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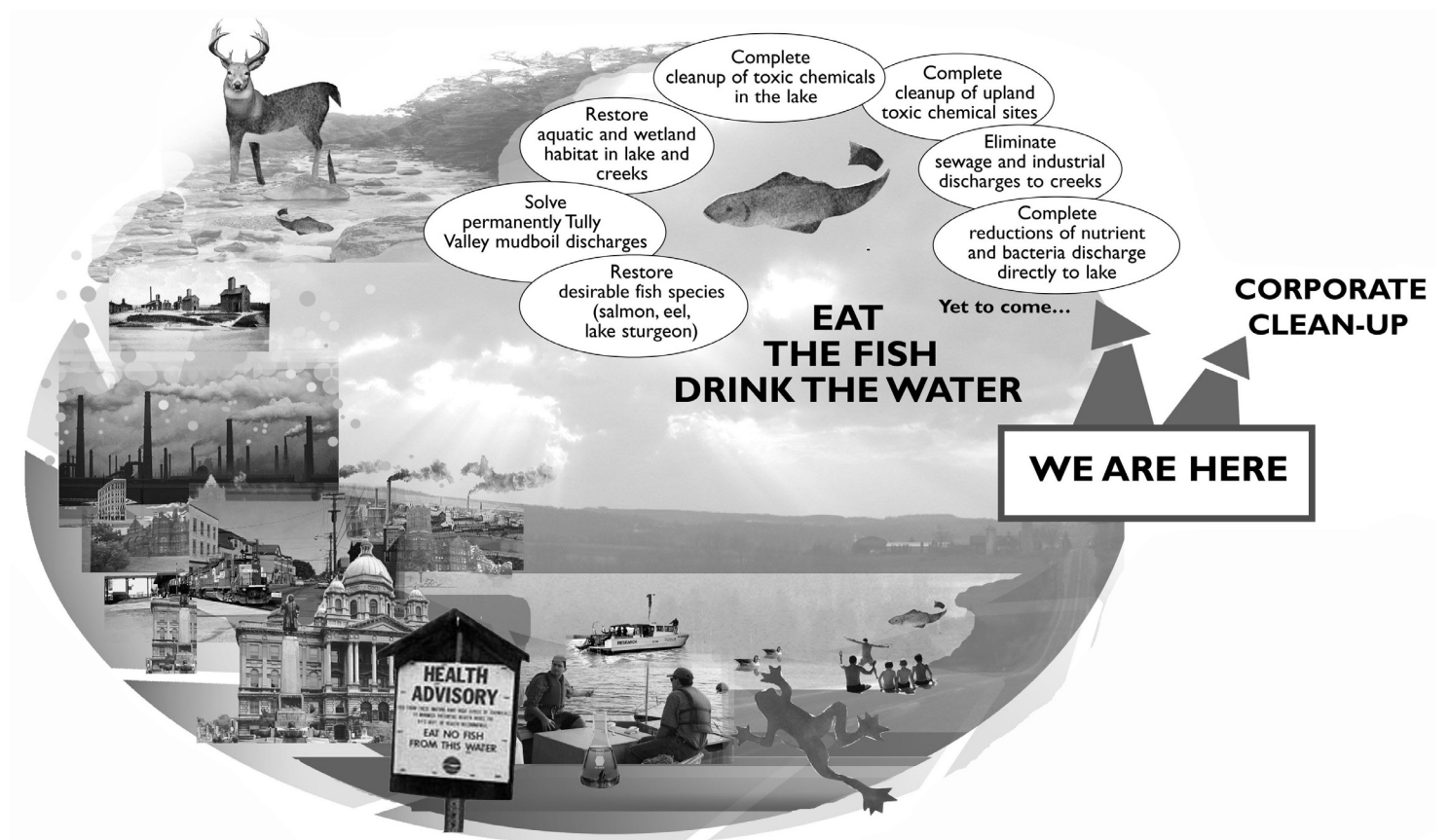
Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation
(NOON)

Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation, a program of the Syracuse Peace Council, is a grassroots organization of Central New Yorkers. We support the sovereignty of the Onondaga Nation's traditional government and their Land Rights Action. We join in their call for justice, reconciliation, and healing. We believe that we, and the wider community, have a great deal to learn from the Onondagas about living more peacefully with one another and more harmoniously with the Earth.

For more information, or to join in our efforts, contact:

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ONONDAGA LAKE: *We Stand at a Fork in the Road*



*Will we choose a full clean-up
as called for by the Onondaga Nation?
Or will we let the corporations and bureaucrats convince us to
accept a marginally-clean lake as our best option?*

Central New Yorkers have a responsibility to seek full restoration of Onondaga Lake, supporting the Onondagas' goal "to make the water drinkable and the fish edible."



Onondaga Lake: We Stand at a Fork in the Road

Many thousands of years before present-late 1700s: Pure air, water, soil and food were maintained under the stewardship of the Onondaga people whose relationship with the natural world was one of gratitude, cooperative coexistence and spiritual connection. Surrounded by wetlands, Onondaga Lake and its tributaries were home to abundant salmon, whitefish, eel, trout, lake sturgeon and more.

1142: Earliest date established by non-Indian scholars for the founding of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy on the shore of Onondaga Lake.

THE LONG DECLINE...

1779: Sullivan-Clinton Campaign (under orders from George Washington) destroyed Onondaga homes, villages, storehouses and cornfields, weakening the Haudenosaunee and paving the way for European settlement.

1788-1822: NYS unjustly obtains all but 7300 acres of the Onondagas' original two million acre aboriginal territory

1790s: Commercial lakeside salt production begins, along with extensive deforestation resulting in nearly complete upland habitat loss.

Early 1800s: Large-scale extractive and manufacturing industries established in the lake watershed. Commercial fishing begins, lasting through the 1800s.

1800s: Lake level lowered and wetlands drained and filled, resulting in loss of unique salt marsh habitat.

1870s: Salmon disappear.

1880s: Onondaga Lake is a popular resort area.

Late 1800s: Solvay Process Company begins industrial scale mining to produce soda ash, dumping industrial waste into lake, wetlands and wastebeds (until 1986).

1890s: Lake whitefish disappears.

1896: Untreated sewage emptied directly into creeks and lake (until 1979).

1901: Ice harvesting banned due to polluted water (still in effect).

Late 1800s-late 1900s: Millions of tons of untreated municipal and industrial wastes dumped directly into lake, tributaries, wetlands, and surrounding lands.

1918-1988: Tens of tons of highly toxic and persistent industrial chemicals (mercury, PCBs, dioxins, chlorobenzenes, etc.) released into lake, tributaries and surrounding lands.

1940: Swimming ban due to bacterial pollution (still in effect).

RECOGNIZING THE PROBLEMS...

1970: US Attorney General forces Allied Chemical to stop dumping mercury into the lake.

1970-1999: Fish consumption banned due to high mercury.

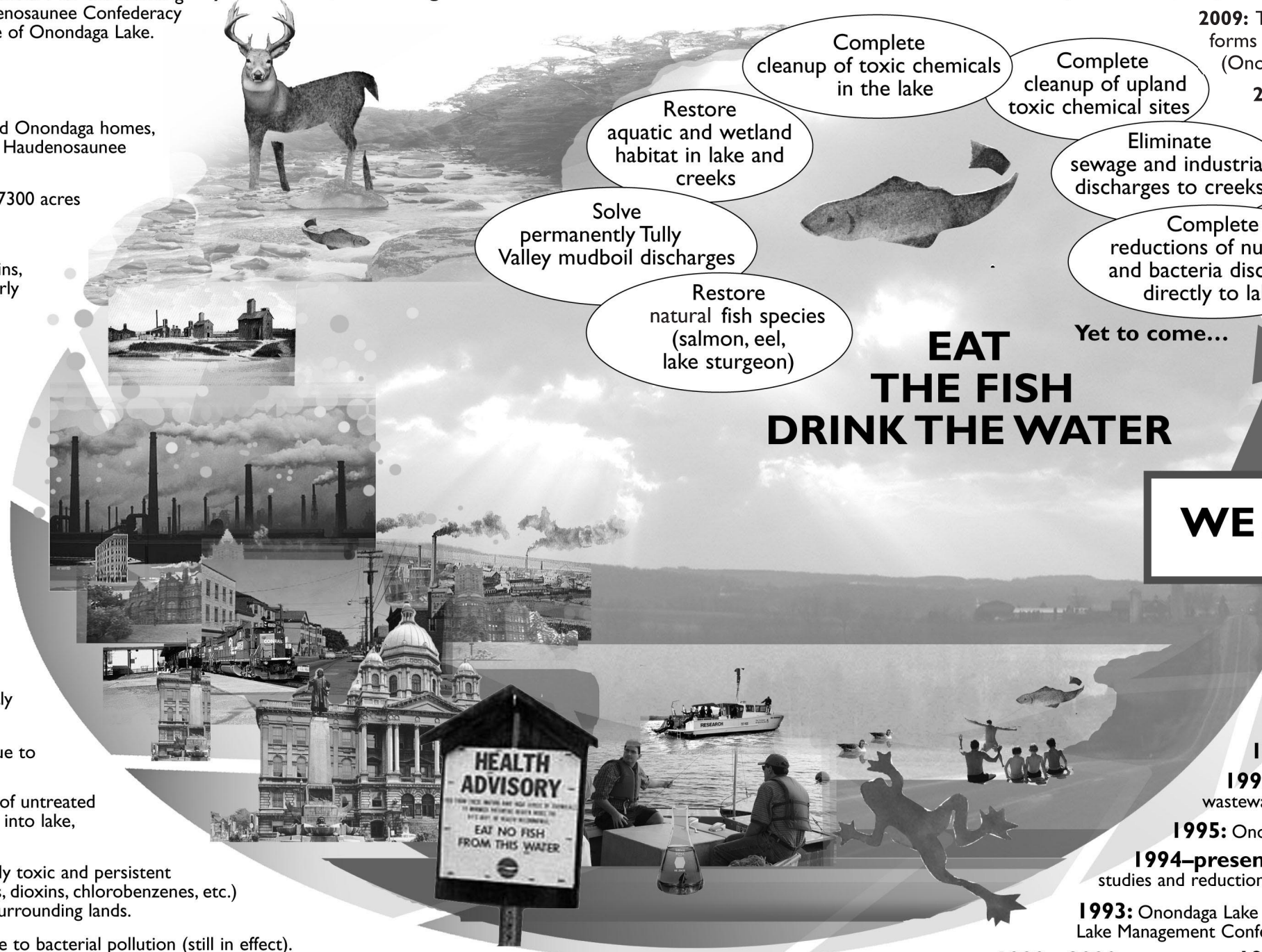
1970s-present: Many scientific studies conducted to understand the state of the lake and complex ecological interactions.

1987: Onondaga County reduces combined sewer discharges to creeks by 90%.

1988: Atlantic States Legal Foundation and New York State file complaint against Onondaga County, alleging violation of its state discharge permit.

1990s-2000s: Honeywell studies toxic pollution in the lake; New York State DEC and Honeywell negotiate toxic waste cleanup through the Superfund process.

1990-present: Many millions of dollars spent under the Onondaga Lake Management Conference and the Onondaga Lake Partnership studying the lake watershed, implementing pollution control measures and planning for further recovery.



Complete cleanup of toxic chemicals in the lake

Restore aquatic and wetland habitat in lake and creeks

Solve permanently Tully Valley mudboil discharges

Restore natural fish species (salmon, eel, lake sturgeon)

Complete cleanup of upland toxic chemical sites

Eliminate sewage and industrial discharges to creeks

Complete reductions of nutrient and bacteria discharge directly to lake

Yet to come...

**EAT THE FISH
DRINK THE WATER**

WE ARE HERE

CORPORATE CLEAN-UP

2000: Onondaga Lake Partnership created to develop and improve projects specified in the Lake Management Plan.

1990s-2000s: Reductions in ammonia discharge from sewage treatment plant improves conditions for aquatic life.

1999-present: Fish consumption advisory.

1998: Federal court orders Onondaga County to improve wastewater treatment.

1995: Onondaga Lake declared a Superfund site.

1994-present: Remediation of Tully Valley mudboils, aquatic habitat studies and reductions in agricultural runoff.

1993: Onondaga Lake Management Plan drafted by the Onondaga Lake Management Conference.

2006: Honeywell reaches agreement with NY DEC for lake bottom "cleanup".

2009: Trustee Council forms for Onondaga Lake (Onondaga Nation, NYS, US)

2008: Onondaga County scraps sewage plants in favor of Green Infrastructure

2005: Onondaga County begins building controversial "regional treatment plants" to **partially** treat combined sewer discharges to tributaries.

2000s: Honeywell releases plans for **partial** cleanup of toxic chemicals in lake sediments and certain upland sites.