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1 Invasive Weed Control and Lake Water Quality

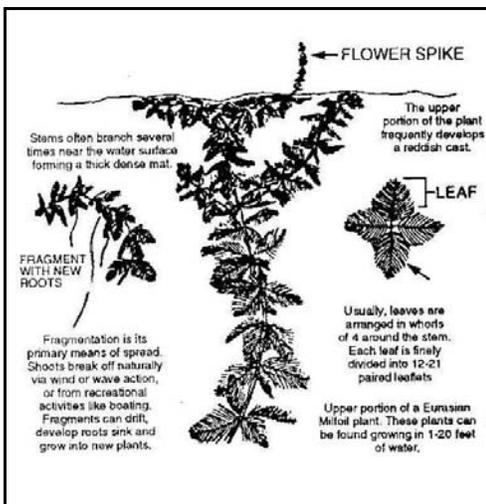
*By R. Douglas Paton, Planning Board Member, Vice
President, Brant Lake Foundation*

Editor's Note: *The Brant Lake Foundation has been at the forefront, actively involved in the ongoing **milfoil** extraction/control effort this season. As Marc Lustick, President, has said, it is their continuing mission to "improve the quality of our collective lake lives and experiences." It will require nothing short of an urgent and sustained task force effort to include expanded volunteer support from the Town of Horicon community and concerned citizens (for example, Tom Wynne, who has a seasonal home here drives from Smithtown, Long Island to help out with the dive effort) to control the spread of this scourge affecting our lakes.*

A large group of volunteers worked diligently, at least five different times since Sept. '06, to hand harvest beds of **milfoil**. When the Watershed Management Plan was written in 1998-2000, the dense beds of **milfoil** were located by the Darren Freshwater Institute of Bolton Landing. A dozen beds were located and mapped within the Plan Document. Since then, they have expanded. A re-doubled effort is being spearheaded by Luc Aalmans, Terry and Matt Lynch, which includes providing a map with GPS coordinates. Dozens of large buckets of weeded **milfoil** have been taken to the landfill for further disposal. It is recognized that matting is most effective to cover and smother the dense beds.

Additionally, with the funds available through the Town (\$5,000), Senator Little's grant (\$10,900), and the Brant Lake Foundation (\$25,000), proposals have been made to install a power scrubber at the public boat launch site to clean the hulls of incoming and outgoing boats. Plans for this effort would include a volunteer to man the washer during high volume weekends. Prevention and education is a large part of Milfoil control.

Thanks to those residents who participated in the continuing septic pump-out program started two years ago. Controlling failing septic systems will reduce seepage into the Lake to feed **milfoil**. More than 80 tanks were pumped out and educational material was provided to the homeowner on proper septic system management. Water saving kits are still available through the Brant Lake Foundation. The cost is \$10.00 and well worth it! Contact Doug Paton: 494-7344 for a kit.



2 Comprehensive Master Plan Update Status

By Dr. Richard F. Lamb, Professor of Environmental Planning, State University at Plattsburgh

Editor's Note: *Professor Dr. Richard F. Lamb has been working as a consultant to the Town of Horicon on the Comprehensive Plan update, providing valuable guidance and assistance in the planning process with focus on six areas of concern: housing and land use, commerce, environment and natural resources, community services, recreation and land use regulation update. Here is his brief summary of what has been accomplished to-date.*

"Preservation of Community Character while Sustaining Growth Management"

The Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee has been charged with revising the Town of Horicon's Comprehensive Plan. The questionnaire survey results and focus group discussions (reported in the Summer edition of this newsletter) were invaluable inputs to this process as they reflect citizen opinion on the various issues of concern to the town.

After some spirited discussions representing various points of view, the Committee has reached general consensus on a number of goals to guide the future of the town. The three most basic overarching goals, from which all others are derived, were determined to be:

Goal 1: Preserve the rural small town character and natural environment.
 Goal 2: Create opportunities for lower cost, affordable housing.
 Goal 3: Create employment opportunities by making the community more conducive to the establishment of businesses, consistent with Goal 1.

The Committee has established the following more specific goals (as well as listing several specific recommendations to achieve each goal, which are too numerous to include in this brief summary)

*"Smart Land Use includes community enhancing features when four principles are applied by all stakeholders to the project: **Collaboration, Outward Focus, Sustainability and Enhancement** to the surrounding neighborhood"*

Housing and Land Use Goals

- ✓ Provide for affordable housing choices and senior citizen housing needs.
- ✓ Streamline the zoning and land use permitting process and make it more user-friendly.
- ✓ Reduce development costs.
- ✓ Modify current zoning requirements to allow for traditional rural activities and lifestyles.
- ✓ Protect the value of existing and future housing.

Commerce Goals

- ✓ Protect the value of existing and future housing.
- ✓ Reestablish the Millpond area as the focal point and business center of town.

Environment and Natural Resource Goals

- ✓ Preserve and protect water resources.
- ✓ Preserve air quality.
- ✓ Preserve Important open space resources.
- ✓ Protect visual resources and aesthetics

Comprehensive Master Plan Update (Continued from Page -2-)

Still to be discussed are additional environment and natural resource goals, plus goals for each of the following categories: public services, recreation and land use regulation update.

We hope to finish this up in our September meeting, and then move on to more specific land use recommendations. During the Fall and Winter period, the committee will review and recommend changes to the current zoning law and land subdivision regulations.

3 The Zoning Office-From the Editor's Desk

The Zoning Administrator acts similar to a steward for smart land growth. Structures that include sheds, gazebos, docks, garages, retaining walls, alterations to existing homes all need a zoning compliance certificate issued from the Town and/or a building permit issued by Warren County.

Structures that do not meet the setback criteria are referred to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Those wishing to subdivide their land are required to obtain approval from the Planning Board.

From January to August, 108 zoning compliance certificates were issued. Eighty-five were alteration /additions to homes, eleven new homes, and 25 sewage disposal systems.

Questions regarding the permit process can be addressed by calling the Zoning and Planning Office (518-494-4245). Applications are available at the Zoning and Planning Office, M-F 8AM-12PM.

4 Progress Report on the New Town Highway Garage Complex

By Harry Balz, Clerk of the Works

The award of the contracts to five prime contractors was made at the Town Board meeting on April 19, 2007 for \$942,020. Field work started on May 3rd, with the installation of a 440' well. Field operations of the General Contractor began June 6th, with the excavation for concrete footings and foundation. All was completed by June 20th.

Under-floor sub utilities were installed and controlled backfill was placed by June 30th, with the concrete slabs in place by July 26th. Steel erection began August 2nd and 80% is complete to-date. The finished brick and block masonry was completed by the 28th, and the workmanship and visual aspects looks appealing.



The roofing system should be completed by September 11th, allowing the inside work to move forward.

The Town Highway personnel have continued to do the site work around the new building, to include drainage, sanitary, grading, placement of the pavement sub base and trucking for the asphalt. The asphalt pavement will be done by Warren County DPW.

Last fall, our Town Highway personnel completed the entire upper site storm drainage system and moved some 10,000 cubic yards of earth in order to prep the site for the spring start. The cooperation of Highway Superintendent Paul Smith and his team made my work easy and saved the Horicon taxpayer well over \$80,000. A new salt storage building was completed last winter. Working with the salt vendor, the Town saved an additional \$25,000. Cooperation is the key in making this type of collaborative project work.

At this time, the project is on schedule to be completed by mid-November, and is on budget.

5 BITS AND PIECES— FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

◆ Food Programs-The Helper's Fund-*"Always Ready with a Helping Hand"*

This program is available to qualified residents. Gleaning is distributed on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month from 3-4PM; and commodities are distributed the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 3-4PM at the Town Community Center. Also, the Town of Horicon Food Pantry provides residents with food on an emergency basis. If you are in need of such services, contact Arlene Mayer, Town Clerk: 494-4643.

◆ Republican Primary: Sept. 18th, 2007 From Noon to 9:00PM

General Election: Nov. 6th, 2007

Polling Place: Districts #1 and #2 at Town Community Center, State Rte 8, Brant Lake

◆ Mill Pond Lighting Enhancement

The lighting project around the Mill Pond will start after Labor Day. Fifteen decorative lighting "globe" pole fixtures will be placed, with electrical plugs for seasonal lighting, and flag brace attachments.

◆ The Brant Lake Dam

Repairs will start mid-September on the wing wall of the bridge at the southern end of Brant Lake, near the junction of Market Street and Rte 8. The county Superintendent of Public Works will be the lead agency for the eventual replacement of the bridge and dam. Federal and state funds will be sought to cover 95% of the bridge cost and up to \$1 million for the dam. There is a dam emergency response plan prepared, to be administered by the Warren County Dept. of Emergency Services.

◆ Highway Beautification Program-Passed in the August 16th Town Board meeting. (Town project details to be developed). The Brant Lake Foundation in their June '07 newsletter featured a cleanup "call to arms" article to involve neighborhood volunteers. The Town welcomes additional volunteers.