

The Grapevine

Newsletter of the HONEOYE VALLEY ASSOCIATION

VOL. 33

Summer 2015

Town of Richmond Passes New Ordinances for Protection of Honeoye Lake

By David Baker

In early 2015 the Town of Richmond Town Board passed three new ordinances aimed at protecting Honeoye Lake water quality. All of the laws are design to reduce the introduction of additional nitrates and phosphorus compounds in to Honeoye Lake either through control of erosion and sedimentation or the improper use of lawn fertilizers and pesticides.

Nitrates and phosphorus compounds act as fertilizer in the lake and increase rooted weed growth, encourage growth of harmful algal blooms and contribute to the general degradation of lake water quality. Erosion and sediment increase turbidity in the lake and act to transport phosphorus and nitrates in to the lake.

The first new ordinance is Local Law # 3 -2015 which is entitled “The Storm Water Management, Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Local Law of the Town of Richmond”. It is intended to reduce erosion and sedimentation through the management of storm water runoff.

The law regulates “land development activities” within the Honeoye Lake watershed. Land development activities are defined as:

any man-made change of the land surface including removing vegetative cover, excavating, filling and grading; but not including agricultural land uses such as planting, growing, cultivating and harvesting of crops; growing and tending of gardens; harvesting of trees; and landscaping modifications

The Honeoye Lake Watershed is defined as:

all land, south of US Route 20A, within the Town of Richmond, abutting Honeoye Lake or any tributary, gully, stream, and watercourses which carry run-off and sedimentation into Honeoye Lake

Single family residences and related development activities of between 5000 sq. ft. and five acres in size as well as any land development activities within 100 feet of the mean high-water mark of Honeoye Lake, regardless of size, require the applicant submit a Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Concept Plan, following the most current version of Appendix E (Erosion and Sediment Control Plan for Small Home Site Construction) of the New York Standards and Specifications for Erosion and Sediment Control as part of the application for a building permit. Those plans will be reviewed by the Code Enforcement Officer during review of the building permit and deficiencies will be identified and addressed prior to the issuance of the building permit.

(Con't on p. 3)

About Your HVA...

The Honeoye Valley Association is a not-for-profit volunteer organization that works in a variety of ways to protect and preserve the environmental quality of the Honeoye Lake watershed.

To become a member (and receive this newsletter regularly), go to our website and sign up. The cost is \$20 for an individual membership or \$30 for a family (2) membership.

To contribute articles, letters or opinions for this newsletter, send them to HVA PO Box 165 Honeoye, NY 14471 or visit us on our website at www.hvaweb.org.

The HVA Board of Directors meets at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month, March through November. We meet at the United Church of Christ on Main Street. All meetings are open.

The HVA Board of Directors:

Hugh Turner	367-3522
Frank Powell	367-2927
Carole Baker	425-0505
Terry Gronwall	367-3000
Bill Woods	229-7626
Don Cook	367-9293
Mike Weidner	229-5702
Amrut Patel	671-1484
David Baker	425-0505
Dan LaLonde	

2015 Roadside Clean-up

Bill Woods

Saturday, April 18, 2015 dawned as a beautiful warm morning for the 21st Annual Roadside Cleanup sponsored by the Honeoye Valley Association. Over 38 volunteers covered over 30 roadside miles in about 4 hours, picking all imaginable sorts of debris. The volunteers, some of which had done routes the day before, accumulated enough material to pack full over 15 cubic yards of dumpsters. Uncounted is the material that was disposed of personally and in local business and charity organization dumpsters. In all a very successful event sure to be repeated next year with

even more volunteers and will cover even more miles of roadside. A special thanks to all involved.

Why Change Your Little Piece of Heaven on Earth?

Honeoye Lake is one of those rare places in the world where woods, lake, hills and sky form a particular vision of Eden: beauty and tranquility abound. As with the original Eden, however, there may be a bit of trouble lurking in the background.

The water's edge that lures children to the swimming raft and Granddad to the fishing rod is too often altered by well-intentioned projects meant to "improve" the property. Trees and shrubs are cleared away to open that priceless view of the lake. Lawns are established, fertilized, watered, mowed and fertilized again and again.

When the rains come, soil that is no longer anchored by tree and shrub roots washes into the lake. Nutrients washed from the lawn or attached to soil particles feed aquatic plants in the lake. plants, (both macrophytes and algae) grow lushly, reproduce and die. Aerobic bacteria feed on the dead plants, depleting the water of oxygen. Fish and aquatic insects suffer oxygen deprivation. The lake water "smells funny," and swimming and fishing become less attractive.

Geese are attracted to mowed lawns where they can see predators coming at a distance. Even without the neighbor who feeds waterfowl when she thinks no one is looking, a closely mowed lawn is goose bait. A flock of geese produces goose poop – lots of it. This is also fertilizer that will wash into the lake, as are the droppings of the family dog that tries to chase the geese away.

For many different reasons – from lawn fertilizers and goose poop to faulty septic systems – the lake suffers from the impacts of the good intentions but less than ideal choices of the people who surround it.

Con't. on page 5

(con't. from p. 1)

Land Development Activities other than single family residence require more extensive Storm Water Pollution Plans be filed with the Town and that a Town Storm Water Management Permit be issued in addition to any other required permits prior to commencement of development activities.

The law provides exemptions for a number of activities including agriculture, gardening and home horticulture activities as well as installation and repair of above ground and below ground utilities.

This law went in to effect on March 27, 2015.

Local law # 5-2015 entitled "Town of Richmond Lawn Fertilizer and Pesticide Runoff Control Law" was adopted by the Town of Richmond Town Board on March 10, 2015.

The intent of this law is to better regulate land use management practices, specifically by limiting water body exposure to nitrates, phosphorus compounds and pesticide-related chemicals, to reduce water body contamination, improve water body ecosystem integrity and assure healthier human, animal and plant habitats.

The law applies to shores of, as well as tributaries into, Honeoye Lake within the Town of Richmond.

The law prohibits the application of commercial fertilizer, lawn fertilizer or pesticides to vegetation within 50 feet of Honeoye Lake or within 50 feet of any tributary leading to the lake.

The law further prevents the application of fertilizer or pesticides to any impermeable surface which directs water to Honeoye Lake or any tributary leading to the lake.

Only lawn fertilizer which does not contain phosphorus or phosphate may be applied to

vegetation within 50 to 200 feet of Honeoye Lake or any tributary leading to the lake.

Provisions within the law hold the property owner responsible for any application in violation of the law including those made by persons pursuant to service contracts.

There are several exemptions to the law including fertilization required to establish a new lawn, applications to control invasive species, demonstrated need through certified soil testing and applications closer than 50 feet which are behind protective vegetative barriers.

The provisions of Local law # 5 will go in to effect on September 30, 2015

Local Law # 8 – 2015 was enacted by the Richmond Town Board on March 10, 2015 and is intended to mitigate potentially adverse effects of sediment-laden storm water runoff resulting from soil disturbances on steep slopes. Steep slopes are defined as having a gradient of 15 degrees or more. Steep slopes are particularly vulnerable to erosion during storm events and can result in significant sedimentation to tributaries and Honeoye Lake.

This law applies to any soil disturbances on steep slopes within the Honeoye Lake Watershed in the Town of Richmond.

The law categorizes projects which involve disturbances of less than 500 sq. ft. as minor and those involving more than 500 sq. ft. as major soil disturbances. In either case an application for a Steep Slopes permit must be made to the Code Enforcement officer. The filing requirements, plan details and review process are significantly different between projects involving minor or major soil disturbances.

(Con't. on p. 4)

(Con't. from p. 3)

4 The law contains exemptions for single family dwellings so long as they are in compliance with the Town Storm Water Management, Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Prevention Law, home gardening, landscaping and horticulture activities, farming activities as emergency actions as well other specific conditions.

This law went in to effect on May 18, 2015.

Copies of the new laws are available on the Town of Richmond website at: <http://townofrichmond.org/content/Generic/View/163>

Further information on the new laws can be obtained by contacting Town of Richmond Code Enforcement Officer Spencer Shumway.

The foregoing is the interpretation of the author and is meant to provide an overview of new Town of Richmond Laws. It does not constitute legal advice. Questions regarding the applicability of the new laws to any particular circumstance should be made to qualified legal counsel.

New Educational Requirements effective May 1st, 2014

All individuals born on or after 5/1/96 are now required to successfully complete an approved course in boater education in order to operate a motorboat. Approved courses include those offered by NYS Parks, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or the **U.S. Power Squadron**. Individuals less than 10 years of age may not take this course of instruction. Certain allowances to this law have been made for visitors to New York, persons renting a boat from a livery and persons purchasing a new boat for the first time.

Life Jacket Law for Children Under 12

Any youth under the age of 12 on boats 65 feet or less in length **must wear** a securely fastened U.S. Coast Guard approved personal floatation device of appropriate size. It does not apply if the youth is in a full enclosed cabin.

NYS Nav. Law Section 40.1(d).

Cold Weather Boaters – Life Jacket Laws

Anyone underway in a boat less than 21 feet in length anytime between November 1 and May 1 **must wear** a securely fastened life jacket. This includes canoes, kayaks, rowboats and motorboats Commercial vessels are exempt.

NYS Nav. Law Section 40.1(e).

(Con't. from page 2)

The municipalities and residents of Honeoye Lake watershed have committed themselves to improving the water quality of the lake. The community's commitment to preventing more phosphorus from entering the lake is equally important.

Phosphorus is the nutrient in least supply in Honeoye Lake and all of the other Finger Lakes. Adding any amount of phosphorus supports immediate plant growth. **1 lb of phosphorus spurs the growth of 500 pounds of plant material in the lake.** Keeping phosphorus out of the lake is vital to continued water quality improvement.

Why Use Low or No Phosphorus Lawn Fertilizers?

Lawn fertilizer carried in runoff is a source of phosphorus in Honeoye Lake. Fertilizer that grass can't use washes away in runoff or enters the groundwater – which is also moving toward the lake

Most established lawns do not need additional phosphorus. Cornell University surveys indicate that most established lawns don't need fertilizer. Only one of every ten lawns examined needed any fertilization at all. What most lawns needed in order to stay lush and healthy was less care!

Mow grass high – about 3 – 3 1/2 inches. This enables grass to root deeply and grow thicker, crowding out weeds and keeping the roots cooler which reduces the need for irrigation. Leaving grass clippings on the lawn instead of bagging them up recycles nitrogen into the root mass. This does not cause thatch.

Thatch is a layer of decomposing plant tissue made up mostly of stems and roots, not grass clippings. A thin (up to 1/2 in.) layer of thatch above the soil is beneficial. A thick

layer leads to increased disease and insect problems, drought stress and winter injury.

Thick thatch usually occurs on lawns that have been heavily fertilized and watered for constant lush growth. Compacted, poorly drained and acidic soil contributes to thatch problems. The use of pesticides can reduce or eliminate microorganisms that break down thatch. Mechanical removal works temporarily. Core aeration is effective in managing thatch.

Low or no phosphorus fertilizers are a good solution to the goal of maintaining a healthy lawn beside a healthy lake. Keeping a lawn in a state of forced, constant, lush growth by excess fertilization and watering leaves it more vulnerable to pests and weather damage.

Local businesses that stock low and no phosphorus fertilizer include: The Greenery/Ward's Landscaping in Honeoye, Country Corners Nursery in Bloomfield, CountryMax in Victor and Lowe's in Canandaigua. Other nurseries and businesses may also have such fertilizers available. Read the label carefully.

Another means of preserving an attractive property while safeguarding water quality in the lake is to plant native species of trees, shrubs and groundcovers instead of investing much more time, energy and chemicals into growing exotic ornamentals.

Why Plant Native Species?

The natural landscaping movement is the newest – and oldest - word in home landscaping. All across North America, more and more people are landscaping their homes, schools, businesses and churches with native species. Why all the interest?

Native species are plants that grow naturally in particular areas; they were established originally without human introduction or intervention. These plants have several appealing factors.

(Con't. on page 8)

Native plants are low-maintenance. As they have adapted to local climate and soils over millennia, (Con,t. from page 7)

native plants are vigorous and hardy, surviving winter cold and summer heat. They are usually resistant to local pests and diseases. Once established, they require no fertilization or irrigation. Reducing fertilizer runoff to the lake reduces aquatic plant growth.

Native plants stay put. Natives rarely become invasive (spread rapidly). Other plants, animals and micro-organisms in a native plant community keep populations in check. Introduced species lack these natural checks and balances.

Native plants give back to their community. Birds, butterflies, amphibians and other desirable wildlife receive food and shelter from native plants. Introduced ornamentals do not have similar habitat value **Native plants have deep roots.** Root systems hold soil in place and help water infiltrate, reducing soil erosion and runoff. Roots of mature trees reach down to the upper levels of the water table. Smaller trees such as dogwood form a dense web of roots that extend downward for several feet. Turf grass roots commonly reach down about 3 inches and offer far less erosion protection.

Native plants are interesting. Native plants reveal a diversity of form, foliage, flowers, textures, heights and shapes. Many have interesting bark or seedpods that are visible in the winter. Many were used in Native American culture for food, medicines or dyes. Others were used by European settlers similar domestic purposes. Native plants can provide a growing link to the past.

Native plants give you more of what you came here for. Leave the landscaping to Mother Nature rather than spending time, effort and money to turn your Honeoye Lake home into an urban landscape. Why clear out the natural plants to install others that need pampering, mowing, watering, weeding, spraying, pruning, staking and defending from the native wildlife? Relax. Restore your shore to what

the “original designer” intended. Leave that mower in the storage shed, unfold that lawn chair and listen to the birds sing in the (native) trees.

Assistance with soil erosion control, lawn care, landscaping and other related issues is available from:

Ontario County Soil and Water Conservation District

480 North Main Street

Canandaigua NY 14424 585-396-1450

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County

480 north Main Street

Canandaigua NY 14424 585-394-3977

U.S. EPA. Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances. 1992. Healthy lawn. Healthy environment. *Revised version (2004) available at:* <http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/Publications/lawncare.pdf>.

[CCE - Suffolk County: Lawn Care Without Pesticides](#)

Lawn Care Without Pesticides. www.cce.cornell.edu/suffolk/grownet/lawnmain/lwnwopes.html

National Center for Food and Agricultural Policy. 1997. National pesticide use database. <http://www.ncfap.org/database/default.php>

Gough, R.E., T. Dougher, and G.E. Evans. 2003. Successful lawns. Montana State Univ. Extension Service. <http://www.montana.edu/wwwpb/pubs/mt9310.pdf>.

The Shoreline Stabilization Handbook for Lake Champlain and Other Inland Lakes <http://nsgd.gso.uri.edu/lcsg/lcsg04001.pdf>

[How to Preserve Your Shore's True Nature](#)

The Shore Primer Ontario Edition

Canada Fisheries and Oceans

Fishing Diaries

May 13, 2015

Dear Angler,

Thank you for returning your 2014-2015 Honeoye Lake angler diaries. Enclosed is a summary of your personal catch information, referenced to the code number on the cover of your diary. If you need additional diaries, please contact OUT office.

During the 2014-2015 fishing season, 21 diary cooperators reported 2,006 hours of fishing from 662 fishing trips. A total of 3,246 game fish and 261 panfish were reported caught. On average, anglers took 0.74 hours to catch one legal game fish (1.4 per hour). This is a very good catch which continues to be driven by excellent largemouth bass fishing. The bulk of the panfish catch consisted of black crappie and rock bass. The black crappie reported were an impressive 10.8 inches average length.

Black Bass

Largemouth bass continue to make up most of the game fish catch, representing 93% of all game fish caught. A total of 3,033 largemouth bass were caught and 290 were harvested. Anglers who were specifically targeting largemouth bass had a very good catch rate of 2.1 bass/hour. Two individual angler diary cooperators were responsible for reporting 65% of the largemouth bass catch. Even when excluding these anglers' catch, the average catch rate was still very high at 1.2 bass/hour. Honeoye Lake continues to provide outstanding catch rates for largemouth bass.

Eighty four percent of the largemouth bass caught were legal size (12 inches or larger). This is similar to last two seasons but much higher than the long term average. The average length of largemouth bass with reported lengths was 13.0 inches, which is slightly lower than last year.

Seven largemouth bass over 20 inches in length were reported, indicating that some trophy bass are available in Honeoye Lake.

The number of smallmouth bass reported was up dramatically from last year. A total of 104 small mouth bass were caught and 3 were harvested. The average length of small mouth bass with reported lengths was 12.5 inches.

Walleye

This year 42 walleye were caught with 33 harvested. This is down compared to last year. Anglers who were specifically targeting walleye had a catch rate of 0.40 walleye/hour. Although the total walleye catch is down, the catch rate for anglers specifically targeting walleye is much higher than last year and above the target for New York State waters (0.25 walleye/hour).

Most of the walleye reported were 18 inches or larger. Although it is nice to see some large walleye caught in Honeoye Lake, we are concerned that only 24% of the walleye catch was in the 15 to 18 inch range and none of the catch consisted of sub-legal walleye (< 15 inches). We are still concerned about the quality of walleye fishing in upcoming years. Some recent sampling by Finger Lakes Community College suggests that there are good numbers of sub-legal walleye in the lake, so hopefully anglers will begin to catch them as they grow to legal size in the next few years. Please remember that the minimum size limit for walleye was increased to 18 inches beginning April 1,2015. We feel that this will help build up the adult population by protecting walleye in the 15 to 18 inch size range. We plan to continue to stock walleye fry each year in Honeoye Lake at a target of 8.7 million per year.

Chain Pickerel

Catch of chain pickerel was down just slightly compared to last year but was still above the long term average. The average length of harvested pickerel was 21.7 inches.

Thank you for your efforts to provide us with very useful data. This program helps us recognize trends in the fishery that could otherwise go unnoticed. As always, if you know anyone that is interested in joining the' diary program, please have them contact our office at 585-226-5343. Good luck with the upcoming fishing season.

Good Fishing,

Pete Austerman

Aquatic Biologist

submerged aquatic plant communities, and compared our results to similar data collected in 2004, 1994 and 1984. They mapped the extent of those communities and Lake Bottom substrate with “state of the art” technology.

Please join us to for a question and answer session with Bruce Gilman and Terry Gronwall sharing on the Nature of Our Lake.

Honeoye Valley Association Annual Meeting 2015

The Honeoye Valley Association will hold its annual meeting on July 11th 2015 at the United Church of Christ, Main Street Honeoye beginning at 9:00. The business meeting will include a vote for by-law changes and for board members for a three year term. This will be followed by a public presentation by Art Bradley, new director for the New York State Parks as the manager of the Honeoye Lake boat launch.

There will also be a presentation by Dr. Bruce Gilman and Terry Gronwall on experiments, data collection, and assimilation of information for understanding the ecology of Honeoye Lake and how factors affecting the lake continue to change. During 2014, they restudied the invasive zebra mussel populations spurred on by resident comments that fewer mussels were being observed. They completed an intensive study of the