

ONTARIO COUNTY

2010 LAKEFRONT COMMUNITY SURVEY

Honeoye Lake Aquatic Weed Management Program

We need your help! Please take a few minutes and complete the following survey regarding the **Honeoye Lake Aquatic Weed Management Program (AWMP)**. Your responses will enable your Town and Ontario County to make decisions about how best to manage the weeds on Honeoye Lake.

To facilitate communication, please provide your email address here:

We will use this to contact you in the future and establish a regular system for sharing information about the AWMP. Your participation in completing the following AWMP questionnaire is greatly appreciated.

Please complete the questionnaire and **return it in the enclosed envelope by December 10, 2010.**

Is Aquatic Weed Harvesting the Best Overall Method to Manage the Lake?

Lake management requires the use of sound scientific analysis based on established water quality principles to determine the most environmentally-friendly and economical management techniques.

The AWMP was established nearly twenty-five years ago in response to complaints from lake users about excessive weeds that were detrimental to recreational use of the lake. The supervisor of the Town of Richmond asked Finger Lakes Community College to

look at the problem which led to the recommendation of using weed harvesting to cut and remove the aquatic weeds from the lake. Since 2005, two weed harvesters have been used during the summer months.

The Honeoye Lake Watershed Task Force is an organization that continually monitors the conditions of Honeoye Lake. It recently prepared the *Honeoye Lake Macrophyte Management Plan (HLMMP)*, which identifies the best techniques to control excessive aquatic weeds. The committee that developed the *HLMMP* included a lake management consultant, representatives from Richmond and Canadice town boards, local citizens, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and a professional from Finger Lakes Community College. The *HLMMP* is available on the Ontario County Planning Department website: <http://www.co.ontario.ny.us/planning/>

The *HLMMP* considered all known techniques of aquatic weed control including mechanical, chemical, and biological as well as a "no management" option. Each technique was evaluated based on effectiveness, cost, acceptability to lake users, and the ability to obtain the necessary regulatory permits. The *HLMMP* recommends weed harvesting as the best technique to meet the needs of Honeoye Lake.

Weed harvesting does come at a cost. The Towns of Richmond and Canadice pool their resources to contribute \$35,000 annually to meet program costs. This combines with \$25,000 in State grant funds administered by Ontario County for a total annual budget of \$60,000.

Honeoye Lake AWMP Questionnaire

1. Are you a lake property homeowner? Yes No
2. How many years have you been at the lake? _____
3. Which shore do you live on? (circle one) North shore East shore West shore
4. Which direction do you live? (circle one): North of California Point South of California Point
5. Which Town do you live in? (circle one): Canadice Richmond
6. How do you use the lake? (circle all that apply):
Fishing Swimming Boating Scenic Waterskiing
Jet Skiing Irrigation Drinking water List any others _____
7. Which of these do you think are problems on the lake? (check all that apply)
 Too many boats access the lake Too much fishing
 Use of jet skis on the lake Fish population problem

