

**St. Albans Area Watershed Association
P.O. Box 1567
St. Albans, Vt. 05478**

January 12, 2025

**Cheryl Letourneau and
Town of Georgia Selectboard
47 Town Common Road, North
St. Albans, Vt. 05478**

Greetings,

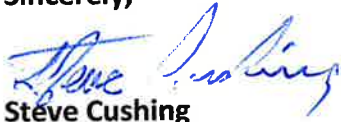
The St. Albans Area Watershed Association, Inc. again operated the Weed Harvester in St. Albans Bay this summer. The harvester was launched on July 16, 2024 and operated from July 18, 2024 thru September 15, 2024.

I have attached the 2024 Weed Harvesting Project Completion Report summarizing the total expenses and the amounts of weeds harvested.

SAAWA would like to thank the Town of Georgia for your continuing support of this effort to improve the water quality in St. Albans Bay.

I can be reached at 802-782-5675 or at cdeyak20012@yahoo.com.

Sincerely,



**Steve Cushing
Weed Harvesting Coordinator**

St. Albans Bay Weed Harvesting 2024

Mechanical Weed Harvesting

Project Completion Report Permit 2015-HO5

The St. Albans Area Watershed Association (SAAWA) began the 20th season of weed harvesting on July 18, 2024 with the launching of the large weed harvester following launching at the fishing access on Hathaway Point Road. The weed harvester, an Aquarius Systems EH-420, has a capacity of 420 bushels.

Oliver Horton was the primary operator of the weed harvester and was responsible for the pre-season and daily maintenance. Preseason maintenance began June 10, 2024. 51 hours were spent sanding and painting the haul and engine maintenance.

Funding continues to be provided by the Town of St. Albans (\$7,500.00), the City of St. Albans (\$10,500.00), the Town of Georgia (\$2,000.00).

July 18, 2023 – July 29, 2029, Areas 7 & 8, Ferrand Road and Bingham Shore Road

The Aquarius Systems EH-420 operated in this area. (see attachment A) The conditions in zones 7 & 8 showed "slight" weed infestation harvesting 3 to 4 loads per day. The lake level at the beginning of July was around 95.8 feet above sea level. By July 25th the Lake had risen to about 97 feet above sea level. Total harvest during this period was 22 loads = 9,240 bushels.

July 30, 2024 - August 12, 2024, Black Bridge & Hathaway Point Road/Areas 1 & 2

The density of weeds in this area was slight harvesting only 2 to 3 loads per day. Total loads Harvested during this period was 13 @ 420/load = 5,460 bushels.

August 13th - August 26th 2024 , Ferrand Road/Bingham Shore Road, Areas 7 & 8

The density of the weeds during this period was moderate. Started to harvest 4 to 5 loads per day. By mid-August the Lake level had gone down to 96 feet above sea level. 34 loads of weeds were harvested during this period. Total bushels = 34 x 420 = 14,280 bushels.

August 27, 2024 - September 4, 2024 Areas 3 & 4, Hathaway Point Harbor & fishing access

During this period the weed harvester worked near the fishing access and into Hathaway Point Harbor. Weed density was low. Also, during this period there were blue-green algae blooms. 1 or 2 loads a day were removed from the areas during this period. Total loads = 9 loads @ 420/load = 3,780 bushels.

September 9, 2024 – September 12, 2024, Areas 7 & 8, Ferrand Road and Bingham Shore

Oliver was only able to work part time. He harvested 2 loads per day during this period for a total of 8 loads. (8 x 420 bushels = 3,360 bushels)

September 13, 2024 – September 16, 2024.

Hauled the weed harvester on September 16 and pressure washed the machine.

Observations

A total of 86 loads of weeds were removed this season as compared to 211 loads in 2023. The lower number of loads reflects the noticeable lower density of growth in 2024. Oliver Horton worked alone for most of the season having to run the weed harvester and transport the weeds to the compost sites. The amount harvested this year compares to 2021 when 237 loads were harvested. In 2021 two operators were usually on the job each day. An additional worker would not have been cost effective this year. On most days it took more than 2 hours on average to harvest a load of weeds and an additional 30 minutes to off load the weeds at the compost site. In 2023 weed masses were blown onto the shore in areas 7 & 8 and in the area of the marina at the north end of St. Albans Bay. Very few weeds accumulated on shore in 2024. The harvester operated 36 days this year as opposed to 41 days in 2023.

It should be noted that in late August and early September calm weather accompanied by high temperatures contributed to algae blooms in the Bay. Although a significant number of weeds appeared on the surface of the water, the density of weeds was still low.

TOTAL NUMBER OF BUSHELS

36,120 BUSHELS

1 bushel of weeds weighs approximately 60 pounds x 36,120 = **2,167,200 lbs. = 1,083.6 tons**

Total number of bushels for 2023 = 88,620 = 2,658.6 tons

Total number of bushels for 2021 = 108,680 = 3,260.4 tons

Total number of bushels for 2020 = 93,140 = 2,794 tons

Total number of bushels for 2019 = 50,970 = 1,529 tons

Total number of bushels for 2018 = 139,860 = 4,196 tons

Total number of bushels for 2017 = 84,340 = 2,530 tons

Total number of bushels for 2016 = 72,400 = 2,172 tons

EXPENCES

Pay roll

\$9,852.50

Oliver Horton	239 hours @ \$35.00/Hr.	=	\$8,365.00
	(52 hours maintenance, 187 hours operation)		
Kenneth Miller	7 hours assisting launching and hauling		245.00
Total Pay-role			\$8,610.00
Volunteer Hours	Steve Cushing (75 hours)		

Repairs and Maintenance

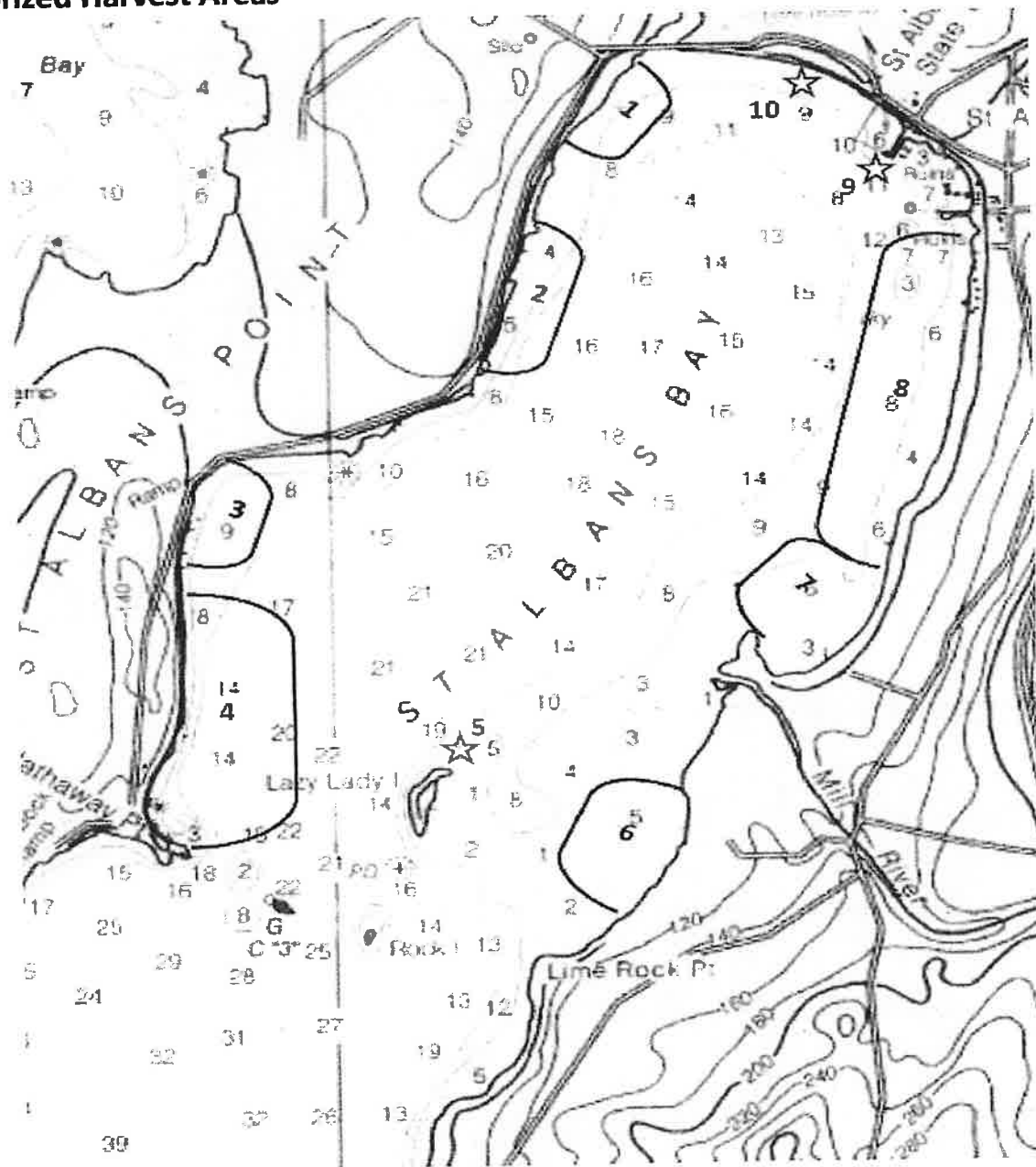
John's Auto Clinic	Welding cutter head & pressure washing	\$1,100.00
Pelletier Excavating	Repairs to access and compost site maintenance	600.00
Robert Hathaway	Diesel fuel	446.13
Parts and materials	Paint, oil filters, oil, primers, etc.	702.16
Aquarius Systems	Parts for rebuilding cutter head	3,121.34
Total Repair and Maintenance		\$5,969.63
Total Operating Expenses		\$14,579.63

Budget

Town of St. Albans	\$7,500.00
Town of Georgia	\$2,000.00
City of St. Albans	\$10,500.00
Total	\$20,000.00

10 V.S.A. § 1455(h) – Public Notification. An opportunity for the public to review and comment on this application was provided in accordance with the Department of Environmental Conservation's *Public Review and Comment Procedures for Aquatic Nuisance Control Permit Applications and General Permits*, adopted per 3 V.S.A. Chapter 25, on January 30, 2003.

4 Authorized Harvest Areas



- 1-4 & 6-8 Demarcates harvest area
- 5 - North of Lazy Lady Island
- ★ 9 - St. Albans Town Dock
- ★ 10 - St. Albans Bay Park Beach