

Dear MPOA member:

This is the 3rd information update re the Eurasian Milfoil invasive weed issue discovered last season. As this issue is constantly evolving, I will provide monthly or bi-monthly updates to MPOA members until further notice.

By way of refresher, our last December update covered the following topics:

- What is Eurasian Milfoil?
- Why is it a problem?
- What should you do when you see it?
- Where is it located in Lake Mazinaw?
- How does it spread?
- What is the MPOA Board doing about it?
- How can you help?

This current update provides a summary of what we've been up to since December; and provides our draft Action Plan so that MPOA members know what to expect in the coming season and year. As follows:

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY SINCE LAST DECEMBER

The MPOA Blue Lakes Committee (Blue Lakes is an eco program by Watershed Canada) has been formulating an ongoing draft Action Plan, in consultation with:

- An Associate Professor at Carleton University, Department of Geography and Environmental studies
- The Senior biologist and Stewardship Technician of the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA)
- The Bon Echo Provincial Park Manager
- The Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association
- North Frontenac Lake Association
- Farlain Lake Community Association
- Malcolm Ardoch Lakes Landowners' Association
- Federation of Anglers and Hunters
- Others

DRAFT ACTION PLAN:

At our last Blue Lakes Committee meeting, attended by the MVCA, and Bon Echo Park leadership, the below draft action plan was established (subject to refinement as we move forward):

- **March-April 2023:** Recommendations will be made to the MPOA Board seeking approval for the following:
 - Purchase Transport Canada markers to delineate patches and stop various forms of water traffic over patches, as it spreads the weeds by creating new cuttings that quickly colonize
 - Retain a professional drone operator to generate orthomosaic mapping (mapping is a requirement for the submission of grant and permit applications. Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry permits are required for nearly all types of mitigation measures)
 - Note: cost sharing with Bon Echo Park is being explored, as the invasive weed patches are within their regulated area
- **April 2023:** Launch the new (forthcoming) MVCA property owner Best Practice manual and MPOA education campaign through mixed platforms (e-distribution, our AGM, social media, etc.)
- **May/June 2023:** Distribute said Transport Canada approved caution markers throughout the affected areas on the Lake (volunteers with boats are welcome - pls reach out if interested)
- **Aug 2023:** Launch Drone Mapping to establish orthomosaic mapping discussed above
- **Aug 2023 - Dec 2023:** Prepare and submit Grant applications
- **Aug 2023 - March 2024:** Prepare and submit Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Permit applications
- **July/Aug - Sept 2024:** Deploy mitigation measures (must be outside of fish spawning season - more info to follow)

Although the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority do not provide funding or 'boots on the ground' resources to manage invasive aquatic plants in Ontario's waters, the government agencies require us to abide by standard regulations stemming from different Acts. Please do not attempt to remove the Eurasian Milfoil, should you find it along your shoreline until the new forthcoming MVCA's Best Practices Guidelines are released this April as it could exacerbate the invasive weed growth; thereby doing more harm than good.

Thank-you and if you require any additional information, please contact the MPOA general email: communications@lakemazinaw.ca

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