

August , 2009

\* \* \* For Release August 2009 \* \* \*

## CHAUTAUQUA “LIGHT THE LAKES” PROMISES VISITORS OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD FIREWORKS DISPLAY

Labor Day Weekend, September 4-7, 2009

Bemus Point, Findley Lake, Mayville, Westfield/Barcelona and Jamestown Savings Bank Ice Arena host weekend of festivals ending with a **fireworks display on Sunday, September 6 at 10pm** so large that it can be seen in Outer Space.

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY, NY - Chautauqua County in southwestern New York with it's lakes, grapes, wineries, culture, and host to some of the best festivals around will showcase a fun-filled, Out-of-this-World Labor Day Weekend extravaganza ending with a dazzling fireworks show that organizers say for the second year in a row will be “the largest collective fireworks display in North America”. A display that will be so enormous that it will be visible from Outer Space.

The Second Annual **Light the Lakes** will be held during Labor Day weekend on Sunday, September 6. Beginning at 10:00 pm sharp the Chautauqua Lake Association's “Ring of Fire, will illuminate the shorelines of both lakes with flares that can be purchased by residents and visitors at area merchants. Then at 10:10 pm the countdown will begin and when the main switch on the Floating Stage in Bemus Point is pulled a 20-mile stretch of sky with a rainbow of vibrant colors cascading over the lake in five cities in Chautauqua County will be illuminated. At each location, the fireworks will run simultaneously for twenty minutes to a live music broadcast via radio and television feed broadcasted by airplanes above.

While most will see the fireworks from the ground, a plane carrying a WGRZ camera crew and another plane with special event pilot, Lou Nalbone from Jamestown Aviation Company will capture the sight from the sky — sending it back to Earth for viewing on the Internet. **Light the Lakes** will also be shown on area television stations in the days following the event. Sponsor, Media One Group radio stations WWSE 93.3 FM and WJTN 1240 AM will suspend regular broadcasting and instead play a 20-minute set of music to coincide with the fireworks displays as well.

Throughout the County on Labor Day Weekend visitors will find a host of community festivals, concerts including an ABBA Tribute performance all leading up to the dazzling light show in the Chautauqua County night sky on Sunday. Participating cities and events will include:

The arts, cultural and entertainment-rich village of **Bemus Point** situated on the shore of Lake Chautauqua, has three free performances scheduled on their floating stage for the weekend offering everything from Bucelli to Bubl , including a special tribute to Elton John. Festivities start early with a Brew Fest on Thursday evening. On Friday, September 4th at 6:30 pm, John Marcellus of the Eastman school of music presents the Bionic Bones Trombone Salute with MAC Award Winning special guest Shaynee Rainbolt from NYC. The first of two nights of fireworks begin on Saturday, September 5th, the full symphonic Bemus Bay Pops Orchestra under the direction of Bruce Morton Wright along with John Marcellus and Steve Swanson brings the season to a close with a fireworks display. Critically acclaimed ABBA Mania will perform a Tribute Concert on Sunday evening from 8:00 - 9:30 pm ending just before **Light the Lakes** fireworks display.

The cozy hamlet of **Findley Lake** will once again host the Labor Day Harvest Festival, the long-established end-of-summer celebration. The 12th annual event will take place on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, September 4, 5 & 6th. Located on Findley Lake's scenic north shore, visitors will enjoy strolling among the artists; crafters, music by local musicians and food vendors nestled throughout the town. Live music will be featured each afternoon.

In **Jamestown**, Prior to the 10:10 p.m. lighting of the Chautauqua sky, fireworks are scheduled for 9:00 p.m. at Bergman Park in Jamestown and a laser light show is scheduled for 9:30 p.m. at the

Jamestown Savings Bank Ice Arena. Additionally WQFX (103.1) will be broadcasting from the Jamestown Savings Bank Ice Arena from 6 – 8 pm with other members of the Media One Group checking in with updates from various take-off locations.

The **Village of Mayville and Town of Chautauqua** offers culture, art, al fresco dining, and entertainment on Chautauqua Lake. With pavilions, lighted tennis courts, a swimming beach and grills families have a wonderful way to relax and have carefree summer fun. Some of the events planned for the weekend include hot air balloon rides, a classic car show and pony rides for the kids.

**Westfield/Barcelona Harbor**, Westfield the Grape Juice Capital of the World, is in the heart of the world's largest Concord Grape Belt. Farms and wineries offer tours and tasting all year long. The Farmer's Market at Moore Park on Saturday and the Labor Day Countywide Yard Sale all weekend long at The Cross Roads is conveniently located on County Route 21. **Barcelona** named after the charming city in Spain invites visitors to come sit by the water and enjoy the warm summer breezes in a breathtaking setting. Its enchanting lighthouse, a National Historic Landmark, is a photographers dream.

All five of the shoreline cities participating in the **Light the Lakes** fireworks finale on Sunday have their own unique flair and offer a plethora of recreational activities, arts, culture and entertainment for families, couples and singles.

*“The gathering of families and friends enjoying simple, no cost, old fashioned pleasures like music on the waterfront, farmer's markets, antique stores, swimming, boating, fishing and a five location fireworks finale is what Chautauqua County is all about”* said Dan Dalpra, founder of Light the Lakes & the Bemus Bay Pops.

**Light the Lakes** is sponsored by Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce, Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau, County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency, Chautauqua County Planning & Development Funding, Media One Group(WJTN/SE93/WKSN/WHUG/WQFX/WREO); and WGRZ-TV).

Chautauqua County is linked to all major metropolitan areas by four lane interstate highways and is only one-half hour from Erie PA, less than two hours from Buffalo, two hours from Cleveland, and less than three hours from Pittsburgh. Travelers can contact the Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau at [www.tourchautauqua.com](http://www.tourchautauqua.com) for more information regarding accommodations.

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For more information about **Light the Lakes**, visit [www.ilovenylakes.com](http://www.ilovenylakes.com) and click on the “Take Off Locations” and you are on your way to an Out-of-this-World Labor Day Getaway.