

Saratoga Lake Readies

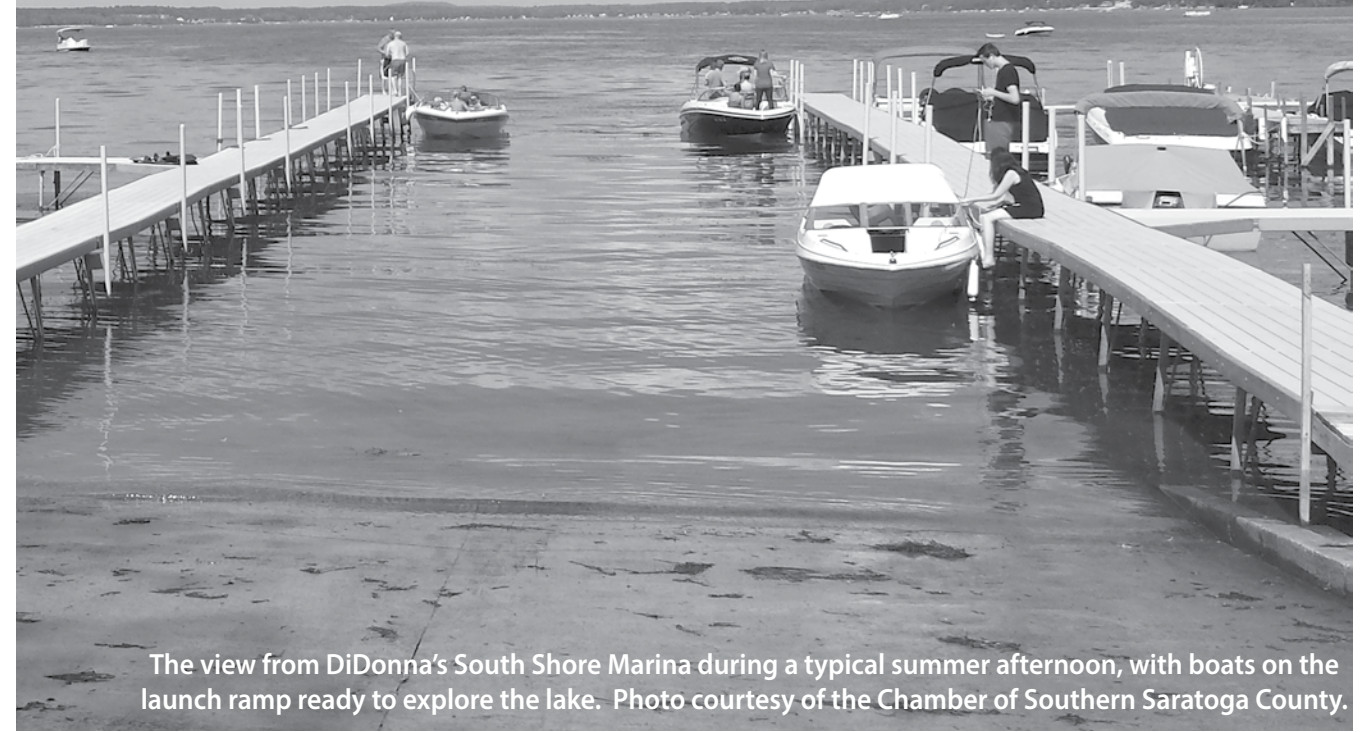


by Pete Bardunias, President/CEO,
the Chamber of Southern Saratoga County

As boaters head north on their vessels towards Lake Champlain, or tow their trailers up I-87 to Lake George, Lake Placid and other destinations, a beautiful treasure is often overlooked. Saratoga Lake, the closest trailerable powerboat-friendly lake north of Albany and the Hudson Valley, provides great recreational fun, whether it be cruising its beautiful water, sailing on its smooth surface, kayaking/paddling up the Fish Creek, swimming, or even indulging in something called “waterflight”.

“Saratoga Lake has gorgeous sunrises, sunsets and sceneries,” says Judith Banks, Membership Chair of the Saratoga Lake Association (SLA), which promotes and enhances the health, safety, sanitation, recreation and environmental quality of the Lake and its extensive watershed. This seems like a tall order, but Board President Alan Richer leads a strong, dedicated organization. He notes its proximity to the tourist mecca of Saratoga Springs. “Saratoga Lake is the other facet that makes

For A Great Year



The view from DiDonna’s South Shore Marina during a typical summer afternoon, with boats on the launch ramp ready to explore the lake. Photo courtesy of the Chamber of Southern Saratoga County.

Saratoga the gem that it is,” says Richer. “Saratoga Lake is the place to be! That is why I am building my new home there!” adds Scott Rajeski, Vice President & CFO of Latham Pool Products and a past chair of the Chamber of Southern Saratoga County.

Trailer boaters will note that the Lake is an excellent place to enjoy a sunny afternoon, or even a weekend retreat. There are launch ramps at both north and south ends of the Lake, with rooms available at places like The Nest, part of

the Brown’s Beach complex in Stillwater (next to Dock Brown’s Lakeside Tavern and the public beach) or DiDonna’s South Shore Marina (at 125 slips, the largest marina member of the Chamber of Southern Saratoga County, adjacent to Nostalgia Ale House and Wine Bar), and several other locations. The Lake is considered some of the best bass fishing waters in the country by local experts.

Fishermen and paddlers will enjoy the expansive Fish Creek on the north end of the Lake. Navigable for several miles (speed



An example of the beautiful wildlife on Saratoga Lake.
Photo courtesy of Gail Welter.

restrictions apply), it transforms into a pristine, quiet setting with only paddles making rippling sounds, birds flying overhead and other wildlife surrounding the observer.

Care to "Go Your Own Way" on Saratoga Lake? Consider piloting a waterflight board available at Extreme Hydro Flight, LLC (HYPERLINK "http://www.extremehydroflight.com" www.extremehydroflight.com), which can literally strap the propulsion to your feet and let you fly 5 to 15 feet above the water – open Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Saratoga Lake has it all – for information on local events visit www.SaratogaLake.org. The SLA's Banks hopes more people will get involved with the organization and continue its legacy of stewardship, advocacy and information sharing about this wonderful treasure: "Become a member of the Saratoga Lake Association," she says, "and keep informed as to what is happening on and around beautiful Saratoga Lake!"

For more on upstate New York waterways visit www.southernSaratoga.org, visit the Southern Saratoga Information Center at the Clifton Park Rest Area on the I-87 Northway at Exit 9, or call (518) 371-3763.

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