

## Enhanced Mussel Watch Phase 1: Eastern Great Lakes



Eighteen Mile Creek, Olcott, NY.

Saturday, September 19, 2009

-Kristina Lauenstein

After yesterday's events we feel the pressure not to fall behind anymore, but we have one more stop to make before towing the boat to our next site. The morning is devoted to replacing a high-pressure trailer tire that was slashed nearly all the way through when the leaf spring broke.

At noon we are on the road again, heading toward Rochester, NY and two more sites LOOC (Olcott) and LOEC (Eighteen Mile Creek). The first site is already established out in Lake Ontario, the second needs to be established in the harbor, another EPA AoC. At LOOC we dredge for zebra mussels, and are quickly rewarded with a large enough sample. But the presence of mussels makes the sediment collection more difficult. While there are silt and sand at the bottom, mussels get caught in the claw of the grab-sampler holding it open and allowing our sediment to escape and be replaced by water as we pull it up 13 meters. Eventually we have enough and, once the samples are bottled up, we return to the harbor to establish our new site at LOEC. Avoiding the many community members fishing from the pier, we dredge for mussels, snagging a few along with sediment that looks (and smells) suspiciously like sewage. We soon have three successful tries with the grab sampler providing Ed with sufficient sediment to sort through for benthic infauna studies and so work toward gathering sediment for the chemistry analyses. After 22 attempts to bring up satisfactory sediment, only four have been successful. Ed, Kristina, and Gunnar each with at least one successful try. We gladly leave the site behind, looking forward to our next shower.