

This Wader watercolor of the Durand-Bigham homestead was likely done in the first decade of the 20th century, as Wader was a resident of Willard Psychiatric Hospital from 1911 until his death in 1918. The farmhouse stands alone in a small grove overlooking a vineyard and the lake. We are grateful to Lawrence M. Driscoll of Seneca

Falls, grandson of George and Anne Bigham, for permission to share this image with the Town residents.

If you are willing to share any paintings or historic images of a building in the Town, whether demolished or still with us, please contact Sarah Reynolds at sreynolds@townofcanandaigua.org. The Local History Team would be happy to scan it for the archives and provide you with a copy of the digital image.

Natural Resource Protection News

From the Town of Canandaigua Environmental Conservation Board

It's That Time of Year Again! Harmful Algae Blooms, or HABs

By: ECB members with excerpts from the NY DEC Newsletter

In late August and early September, the blue-green algae tends to rise to the surface of our lake and our consciousness. We have seen algae blooms on Canandaigua Lake around this time in recent years, and many other lakes around the region, state and nation are in the same boat. Our local watershed group, Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association (CLWA), and its partners are actively on the case of the local algae blooms; this article will tell you how to spot an algae bloom, what it means, and what to do about it.

What is a Harmful Algae Bloom (HAB)? HABs are concentrations of blue-green algae species (technically called cyanobacteria) that can produce toxins harmful to humans and pets. They are visible on the water surface as streaks, globs, scum, or overall color stains, usually greenish and sometimes as green as pea soup, but occasionally other colors. They can be very localized, limited to an area like one beach or dock, or they can cover many acres or a whole lake. They can come and go rapidly as the algae rises and falls in the water column.

In low concentrations, algae is not harmful, but hot weather and calm shallow waters create the conditions for algae to rise to the surface and concentrate into a bloom or a toxic bloom (not all blooms are toxic). See photos, courtesy of the volunteers at the CLWA Shoreline Monitoring Program.

What is harmful about them? Coming into direct contact with a toxic algae bloom, through the skin, bloom-infested drinking water, eating fish from a bloom area, or from pets who have been in contact, can make you ill. Mild symptoms include rash, sore throat or runny nose, and can result from contact with any cyanobacteria, whether toxic or





not. More serious symptoms such as headache, upset digestion and tingling sensations, should be reported to Public Health at 585-396-4343. Dogs who come into contact with harmful algae can become especially sick - see this [Fact Sheet](#) and contact your vet and the Health Department if your pet shows symptoms.

Why is this happening now? Good question. Algae has been around for centuries, and not all algae is harmful. A

veritable army of scientists is pursuing the reasons for the relatively sudden explosion in HABs in recent years. The slowly warming temperatures may well play a part. Some research efforts focus on sources of the increasing nutrients coming into our lakes from the surrounding watershed, including farm practices, lawn fertilizers, and improperly functioning septic systems. The changing populations of zebra and quagga mussels may also be a factor.



What to do if you see a bloom? Do not swim, wade or fish in water that looks suspiciously colored. If you or your pet have come in contact with a bloom, rinse off with clean water. To help in the monitoring effort, take a few photos of the bloom - at least one close up with some detail and another one showing the wider context - and e-mail them to HABs@canandaiguallakeassoc.org, along with information about the bloom - where was it, how long did it last, how big was it, and what did it look like?

How do you know if it's safe to swim? If the water is a normal color without obvious streaks or blobs on top, it is OK to swim, even if there has been a reported bloom not far away. The white foam we sometimes see on the lake is typically not harmful but could contain toxic algae, so stay away from it. Moving water on a breezy day is not likely to produce a harmful bloom. Trust your powers of observation. For more on how to identify an HAB, see the [DEC webinar for shoreline monitors](#).

Would you like to do more? The Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association (CLWA) maintains an active Citizen Science team of volunteers who conduct weekly monitoring of the Canandaigua shoreline through August and September. Each of 42 team member covers a zone of lakeshore and makes the rounds to observe and report blooms each week. This is up from 26 monitors last year, but there are still zones which remain without monitors. Call the CLWA office at 585-394-5030 to volunteer your services this year or in the future.

For more information and a flier on HABs on Canandaigua Lake, see:

<https://www.canandaigualakeassoc.org/science-education/blue-green-algae-2/>

<https://www.canandaigualakeassoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/HAB-2016-Brochure-Canandaigua-6.8.pdf>

For an up-to-date map on reported HABs in New York State, see :

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ae91142c812a4ab997ba739ed9723e6e>

Parks & Recreation Updates

From Parks & Recreation Coordinator Samantha Pierce



What a Summer!

BEACHES: Butler / West Lake School House beach is now closed for the season but Onanda Park beach will remain open through Labor Day with the exception of Thursday, September 3.

THANK YOU to all the community members who came out in full force to enjoy our Town parks this summer. We are so happy to be able to provide our residents with eight parks, including two beaches, and miles of trails to enjoy, especially this year. We had record numbers visiting the parks this year.

As summer comes to a close, we remind you that our parks remain open for your enjoyment throughout the fall and winter. Thank you for a great summer and we look forward to what next year will bring us.

