

Barkmere, August 6 2016

Good afternoon,

As promised, we are keeping you up to date regarding the actions taken to take control of the Eurasian Water Milfoil which has been identified in Silver Bay. I want to thank Joan Smith (Robinson) who first noticed the patch, and her brother Chris to have communicated the information immediately.

### **Information**

I would like to thank Donna Florence, Mike Tate, Bob Palo, Richard and Sandra Silbert, and probably others I am forgetting (and I apologize), who helped by distributing a printed copy of my e-mail of this week to all cottages around the Lake. This was great work.

It is important that we keep the information disseminated in an organized manner. We understand that it is difficult to do so in the context of limited Internet access. Since word of mouth is always the most common way of spreading information in Bark Lake (but not necessarily the best way), please refer to these e-mails as your source.

### **Identification and Survey**

Professor Richard Carignan, our leading expert on milfoil, along with Anne Léger of CRÉ Laurentides, spent two days this past week surveying most lakes upstream of Bark Lake, for traces of the milfoil, in order to decide if the infestation came from there. All lakes surveyed, did not seem to have any milfoil, but they could not survey Hart Lake, the small lake immediately upstream of the inlet. According to Prof. Carignan, it could be good news if the infestation is NOT coming from there, as it would mean that we can eradicate the weed for good, without having to take extensive actions every year. Until now, we have identified a patch in Silver Bay, which was marked with ropes and buoys, and some individual plants in the inlet region.

Prof. Carignan has advised us to do a complete survey of the shoreline of Bark Lake, to identify other locations, if any. Council will meet next week in order to grant this survey contract to a professional firm, as identification must be precise, and distinguished from other species of plants which are indigenous to the lake and harmless. Again, I invite you to communicate with the Town Hall or myself, if you see some suspicious plants. It is preferable to have many false alarms, in this case, than to leave a real threat unidentified.

The Professor also thinks that the water chemistry of the Lake could play in our favour in limiting the spread of the weed. However, he admits that he is far from certain about this, and we cannot let out our efforts down.

### **Removal**

We have worked with Professor Carignan to establish a plan of action. First, he said that we were in a good position, having identified the problem very early, which gives us a chance to try to remove the plants. Also, the spread of the weed is very limited, which makes this complete removal possible. Other alternatives, like jute bags, insects, herbicide, etc., would be considered for greater infestations than the one we are currently facing.

Prof. Carignan added an important piece of information since my first e-mail, which forced us to speed up our intervention. Around August 15<sup>th</sup> every year, these aquatic plants become more brittle and are subject to break easier from the action of waves. Therefore, he advised us to immediately start the process of removal, instead of the earlier plan I discussed this week, which involved getting divers in place only in a week or two.

On Friday morning, Prof. Carignan organised removal of the plants. He also trained some volunteers in small boats who need to pick up the plants as they float to the surface. He supervised the early progress and has advised me that the work with being done thoroughly and safely. Given the urgency, the divers and the volunteers kept working all day yesterday, and basically removed all plants from the first patch identified. This is very good news. The divers will return to the area tomorrow Sunday to review and make sure that all visible plants were removed from that patch. I extend my thanks to Councillor Jake Chadwick and his family, along with the Town employees, who dedicated their day to this intervention.

Today, Saturday, Jake and the Town employees are busy identifying the individual plants found in the inlet area with small buoys, so the divers do not lose its time looking for them.

Some of you have expressed that they would be ready to come help with their boat. If we have 3 divers, we will need 6 small boats (fishing type with a small motor). The only equipment needed would be a net of the type used to remove leaves in a swimming pool, and some plastic garbage bags to store the plants removed. So if you have time tomorrow, please communicate with me, or Jake Chadwick, or the Town employees (copied here) so we can coordinate the effort. Jake will be able to give you instructions on how to collect the plants detached from the bottom. We do not need to have too many participants, as we do not want to stir the water too much around the area.

#### **Limiting the access**

We have been advising all fishermen coming to the Lake to keep away from the Silver Bay area, and informing them about the dangers of spreading the milfoil. The response has been very good. However, we have witnessed a resident of Bark Lake using a pedal boat in the area of the inlet, even though he had been made aware of the problem. I deplore this incident, and have to ask again everybody to limit boat traffic in that area, until we can perform the full survey.

Thank you again for your collaboration and support. Together, we can beat the milfoil!

Luc.

**Luc Trépanier**  
**Maire / Mayor**  
**Ville de Barkmere / Town of Barkmere**