



ONTARIO COUNTY Planning Department

Thomas P. Harvey^{AICP}, Director

June 15, 2020

Dear Honeoye Lake Shoreline Landowner,

Ontario County is preparing for the **2020 Honeoye Lake Aquatic Vegetation Management Program (AVMP)**. After consultation with Town Supervisors, Honeoye Lake Watershed Task Force and County staff, the decision was made to continue the program this year subject to any necessary modifications due to federal or state COVID-19 guidance or executive orders. Below you will find the 2020 operations schedule and contact information. Also enclosed is important information for shoreline property owners and others with **water lines extending into Honeoye Lake that could be affected by harvesting operations**.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND GOALS

Residents know Honeoye Lake is a shallow, nutrient-rich, and productive lake supporting abundant plant growth that can impede boating and other lake uses. Aquatic plants provide oxygen, food, and protection for a variety of lake organisms and are an important part of a lake ecosystem. The AVMP uses a mechanical weed harvester to cut and remove seasonal plant growth when it becomes excessive and problematic for 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 at area farms.

The goals of the Honeoye Lake AVMP are to:

- 1) **Enhance lake access** for recreational uses by cutting and removing aquatic plants that have reached the lake surface or close to it. No harvesting occurs in the state regulated wetland that extends into the south end of the lake.
- 2) **Remove nutrients** from the lake environment.
- 3) **Aid circulation of water** in localized areas choked by aquatic weeds.

Harvesting is strategically targeted with a SONAR-based vegetation density mapping tool. Residents are welcome to request harvesting in problem areas where plants are choking off access.

A **Shoreline Barge** is also used to help residents remove fragmented plant debris washed to shore. Residents rake up weed fragments into piles or rows and contact the office for pickup.

2020 TENTATIVE OPERATING SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

2020 DATES	OPERATIONS PLAN
July 6-Sept 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perimeter Weed Harvesting (First Cut) and/or On-Demand Localized Harvesting • Shoreline Collection
Sept 3-Sept 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perimeter Weed Harvesting (Final Cut) to remove nutrients before plants decompose in the lake • Shoreline Collection
Oct 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoreline Collection Ends

The program operates **Monday through Thursday**, with effort split between Shoreline Collection (often in the morning) and Harvesting. A three day work week may be used during the season when demand is low. The

schedule will vary based on weather and lake conditions, as well as requests for services from residents. The shoreline barge will visit recently harvested locations for fragment pickup. Neighbors are encouraged to work together to develop consensus (and a single point of communication) about the timing for and services desired. This has worked well in many neighborhoods around the lake. Every effort will be made to accommodate requests within the same week, providing access is adequate. Residents who do not want the harvester to cut in front their shoreline should also contact the office to express and/or update their preferences.

CANADICE RESIDENTS WATERLINE INFORMATION

If you have a waterline in Honeoye Lake, please see the important attached flyer! The County will arrange waterline marking for those unable to set their own markers **July 6-7**.

PROGRAM COMMUNICATION AND STAFFING

Program updates will be posted on the County's website at: <http://www.co.ontario.ny.us/honeoyelake>
Long-time operator Randy DePew returns this summer as does Program Manager Betsy Landre who can be reached at the office with questions and concerns. Ontario County is currently accepting applications for another operator. If interested, contact 396-4458 for more information.

DOCKS AND HARVESTING

Residents are reminded that the harvester cannot trim around docks as the machine is not designed to maneuver in such tight spaces. Residents interested in learning more about controlling weed growth around docks should contact the office for ideas and information.

MORE ON SHORELINE PICKUP

Fragments should be raked up in loose piles or rows along shore to reduce gravel and stones. Residents are asked to assist the crew when physically possible, which in turns make it possible for the crew to serve more people. Those with space and gardens are encouraged to compost aquatic weeds on site.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

At times AVMP staff may be involved in research on the lake or assisting at Sandy Bottom Park beach.

LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR HONEOYE LAKE

A treasure trove of information can be found on the Honeoye Lake Watershed Task Force's new website at: <https://www.honeoyelakewatershed.org>
Here you can learn about lake history, water quality, actions to protect and improve the lake, the latest research, educational resources, the key watershed planning documents guiding management actions, and more.

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

Sincerely,
Betsy and Randy
Honeoye Lake AVMP Team
at Ontario County Planning Department

<p><u>Question, Concern, Suggestion?</u></p> <p>Tel: (585) 396-4458</p> <p>Email: infoweeds@co.ontario.ny.us</p> <p>Website: www.co.ontario.ny.us/honeoyelake</p>
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