

EWM Update September 29, 2020

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. 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 216 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 325 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.

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

EWM Update September 13, 2020

There definitely is good news to report in your Lake Association's ongoing efforts to control the spread of Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) in Drag and Spruce Lakes. Thanks to the concern and generosity of 171 property owners around the two lakes we are half-way to achieving our goal of \$50,000. To each and every one who has contributed we thank you for caring about the current and future health of your lake and all the aquatic life that thrives within our lakes. You clearly understand the threat to our future enjoyment of these lakes if we do not take decisive action now to control the spread of EWM.

Throughout the fall the Lake Association's EWM Working Group will be responding to property owner requests for assistance to identify EWM. We have prepared a [guide to identification](#) that property owners can use on their own before contacting the Working Group. Including the location reference is essential when reporting - GPS coordinates would be ideal. Additional educational materials for property owners, boaters, anglers and others will be developed and made available on the DSLPOA website. We are developing a control plan for 2021 that will include further mat deployment and/or weed removal as considered appropriate and approved by the MNRF. While all these activities are taking place the EWM Working Group will continue to accept donations from property owners, will appeal to business owners for their support and will seek funding and support from government and non-government sources.

This may sound like a lot of work, and it is. Although the EWM Working Group includes members of the DSLPOA Executive, the group also includes several additional volunteers. We encourage anyone who would like to assist the Working Group to contact us by email at DSLPOAEWM@gmail.com. Tell us how you think you could help and we will find a place for you as a volunteer.

At the beginning of this update we reported that our donation glass is now half full. But that also means the glass is half empty. The 171 property owners who have contributed to date represent roughly one third of all Drag and Spruce Lake property owners. If you have not yet made your contribution to our EWM Fund, please take time to review the materials on our [website](#) and the comments being made by members of the [Facebook group](#). Your future enjoyment of the lake and the value of your property will be negatively affected if together we are not able to stop the spread of EWM in Drag and Spruce Lakes. We need your help. The lakes need your help.

The next update from the EWM Working Group will be presented at the upcoming DSLPOA AGM.

EWM Update September 4, 2020

In the past few years the Drag and Spruce Lakes Property Owners Association has been monitoring an outbreak of an invasive aquatic species, Eurasian Watermilfoil, in Drag Lake. This summer we took action to begin the defense of our lakes from this threat.

Our Lake Steward, Bert Bicknell, has completed one deployment of biodegradable matting on Drag Lake and is busy preparing for the second deployment on September 12. We appreciate that many property owners are curious about the process and might be tempted to observe up close in a boat. This interest is understandable, but can interfere with the deployment and might also contribute to the spread of weed clippings. For that reason we ask that you show your support from a distance – we will post a progress report, including pictures, following the deployment to keep you informed.

This week we started a fundraising campaign to provide the resources needed to control these and future outbreaks of Eurasian Watermilfoil. I'm pleased to report that we're off to a very good start. **As of 6 pm today we've received contributions from 102 donors totalling \$17,300.** Thank-you to everyone who has taken the time to use the new PayPal donation option on our website, make an e-Transfer to dragandsprucelakes@gmail.com or send a cheque to PO Box 603 in Haliburton. Thanks as well to those who haven't yet made their donation, but intend to do so. To those who are undecided, please have a look at the Eurasian Watermilfoil information on our website and Facebook page. Most of the Facebook comments have come from your neighbours because they are concerned about the future health of Drag and Spruce Lakes.

We will provide regular updates to keep all Drag and Spruce Lake property owners aware of our progress with respect to Eurasian Watermilfoil control and fundraising. If you have questions for the Eurasian Watermilfoil Working Group or wish to report a possible outbreak, send an email to us at DSLPOAEWM@gmail.com.