

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

July 6, 2022

**Douglas Bergstrom, Town Administrator and
Town of Georgia Selectboard
47 Town Common Road. North
St. Albans, Vt. 05478**

Dear Doug.,

The St. Albans Area Watershed Association, Inc. has conducted weed harvesting in St. Albans Bay for at least 20 years. The Town of Georgia has been an annual contributor to funding the weed harvesting program. Funding has also been provided by the City of St. Albans And the Town of St. Albans.

I have been coordinating weed harvesting for those 20 plus years. I will no-longer be able to continue doing that. The St. Albans Area Watershed Association no-longer has an active membership. The association consists of a treasure and myself as weed harvesting coordinator. For the past several years our only function has been to coordinate and fund weed harvesting. I have hoped that someone will pick up the reins and continue this effort. Perhaps the Town of Georgia, the Town of St. Albans and the City of St. Albans could continue this program. The Town of Georgia residents residing on Ferrand Road have benefitted more from weed harvesting than other areas on the Bay.

The weed harvester and tractor which are now stored at the old St. Albans Town garage, would be transferred to the entity doing the operation. I would be available to help in any way I could to keep the operation running.

I have attached the 2025 Annual weed Harvesting Report which summarizes the costs and a general overview of the operation. I believe that removing the weeds has greatly improved the water quality in the Bay.

Sincerely,



Steve Cushing

Weed harvesting coordinator

St. Albans Bay Weed Harvesting 2025

Mechanical Weed Harvesting

Project Completion Report Permit 2015-HO5

The St. Albans Area Watershed Association (SAAWA) began the 21st season of weed harvesting on July 21, 2025 with the launching of the large weed harvester at the fishing access on Hathaway Point Road. There was a delay in launching because the Agency of Natural Resources had not renewed the Mechanical Weed Harvesting Permit by July 15th, the approved dated of beginning weed harvesting. 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 16, 2025. 28 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 21, 2025 – August 5, 2025, 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 "moderate" weed infestation harvesting 5 to 7 loads per day. The lake level on July 21, 2025 was around 95 feet above sea level. . Total harvest during this period was 53 loads = 22,260 bushels.

August 6, 2025 - August 8, 202, Black Bridge & Hathaway Point/Areas 1, 2, 3 & 4

On August 5th an attempt was made to harvest in the area of Black Bridge (Area 1). Because of the low lake level we were unable to bring the weed harvester in to shore to off load. The density of weeds in this area was "slight". Oliver continued to Hathaway Point Harbor (Area 4). The weed density was "moderate". 5 and 6 loads were harvested per day. Total loads Harvested during this period was 16 @ 420/load = 6,720 bushels.

August 11th

Oliver harvested 1 load before having a mechanical breakdown on the trailer. Parts had to be ordered from Aquarius Systems and mounting brackets had to be re-installed. The trailer was out of service from August 8 to August 26. 420 Bushels

August 26, 2025 - September 5, 2025 Areas 7 & 8, Ferrand Road and Bingham Shore, Rd.

The weed density was still "moderate" in areas 7 & 8. The Lake level continued to drop reaching 94.14 on September 9, 2025 42 loads were removed from the areas during this period. Total loads = 42 loads @ 420/load = 17,640 bushels.

September 8, 2025 Hathaway Point/Areas 3 & 4

The weed harvester worked for one day in Areas 3 & 4 producing one load. Density of the weeds was slight. One load = 420 bushels.

September 10, 2025 – September 14, 2025 Areas 7 & 8

The weed harvester moved back to the Ferrand Road/Bingham Shore Road. Weed density continued to be moderate. The lake level on September 14, 2025 was 93.27. Total number of loads harvested during this period was 27 which equals 11,340 bushels of weeds.

Observations

A total of 140 loads of weeds were removed this year. 186 loads of weeds were removed in the 2024 season and 211 loads in 2023. The lower number of loads reflects the noticeable lower density of growth in both 2024 and 2025. However, because of the late start date and the period when the trailer was inoperable, Oliver worked only 31 days as opposed to 36 days of operation in 2024 and 41 days of operation in 2023.. Oliver Horton worked alone for most of the season having to run the weed harvester and transport the weeds to the compost sites.

Lower density of weeds in most areas may be attributed declining water level throughout the summer. The last two winters have seen shorter length of ice coverage on the Bay. The Bay has experienced less than three months of ice coverage during the last two years with lower than average lake levels.

TOTAL NUMBER OF BUSHELS

58,800 BUSHELS

1 bushel of weeds weighs approximately 60 pounds x 58,800 = 3,528,000 lbs. = 176 tons organic matter (It's calculated that a bushel of weeds by weight is 105 organic matter)

Total number of bushels for 2024 = 58,800 = 176.4 tons

Total number of bushels for 2023 = 88,620 = 265.86 tons

Total number of bushels for 2021 = 108,680 = 326.04 tons

Total number of bushels for 2020 = 93,140 = 279.4 tons

Total number of bushels for 2019 = 50,970 = 152.9 tons

Total number of bushels for 2018 = 139,860 = 419.6 tons

Total number of bushels for 2017 = 84,340 = 253.0 tons

Total number of bushels for 2016 = 72,400 = 217.2 tons

EXPENCES

Pay roll			\$9,012.50
Oliver Horton	247.5 hours @ \$35,00/Hr.	=	\$8,662.50
	(52 hours maintenance, 187 hours operation)		
Kenneth Miller	10 hours assisting launching and hauling	=	350.00
Total Pay-role			\$9,012.50
Volunteer Hours	Steve Cushing (75 hours)		

Repairs and Maintenance

John's Auto Clinic	Pressure washing	\$200.00
Pelletier Excavating	Repairs to access and compost site maintenance	350.00
Robert Hathaway	Diesel fuel	526.85
Santee Oil Company	Hydraulic Oil	393.00
Oliver Horton	Gas	9.08
Ken's Mobile Repair	Repairing fuel lines on tractor	130.00
Parts and materials	Paint, oil filters, oil, primers, etc.	978.68
Bonnett's	Straightening parts	40.00

Total Repair and Maintenance **\$2,826.61**

Total Operating Expenses **\$11,838.71**

Workman's comp.and liability Insurance **\$3,204.00**

Total expense for 2025 **\$15,042.71**

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

Note: Monies not spent are held in reserve with the intention of purchasing a new weed harvester to replace the 1985 Aquarius Systems EH-420.