

## MALLA Education Session for Eurasian Water Milfoil Pilot Project (August 6, 2019)

The event was advertised in the Frontenac News, posted on other websites such as the North Frontenac Township, e-mailed to Lake Associations in the area, and news spread by word-of-mouth. About 50 very interested people attended the session at Clar-Mill Hall. Lakes represented were: Malcolm and Ardoch, Mosque, Mississagagon, Buckshot, Brule, Sand, Palmerston, Kashawakamak, Sunday, Victoria, Wolfe, and Leggat. Organizations represented were: High Land Waters Metis Community Council Region, Youth for HLWMCA, Carleton University, FOCA, MCVA, and North Frontenac Lakes Alliance Association.

Prior to and after the presentation, people could browse at the booths where organizations with environmental interest and/or responsibilities had display materials. Representing Mississippi Valley Authority was Kelly Stiles, Biologist. From the Federation of Ontario Cottage Association, summer student, Olivia provided resources such as info about Invading Species Awareness program. A big hit with some lake people were the free "Drain/Wash Your Boat" signs. MALLA had organized a delivery of these last summer to the Township for its 57 public boat launches, so we were quite aware that they existed. Other lakes outside our area were thrilled to receive a sign. Watersheds Canada, rep was Chloe Lajoie, who provided a wealth of info about the Natural Edge program. About 15 MALLA members participated in the program in 2017 and their plants are doing well. A new resource to the area, was Highland Aerial Canada, owned and operated by Makayla Parks. Makayla was a student in the Above & Beyond Program in 2018 and this summer established her own drone business. She had just completed a contract in August with Clarendon & Miller Community Archives, where she mapped 10 of the cemeteries in North Frontenac.



Kelly Stiles, Biologist with Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority



Makayla Parks, owner/operator Highland Aerial Canada



Chole Lajoie, Watersheds Canada

Olivia, summer student for FOCA also had a booth but the photo is unavailable.

Brenda Martin, Stewardship Chair welcomed the guests and invited their input to the learning session. Thank yous went out to the booth organizations, the MALLA Executive, Stewardship, members and the pilot project volunteers.



Today's goal was to share the highlights of the MALLA EWM Management Plan (2018-2020) thus far and to share experiences from the audience as we all have one goal in mind- to gain some control over this invasive species. Partners with MALLA were introduced. First, North Frontenac Township for their initial contribution in 2018 toward burlap purchase and the political persuasion that was applied to get a permit/Letter of Authority so MALLA could try some methods; then in 2019, NF Township funded the summer student who gave the key address today.



Second partner named was Above & Beyond Drone Program out of GREC (Granite Ridge Education Centre). This program was the vision of teacher Wade Leonard, who trained students in drone deployment to qualify for their operation licences; then he was able to convince Limestone District School Board to expand

the program to add another section with an Environmental Science component to allow the data to be analyzed and presented in a useable form. The large aerial maps on the bulletin boards were orthomosaic maps produced by this program. Two "graduates" of the program are Makayla and Ryleigh with us today.

The third partner, joining in the fall of 2018 was Carleton University with Prof. Jesse Vermaire- well-known for his studies of aquatic invasive species.



The Lead for the Project for Carleton is grad student, Pat Beaupre for 2019; for 2020 it will be Eric Guidard. Pat was part of the presentation today with Eric in the audience.



Ryleigh Rioux did an outstanding job summarizing what has been completed thus far. The maps compared 2017, 2018 and 2019 data indicating the huge expansion of the EWM colonies. The strategies that MALLA selected as intervention were explained: 1) hand-pulling for shorelines and shallow areas; 2) burlap laying for approved sites; 3) education sessions for the public; 4) lobbying for government funding; 5) expanded weed watch reporting.

The presentation was followed by a very interactive question/answer session where anyone with experience made a contribution. Lots was learned with lots more work to be done.

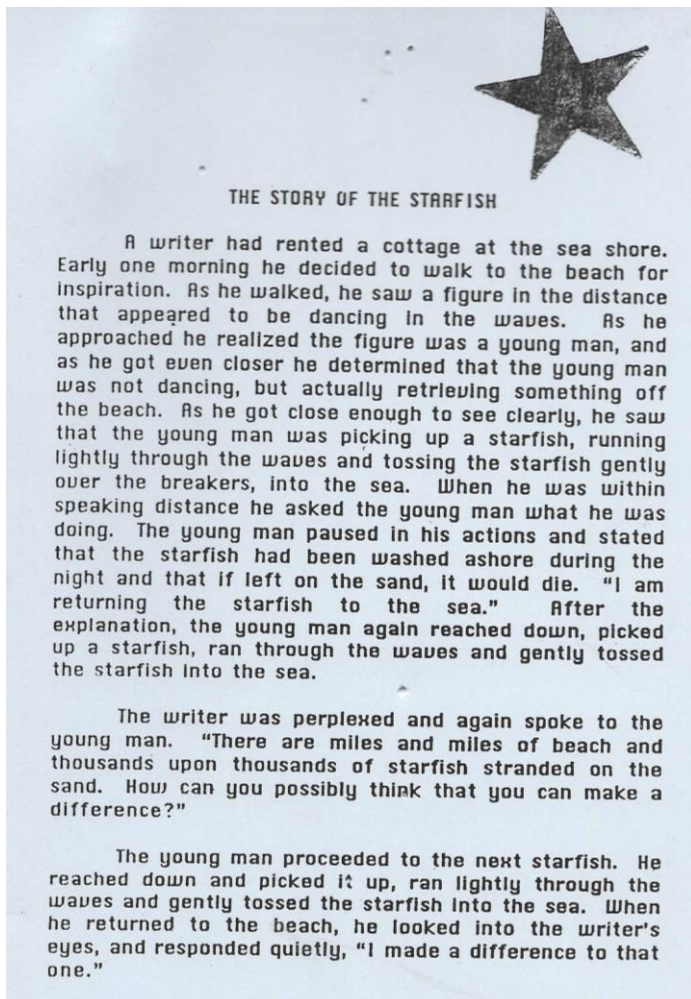


Some discussion centred on weed cutters, both hand-held and larger motorized ones. The Rideau Canal has used this technique for many years to keep the canal open. The biggest concern is to collect the cuttings without fragments escaping. The path that the weed-cutter makes would allow for better boat traffic. Presently, boat traffic is causing considerable fragmentation, especially for people who do not know what EWM looks like. There was a suggestion about buoys to mark off established EWM colonies. This would have to be checked in terms of liability and using a buoy that identifies why it is located there. There was bad news for several lakes as they thought that they did not have EWM when people in the audience noted that there were colonies in those lakes and explained where to EWM had been spotted.

There was considerable interest in the weevil as a strategy to address some measure of control. Teacher, Wade Leonard had brought samples of native weevils from his family's quarry and answered many questions about reproducing them. The Wolfe Lake Association had four people in the audience; they explained how they had some success with weevils when they were able to obtain them from EnvironScience. Once the supplier was unable to provide them, they tried locally to raise in a garage setting but had little success. There seemed to be two main issue for the weevil management method; first, there is no Canadian supplier and secondly, they were very expensive to purchase. Wolfe Lake spent \$7000 which equated to 7000 weevils @\$1.00 each. Wade Leonard who has considerable experience with aquaponic projects suggested that there may be a possibility to reproduce the weevils locally if there was a start-up grant. It would require a restricted site and monitoring by a regulatory body.



Brenda encouraged all those present to spread the word to other lake associations, use any of the materials today to educate others, and support a concerted effort to obtain government funding.



She ended the session with the Story of the Starfish which promotes hope for making a difference- even if it is small one.