

Monthly Supervisor's Report: July 2015

The latest updates from the desk of Richmond Town Supervisor Ralph Angelo:

Lake Quality & Weed Harvesting Program

As of month end, algae is beginning to appear on Honeoye Lake. It is recommended that swimmers avoid contact with any floating rafts of algae. While localized conditions can change quickly depending on wind and currents, please note that the swim area at Sandy Bottom Beach is subject to state requirements surrounding temporary beach closures and testing for the presence of blue green algae. To confirm the current status of the beach and read more about the testing process, [visit the town's website.](#)

Ontario County began aquatic weed harvesting activity early this month, pulling an estimated 120 wet tons of vegetation from the lake. The Honeoye Lake Aquatic Vegetation Management Program aims to reduce "nuisance vegetation" that impedes recreational use of the lake, and to remove phosphorus that can feed excessive plant growth and algae.

Harvesting operations have focused largely on the south end of the lake, where Eurasian milfoil is dominant at this time of the year. Operators also worked to skim floating debris and clear the shoreline at the Sandy Bottom Beach swim area, where floating weed fragments can capture algae blooms and impact usage. Based on seasonal growth patterns and harvesting operations to date, it is likely that eelgrass fragments collected from the surface and shoreline have been generated by recreational use (prop chop) at the north end of the lake. Eelgrass will become more dominant at the south end of the lake as the season progresses.

County planners are currently evaluating resource distribution and the purchase of additional equipment that can be used to capture more aquatic weed fragments for coming seasons. Residents that are requesting immediate harvesting or pickup of shoreline fragments should contact Ontario County's harvesting staff at (585) 396-4458.

To read more harvesting season updates, visit the [Honeoye Lake Aquatic Vegetation Management Program News Flash page](#). Residents can receive email alerts for newly published updates by signing up at Ontario County's [Notify Me page](#).

Highway

In the aftermath of intense storm events, the Richmond Highway Department is working to replace a large number of culverts on East Lake Road. To date, six culverts have been replaced, including one large pipe by the Trident Marine. An

additional 19 culverts are scheduled for replacement, from the Wilson Point area south.

East Lake Road will be closed to through traffic during each culvert replacement. Work is scheduled to begin at 7 am, and to be completed by 4 pm. To stay informed of the date and location of upcoming closures, please watch for road signs and check [the home page of the town's website](#).

Contractors completed work this month on a major culvert replacement on Abbey Road. This project, completed under the oversight of the town's engineering firm, was designed to support the large volumes of storm water that flow through this location.

Motorists should watch for barriers placed on Pinewood Hill Road, where storm runoff has caused erosion near a deep gully. County engineers have worked with the OCSWD to prepare preliminary cost estimates and recommendations for repairs for this area and two other locations in the town.

Flood Recovery & Mitigation

On July 22nd, the Town of Richmond hosted a meeting with NYS Senator Rich Funke, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Ontario County's Emergency Management and other local officials to discuss strategies to mitigate future flood damage. The group also discussed options for covering the cost of emergency repairs that are not budgeted at the local level or eligible for federal emergency funding. [View a video about this effort on the Town of Richmond's home page](#).

Richmond's Highway Department is currently working with the DEC and the Ontario County Soil & Water Conservation District (OCSWCD) to remove gravel bars and trees along Mill Creek and the Honeoye Lake Outlet, reducing the likelihood of damage for future storm events.

Status of Water Projects

- **East Lake Road:** Significant progress has been made this month in obtaining the remaining easements needed to move forward with the project. The project's funding team, special counsel and town representatives will meet in early August to discuss the timeline for bond funding. It is anticipated that the project can go to bid in December, with construction to begin in March 2016. An updated preliminary schedule can now be viewed on the [East Lake Road project page](#). Please note that this schedule is subject to change.

- **Ashley/White Road:** This project is awaiting final approvals from agencies that are required to review the project plans. It is anticipated that the project can go to bid later this summer.
- **Big Tree Road:** The NYS Department of Health, Chatfield Engineers and Stu Brown Associates are continuing to work with residents who support a water district to discuss potential grant opportunities. The goal is to identify a clear funding path that would reduce project costs to a financially feasible threshold that is likely to receive approval from the Office of the State Comptroller. Adjusting boundaries of the potential district may also be discussed, as some residents have indicated that they are not interested in pursuing a project.

Community Events

A big thank you to all local organizations and community members who supported Honeoye's annual Independence Day celebration. This year's fireworks display drew many compliments, and one of the biggest crowds to date.