

Dear Cazenovia Community Members,

10 December 2008

We are writing to inform you about important steps which are underway to address the health of Cazenovia Lake and to solicit your support and participation in this vital process.

On November 15th, the Cazenovia Lake Association sponsored a “Lake Summit” which brought together experts to address many of the prospective solutions to our lake’s Eurasian watermilfoil problem. More than 200 community members attended the summit including key leaders from the Town of Cazenovia, Village of Cazenovia, Cazenovia Lake Association, Cazenovia Lake Foundation, Greater Cazenovia Area Chamber of Commerce, Cazenovia Area Community Development Association and other stakeholders.

On November 19th, the Lake Watershed Council (an intermunicipal body formed by the Town and Village of Cazenovia and the Lake Association) along with other community leaders met to discuss the summit and reach consensus on an action plan. Based on the available evidence and the experience of other communities, the Lake Watershed Council concluded that a phased application of the herbicide Renovate (Triclopyr) in conjunction with other preventive and corrective measures is the most appropriate solution for Cazenovia Lake. The Cazenovia Village Board of Trustees, Cazenovia Town Council and Cazenovia Lake Association Board of Directors endorsed this proposal at their December meetings and have begun the process of applying to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation for a permit.

The proposed action plan includes a phased three year application of Renovate to the most heavily infested portions of the lake (approximately 400 of the lake’s 1100 acres). Approximately 200 acres will be treated during years one and two with a reapplication to the total area, as needed, in year three. The estimated cost of this solution is approximately \$200,000 per year initially, with an investment of about one million dollars over a 10-year period. Pending availability of funds, the LWC will apply for a grant from the DEC. Additional grants will be pursued and limited funding will be available from local governments. However, private contributions will be an important source of funds for this initiative. A special campaign will be announced soon. All of the money raised by this campaign will be targeted exclusively for this action plan.

There is no “silver bullet” to restoring the health of Cazenovia Lake. The Town and Village and the Lake Association are committed to implementing effective measures to reduce the flow of nutrients into the lake, to improve storm water management and to prevent the introduction of new invasive species. Other management techniques including mats, hand-pulling and selective harvesting will almost certainly be required to manage the weed growth in future years. However, the current conditions are such that these measures alone or in combination will not restore the lake. A chemical treatment program appears to be one of the only potentially effective ways to get the Eurasian watermilfoil population to a point where it can be successfully managed.

We heartily encourage your participation in the process leading to the implementation of this solution. An extensive public information and outreach campaign will begin soon and we welcome your questions, comments and input. As a community, we have studied the growing problem of Eurasian watermilfoil extensively over a period of years. Many citizens are telling us that the time has come for action. We applaud all those who have worked so hard to bring us to the position of informed consensus and urge the community to support the proposed action plan to restore the health of Cazenovia Lake.

Sincerely, Members of the Lake Watershed Council
Russell Brownback, Elizabeth Moran, Stanley Maziuk, Kurt Wheeler, Bill Zupan

