



ASSEMBLY POINT WATER QUALITY COALITION

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Coalition Conducts Bioassessment of Algal Blooms around Assembly Point

As announced in the Spring 2018 newsletter, the Coalition has received a Lake Champlain Basin grant to monitor algal blooms. During July and August a team led by Kathy Bozony spent 38 hours collecting and photographing algal samples from various sites around the Point. While Lake George's waters look pristine underwater photography brought to light a different story. Bozony documented bright green rocks and docks, large algal blooms and water pipes coated with scuzzy algae. The Post Star featured articles on this activity. Gwendolyn Craig wrote, "Some people's intake pipes in Lake George look more like the debris of sunken ships covered in feathery green and clumpy brown algae". See photo.

The bioanalysis during the Coalition's project's second stage revealed elevated Palmer Pollution Index scores indicating organic pollution at a number of sites. It is thought that septic seepage is a contributing factor to the proliferation of algal blooms and to our degraded water quality. The decline in water quality in Dunham's Bay caused the local residents to form the North Queensbury Wastewater District to promote upgrading of septic systems. The NYS Department of Health does not recommend using surface water sources for drinking water unless properly filtered. Home owners that are not connected to a public water supply (like



on Assembly Point) should be aware of the risks. The Town Board of Queensbury passed a law in October requiring the inspection of septic systems whenever the property title changes hands. In the words of Supervisor Strough, "Just as an inspector checks your roof before a home is sold, an inspector should check the septic system, a leaking roof may affect one home but a leaking septic system will affect the water quality of other homeowners around the lake."

Short notes

- The Coalition held its first annual social at Cleverdale Country Store on 16 August. It was attended by more than 30 persons as well as several members of the Town Board.
- Florence Connor has joined the Coalition's Board of Directors.
- A deer cull using bow and arrow is taking place from 20 October to 2 December at the northern end of Assembly Point (properties of Otyokwa and John Kelly). Wear bright colors when walking.
- The Town Board of Queensbury passed the *Septic Inspection Upon Property Transfer* law on 15 October 2018. The Coalition has issued a brochure with details.
- The Town of Queensbury is revising its *Site Plan Review* regulations and several members of the Coalition are participating in the discussions.
- The Lake George Park Commission is finalizing its update of stormwater management regulations (see our spring 2019 newsletter).
- Congratulations to the Town of Lake George for receiving the Sustainable Winter Management Road Certification Award for cutting road salt use by 30 to 40 percent over the last two years.



Assembly Point Water
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Please consider a tax exempt donation to the APWQC.
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