Honeoye Lake Watershed Task Force
Newsletter

Summer 2013

Photograph: Terry Gronwall

Honeoye Lake and the Honeoye Lake Watershed are a beautiful backdrop for the residents, anglers and boaters who enjoy the local waters.

Algae and weed growth have impaired water quality and recreational uses in Honeoye Lake. Various measures have been taken over the years in an effort to reduce inflow of sediment and nutrients as well as circulation of nutrients within the lake. These efforts must continue in a planned, organized, efficient manner if they are to be effective.

The ultimate goal of long-term management of land and water resources is the protection and improvement of Honeoye Lake. Reducing nutrient and sediment loading from the Honeoye Lake Watershed through enactment of recommendations outlined in the Honeoye Lake Watershed Management Plan will improve conditions for all who enjoy the lake and the natural surroundings of the watershed.

Honeoye Lake Watershed Task Force

Honeoye Lake Watershed Task Force was formed in 1998 by the Honeoye Valley Association, the Towns of Canadice, Richmond, Bristol, South Bristol and Naples to protect and improve the water quality of Honeoye Lake.

Voting members include:
Steve Barnhoorn, Councilmember Town of Richmond
Bill Hershey, Councilmember, Town of Canadice
Dan Marshall, Supervisor, Town of South Bristol
Al Favro, Councilmember, Town of Bristol
Mark Adams, Representative, Town of Naples
Terry Gronwall, Honeoye Valley Association (Chairman)

Permanent professional support is provided by:
P J Emerick, Bill Hershey, Edith Davey, Ontario County Soil and WaterConservation District
Dr. Bruce Gilman, Finger Lakes Community College
Tom Harvey and Betsy Landre, Ontario County Planning Department

Other professional support is provided by:
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Finger Lakes Institute
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County
Ontario County Water Resources Council
Princeton Hydro Consulting Services

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Honeoye Lake Watershed Management Plan

The Honeoye Lake Watershed Management Plan (HLWMP) is a document that identifies major action items needed to protect and improve the water quality of Honeoye Lake.

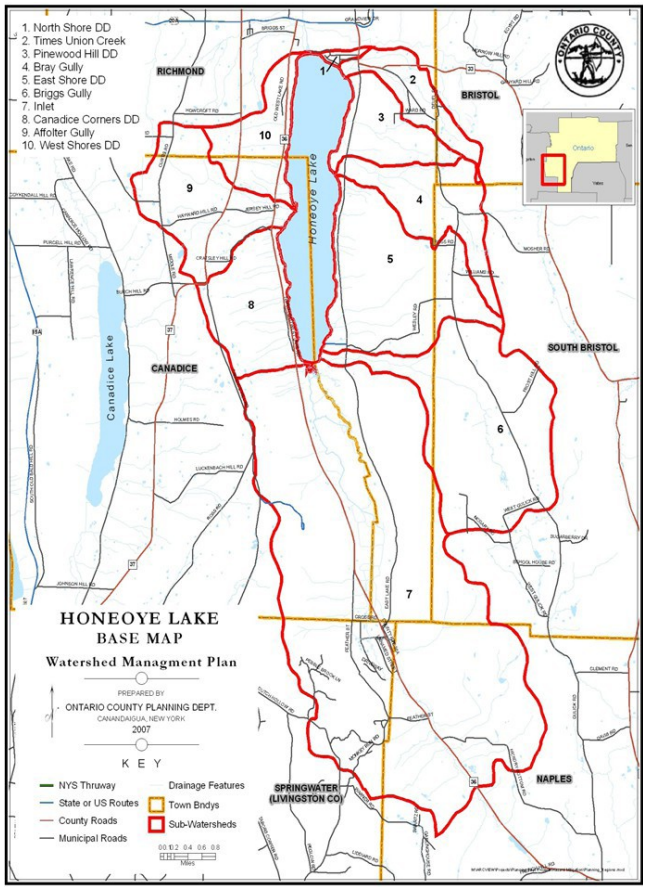
The specific objectives of this plan are to:

- Improve the water quality of Honeoye Lake.
- Protect the Honeoye Lake Watershed's natural resources.
- Identify challenges and barriers to water quality protection and to suggest means to overcome them.
- Protect the high quality of life enjoyed by residents of the Honeoye Lake Watershed.
- Improve water-dependent recreational opportunities.
- Retain and attract business and improve local economic development opportunities.
- Consider economic, social, and other incentives for water quality protection.

Protection and Management Issues

- Wetland Restoration
- Riparian Zone Management
- General Watershed Education and Outreach
- Point and Nonpoint Source Management and Control
- Excess Nutrients
- Onsite Wastewater Treatment (Septic) Systems
- Forestry
- Streambank/Shoreline Erosion
- Development
- Recreational Uses
- Agriculture
- Pesticides
- Salt Usage and Storage
- Spills
- Bulk Storage Facilities
- Landfills, Dumps, Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites
- Mined Lands

Examination of watershed lands to determine impacts and remediation options of problems associated with these issues will remain an ongoing task for Honeoye Lake Watershed Task Force and its partners. **Lake protection and enhancement is long-term work.**



Honeoye Lake Facts

Surface Area:	2.72 square miles
Length:	4.7 miles
Width:	0.67 miles
Depth:	30.2 feet
Mean Depth:	16.1 feet
Shoreline:	8.5 miles
Hydraulic Retention:	292 to 352 days
Volume :	9.20 billion gallons
Classification:	Eutrophic, nutrient rich
	Ontario County, Towns of Richmond and Canadice

Honeoye Watershed Facts

Area:	37.7 Square Miles
Location:	Ontario County: Towns of Bristol, Canadice, Naples, Richmond, South Bristol, Hamlet of Honeoye
	Livingston County: Town of Springwater
Land Use:	Forest (85%)
	Agriculture (9%)
	Open (4%)
Land Ownership:	Residential(2%)
	Private 91.84%
	Public 8.16%
Precipitation	30-35" annually

Lake-Friendly Living: Lawn and Garden Maintenance

- Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly, especially near waterbodies.
- Use only phosphorus-free fertilizers on established lawns. Established lawns can not use the phosphorus.
- Select native plants and grasses that are drought tolerant and pest resistant.
- Native plants are adapted to local climate, soils and pests, and provide valuable habitat for native birds, butterflies and amphibians.
- Compost yard waste.
- Cover piles of dirt and mulch to prevent them from washing into storm drains.

Look for the middle number: The three numbers on a fertilizer container lists its percent of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium content, in that order. A zero in the middle means it is phosphorus-free fertilizer.

- Leave grass clippings on the lawn (they decompose quickly, provide nitrogen and reduce the need for fertilizer).
- Sweep clippings from driveway and sidewalks rather than hosing areas. Never dump/blow/sweep grass clippings or leaves into the lake.
- Plant grass or vegetation where soil is exposed.

Keep pet waste from entering the lake. Dog waste carries twice as much bacteria as human waste and may harbor parasites that infect humans. It also is a source of nutrients – nitrogen and phosphorus that encourage weed and algae growth.

1 pound of phosphorus entering Honeoye Lake supports the growth of 500 pounds of algae/water weeds.

Clean, Drained And Dry

How important is it to inspect before launching your boat or when leaving a water body? **Essential!**
There have been many unwanted introductions of plant and animal life into Honeoye Lake in the past. A host of other organisms have entered the lakes with human assistance. None have enhanced the environment, improved fishing or recreational activities or helped homeowners.

The threat of ***Hydrilla verticillata*** entering Honeoye Lake has increased the risk. The list of hydrilla characteristics is a template of successful invasive attributes: rapid reproduction and high dispersal ability, tolerance of a wide range of environmental conditions, and association with human activities. Hydrilla is a submersed herbaceous perennial that forms extremely dense stands of very long stems (25- 35 ft.) in the water. It reproduces mainly by regrowth of stem fragments; but also reproduces by growth of axillary buds (turions) and subterranean tubers that can remain viable for more than 4 years. A single tuber can grow to produce more than 6,000 new tubers per square meter.

Hydrilla can grow in almost any freshwater: springs, lakes, marshes, ditches, rivers, tidal zones. It can grow in only a few inches of water, or in water more than 20 feet deep. It can grow in oligotrophic (low nutrient) to eutrophic (high nutrient) conditions and in 7% salinity seawater. Hydrilla is somewhat winter-hardy; its optimum growth temperature is, 68-81º F; its maximum temperature is 86ºF. Southern populations overwinter as perennials; northern populations overwinter and regrow from tubers. In Russia, hydrilla grows to 50º N latitude--equivalent to the US/Canadian border. It can grow in only 1% of full sunlight.

Boaters in many states are obligated to have their boats inspected by trained authorities before launching. For example, this list of procedures is required in Idaho:

- *Inspect all exposed surfaces.*
- *Wash the hull thoroughly, preferably with hot water.*
- *Remove all plant and animal material.*
- *Drain all water and dry all areas.*
- *Drain and dry the lower outboard unit.*
- *Clean and dry all live wells.*
- *Empty and dry any buckets.*
- *Dispose of all bait in the trash.*
- *Wait five days and keep watercraft dry between launches into different fresh waters.*

Pictured: Hydrilla

Although these measures are not required in New York, the threat of hydrilla infestation should prompt boaters to inspect their craft before entering and after leaving the water. A few plant fragments are all that would be necessary to infest Honeoye Lake.