

GET ON BOARD FOR A HEALTHY LAKE!

DON'T ACCIDENTALLY FERTILIZE THE LAKE THIS SPRING!



Join the efforts to keep Chautauqua Lake healthy and beautiful this summer!

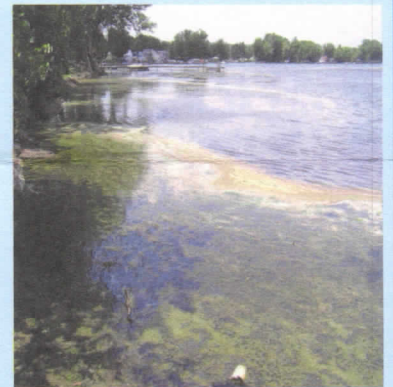
Dear Chautauqua Lake Watershed Property Owner,

Much work is being done by both local organizations and land-owners to reduce the nutrients that are entering Chautauqua Lake from public wastewater treatment plants, private on-site septic systems, farms and eroding stream banks in the Chautauqua Lake watershed. Did you know:

- Well over \$1.5 million dollars will be invested in stream bank erosion control projects on Chautauqua Lake tributaries over the next two years.
- The Chautauqua Utility District is to construct a new wastewater treatment plant that will be highly efficient at removing phosphorus.

Sewer District has received approval to upgrade its wastewater treatment plant to more efficiently remove phosphorus.

- The County and lake sewer districts are seeking funding to complete public sewers around the one-third of Chautauqua Lake that remains unsewered.
- The County will soon begin mandatory inspections of onsite wastewater treatment systems (private septic systems, aeration systems, seepage pits, etc.) where the system or structure served is within 250 feet of a lake. (This is an important initiative to arrest health threats to swimmers and drinking waters!)
- Dozens of lakeshore property owners have established shoreline buffer “no-mow” zones of native vegetation to protect against erosion and absorb nutrients before they reach the lake.



You can help fight algae blooms by making good property management decisions.

As you can see, many people are working hard to protect and enhance our lakes and streams. WON'T YOU JOIN THESE EFFORTS?

By making good property management decisions, you too can get on board for healthy waters!

- **Minimize what you fertilize!** Avoid regular treatments of your lawn with fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides. If you do fertilize your lawn, please have it tested first to see exactly which nutrients it needs and make applications in late summer or fall to promote healthy turf root growth rather than in the spring and early summer when it can promote weed growth in your lawn and algae and aquatic plant growth in our waterways. If your lawn has serious weed or pest problems, consult with a knowledgeable local landscaping firm or nursery to diagnose and properly treat it. Herbicide and pesticide treatments, which can be toxic to many beneficial plants and animals, should only be done when weeds or pests reach a damaging level, not annually.



(photo by Paul Lord)

- **Be a Pooper-Scooper!** Dogs are wonderful companions, but dog feces can add significant amounts of nutrients and potentially disease-producing germs to our ground waters and waterways. If you have a dog, please scoop the poop, bag it, and place in the garbage or flush down the toilet. Please be considerate of both your neighbors and your waterways!

• **Keep Stormwater Clean!** Storm drains discharge directly into the closest waterway. Keep lawn clippings, leaves, motor oil, household cleaners, pesticides and other toxic substances out of storm drains.

- **Don't Mow, Let It Grow!** Plan your landscaping to enhance your yard for water quality protection. birds and other wild animals. Start

