

frontage of several adjoining properties owned by an industrial metals distributor in Rochester, NY.

Mile 3.50. Near lake level, just before beginning of the concrete retaining wall.

Descending sharply from the outwash plain, the road skirts the eastern part of the lake. Houses on the hill to the right are on a ledge that may have been the shore of the ancient larger lake.

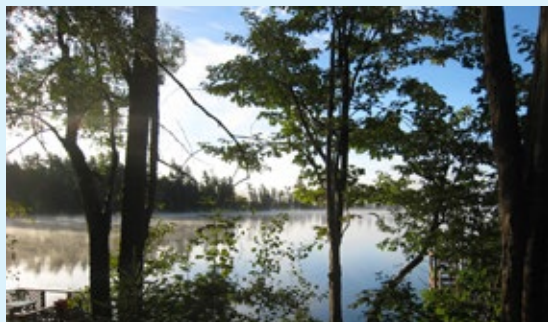
Mile 3.75. Old church bell in front of St. Hubert's Catholic Church.

The original and now abandoned St. Hubert's church still stands on Route Three on the eastern edge of the Star Lake hamlet.

Mile 3.89. Return to the Clifton-Fine Hospital.

Past the church is a culvert with two concrete abutments carrying water from the southern slopes of Bear Mountain—yet another inlet. Built in the early 1951, the hospital expanded facilities and services in 2010. Volunteer fundraising ensures that the smallest hospital in New York State continues to provide first class services to the people of the community.

## \* A WALK \* AROUND THE LAKE



*Star Lake was formed and got its unique shape about 10-12 thousand years ago when the Adirondacks were under a mile thick sheet of ice. Massive torrents of water from melting ice carried a thick soup of sand, gravel, and small rocks from ground off mountaintops. Sediments created flat spots in what used to be v-shaped valleys. Star Lake rests in one of these glacial outwash plains. A left-behind block of ice was surrounded or buried by sand, gravel, and small rocks. When the block melted a water-filled hollow—the lake bed—was left in the gravelly plain. Evidence of some of the forces that formed Star Lake can be seen on the nearly four-mile trek around the lake.*

Mile 0.00 Kiosk at the Clifton-Fine Hospital

The path is relatively flat as we proceed counterclockwise around the lake. Along Lake Road signs on the right indicate “forever wild”—parts of the Adirondack Forest Preserve.

Mile 0.25. Intersection with Swiss Point Road.

Star Lake is said to have no inlet and no outlet, but you'll see several inlets and one outlet.

Inlets include seepages near the hospital. Just past Swiss Point Road is a stream that passes under the road and flows most of the year, and further along you may notice cattails and a small stream carrying water through a culvert to the lake.

These streams come from the slopes of Maple Mountain, which lies to the west of the lake.

Mile 0.5. Parking area with small woodshed before 115 Lake Road.

At the bottom of a small hill is the outlet of Star Lake. It drains toward the Little River and the three Readway Ponds. The dirt road before the outlet is an interesting side trip, in a mile or so it leads over a steep glacial landscape to the Little River falls, or you may take a detour to



The Little River Falls

the Maple Mountain cliffs.

Mile 0.75. Parking area before Mailbox 151.

This is the highest point on the route around the lake, taking you up from the outwash plain and onto a bedrock spur of Maple Mountain. The huge rock on the right is probably an outcropping. The road descends quickly and on the right the land plunges into a deep gully.

Mile 1.00. Junction with Reimer Road.

Reimer Road leads along a thin ridge nearly dividing the lake. This ridge and linear islands in the lake are called eskers. When the block of ice that created the lake basin began to break apart, crevasses formed, providing channels for the gravel-laden water. The sediments falling out of them resulted in long, sinuous ridges. Notice the rapid falloff on the right and the steep ridge on the left. This part of the lakeshore is an esker formed in what was once a much larger lake. The swollen Little River likely eroded away the far shore of this larger lake, draining its southern parts.

Mile 1.25. Fire hydrant on the left.

The early 1950s Star Lake water system extends only part way around the lake. Residents of Lake Road between the hospital and here mostly draw water directly from the lake. At “High Pointe” are two views of the lake, including the tip of the narrow chain of islands formed by another esker.

Mile 1.50. Another hydrant after turning left, down onto a steep old section of Lake Road.

New streets built in the 1980s route most vehicular traffic around this steep and winding section of Lake Road. Turn right to stay on Lake Road when you reach its junction with Colby Road.

Mile 1.75. Entrance to The Haven at Star Lake.

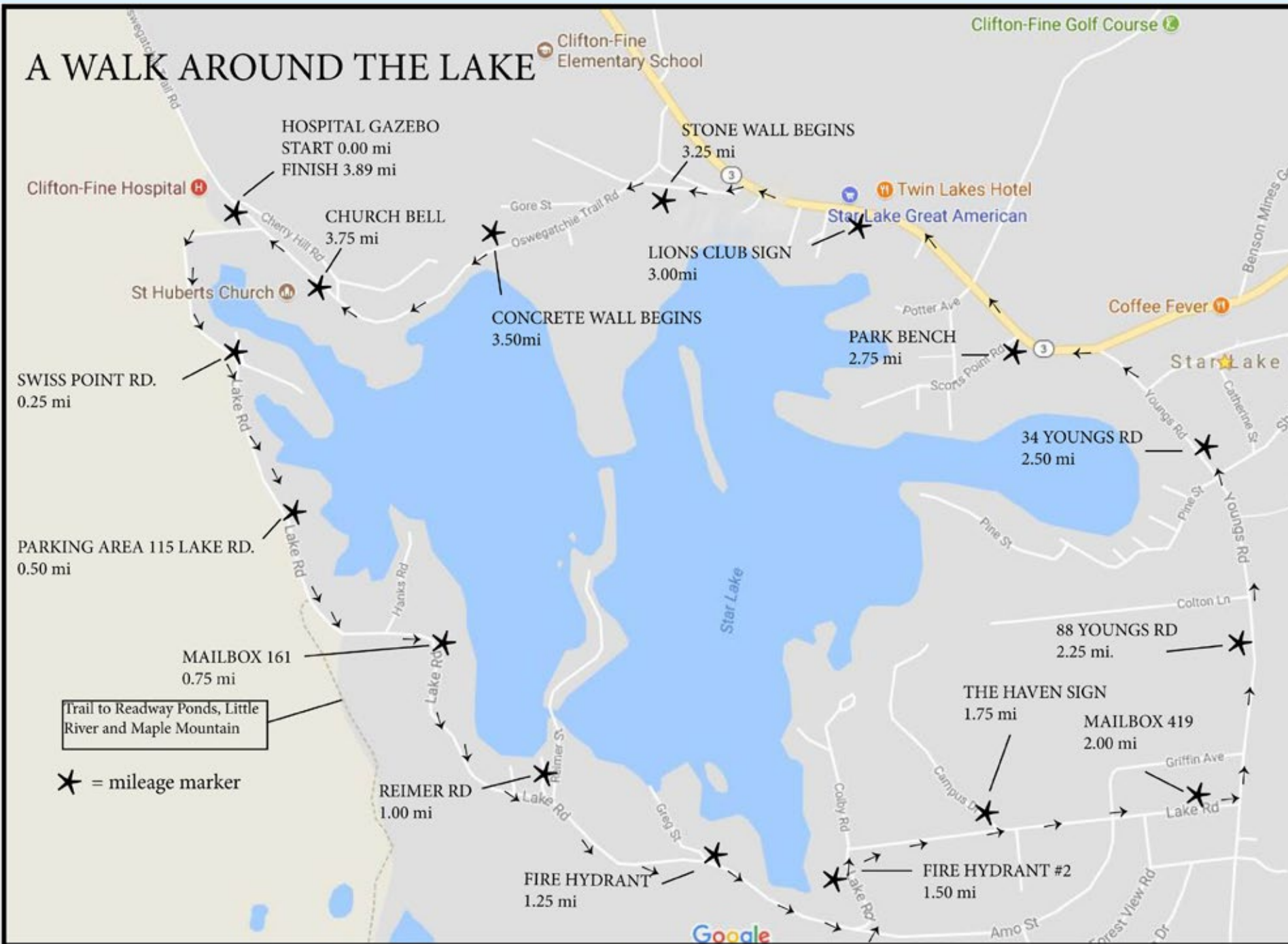
Originally a modest resort, and long a college summer campus, the facility is again a resort open to the public. Past Amo street is an old airplane hangar; the flat area here was the site of the Kerr brothers' private airfield.

Mile 2.00. Rural mailbox (#419) in front of Star Lake Housing.

Please send comments or suggestions for improvement of this brochure to Russ Hall: (Russ@lighthallbooks.com)



# A WALK AROUND THE LAKE



When J&L Steel was expanding in the early 1950s the company-supported housing development on the left offered low-cost homes for employees. The more recent Star Lake Housing is for aged and disabled persons. Turn left onto Youngs Road.

Mile 2.25. Youngs Road 88 (only one 8 is visible).

For the first quarter mile the terrain descends sharply to the right toward the valley of the Little River.

Mile 2.50. 34 Youngs Road – opposite overgrown trailers.

Look at the flat-topped mountain as you near Route Three. One of the tall pine trees along the ridge may look suspicious because it is a disguised cellphone tower. If you are ready for a restroom, try the Nice N Easy or the nearby Clifton- Fine Community Center.

Mile 2.75. Park bench on the corner of Scott's Point Road.

You soon pass the old 1892 Star Lake School, now operated as the Adirondack Exhibit Center.

Mile 3.00. Lions Club sign opposite the Twin Lakes Hotel.

A road behind the hotel once led to the Clifton-Fine Ski Area. Turn left at the Oswegatchie Trail.

Mile 3.25. Beginning of stone retaining wall before junction with Hall Avenue.

Pass the Clifton-Fine Central School. First used in 1952, it accommodated a peak enrollment of over 1,000 students. Enrollment now stands at about 300. The stone wall was part of the