



The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

Central & Western New York Chapter
www.nature.org



**The mission of
The Nature Conservancy**




To preserve plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.



How we work:

- Science-based
- Non-confrontational and collaborative approach
- Solutions that benefit nature *and* people
- Tangible lasting results at scale



CWNY Chapter Highlights


- Central & Western New York Chapter founded in 1957.
- Nearly 100,000 acres protected in CWNY
- Headquartered in Rochester – 16 staff
- 32 preserves, including 1,100 acres of conservation lands at Hemlock and Canadice Lakes
- Own and manage the largest privately owned conservation reserve in the state – our 15,000-acre Tug Hill Conservation Area



New York State priority conservation areas

The map shows various conservation areas across New York State, including Lake Champlain, Lake Ontario, and the Adirondack Park. A text box on the map reads: "The map depicts a series of ecologically significant areas across New York State. These large landscapes harbor rich assemblages of plants, animals and natural communities that are sustained by local conservation practices. Important characteristics of these areas include their flowing waters, large lakes, open forests, varied geologies, low population densities, and ongoing, local and statewide conservation efforts. The Nature Conservancy is actively working to protect some of these areas and is pleased to create programs in the watershed of these areas the next several years. Relationships with the local landowners and conservation organizations for the protection of our conservation efforts. In addition to the areas shown here, the Conservancy owns and manages a network of other reserves in New York, and we are conserving land at dozens of smaller sites throughout the state."

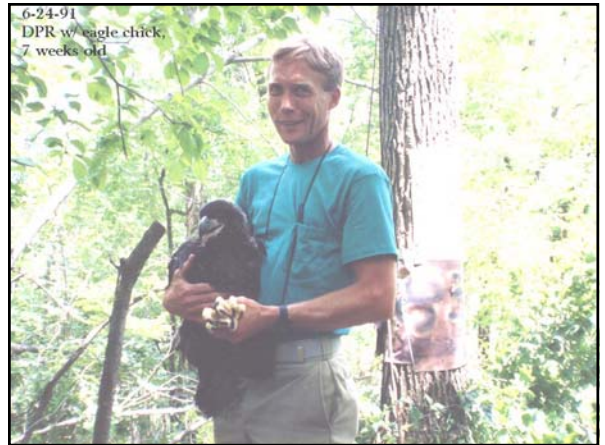
**What's eight miles long,
one-half mile wide,
90 feet deep,
and instrumental to the well-being and growth of the City of Rochester?**



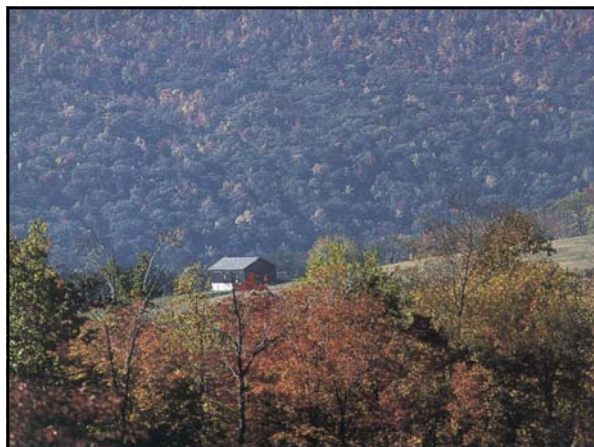
Hemlock and Canadice Lakes



The only undeveloped Finger Lakes

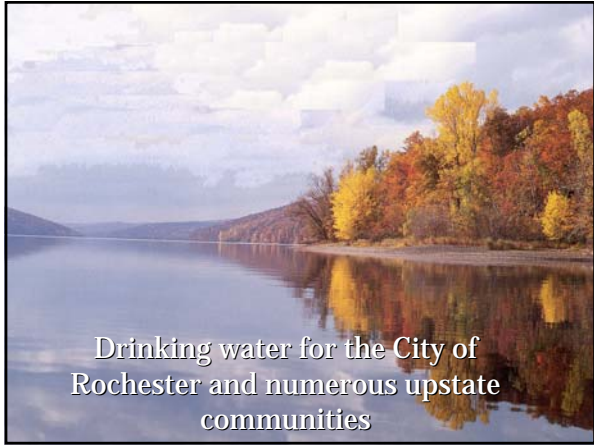


6-24-91
DPR w/ eagle chick,
7 weeks old





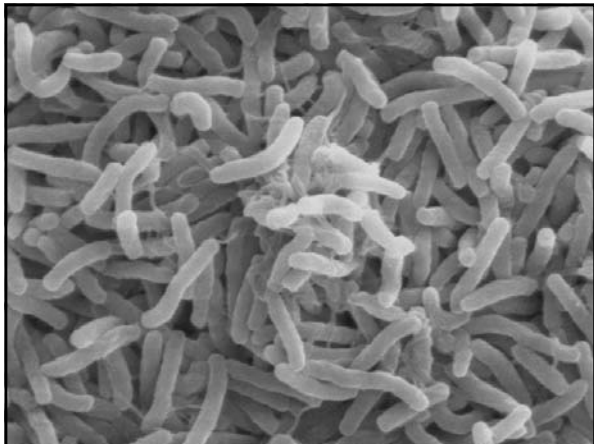
A prime public recreation area for fishing, hunting, canoeing, hiking, and bicycling



Drinking water for the City of Rochester and numerous upstate communities



A Short History of Hemlock-Canadice Conservation



The Nature Conservancy
SAVE THE LAST GREAT PLACES ON EARTH

Timeline of Important Dates

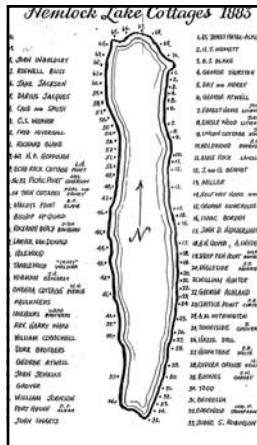
1873 – City of Rochester engineers, looking for a better water source for the City, recommend Hemlock Lake as a high-quality water source less than 30 miles away that can be delivered to Rochester via gravity.



1874 – Construction begins on pipeline to deliver Hemlock Lake water 29 miles to Rochester



- 1876 -- Hemlock Lake water enters Rochester households, providing 70,000 people with water
- 1896 -- Concerned about the impact of shoreline development and logging on its water supply, City of Rochester begins to buy land around Hemlock Lake.



More than 200 cottages and five hotels once occupied the lakeshore.



Land Protection

- Through a combination of purchases from willing sellers and eminent domain, the City acquires all shoreline properties on Hemlock and Canadice Lakes by the 1950s.
- 7,100 acres in total



1986 – Increasing turbidity of Hemlock and Canadice water prompts U.S. EPA to require City of Rochester to build filtration plant.

1987 – Local citizens and conservation groups express concern that treatment plant could allow City to divest or develop its 7,100 acres of land. Coalition, which includes City of Rochester representation, forms to study issue.

1989 – Coalition succeeds in getting NYS to enact legislation requiring NYS to pay its share of property taxes on easements or lands it holds in the townships of the Hemlock-Canadice watershed.

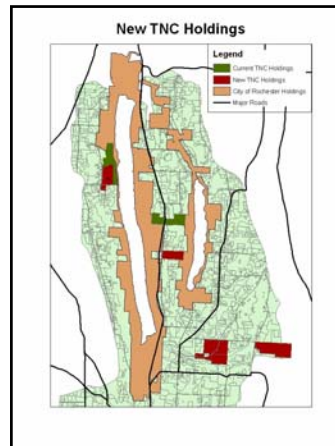
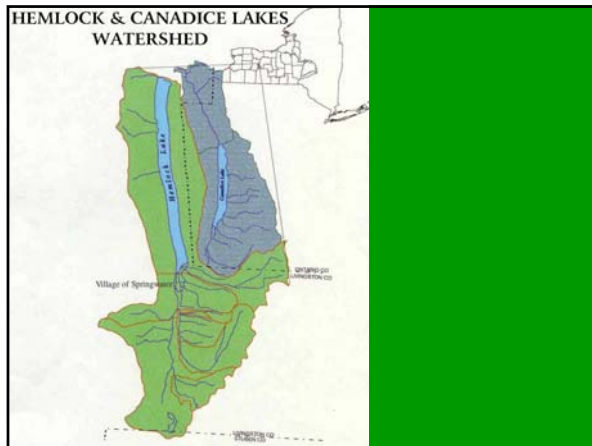
1990 – Environmental Bond Act rejected by voters

1993 – NYS enacts statewide Open Space Plan process and dedicated funding source, Environmental Protection Fund



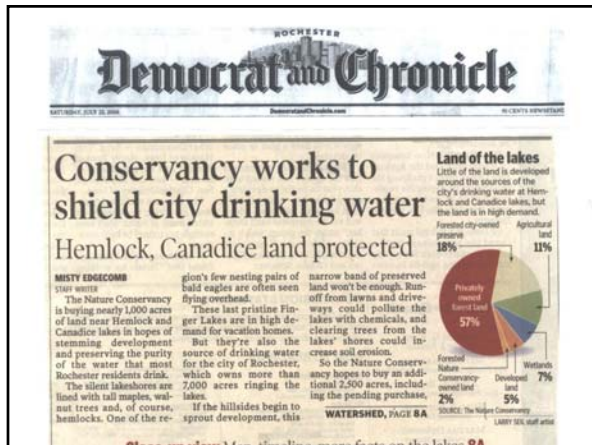
1996 – The Nature Conservancy attempts to facilitate a transaction wherein the State of New York would purchase the City's 7,100 acres or a conservation easement on them.

2001 – The Nature Conservancy launches effort to augment conservation of Hemlock-Canadice through acquisition of sensitive lands in the watershed.



Land Acquisition

Since 2002, TNC has acquired 6 strategic parcels totaling 1,100 acres in the watershed. Negotiations underway on other properties.



2007 – With new administrations in Rochester and Albany, we have a new opportunity to permanently protect Hemlock and Canadice Lakes.



Why should the State of New York purchase the City's lands at Hemlock and Canadice Lakes?

- Two Finger Lakes have statewide and even global significance.
- NYS Open Space Plan has listed Hemlock-Canadice as top priority since its inception in 1993
- Dedicated statewide acquisition funds available for this purpose through NYS Environmental Protection Fund
- More than just environmental protection
 - Drinking water
 - Quality of life

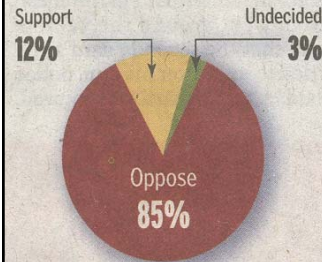
Why should the City of Rochester sell its Hemlock-Canadice lands to the State of New York?

- Fair compensation for this tremendous asset, while allowing the City to continue its water system as is.
- Property tax relief – current tax burden to City is \$600,000 a year.

Why should the City sell to the State of New York (cont'd)?

- Permanently protecting Hemlock-Canadice Lakes creates a lasting legacy for Mayor Duffy, Gov. Spitzer, and City of Rochester
 - Widespread support and appeal for protecting Hemlock-Canadice
 - Enhancing WNY's environment and economy
- Timing is Right
 - Dedicated environmental funding source

Do you support or oppose the sale and development of the lands surrounding Hemlock and Canadice lakes?



KEVIN M. SMITH staff artist

October
2007 poll by
Rochester
*Democrat &
Chronicle*

The Nature Conservancy is fully committed to working with the City of Rochester and State of New York to facilitate a transaction that permanently protects Hemlock and Canadice Lakes.

What's the status of this transaction?

- City and State have agreed to the same conditions for the appraisal
- Each entity is hiring an independent appraiser to prepare an estimate of value.
- Values expected in spring, at which point negotiations will begin



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