

## A Message from the Conesus Lake Watershed Inspector and the Livingston County Department of Health

Every July 3<sup>rd</sup>, Conesus Lake residents and visitors take part in the annual Ring of Fire event consisting of private parties, shoreline campfires, flares and firework displays surrounding the lake. It's a perfect way to kick off the summer season. The Livingston County Department of Health would like everyone to have a safe and healthy summer season on and around the Conesus Lake area.

Many residents have fire pits installed on their properties, which are located near or even on the shoreline. Some fires are burned on the shoreline just for the Ring of Fire Event.



This year during a heavy rain event in May, Conesus Lake exceeded the high water level and many fire pits located close to the shoreline were under water. Much of the fire pit debris was washed into the Lake. Any fire pit located on or near the shoreline is susceptible to being washed into the lake when the lake level rises during a rain event.

Fire pit ash and unburned materials contain phosphorous and other nutrients that can aid in weed and algae growth in summer months. This material can degrade shorelines; decrease oxygen levels in the Lake and create nuisance odors on many shoreline properties as the material decomposes.

Here are a few tips or "Best Management Practices" for maintaining fire pits and cleaning up after the Independence Day celebration:

- Locate fire pits upslope, away from the shoreline.
- Remove ashes weekly and after the summer season.
- Dispose of ashes properly. Arrange for garbage pick up, take material to the local dump, or place in an area away from streams, drainage ditches, road ditches and the shoreline. Material placed in road ditches and along streams will be washed into the Lake. Disposing of any debris in this way is a violation of the Conesus Lake Rules and Regulations and can result in enforcement action.
- Dispose of the ash and spikes from your flares. If stepped on, the spikes could cause an injury.
- Report issues that may result in polluting the Lake to the Livingston County Department of Health at 585-243-7280.

### Watch the dogs!



Each 4<sup>th</sup> of July season, Livingston County Dog Control sees an increase in the number of dogs collected as many have been spooked by fireworks and are running loose. Please be sure your dogs are safe.

The Livingston County Health Department reminds you that the use of personal fireworks in New York State is prohibited. Personal fireworks are responsible each year for eye and ear damage, burns, puncture wounds and permanent scarring. Taking simple precautions while watching legal fireworks displays are recommended, which include the use of earplugs to protect hearing, keeping a safe distance from a fireworks launch site, and leaving pets at home. Smoke from fireworks, flares, and fires can cause breathing problems or trigger asthma attacks. If smoke or other factors are found to be irritating, leave the area and go indoors. Seek medical attention if irritation persists.

Enjoy the Summer!

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