

## **Managing EWM – Looking Back and Ahead**

The quiet of winter on Drag and Spruce Lakes marks the finish of 2024's program and the beginning of 2025's effort.

Regular updates will be provided regarding our success and upcoming planned activities.

### Outbreaks:

- 20 known EWM outbreak sites in Drag Lake and 0 in Spruce Lake
- 1 new outbreak identified last year
- 19 located close to shore, being successfully managed with a combination of matting, hand harvesting and property owner vigilance
- Primary outbreak south of Harris Beach continues to expand slowly at its southern edge
  - Working Group will redouble efforts this summer to control this growth

### Goals:

Managing EWM in our lakes annually by:

- Identifying outbreaks
- Monitoring every outbreak location each year
- Selectively applying controls to some of those outbreaks
- Sustaining our Program via:
  - Property owner resources
  - Respecting and protecting the biodiversity within our lakes

### Strategy:

- Based on our learnings to-date, we will continue to control outbreaks with:
  - Diver-assisted benthic mat deployments
  - Diver-assisted hand-harvesting
  - Cautious hand-harvesting by property owners

### Control Measures:

MNR permits these control measures to be conducted only between July 16-September 30:

- Benthic mat deployments require Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) approvals since it constitutes working on crown land
- Diver-assisted activities performed 4 days last July and drew \$27,300 from the EWM fund
- Hand-harvesting by waterfront property owners is allowed by MNR
  - Must be directly in front of their own property
  - EWM Working Group is allowed to assist

### How You Can Make A Difference:

- Volunteer to help with diver-assisted activities
- Maintain a watch of your shoreline and report possible new outbreaks
- Remove and dispose of floating fragments

- Donate to our EWM Fund
  - The current balance will not cover anticipated expenses this year

Additional Information:

- Visit DSLPOA website and review:
  - Several articles and links about Eurasian Watermilfoil
  - Our DSLPOA EWM Journey
  - Link for Donation

Thank you to our EWM Volunteers, our donors and our Working Group. We greatly appreciate your assistance helping us manage EWM in our lakes.

Jim Miners

For The Working Group