



E-BULLETIN FROM OTSEGO COUNTY CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
January 19, 2009: Vol. 2, No. 2

ZEBRA MUSSEL CONTROL INFORMATION POSTED BY OCCA: The Otsego County Conservation Association has begun posting information related to zebra mussel control on its website, www.occainfo.org. **Otsego and Canadarago Lake homeowners are likely to be most interested in the report titled “Control of Zebra Mussel in Residential Water Systems.”** Residents are reminded that ill effects of the zebra mussel include a foul taste and smell in household water, clogged pipes, obstruction of foot-valves, and increased corrosion of steel, iron, and copper pipes, as well as debilitated sprinkler systems. According to Charles R. O’Neill, Jr., author of several of the posted articles, “Homeowners using a zebra-mussel-infested water body as a water source are advised to take early action to keep the mussels out of the onshore component of their systems before the systems become infested.” Controls for the mollusk are of two types – onshore and offshore. Onshore components are generally simpler and less costly to protect from the zebra mussel, but more difficult and costly to clean when infested. Conversely, offshore components are more difficult and expensive to protect against clogging, but easier to clean-out once infested. **One of the less recognized threats to the spread of zebra mussels is associated with fire station management of water and equipment.** Neither fire truck tanks nor aerial water tanks that have been filled from infested waters while on call should be purged where water might flow into uninfested waters. Hoses and pumping systems may also carry zebra mussels. Mussels also tend to grow around and in the mouth of dry hydrant intakes. Ways of controlling the zebra mussel in all of these situations are describe in the Sea Grant articles. For further information, please visit the articles by clicking on the links below:

["Control of Zebra Mussels in Residential Water Systems"](#)

["Zebra Mussels and Fire Control Equipment"](#)

["The Zebra Mussel: Commonly Asked Questions"](#)

["Repelling Zebra Mussels," an article on bubble technology](#)