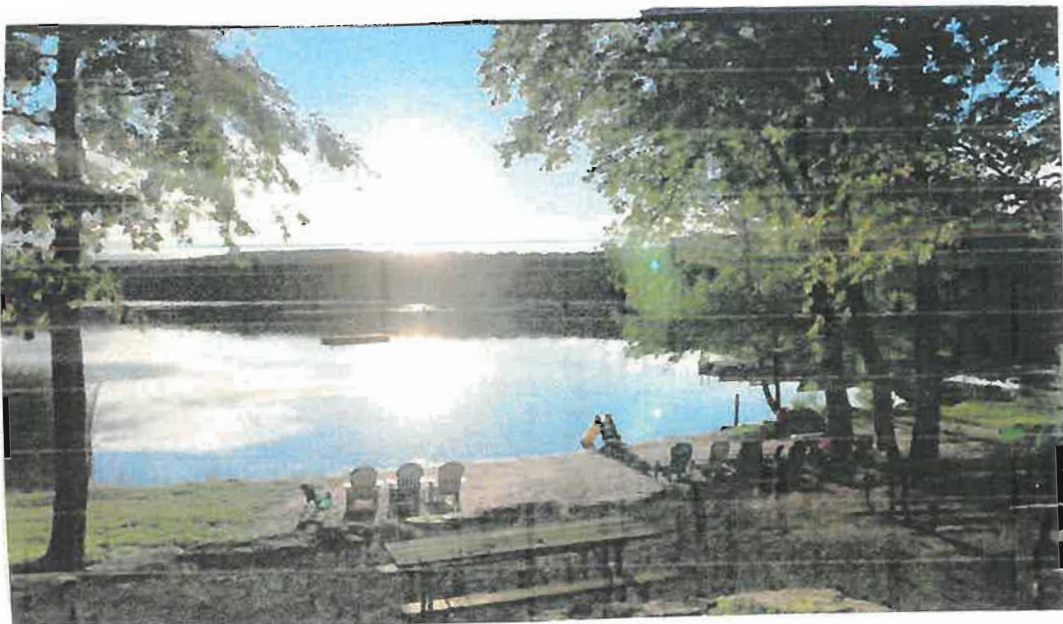


W E L C O M E
TO
Lake Kitchawan

Welcome to the neighborhood! We thought you might like to know a little about the lake and its history plus some very important Lake Kitchawan Association information.



THE HISTORY:

The Lake Kitchawan Community was constructed circa 1928 as "Westchester's Most Diversified Development"

The north half of the community used to be called Lake Kitchawan Grove, the south half was called Lake Kitchawan Park.

The lake has a colorful history beginning with the Kitchawank Indians who lived here before farmers settled in. After the developments was built, there were the casino on the water, carnivals (with rides and gambling!) every year, hotrods in the 1950's and lots of activity during the 1960's and 1970's. It has been wonderfully peaceful since.





"Lake Kitchawan," by Ronald G. Egloff

10/24/2017

[1 COMMENT](#)

A chapter ("Lake Kitchawan," by Ronald G. Egloff)
from *A History of the Town of Lewisboro*, by Alvin Jordan (1994 ed.)

Lake Kitchawan is a beautiful spring fed lake, half in Pound Ridge, half in Lewisboro. The name, "Lake Kitchawan," came from a tribe of Kitchawong Indians living between the southern end of Lake Kitchawan and the northern end of Trinity Lake. One of the grave sites for the Kitchawongs is on Kitchawan Road near the Pound Ridge line, part of the former Henry and Myrtle Birdsall farm.

The oldest building in the area was at the southern end of the lake in Pound Ridge. It was a group of four homes (better known as the "Lost Village"). The owners were Matthew Austin, a basketmaker, Harry Austin a farmer, Stephen Bouton who sold wild huckleberries and other produce and Clarence DeForest who was on the Lewisboro side. The houses were occupied from 1840 to the 1890's with the Raymond and Scott families living there in the latter part of the period. Tuberculosis and other diseases decimated the families and later the buildings were destroyed by fire.

In 1867, the Ridgefield and New York Railroad was projected for a 22 mile route to run from East Port Chester to Ridgefield. It ran parallel to the Byram River and proceeded to Greenwich and through the northwestern corner of Stamford, Mill River, east of Trinity Lake and Lake Kitchawan, then along the east side of Lewisboro to Ridgefield. Local farmers willingly accepted Ridgefield and New York Railroad stock as payment for their land. The soft, wide right of way was almost completely graded between Port Chester and Ridgefield and ready for the laying of the tracks when work was abandoned after the Panic of 1873. A new completion date was set for 1890 but at that point the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad acquired controlling interest and the project was allowed to lapse. You can still see this bed along the banks of Mill River just east of the river. Just think of the changes that could have taken place if this was completed.

Lake Kitchawan Park came about out of two parcels of land in 1925. One of these was the

RON EGLOFF,
Blog Editor/Curator

A lifelong resident of the neighborhood, Lewisboro Town Historian Maureen Koehi will gladly tell anyone who asks: *"There's nobody in Lewisboro that knows more about the history of Lake Kitchawan than Ron Egloff."*

Photo Credit (Above):
Swimmers near the Lake Kitchawan Association Beach (circa 1946-1950). Wm. Morgan, Jr., Rutherford, NJ
Lake Kitchawan Photo Collection Postcards.

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Southeastern Farms, Inc., which was on the southern end of the lake and Lake Kitchawan Grove which was on the northeastern side. This property was formerly the Craft property. A total of about 1250 lots fifty feet wide, 100 feet deep were laid out on narrow streets.

As early as July 18th, 1928, friends and property owners at Lake Kitchawan gathered together to raise money and gather thoughts to make the Lake Kitchawan community a better, safer place to live. The first project was the gathering of money to build a float 12 foot by 16 foot with two anchors and supported by two 1,000 gallon fuel tanks. There was a large diving lower on the float. The first meeting took place in the grove. The grove was the area of land that is now used as a parking lot. The first meeting of the property owners was held Saturday, August 11th, 1928 at 8 p.m. The purpose of this meeting was to form the Lake Kitchawan Park Owners Club. About 70 property owners were present, all full of enthusiasm. Mr. Samuel S. Skinner of Mt. Kisco was appointed temporary chairman with Charles D. Tarantino of Stamford recording secretary and Mr. A.T. DeForest treasurer. The next meeting took place in DeForest's store (later to become the Casino owned by Mr. A. Carlson) on Saturday, August 25th, 1928. This meeting was called for the election of officers. Mr. Skinner was elected President, Mr. Paul Gilbert of Stamford was elected Vice President and Mr. Charles Meade of New Canaan was elected treasurer. Mr. Tarantino was elected secretary. The main point of the meeting was the setting of \$5.00 as the initiation fee and \$2.00 for the dues. Mr. Henry of New Canaan gave a very thorough explanation of the water system which he was installing in Lake Kitchawan (later to become the Bob Carlo water system). The bylaws were brought up and voted on. A special meeting was called by the Vice President for the officers on April 21st, 1929 in Mr. Meade's cottage after word of Mr. Skinner's death. Vice President Gilbert presided at the meeting and was elected President. Other business taken up at this time was a letter from the Conservation Department of New York regarding stocking the lake with a fresh supply of small mouth bass and white perch. This stocking would make the lake one of the better fishing spots in Westchester. On May 5th, a special meeting was held for the purpose of arriving at a definite plan which would not be expensive but all homes could have electricity. This would have to be brought in from the main road at a cost of \$2.00 per month, all year round, plus 5¢ per kilowatt hour over the first five kilowatt hours used. This brought light to Lake Kitchawan for the first time and at 3¢ cheaper than Stamford.

On September 29th, 1929, Mr. A.T. DeForest reported that \$70.33 had been contributed for the new pier built on the north side of the beach. This was later removed and replaced by a large pier over 75 feet long on the south end which was made from the top of telephone poles. This lasted over 25 years and was removed in 1980.

In September of 1932, a gold medal was awarded to Andre "Smithy" Huges for saving a child from drowning. In those days there were no lifeguards but all of the people kept a close eye on the children and were awarded for their bravery.

During the 1930's, money was set aside to either build or buy a clubhouse for the members of Lake Kitchawan community. It was not until October of 1951 that the clubhouse was purchased after 30 years of saving money from cake sales, clambakes, fairs and carnivals.

On August 12th, 1934, John Mathison reported on the presentation of a gold medal to Charles Meade, Jr., for having saved two children from drowning. As you can see the "looking-out-for-others" system was working.

As early as 1935, Margaret Verratti was successful in organizing a Junior Association with 19 members. This Junior Membership was kept up until the middle of 1977. This is a program badly needed again in this community. They had elected officers and had a variety of activities for the younger members of the community.

On May 16th, 1937, the first road program started. At this time, the roads were all dirt and very narrow.

They were privately owned by the property owners. A lot of hard work and long hours went into keeping the roads in good condition. It was not until October 1963 that the town took over the first of the roads. The first to be turned over to the town was Lake Kitchawan Drive, from Mill River to the Casino area. This came about from a petition of 162 people requesting that the town help with the upkeep of the roads. As of today, the town has taken over all of the roads in the Lake Kitchawan area except for 7 roads which the property owners still have to keep up. A tax is collected from the property owners to pay for the snow plowing and general repairs. The town cannot take over the remaining roads because of state ordinances on width and turning-around space, as all of the roads are dead end. Throughout the history of the Association much time and effort has had to be spent on the collection of the road tax. This has taken time away from other areas and programs that were needed in the community. Because all help is volunteer, we always need help with weed control, beach improvement, and keeping up relations with town officials and police officials. In 1977, efforts were picked up in putting all of these areas in good working order again. Today we have a weed harvest program to remove the weeds from the lake. In 1980, over 20 tons of weeds were removed. They were used in the new community garden, adjacent to the clubhouse, another successful program started through the efforts of the Lake Kitchawan Association and Mr. David Lieberman. Anyone living in Lake Kitchawan can take a garden spot. A new program that is in the working is the remodeling of the clubhouse. There will be a new roof, and modernized bathrooms and kitchen. The funds for this and the weed harvesting comes from a federal HUD grant to upgrade the community.

#

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD.....

The Basketball Court - Please do not hang on the rim, we cannot afford to replace the backboard!!!!!!!

The Parking Lot - Kids do ride their bikes in and around the lot and sometimes play ball in it, so please drive carefully through this area! The parking lot closes at 10:00pm and no overnight parking permitted; especially in the winter months because the plow company needs to be sure it is plowed and safe.

The Monument - The monument in the park was erected in the 1950's to honor the residents of Lake Kitchawan who served our country in WWI, WWII, Korean and Vietnam Wars.

The Message Center - This is a new message board this year and it will list all community happenings

The David Lieberman Memorial Garden - Once upon a time (c 1970's) this was a community garden with each gardener tending his or her own space. In the 1990's the Lieberman's grew a large variety of vegetables and wildflowers, and if you timed your walk

around or visit to the garden right, you got to help pick the ripe veggies and take home a bag of fresh corn, tomatoes, lettuce and maybe a pumpkin... Thanks to Laurel Genovese (a former LKA president), the Westchester Land Trust & Louella Lieberman, it is now once again a LKA Community Property. There are permanent restrictions governing its use: One of them being that it is to be used for quiet reflection, more importantly, NO DOGS ALLOWED!

The Clubhouse - The clubhouse is available for rent to any community member who is current in dues, rental fee is at \$50. The clubhouse bathroom located at the back of the building with its own separate entry door is open from May to September for community use.

Hiking - There are entrances to the Leon Levy Preserve on Lake Kitchawan Drive as well as the end of Hemlock Road.

THE BEACH

WE ALL take care of the beach and playground as needed. We should pick up trash, rake the beach, pull weeds, rake out the weeds that float in and dispose of them in the wooded area not on the beach!

The weeds are cut in the spring/summer months and volunteers are needed to help get rid of the weeds. Look for signs on the road and or website for that information.

There is NO fishing from the beach area!

Noise, please respect the neighbors surrounding the lake area and please while children are at the lake show them respect and not use profanity!!!!

Litter, what you carry in YOU carry out, we do not have anyone cleaning the beach and/or collecting garbage so respect the area and get rid of the garbage.

Dogs, are never allowed on the beach! They are allowed on the dock only.

Toys, please moms and dads when your children are finished playing with the toys, please teach them to put away the toys in the big toy chest by the stairs!!!

Life Jackets, there is a hook system by the stairs to place the life jackets please utilize it!!!!

Sand, we generally replace it each year, need volunteers to help level it out so watch the website for that.

Guest, must be accompanied by a resident while at the beach and or fishing area.

Boats, please note there are NO gas motors on the lake permitted. All boats and canoes need an LKA sticker please contact the treasurer at crazykids4ever@optonline.net for a sticker.

Canoes, are to be placed inside the fence area and stored on the racks not scattered around the beach area.

Strangers, you as a resident have the right to ask anyone that you do not recognize if they are from the neighborhood. If they don't live here, they may not realize it is 100 percent Private Property!!!! Allowing a non-resident to remain is a safety liability so please; explain to them that it is private property for Lake Kitchawan members only!!!! Also, no one can buy a membership, you must have a deeded lake right with your property.

The Dock, boats are not allowed on the right side of the dock facing the lake, there is a pipe for the hydrant

and it cannot be damaged!!! NO boats or canoes are allowed to be stored along the fence line, if they are the chains will be cut and boats will be in the wooded area. This area MUST be kept clear for the fire trucks to access the lake and the plowing company during the winter months. ALL boats are to be removed from the lake before it freezes over for the winter. NO parking down at the dock or in and around the driveway area!

While at the dock.....

Make sure to look for Myrtle the Turtle & Big Joe, her son, swans and their signets, snakes, otters, cormorants, ducks, Canadian geese, bald eagles (passing through in November and February), blue herons, and you may even hear an owl in the wee hours of the night!

ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION.....

When the developer built Lake Kitchawan Grove and Lake Kitchawan Park in the 1920's, he had the deeds stipulate, "The roads, streets and avenues, after original construction, shall be maintained by all property owners in Lake Kitchawan Park and Grove." Some of the deeds include, "by levies of taxes or charges proportionately...." The association was established as

the entity to collect and manage taxes. These taxes (we call them "dues") are mandatory, by law, for all properties in the Park and Grove. Since 1928, along with collecting and managing the annual dues, the Lake Kitchawan Association has been the driving force in making our community a clean safe and great place to live.

All property owners within the grove and park are a part of the association and are entitled to lake rights and all the other wonderful amenities (and it cost just \$225 per year currently, seniors \$80) MUST BE up to date in dues!

EVENTS.....

The Annual Community Celebration happens July or August and it is a celebration for young and old, full of laughter, games, food, music and even an ice cream truck!!!! Many hands are needed for this event to take place so please contact anyone on the board if you are interested in helping.

DUMPSTER DAY/LKA YARD SALE.....

Every spring we have Dumpster Day, typically in May, one carload of junk is free, if your dues are current! If by chance you have more to dump (additional fee), you need to wait until the end of day to see if there is room.

LKA Yard Sale, will be on the same day as dumpster day and if you would like to have a table on the lawn to sell your stuff, LKA will charge you \$20 for a table.

SPRING CLEAN UP.....

Look for the date and times on the website as well as signs on the road.

LKA ANNUAL MEETING.....

Come and meet the board, your neighbors, find out what is happening in the neighborhood/beach/clubhouse and get involved! You will also hear from a committee member of LKCC (Lake Kitchawan Conservation

Committee @ LakeKitchawancc.org), who has been handling the lake issues with the DEP and getting the lake in the beautiful state that it is in now. The meeting is in April, at this meeting is when you will pick the new board members that have previously issued a letter of interest to the board and are put on the ballot.

ABOUT THE LKA BOARD OF DIRECTORS.....

The Board of Directors is an elected volunteer group consisting of local homeowners who have the common goal of community enhancement. Its function is to maintain and improve your investment.

What does that mean? This means that via the collection of community charges (the "dues") they are fiscally able to maintain and better our communal properties. These communal properties consist of:

- The Monument area, playground area, and adjoining property
- The floatation dock and its access way
- The community center building (the clubhouse), its grounds (including the garden) and parking lot

A major portion of what is termed maintenance goes toward the payment of taxes on these communal

properties. Another portion is applied to the snow plowing of private roads within the lake community.

The condition of the communal properties affects ALL of our property values!!

The positions on the board are:

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

3 General Directors

These positions are elected or re-elected at the annual meeting held in April. If you are interested in becoming elected to the board, please forward a letter of intent to LKA prior to the annual meeting!

LKA WEBSITE: LAKEKITCHAWAN.COM

LKA is also on Facebook @ Lake Kitchawan Association

Thanks to Elizabeth Daley and Ron Egloff for they had done this packet back in the day and we just updated certain areas.

LKA BEACH RULES

THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY. YOU MUST HAVE DEEDED RIGHT OF WAY TO PARK IN THE LOT; TO CROSS THE PLAYGROUND AND TO USE THE BEACH. YOUR LKA DUES SHOULD BE PAID. LKA DUES MUST BE PAID IN FULL FOR USE OF THE DOCK, BOAT/CANOE STORAGE, FLOAT, TABLES, GRILLS AND PLAYSETS.

SWIM AT YOUR OWN RISK

THE BEACH & PARK CLOSE AT 10:00 p.m.

KEEP GATES CLOSED AT ALL TIMES

NO DOGS ON THE BEACH AT ANY TIME

NO LITTERING!

CARRY OUT WHAT YOU CARRY IN (INCL. CIGARETTE BUTTS)

GUESTS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A RESIDENT

PLEASE REMOVE WEEDS TO THE WOODS (NO PILES!)

PUT AWAY TOYS WHEN FINISHED PLAYING WITH THEM

PLEASE FILL HOLES IN SAND WHEN FINISHED PLAYING

NO FISHING FROM THE BEACH (REMOVE ALL FISHING LINE FROM DOCK)

NO SWIMMING W/ OPEN WOUNDS/CONTAGIOUS ILLNESS

NO UNAUTHORIZED USE OF BOATS/CANOES

NO CANOES STORED ON GRASS

RESPECT LKA & OTHER PEOPLE'S PROPERTY

SUPERVISE YOUR CHILDREN (PARK, BEACH & WATER!)

PLAY SAFELY

NO LOUD MUSIC/ NO LOUD CELL PHONE CONVERSATIONS

NO PROFANITY

DRIVE SAFELY IN THE PARKING LOT

NO PARKING ~~ON~~ THE DOCK ACCESS ROAD