

Invasive Species Report to the Town of Caroga

February 14, 2024

- A.** With the award of the \$50,000 grant to do a Pilot study with ProcellaCOR, we worked with Glen Sullivan of Ready Scout LLC and have submitted the required applications to the DEC and APA to obtain the permits needed to apply the ProcellaCOR. The 3 target area's remain the location known as the "Football Field" off Vrooman Rd. W. Caroga Lake, the channel where the Marina boats are docked and the area between the channel and the beginning of the outlet channel.

We had the bay off Avery Rd and the bay at the NYS Campsite boat launch mapped in case we wanted to expand the pilot but as of now there are no plans to include these areas. This will require us to spend additional time with the harvester in the campsite area to keep the milfoil short and out of range of propellers. This can be difficult as the wind in that location can cause difficulty with the Harvester.

The application of the ProcellaCOR will be between end of May, early June depending on weather and growth of the Milfoil.
- B.** Communicating with the divers, indicates we should have 8 to start the season. Abby Olm and Chance Montana will not be returning but 2 certified divers from Caroga Lake approached me last all that they would like to join the team if we had any openings. I have contacted one who will be filling out his application within the next week or 2 and waiting for a return call from the other. Have not yet reached out to the tenders.
- C.** We purchased 50' of vacuum hose to replace damaged hose and add some length to existing undamaged hose. Damage co.es from the hose getting nicked by the propellor. Concern was cost but Grainger had the correct hose for \$900.00, which was half of what I was told to expect. With the addition of Propeller guards last season, damage from the propellor should be eliminated.
- D.** Preparing the Harvester for the season will begin in late may and ready for use the beginning of June, weather dependent. Divers when in cold water, even with a wet suit, can become Hypothermic (Low body temperature) and rely on warm air temperature when out of the water, to warm themselves. Cold water and cold air, limits or prevents dive time.
- E.** Involved in 3 hours of Virtual roundtable discussions sponsored by the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program, (APIPP). The seminar provides updates from agencies and organizations dealing with aquatic invasive species identification, watercraft inspections, tree invasive species and public engagement in the projects.

F. I will be doing a virtual session this Friday with Brian Green who oversees APIPP to use computer software for tracking our Milfoil locations and removal. This was on my agenda for last year but with all the downtime we had, I was unable to get to it.

G. Grant application for Rapid Identification of Milfoil using enhanced technology equipment was not awarded because we have had Milfoil for longer than 3 years. The grant emphasis was on lakes with no or new Milfoil. With our 30 year history we scored no points on any question related to new Milfoil. I am continuing to have conversations with the DEC concerning this limitation in the hopes they will put out grant to help those lakes with a major Milfoil problems.

Respectfully submitted

Walter Hogan

Director Invasive Species Program