

# ASSEMBLY POINT WATER QUALITY COALITION

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## Assembly Point Signage Trail

The Touba Family Foundation (TFF) is a local charitable trust which has funded and supported many cultural, historical and environmental projects in the greater Glens Falls area. The TFF does a service to the recipient communities by supporting their various artistic and timely projects.

The APWQC has been the grateful recipient of several TFF awards, most recently in 2022 for publication of our book, *Stewards of the Water* and in 2023 for the creation and mounting of 15 interpretive walking trail markers depicting the impacts of land use on water quality. These markers, posted in key places around Assembly Point, also refer to the early Native American presence on the Point when water quality was pristine.

Several APWQC board members developed the graphics and text and worked with Town Environmental Consultant Kathy Bozony for accuracy and design, checking in as well with the Lake George Waterkeeper Chris Navitsky for his input on the science. The Town Board of Queensbury and the Building and Codes Department approved the project as an artistic contribution to waterfront water quality education.

After the introductory marker of the trail, the first sign shows some of

the artifacts that were unearthed on that very property. In 1963, a systematic archaeological exploration was done, unearthing tools, utensils, hearthstones and bone fragments, some dating back to 590 B.C.(confirmed by radiocarbon dating). These tools and utensils confirm occupation on the Point centuries ago and are currently displayed in the Lake George Historical Museum. As the trail continues, each sign presents colorful photographs, and a brief explanation of the current challenges to water quality.



You will see the following topics:

- Algae & HABs
- Leaves & Lawns
- Terrestrial Invasives
- Aquatic Invasives
- Shoreline Buffers
- Septic Systems
- Trees
- Fertilizer Use
- Stormwater Runoff
- Spaces for Diversity

In the early 20th century, the roads and pathways around the Point were rustic promenades. Today, many people jog and walk their dogs, push strollers, glide on skateboards, often chatting as they go, thus taking the Point back to its earlier sense of neighborhood. The APWQC hopes that the new and informative TFF walking trail will promote a sense of community and purpose, reminding people of the critical fragility of the precious lake that is in our care. The Coalition is currently working on adding a map of the route and the content of the signage with expanded information to our website ( [Assembly Point Water Quality Coalition website](http://www.assemblypt.com) ).

We hope you will take our walk! **We invite you to walk with us, on an introductory guided walk of our Signage Trail Saturday, July 29, at 4PM. Meet at 93 Assembly Point Road at the signage marker.**

## WHAT TO EXPECT..... When your septic system is inspected



Starting this year, the Lake George Park Commission (LGPC) has initiated a septic inspection management program for all properties within 500 feet of the lake and 100 feet of a stream. A malfunctioning septic system poses risks to our water quality. Septic inspections, to be done every 5 years, will address issues of maintenance or aging systems, and ensure that all septic systems and holding tanks proximal to the Lake are working properly to protect our water quality.

Property owners randomly selected for inspection this calendar year will receive a mailing from the LGPC, with step-by-step instructions on scheduling an inspection at the homeowners' convenience, between May 1 and October 1. The homeowner will schedule a pump out and inform the Commission of date & time, to enable all 3 parties to be present. On the date of the inspection, the septic hauler should have the required septic system components uncovered and ready for pump out – the inlet and outlet of the tank, the D-Box and pump, if one is used. Ask the septic hauler to bring a sludge analyzer. Although the LGPC is inspecting every 5 years, your septic tank may or may not require more frequent pump outs. The only way to know this is to use a sludge analyzer prior to testing water flows and pump out – before the tank is disturbed. Many residents pump out every year or so, which may not be necessary.

**NOTE:** DO NOT pump out your system prior to the inspector's arrival, as the Commission staff must be present for this. Water flow from all plumbing fixtures will be checked, so the property owner or agent must be present for the inspection. If the area was prepped as outlined, the inspection itself could be completed within 1 hour.

**IF** your septic system fails inspection, simple repairs can usually be handled by your septic hauler. A return by the Inspector may or may not be necessary. The more complicated repairs or any upgrades would require an engineer and approval by the town of Queensbury. The Commission differentiates between "Failing" and "Substandard" systems. In both cases, completion of work is expected within a reasonable time "commensurate with the hazard the system poses to public health, the water quality of Lake George and the natural resources of the basin..." ( [LGPC Septic Regulations](#) ). Please remember that the LGPC is only involved in the inspection of an existing system; all other tasks must be handled by a different entity.

The LGPC has prepared an excellent FAQ on their Septic Inspection Program. You can find the link here ( [Septic Inspection Program FAQs LGPC](#) ) or on the Lake George Park Commission website.



*June septic inspection Assembly Point*

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## ***ProcellaCor Update***

In March 2023, NY Supreme Court Judge Muller ruled that a permit to apply the herbicide ProcellaCor to 2 bays in Lake George was improperly granted. The Adirondack Park Agency (APA) had approved an application from the Lake George Park Commission without first holding a required public hearing, as stipulated in its own regulations. The Lake George Association and the Lake George Waterkeeper, the town of Hague and a private resident of one of the bays had brought a suit against the APA. More than 4,000 people wrote letters to the APA voicing their opposition to use of the chemical in Lake George.

The Lake George Park Commission has resubmitted an application to the APA for permits to use the herbicide in the same 2 bays late spring/early summer 2023. Subsequent to Judge Muller's prior ruling, the APA would need to schedule a public hearing before granting this permit. That makes it unlikely that the ProcellaCor could be used this year. We may face this issue again, in 2024.

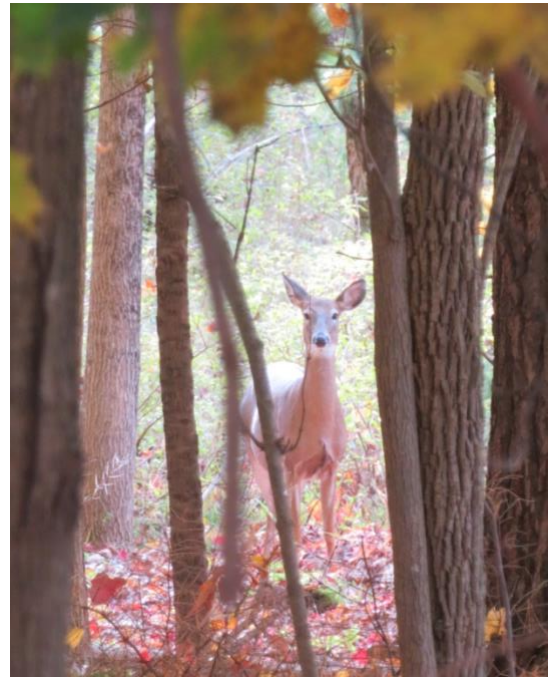
Note: On May 31, 10 gallons of ProcellaCor were applied to Lake Luzerne – reported on their FaceBook homepage

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## ***Otyokwa***

Otyokwa is the 17-acre plot of "Forever wild land" encircled by Bay Parkway, Lake Parkway and Crossover Lane, at the northern tip of Assembly Point. The land is jointly owned by the residents who border the property. Concern for the health of the forested land led a number of concerned residents to walk the property with Jeffrey Speich, a retired forest expert with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). He shared his observations and suggestions:

- While some trees are regenerating and doing well, others are suffering from infestation of the emerald ash borer.
- The answer to the common question "Should the dead trees be removed?... is NO, as they are useful to wildlife. Dead trees allow increased sunlight to reach the forest floor but may promote the growth of invasives.
- New trees and shrubs are available from a State Tree Nursery in Saratoga but would require care during their first year.
- Removal of invasives is challenging and can be quite labor intensive.
- Some invasive plants have been spread to Otyokwa by property owners disposing of yard waste. If owners wish to use the forest for disposal, a location and composting program would have to be created.



Mr Speich felt that with proper management, the health of the Otyokwa forest could be improved. Otyokwa is privately owned so its management is under the control of its board and members. A starting point could be taking a detailed inventory of trees and invasives by a state agency and forming a plan. The residents will then have to decide if this is an investment they wish to make.

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## 2023 Women of Distinction

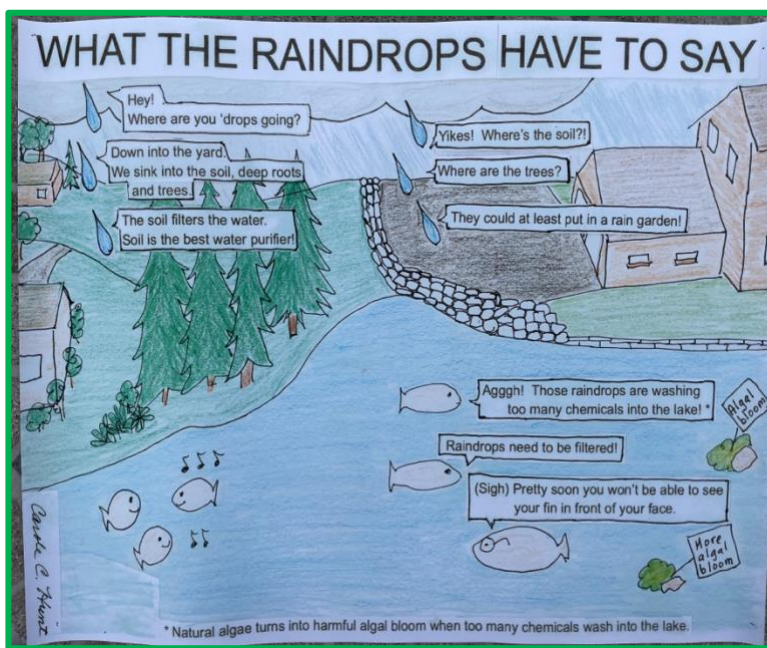
On May 11, Assemblyman Matt Simpson hosted a gathering, at the Bolton Landing Community Center, celebrating his selections for 2023 Women of Distinction. Thirteen women were honored for their achievements, including Dr. Lorraine Ruffing, Executive Director of the Assembly Point Water Quality Coalition. The award recognized her team efforts in founding the Coalition, introducing and pursuing the passage of the Septic Inspection Program currently being administered by the Lake George Park Commission. Dr. Ruffing was also the driving force behind the book *Stewards of the Water* published in 2022, which chronicles environmental activists from the late 1800s to the present day. A copy was given to Assemblyman Simpson.



Dr. Lorraine Ruffing

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- July 29, 4PM Assembly Point Signage Trail Guided Walk; meet at 93 Assembly Point Road signage marker; Social hour to follow at 66 Bay Parkway. All ages welcome!
- August 28. 7PM Lorraine Ruffing, our executive director will speak at the Darin Fresh Water Institute, 5060 Lake Shore Drive in Bolton on the Coalition's book **Stewards of the Water** – 150 years of environmental activism on Lake George.
- A lifelong summer resident, Carole Hunt has made the Point her year-round home. She is a member of Shore Colony and has recently joined our Coalition. Aside from being an avid swimmer, we have discovered that she is a cartoonist, and has applied her talents to water quality! You may have seen her latest work on our kiosk/bulletin board! Her cartoon is getting some very special attention! What do you think? We like it!



- We welcome new members to join our Coalition. Your participation in our efforts would be greatly appreciated. Contact us with your concerns via email @ [apwqc7@gmail.com](mailto:apwqc7@gmail.com)
- Please consider a tax-deductible donation to the Assembly Point Water Quality Coalition.  
Address: 66 Bay Parkway, Lake George, NY 12845

The Assembly Point Water Quality Coalition, Inc. is a 501c3 non-profit corporation committed to improving and restoring water quality and compromised ecosystems in the Lake George Lake Champlain Basin by supporting policies, regulations and practices which preserve and protect waters and watersheds.