

AQUATIC PLANTS

Section 3.4 of the Otter Lake Sustainable Lake Plan deals with Aquatic Plants, both indigenous (native) and invasive species.

Goals – Identify, monitor and control (where possible) aquatic plant species.

Aquatic plants and algae play a huge role in the health of a lake and it is vitally important to ensure that a natural level of indigenous aquatic plants are present in Otter Lake; an overabundance or lack of these plants and algae can have far reaching consequences on the lake environment and affect the beauty, purpose and use of the lake. It is equally important to keep invasive species out of our lake. Everyone who lives and plays on Otter Lake has a stake in the health of Otter Lake and are encouraged to report any observations or concerns pertaining to aquatic plants and algae – olla@otterlake.org

In July 2017 a survey was undertaken with the help of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) and Otter Lake was found to have a level of indigenous plants to support a healthy lake. That survey also discovered European Frogbit, an invasive species, at the mouth of Otter Creek and across from the boat launch marshy area between the island and Highway 15. (See link to aquatic plant maps below.) In August 2017 a one-day eradication project took place to remove the European Frogbit, however this will need to be an ongoing annual project.



European Frogbit



July 2016 Aquatic Plant Survey

Two objectives are set out in Section 3.4 of the Lake Plan with a total of 9 action items identified. The status of the action items can be found in the Summary of Action Items document (link on main Lake Plan page).

QUICK LINKS to educational and informative documents, presentations and websites:

[Otter Lake Native Aquatic \(Plant\) Species Distribution Map](#)
[Otter Lake Aquatic \(Invasive Plant\) Species Identification Map](#)
[Aquatic Plants Subcommittee Presentation \(OLLA Picnic June 5, 2016\)](#)
[Aquatic Plants Subcommittee Presentation \(AGM July 23, 2016\)](#)
[Aquatic Plants Information Sheet](#)
[European Frogbit Fact Sheet](#)

Aquatic Plants: <http://invadingspecies.com/invaders/plants-aquatic/>
Invading Species Hotline: 1-800-563-7711
Blue/Green Algae: Spills Action Centre: 1-800-268-606
Other Algae Blooms: <http://http://rvca.ca/programs/algae-watch/index.html>
<https://waterrangers.ca/en>

STOP the Spread of **AQUATIC** Invasive Species

BOATERS' CHECKLIST

Before leaving the boat launch:

- ✓ Remove all aquatic plants, mussels or other visible organisms and put them in the garbage.
- ✓ Drain the water from your boat, including the motor, live well, and bilge.
- ✓ Do not release live bait! Empty your bait bucket on land, or freeze or salt the bait to use later.
- ✓ Remove organisms you can't see on your boat by:
 - Rinsing with hot water, or
 - Spraying with high-pressure water, or
 - Drying in the sun for 5 days.

INVADING SPECIES HOTLINE
1-800-563-7711

Keep All Our Lakes Great!

You can stop invading species
www.invadingspecies.com

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