

Canadian Lakes Aquatic Plant Control Program 2023 Annual Report

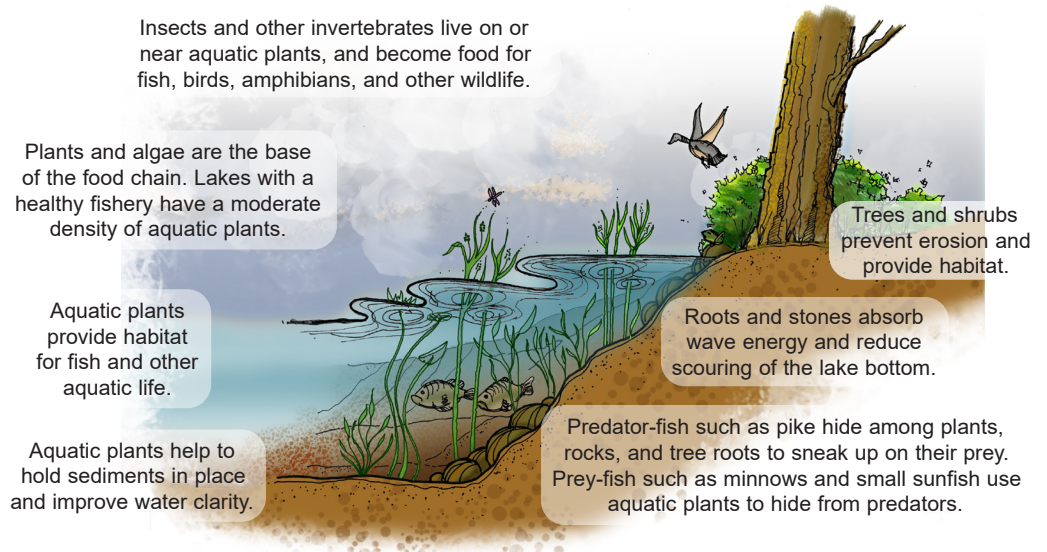
A publication of the Canadian Lakes Property Owners Corporation

Canadian Lakes Property Owners Corporation

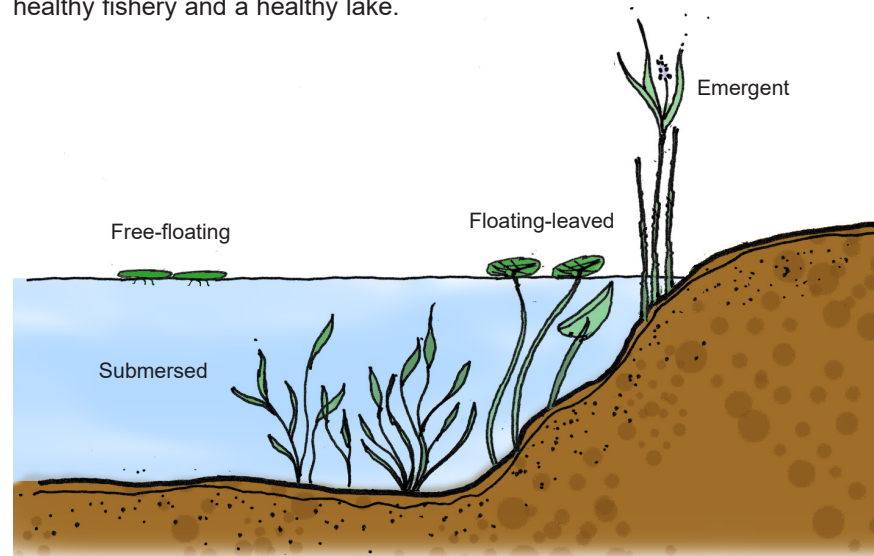
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For many years, a nuisance plant control program has been ongoing on Canadian Lakes. The primary objective of the program is to prevent the spread of invasive aquatic plants while preserving beneficial plant species. The program is financed through the Canadian Lakes Property Owners Corporation. This report contains an overview of plant control activities conducted on Canadian Lakes in 2023.

Aquatic plants are an important component of lakes. They produce oxygen during photosynthesis, provide food, habitat and cover for fish, and help stabilize shoreline and bottom sediments.



There are four main aquatic plant groups: submersed, floating-leaved, free-floating, and emergent. Each plant group provides important ecological functions. Maintaining a diversity of aquatic plants is important to sustaining a healthy fishery and a healthy lake.



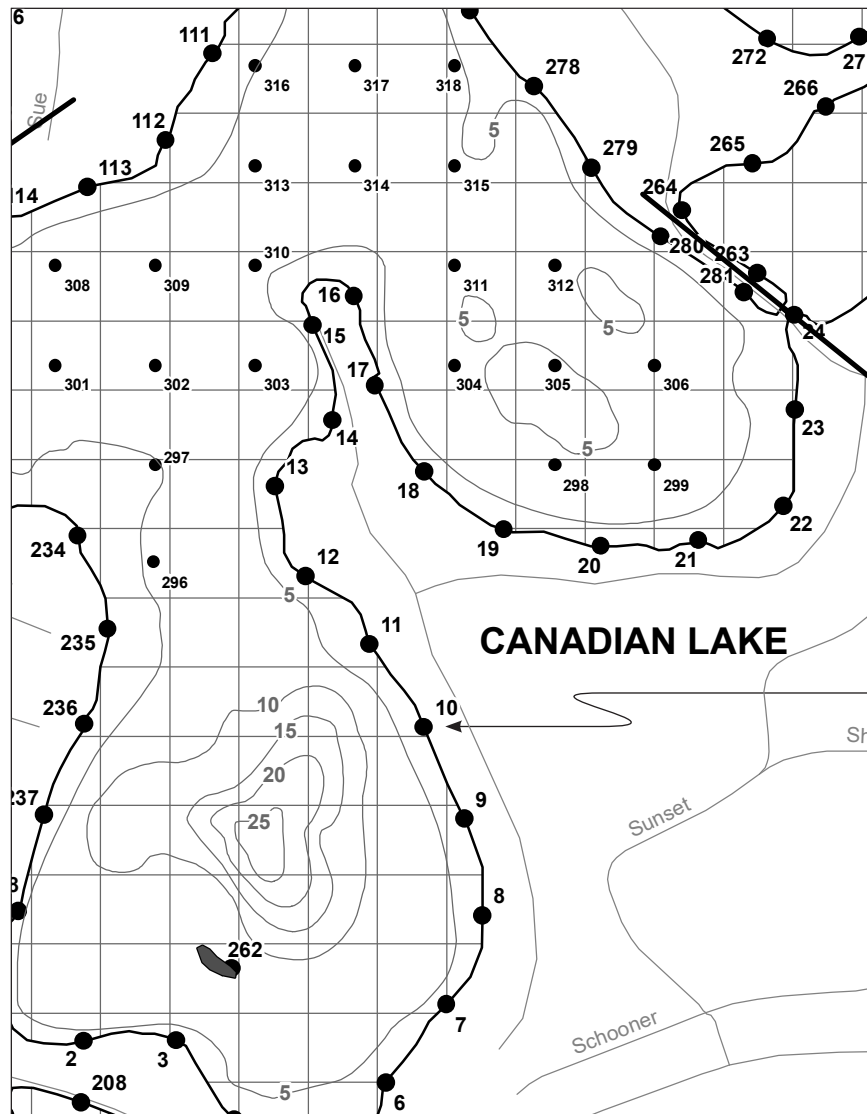
Environmental Consultant
Progressive AE

Herbicide Applicator
Michigan Lakefront Solutions

Harvesting Contractor
PLM Lake and Land Management

2

Plant control activities are coordinated under the direction of an environmental consultant, Progressive AE. Biologists from Progressive conduct GPS-guided surveys of the lake to identify problem areas, and detailed plant control maps are provided to the plant control contractors. Progressive performs follow-up surveys throughout the growing season to evaluate results and the need for additional plant control measures. In 2023, surveys of the lake were conducted on May 10, June 6, June 29, July 10, August 9, and August 29.



GPS reference points established along the shoreline and across shallow portions of Canadian Lakes are used to guide plant surveys and to accurately identify the location of nuisance plant growth areas.

Plant control in Canadian Lakes involves the select use of herbicides as well as mechanical harvesting of nuisance plants. Primary plants targeted for control in Canadian Lakes include Eurasian milfoil and starry stonewort. Both of these plants are non-native (exotic) species that tend to be highly invasive and have the potential to spread quickly if left unchecked.



Eurasian milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)



Starry stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*)

Commercial plant control activities conducted on Canadian Lakes in 2023 are summarized in the table below. Pond treatments are not included in this summary.

CANADIAN LAKES 2023 NUISANCE AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL SUMMARY

Work Type	Date	Plants Targeted	Acres
Herbicide	May 18	E. milfoil, curly-leaf, algae	126.25
Herbicide	June 14-15	E. milfoil, starry, natives, algae	38.25
Harvest	June 26-30	Nuisance natives	45.50
Herbicide	July 19	E. milfoil, starry, natives	51.50
Harvest	August 21-29	Nuisance Natives	52.75
Herbicide	August 22	E. milfoil, starry	14.25
Total Herbicide			230.25
Total Harvest			98.25

Native Aquatic Plants

4

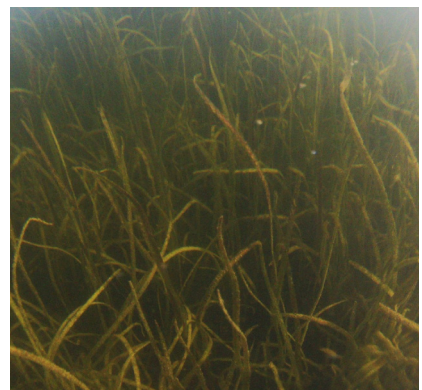
The Canadian Lakes contain an abundance of plant species, both native and exotic. Three of the most common native plant species found in Canadian Lakes are Illinois pondweed, large-leaf pondweed, and wild celery. Both Illinois pondweed and large-leaf pondweed can grow to the lake's surface during summer and produce a spike that pokes above the surface. Wild celery leaves typically stay below the water's surface, however, the small white flower it produces on a spiral stalk in late July and August typically breaks the lake's surface. Wild celery is shallow-rooted, leading to large floating mats that can accumulate when there is heavy boat traffic. These native plant species are vital to the Canadian Lakes ecosystem.



Illinois pondweed



Large-leaf pondweed



Wild celery

Native plants have specific permit restrictions in that they may only be treated along developed shorelines within 100 feet of shore or out to the five foot depth contour, whatever is closest to shore. Most often, mechanical harvesting is the most appropriate way to manage nuisance native plant growth. An added benefit of harvesting is that the biomass is removed from the lake, preventing the plants from falling to the bottom and contributing to the muck buildup within the lakes.



Commercial mechanical harvester



CLPOC owned and operated Truxor harvesting machine