

September 2014 Newsletter



Another Successful Summer for the Hit Squad

The Invasive Species Awareness Program *Invading Species Hit Squad* spent another summer promoting education, awareness, and monitoring of invasive species in Ontario. Working alongside Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry district offices, Ontario Parks, stewardship councils, conservation authorities, and non-governmental organizations, we had a record 26 students placed across Ontario this year.

We would like to extend much-deserved 'Thank You' to all the students that worked hard to spread awareness of invasive species and their impacts, and helped to foster protection of Ontario's biodiversity.

Asian Carps Awareness Campaign



One of our five new billboards, this one is in Windsor, ON.

In March of last year, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, *Invading Species Awareness Program* received \$450,000 in funding from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, to raise awareness of Asian Carps and the impacts they could

potentially have on Canadian aquatic ecosystems. The campaign focuses on two main goals, preventing the introduction and establishment of Asian carps in the Canadian Great Lakes, and increasing the capacity for early warning of Asian carps in the Canadian Great Lakes. These goals are achieved through a targeted awareness campaign and by strengthening the ISAP's reporting tools *EDDMapS Ontario* and the *Invading Species Hotline*.

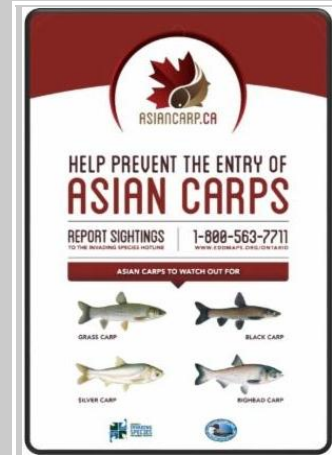
Last month five new billboards went up in key high traffic areas along Highway 401 and at US border crossings, bringing the message to report any suspected Asian Carp sightings to countless numbers of people who will pass them by.

In addition to the billboards, 250 metal signs are currently being installed throughout Ontario, in areas where people take part in fishing, boating or other water related activities. We still have a few signs available, so if you know of an area where one would be useful, please contact us at 1-800-563-7711.

New stickers, window clings for your car, and other informative resources are available for distribution, and a new website targeted at youth will be launched in the coming months.

Finally, keep your eyes and ears open for our radio Public Service Announcements and our Television commercial featuring animated Asian carps. Subscribe to our social media feeds to make sure you hear them first!

If you suspect that you have caught or seen an Asian carp, be sure to take pictures, note your location, and report it to the *Invading Species Awareness Program* at 1-800-563-7711.



18" x 12" metal signs suitable for posting outdoors

Invader of the Month Wild Parsnip

Wild Parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*) is a perennial plant native to Europe and Asia. It arrived in North America along with European settlers who grew it as a root crop. Wild populations are thought to be a result of escaped cultivated plants. Seeds can be spread by wind, water, and on vehicles and equipment. Wild Parsnip grows quickly and forms dense stands which can outcompete native species and infest agricultural areas. As



Wild Parsnip in bloom. Photo from: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

a member of the Apiaceae (carrot) family, it contains furanocoumarins in its sap, which deter predators from eating the plant, and can also lead to skin rashes and blistering for humans if the sap gets on skin that is then exposed to sunlight. If you have this plant on or around your property, or notice any large patches on untended land, please report it by visiting [EDDMapS Ontario](#) or call the *Invading Species Hotline* at 1-800-563-7711.

Ontario Invasive Plant Council: Annual General Meeting

Our partner organization, the Ontario Invasive Plant Council, is hosting their Annual General Meeting and Conference along with the Society for Ecological Restoration Ontario at the Peterborough Golf and Country Club, 1030 Armour Rd, Peterborough, on Sept 15th and 16th, 2014.

Monday Sept 15th includes the options of an invasive plant list workshop, and two different field tours, as well as an evening social.

Tuesday Sept 16th is the conference date which will include the presentations and networking opportunities.

Registration is now open! Click [HERE](#) to be directed to the OIPC website to download your registration form.



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Ontario Invasive Plant Council

2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE
SEPT 15-16 PETERBOROUGH, ON

THIS YEAR'S EVENT INCLUDES:

- Field tours: invasive species management and restoration sites
- Evening Social at the Canadian Canoe Museum
- Presentations on topics such as:
 - Managing goutweed to protect SAR
 - Restoration projects in Rouge Valley Subwatershed
 - Water Soldier control in the Trent Severn Waterway
 - The Role of mass public engagement in tackling the Phragmites invasion
 - ...and Much More

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! CLICK HERE TO REGISTER.

Photo by Patrick Hodze

Update on Water Soldier Management



Water soldier forms dense mats of vegetation at the surface, as seen in this 2014 photo taken by M. Smith.

Over the course of the summer, the ISAP and MNR staff had staff on the water almost every day, searching out and mapping locations where water soldier plants were observed in the Trent Severn Waterway, thanks to a grant of \$35,000 from the Invasive Species Centre. The use of an underwater camera on loan from Trent University was very helpful in accurately documenting these plants in waters that were too deep to see plants from the surface.

Unfortunately, monitoring efforts showed that new populations have spread from the previous areas of known distribution at Hwy 30 and Healey Falls Dam, downstream from Healey Falls and into Crowe Bay.

The information gathered this summer has been very useful in planning management, containment, and possible eradication efforts scheduled to take place this fall.

A public meeting is scheduled for September 17th, 2014 at 7pm in the Acorn Room at the Campbellford Community Resource Centre (65 Bridge St. E., Campbellford, ON).

To learn more about water soldier and what you can do to stop the spread of invasive species, visit the [Water Soldier section](#) of our website, or call the *Invading Species Hotline* at 1-800-563-7711.

Weeds Across Borders (WAB) Conference

The *Invading Species Awareness Program* will be attending the Weeds Across Borders conference this year, being held from October 14th to the 17th in Ottawa, ON. The conference will cover the interests of professionals and organizations from all across North America with a focus on sharing information and improving invasive species management.

The event, hosted by the Canadian Council on Invasive Species and its partners, is centered on educating, sharing, and disseminating knowledge about invasive species management, regulatory issues, and concerns about invasive species spread across and between all jurisdictional boundaries throughout Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

If you would like further information on the event or would like to register to attend, please click [HERE](#).



Waterfowl Hunters and Invasive Species

With waterfowl hunting season now upon us, the *Invading Species Awareness Program* has begun reaching out to waterfowl hunters to let them know how they can prevent the spread of invasive species such as Phragmites and zebra mussels when they're out on the boat or in the duck blind.

The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters will begin organizing waterfowl hunter sessions to help hunters to identify potential invasive species in their hunting areas. Also, the OFAH presenters will go over all of the necessary steps that should be taken by waterfowl hunters before, during, and after hunting to prevent the spread of invasive species in Ontario's water bodies.

Remember, a healthy environment today is a successful hunt tomorrow! Waterfowl hunters interested in learning more about how they can help click [HERE](#) or call the *Invading Species Hotline* to order our new brochure, *Our Responsibility as Waterfowl Hunters*.

For more information on invading species and to report sightings, contact us at 1-800-563-7711 or online at invadingspecies.com.



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

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