



Two harvesters will fight the weeds this season
2017 Weed Harvesting Begins July 15th

The St. Albans Area Watershed Association will again operate two weed harvesters on St. Albans Bay during the summer of 2017. Weed harvesting will begin July 15th unless conditions warrant an earlier starting date. We believe that our efforts are improving water quality in the Bay.

We have again received a grant through the Aquatic Nuisance Control Grant-in-Aid Program in the amount of \$10,290.00. The City's contribution

together with contributions from the Towns of St. Albans and Georgia provide an annual budget for weed harvesting of \$30,790.00. We have performed substantial repairs and repainted the hulls on both machines. Both weed harvesters are now in very good condition and should give us many years of service.

Special thanks should be given to John Pelletier and Sons for directing the restoration and providing professional services when necessary.

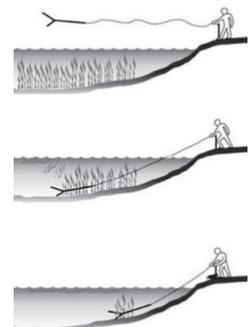
Call us to coordinate shoreline cleanup with the harvester crew!

We encourage shoreline property owners to inform Steve Cushing, weed harvesting coordinator of

problem areas you experience around the Bay. We would be very happy to work with individuals to clean the shoreline of accumulated weeds. Steve can be reached at 782-5675.

WEED RAZER Loaner Program

SAAWA has a manual weed cutter which available to SAAWA members wanting to cut weeds close to shore. It is a light, throwable device that cuts weeds as you pull the cutter back toward shore. Please contact Kate at 309-8019 if you would like to try the device.



Contributions from property owners are very much appreciated to help fund the weed harvesting program.

Contributions can be sent to:
St. Albans Area Watershed Association
P.O. Box 1567
St. Albans, VT 05478

Stormwater Workshop

This summer Amanda Holland of NCRS will again conduct a workshop on evaluating stormwater on your property. This is an interesting session, using Google Earth images to calculate the effect of a rain event, and assess the percentage of impervious surfaces and how to reduce their effect. Email us at info@saintalbanswatershed.org if you are interested in participating in this workshop.



Becoming BLUE!



SAAWA is working with Lake Champlain International (LCI) to try to expand their Blue Certification program to the St. Albans area. Becoming "Blue Certified" can help reduce stormwater runoff from your property. LCI has

expert advice for techniques to make your home, product or business watershed friendly.

If you are interested, email SAAWA at info@saintalbanswatershed.org.

Glyphosate: Increasing phosphorus runoff and toxic too?

SAAWA has raised concerns with the State of Vermont regarding the effects of the broad-spectrum herbicide glyphosate and the damage its increasing use may have created in our watershed. Sold under the name Roundup, but also used in many other herbicide formulations, farmers and property owners use glyphosate for weed control.

Despite reassurances by the manufacturer, alarms have been raised regarding the possible toxicity of this substance. Due to potential links with certain types of cancer and reproductive and developmental problems, there are ongoing efforts to ban or limit the use of glyphosate in this country. In March 2015, the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer classified glyphosate as "probably carcinogenic to humans" based on "convincing evidence that these agents cause cancer in laboratory animals." Alarmingly, the FDA detected significant levels of glyphosate in honey, oatmeal, popcorn and other common foods before they suspended their testing procedures. The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act Scientific Advisory Panel raised the carcinogenic potential of the herbicide, and EPA planned to issue related human health and ecological risk assessments this spring.

Dunsmore Road Digester Update

SAAWA is grateful that Green Mountain Power has stepped away from the Digester project, and appreciated the chance to express our concerns regarding this important local area. At this time, it looks like the digester project has been shelved.

In 2016, we met with representatives from Green Mountain Power regarding the proposed manure digester on Dunsmore Road. We were concerned about spills at the proposed sensitive location (a compromised waterway, Jewett Brook, feeding directly into the Bay) and felt trucking in additional organic matter (food waste from other sources in Franklin County) did not seem like a good idea. At that time, GMP heard our concerns but was not able to fully answer whether the digester would contribute to cleaner water in the Bay or simply create a situation enabling more cows and corn field runoff. At that time, there were no specific plans for removal of processed phosphorus from the watershed. We were able to express to GMP that this is a large investment in big farming, which has already had an adverse impact the Bay.

Application of this chemical is, unfortunately, common in the intense corn farming in our area. Not only is there runoff of the chemical itself, but the surfactants in the glyphosate solution, combined with certain metals and soil conditions, actually magnify delivery of phosphorus and other nutrients to the lake. Studies done around Lake Erie appear to connect the soaring use of glyphosate since the 1970s to a dramatic increase in nutrient runoff. In our area, this is certainly a great concern. Glyphosate may be a major yet unrecognized contributor to phosphorus runoff in our area.



Change in farming practices will be hard. "Roundup ready" GMO crops now dominate. We will continue to discuss this concern with Ag officials. In the meantime, it may be prudent, and helpful, to avoid use of glyphosate at home particularly near the lake. Look for natural methods of weed control if possible -- manual removal, mulching, organic methods, etc.

We believe this subject deserves more attention, due to widespread use in our watershed and the already compromised state of our Bay.



PO Box 1567

St. Albans, VT 05478

The SAAWA Newsletter is a publication of the Saint Albans Area Watershed Association

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Visit us on the web:

www.saawavt.org

The Board generally meets on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 5 pm. Email info@saintalbanswatershed.org for directions.

Join us!

Miscellany...

Blue Green Algae

When summer heat arrives, watch for blue green algae blooms. Although the State maintains a tracking map but it does not always reflect the situation in the water. We can help the accuracy of the site and warn others of toxic blooms by reporting blue green sightings: call 800-439-8550 (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. M- F except state holidays) After hours, email: AHS.VDHBlueGreenAlgae@vermont.gov after hours and on weekends.

St. Albans Town

We applaud the Town for the excellent work that has been done at the Bay Park to improve the shoreline as well as the park itself. The park is a wonderful resource and SAAWA strongly supports the Town's efforts to make it a great place for all area residents. Kudos!

Lighthouse

The lighthouse has been removed for much needed maintenance this season. We hope to have it spruced up and back in service soon. In the meantime, you can bring bottles to Hometown Beverage and designate them as a SAAWA donation. Thank you!

Become a Member!

The St. Albans Area Watershed Association depends on financial support from our members to continue its mission of advocating for a clean lake as well as for operation of weed harvesters in Saint Albans Bay.

Renewing your membership, becoming a new member or making a donation specifically to weed harvesting will help directly to combat invasive weed species and SAAWA believes weed harvesting helps remove excess phosphorus-producing weeds from the Bay. It will also help us press for efforts to implement additional lake clean up efforts directly affecting St. Albans Bay such as blue-green algae remediation and better land management practices.

Please complete the form below and return to:

St. Albans Area Watershed Association
PO Box 1567, St. Albans, VT 05478

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Shoreline property owner? yes no

Membership Level

\$10 Individual \$20 Family \$5 Student
(Individual, Family and Student memberships receive SAAWA newsletter)

\$50 Lake Advocate \$100 Lake Steward \$150 Business Sponsor
(SAAWA Hat) (Winslow book on Lake Champlain) (Website Link)



July 14: Invasive Species Removal Paddle Up Black Creek Swamp

The ANR has spotted growth of Water Chestnut, an invasive plant that is taking hold in the swamp behind Black Bridge. On July 14, SAAWA will accompany Ann Bove of ANR on a limited removal expedition. We will learn to identify the Water Chestnut plant and how to eradicate them. If left unchecked, they will further choke the waterway and reduce the flow.

If you are interested in participating in this paddle, please email info@saintalbanswatershed.org. Space is limited so contact us soon.

▶▶▶ You may also join or renew your membership securely online at saawavt.org

If you have an interest in becoming a SAAWA Board Member, please contact Steve Langevin, SAAWA president: info@saintalbanswatershed.org.

Join us and speak up for clean water!



PO Box 1567
St. Albans, VT 05478

www.saawavt.org

working to restore Saint Albans Bay

*stay
connected!*

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Our new page continues to grow and it is helping us to stay better connected to SAAWA members and the community at large. Please visit and 'Like' our new page: www.facebook.com/saawavt/ to stay in the loop.

