

As a lake resident, you know what a very special place Glen Echo is to live and raise a family. Whether you enjoy swimming, fishing, boating, winter sports (such as ice skating and hockey) or just plain sitting on the deck looking out over the water, it is like having a year round vacation home.

The Glen Echo Improvement Association, made up entirely of volunteers, works tirelessly towards maintaining a healthy lake while also dealing with many issues affecting the safe enjoyment of the lake. The Association sponsors lake clean ups, fishing derbies, the "Boat Parade", safe boating courses and provides residents with helpful information about the lake.

The Association owns and maintains property which provides beach/lake access to non-waterfront property owners and Association members. Over the past several years, the Association has spent thousands of dollars on much needed erosion control to preserve the shore line along that property along with other improvements and maintenance, such as brush clean-up, updated signs, and installation of boulders to eliminate parking and encourage the use of the property as a park and beach (as originally intended).

Unfortunately, despite these measures, unauthorized parking and vehicle activity on the property continues to be an issue. There have been ongoing complaints that the Association property is being used by outsiders to launch boats and jet skis and unauthorized ATV use of the property continues to be a concern. A committee was formed in August 2009 to address these issues. At the September 2009 meeting, the committee presented a proposal to restrict vehicle access *only* to Association members in good standing. The proposal was accepted and since that time, a locked gate has been installed at the entrance to the property restricting vehicle access. The continued use of the property as a park/beach will not be restricted and will remain open to pedestrian traffic.

Association members can purchase a key to the gate for a non-refundable fee of \$10. A member agreement must be signed when purchasing a key and member dues must be paid in full for the year. Dues are \$25 per year or a lifetime membership is available for \$225.

Unfortunately, there have been two instances of vandalism to the gate on the property, with the most recent incident occurring on March 31, 2010. At a meeting with the Charlton Police Department on April 5, 2010, the Association officers reaffirmed our position relative to charging and prosecuting those individuals caught maliciously destroying any portion of the property. As private property owners, the Association has a right to preserve and maintain the property and to seek compensation for damages.

People observing this type of activity should call the police department immediately with any information they can provide. We recommend avoiding any confrontation that could put people and property at risk and allow the police department to take the appropriate action(s).

Thanks, and see on the water!