



# Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor

P.O. Box 159 • Sea Cliff, NY 11579 • 516-801-6792 • [cshh@optonline.net](mailto:cshh@optonline.net)

## Harbor News

June 2, 2011

### ***JUNE 1, 2011, OPENING DAY FOR SHELLFISH BEDS IN HEMPSTEAD HARBOR!***

Like many other western harbors along the north shore of Long Island, shellfish harvesting in Hempstead Harbor has been restricted for 40 or more years. Today, 2,500 acres of shellfish beds in the northern portion of the harbor were certified for shellfish harvesting, and 55 boats with baymen, mostly from areas east of Hempstead Harbor, were anxious to see what the harbor had to offer. Their efforts paid off with healthy clam stock in a variety of sizes.



When things looked so bleak around Hempstead Harbor in 1986, the year the Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor was formed, it was the hope that this day would come that kept members working on improving conditions in the harbor and around its shoreline. It was the reason the Citizens Water-Quality Monitoring Program was formed in 1992. It took 25 years of collaborative effort, the formation of productive partnerships between citizen groups and local municipal and agency officials, and innovative technological and funding strategies to bring about the changes that we see today. This is truly a day to celebrate—the reopening of shellfish beds in Hempstead Harbor is the best indicator we could have of the improved health of Hempstead Harbor. It should also be a reminder of how fragile the ecosystem is and how we must continue to work to protect this incredible resource.

For more information on the reopening of shellfish beds in the harbor, contact us at [cshh@optonline.net](mailto:cshh@optonline.net) or visit <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/72944.html> or [www.hempsteadharbor.org](http://www.hempsteadharbor.org).

## PLASTIC-DISK UPDATE—RECLAIMING EDEN!

On Saturday, April 9, 2011, CSHH organized an emergency cleanup of plastic disks that had washed up on beaches around Hempstead Harbor. An estimated **21.5 million disks** were released from a Mamaroneck waste-water-treatment plant during an upgrade of its aeration tanks.

Volunteers during the CSHH cleanup picked up 21,650 disks in one hour at local beaches around Hempstead Harbor; additional disks collected by volunteers at other times during the weekend brought the total to 27,642. These efforts helped convince public officials in Westchester County to arrange to have crews collect disks on several days in April and May at Hempstead Harbor beaches and beaches in Bayville and Oyster Bay; the Westchester crews collected 75,000 disks.

There is no doubt that we will continue to see the disks on local beaches for months to come, and we will need the continuing efforts of volunteers to collect them.

**Two local artists were inspired to find a use for the disks.** Barbara Karyo took the 21,650 disks collected at the CSHH beach cleanup and created a five-foot long fish. Barbara crocheted the fish's head out of strips of plastic grocery bags. The fish's body is made of disks that are tied together with small strips of plastic. Barbara was assisted by some of the beach cleanup volunteers and friends.

Sally Shore collected disks and created "The Colony," which is on view at the Reclaiming Eden exhibit at the Jeanie Tengelsen Gallery in Dix Hills through June 12. The exhibit "explores the loss and restoration of our earthly paradise." On June 12, Barbara will give a lecture at the gallery and will have the disk fish on view.



*Barbara Karyo's 4-ft-long fish made of plastic disks.*



*Sally Shore's "The Colony."*

The fish needs a name (send your suggestions to [cs hh@optonline.net](mailto:cs hh@optonline.net)); it will be making special appearances at local events.

## UPDATE ON GLEN COVE WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT

On May 3, RXR Glen Isle Partners, LLC, presented a "Conceptual Site Plan" to the Glen Cove Planning Board, amending the 2008 development plan for the north side of Glen Cove Creek. (The conceptual plan can be viewed on the Glen Cove website at <http://www.glencove-li.com/>; click on the "Waterfront Project" and scroll down to the bottom of the page.) The 2011 Conceptual Plan purports to address changing market conditions and building-height concerns of community residents. Where the 2008 plan had proposed three 12-story buildings, three 10-story buildings and 4- to 8-story buildings between the taller towers, the 2008 conceptual plan proposes a 12-story building at either end of the western portion of the development with a 10-story building, a 6-story building, and four 4-story buildings between the end towers. Two of the 4-story structures would have underground parking. The shorter buildings will be changed to wood (rather than steel) construction.

The page of the Conceptual Plan titled "Development Framework" states the plan affords the ability to "...modify, if necessary, each development block to meet the changing demands of the market to the extent such modifications have been analyzed under SEQRA and approved by the Planning Board." However, the **developers want to reserve the right to return to the 2008 plan if the economy improves**. Among the "limitations" listed in the Conceptual Plan are "maximum building heights as proposed in previous and current proposal" and "total number of residential dwelling units shall not exceed 1085, provided the total number of hotel units shall not exceed 125 units."

So which plan will the community be faced with? How can the Conceptual Plan be presented as a dramatic change if the developers are still intending to build three tall towers and maintain the same high density of units that had been planned in 2008, but with a "product mix" (e.g., rental units, condos, townhouses) that suits the developers. What suits the community? And how will the Conceptual Plan fit into the next steps of the environmental review process? We were assured that Mayor Suozzi intends to provide for public input during the final stages of the review process at which we hope these questions will be addressed.

## 25 YEARS AND STILL COUNTING!

**The Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor has reached a milestone—25 years since its formation in 1986!** A lot has changed, and a lot of the changes that have helped to improve conditions around Hempstead Harbor can be attributed to the hard work and support of longstanding CSHH members.

CSHH continues as an important voice in the community, still striving to protect our local environment. Operational expenses continue as well, and these can be met only by the generosity of community members.

***We need your help!*** Please consider making a special 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary donation, payable to the Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor, P.O. Box 159, Sea Cliff, NY 11579. If you can offer special services or technical assistance, please call 801-6792. Encourage friends to get on our e-mail list by writing to [csbh@optonline.net](mailto:csbh@optonline.net). Please let us know that you value CSHH's work over the last 25 years by making your tax-deductible contribution now.