



## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR WATER SUPPLY**

**March 2019**

The Onondaga County Water Authority is pleased to provide its customers and consumers with the Authority's ***Annual Water Supply Statement and Consumer Confidence Report*** for the year ending December 31, 2018. Throughout this report, readers will find useful information specifically related to OCWA, as well as information related to water in general. In addition to mailing a notice to all customers of record announcing the availability of the report, the Authority continues its practice of providing copies of the report to local libraries. OCWA also advertises the availability of the report in local print media.

2018 saw the completion of the second year of consolidated operations of the Otisco Lake and Lake Ontario (MWB) systems. Operational efficiencies gained through the consolidation starting in 2017 carried on throughout 2018 with positive impacts on overall system functionality. There were positive impacts for Onondaga County as well. For instance, in the spring of 2018 the former MWB administration building was turned over to Onondaga County for repurposing. The facility is now used for County Environmental Health office space.

2018 also saw the completion of the consolidation of the Lake Ontario water supply operational system controls with OCWA's control system. Operations personnel also completed the conversion of Lake Ontario facilities from the use of gaseous chlorine to a safer method employing liquid disinfectant. Also, during 2018, the Otisco Lake water treatment plant's fluoride feed system was replaced, and the Lake Ontario water treatment plant's fluoride system replacement was nearing completion. Both projects were funded through grants from the New York State Department of Health and saved OCWA customers over \$1.4 million.

Late in 2018 OCWA began the evaluation and preliminary design process related to upgrades and improvements needed for the 52-year-old Lake Ontario water treatment plant. The project will address the overall treatment process, review of the Lake Ontario intake structure, on-site water storage and entire electrical services for the plant campus, including the addition for auxiliary power units for both the raw water and treated water pumping facilities. It is anticipated that the plan will be ready in 2019 with some work underway and the project carrying on through completion over the course of the next few years.

Other projects under way in the OCWA system include the replacement of the Oakridge water storage tank in Camillus. The old, leaking tank was demolished in 2018 and construction of the new tank started shortly thereafter. It is anticipated that the new tank will be in service prior to the summer of 2019.

Another major project completed in 2018 involved improved access to and the stabilization of a major Otisco Lake transmission main installed along Nine Mile Creek in Camillus. This project involved the largest creek bank stabilization project completed by OCWA to-date. This unique project was recognized by the Central New York Branch of the American Public Works Association (CNY-APWA) when it presented OCWA the Branch's 2018 Environmental Project of the Year Award.

Another unique project involved the replacement of OCWA's Academy Hill Pump Station in the Town of Manlius. The entire project was completed internally by a team of Authority personnel. The team designed the improvements, procured all needed equipment and material and then proceeded to reconstruct the pump station and install all the mechanical, electric and control equipment. The CNY-APWA Branch once again recognized OCWA's efforts by awarding OCWA the Branch's 2018 Team Project of the Year Award.

Additional 2018 water system improvement projects included major water main replacement projects on Kirsch Drive in the Town of Salina, Kathan Road in the Town of Cicero, Allen Road in the Town of Clay and NYS Route 5 in the Village of Canastota. In total, 14 replacement projects were completed and more than 22,000 feet of old and or undersized water mains were replaced.

In 2018 the Town of Constantia completed construction of its Bernhard's Bay water district. The project included installation of 45,000 feet of water main, 86 hydrants and has the potential for 300 new customers. By year end OCWA had assumed operations of the new system. In addition to the Constantia project the Authority installed over 15,000 feet of new water mains paid for by local developers.

With respect to day to day operations and maintenance, OCWA completed an integrated valve and hydrant maintenance/replacement project and implemented a watermain flushing program in the Village of Fayetteville and surrounding areas in the Town of Manlius. A newly established nighttime operation and maintenance crew was utilized to complete the work during off hours with the intent of decreasing the impact on customer water service.

On the innovation front, the Authority was recognized by the Technology Alliance of Central New York (TACNY) when it presented OCWA its STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Project of the Year award recognizing the in-house development and implementation of the Authority's computerized maintenance management system that tracks and maps maintenance of the system's 13,400 hydrants.

With respect to overall water quality, the Otisco Lake Water Treatment Plant was recognized by the United States Environmental Protection Agency for 20 consecutive years of compliance with the Agency's Partnership for Safe Water. Additionally, the Lake Ontario Water Treatment Plant, which recently joined the program was recognized for its 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year of compliance with the Partnership program. It should be noted the Partnership for Safe Water is a voluntary program that holds its program partners to a higher water quality standard than currently required under the Safe Drinking Water Act and is a clear indicator of OCWA's commitment to providing the high-quality water that the Authority customers deserve and demand.

To learn more about the OCWA water system and water supply, you are urged to read the information included in this report. Readers that have questions regarding the report or require additional information can contact OCWA's Water Quality Manager Lisa Yesensky by calling 315-455-7061, extension 3157.

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