



## ASSEMBLY POINT WATER QUALITY COALITION

**Co-Executive Directors***Dr. Carol Collins**Lisa Adamson***Secretary/Treasurer***Beverly Pozzi***Board of Directors***Dr. Rolf Ahlers**Robert Ervien\***Kathryn Hull**Arlene Lotters**Mary Helen O'Keeffe**Dr. Lorraine Ruffing**Robert Tully***Toxins and Water Quality**

Sealcoating involves the application of chemicals to driveways and pavement that are harmful to humans and the environment. There are two common types of sealcoat: coal-tar based and asphalt based that contain chemicals called PAHs (Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons), but coal-tar based sealcoat contains higher levels of these compounds that harm fish and can pose a risk of cancer to humans. Humans are exposed to PAHs by inhalation of air, contamination of our drinking water and bioaccumulation in the food chain.

Sealcoating products are now banned in many states, counties and cities. Minnesota, Washington, The District of Columbia, Austin, Texas, Greenville and Boone, North Carolina, and counties in Maryland, New York (Suffolk) and Wisconsin. The NY State Assembly has also passed a bill to ban sealcoating that was defeated by the Senate.

Health concerns as well as cleanup costs are driving the banning of these products. Metro cities in Minnesota estimate cleanup costs up to \$1 billion for removing contaminated sludge in stormwater ponds contaminated with PAHs. The cost to clean up one pond was \$450,000.

Coal-tar based sealants are no longer sold at Home Depot, Lowes, Ace Hardware and other stores that have voluntarily removed them. But other companies including those that often go door-to-door use coal-tar based sealcoat materials.

**Studies show:**

- Water running off a parking lot covered with coal-tar based sealcoat had 30 times more PAHs than water from an unsealed parking lot.
- Soil near the parking lot had highly elevated levels of PAHs, and those levels remained high for three years after the sealcoat was applied to the lot.
- Dust with highly elevated levels of PAHs was transported up to 20 yards from the sealcoated surface by tire tracking and wind.

When your driveway seems in disrepair with cracks and crevices, you are actually doing the lake a favor. Driveways that have no sealcoat have two benefits:

1. No additional toxins from PAH's in the sealcoat to contaminate our drinking water, and
2. Stormwater pollutants are allowed to infiltrate into the soil where pollutants are broken down by soil bacteria or bound to soil particles.

**Assembly Point Driveways**

APWQC undertook a survey of sealcoating on the Point. Of the 309 properties on Assembly Point, it appears that only 39 are seal coated and 6 are stamped and covered with polymer modified asphalt emulsions. We have a real chance to prevent further sealcoating from being a polluter of the lake.

*In memoriam*

*We will deeply miss our board member and long term resident Bob Ervien who passed away on July 16, 2015.*

**Mission Statement:**

The Assembly Point Water Quality Coalition, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) 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.

Please consider a tax exempt donation to the APWQ Coalition this year!

To become a member or contribute contact: Beverly Pozzi 656-9440;  
[apwqc7@gmail.com](mailto:apwqc7@gmail.com)

find us at: [www.assemblypt.com](http://www.assemblypt.com)

### UPDATE on the North Queensbury Waste Water District #1

In 2014, the Town of Queensbury in cooperation with Dunham Bay residents formed a Responsible Management Entity (RME) which created North Queensbury Waste Water District #1. Operational activities this spring/summer include:

- ☒ Schedule 'data gathering visits' to each property to determine/confirm location of onsite waste disposal facilities, as well as operating parameters.
- ☒ Establishment of GIS data base of properties in the newly formed district.
- ☒ Once systems inspections are complete, compile a schedule for pump outs.
- ☒ Require inspection/certification as a condition of realty transfer.

Several system upgrades are in various stages of completeness, ranging from complete installation and commissioning, to early site design considerations, to detailed engineering completed, awaiting construction. System operation and upgrade subsidies are available through duly formed and established RME's [districts], promulgated by Town Board action. The Advisory Board, composed of property owners, is still working with the Town on the septic hauler selection process so the pump-out reimbursement program has not yet begun.

The district budget includes a cost subsidy of a septic tank pump out for an individual, single family, (up to) a 3-bedroom residence. This subsidy is partially provided from proceeds of an Environmental Protection Fund grant as well as annual user fees and is in effect for the first ten years of the program.

### Announcements

August 15, 9:30-11:00 Assembly Point Water Quality Coalition Annual Meeting.

North Queensbury Firehouse, report of season's activities and election of officers and Board, open discussion of water quality issues.

The APWQC is offering small yard signs which say "no more sealcoating-keep toxins out of our water". Please contact us at [apwqc7@gmail.com](mailto:apwqc7@gmail.com) or (518) 656-9440 for signs.



### Special Thanks

The APWQC wishes to thank the Golub Foundation for generous support of an Assembly Point planting project slated for the fall, site to be announced. Please contact us if you would like to create a rain garden or if you are available to plant.

We also wish to thank the following AP residents for their donations to the Coalition...Rolf Ahlers, Sarah and Bruce Brown, Dedee Connor, Francis Goldscheider, Munroe Gridley, Mary Helen O'Keeffe, Bob Tully and Robert Vanderhye.

Thank you to Kathy Bozony for organizing the annual snorkel swims (2014 and 2015) around Assembly Point.



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