



# ONTARIO COUNTY Planning Department

Thomas P. Harvey<sup>AICP</sup>, Director

June 27, 2022

Dear Honeoye Lake Shoreline Landowner,

Ontario County is preparing for the **2022 Honeoye Lake Aquatic Vegetation Management Program (AVMP)**. Below you will find a tentative operations schedule and contact information.

## **PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND GOALS**

Honeoye Lake is a shallow, eutrophic (nutrient-rich) lake supporting abundant plant growth. Aquatic plants provide oxygen, food, and protection for a variety of species and are an important part of a lake ecosystem. A mechanical weed harvester is used to manage excessive seasonal plant growth that impedes boating and recreation. Aquatic plants take up nutrients from lake sediments, acting as a “nutrient sink”. Removal of harvested vegetation from Honeoye Lake also removes nutrients that would otherwise be recycled back into the lake upon plant death and decay. The harvested plant material is used for compost, benefitting area farms.

## **HARVESTING**

**Goals** for Harvesting Aquatic Vegetation include:

- 1) **Enhance lake access** for recreational uses by cutting and removing aquatic plants that have reached the lake surface or close to it in shallow waters around the lake perimeter.
- 2) **Remove nutrients** from the lake environment.
- 3) **Aid circulation of water** in localized areas choked by aquatic weeds.

**Harvesting** is strategically targeted to areas most affected based on vegetation density mapping and field observations, but conditions can change quickly. Residents are welcome to request harvesting.

## **SHORELINE PICKUP**

A **Shoreline Barge** is used to help residents remove plant fragments washed to shore. Residents are encouraged to compost weed fragments on site whenever possible. They are excellent for retaining water in gardens and boosting soil nutrients. For those participating in the shoreline pickup program, please follow these guidelines:

Safe barge access is needed. Rake weeds into piles or rows. If space allows, several smaller piles dry out quickly and are easier to handle. Stones, sticks, roots, and landscaping/yard waste may not be included in the piles and should be separated out. Stones and sticks can damage the conveyor belts.

Flexibility is required of landowners participating in the shoreline pickup program. The program was created to assist neighbors with removal of excessive plant debris that washes onto shore, but is not intended as, nor has capacity to be, a regular property maintenance program. Weather (including moderate wind) impacts barge operations, and schedules can and do abruptly change. While the crew attempts to get to all areas of the lake, some shoreline tends to regularly be on the receiving end of a disproportionate amount of weed fragments from prevailing winds and currents.

Teamwork is appreciated. In many places (Lakes End Lane, North Shore, Cottage Cove and Picketts Cove, to name a few), neighbors are working together to collect shoreline weeds for several properties and putting them in one or more central pickup locations. A pickup time is scheduled with the crew, and neighbors help to load material onto the harvester or barge. These group efforts are helpful to all. Establishing a single point person

simplifies communication and scheduling. Please consider working with your neighbors where geography allows.

**REQUESTING SHORELINE PICKUP**

Request shoreline pickup by email at [infoweeds@ontariocountyny.gov](mailto:infoweeds@ontariocountyny.gov) with the information below. Once initial contact has been made, the crew will continue to look for piles throughout the season. You should also feel free to email updates or additional requests.

Name	Email/Telephone #
Address	
Color/Description of house/# on Dock?	Description of waterfront – docks/boats
Other distinguishing features (color of neighbor’s house, flagpole, break wall, etc.)	
Note # of piles/where located	

**PROGRAM COMMUNICATION AND STAFFING**

Program updates will be posted on the County’s website at: <http://www.co.ontario.ny.us/honeoyelake>

The 2022 Crew is led by longtime operator Randy DePew, with Pauline, Devon and Nick assisting. At this date, a CDL licensed dump truck driver is still needed. If interested, or for any program questions or concerns, please contact Betsy Landre in the Ontario County Planning Department (info below).

**2022 TENTATIVE OPERATING SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)**

Week of:	June 27	Training Staff/Testing Equipment
	July 4	Harvesting/Shoreline Pick-up until Labor Day Weekend
	Sept 5	Operations Wrap Up

Operating hours are generally Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., excepting July 4 and Labor Day.

**NO HARVEST ZONES**

No harvesting occurs at Sandy Bottom Swimming Beach or the regulated wetland at the south end. Residents who do not want the harvester to cut in front their shoreline should contact the office to express their preferences.

**WATERLINE INFORMATION**

Public water has arrived in Canadice! Disconnected waterlines should be removed or pulled back under docks. Waterlines remaining in the lake are at risk of being damaged by the harvester. Please take action to mark them at the foot valve with a floating object or buoy. The County cannot be held liable for damaging unmarked waterlines.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR HONEOYE LAKE**

A great resource for learning more about your lake and lake management can be found on the Honeoye Lake Watershed Task Force’s website at: <https://www.honeoyelakewatershed.org>

The AVMP team looks forward to working with our partners and the landowners around Honeoye Lake.

Sincerely,

Honeoye Lake AVMP Team at Ontario County Planning Department

<p><b><u>Question, Concern, Suggestion?</u></b></p> <p><b>Tel: (585) 396-4458</b></p> <p><b>Email:</b> <b><a href="mailto:infoweeds@ontariocountyny.gov">infoweeds@ontariocountyny.gov</a></b></p> <p><b>Website:</b> <b><a href="http://www.co.ontario.ny.us/honeoyelake">www.co.ontario.ny.us/honeoyelake</a></b></p>
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