



## CANADA LAKES CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

March 2016

Dear Friends, Neighbors and Members,

Challenging times can open up opportunities. The Canada Lakes Conservation Association Inc. (CLCA) was created last summer to better reflect a shift toward a more conservation oriented organization and to comply with recent changes in NYS and IRS regulations. The CLCA was formed for the purposes of:

- (1) Preserving, maintaining and protecting the Canada Lakes watershed, which comprises Canada Lake, Green Lake, West Lake, Mud Lake and Lily Lake and its tributaries, as well as the surrounding lands and forest for the benefit of the public and residents, and
- (2) Promoting and educating lake users about safety and good lake stewardship practices.

The CLCA is classified as a non profit public charity under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). This classification can have tax advantages for the organization. Member contributions related to the CLCA's exempt functions may be tax deductible (consult with your tax advisor). This classification also enables the Association to apply for grants to further its mission. In other words, the CLCA is positioned to optimize the conservation impact of the membership.

Over the course of the summer and fall 151 members of our lake community signed up to be charter members of the CLCA. For organizational leadership I am delighted to report that we have lined up an exceptional slate of talented and capable officers: Chris Rohrs for President-Elect; Paul Corr for Treasurer; and Deborah Hoffman for Secretary. Bylaws of the CLCA were approved by the board of directors at their August 22, 2015 meeting and are available in pdf format on the CLCA website (<http://clca.canadalake.com>) under the "About the CLCA" tab. Members attending the annual meeting on July 9, 2016 will vote on the proposed bylaws and officers.

The new organization is off to a fast start focusing our efforts on preventing the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). An issue of particular concern has been the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation plan to expand the West Lake Boat Launch. The DEC first proposed the boat launch modification back in 2006 as part of the draft Ferris Lake Wild Forest Unit Management Plan, which includes the lands around the launch. The design has not been finalized, but the DEC has been moving forward with planning, including a detailed site plan in 2014. The reconfigured launch would expand the parking area to accommodate 15 vehicles and trailers, in addition to 9 vehicle-only parking slots.

Last summer we organized two site visits with DEC representatives to the Boat Launch. At those meetings and in later communications we shared our strong concerns that the public and agencies of the state were not fully aware of the threat posed by the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species at the time the 2006 boat launch plan was first drafted. The proposed launch modifications would allow more large motorized boat traffic and significantly increase the risk of introducing invasive species.