

## 2016 Cayuga County AVC Combined Harvest Total

Volume (yd <sup>3</sup> )	Dry Weight (lbs)	Nitrogen (N) lbs	Phosphorus (P) lbs	Potassium (K) lbs
2,110	274,300	5,759	489	3,058

The Harvesting season began with hot, dry conditions and ended the same way. The vegetation growth was strong during the early season as a result of warm water and plenty of sunlight. Little rain also contributed to lower than usual lake levels, which also contributed to higher volumes.

Unfortunately, the lower water levels also created access issues with the program. A few historically harvested locations were off limits to our boats, due to insufficient water depth. An usual amount of floating vegetation, which was unrelated to our harvesting efforts, was also collected during the season.

### AVC Five Year Harvest Totals (Cubic Yards)

Volume (Yd <sup>3</sup> )	Owasco Lake	Cayuga Lake	Fair-Haven	Lake Como
2016	734	581	795	N/A
2015	45	306	397	53
2014	940	742	306	122
2013	1,162	428	413	76
2012	535	887	1,224	137



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## Cayuga County Aquatic Vegetation Control Program



## Program Objectives

The Cayuga County Aquatic Vegetation Control Program's objectives are to increase the accessibility and usability of the county's water bodies, while seeking to leave the lakes in the most ecologically intact manner possible. Vegetation is of the utmost importance for maintaining water quality and providing shelter for a large cross section of the aquatic life found in the water bodies.

A careful balance must be struck to meet the demands of the human uses of the lakes as well as the needs of other organisms who rely on the lake ecosystem for survival. The AVC program seeks to provide relief to areas of the County's water bodies where usability is impaired.

Cayuga County is home to a very diverse collection of water bodies. Lake Ontario defines the northern boundary of the County. Cayuga County also includes parts or all of three of the largest Finger Lakes, Cayuga, Owasco, and Skaneateles. In addition there are several smaller water bodies including Lake Como, and Otter Lake.

These water bodies are used year round by local residents and visitors alike. One of the primary uses of these water bodies is recreation. The most common complaint of individuals utilizing Cayuga County's water bodies is nuisance aquatic vegetation.

Aquatic vegetation is an unavoidable reality in the aquatic ecosystems. Nutrient inputs, solar radiation, and a ready supply of water ensure that these lakes are highly productive. From hindering navigation and swimming, to creating water and air quality issues during mass die off events, aquatic vegetation can dramatically interfere with people's use of the lake.

## 2016 Cayuga County Individual Water Body Harvest Results

### Cayuga Lake

Volume (yd <sup>3</sup> )	Dry Weight (lbs)	Nitrogen (N) lbs	Phosphorus (P) lbs	Potassium (K) lbs
581	75,530	1,586	135	842

The Northern portion of Cayuga Lake was once again heavy with vegetation growth. There was also a significant amount of floating vegetation encountered throughout the cutting areas of the Lake.

Overall, the amount of vegetation that was harvested during the 2016 season, was typical of years past. As with any waterbody there are areas where vegetation growth is heavy than others, but nothing seemed out of the ordinary.

### Otter Lake

Due to a lack of funding, the Cayuga SWCD was unable to com-

Volume (yd <sup>3</sup> )	Dry Weight (lbs)	Nitrogen (N) lbs	Phosphorus (P) lbs	Potassium (K) lbs
—	—	—	—	—

plete a harvesting on Otter Lake in 2016. We intend on returning to the Lake in 2017.



### Owasco Lake

Volume (yd <sup>3</sup> )	Dry Weight (lbs)	Nitrogen (N) lbs	Phosphorus (P) lbs	Potassium (K) lbs
734	95,420	2,003	170	1,064

The AVC Program began harvesting operations on Owasco Lake in 2016. When we began harvesting, the weeds in the North end were not too thick. However, by the time we returned to remove the boat from the water, the weed growth had accelerated significantly. We removed additional material, but to schedule constraints, we had to move out and continue to another waterbody.

We encountered a lot of floating vegetation throughout the season. Particularly in the Southern end of the Lake.

### Lake Como

Volume (yd <sup>3</sup> )	Dry Weight (lbs)	Nitrogen (N) lbs	Phosphorus (P) lbs	Potassium (K) lbs
—	—	—	—	—

Due to a lack of funding, the Cayuga SWCD was unable to complete a harvesting on Lake Como in 2016. We intend on returning to the Lake in 2017.

### Fair Haven (Little Sodus) Bay

Volume (yd <sup>3</sup> )	Dry Weight (lbs)	Nitrogen (N) lbs	Phosphorus (P) lbs	Potassium (K) lbs
795	103,350	2,170	184	1,152

Three main areas of Fair Haven Bay (FHB) continue to be highly affected by vegetative growth. They include two southern basins of the bay as well as Meadow Cove along the western side of the bay.

Cayuga SWCD operators positively identified water chestnut in Meadow Cove during the 2015 season. It was the first time it had been identified and recorded in the Bay. Staff returned to the site and removed it by hand. This season, we returned to the site and did not identify any water chestnut plants. We will continue to monitor the location every year.