



CAYUGA COUNTY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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Chairman

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For Immediate Release...

Cayuga County Contributed over \$600,000 dollars for Owasco Lake Protection in 2009.

County staff was recently asked to estimate Cayuga County's contribution to Owasco Lake protection. Owasco Lake is the sixth largest Finger Lake, and provides drinking water for over half of the County's residents.

The results?

Cayuga County contributed over \$250,000 of staff and resources to Owasco lake protection in 2009. Plus, that County staff time helped capture over \$370,000 in federal, state and private grants to advance the County's lake protection efforts.

The grant dollars captured in 2009 included about \$320,000 to address water quality issues on farms, thanks to the staff of the County's Soil & Water Conservation District.

Also protecting Owasco Lake is the 2007 Watershed Inspection Program, which is currently under renegotiation. Under the 2007 watershed inspection agreement, all Auburn and Owasco drinking water customers pay for the inspection program, which cost about \$58,130 in 2009.

Bruce Natale, the Chair of the County's Water Quality Management stated "These dollar commitments show that many agencies and individuals are working hard to protect and improve Owasco Lake. But, there is always more to do. Owasco Lake's watershed needs more inspection, and better inspection will result in better protection."

To find out more about protecting Owasco Lake, please visit the Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency website at co.cayuga.ny.us/wqma.