

## EWM Update September 29

The DSLPOA deployment of benthic matting over the Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) outbreak located on the sandbar south of Harris Beach has been completed for this year. Bert Bicknell, our Lake Steward, describes the activity on September 28 this way:

*“On Monday September 28 Dundee Marine installed eight 8 ft x 40 ft rolls of coconut fibre matting over most of the remaining milfoil off Harris Beach. We were very pleased that there was minimal disturbance to the weed bed and consequently relatively little debris loosened. What little was created was picked up by volunteers who patrolled around the perimeter of the site in boats and raked up the strands of floating milfoil for disposal on shore. Many thanks to those volunteers in attendance who were Jane and Bob Heyes, Allen Pizzey and Andrew and Kelly Falls assisted by Larry Olivo and me. Although Mike Podmore could not be present on Monday he was very helpful during our preparation.*

*Towards the afternoon the wind rose and the dive team were concerned that it was perhaps too rough to tow the floating platform loaded with a ton of river rock out to the site. Instead they utilized rock lying on the sandbar to weigh down the matting. Bob Heyes allowed us to store the unused rocks at the edge of his beach for use next year.*

*The dive team photographed the underwater site and repositioned the buoys to the milfoil extremities and noted their GPS positions.*

*It was a long but satisfying day and special thanks to Larry Olivo who assisted all day.”*

Although we previously indicated our plan to place matting over the 3 additional smaller outbreaks identified this summer we were not able to convince the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) to extend our Letter of Authorization to include sites other than the original site. To those whose hopes were raised, we apologize and assure you that those 3 locations will be included in our next application to the MNRF. We also need to include all EWM outbreaks that we identify this fall in our next application so that we at least have the option of performing work on those outbreaks next summer. We need every property owner's help in this regard. Use our EWM Identification and Reporting Guide to help identify any EWM among the aquatic weeds that you notice growing along your waterfront or while you are on the water. Exact GPS locations will enable us to find the location. A clear photo of the weed, in the water if possible, will also help us to confirm your suspicion. Send your sighting details to the EWM Working Group at [DSLPOAEWM@gmail.com](mailto:DSLPOAEWM@gmail.com). Thank-you to every weed watcher who takes the time to look along their own waterfront and the waterfront of neighbours who have already completed their seasonal closing.

If you have not been following our fundraising progress on the website we can give you an update now. Thanks to a very generous donation of \$2,500 from one Drag Lake family and \$29,660 from 227 other Drag and Spruce Lake property owners we are well on the way to achieving our fundraising goal of \$50,000. Unfortunately there are another 315 property owners who have contributed nothing. As is often the case there are those among us who are willing and happy to allow others to carry their share of the load. Our commitment to those who have already contributed is that we will continue reaching out to every property owner on Drag and Spruce Lakes to make them aware of the seriousness of this threat to our lakes. Our commitment to those who have not yet contributed is that we will be

communicating directly with you so that we know you know about the threat to our lakes and how others have already helped.

Finally a word of thanks to the 70 individuals who have shown their interest in helping combat EWM in our lakes. More than half of these individuals have committed firmly, while others would like a few more details before committing. One of our volunteers, Dominique Binckly, is getting in touch with every individual on the list so that we can have a clear picture of how each person can assist. If you want more information about EWM volunteer possibilities send an email to [DSLPOAEWM@gmail.com](mailto:DSLPOAEWM@gmail.com).

Thank-you again to all who have helped, all who will help, all who have made a donation and all who will make a donation.

From the EWM Working Group