

OTTER LAKE MUNICIPALITY
ADDRESSING INVASIVE SPECIES
PUBLIC MEETING

2024-05-04

OBJECTIVE

- Solicit public input on how to control invasive species in Otter Lake Municipality.

OUTLINE

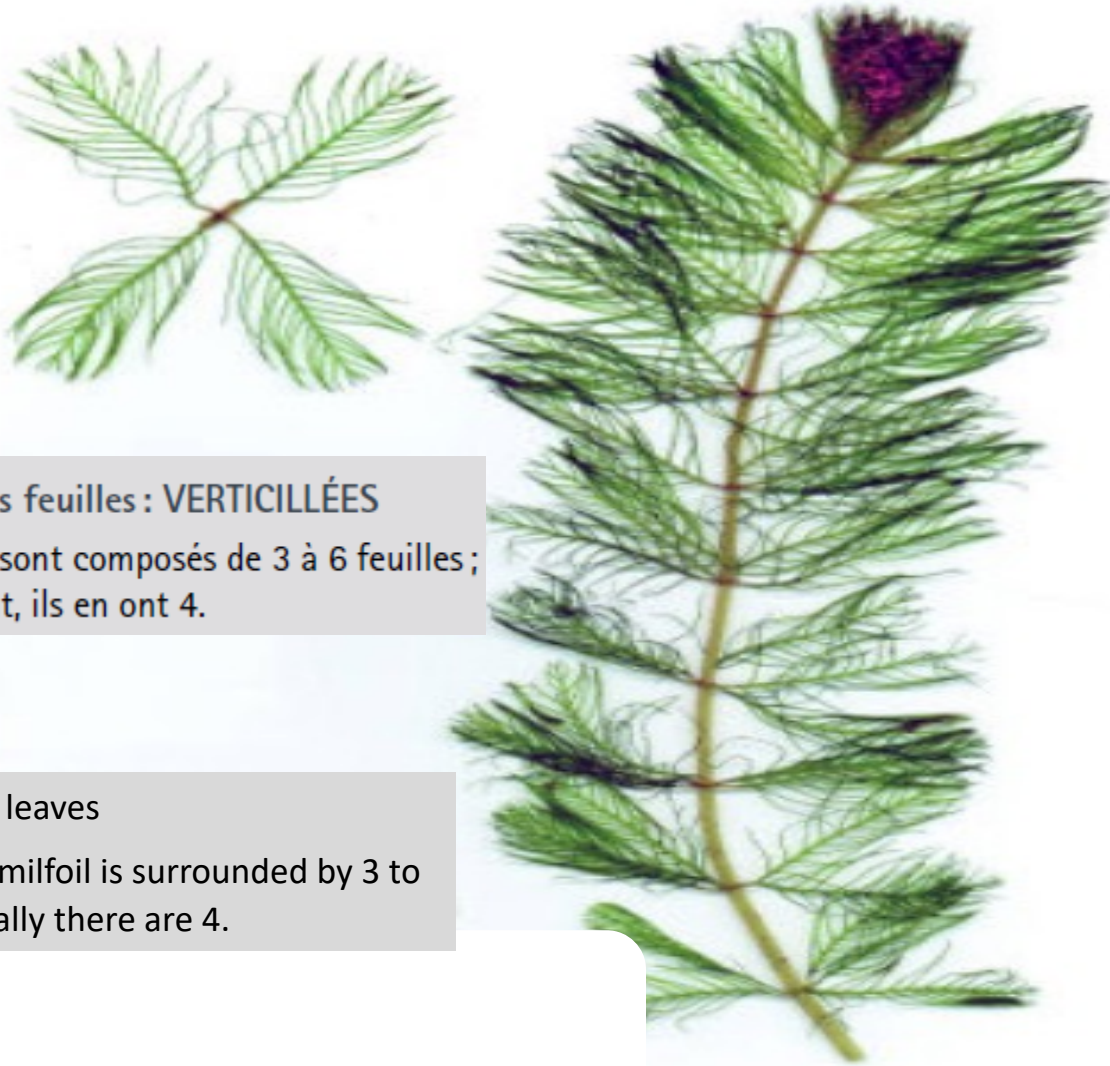
- Invasive species defined
- Eurasian Milfoil - Environmental and Economic Impact
- Photos/Locations in Lac de la Ferme & Petit Lac Cayamant
- Biologist Recommendations
- Actions taken to date by the Otter Lake Municipality
- Proposed options for further actions
- Public input

WHAT ARE INVASIVE SPECIES?

- Plants, animals, organisms not native to the area
- Most common types found in Outaouais area:
 - Eurasian Water Milfoil and Zebra Mussels
- Significant environmental impact on lakes
- Serious negative impact on property values

**Biologist confirmed Eurasian Water Milfoil in
Petit Lac Cayamant and Farm Lake**

INVASIVE SPECIES - Eurasian Watermilfoil



Arrangement des feuilles : VERTICILLÉES

- Les verticilles sont composés de 3 à 6 feuilles ; le plus souvent, ils en ont 4.

Arrangement of leaves

- Each stem of milfoil is surrounded by 3 to 6 leaves. Usually there are 4.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- Milfoil competes aggressively with native plants
- Causes decline in oxygen levels which causes fish population to die off
- Lakes can become un-swimmable
- Difficult boating through dense mats
- Eventual stagnant water – mosquitos (from lack of oxygen)
- Also need to guard against zebra mussels – extremely difficult to swim – leave deep gashes

Eurasian Milfoil



INVASIVE SPECIES

Example: Uncontrolled Eurasian Milfoil



INVASIVE SPECIES

Lac de la Ferme – Eurasian Milfoil



Colonie de myriophylles au Lac de la Ferme

ECONOMIC IMPACT

- Waterfront property values decline
- Higher property taxes / millrates for everyone
- Tourism declines, hurting local businesses
- Ongoing high costs to control

INVASIVE SPECIES – Lac de la Ferme



INVASIVE SPECIES – Petit Lac Cayamant



PREVENTING SPREAD WITHIN LAKES AND TO OTHER LAKES

Biologist's recommendations:

- Public Education
- Boat Washing
- Boat Traffic Control
 - Focus on boat launch area
 - Buoys, Other
- Shoreline Management

ACTIONS TAKEN TO DATE

- Boat washing program
 - By-law, Wash Station, Signage, Education Brochure, Grants, Enforcement, Buoys for Petit Lac Cayamant
- Attended conference on invasive species
- Biologist- surveyed Petit Lac Cayamant & Lac de la Ferme
- Invasive species committee formed
- ABVdes7 meeting
- Minister of Environment letter
- Public announcements in Equity, Taxation Newsletter
- Public meeting (today)
 - Provides more information to taxpayers
 - Solicit support for future actions

PROPOSED ACTIONS

1. Continue boat washing enforcement, including fines
2. Continue shore line management enforcement
3. Install marker buoys in both lakes
4. Inspect 6 more lakes – volunteers with boats
5. Limit the use of Lac de la Ferme boat launch to taxpayers only
6. Pursue methods to remove milfoil
 - Tarps (laid by divers)
 - Removal by hand (divers)
 - Potential herbicide recently approved
 - Grants

Blue Sea Lake Tarp Installation



Figure 3. Installation de la toile de jute avec deux quais (photo : Anaëlle Varlet).

Marker Buoys



HOW CAN WE ALL HELP STOP THE SPREAD?

1. Wash boats thoroughly before launching and when leaving the lake
2. Avoid driving boats through the milfoil
3. Watch for milfoil in your lakes & report to office
4. Skim floating pieces and remove from the lake
5. Minimize severe wave action (10km/h within 30m of shore)
6. Avoid boating near shorelines
7. Follow good shore management practices
8. Be vigilant & report anyone not following Municipal By-laws and environmental rules

INVASIVE SPECIES

Dock surrounded by Eurasian Milfoil



DISCUSSION

- **Questions**
- **Comments**
- **Suggestions**