

2022 Annual Report

It's amazing what can be accomplished during these tough times, and it's all because of the support of our membership and community-at-large.

Invasive Species

Last September, we contracted Darrin Fresh Water Institute to conduct an Aquatic Plant Assessment of Lake Algonquin. Lawrence Eichler, research scientist, conducted the survey and what follows is part of his final report summary:

"Lake Algonquin supports a diverse native plant community with twenty-three submersed species, three rooted floating-leaf species and six native emergent species. One of the submersed species is an exotic, invasive aquatic plant, Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), first confirmed in Lake Algonquin in 2002."

"At this level of infestation, the impact of Eurasian watermilfoil on native species is limited, however left unchecked the potential exists for expansive growth. The current survey results should continue to provide a baseline from which to assess future impacts of both Eurasian watermilfoil growth and management activities."

This survey was also critically important for obtaining the necessary permit from the Adirondack Park Agency.

Over the winter a search for a reputable Diver Assisted Suction Harvester (DASH) hand harvesting diving company began. Only five companies were available to choose from and only two were DASH diving companies. Written proposals were requested, and the board voted to hire AE Commercial Diving Services. Chris Sheldon is the owner and president of AE Commercial Diving Services.

Through the months of May and June, we developed an Adirondack Park Agency's permit application for the hand-harvesting of Eurasian Milfoil in our lake. It was quite involved. First, we got the township's permission to perform this work on the lake. At our request, we also received a strong support letter from Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District for our work. Then, we check with NYSDEC to see if they needed a permit to perform this work and their response was that we did not. We also had to demonstrate that the majority of lakeshore property owners support us. Through our membership drive we ultimately achieved 51% support of residents with properties directly on the shoreline. It

was a significant amount of hard work, but in the end, we were granted our permit.

Work to remove this invasive aquatic plant is slated to begin at the end of August or the beginning of September. This will be just the beginning of the effort to control the spread of this invasive. Four days of professional divers (DASH) is all we can afford for this year. Hopefully, we will raise enough money to expand the number days of this service in the future.

Shoreline Stabilization

Last year's hydroseeding of the Cave Banks is holding up very well given the drought conditions that we have been experiencing this year. Additionally, several tree saplings were planted this spring to help stabilize the shoreline.

Debris Removal

Lake debris removal continued this year. Just as an example of this ongoing effort, during June and July the following were removed:

- 1 Large log with stump
- 3 Long 8" diameter logs
- 1 Stump
- 1 12" Diameter log/12' length
- 3 Miscellaneous logs
- 1 12"Diameter log/10' length
- 1 Construction fence

We are all proud of all our accomplishments we have made in our first two years as a non-profit. Through many hours of donated time by board members, volunteers and membership, we are making a difference.

"One individual cannot possibly make a difference, alone. It is individual efforts, collectively, that make noticeable difference – all the difference in the world!"

Dr. Jane Goodall

John Hoekstra, President

Friends of Lake Algonquin

