

The Lake Iroquois Monitor

Research, education and action for a healthy lake

Volume VIII, No. 1 Spring 2015

<http://www.lakeiroquois.org/>

New Septic System Design and Approval Process

For lake property owners in need of a new/upgraded septic system, there are State approvals required by the Drinking Water and Ground Water Protection Division of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation.

In the case where a failed system is being replaced, the State requires the new system be designed to meet the “best fit” for the property.

If it is a new septic system on an undeveloped lot, the State design requirements are more stringent than “best fit”. Many systems require a “pre-treatment” of the liquids before they enter the leach field. Pre-Treatment systems must be registered with the state, inspected annually, and the inspection report filed with the State.

In all cases, the objective is to have a system that does not pollute the lake, and that does not affect wells on your property or your neighbors’ property. Here are the

recommended steps:

1. Hire a qualified engineer to site and design a system

- Licensed by the VT Dept of Environmental Conservation: <http://drinkingwater.vt.gov/designerlicense/pdf/sitechlist.pdf>
- Fee will cover siting, testing the soil, designing the system, checking with neighboring properties, ensuring that wells are not affected
- Will arrange for on-site inspection and approval by the State

2. Approval by the State - VT Department of Environmental Conservation

- Drinking Water and Ground water Protection Division
- Essex Regional Office covers Williston, Hinesburg, St George, and Richmond (engineer will contact on your behalf)
- The approval letter is sent to owner, engineer, and Town Office for recording

3. Find a Contractor

- Ask Engineer for a list of contractors –

ones who:

- Successfully installed approved systems
 - They have worked with in the past on approved systems
 - Get Estimates - at least 2 or 3 contractors
- ### 5. Select a Contractor
- Cost is one big factor, of course
 - Past work in the area
 - How many and what trees have to be cut
 - Run-off protection plan during construction
 - Replanting plan after installation to control run off long term
- ### 6. Up Front Deposit
- ### 7. Contractor Does Installation
- ### 8. Engineer Inspects During Construction - The engineer’s reputation and standing with the State is on the line
- ### 9. System Tested When Completed
- ### 10. Engineer Certifies to the State that Work is Complete to Approved Plan
- ### 11. Final Payment to Contractor

Happy Flushing!

MILFOIL

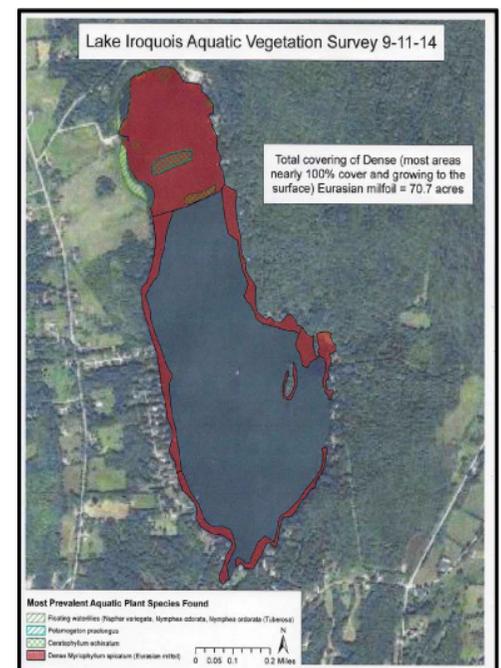
The Lake Iroquois Association continues to be concerned about the health of our lake and the impact of milfoil on its health. Last summer the Association hired Northeast Aquatic Research to perform an Aquatic Plant Survey of the lake to measure the overall plant species diversity in the lake as well as to determine an accurate, up to date, estimate of the coverage of Eurasian Milfoil in the lake. The results were published in a report to us on February 11, 2015.

Eurasian Milfoil was first reported in the lake 25 years ago in 1990. It now covers 70 acres of the 244 acre lake. Plants can generally grow in water up to a depth of 14 feet, which encompasses what is called a littoral zone of 105 acres. Milfoil has therefore

infested about 67% of the area in which it is generally considered capable of growing. It can grow at greater depths when there is greater water clarity.

The report also included a survey of the other plant species in Lake Iroquois. Since 1984 forty five species have been found at one time or another in the lake. The September 2014 survey found only 23 species. Four other species may have been present along the shoreline but that area was not the focus of this study. Additional species could be present but not detected because they are no longer present in sufficient amounts to be detectable in this kind of survey. The overall conclusion, though, is that there are fewer species in the lake as a result of the invasion of Eurasian Milfoil.

Once Milfoil becomes present in a lake it has been found to be virtually



Greeters Will be Back for Summer 2015

Neither rain, nor wind, nor hot sun nor grumpy boaters can keep the LIA greeters from their appointed task. The greeters at the Lake Iroquois State Boat Launch have been the public face of the Lake Iroquois Association for the past six summers and have greeted boaters with courtesy (even grumpy boaters), service (free boat inspections) and educational material. It has been our most consistently successful program in preventing additional invasive species from entering the lake.

The Lake Iroquois Association recruited greeters for the new season through Front Porch Forum and word of mouth.

LIA Membership and Events

LIA seeks new and renewed memberships from all who are interested in our mission to protect and improve the waters of Lake Iroquois. Visit our website [www.lakeiroquois.org], write or contact any Board member to begin or renew your annual membership (Single \$25; Family \$50)

- Come to the Pine Shore Progressive Dinner – a FUNdraiser for LIA projects. Thursday, May 28; 6:30 PM. Starts at 545 Pine Shore Drive. Suggested donation \$50. RSVP: Meg@meghandler.com
- Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) information and monitoring session: Monday, June 1, 3 PM at 484 Pine Shore Drive.

LIA thank you goes out to volunteers who have helped with lake buoys: Chip Wright, Dan Sharpe, Pete Mumford, Dick Phillips and Ernie Rossi.

Milfoil con't.

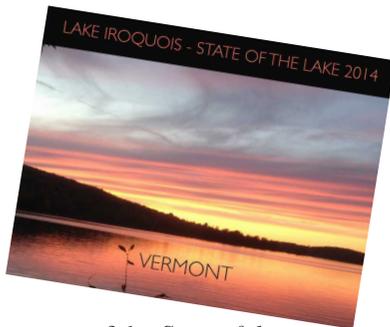
impossible to remove completely. The only action to be taken is to develop a long term management plan that attempts to reduce and then stabilize the existence of the invasive plant.

The various control methods approved for use in Vermont include mechanical harvesting, hand pulling, diver assisted suction harvesting, milfoil weevils, whole lake chemical treatment, and partial lake chemical treatment. Each method has its advantages and drawbacks and own inherent cost structures. An effective state approved management plan will require a minimum five year projection involving multiple methods of control.

The Lake Iroquois Association would like to use this report as a beginning basis for community discussion in the development of a long term management plan. A successful plan will require the financial support of the lake community as well as the surrounding towns and the state.

Despite whatever rumors you might hear, the Lake Iroquois Association does NOT take a position for or against any particular use of the lake such as water skiing or power boating. Rather, our sole focus is on the health of the lake ecosystem and educating all users in best practices in order to protect and improve the water quality of the lake.

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Get your copy of the *State of the Lake 2014* Report.

