

TO: Honeoye Valley Association
FROM: Robert L. Pierce, Jr.
DATE: December 7, 1999
RE: 1999 Harvesting Season

The Aquatic Weed Management Program has some good news and some bad news. The good news: no more weed problems in this century. The bad news: there is a good chance there will be weeds in the next century. The 1999 season was hot and dry with very little down time from the weather or mechanical problems. Our tonnage was up from last year but so were our hours for harvesting. This was pretty much an average year.

The hot summer also caused the worst algal bloom I have seen since the 1988 pea soup conditions. The high water temperatures and calm winds were the right ingredients for bottom sediments to become anaerobic. With the release of great quantities of nutrients to feed the algal bloom, the pea soup conditions occurred. The bloom was first detected and brought to my attention from my two seasonal harvesting employees, Randy DePew (12 years harvesting) and John Miller (7 years harvesting), on Aug. 26th. The heaviest bloom was over Labor Day weekend from Sept. 1st to the 6th and ended within that next week.

Here is a brief description of how we saw Honeoye Lake from a harvesting standpoint. Addresses are approximate, and some cottage owners will have different local experiences.

- - From Sandy Bottom south to 160 County Road 36: The weed beds were light, about the same as last year.
 - From 160 to 190 County Road 36: The weed beds were heavier than last year especially in the 185 County Road 36 area.
 - From 190 to 268 County Road 36: Moderate weeds, slightly less than last year.
 - From 268 to 310 County Road 36: Moderate weeds, more than previous years with quite a bit of milfoil.
 - From 310 to 345 County Road 36: Moderate to heavy, slightly more than 1998.
 - From 345 to 375 County Road 36: Moderate weeds, about the same as last year.
 - From 375 to 440 County Road 36: Moderate too heavy, about the same as last year.

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- From 440 to 475 County Road 36: Moderate weeds, about the same as last year.
- From 475 to 507 County Road 36: Heavy weeds, but less than 1998.
- New York State Boat Launch north to 510 East Lake Road: Moderate growth, a little more than 1998.
- From 510 to 445 East Lake Road: Moderate, a little heavier than last year.
- From 445 to 425 East Lake Road: Light to moderate weedbeds.
- From 425 to 380 East Lake Road: Light, slightly more than in 1998.
- From 380 to 330 East Lake Road: Light, about the same as last year.
- From 330 to 272 East Lake Road: Very light, about the same as last year.
- From 272 to 250 East Lake Road: Moderate with a heavy area in the 263 to 270 range, more than in past few years.
- From 250 to 218 East Lake Road: Light, less than usual.
- From 218 to 190 East Lake Road: Very few weeds near the surface.
- From 190 East Lake Road to Sandy Bottom (around the north end of the lake): Very few weeds, about the same as in 1998.

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Below is a comparison of statistics for the past two harvesting seasons:

1999 June/September

	LOADS	HOURS	HRS/LD	TONS	TNS/HR
BOAT LAUNCH	74	162.5	2.20HR	222T	1.37T
CALIFORNIA RANCH	62	140.5	2.27HR	186T	1.32T
SANDY BOTTOM	8	34.5	4.25HR	24T	0.70T
TOTALS	144 LOADS	337.0 HRS	2.34HR	432T	1.28T

1998 July/September

	LOADS	HOURS	HRS/LD	TONS	TNS/HR
BOAT LAUNCH	67	139.9	2.08HR	201T	1.44T
CALIFORNIA RANCH	60	141.9	2.36HR	180T	1.27T
SANDY BOTTOM	8	30.0	3.79HR	24T	0.80T
TOTAL	135 LOADS	311.8 HRS	2.31HR	405T	1.30T

I would like to thank the HVA and cottage owners for the support they have given this program the past thirteen years. I am looking forward to serving you in 2000. 2000 sounds like such a big leap. Just think, over the past one hundred years we have gone from pony express/rail to overnight delivery and E-mail, practically no phones to cell phones, two days to get from one end of Ontario County to the other to landing a probe on Mars. But as much as things have changed, aquatic weeds are still aquatic weeds and Honeoye Lake still has them. Here is hoping things improve before the next 100 years comes to a close. Thanks again and have an enjoyable winter and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Pierce, Jr.
Aquatic Plant Control Coordinator

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