

Ontario County 2010 Lakefront Community Survey Honeoye Lake Aquatic Weed Management Program

Survey deadline: December 10, 2010

Response rate: 56 percent (508 out of 901)

1. Are you a lake property homeowner ?

	Counts	Percents
Yes	499	98.6
No	7	1.4
<i>Totals</i>	<i>506</i>	<i>100.0</i>

2. How many years have you been at the lake?

	Counts	Percents
0 - 20	265	52.8
21 - 40	131	26.1
41 - 60	73	14.5
61 and above	33	6.6
<i>Totals</i>	<i>502</i>	<i>100.0</i>

3. Which shore do you live on?

	Counts	Percents
West Shore	239	47.5
East Shore	228	45.3
North Shore	36	7.2
<i>Totals</i>	<i>503</i>	<i>100.0</i>

4. Which direction do you live?

	Counts	Percents
North of California Point	279	57.9
South of California Point	203	42.1
<i>Totals</i>	<i>482</i>	<i>100.0</i>

5. Which town do you live in?

	Counts	Percents
Richmond	339	67.4
Canadice	164	32.6
<i>Totals</i>	<i>503</i>	<i>100.0</i>

6. How do you use the lake?

	Counts	Percents
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Boating	468	92.5
Swimming	454	89.7
Scenic	394	77.9
Fishing	390	77.1
Waterskiing	205	40.5
Jet skiing	111	21.9
Drinking water	109	21.5
Other (<i>Non-drinking water, other recreational activities, lakefront businesses, etc.</i>)	79	15.7
Irrigation	57	11.3
Totals	506	n/a

7. Which of these do you think are a problem on the lake?

	Counts	Percents
Too many aquatic weeds	451	90.0
Poor water quality	352	70.3
Other (<i>Algae, zebra mussels, lack of boater etiquette and enforcement, erosion, siltation, odors, poor harvester operations, the desire for crystal clear lake conditions, etc.</i>)	185	36.9
Overuse by non-residents	81	16.2
Use of jet skis	77	15.4
Too many boats	58	11.6
Fish population problem	31	6.2
Too much fishing	24	4.8
Not enough aquatic weeds	0	0.0
Totals	501	n/a

8. Do you have aquatic weeds at your shoreline in nuisance quantities?

	Counts	Percents
Yes	455	92.7
No	36	7.3
Totals	491	100.0

9. Do aquatic weeds interfere with your use of enjoyment of the lake?

	Counts	Percents
Yes	428	87.9
No	59	12.1
Totals	487	100.0

10. Does the level of aquatic weeds affect your property values?

	Counts	Percents
Yes	374	83.9
No	72	16.1
Totals	446	100.0

11. Are you aware of the Aquatic Weed Management Program for the lake?

	Counts	Percents
Yes	454	92.1
No	39	7.9
Totals	493	100.0

12. Are you in favor of continuing efforts to control aquatic weeds on the lake?

	Counts	Percents
Yes	428	92.6
No	34	7.4
Totals	462	100.0

13. In your opinion, what are the primary causes of aquatic rooted plant growth on the lake?

	Counts	Percents
Shallow nature of lake	419	86.2
Nutrients entering lake from lake tributaries	326	67.1
Fertilizers and lawn care products	297	61.1
Cutting by the weed harvesters	150	30.9
Wastewater drainage	147	30.2
Other natural causes	145	29.8
Agriculture	121	24.9
Other (<i>Zebra mussels and clear water, alum treatment, roadwork, enriched bottom sediment, lakefront homeowner activities, geese, etc.</i>)	83	17.0
Totals	469	n/a

14. In your opinion, what are the major causes of aquatic weed fragments collecting on the shoreline?

	Counts	Percents
The harvesters cause the weeds to break up and drift ashore	359	73.7
Boating (caused by propeller chop, water skiing, jet skis)	304	62.4
Natural plant die-off	163	33.5
Other natural causes	92	18.9
Other (<i>Inadequate harvester equipment, lakefront homeowner activities, anchors, fishing lures, storms, wind, etc.</i>)	59	12.0
Totals	487	n/a

15. In your opinion, what should happen with the Aquatic Weed Management Program in the future?

	Counts	Percents
Expanded	177	38.9
Continued as currently operated	130	28.6
Suspended for one season	129	28.4
Discontinued permanently	19	4.2
Totals	455	100.0

16. Please check all that you agree with:

	Counts	Percents
I approve of my town's expenditure for the Aquatic Weed Management Program	331	67.4
Weed harvesting is beneficial in improving recreational uses of the lake	318	64.8
Weed fragments that collect along the shoreline are a major nuisance to me	298	60.7
I am aware that there is a Honeoye Lake Macrophyte Management Plan	267	54.4
Honeoye Lake could benefit from a lake manager hired to support lake management efforts	146	29.7
I have read the Honeoye Lake Macrophyte Management Plan	129	26.3
I agree with the results of the Honeoye Lake Macrophyte Management Plan	77	15.7
Weed harvesting is detrimental in improving recreational uses of the lake	61	12.4
I do not approve of my town's expenditure for the Aquatic Weed Management Program	60	12.2
I have received or would like to receive harvested weeds for my gardner	13	2.6
Totals	491	n/a

17. Additional Comments:

Algae

Algae is more of a problem than the weeds; We only have been on the lake while the harvesters have run; We have not seen it without, so we don't know how it would be.

Weed harvesting is okay but won't impact the blue algae problem; That had a more significant impact on our use of the lake this summer.

Something must be done about the toxic algae bloom.

The algae problem in late summer (also found in Sodus Bay) made lake totally unusable; Is this problem also being investigated?

Could not use the lake water August through September because of toxins and smell.

Deal with algae problem.

I feel that the blue-green algae is more serious than the weeds.

Mid-summer pea green water looks pretty bad.

I'm not an expert but I would like something done about the weeds and algae growth.

Very complicated problem; It is what it is, and it does not seem to ever change; The algae is worse than the weeds.

Again, my chief concern, by far, is algae blooms!

The town needs to address the algae problem that limits the use of the lake and shortens the length of the summer season; Utilize the resources more effectively.

Overall, lake is in excellent condition; When there is an overly hot summer, water will suffer an algae bloom and some folks get upset.

Algae is the biggest problem, weeds are second.

Algae seems to be a bigger problem.

I truly feel the program is important, but if the lake is in a 'toxic' state, and unusable, it doesn't matter how many weeds are in it: Water quality first!

I'm not sure whether the weed program is a good or a bad thing; But, the algae problem and lack of clarity in the water that I worry more about.

I believe the toxic algae problem should be considered a single event that may have been caused by the hot dry summer experienced this past summer; It also occurred on Sodus Bay; We should wait to see if it is a repetitive issue before taking any drastic steps; I agree that a scientific approach backed by facts and a study is appropriate before changes are made; Did we not introduce chemical management (alum) this past year in addition to the weed cutting? Could this have been a reason for the toxic algae issue?

If water stagnation contributes to blue-green algae, could the height of the weir be lowered to some midpoint that will still control the lake level but at a lower level allowing more water movement? We were at the September town meeting which was helpful in understanding the problem.

Would aeration machines be possible to control blue-green algae? (www.solarbee.com); Please read the white papers.

Algae control is more important than weeds; We have some control of weeds; We have none on algae.

The algae bloom happened last summer; it happens every summer; the lake turns over.

Harvester Operations

The 2010 harvester crew was not as efficient and organized as in previous years; The timing of unloading the harvester with the truck wasn't correlated in the previous years.

Weed fragments are a minor nuisance to me until the weed harvesters start, then they become a major nuisance

I'd like to see what expert opinion says about the pros and cons regarding the harvesting

I watched the weed harvesters cut weeds and leave them in the lake to wash ashore; The conveyor belts on the harvester are not even working.

If you didn't harvest weeds I would not be able to put my boat in the water without stalling or getting stuck because they are so thick.

Expand program with better equipment.

Weeds wash up on east side; Most harvesting done on west side.

Collect cut weeds.

Buy new equipment.

Replacing existing equipment with a new (or newer) more efficient unit would be beneficial.

We don't think the weeds are picked up enough after they are cut.

Harvesters are not recovering cut vegetation properly.

A faster conveyor speed on the harvesters should allow more complete collection of weeds that are pushed away as the harvesters are cutting.

In summer of 2009, the harvester made a noticeable improvement in front of my property; No improvement seen this year

Need to develop replacement plan to buy new harvester(s); Retire old ones.

Update weed harvesters; They only collect 90 percent of cut weeds; I remove weeds daily from my shore

The weed harvesters do not spend enough time in our area to be effective; Even with the harvesters, we could not get our jet skis out last summer.

Weed harvesting doesn't seem to benefit me; However, I would not oppose its continuation in the majority really want it

I feel that without the weed harvesting, the lake would be unusable; Please keep it up or increase it

Either improve collection of harvested weeds by purchasing more efficient harvester or stop the use of current harvester for 2011 to see what happens.

Any possibility that the weed harvester could be operated on a volunteer basis similar to snowmobile clubs operating their own trail groomers.

It does not appear that weed cutting includes adequate removal of the cuttings.

Please fix the harvesters during the winter months; Don't wait for summer; The state is spending over a million dollars at the boat launch; Will will use it if the lake is all weeds? Weeds and algae, what happens to property value?

Level of lake is approximately 12 inches higher than it has been most of my life; Beach erosion has contributed to weed growth; Cutting and harvesting is a good thing;

Recently, harvester is not doing as good of a job removing weeds.

I really feel that harvesters be completely overhauled involving knives or buy a new, more efficient harvester

Please do not suspend harvesting next year; Improve equipment.

Please keep cutting weeds; harvesting is beneficial and I continue to support it

If we could afford new harvester; let's buy at least one.

Suspend harvesting for one year will prove nothing; This is a problem that would take multiple seasons to see changes

Weed problem seems to be getting worse, not better; Clearly the current program is not working, so why spend the money on what is not working.

Why do we pay \$8,000 in taxes? Expand cutting to 5 days per week; Please continue program

I do approve of the town's expenditure but we unfortunately not seeing any results from the program

There are many days that I do not see any of the weed cutters working; Also, their working day seems really short; Not an 8 hour day

I think you could hire people to run the machines a lot cheaper if they are going to hit my waterline anyway; Then I think you can find people to do it for less money in this economy.

If the program is suspended or discontinued, residents will most likely take weed control into their own hands; There will be no clean direction and everyone will accomplish it whatever way they want; This may result in the use of illegal chemicals or other unconventional methods; It is a recipe for disaster.

I was at the 9/14/10 town meeting; I heard denials that weeds were cut and sometimes left in lake; However, we all have seen it happen; How can cut, but not removed, weeds improve water quality?

When I was a kid, they used to harvest weeds on Honeoye and we never had the water quality issues we have now.

At times, the weeds are not collected at the rear of the harvester, resulting in excessive weed parts floating to shore; A barge or larger area to collect fragments behind the cutter is a good idea; Keep the weed cutter going; Thank you for allowing our input.

I think weed harvester should go deeper and seek to remove bulk quantity fo weeds; They grow back too fast after harvester hit; Water would benefit from more organic material removal and the phosphorus they carry; I think rebuilding south inlet swamp should to start.

I collect them and compost the ones that wash ashore; More people need to read the management plan; The weed harvester helps remove nutrients from lake; Weeds would otherwise decompose on the bottom; Honeoye is a very eutrophic lake.

Please do not stop the harvesting; I don't mind the few weeds that are not picked up by the harvester/cutter

Cut your grass; It spreads seeds on your lawn; Cut the lake weeds, spreads the seeds

Use safe chemicals to kill off weeds or grass carp; Macrophyte Management Plan - not an effective one! Note: The current plan is failing terribly! Need an aggressive plan to attack the weed problem or this lake will die!

You forgot to ask if cut weeds rot and stink up the shoreline - answer "yes"

Cancel the boat launch renovation and use the money to improve the water quality.

I don't see that the program is doing any good but I'm not an expert.

Stop talking about this and let's aggressively do something to get rid of the excessive vegetation

It seems that since they started harvesting weeds, the lakeshore has gotten extremely poor with mud, weeds, and algae settling from the end of docks to the shoreline;

Please help settle this problem!

Continue but collect what they cut; we take out ten wheelbarrels of weeds every week; We are seriously thinking of selling and moving off the lake; I know and have movies of the lakeshore line 50 years ago and it is disappointing to see what it has become.

Weeds need to be harvested closer to docks and shoreline for swimming.

In 2010, weeds were cut and not removed; This causes boating and shoreline problems; Start collecting and removing weeds

We are not familiar with the program.

Weed harvesters need to empty more often (had 4 feet of cut weeds at our dock; Could not get boat out; Never had this before); Try something else, look outside of the box.

I think the weed harvesting program shouldnot be suspended for 2011; It is the only measure that has worked at all in controlling the macrophyte growth on the lake;

No management is not a viable option! Please help our lake!

A way to collect more and help us on northern shore.

Keep the weed harvesting program going!

If a significant percentage of the cut weeds are lost into the lake do not continue the cutting program as this puts the burden of shore cleanup on the owners; Lost weeds are probably no better than letting them grow and die naturally.

Get two new reliable cutting machines if the program is continued.

Concentrate on a quarter mile stretch of shoreline per harvester for approximately two days and then move on.

I would like to thank the operators of the harvesters, especially Randy, for their efforts in doing the best job they can.

Weed harvesting should continue but with equipment that does not miss all the choppings that presently escape the machines in use.

A weed-choked lake will adversely affect the lake's appeal and reduce property values, make existing home sales more difficult, slow upgrades to existing properties, limit recreational use by residents, transient boaters, and park-goers, and raise health concerns, particularly for those who draw water from the lake.

Stop the cutting; when you cut your lawn the grass grows thicker, the plants receive more sunlight, the seeds get spread and the clippings become fertilizer; the same thing happens when you cut aquatic weeds.

We support newer harvesters capable of coming closer to the shore and able to collect more weed fragments.

Alternative Management Techniques

Can grass carp be used and what about chemical controls; Explore ways to safely kill and reduce weed growth

Is dredging possible; "Shallowness" is major problem.

What were the results of the alum treatment?

Manage the lake using good science.

Shallow; Dredge at Sandy Bottom; Raise containment wall 18"; Lake has room to grow.

Try dredging.

Please dredge the lake!

I think the water level is too high and the problem is the weir; The lake is stagnant; No outflow!

Try chemical treatment.

We want to manage our shoreline.

Drop lake level 5 to 6 feet in the winter.

Why couldn't the special sterile carp be used?

Use weed killers to eliminate weeds 150 feet from shoreline.

Weed cutting is bad; Need underwater raking; Also weed-eating carp!

I would like to hear more about the weir and any studies that led to its installation being a benefit; Being around the lake so many years, I have never seen it as bad as this year.

Weir needs to be lowered so lake doesn't stagnate; Weir also causes more erosion

Provide the sterile weed eating carp; Allow some chemical tests, chemical treatment in a small, controllable area of the lake (ex: north or south ends of bays).

Other methods should be tried in areas of higher concentration (ex: chemical treatment).

Get Army Corps of Engineers to dredge lake (it's too shallow); Weed harvesting does not fix problem; Makes water quality worse

Ban sale and use of lawn fertilizers in Richmond and Canadice and enforce with stiff fines.

Explore other ways to reduce weeds; Harvester is only partially effective.

Look closer at how Conesus Lake Association manages their weed issues.

I seriously question the weir at the end of the lake maintaining constant water levels; The lakeshore used to receive 10 - 20 feet each summer, reducing weed growth.

Dredge lake, small sections at a time.

I believe chemical treatment is now more feasible; It is safe to water life; It may even be more cost effective

A lake manager position is not cost feasible, but it may be for the whole of the Finger Lakes area

At some point, they are going to have to start removing weeds; Grass carp, etc.; Then use other methods to maintain

Other techniques should be used in conjunction; Would control of flow or lowering lake level help? How can we control phosphorus from land entry lake?

Look into products like alum to reduce weed bloom.

Reenact the mooring laws proposed and rejected in past years; Prevent additional commerical use of the lake; Prevent encroachment of neighboring docks and hoists.

What about more aerators at the other lake locations? Is the berm restricting water flow? Are there any new harvesting methods?

New science and research? What are other lakes doing? What does 'task force' recommend?

I would be supportive of efforts to increase the center depth of the lake via dredging

Property values are down; Let's put seaweed eating carp in the lake; We need county water piped through; At a fair cost; Not like the sewer fiasco.

It's a shallow lake and the collector of water runoff; Government just needs to do what they can to preserve value at a reasonable cost

Weir at end of lake must be eliminated or made adjustable, to allow seed, algae, bacteria to flow out of lake, along with weed harvesting

If the silt at the bottom is the main cause, then remove the silt; There has to be a better way; Seems like very year it gets worse (It was pointed out at one of the meetings that the bottom of Honeoye Lake contains 3' of silt).

Cost of the lake manager?

Have an educated person in the field make a study.

Remove the weir at the north end of the lake to permit natural drainage.

Perhaps exploration of other methods for weed management should be undertaken.

Herbicides and grass carp should be used; Use the \$60,000 to hire FLCC to come up with a weed and algae solution

Instead of initiating programs recommended by one body or organization, allow Dr. Bruce Gilman, the DEC, and the HVA to come up with a viable, affordable solution;

Modify the existing weir so it can be opened and closed at will by increments; Trial draw down of the lake water in winter may provide many benefits amongst which certainly be less shoreline erosion.

Property values have gone down due to poor water quality (weeds, smell) tv coverage; In favor of putting fish that are sterilized that eat seaweed into the lake.

Can a consultant from the DEC do the same thing as a lake manager?

As stated above, these are our opinions; We would prefer to have these decisions made by an environmental professional whose only objective is to do what is best for the lake.

Harvesting is only a bandaid; Considering how bad the weeds have gotten, how about dredging to be followed by more aggressive harvesting? I have also been told that the weeds could be used to make biodiesel; Could the collection of weeds be eligible for state funds or stimulus money?

A qualified knowledgeable person should be leading the program.

With the condition of Honeoye Lake the solution should be simple 1) clean out the outlet 2) put grass carp to eat the weeds if they multiply, fine, if not they die in 5 years, the condition of the lake will improve; All of the above will make the lake enjoyable; I have read all the options to improve the lake and I believe steps 1 and 2 are the least expensive.

Get rid of weir for 1 to 2 seasons and stop harvesting (couldn't be any worse than installation of weir and adding alum); you refused to install methods at boat launches to prevent zebra mussels.

My question is why is there no mention about the alum that was put into the lake? Also, where they dumped the alum was the best area for walleye fishing especially in the winter; Since they put the alum in there are no more walleye in that area at all; what does this tell you?

Charge a lake user fee (\$10 per launch) at launches and marina with money going to lake weed and algae management

Do not try alum again (cost, ineffective).
Lake manager needs to be the right person; Should be overseeing lake use concerns as well as weed harvesting, water quality, public information, and education;
Member/representative to Finger Lakes watershed organization.
Please look at feasibility and costs of a dam similar to the one at Conesus Lake; sterile grass carp might help; Chemical treatment should be considered.
Alum treatment in the deeper parts of the lake need to have the data reported to the community in a clear and concise manner.
Tributary contributions of phosphates and nitrates need to be put under control; Our road crews need to follow good practices established by the Honoeeye Lake Management Plan; Our residents need updated information as to what to do and not to do to protect the lake and how they can help to achieve to what we are looking for, a clean and healthy lake for all residents and non-residents.
Milfoil can be controlled by applying a selective chemical to kill the milfoil as needed using a DEC approved applicator, paid for by tax on lakeshore property owners; the chemical does not affect other natural weeds or the fish population.
In case you haven't noticed, Mother Nature provided 2 natural filters at each end of the lake; then water management came along and screwed it all up; There must be a gate installed in the weir to allow undertow to flow naturally; without undertow, the bottom of the lake has become stagnant.
We would like to suggest that dredging or artificial water agitation be considered for the California Point cove.
When Mueller opened up th swamps at the southern end and a weir was placed at the north end there was little and slow lake flow to keep it fresh and clean; it was like a plugged drain; weeds built up; we hope it can be returned to what it was years ago for future generations
Look further into other ways of controlling weeds besides only weed harvesting; look outside the box.

Other

Please bring city water down the West Lake Road; I will pay for hook up; The summer was awful with the water quality for showers, etc
Need qualified town employee to be watershed inspector/manager.
We are fortunate to have strong lake association and collaborative research for FLCC and the DEC
Step up and do whatever needs to be done; What has been done is not working.
Good luck with this one!
The town's plan is not working; You need to try something!!
Number one priority should be reliable, clean town water for residents whose only water source is the lake.
Let's do whatever it takes to get lake up to speed with all other lakes that are busy all summer long; The local businesses would love some traffic on the lake.
Public petitions are not enough; We need proactive town board collaboration with local, state, and federal agencies to petition for public water access for the lakeshore residents.
When we purchased our cottage in 1972, we had no weeds, no zebra mussels, no sewer, and no geese; Now, 38 years later, we have all of the above.
I think a program involving lake residents (no phosphorus fertilizers) and aquatic weed management can be the answer; This program along with the HLWTF can deliver the best results for lake residents; Great survey, thank you.
We need the science and knowledge of experts to manage weed problem and quality of lake, not opinions of people like me
Please help.
Create a website to allow residents to know status of who to contact.
Skewed survey to cause more government bureaucracy!
Need town drinking water around the entire lake.
We need clean water; Income has no bearing for health.
Thank you.

Being a new resident, would like to get some more information on HLMMP and AWHP.

I have been on the lake for 50 years; All we have done and we we are doing now, we don't seem to be making much progress; Don't know the solution.

The lake is what makes Honeoye and brings many people here for revenue - restaurants, stores, rentals - when the lake is bad we all suffer; We make up the majority of the tax base in Honeoye but we can't use the lake.

We often see the same fisherman (day after day); They urinate in the lake we always have dead fish coming ashore that have been caught then thrown back; Get us public water.

Houses west of road and east of road need to be connected to sewer system; Water flows downhill into the lake; Septic is not successful

The combination of the mandatory sewer line hook up years ago with pumping stations along with zebra mussels have cleared the water up tremendously! They only problem is the sunlight is allowed to permeate the very bottom of the lake and grow more weeds than ever!

Please get town water along the west side of the lake; Homes all around the lake should have sewers take all septic tanks out they only feed the streams to the lake.

We can't even get the town to plow or repair our road and we THAT every day.

I am concerned that the "improvements" of the state boat launch will facilitate overuse of the lake by non-residents

We are not aware of the macrophyte management plan; Please send this to every owner on the lake; Not in the Valley News or other local newspaper; A letter to each one would cover this plan; Thank you.

Jacked up lakefront taxes need readdressing; Whatever we're paying for is not last year's bad press can't help property values; Working the weed harvester dumps weeds on overtaxed lake owner's property; There is not a fair share of cost to all lake users.

The tax rate is excessive as it is; I see no benefit from hiring yet another staff member

What does cottager get for their taxes from the Town and the County except harvesting? Lakeside residents should be warned not to pull weeds and let them float in water or push towards other properties.

Why are there two sheriffs patrolling? One is more than sufficient; Use money in a manner that improves water quality; Ever consider dredging the lake? What is the deal with the old 3M plant?

If the lake becomes more of a swamp, our lakefront properties should be reassessed accordingly

High taxes should be used to save the lake, if they can't reduce lake taxes by 90 percent

Need to address water quality for both drinking (expand town water to all lake residents regardless of town) and swimmers to insure safe overall environment.

Seems to be more and more public usage that strains enjoyment by lake owners

Fishermen are sometimes inconsiderate of owner property by anchoring near docks and throwing lines under docks

Less housing density should be encouraged by local laws and development plans

The Honeoye Lake Valley Association has done a great job evaluating watershed and lake use issues.

Why does the town or county issue a permit for a semi permanent ski course in a heavily vegetative area near the state boat launch in an area designated environmentally sensitive?

The towns need to be more proactive in notifying lake users and land owners when algae is present as it can be noticeable in one part but not another.

Towns have relaxed zoning for new homes; Teardowns and major renovations have provided less surface area to absorb water in a storm and the excavations necessary to dig the large basements have totally changed the lay of the land.

The repeated use of fertilizer to start new lawns and keep them "green" has created the problem of run-off directly into the lake.

There is a need to have the 76 item "plan" show signs of actual commitment and progress.

Once the sewers were installed around the lake there seemed to be a subtle shift to better swimming water but on any given summer we may get substantial nutrients from the many tributaries around the lake fostering more weed growth.

I have noticed some drop in the silt and the rocks are starting to reappear and the weeds are thinning a bit; it seems that the silt is slowly moving down to the north end of the lake toward the outlet; I checked the bottom near the outlet and it seems like there is a greater silt buildup but I have no data to support this.

The runoff from the hills and the logging is a big contributor to the lake's problems.