have to be paid for by insurance billing and additional property taxes. Most towns in our area have at least some paid EMS staff plus volunteers.

The Commissioners **would like to hear your thoughts** and suggestions as we work to solve this important issue. Also, if you or any family members have ever thought of volunteering as an EMT or driver, we welcome your help.

Blue Mountain Lake District Commissioners

PO Box 207, Blue Mountain Lake, NY 12812

Bob Curry, Chairman email: rcurry@frontiernet.net

Bernice Cummins

Bob Lewin

Jim Pine

Tom Warrington

Adirondack Experience Online

Though shuttered for the summer, the museum reports that its staff is working hard to offer online interactive activities, education, and online experiences. Here's an interesting one everyone can be part of:

Documenting the pandemic

The museum is collecting materials that document how Adirondackers are living and working during the crisis. They welcome photos, objects, written material, recorded stories, allowing all to share right now as history unfolds. The collection will also help future historians understand this moment in time—truly history in the making. For more information and the forms you should fill out if you want to contribute, go to <https://www.theadkx.org/documenting-the-pandemic/>

Other offerings

The School Program is launching content specifically for teachers and parents, including World War II curriculum based on letters gathered for the "From Wilderness to Warfront" exhibit. Also for kids are fun writing projects, how to design a hermit hut, delightful stories and tall tales, coloring and activity pages, and more.

The museum also is providing several lovely scenes if you want to liven up your Zoom background. Its online gift shop is open. Check all this out at www.theadkx.org. *

Where to Donate During Covid-19

The Adirondack Foundation is a community foundation headquartered in Lake Placid. For the hardships brought on by Covid-19, it has developed the SUN—Special and Urgent Needs—Fund to assist North Country families and organizations during the state's shutdown. Donations are welcome. Go to <https://www.adirondackfoundation.org/ffblocks/2059>

Warren-Hamilton Counties Community Action Agency in Glens Falls provides programs and services for income-eligible, senior, disabled, or in-need residents of Warren and Hamilton Counties. This is particularly relevant during Covid-19. Go to <https://wahacaa.org> *

Photo to right: Blue Mountain—lake and mountain—are bathed in a rainbow. Nature continues to star in the Adirondacks.

Photo by Mea Kaemmerlen

All-important trash and recycling back in operation

As of May 1, the Hamilton County Transfer Stations in Indian Lake (and Lake Pleasant) reopened with limited hours:

Wednesdays 10 AM to 6 PM

Saturdays 8 AM to 3 PM

- ❖ During these hours, only residential trash and recyclables are allowed.
- ❖ Your recyclables should be sorted before you enter.
- ❖ Only one vehicle at a time allowed in the off-loading area.
- ❖ Please be patient until it's your turn.
- ❖ Maintain 6-feet distance from all transfer workers.
- ❖ Contractors may call the transfer stations to make appointments for their disposals. *



A note from American Legion Post 1392

Nickel bottles and cans have new drop-off location

"Thank you all members of Indian Lake, Blue Mountain Lake and Sabael for your ongoing support of the "Bottle Return Program" for Post 1392. We no longer will receive recyclables at the Indian Lake Transfer Station. Now, please drop off bottles and cans for recycle at the American Legion Post 1392 next to the Indian Lake Medical Center. The recycle program supports our treasury to assist the community and our veterans for ongoing programs. Without your donations, we are unable to help.

"FYI Post 1392 was established in 1946 with 14 local charter members. For more information, go to <https://american-legionindianlakeny.webs.com>.

"Please continue to support our program. We apologize for any inconvenience; however, we appreciate all you do to support our programming. With thanks and care for the community!"



BML & Covidfrom page 4

Jamie Thomas, General Manager, The Hedges

"The Hedges first day has been delayed because of the virus until June 17. We have patiently followed the directions of New York State Governor Cuomo and continue to carefully monitor all schedules and guidelines required..... We will monitor the situation and publicize any changes."

Hemlock Hall

Hemlock Hall will no doubt be open this summer with appropriate modifications.

Meredith Cunningham, innkeeper Blue Mountain Lake Inn

"Although I have been accepting reservations for the 2020 summer and will continue to honor them as I can, there is a possibility that government regulations or changing market expectations will force me to change sooner than later."

Prospect Point Cottages

"Although we are scheduled to reopen June 5th, this may change. Like every other business in our area, we are closely monitoring the situation, and are in touch with one another and with our local officials."

Blue Mountain Rest

"We are open! but in this day and age of Covid-19, we are taking extra precautions, making sure you are taking the proper sanitary recommendations prior to your arrival. We have and will refuse anyone coming from a known hot spot or a restricted area."

Long Lake

In Long Lake, Northern Borne and the Adirondack Trading Post are selling groceries. The Trading Post provides curbside grocery pick-up. Hoss's General Store is temporarily closed, but its summer schedule features Author's Night, Tuesday, August 11. *

Blue Line Market

The Ol' Station, the Corner Store, Blue Line Market—whatever you call it, it is essential to Blue Mountain Lake. For this, their third year as owners, Frances and Bill Parent, are upping their game at the intersection of 28 and 30. They hope to be open by Memorial Day with a roomier dining area, more retail space, more prepared salads, sandwiches, and desserts. “We’re expanding our to-go menu,” says Frances, “and we’ll sell much more than ice cream out of the window.”

It's a crazy year: you must be able to pivot at a moment's notice.

New this year will be a selection of local artisanal cheeses, made within 100 miles of Blue Again this summer, a local farmer will regularly deliver corn, tomatoes, and other vegetables.

Bill and Frances are doing all this in the middle of the coronavirus and while managing their original coffee house in Inlet and starting a new coffee house in an old building they bought this winter in Old Forge.

“All of our 20 staff members at our three places,” says Frances, “have just been to Covid and Safe Food Handling programs. Usually only the kitchen staff does this, but we thought we should all take the training this year. Our main goal is to keep customers and staff safe. It's a crazy year: you must be able to pivot at a moment's notice.” *

BML Association.....from page 6

Ralph Coon reports on roadwork

❑ The repaving of Route 28 from Blue Mountain to Inlet should finish up by the end of the summer. The Blue Mountain portion was completed last summer.

❑ There's an official awareness of the desire to repave Route 28 east of Indian Lake to North River. They will continue patching it, and the local NYSDOT is slated to do some paving in rougher areas.

❑ Tracy Eldridge, Hamilton County Highway Superintendent, reports that the Raquette Lake South Inlet Bridge replacement has been moved back to 2021 due to environmental impact studies by DEC during and post construction efforts.

❑ All are pleased with the way the smooth surface of Durant Road is holding up under the huge swings in hot to cold temperatures it's subjected to. *



The Blue Line Market is set to open this summer, with a larger selection of prepared foods and local cheeses and its usual good coffee, ice cream cones, and sandwiches.

Flossie Brown of Blue Mountain and Indian Lake is celebrated with a parade



A young Flossie Brown

Ellen Collins sent along the sad news that Flossie Brown died on May 13. To celebrate her long life, there was an auto parade “around the block” in her honor on May 19, since there could be no formal gathering. Betsy Folwell describes the parade:

“Two fire trucks, the ambulance, many vehicles from DOT (with the people in their yellow shirts), cars, pickups, etc. It was a gorgeous day at the cemetery, and Mitch F played ‘Heart of Gold’, ‘Amazing Grace,’ and another great tune.”

Below is the official obituary.

Florence “Flossie” E. Brown, 92, of Route 30, passed away peacefully Wednesday morning, May 13, 2020, at the home of her daughters, Nancy and Sheila.

Born on October 19, 1927, in Indian Lake, she was the daughter of the late Irving and Hulda (Bennett) Arnold. She was a 1945 graduate of Indian Lake Central School.

Flossie worked hard her entire life. She had been employed at the Merwin House, Callaghan's Store, the Lumberjack Restaurant, Great Camp Sagamore, and at the Indian Lake Chamber of Commerce. She was nominated Citizen of the Year in Indian Lake in 2010. She owned and operated The Forest House from 1982 to 1991. She served over 50 years at the Blue Mountain Lake Fire Department and Volunteer Ambulance Corps and was a dispatcher for the Indian Lake Ambulance Corps. She “retired” three separate times. Her final retirement came at the age of 85.

She enjoyed dancing, singing, four wheeling, snowmobiling, family gatherings, especially Thanksgiving and Christmas. She was never one to complain, even when facing adversity. She had a tremendous sense of humor and will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her. Raising her family was her greatest joy and accomplishment.

Your Email Address Requested

1) For Blue Mountain Lake Association

We need your email address! We have heard that, last summer, some people missed important emailed announcements such as the annual meeting. This year, with the Covid-19 situation, we anticipate we may need to use email more often so we undertook validating every email address.

First, we sent a test email to all the email addresses we have on file requesting a reply and then followed up with a postcard to those who did not reply. Thank you, we've heard back from almost everyone by now. If you're getting this newsletter, we must have your email address right!

But, if you were forwarded this newsletter instead of getting it directly, please let Pamela Aall (PamelaAall@gmail.com), our membership chair, know your correct email address.

Also, if other members of your family would like to be added to our distribution list, please let Pamela know as well.

2) For the Town of Indian Lake

For the Town of Indian Lake government, communicating with residents, both full- and part-time, is a challenge particularly when information is time-sensitive. The Covid-19 sheltering has magnified some of the shortcomings with getting updates to people, so town government is trying to use every avenue, including email. An example of information might be when the landfill opened for limited hours with procedures for dropping off garbage and recyclables, face covering, and social distancing protocols.

To be included on official town emails, residents, both full-time and seasonal, should send a request to Townhall117@outlook.com. It's entirely voluntary and addresses will not be shared. *

An important message from Hamilton County about moving into Phase One of Reopening

Here's an accompanying note from Erica Mahoney, Hamilton County's Director of Public Health: *"Here is the most recent update. In regards to second home owners, seasonal residents, etc. we are now encouraging them to come but be mindful and respectful of social distancing, wearing a mask while in public, avoid hosting/attending social gatherings. Our recommendations are the same for visitors and year-round residents. I hope this is helpful. It certainly has taken much consideration from the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors and myself to portray the message we wish to send."*

May 19, 2020

This past week Hamilton County Public Health tested 283 essential employees through Covid-19 pop-up testing clinics throughout the county, bringing our total number of residents tested to 352. This push allowed the North Country region to move into Phase One! We continue to have only a few confirmed cases, and all have recovered. Unfortunately, one of our residents did pass away while staying downstate with family for the winter months.

Hamilton County residents that meet criteria for Covid-19 testing are able to make an appointment through the Hamilton County Public Health Department in Indian Lake at (518) 648-6141.

1. Patients who present to their primary care provider with **symptoms** consistent with Covid-19.
2. Individuals who have been in **close contact** (within 6 feet) with a positive Covid-19 case.
3. **Essential employees** who have been in contact with the public throughout this pandemic: Public health staff, primary care provider offices, sheriff's department, EMS agencies, fire departments, school districts, county and town employees, and more!

Hamilton County has moved into Phase One of Reopening. To find out when your business can re-open, for specific guidance on re-opening and access to safety templates please visit www.Forward.ny.gov. Additional information can be obtained by calling Empire State Development. Each phase will be two weeks long, but our numbers must remain low or the phases will be extended.

The population of Hamilton County has grown significantly over the past several weeks and as things continue to re-open in our region, the population will increase in response. We ask that our full-time residents, as well as our summer vacationers, short- and long-term renters and seasonal residents be respectful of the Governor's Executive orders. It is critical that all of our residents continue to **wear masks when in public, respect social distancing, and do not host social gatherings**. Avoid inviting guests from out of the area. Do not plan family reunions, birthday parties or other festivities. Remember that the healthcare infrastructure in Hamilton County is limited, we do not have a hospital or urgent care facility, and an outbreak in Hamilton County will have a significant impact on our summer and ability to re-open fully.

Model the behavior that you wish to see! Whether you are on a hiking trail, enjoying the local beach or picking up a curbside meal from one of your favorite restaurants, be mindful and respectful of those around you. While there will be changes to the way we all interact this summer, we hope to maintain the same sense of relaxation and hospitality. Our future relies on each of you to do your part! #NorthCountryStrong