



Water flowing over Hector Falls on its way to Seneca Lake. Photo by Elaine Mansfield, courtesy of Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association.

## CSI's Role in the Development of the Seneca-Keuka Nine Element Plan

Increasing occurrences of harmful algal blooms (HABs) have triggered concern for the health of the Finger Lakes. Addressing HABs for the entire region will mean a different remediation plan for each unique watershed. To be eligible for state and federal grants to support remediation, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) encourages stakeholders to develop a watershed management plan (1). NYSDEC uses what are called "clean water plans" to outline strategies to improve water quality. Waterbodies in New York State are classified for "best use" by the NYSDEC (such as source of drinking water, primary contact recreation (i.e., swimming), secondary contact recreation (i.e., boating, fishing, etc)). If a waterbody is evaluated as not meeting its "best use" and is added to the federal 303d list, development of

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