



ONTARIO COUNTY Planning Department

Thomas P. Harvey^{AICP}, Director

June 12, 2018

Dear Honeoye Lake Shoreline Landowner,

As summer approaches, Ontario County is preparing for the **2018 Honeoye Lake Aquatic Vegetation Management Program (AVMP)**. Below you will find information about the program and contact information. Also enclosed is important information for shoreline property owners and others with **water lines extending into Honeoye Lake that could be affected by harvesting operations**.

HARVESTING GOALS

Harvesting operations are managed to meet two goals:

- 1) **Reduce nuisance vegetation** that impedes swimming, boating and other recreational uses of the lake.
- 2) **Remove nutrients** in excessive plant growth from the lake environment. Plants removed from Honeoye Lake via harvesting are transported away from the lake and used for compost at area farms.

2018 HARVESTING OPERATIONS

Ontario County strives to adapt the harvesting program to dynamic lake conditions while maintaining lake access for residents and visitors. Below is our tentative schedule for operations. Once the in-lake

MON – THU	OPERATIONS PLAN
June 25 – June 29	Waterline Marking/Shoreline Collection/Limited Harvesting by Request
July 2 – July 6	Weed Harvesting/Shoreline Collection NO WORK ON WED-FRI, JULY 4, 5, or 6 due to holiday and staff obligations.
July 9-Sept 13	Weed Harvesting/Shoreline Collection. Post-Labor Day cutting aimed at nutrient removal before plants die and decompose in the lake.
Sept 17-Oct 12	Shoreline Collection

Operations occur **Monday through Thursday**, with effort split between Shoreline Collection (early in the morning) and Harvesting (late morning, afternoons). This schedule will vary based on weather and lake conditions. Harvesting will be focus on areas where plant growth is at or near the surface of the water. For some areas, this will likely mean three visits during the season, where other areas will see one or two visits, or none at all if weed growth is minimal or absent. Residents are encouraged to contact us to request more (or less) harvesting. Our goal is to meet your needs. Residents who prefer to not have the harvester cut in front their shoreline should also contact us to express and/or update their preferences. **See contact information below.**

The shoreline barge will generally follow along previously harvested locations, modified to where wind and current carry fragments to shore. If you find dense aquatic vegetation is making it hard for you to enjoy the lake, please contact us with your location and we will make every effort to accommodate you.

We find it often works well when neighbors work together to develop consensus and communicate their shared preferences and needs via a single spokesperson, which is much appreciated.

WATERLINE INFORMATION

If you have a waterline in Honeoye Lake please see the important attached flyer! The County will arrange waterline marking for those unable to set their own markers (see enclosed flyer) on **June 25-27**, weather permitting.

AVMP STAFFING

Betsy Landre, Senior Planner for Ontario County remains the program manager. Operators **Randy DePew** and **Scott Strong** are returning as the operations team.

INFORMATION SHARING AND PROGRAM COMMUNICATION

You can check on the status of AVMP operations during the season on the County's website at: <http://www.co.ontario.ny.us/honeoyelake>. See contact information in the box below.

DOCKS AND HARVESTING

Residents are reminded that the harvester cannot trim around docks as the machine is not designed to maneuver in such tight spaces. Residents interested in learning more about controlling weed growth around docks should contact us for ideas and information.

SHORELINE PICKUP OF FRAGMENTS

Fragments should be raked up in loose piles or rows along shore. Residents should contact us by phone or email with an address and visual (from the water) description of the property. Our capacity has limits, so residents are asked to assist the crew when physically possible, which will allow us in turn to help more people. Those with gardens are encouraged to compost aquatic weeds on site.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

At times our staff will be involved in research on the lake or assisting at Sandy Bottom Park.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS!

Ontario County appreciates many partners who provide a range of lake management services, research, education and/or program funding in support of improving the health of Honeoye Lake, including:

- Towns of Canadice and Richmond
- Finger Lakes Community College
- Honeoye Lake Watershed Task Force
- Honeoye Valley Association
- Ontario County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Ontario County Water Resources Council
- New York State Parks
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- Finger Lakes Institute
- Finger Lakes-Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance

Our team looks forward to working with these partners and you, the landowners around Honeoye Lake, to help manage a safe and enjoyable lake environment.

Sincerely,

Betsy, Randy and Scott

The Honeoye Lake AVMP Team
at Ontario County Planning Department