

**PRESS RELEASE FROM
LEGISLATOR LESLIE KENNEDY.**



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**LAKE RONKONKOMA ADVISORY BOARD KICKS OFF SPRING TESTING IN
LAKE RONKONKOMA**

April 14, 2015 – Members of the Lake Ronkonkoma Advisory Board braved rainy weather in their first outing of the year ushering in spring on Lake Ronkonkoma. In addition to visiting the Lake, the task force members joined students from the class of Dr. Darcy Lonsdale of Stony Brook University and Bill Pfiefer of the Nesconset Fire Department to board an Island Diving Sonar Vessel. Their mission for the day was to perform studies and various tests on the composition turbidity and other aspects of the lake water. In attendance from the Lake Ronkonkoma Advisory were Legislators Leslie Kennedy, Tom Cilmi, and Tom Muratore, New York State Assemblyman Michael P. Fitzpatrick, Town of Brookhaven Supervisor Edward P. Romaine, Brookhaven Town Councilman Kevin LaValle and Islip Town Councilwoman Trish Bergin with Islip Town Commissioner of Parks Kerry Bassett.



(Pictured are members of the Lake Ronkonkoma Advisory Task Force along with Students of Stony Brook University)

"Lake Ronkonkoma is such a vital part of life here on Long Island and in my Legislative District. Thanks to Bill Pfieler for guiding all of us around the lake and special thanks must go out to Dr. Lonsdale and her students. Through their work, we'll learn so much more about the actual occurrence and potential for marine life and the current status of the lake. We look forward to working with Dr. Lonsdale, her students and Bill Pfieler to continue to give us a scientific and academic view of our lake. I was extremely glad the weather held out!" said a very excited Legislator Kennedy before the students went out to start the first phase of testing.

By the day's end the weather had cleared up and the students had gathered a plethora of information that they will make part of a study which will be used as a component of the academic curriculum for the remainder of the semester. The completed study will give some more insight into the current PH levels, presence of zooplankton, micro plankton, and create a bigger picture of the capacity of Lake Ronkonkoma to host marine life.

"The health of Lake Ronkonkoma is best served by the many small efforts to ensure that pollutants don't end up in the lake. The Towns of Smithtown, Islip and Brookhaven are working hard to make sure that road runoff stays out of the lake and the efforts of homeowners to keep pollutants out of their own yards particularly nitrogen based fertilizer will help make significant strides to a cleaner lake Ronkonkoma "said New York State Assemblyman Michael Fitzpatrick

Legislator Tom Muratore (R-Ronkonkoma) stated, "Lake Ronkonkoma is one of our most precious ecological resources. It is vital that we continue to preserve and protect the lake for future generations to enjoy. I'm very encouraged to see students take an active interest in the process."



(From L to R Legislators Tom Cilmi, Leslie Kennedy, and Tom Muratore)

"I strongly support doing the research and what can be done to clean up Blake Ronkonkoma and I am committed to working with the other two towns to improve the water quality of the lake" said a determined Supervisor Romaine referring to the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) currently being negotiated by the three Towns

"Suffolk County enjoys a wonderfully collaborative partnership with Stony Brook University in many respects. Lake Ronkonkoma provides an excellent opportunity to provide marine science students with real life application and there's no doubt the information captured will be valuable as we endeavor to improve the health of what is the largest freshwater body on Long Island. We're also eternally grateful to Bill Pfeifer for volunteering his time, talent and resources. This would not be possible without him." Legislator Cilmi stated

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