



ONTARIO'S
**INVADING
SPECIES**
AWARENESS PROGRAM

November 2014 Newsletter

The Government of Ontario re-introduces the Invasive Species Act

The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) congratulates the provincial government on the re-introduction of the Invasive Species Act and its commitment to combat invasive species in Ontario.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) announced November 5th 2014 that it would be re-introducing the legislation, which was originally introduced in February but was a casualty of the provincial election.

The act is intended to provide a framework to prevent, detect, eradicate, and manage invasive species that impact the natural environment or economy and can have a detrimental effect on our valuable fish and wildlife populations.

"I am pleased the Ontario government has re-introduced the Invasive Species Act, a positive step in the fight against invasive species," OFAH Executive Director Angelo Lombardo said. "The sale, movement and importation of invasive species in Ontario are serious concerns. This legislation will provide the minister with the much needed tools to immediately react when a new species or threat is identified."

If passed, the legislation would make Ontario the first and only jurisdiction in Canada with standalone invasive species legislation. It would give the MNRF more comprehensive inspection powers to determine compliance with the law, introduce a suite of enforcement provisions and penalties and give inspectors the right to take samples and prohibit movement that may result in the spread of invasive species.

"Invasive species have already impacted our lakes and woodlands, and the potential long term economic impact is staggering," explains ISAP coordinator Matt Smith. "The cost of not addressing this threat to our environment and the economy can be measured in the billions of dollars."

To view the Ontario Invasive Species Strategic Plan that outlines the provincial government's priorities for invasive species management, click [HERE](#).

ISAP and OIPC go all out for Halloween!



From left to right: Army Corps engineer #1 (Rachel), Grass Carp (Alison), Black Carp (Emily), Bighead Carp (Matt), Silver Carp (David), Army Corps engineer #2 (Kellie).

Halloween is a big event at the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters head office, and this year the *Invasive Species Awareness Program* decided on an invasive species theme, leading them to dress up as the four species of Asian carps, Bighead Carp, Silver carp, Grass Carp and Black Carp!

The staff of the Ontario Invasive Plant Council supported as members of the US Army Corps of Engineers with their electric barrier, which is currently the main method of blocking these fish from reaching the Great Lakes.



Our post to social media was the most liked post we've had to date, proving that combining humour with an important message is a great way to engage the public. We had a lot of fun with our "fish heads", the only problem is... how to top them next year?

"Invaders in our Forests" Trailhead Sign Project

BE AWARE

HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE PLANTS

Stay on trails and remove mud and seeds from footwear, tires, and pets before and after visiting the area.

INVASIVE PLANTS HAVE NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON ECOSYSTEMS



Garlic Mustard



European Buckthorn



Dog-strangling Vine



Japanese Knotweed

For more information and to report sightings call the Invading Species Hotline at **1-800-563-7711** or visit www.EDDMapS.org/Ontario



Thanks to a funding grant from the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, the Invading Species Awareness Program created 70 permanent metal signs (see above), which will be placed at the head of recreational trails and in parks within the Greater Toronto Area. These signs show four common and problematic terrestrial invasive species, and encourage trail users to learn more about invasive plants and engage in measures to prevent their spread.

Seeds of invasive plants can be spread on clothing, footwear treads and on the fur of pets. This is why it so important to keep your dog leashed, and clean any seeds and mud from footwear, equipment, or anything else you may have with you while you're out enjoying nature. Some conservation areas have even installed boot brush stands at the heads of their trails to make it easier for people to take this simple step in preventing the spread of invasive plants.

Invader of the Month Grass Carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*)



Grass Carp on the left compared to Common Carp on the right. Photo: Ted Lawrence

The Grass Carp, (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) is one of the four species of Asian carps that has the potential to become established in the Great Lakes. Recently there have been two confirmed sightings of Grass Carp near Dunnville, ON in a tributary north of Lake Erie, although those fish were confirmed to be triploid (sterile).

Grass carp can weigh up to 36 kg and exceed 1.5 metres in length, they have large scales that appear crosshatched and their eyes sit even with their mouth. Their colour is usually olive brown blending to white underneath, and juveniles are silver. They are easily differentiated from common carp as they do not have barbels (whiskers). Establishment of this species in the Great Lakes could have major negative impacts on the Great Lakes fisheries and economy.

If you think you have caught a grass carp, or any of the other species of Asian carps, please take a photograph, and contact the *Invading Species Hotline* at [1-800-563-7711](tel:1-800-563-7711) or report it to [EDDMapS Ontario](#). ISAP staff will follow up within one business day to verify the report.

Invading Species Watch Program Wraps up 2014 Season

The *Invading Species Awareness Program* would like to thank everyone who participated in the *Invading Species Watch Program* (ISW) this summer. With over 50 volunteers and assistance from the *Invading Species Hit Squad*, more than 115 lakes were tested for Zebra mussels and Spiny Waterfleas.

Interested in becoming an ISW volunteer? Please register by contacting the OFAH *Invading Species Awareness Program* at [1-800-563-7711](tel:1-800-563-7711).

Update on Water Soldier Management



Employees of DBI Services are shown spraying Reward (diquat dibromide) on submerged water soldier plants in Crowe Bay.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry invited the public to comment on the Water soldier pilot control project proposal at a September 17th 2014 meeting in Cambellford ON.

Comments on the proposal to apply herbicide to the water soldier colonies were favorable.

The original project proposal focused on controlling the downstream extent of the infestation to prevent further spread of this invasive plant. The overwhelming recommendation from the public was that the large upstream populations should also be treated this fall.

The final treatment areas for this fall included herbicide applications in upstream areas still with a focus on containment of the downstream populations. Approximately double the total area that was originally proposed for herbicide treatment ultimately was treated; a total of 50 Ha was treated between Crowe bay and Lake Seymour, 8.3 ha and 42 ha respectively from October 23rd through to October 27th 2014.

A post monitoring program was carried out from October 27th, through to November 3rd, 2014 to determine the effectiveness of the treatment. Subsequent control measures are anticipated for 2015 and may involve physical removal of smaller populations and the continued use of Reward®.

We are committed to working with shoreline residents and the inter-agency working group to develop a long-term control plan for water soldier, based on the outcomes from this project.

For more information on the control efforts for Water Soldier please visit our website: www.invadingspecies.com.

Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System Webinars are coming!



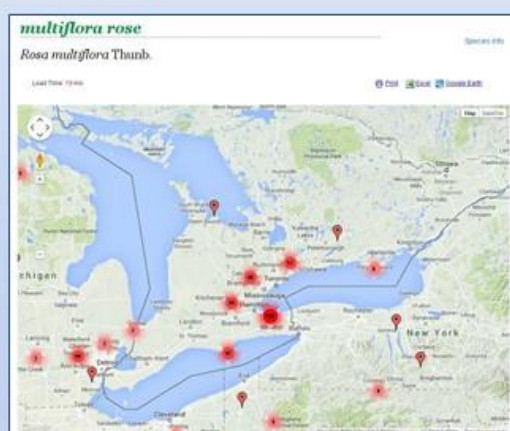
EDD MapS Ontario
Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System



Webinar – Intro to EDDMapS November 20th, 2014 @ noon

- Is Giant Hogweed in my city?
- How do I report the Round Goby I caught?

Invasive species tracking just got easier with the new EDDMapS Ontario App and web online system that contains more than 22,000 invasive species records in Ontario.



Now that the busy field season is winding down, it's time to start planning for next year's field season!

The ISAP will deliver a webinar introducing EDDMapS Ontario that will include a presentation and an open discussion where participants can ask questions to our EDDMaps expert.

For more information contact:
david_ryrie@ofah.org or call
1-800-563-7711



To register for the Webinar, contact David at the email above, or click [HERE](#)



Ontario's Invading Species Awareness Program
www.invadingspecies.com
Hotline: 1 800 563 7711

We are located at:
The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters Ontario Conservation Centre
P.O.Box 2800, 4601 Guthrie Drive
Peterborough, ON K9J 8L5
Phone: [705-748-6324](tel:705-748-6324)
Fax: [705-748-9577](tel:705-748-9577)
www.ofah.org

Like us on **Facebook**

Follow us on **twitter**