Invasive Species Report 2024

Township of Oro-Medonte

Glossy Buckthorn, Bass Lake shoreline

Severn Sound watershed municipalities are leading the way on cross-municipal invasive species education and management. The Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) works with the Township of Oro-Medonte, seven other municipalities and local agencies to coordinate the monitoring and management of invasive species on a watershed scale. With support from the Township of Oro-Medonte, monitoring of invasive species has been conducted on municipal properties by SSEA staff and supplemented by additional observations throughout the Township from community members.

In 2024, **66** invasive species of plants, fish, and invertebrates were identified on municipal properties in the Township of Oro-Medonte with a total of **88** species to date. SSEA, has categorized **6** species as priority invaders in **Table 1**. These species pose a threat to the ecosystems, economy and public health of community members and should be a focus for coordinated management activities and educational opportunities. Priority rankings can change as a result of invasiveness of non-native species, new species introductions, public interest and yearly invasive species monitoring results. A total of **137** invasive species have been documented in the watershed to date.

88	Invasive species identified in Oro-Medonte
6	Priority invasive species

Table 01

Priority Invasive Species Detected Within the Township of Oro-Medonte

Species Group	Species Name
Aquatic Plants & Algae	European frog-bit
Terrestrial Plants	Garlic mustard Glossy buckthorn
Wetland Plants	Phragmites
Invertebrates	Mystery snails Rusty Crayfish

SSEA and volunteers removing garlic mustard at Copeland Forest

Vulnerable Areas & Summary

Municipalities are vulnerable to the economic and social impacts of priority invasive species such as those listed in **Table 1.** For the Township of Oro-Medonte, high traffic areas including Bass Lake, public parks and trail systems are examples of places that are at risk for invasive species introduction and establishment.

SSEA continued assist Township of Oro-Medonte staff with invasive species identification and management through training and volunteer events. SSEA teamed up with Friends of Copeland Forest for Garlic Mustard Removal in Copeland Forest, managed a Goutweed & Yellow Archangel at Ramey Park, and surveyed 9 municipal parks in the township (**Table 2**).

Over the last two years, SSEA has surveyed sites across the watershed for aquatic invasive species, primarily focusing on invasive crayfish. The Severn Sound Watershed is on the leading edge of the White River Crayfish invasion, which was first detected in Six Mile Lake. In the Township of Oro-Medonte, 6 locations were surveyed – which included Bass Lake (two sites), Coldwater River (three sites), and Sturgeon River. Thus far, no invasive crayfish have been identified in these waterbodies, however, several Round Gobies were detected in the Coldwater River.

Yellow Archangel Removal at Ramey Park

Goutweed Removal at Ramey Park

White Sweetclover at Ellen Park

Bass Lake Aquatic Invasive Species Survey

Recommendations

The SSEA proposes to lead the following priority actions with the Township of Oro-Medonte in 2025:

- Collaborate on management of phragmites on municipal roadsides, as funding permits
- Support and coordinate community invasive species management events
- Support partner organizations and groups in their work to manage invasive species, by providing technical expertise and assistance when possible, and collaborating to expand invasive species knowledge and management efforts across the watershed
- Promote engagement in Citizen Science initiatives to residents to increase invasive species awareness and reporting
- Provide invasive species workshops/educational opportunities for Township of Oro-Medonte staff and residents

Table 02

List of documented invasive species found during the 2024 invasive species surveys on municipal properties. Species that are a considerable determinant to ecosystems, economy or human health have been prioritized in Table 1.

Species	Scientific Name	Danny McHugh Memorial	Ellen Park	Horseshoe Valley Memorial Park	Horseshoe Valley Park (Pods:Alpine)	Price Park	Ramey Park	Richelieu Park	South Side Bass Lake Park	Bass Lake Aquastic Survey
Asian Lady Beetle	*Harmonia axyridis*								X	X
Banded Mystery Snail	*Viviparus georgianus*									X
Bedstraw	*Cruciata laevipes*		X	X					X	
Birds's-foot Trefoil	*Lotus corniculatus*		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bittersweet Nightshade	*Solanum dulcamara*					X	X			
Bladder Campion	*Silene vulgaris*	X	X	X	X			X		X
Broad-leaved Dock	*Rumex obtusifolius*				X			X	X	X
Broad-leaved Helliborine	*Epipactis helleborine*				X					
Bull Thistle	*Cirsium vulgare*	X					X	X		
Canada Thistle	*Cirsium aervense*						X	X	X	X
Chicory	*Cichorium intybus*	X	X	X	X		X		X	
Chinese Mystery Snail	*Cipangopaludina chinensis*									X
Coltsfoot	*Tussilago farfara*	X					X		X	X
Common Buckthorn	*Rhamnus cathartica*	X				X				X
Common Guelder-rose	*Viburnum opulus*					X				X
Common Lilac	*Syringa vulgaris*							X		X
Common Mullein	*Verbascum thapsus*		X	X						
Common Soapwort	*Saponaria officinalis*			X	X		X			
Common Sow-thistle	*Sonchus oleraceus*							X	X	X
Creeping Bellflower	*Campanula rapunculoides*					X	X	X	X	X
Crown Vetch	*Securigera varia*			X						
Curly Dock	*Rumex crispus*	X	X	X			X	X		
Deptford Pink	*Dianthus armeria*			X						

Species	Scientific Name	Danny McHugh Memorial	Ellen Park	Horseshoe Valley Memorial Park	Horseshoe Valley Park (Pods:Alpine)	Price Park	Ramey Park	Richelieu Park	South Side Bass Lake Park	Bass Lake Aquastic Survey
Emerald Ash Borer	*Agrilus planipennis*									X
Eurasian Water-milfoil	*Myriophyllum spicatum*									X
Everlasting Pea	*Lathyrus latifolius*			X				X		X
Field Bindweed	*Convolvulus arvensis*			X				X		X
Fleabane (Philadelphia)	*Erigeron philadelphicus*	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	
Forget-Me-Not	*Myosotis scorpioides*								X	X
Garlic Mustard	*Alliaria petiolata*		X				X	X		
Glossy Buckthorn	*Rhamnus frangula*	X							X	X
Goutweed	*Aegopodium podagraria*						X			
Ground-Ivy	*Glechoma hederacea*						X			
Herb Robert	*Geranium robertianum*	X					X			
Himilayan Balsam	*Impatiens glandulifera*									X
Invasive Honeysuckle	*Lonicera sp.*			X	X	X		X		
Japanese Beetle	*Popillia japonica*	X	X	X		X	X	X		
Lesser Burdock	*Arctium minus*		X	X		X	X			
Lesser Periwinkle	*Vinca minor*									X
Mantioba Maple	*Acer negundo*		X			X	X	X		X
Meadow Buttercup	*Ranunculus acris*	X		X	X	X	X		X	X
Meadow Salsify	*Trgopogon pratensis*						X			
Mouse-ear hawkweed	*Pilosella officinarum*					X				
Norway maple	*Acer platanoides*							X		X
Orange Day-lily	*Hemerocallis fulva*		X				X	X		X
Orchard Grass	*Dactylis glomerata*	X	X	X			X			
Oriental Bittersweet	*Celastrus orbiculatus*					X				
Oxeye Daisy	*Leucanthemum vulgare*	X	X	X	X		X	X		X
Phragmites	*Phragmites australis ssp. australis*									X

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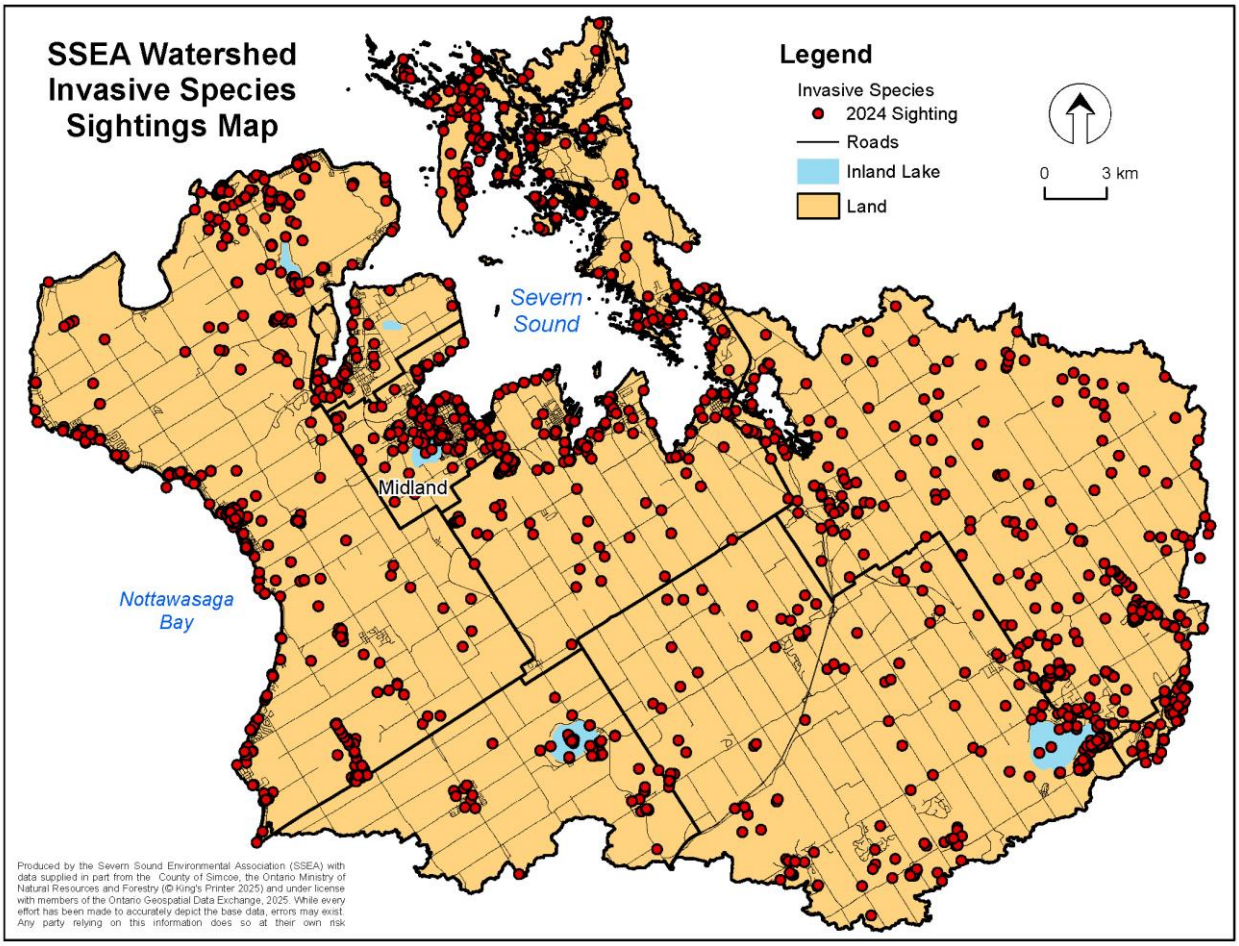
Purple Loosestrife	*Lythrum salicaria*									X
Quack Grass	*Elymus repens*		X							
Quagga Mussel	*Dreissena bugensis*									X
Scots Pine	*Pinus sylvestris*	X	X		X					X
Smooth Brome	*Bromus inermis*	X	X				X	X		
Spotted Knapweed	*Centaurea maculosa*			X				X		
Spotted Lady's Thumb	*Persicaria maculosa*								X	
St. John's-wort	*Hypericum perforatum*	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Sulphur Cinquefoil	*Potentilla recta*				X		X			
Sweet Woodruff	*Galium odoratum*				X					
Toadflax	*Linaria vulgaris*								X	X
Tufted Vetch	*Vicia cracca*		X	X	X			X	X	X
Viper's Bugloss	*Echiu vulgare*		X	X	X			X		
White Campion	*Silene latifolia*			X				X		
White Sweetclover	*Melilotus alba*		X	X	X			X		
Wooly Hedgenettle	*Stachys byzantina*			X						
Zebra Mussel	*Dreissena polymorpha*									X

Invasive Species on the Horizon – Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid aka HWA (*Adelges tsugae*) is an invasive aphid-like insect which poses a serious risk to Eastern Hemlock trees in Ontario. The adelgid kills hemlocks by sucking up nutrients and water at storge cells located at the base of hemlock needles. Early detection of HWA is important to prevent spread. Signs and symptoms include white “fuzzy” sacs at the base of hemlock needles, premature dieback and early needle loss, greyish discolouration, and death of the tree. To help prevent the spread, avoid placing bird feeders near hemlock trees, do not move firewood and get involved with the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Monitoring Network (HWAMN)

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid
Photo Credit: Chris Evans, Illinois Wildlife Action Plan



137 species have been identified across the Severn Sound watershed to date. A list of all invasive species documented to date through the SSEA Invasive Species Program is provided in the **Municipal IS Summary Report.**

2024 Watershed Invasive Species Summary

- **163** sites surveyed for invasive species
- **4327** occurrences of invasive species *staff and citizen science observations
- **19** SSEA/municipal-led community removal projects
- **110+** volunteers involved in community invasive species management
- **420** person hours spent on management (including volunteers, SSEA staff and municipal staff)

White River Crayfish