



Lake George Association

People Protecting the Lake Since 1885.

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BLACK POINT ROAD SEWER COMES ON LINE

Lake George, NY – Two hundred and fifty septic systems in the Towns of Ticonderoga and Putnam, some in very close proximity to Lake George, are slowly being taken out of service as Lake George's newest municipal sewer district becomes active. Residents along Black Point Road were informed in late November that they can begin to hook up to the newly-constructed municipal system.

“We can hardly believe it has finally happened,” says Tom Morhouse, President of the Black Point Road Civic Association. “The BPRCA has been spearheading this project for the better part of 20 years now, and we’re very excited about the end result. There were many setbacks, but it has finally come together.”

“This is great news for Lake George,” according to Lake George Association Executive Director, Walt Lender. “The most reasonable and effective solution to the aging and failing septic systems around Lake George is to collect the effluent and treat it in a municipal system. Many of the current systems were built for old seasonal camps and have long outlived their ability. Without ordinances in place that ensure regular inspections and upgrades, there is no way of knowing when these older systems stop working properly and start leaking into the lake. Many residents had resorted to holding tanks, but that’s an impractical and costly alternative. This system was a costly investment, but we need to do all we can to protect Lake George as our major drinking water source. The LGA has supported this project since its inception.”

This system protects over 5 miles of lakeshore from the pollution, harmful nutrients, and bacteria that leach out of failing septic systems, promote algae and aquatic plant growth, and degrade water quality,” according to LGA Director of Education, Emily DeBolt.

“We gave Ti supervisor Bob Dedrick an award at his final Town Board meeting for all his help making the project happen. We wanted to honor him before he retired,” according to Barbara McLaughlin, BPRCA Secretary. Joe Michalak was also honored. “Their dedication and determination to construct a sewer along Black Point Road was



critical to the completion. This project lasted over 20 years and would have fallen incomplete if it had not been for their support.”

“A lot of collaboration, a great deal of effort and years of persistence has made this possible,” said Senator Betty Little. “I am pleased to have been helpful with some state funding through the shared services program, but I really want to commend Tom Morhouse and the local elected officials, including Bob Detrick, for their work.”

“We have also relied upon the help of the Ticonderoga Sewer Department staff, Tracy Smith and Sue Huestis, and on the guidance of Jason Denno at New York State’s Environmental Facilities Corporation, which provided financing assistance,” continued Morhouse. “Putnam Town Supervisor John LaPointe was also

“Few worked harder to keep this project moving than the late Lt. Col. John McDonald. His leadership as founding president of the Black Point Road Civic Association helped keep many feet to the fire,” remarked Morhouse. It’s unfortunate that John and many other dedicated individuals behind this project did not live long enough to see this day. They would all be very pleased.”

“It was great to see everyone working together - from state agency staff, to town supervisors, Detrick and LaPointe, to local residents. This successful project is a shining example of a grassroots effort among Black Point Road residents to band together as an association, get organized, and gain the attention of their governments with an environmental goal to protect a precious resource. It sets an example for Lake George and other communities across the nation,” concluded Lender.

The project cost upwards of six million dollars and will cost residents roughly \$1,000 annually. A.P. Reale Construction installed the system over an 18-month period, and the engineering firm Clark Patterson Lee provided the engineering design and oversight.

The LGA is a not-for-profit membership organization of people interested in working together to protect, conserve, and improve the beauty and quality of the Lake George Basin. Interested in becoming an LGA member? Contact the LGA at (518) 668-3558 or check out LGA on the web at www.lakegeorgeassociation.org.

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