

RAYMOND WATERWAYS PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION



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"To protect and improve pond and lake water quality and foster watershed stewardship"

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Dear Friends of Raymond Waterways,

Our letter to you comes early this year to share the news of a great opportunity and to ask for your support. We have applied for limited federal funding which has been dedicated to fight milfoil in Maine. The funds would allow us to build a Suction Harvester – one of the most effective tools for removing milfoil.

Harvesters are being run on a number of infested lakes in the region to increase removal rates, shorten remediation time and reduce long term costs. We have made good progress in Raymond since our milfoil control efforts began in 2002, however it will be years before we gain the upper hand using the current methods.

The Harvester consists of a high volume pump, a suction hose and filtration gear mounted on a pontoon boat, allowing the diver to greatly improve removal rates. Once built, the Harvester can be operated for about \$600/day compared to contracted divers which cost \$1,100/day.

The Suction Harvester will allow RWPA to combat the ever-increasing threat of invasive plants in our lakes, ponds and rivers. We are surrounded by milfoil infestations on Sebago Lake, in the Jordan River and in lakes to the north and east. **We are currently looking for a 22-24 foot pontoon boat with motor and trailer to be donated.**

In addition to the Suction Harvester project, our 2010 goals are to:

- complete plant surveys on all Raymond lakes,
- continued inspection and education at the boat ramps,
- complete Conservation Projects on Panther and Raymond Ponds,
- apply for grants for the Conservation Project on Crescent Lake,
- assist Crescent Lake Watershed Association with their Lakesmart program,
- continue water testing on all lakes for clarity and oxygen content.

The federal funds for the Harvester require a local match and with a 20% decrease in donations during 2009 we urgently need your financial support. Help us continue our vital work by sending us your contributions, however large or small. Checks should be made out to: RWPA and sent to PO Box 1243, Raymond, Maine 04071. Our greatest thanks for your support!

Raymond Waterways Protective Association

RWPA is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Your donation is tax deductible. Thank you!