

## **NYSDEC: HABs Action Plan for Cayuga Lake-2017**

Cayuga Lake serves as the primary drinking water source and/or backup source for nearly 100,000 watershed residents. Drinking water sources include the following:

— The Mid-South and Mid-North sections of the lake provide drinking water for the Village of Seneca Falls (Cayuga Lake-Yawgers Creek Watershed WI/PWL 2016). The intake for Seneca Falls' treatment plant is located 1,850 feet from the western shoreline of Cayuga Lake at a depth of 20 feet (Town of Seneca Falls Water Department 2016).

— The Mid-South section of the lake also provides drinking water to the Towns of Dryden, Ithaca, and Lansing and the Villages of Cayuga Heights and Lansing through the Southern Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Water Commission's Bolton Point Water System. The Bolton Point Water System intake is at the southeastern end of the lake, 3 miles north of Stewart Park, 400 feet out from the eastern shore, and 65 feet below the surface of the lake (SCLIWC 2017). The intake extends into the lake just past the southern shelf into the Mid-South portion of the lake.

— The Village of Cayuga once relied on the northern end of Cayuga Lake for drinking water, but water district changes and a decline in water quality has shifted the Village's water supply to nearby Auburn (Village of Cayuga 2013, Town of Aurelius 2016).

— Wells College draws water from Cayuga Lake and treats it with diatomaceous earth filters and injection of sodium hypochlorite solution before entering the distribution system. Water is stored in two storage tanks totaling 300,000 gallons. This water system serves a population of 740 through 220 metered connections, including Wells College and the Village of Aurora.

— Numerous seasonal residences on the shoreline of Cayuga Lake draw untreated water directly from the lake for potable use. As recommended by NYSDOH, it is never advisable to draw drinking water from a surface source unless it has been treated by a public drinking water system regardless of the presence HABs. Surface waters may contain other bacteria, parasites or viruses that can cause illness. If one chooses to explore in-home treatment systems, he/she is living with some risk of exposure to GA and their toxins and other contaminants.