

Writing

Onondaga Lake has been the site of industrial waste and sewage disposal since the nineteenth century. Companies like the Solvey Process Co. Facility and Municipal Wastewater contributed to the pollution of the lake. Onondaga Lake was originally a family spot, where people would come to picnic and swim, but as the water quality decreased so did the number of people traveling to the lake. Talks of improvement and lake restoration have been taking place since the 1960's but nothing has been done. There are stories of lakes that have cleaned themselves over time. It seems like Syracuse is hoping that Onondaga Lake will be one of those self-cleaning lakes, but apparently not. You need lots of resources to clean a lake as severely polluted as ours, but the first and foremost thing we need is money. What better to get lots of money than to attract rich clientele with the promise of a break from the everyday grind, a vacation on a quaint small town in a beautiful colonial styled inn with a spa?

My plan for improving Onondaga Lake is to build an inn/spa and eventually turn the surrounding town into a nice little place where people would want to come and spend money. Er, ahem. I mean, come relax and enjoy life. My vision is to support the lake cleanup with the profits from my large spa and resort on the west side of the lake. The spa would be high tech, with everything from permanent cosmetic makeup, body treatments, massages to waxes, masks, relaxation tanks and anything else you could think up. A good example of my idea would be the new Mirbeau inn and spa in Skaneateles. Beautifully

decorated in a French chateau motif, the Mirbeau is a five star establishment that attracts all types of people. One of the reasons that Mirbeau thrived was the atmosphere. Skaneateles is a charming town with kitschy shops, family owned businesses, beautiful homes and restaurants overlooking the sparkling lake. Onondaga lake could have all that, minus the sparkling lake part obviously due to pollution. Back in 1880, Onondaga Lake was a popular resort. On the west shore of the lake there were tons of parks, hotels, and beaches. The popularity declined over the years, until swimming was banned altogether in 1940.

My resort would be called the _____ Inn and Spa, a year round hotel get away located on Onondaga lake. It would have a colonial decor, with large buildings overlooking the unfortunately still-polluted lake. A large building in the center would house the spa areas. Looking outside you would see the large hedge maze, rose garden, beach, outside pools and the tennis courts. Each massage room would come equipped with a person cd player (relaxing music included) a gorgeous man/woman masseuse, hydrotherapy rooms, pools, a workout room with a dance center, saunas and much more. Activities would include horseback riding, swimming, games on our private tennis courts, volleyball courts and golf courses. Of course, all of this would cost an arm and a leg, so paying the staff, bills and maintenance costs would be no problem. All extra profits would go towards the cleaning of the lake.

The Inn itself could take years to build, and many problems would have to be taken into consideration. If I were to build my spa on the edge of a beach, I would have to watch out for erosion problems. If a storm came around, the building could be knocked down or the sand could wash away and over time collapse the building. Another concern is waste removal; all of our

products would have to be biodegradable and environmentally safe. Recycling would be a must. To dispose of our garbage we would have to transported to a dump in another area. This would be costly, but it's necessary to keep the lake and the area around it clean. Groundwater testing for harmful products would be conducted, fishing and swimming would still be prohibited, until serious cleaning and testing was underway. Insulation would be a big investment, because of the hard winters and the lake effect snow, since the resort would be open year-round. I think the winter would have a negative effect on business because it would be so cold with less to do outside. Christmas would make up for losses though. Building this resort would also offer job opportunities for many people in the town, thus boosting the economy. If an idea like this could actually get off the ground, I think that Onondaga Lake could become a beautiful and nice place to be again.

Onondaga Lake has. I think my vision for the lake is a realistic one. Look at how successful and popular places like Skaneateles are, it really doesn't make too much difference how polluted a lake is, as long as everything else looks good.