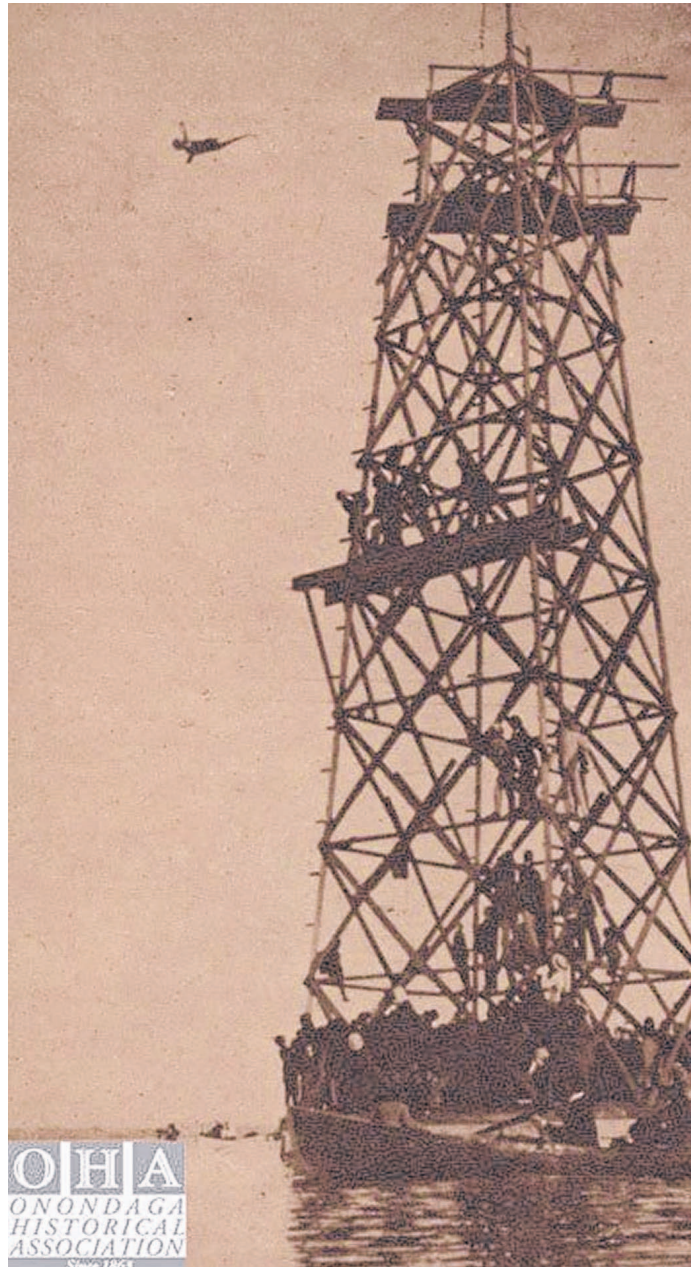


NEWS

A diver leaps off a 100-foot tower into Onondaga Lake at the Maple Bay resort, years before swimming was banned on the lake in 1940.

## Swimming in Onondaga Lake?

Public invited to Focus Greater Syracuse forum

By Glenn Coin  
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The civic group Focus Greater Syracuse will hold a public forum Friday on swimming in Onondaga Lake.

Swimming has been banned since 1940 because of pollution, but recent reports say the northern two-thirds of the lake are now clean enough for a beach. Onondaga County Executive Joanie Mahoney hopes to launch a study next year on whether to open a beach at the Willow Bay picnic area at the north end of the lake.

A 2012 survey by Focus Greater Syracuse found that many people wanted to open the lake for swimming again in a lake once con-

sidered America's most polluted. The report noted that "the creation of a swimming area poses many challenges, including a widely-held perception that the lake waters remain too polluted for swimming."

The county's commissioner of Water Environmental Protection, Tom Rhoads, will speak at the group's monthly meeting Friday. Rhoads has said Onondaga Lake is now cleaner than some Finger Lakes.

The forum runs from 7:30 to 8:45 a.m. in the atrium of City Hall Commons, 201 E. Washington St., Syracuse. The event is free and no reservations are required.

Contact Glenn Coin at 470-3251.