



PALMERSTON POST

SPRING 2021 (April)

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1

We have officially entered spring and most of us are experiencing some indications. The geese are flying, and birds are showing off bright colours. This morning I heard a Red Wing Blackbird. I will be on the look out for Trout lilies and other early spring blooms. This winter seemed undeniably long. As vaccines are being received there is a renewed hope of an end to this pandemic. We are hoping that everyone safely came through the winter. We are remaining vigilant and ask that you do too. Apparently, the ice is out on Palmerston, quietly disappearing so it is highly unlikely that any docks were damaged.

We were pleased with the virtual attendance of the AGM and continued our Board meeting virtually as well. The Board of Directors was nominated and voted as: President: Andrew Waywell, Directors: Jim Getman, Robbie Viets, John Viets, Rene van Diepen, Joan Cotton and Nikki Doyle. Leslie Viets is continuing as Secretary-Treasurer. There are 2 seats available on the board, but no additional nominations were brought forward.

Our website was announced at that time and we hope you have been a regular visitor. We are providing information and useful links.

<https://palmerstonlakeassociation.com>

You will find the minutes of the Annual General Meeting and current project updates. Please take the time to renew your membership and ask neighbours to join. This has been an unprecedented year and continuing changes are requiring response from all of us on the lake.

The Lake Plan Steering Committee has been set up and is well on the way, connecting with the Township of North Frontenac, the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA), Canonto Lake Property Owners Association and watershed neighbours. This will be a comprehensive plan with recommendations for the future of Palmerston Lake. A survey has been designed and will be sent to members, and various local individuals and indigenous groups.

Lake Steward John Viets is looking for assistance in progressing with the monitoring of Eurasian milfoil. The lake has been divided into six segments and he is looking for observers in each area.

This is a very invasive species and unfortunately difficult to distinguish from our local species. If you can help please contact John Viets : <jviets@storm.ca>

Removal of Aquatic Weeds - Native and Invasive Species

As the summer quickly approaches, we are all beginning to focus on our lake properties, deciding on which projects require our attention to make this the best summer possible.

Our waterfronts are quite often the first to receive our attention.

The intent of this article is to focus on the best way to deal with aquatic vegetation that has, or will, spoil swimming and boating in and around our docks and waterfront.

This will help prevent the spread of Eurasian Water Milfoil and prevent the cuttings from washing up on other's shorelines.

TO ACCOMPLISH THIS

1. Choose a calm day or a day when the wind is blowing towards you; this will help keep the weeds from getting away from you.
2. Work on small sections of weeds that you will be able to contain and remove from the lake. Then move on to the next section.
3. Please see the link at the end of this article for a broader look at Hand Pulling Eurasian Water Milfoil. These techniques can be applied to removal of weeds in your waterfront area.

All pulled Eurasian Water Milfoil and Native Aquatic plants must be disposed of above the ordinary highwater mark, preferably in a flat, vegetated area so the EWM fragments cannot wash back into a nearby water body. Compost piles, farm fields, gardens, and landfills are good places.

We must treat all weeds in our lake as if they include Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). This is because Eurasian Water Milfoil is present in our lake and it can be difficult to recognize the difference between it and Native Aquatic plants.

One key factor in Eurasian Water Milfoil's ability to take over a system is that it reproduces via fragmentation. A single inch-long piece of Eurasian Water Milfoil can float away and take root to form a new colony in another location. Clearing of aquatic plants from docks, beaches, and landings, has the potential to create thousands of new stem fragments

<https://www.uwsp.edu/cnrap/UWEXLakes/Documents/programs/CBCW/publications/EWMhandpullingbrochure.pdf>

If you have questions, suggestions, comments, information, or you have seen Eurasian Water Milfoil in your area of the lake please send an email (subject line: Aquatic Weeds) to:

PalmerstonLakeAssociation@gmail.com

John is also following up on the Gypsy moth/caterpillar invasion as well. It was noted by many at the lake that defoliating of the trees was concerning. This is an invasive species first discovered in 1969. From 2020 survey results experts are predicting 2021 to be another bad year.

Characteristics and life cycle

- Winters in the egg stage often on the bark of trees but also on boat houses, sheds etc.
- In spring eggs hatch and larva ascend to feed on new foliage
- Mature larvae are 50 mm long, dark coloured hairy with a double row of five pairs blue spots.

Initially feeding occurs during the day but as the caterpillars mature feeding occurs mainly at night (which can delay detection of infestations). Host species range from Oak, birch and aspen, sugar maple, American Beech, and softwoods such as eastern white pine and Colorado blue spruce. For more information and to participate in the Gypsy Moth survey contact:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/gypsy-moth>

Palmerston Lake Loon Survey – Observers Needed!

Volunteers are needed to observe and report on our loons. This is a free, covid-safe activity for individuals or families who enjoy nature, organized by the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey (CLLS) of Birds Canada (<https://www.birdscanada.org/bird-science/canadian-lakes-loon-survey/>). CLLS participants have monitored Common Loon chick hatch and survival since 1981, revealing a disturbing decline in loon chick production in Canada.

Our lake is too large for one person to monitor alone, but a group of volunteers responsible for different sections could cover off the whole area and get a comprehensive picture of loon abundance and breeding success on Palmerston Lake. Survey participants would need to dedicate at least three days, visiting their section of the lake once in June (to see if loon pairs are on territory), once in July (to see if chicks hatch), and once in August (to see if chicks survive long enough to fledge). Ideally a pair of binoculars would be on hand dock-side and when out boating to keep an eye on the loons from a respectful distance.

If you are interested in monitoring a section of the lake, please get in touch with Mary Rothfels (mary.rothfels@gmail.com), a Palmerston cottager and loon observer for 30 or so years. She will provide the necessary instructions and take responsibility for online reporting of your observations. This is an extremely well-run national survey that will add a new dimension to your cottage experience and inspire youth to value and conserve wildlife.

MEMBERSHIP

If you have not done so, we ask that you renew your membership for the year of 2021. Any questions about this can be directed to Robbie Viets, Membership Coordinator at palmerstonlakeassociation@gmail.com and our website <https://palmerstonlakeassociation.com>.

We are also asking for more involvement in moving the association forward. We are looking for people with history of the Lake, Biology/geography, zoology, sciences, writing skills, legal skills, graphic design, regular submissions for our newsletter. If there is something you would

like to get involved with, please put suggestions forward (e.g. birding, bird counting, water sampling, fund raising, kids' programs, hiking, photography etc.)

North Frontenac Township has a directory of local business services available. See the link in the Quick Links section of our website. <https://palmerstonlakeassociation.com>.

Questions on Swimmers' Itch

A solution to Swimmers' ITCH: Dry vigorously with a towel when first out of the water. This type of "exfoliation" will prevent it. (Thank you Nikki Doyle)

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR NEIGHBOURS AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO JOIN US. THIS NEWSLETTER IS AN APPEAL FOR MEMBERSHIP.

As we grow there is more to do as well as information to be gathered. Climate change, pandemics, technology is rapidly disrupting our enjoyment of our lake. We need you all to invest in the health of our beautiful lake for the future. If we work together the load can be shared. Most of the research is being done outdoors and ideal family participation. We want to hear from you!

Your membership with the PLA includes membership in FOCA. Which sends out alerts and offers a discount subscription to Cottage Life Magazine. This magazine has online publications and is invaluable with tips, DIY projects, dockside tips and great recipes. It also has letters to the editor, great photos and interesting articles.

Stay at home order: Can I go to the cottage?



With Ontario under a stay-at-home order that will last until at least May 20th, FOCA has been fielding calls about whether it is OK to go to the cottage.

FOCA recommends following all public health and provincial guidelines.

The stay-at-home order directs all Ontarians to remain at home except for essential purposes. If you choose to self-isolate at your waterfront home, you should stay there for at least 14 days and bring all supplies you might need

during that time. FOCA posts related information here: <https://foca.on.ca/covid-19-update-from-foca/>

FOCA E-ALERT

Turtles are on the move!

Our member groups have started reporting seeing turtles on the move already, which means it's time for a refresher on what to do if you encounter a turtle crossing the road or digging in gravel at the road's edge. Here's some help:

[click to watch a video about how to move a turtle safely](#), and [download an infographic](#) from the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre with lots of important tips for turtle encounters