



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: 2011 HARVESTING SEASON REPORT
DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2011
CC: JOHN GARVEY; DARLYS MCDONOUGH; MEMBERS, HONEOYE VALLEY ASSOCIATION;
MEMBERS, WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

The 2011 Aquatic Weed Management Program (AWMP) harvesting season showed a thirty five percent (35%) decrease from 2010 when comparing the amount of vegetation harvested. The tonnage harvested was down from **669 tons (2010)** to **438 tons (2011)**. The harvesting season began on June 28 and extended to September 22. The total number of harvesting hours was less than the 2010 number due to the operation of only one harvester this season.

For the 2011 season, the seasonal harvesting employees were 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 2011 SEASON

The 2011 harvesting season was marked by the operation of only one harvester. The County-owned harvester needs major work and was kept out of the water in anticipation of a new harvester purchase for the 2012 season. The Town-owned harvester was used for the full 13 weeks of the 2011 season. The beginning of the harvesting season was interrupted by several mechanical failures on the Town-owned harvester. The most notable problem was with the hydraulic pump that provides the power to the entire machine. The right paddlewheel motor also failed. Both units were promptly replaced.

Overall Conditions - Overall weed growth on Honeoye Lake was below normal during the 2011 season, with the exception being on the west side from Pickerel Point south to the end of the lake. The cove at Dana Shores was also heavy with weeds. Heavy weed beds traditionally found in the Francis Tract area were significantly below normal this year. Heading north on the west side from Francis Tract to Sandy Bottom Road, the weeds were very light except for some small pockets near Conway Drive and near Lakeside Drive in the northwest corner. Heading south on the west side from the California Ranch point to Pickerel Point, it was a somewhat normal year for weed growth except from Poplar Cove to Sleepy Hollow Lane, where it was a lighter than usual year. Along the east side of the lake, the only area with heavy weeds was north of the boat launch heading toward Elm Park Drive. Pickets Cove is typically a heavily-weeded area.

It was somewhat lighter with weeds this year, although it was one of the few areas to have a large amount of Eurasian Milfoil. The only other place with a significant amount of Eurasian Milfoil was in the cove by the California Ranch point.

Algae - The first observation of blue-green algae was on June 25, 2011. During the summer of 2010, large sections of the lake contained blue-green algae. This season was different in the sense that the blue-green algae was mainly confined along the shoreline and within coves where the water had little circulation.

Dominant Species - In 2010, Coontail was a major problem with large beds prevalent along Southwest Shores and Pickets Cove. This year, large Coontail beds were nonexistent. The only time it was observed, it was in small amounts and intermingled with other species. The most dominant species this year was by far Eel Grass, especially in the southern half of the lake. Eel Grass dominance has been a trend on Honeoye Lake for the past several years. The harvesting of Eel Grass is challenging because it can leave behind a significant amount of floating fragments. This is because the plant is light, smooth, and slippery. As the harvester pushes water forward, it tends to move a certain amount of slippery Eel Grass to the sides of the conveyor and back into the lake. Other species such as Eurasian Milfoil have leaves on their stems, which allow them to become entangled with one another, making them much easier to capture with the harvester.

Equipment Problems - The AWMP experienced a total of 43 hours of down time for repairs on the harvester and 7 hours down time due to weather conditions. Even though the summer months were rather wet ones, most of the heavy rain fell at nighttime. As a result, the harvester had very little downtime due to weather.

The following compares harvesting statistics for selected harvesting seasons.

2011 JUNE/SEPTEMBER

	LOADS	HOURS	HRS/LD	TONS	TNS/HR
SANDY BOTTOM	0	0	0	0	0
CALIFORNIA RANCH	70	212	3.02	210	0.99
NY BOAT LAUNCH	76	166	2.18	228	1.38
TOTAL:	146 LOADS	378 HOURS	2.59 HR/LD	438 TONS	1.16 T/HR

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
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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
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 Ontario County Planning Department staff and seasonal employees, we appreciate the thoughtfulness and consideration shared with us this past year. Please remember that the Planning Department doors are always open. We encourage you to contact us at 396-4455 for constructive conversation regarding the management of weeds on Honeoye Lake.

Thank you and enjoy the 2011-12 winter season.