

## **Eurasian milfoil in Lac-des-Loups**

During the summer of 2015, ABV7, a community environmental group which studies issues concerning the seven rivers forming the watershed on the Québec side of the Ottawa River, mapped the presence of the Eurasian milfoil in our lake. The report (in French only) can be found on the Association's web site:



*Photograph by Jane Aiden Stevens  
Courtesy of the Lake George Association.  
Girl swimming in milfoil*

<http://www.aldl.org/Other%20Documents/Rapport%20complet%20Myriophylle%20au%20LDL%20-%20FIN.pdf>

Eurasian milfoil is an invasive plant. It probably arrived in the lac des Loups from uncleaned boats which transported it from other, contaminated, lakes or rivers. The plant is not native to Québec; it strangles domestic aquatic plants. It grows in shallow water and self-propagates. If a boat propeller cuts one of the plants wands, the detached wand can easily take root elsewhere in the lake.

At our 2016 AGM, members voted to form an Association working group which was mandated to develop an action plan to fight the presence of this plant in our lake. In the summer of 2018, a « citizen-science » experiment was begun whereby a volunteer group of residents monitor the evolution of the plant in our lake. What follows are the conclusions of their report.

### **News from the Summer, 2018**

- The milfoil has spread to all parts of the lake. The number and size of the one specie colonies has increased in 2018 compared to 2017.
- Nearly half of the milfoil is now found in the central part of the lake, a zone which boaters find difficult to avoid. The entrance to the creek (where the lake empties into Otter Lake) is almost completely choked by the plant.
- Several mixed colonies now contain significant milfoil – an unwanted evolution from the initial report of 2015.
- Milfoil fragments are found everywhere on the lake. Since the plant reproduces by these fragments, it is imperative to find a way to reduce boating within the milfoil colonies...
- The red buoys, installed around the lake this summer to identify significant milfoil presence, were not useful. Ideally, the municipality (or the province) should provide standardized buoys or markers to clearly discourage activities all infected areas of all lakes.

- We did not see the late blooming of the plant (observed in 2017). Nor did we find the absence of milfoil in certain areas where we expected.
- The use of volunteers to gather important information seems like an interesting approach which we intend to continue. More volunteers would be helpful
- If the current trend continues, we will have to consider other options to control the spread of milfoil in the lac des Loups.