



ONTARIO COUNTY Planning Department

Kristen Mark Hughes, Director

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: MEMBERS, ONTARIO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
FROM: JULIE GOTHAM, SENIOR PLANNER AND KRISTEN MARK HUGHES, DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: 2010 HARVESTING SEASON REPORT
DATE: SEPTEMBER 23, 2010
CC: GEOFF ASTLES, HONEOYE VALLEY ASSOCIATION; MEMBERS, WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

The 2010 Aquatic Weed Management Program (AWMP) harvesting season showed an eight percent (8%) decrease from 2009 when comparing the amount of vegetation harvested. The tonnage harvested was down from **723 tons (2009)** to **669 tons (2010)**. The harvesting season began on June 28 and extended to September 21. The total number of harvesting hours was less than the 2009 number due to increased mechanical problems with both harvesters.

For the 2010 season, the seasonal harvesting employees were Paul Chatt, Randy DePew, and John Miller. The AWMP is deeply grateful to the seasonal harvesting employees for their many contributions to the program during the harvesting season.

THE 2010 SEASON

The 2010 harvesting season was marked by major mechanical problems with the harvesters, especially the Ontario County harvester which was out of commission for three weeks. It will need further work done on it as it continued to overheat after major repairs had been completed. The Ontario County harvester was used for 10 weeks and the Canadice/Richmond harvester was used for the full 13 weeks. Only the county harvester was used in September due to two seasonal employees returning to their previous jobs.

Overall Conditions - The aquatic weeds were heavier this season as compared to the cooler 2009 season. An overabundance of rain and high temperatures were the likely factors contributing to the vigorous growth. The Honeoye Lake water temperature peaked at 87 degrees near the end of July.

Algal Bloom - During the 2010 harvesting season, Honeoye Lake experienced one of the worst algal blooms in the past 20 years. It was first noticed during the week of July 5 in certain areas. After the torrential rains on July 13, it became more widespread and thicker each week until it peaked over Labor Day weekend.

Dominant Species - The main species at the beginning of the 2010 season was Elodea.

An unusually large amount of Ribbon Leaf pondweed was also noticed. Toward the end of July, very large beds of Coontail appeared near the Southwest Shores and Picketts Cove areas. Coontail is rather delicate and has a tendency to easily break apart into big chunks as a result of the slightest of motions (even from wave action). Due to wind direction, the northeast corner of Honeoye Lake experienced large amounts of Coontail coming ashore this season. This season, as with past seasons, experienced a decline in Eurasian Milfoil. The Sunset Drive area was the only one with a high concentration of Milfoil. After July, the main species was Eel Grass which was extremely plentiful. The areas with the heaviest growth of Eel Grass were the Southwest Shores and West Shore Cove areas. The remainder of Honeoye Lake had below average to average Eel Grass growth. The Mountain View, North Shore, and Sandy Bottom (starting at the northern shore and extending about a mile south) areas were very light with aquatic weeds this season.

Equipment Problems - The AWMP experienced a total of 180 hours of down time for repairs on both harvesters and 4 hours down time due to weather conditions. Even though the summer months were wet ones, most of the heavy rain fell at nighttime. As a result, the harvesters had very little downtime due to weather.

The following compares harvesting statistics for selected harvesting seasons.

2010 JUNE/SEPTEMBER

	LOADS	HOURS	HRS/LD	TONS	TNS/HR
SANDY BOTTOM	0	0	0	0	0
CALIFORNIA RANCH	110	179	1.63	330	1.84
NY BOAT LAUNCH	113	225	1.99	339	1.51
TOTAL: 223 LOADS	405 HOURS	1.81 HR/LD	669 TONS	1.65 T/HR	

2009 JUNE/SEPTEMBER

	LOADS	HOURS	HRS/LD	TONS	TNS/HR
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

	LOADS	HOURS	HRS/LD	TONS	TNS/HR
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

	LOADS	HOURS	HRS/LD	TONS	TNS/HR
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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

	LOADS	HOURS	HRS/LD	TONS	TNS/HR
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

	LOADS	HOURS	HRS/LD	TONS	TNS/HR
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

	LOADS	HOURS	HRS/LD	TONS	TNS/HR
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

	LOADS	HOURS	HRS/LD	TONS	TNS/HR
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

	LOADS	HOURS	HRS/LD	TONS	TNS/HR
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

On behalf of the staff of the Ontario County Planning Department and the seasonal employees, we appreciate the thoughtfulness and consideration shared with us this past year. This was my first season working with the AWMP and I look forward to many

more. Please remember that the Planning Department doors are always open and we encourage you to contact us at 396-4455 for constructive conversation on the management of weeds on Honeoye Lake.

Thank you and enjoy the 2010-11 winter season.