



ONTARIO COUNTY

Planning Department

Kristen Mark Hughes, Director

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: MEMBERS, ONTARIO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

FROM: ROBERT L. PIERCE JR., AQUATIC WEEDS HARVESTING PROGRAM COORDINATOR AND
KRISTEN MARK HUGHES, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: 2009 HARVESTING SEASON REPORT

DATE: DECEMBER 21, 2009

CC: GEOFF ASTLES, HONEOYE VALLEY ASSOCIATION (HVA); MEMBERS, WATER RESOURCES
COUNCIL

The 2009 Aquatic Weed Management Program (AWMP) harvesting season showed a Five Percent (5%) decrease from 2008 when comparing the amount of vegetation harvested. The tonnage harvested was down from **762 tons (2008)** to **723 tons (2009)**. The harvesting season began on June 29 and extended into mid-September. The total number of harvesting hours was greater than in 2008 due to fewer mechanical problems with both harvesters and weather related issues.

For the 2009 Season, our seasonal harvesting employee's were Paul Chatt, John Miller and Randy DePew. The AWMP is deeply grateful to the seasonal harvesting employees for their many contributions to the program during the harvesting year.

THE 2009 SEASON

For the most part, the month of July had vegetation below average from previous years. The total number of loads in 2009 was 241 but the weed growth was much less vigorous than in 2008. A wetter, cooler summer than in recent years were likely factors in the less vigorous growth. The Ontario County harvester was used 11 weeks and the Canadice/Richmond harvester was used 9 weeks. Only the county harvester was used in September due to two seasonal employee's returning to their previous jobs.

Dominant Species- Overall the quantity of vegetation for the harvesting season was about average or a little below -- likely the results of cool temperatures and few totally sunny days. The only areas experiencing average or above average weeds were in Pickett's Cove on the east side of the lake, and on the west side of the lake from the farthest south end to about one-third of a mile to the north. Usually one of the heaviest weed beds is located from the old California Ranch Point north to the Francis Tract area. In 2009 this appeared to be the lightest the vegetation has been in a very long time. There were quite a few areas of Eurasian Milfoil but after the Algal Bloom began to appear the Milfoil became unhealthy looking and wasn't much of a factor the rest of the year. The most prevalent weeds in 2009 were Eel Grass and Elodea

Alum Perceived Affects- . After 2 years of almost no algal bloom, 2009 proved to defy recent trends. While algal growth is based on a number of highly complex factors, it is important to note that alum was applied to the Lake in the fall of 2006 and was completed in September 2007. The 2009 Season exhibited an algal bloom, uncharacteristic of the prior two years, which started on or about July 20th and, except for a few short periods; the algal bloom was evident for the rest of the summer.

Equipment Problems- The AWMP experienced a total of 10 hours of down time for repairs for both harvesters and 16 hours down time due to weather conditions.

The following compares harvesting statistics for selected harvesting seasons.

2009 JUNE/SEPTEMBER

	<i>LOADS</i>	<i>HOURS</i>	<i>HRS/LD</i>	<i>TONS</i>	<i>TNS/HR</i>
SANDY BOTTOM	9	33	3.66	27	0.82
CALIFORNIA RANCH	99	280	2.82	297	1.06
NY BOAT LAUNCH	133	260	1.85	399	1.62
TOTAL: 241 LOADS		573 HOURS	2.38 HR/LD	723 TONS	1.26 T/HR

2008 JULY/SEPTEMBER

	<i>LOADS</i>	<i>HOURS</i>	<i>HRS/LD</i>	<i>TONS</i>	<i>TNS/HR</i>
CALIFORNIA RANCH	104	249	2.39	312	1.25
NY BOAT LAUNCH	150	278	1.85	450	1.62
TOTAL: 254 LOADS		527 HOURS	2.08 HR/LD	762 TONS	1.45 T/HR

2007 JULY/SEPTEMBER

	<i>LOADS</i>	<i>HOURS</i>	<i>HRS/LD</i>	<i>TONS</i>	<i>TNS/HR</i>
CALIFORNIA RANCH	155	323	2.08	465	1.44
NY BOAT LAUNCH	104	233	2.24	312	1.34
TOTAL: 259 LOADS		556 HOURS	2.15 HR/LD	777 TONS	1.40 T/HR

2006 JUNE/SEPTEMBER

	<i>LOADS</i>	<i>HOURS</i>	<i>HRS/LD</i>	<i>TONS</i>	<i>TNS/HR</i>
CALIFORNIA RANCH	127	332	2.61	381	1.15
NY BOAT LAUNCH	161	329	2.04	483	1.47
TOTAL: 288 LOADS		661 HOURS	2.30 HR/LD	864 TONS	1.31 T/HR

2005 JULY/SEPTEMBER

	<i>LOADS</i>	<i>HOURS</i>	<i>HRS/LD</i>	<i>TONS</i>	<i>TNS/HR</i>
CALIFORNIA RANCH	187	498	2.67	561	1.13
NY BOAT LAUNCH	98	207	2.11	294	1.42
TOTAL: 285 LOADS		705 HOURS	2.47 HR/LD	855 TONS	1.21 T/HR

2004 JUNE/SEPTEMBER

	<i>LOADS</i>	<i>HOURS</i>	<i>HRS/LD</i>	<i>TONS</i>	<i>TNS/HR</i>
SANDY BOTTOM	8	28	3.50	24	0.86
CALIFORNIA RANCH	99	228	2.30	297	1.30
NY BOAT LAUNCH	49	118	2.41	147	1.25
TOTAL: 156 LOADS	374 HOURS	2.40 HR/LD	468 TONS	1.25 T/HR	

2003 JUNE/SEPTEMBER

	<i>LOADS</i>	<i>HOURS</i>	<i>HRS/LD</i>	<i>TONS</i>	<i>TNS/HR</i>
CALIFORNIA RANCH	111	344	3.11	333	0.97
NY BOAT LAUNCH	18	46	2.56	54	1.17
TOTAL: 129 LOADS	390 HOURS	3.02 HR/LD	387 TONS	0.99 T/HR	

2002 JUNE/SEPTEMBER

	<i>LOADS</i>	<i>HOURS</i>	<i>HRS/LD</i>	<i>TONS</i>	<i>TNS/HR</i>
SANDY BOTTOM	68	99	1.46	204	2.06
CALIFORNIA RANCH	94	169	1.80	282	1.67
NY BOAT LAUNCH	58	100	1.72	174	1.74
TOTAL: 220 LOADS	368 HOURS	1.67 HR/LD	660 TONS	1.79 T/HR	

MANY THANKS

As Program Coordinator for the past twenty-three years and on behalf of the staff of the Ontario County Planning Department, Aquatic Weed Management Program, we appreciate the thoughtfulness and consideration shared with us this past year-especially to the AWMP's three seasonal employees, thank you. This was my final season being the Aquatic Plant Control Coordinator for the AWMP but the three seasonal employees' are looking forward to the 2010 harvesting season and praying for a cold winter and thick ice. Please remember the Planning Department doors are always open. Please feel free to contact them for constructive conversation on managing Honeoye Lake's aquatic weed problem at 396-4455.

I personally want to thank everyone in the Town of Canadice and Richmond for your support and understanding over my past 23 harvesting seasons. As I write my final report Randy, John and Paul have replied they plan to be back for the 2010 harvesting season. They have over 40 years of experience to continue the aquatic weed program in a timely and efficient manner. Again thank you and enjoy the 2009-10 winter season.

Robert L. Pierce Jr.
Aquatic Plant Control Coordinator
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