

2018 Aquatic Invasive Species Program - Association Project

Questionnaire

Teal Lake Property Owners Association Response

1. a. Please describe the activities your association undertook as part of FOCA's 2018 Aquatic Invasive Species Program.

Project Goals: Establish base line profile of lake to understand current conditions and allow for monitoring. We hope to gain insight and knowledge so the association can monitor ourselves. As for education, our lake is accessible to the public and we would like to sign our boat ramp and present information to boaters to help control invasive species introduction.

Tea Lake Property Owners Association through a grant from FOCA conducted a lake-wide survey of existing aquatic species with the specific objective to identify exiting native weeds and if foreign invasive species existed. A team from Trent University in Peterborough consisting of Amanda Cooper and Katrice Baur conducted a survey on July 27, 2018. The results of their survey indicated the lake did in fact contain an invasive species of Eurasian Watermilfoil. The survey also identified beneficial native species that are useful in competing with the invasive plants. The team spent an hour reviewing their initial observations and identified the various methods of how the invasive species propagates and various methods for control. They subsequently produced a report with full detail of the lake plant profile.

b. Were you able to complete all the activities outlined in your contract? If no, please explain.

Yes, the survey was conducted and report received. Signs provided by the team and FOCA have been posted at the entrance to Tea Lake at the creek entrance and at the newly reconstructed boat launch at the north end of the lake. Further we have initiated an education program which will consist of the following:

- a. **The report is being posted to the Association's web site <http://www.tealakecottageowners.com/> under a new tab called FOCA Invasive Weed Study and will be posted by September 30th.**
- b. **A special Fall Newsletter will be issued to all members calling attention to the report and to study it and know how best to control propagation and re-introduction**
- c. **The Water Stewardship Committee will incorporate this information into any new initiatives they deem necessary in the future.**

2. a. From your experience in this program, did you encounter an initiative that worked particularly well?

The onsite and immediate information exchange from the Biologists was most helpful.

b. How many people do you estimate were impacted by each activity? (Ex. number of people who attended an event, number of people who use the boat launch each weekend etc.)

The website reaches in excess of 128 people. In addition the signage will reach estimated 10 – 15 boat visitors that use the ramp and visit the lake each weekend. It is not possible to estimate who access the lake through the river; however signage is posted on the main dock at entrance.

3. From your experience in this program, did you encounter an initiative that did not work as well as planned?

No

4. a. What aspect of your project consumed the most funds?
b. Please estimate the number of volunteer hours that were dedicated to each activity.

- **Survey – 9 hours**
- **Clearing brush at lake and posting signage – 5 hours**
- **Writing reports letters, internal meetings with committees – 6 hours**

5. Was there an aspect of your project you could have used more funding to support?

No, we reached the objective with funds provided

6. Do you feel that your outreach initiatives impacted the views and habits of people in your community? Please explain why or why not.

We believe that as our education activities roll out farther we will continue to influence more people and improve stewardship habits. It certainly has dispelled misinformation and myths about the lake weed population and more appropriate ways to address.

7. Do you have more activities planned for the coming months/next summer? If so please explain.

Not currently, however, a meeting of the executive will address how we might better monitor activity at the boat ramp. In the past two week we have noted that ATV clubs have been observed washing off the vehicles in the lake. We wonder if FOCA could reach out to the various clubs to educate them about how this affects our lakes from things like oil and gas pollution.

8. How likely are you to participate in a future invasive species program offered by FOCA? Please explain.

Given the success of this program we would definitely participate in future programs that are applicable.

9. What other education outreach topics would you find most useful for your association? FOCA is always trying to provide topical and useful programs and information. Your input and advice is appreciated.

Topics of interest is in the education of woodland specifiers. For example, many people completely clear all leaves and debris from their properties removing valuable habitat for frogs, skinks etc. How to re-introduce a healthy population of Bats to help naturally control insect population instead of using chemical means. This is a stewardship program we would like to pursue.

PHOTO RECORD



July 27, 2018 – Amanda Cooper -& Katrice Baur displaying a collection of Eurasian Watermilfoil
September 8th, 2018 New Signage posted at head of boat ramp



Second location at boat ramp – east side



River Entrance to Tea Lake – posted on dock



Copy of our Fall Newsletter – Direction to Report for Study – Published by email

Tea Lake Property Owners Association – September Newsletter

We all love this time of year, weather is moderate, bugs are few and we see more wildlife drop by for a visit. The New Executive Branch would first like to thank Heather Bird (Secretary) and Andrew Walker (Vice President) for their wonderful support and many contributions in the past two years.

We welcome Mike Collins as your new President and Robin Priestly your new secretary and thank them for stepping in the role. The new 2018 Executive Team is:

Mike Collins – President

Don Jackson – Vice President

Robin Priestly – Secretary

Doug Roberts - Treasurer

The new team has already jumped into action and on Saturday July 28th, Mike Collins hosted a meeting at the lake with the Mayor and councillors to press our concerns on Fire Ban protection, Speed limits on the new county road, and boat ramp condition among top issues. We look forward to their follow up. We are pleased to note that the 50kh signage has already been posted at the Big Chute headed east and a half kilometer east of the main parking lot heading west. Also, Georgian Paving has returned and placed heaving 2 inch granular material and compacted on the boat ramp which appears to have significantly improved the surface. Spring will tell the whole story.

The Township took our concerns regarding the fire ban to Ottawa and met with the Minister for Natural Resources. While we do not have a commitment yet for a permanent ban, we did receive permission from the MNR and Township to post signs regarding fire safety and camping educate. As soon as the OPP authorize us to use their logo we will have the signs made up on sturdy material and mounted this year.

In other news, the FOCA Aquatic Invasive Species study is complete and is being posted to the Tea Lake Website. Our deep appreciation for the support we received from FOCA and it's a great example of the value we all receive by our association with the FOCA organization. We strongly urge all cottagers to read the report as it contains important information about lake conditions. The good news is our lake is reasonably healthy however we do have an invasive species of Eurasian Watermilfoil. The Watermilfoil spreads as a result of being cut and the fragment rooting thereby starting a new plant. So if you are clearing it from in front of your cottage, remove it from the water. Another method to control is to place Mats or sand to cover the weed bed. The unfortunate part is it will kill native populations as well. As it typically grows in a depth of 2 – 15 feet our boats running through the weed patches cuts and spreads the weeds and spreads the weeds through drift. One simple solution is to try and avoid the patches and operate further out in the deeper pools while tubing and skiing.

Visiting boats can also introduce weeds and potentially zebra mussels into the lake. To educate visitors and raise awareness we have posted signs provided by FOCA at the creek entrance and ramp head FOCA supplied us. Remember if you are visiting other water bodies outside our lake with your personal watercraft, CLEAN IT before you relaunch.

Please read the report to understand how you can protect our waters and post any questions you may have. This report and further actions will be tabled at the next annual general meeting.

Finally the reconstruction of County Road is complete and the results are very good. We appreciate the feedback and input from all cottagers and especially the cooperation we received from Georgian Paving to our concerns.

We are happy to report we continue to make good progress on the issues that affect and concern us all for the safety and protection of our cherished vacation properties and lake. When it comes to the environment we are either part of the solution or part of the problem.

We hope you all enjoy what is arguably the best season of the year.

Don Jackson – Vice President