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Partnership places signs around Syracuse alerting us we're entering Onondaga Lake Watershed

Published: Thursday, March 22, 2012, 6:00 AM



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By



David Lassman / The Post-Standard

This sign now stands in the 900 block of Westcott Street in Syracuse. It is one of seven put up in the city.

Onondaga Lake is a little like the main character in that play "The Man Who Came To Dinner." In some ways, he's an unwelcome guest, but one we've learned to live with.

The lake is but 4.6 miles long and a mile wide. A mere puddle among lakes, but surely one of the most polluted, thanks to years of municipal and industrial waste-dumping. Onondaga County and Honeywell are hard at work on a clean-up. Dredging of the lake is scheduled to start this spring or summer.

Meanwhile, the Onondaga Lake Partnership, set up in 2000 to promote cooperation among those

managing environmental issues of the lake's watershed, wants residents to recognize that their actions in and around the watershed have an impact on the lake.

That's why we're seeing signs appearing around Syracuse, and soon in Onondaga County, advising this:

"Entering Onondaga Lake Watershed."

Truth is, we're already there.

Correct. The lake has a drainage basin – i.e. watershed – of 285 square miles, covering all of Syracuse and much of Onondaga County, according to the partnership. A member of the group says the signs cost roughly \$200 each and the locations were selected based on entry points into the watershed.

"Budget constraints didn't allow for a comprehensive posting of signs throughout the city, so some concessions on locations were made," the member, B.J. Adigun, explained.

The lake partnership, which is primarily a county group, is picking up the tab for the signs. Seven already are up in the city, seven more will be placed around the county.

Our man David Lassman took a picture of the watershed sign in the 900 block of Westcott Street. We have reports of other signs near LeMoyne College and at Scottholm Boulevard and East Genesee Street.

Are the watershed signs one too many for Syracuse's visual environment? Close. These markers are out there competing for attention with the Erie Canal Corridor signs and the City of Syracuse markers put up by our last mayor (Matt Driscoll) proclaiming this as the "Emerald City," to trumpet the city's "green" efforts.

Enough, already. I also think the lake partnership folks need to follow up the signs with information on what citizens can do to lessen our impact on Onondaga Lake.

"Patently Syracuse."

Ty Marshall, the entrepreneur who brought us the resurrected Cardiff Giant a while back, is back on the exhibit scene with a new show, this time at the Gallery of the Tech Garden at 235 Harrison St., where's he in charge of shows. It's called "Patently Syracuse."

Ty describes the exhibit – on display through April 19 — as a "visual exploration of inventions, designs and innovations created in Central New York."

Ty has the help of Alan Rothschild, of Rothschild Peterson Patent Model Museum, and the Onondaga Historical Association. Alan is a world-class collector of patent models (more than 4,000) which are on display now at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. and Euro Disney in Paris.

Curator of the exhibit is Jake LaManna, co-founder of Evolution Art Studio.

Inventions on view include an 1842 patent for "improvements in salt works," by Calvin Guiteau; a cider press invented by Nathan Chapin (1851); an "improved rocking chair," produced by Robert Chauncey. Chauncey described it as "kept in motion by occupant of the chair;" and a "beer jetter."

Ty says the jetter is described as "a machine which eliminates air from the headspace of the container before sealing. The object of the invention is to provide a method of directing inert gas into an open top can to avoided excessive foaming and waste of beer."

Meaning no head?

The exhibit will be officially opened 5 to 7 p.m. tonight at the Tech Garden Gallery.

Help!

Gibb Webb, a student of Onondaga Valley history, has a question. He's trying to figure out the businesses that occupied the intersection of South Salina Street and Seneca Turnpike in the late 60s and early 70s. Helpers may call Gibb at 492-1263.

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