

Ti and Crown Point

Towns asked to fight milfoil

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TICONDEROGA — The towns of Ticonderoga and Crown Point have been asked to help fight milfoil in Eagle Lake.

The Eagle Lake Property Owners, Inc. has approached each town board asking them to become "lead agents" in the application of a herbicide in the lake.

"Lead agent" status means one or both towns will prepare and sign the necessary permits for the herbicide use, will provide insurance for the project and help in notifying community members about the effort, according to Rolf Tiedemann of ELPOI.

Eagle Lake is located partially in the town of Ticonderoga and partially in the town of Crown Point.

The herbicide application will be funded through the Crown Point Invasive Species Grant. There is to be no cost to local taxpayers.

"It is the (ELPOI) project team's hope that both towns be co-lead agents on this

project as both towns share in the responsibility of managing lands surrounding this beautiful lake," Tiedemann said.

Ticonderoga and Crown Point have served as lead agents on previous Eagle Lake projects such as obtaining permits for hand harvesting of milfoil and three successful grant applications.

The herbicide to be used is Renovate OTF. It has been successfully used in other lakes, has no adverse environmental impact and is approved by the state Department of Environmental Conservation, Tiedemann said.

Since its discovery in Eagle Lake in the 1970s eurasian water milfoil has been an ongoing problem, Tiedemann said. The ELPOI has spent \$118,000 on hand harvesting milfoil and installation of maps aimed at reducing milfoil growth, he said.

"We're just scratching the surface of what's necessary," Tiedemann said. "This will be an on-going process for many, many years."

Tiedemann said there are 90 residents living on Eagle Lake and all have verbally agreed to the use of the herbicide.

About 15 of those people use water from the lake from household needs, he said, but the herbicide will not impact them.

The Ticonderoga and Crown Point town boards are reviewing the ELPOI request to serve as "lead agents." No decisions have been made.

The Eagle Lake Property Owners, Inc. (ELPOI) was established in 1907 and incorporated in 1993 as a not-for-profit organization that serves to protect the interests of its property owners and to maintain the environmental and recreational quality of Eagle Lake.