



Severn Sound Environmental Association
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) and Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) Report Successful Invasive Species Management in Severn Sound

Port McNicoll, Ontario – October 22, 2024 – The Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA), in collaboration with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) Invasive Species Awareness Program, proudly announces the successful completion of a 16-week invasive species management project in the Severn Sound watershed. This initiative, led locally by SSEA, focused on monitoring, managing, and educating the community about invasive species threats to native biodiversity.

"The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) is proud to partner with the SSEA on the Invasive Species Management Program established in the Severn Sound region. Each year, the OFAH and SSEA work collaboratively through the Hit Squad Program to provide SSEA with staffing to help maintain healthy environments in the region" says Matt DeMille, the Executive Director of the OFAH.

The project covered municipal parks across eight municipalities, including Tay, Midland, Tiny, Penetanguishene, Springwater, Georgian Bay, Oro-Medonte, and Severn. Significant efforts were made in removing invasive species such as phragmites, spotted knapweed, garlic mustard, buckthorn, and Himalayan balsam from various locations.



SSEA and OFAH staff & volunteers surveying local stream for invasive crayfish.

The initiative saw active participation from volunteers, including 30 Township Tiny Camp Counsellors in Training at LaFontaine Park and additional volunteers at Wye Marsh and during crayfish surveys. These efforts resulted in the removal of numerous invasive species, contributing to the restoration of native habitats.

The project included educational events such as the Discover Coldwater, Tay Kids Fishing Day, and the Georgian Bay Honey Bee

Festival attracting hundreds of community members, raising awareness about invasive species and promoting best management practices.

“Partnerships with organizations like OFAH, Friends of Wye Marsh (FOWM), Invasive Species Centre, MTM Conservation and local municipalities have been instrumental in the invasive species program’s success” said Patrick Jackson, SSEA Invasive Species Program Coordinator.

Arenn Osadzuk, SSEA/OFAH Invasive Species Technician, stated, “Working with SSEA has been incredibly educational and fulfilling. Our efforts in managing invasive species have made a significant impact on the local ecosystem, and the community’s involvement has been inspiring.”



SSEA, OFAH, and FOWM staff removing invasive phragmites from Wye Marsh.

About SSEA:

The Severn Sound Environmental Association is a Joint Municipal Service Board that is dedicated to protecting and enhancing the environmental health of the Severn Sound

watershed on behalf of eight member municipalities. To learn more about SSEA, visit www.severnsound.ca.

About OFAH:

The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of Ontario's fish and wildlife resources. Through education, advocacy, and hands-on conservation projects, OFAH works to ensure a healthy and sustainable environment for future generations.

Contact:

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