



## Lake Iroquois Association

PO Box 569, Hinesburg, VT 05461

*Research, education, and action for a healthy lake*

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December 29, 2015

Trevor Lashua  
Town Administrator  
Town of Hinesburg  
10632 VT Route 116  
Hinesburg VT 05461

Dear Trevor,

The Lake Iroquois Association (LIA) seeks collaborators and contributors to work to improve the water quality of Lake Iroquois. Lake Iroquois comprises 244 acres and of this 70.7 acres is infested with Eurasian Watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum* L.) a non-native aquatic plant. First detected in 1990 near the fishing access, invasive milfoil now blankets 67% of the 105 acre littoral zone. The milfoil has formed dense surface mats, changing the natural lake environment, out-competing and eliminating the more beneficial native aquatic plants, and severely reducing natural plant diversity within the lake. In 1984, 45 native aquatic plant species were documented in the lake but by 2014 only 33 native species could be found (a 27% decline). In addition to choking out native plant species, dense milfoil weed beds are poor spawning areas for fish thus reducing native fish populations. In the shallower southern portions of Lake Iroquois dense surface mats of milfoil are making fishing, boating and swimming virtually impossible. It is also important to note that the lake is a headwater of the LaPlatte River basin and part of the Lake Champlain watershed. Cleaner water bodies upstream mean cleaner water throughout the watershed.

Lake Iroquois is a unique natural jewel within Hinesburg, receiving thousands of visits each year from Hinesburg residents to the Lake Iroquois Recreation District (LIRD) beach property and the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Access. It is a natural amenity for the town of Hinesburg which has no public pool. The lake is a popular destination for swimming, fishing, boating, and skating.

Property values in northern Hinesburg are elevated by their proximity and access to the lake. Waterfront properties, with a combined value of over \$22 million, contribute in excess of \$485,000 in taxes to the town annually. Additional properties with access to the lake, properties in the lake watershed and those with a view of the lake contribute significantly more. Studies show New England lake waterfront properties with infestations of invasive species can suffer a reduction in property value by 10-40%.

[http://www.moultonborough.org/Pages/MoultonboroughNH\\_BComm/Milfoil/econ%20imp%20of%20milfoi](http://www.moultonborough.org/Pages/MoultonboroughNH_BComm/Milfoil/econ%20imp%20of%20milfoi)

The Lake Iroquois Association is preparing a long-term management plan and seeking co-applicants and funding for state permits to reduce the amount of Eurasian Watermilfoil in the lake and to improve the natural environment of the lake for all users. Options for reducing and managing the milfoil infestation include diver assisted suction harvesting and selective targeted treatment with the Vermont state approved herbicide Renovate (Triclopyr). The estimated cost for five years of control is \$388,000, including some capital costs for suction harvesting equipment. In order to succeed, the control measures must be sustained over the long term. We seek an annual contribution from the town of Hinesburg of \$30,000 for this effort. This new request and prior allocations via the Conservation Commission combined are less than 7.5% of the taxes paid by waterfront properties. We are also soliciting contributions from neighboring municipalities, grants from the state of Vermont, contributions from lake users and property owners, and we will be continuing our many fundraising activities.

Some examples of what other lakes around the state are doing to control milfoil are:

**Lake Dunmore:** uses primarily suction harvesting to control milfoil and is preparing to use herbicides to reduce costs and improve efficacy. In 2014 the Dunmore milfoil control budget was \$160,000, with sources broken down as follows:

\$33,600 – Towns of Salisbury and Leicester (increased to \$19k each annually for 2015)

\$35,200 – Lake Association Memberships and additional gifts

\$46,400 – State grants

\$44,800 – “Lakes Alive” capital /Fundraising efforts

**Lake Morey:** following a large \$325,000 initial treatment, Lake Morey is on a maintenance program with a three-year cycle. The town of Fairlee contributes \$12-16k in low treatment years and approximately \$50,000 every three years when a large treatment is due.

**Indian Brook Reservoir:** had phenomenal success with a treatment of Renovate in 2011. VT DEC contributed \$27,500 and the Town of Essex \$3,000 annually over several years.

We have attached additional information concerning the herbicide Renovate (Triclopyr) and an updated cost estimate, along with links to further information on treatment, Vermont state grants, and the permitting process. As we mentioned at the meetings with the Selectboard on the Dec. 21, this is a long-term project. The permits we are applying for from the state are good for 5 years for herbicide treatment and 10 years for suction harvesting. The state permit process includes public hearings and opportunities for input and further discussion. We will also be applying for grant funding and developing a fundraising plan. All funds received from the towns, grants, and other fundraising activities for the milfoil project will go toward the costs of the project. The LIA has no paid staff. All of the work of the association is done by volunteers.

While the cost can seem high, the cost for doing nothing is far greater. Milfoil once established in a water body will not disappear. It will continue to spread, with the potential of choking the entire littoral zone and beyond. In that eventuality, the lake will become nearly useless for recreation, the natural ecology of the watershed will be severely disrupted, a valuable asset to the town will be lost and along with that will come a considerable loss in property values.

We are happy to provide additional information and to answer further questions.

Sincerely,

Pat Suozzi  
President, Lake Iroquois Association  
Resident, Town of Hinesburg

Jamie Carroll  
Chair, LIA Milfoil Working Group  
Resident, Town of Hinesburg

Attachments:

Triclopyr Fact Sheet – Washington State

Triclopyr Fact Sheet – Wisconsin

Updated Cost Estimate

Links to Further Information

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

These links have information from the manufacturer:

Renovate OTF:

<http://www.sepro.com/default.php?page=renovateotf>

Renovate OTF Label:

[http://www.sepro.com/documents/RenovateOTF\\_Label.pdf](http://www.sepro.com/documents/RenovateOTF_Label.pdf)

Renovate OTF MSDS:

[http://www.sepro.com/documents/RenovateOTF\\_MSDS.pdf](http://www.sepro.com/documents/RenovateOTF_MSDS.pdf)

Funding

ANR Grant in Aid [http://www.vtwaterquality.org/lakes/htm/lp\\_grantinaid.htm](http://www.vtwaterquality.org/lakes/htm/lp_grantinaid.htm)

Permitting

[http://www.vtwaterquality.org/permits/htm/pm\\_anc.htm](http://www.vtwaterquality.org/permits/htm/pm_anc.htm)