

Office of the Mayor

ROBERT G. ORTT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mayor Ortt Announces Tonawanda Creek/Erie Canal Hydrilla Project

NORTH TONAWANDA—North Tonawanda Mayor Robert G. Ortt announced that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Buffalo District will be conducting an application of an aquatic herbicide along a 7-mile section of the Erie Canal for treatment of the aggressive aquatic plant, hydrilla that is present in the Tonawanda Creek/Erie Canal.

The USACE has been working with the New York State Canal Corporation, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Ecology and Environment, Inc., and other partners to address and manage the excessive growth of this plant. Treatment will take place for 48 hours between Tuesday and Thursday either on July 22nd or July 29th depending on weather conditions.

The following restrictions will be associated with the application of the herbicide in the Erie Canal: **Swimming:** After application, swimming is prohibited for one day within the treatment area. Outside the treatment area, there are no restrictions on swimming. **Livestock Consumption:** Livestock consumption of treated water is prohibited for 14 days. This restriction does not apply to chance or accidental exposure to animals from treated water (for example, a dog drinking water from the canal). **Irrigation:** Canal water for irrigation of annual nursery or greenhouse crops, including hydroponics and newly seeded or transplanted annual crops, newly seeded or transplanted ornamentals, and newly sodded or seeded turf should not be used for 7 days after herbicide application. **Fishing:** There are no restrictions on catching and eating fish.

Any questions or further information about the treatment or the project can be obtained from Andrew Kornacki, USACE Buffalo District, (716) 879-4349, andrew.a.kornacki@usace.army.mil. To learn more about the project and hydrilla, please visit <http://www.stophydrillawny.org>.

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