



FRESHwater OFF THE PRESS

July 2011

Project Coordinator Hired Through OTF Funding

The Central Algoma Freshwater Coalition (CAFC), in partnership with the East Algoma Stewardship Council (EASC) and The Kensington Conservancy (TKC), was successful in obtaining a \$102,300.00 grant by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The grant enabled the coalition to hire Project Coordinator Lindsey Verdone for a 24 month period. Verdone will educate landowners and cottagers on freshwater stewardship practices and will work to recruit and train volunteers to actively engage in water quality monitoring on lakes in Central Algoma.

Ontario Trillium Foundation



Fondation Trillium de l'Ontario



Verdone volunteering during winter sampling

While Northern Ontario lakes have historically been known as mainly pristine, Desbarats Lake and other surrounding bodies of water have been experiencing recurring algal blooms, boil water

advisories, & fish kills. Verdone will work to maintain and build upon partnerships, local organizations and schools to promote good stewardship and healthy shoreline practices through workshops, events and presentations.

Verdone will also meet with landowners to provide information and recommendations to address best practices to influence water quality, and work to recruit volunteers for public outreach and restoration or water sampling initiatives. In addition to public outreach initiatives, Verdone will also carry out water quality sampling for analysis and collection of available scientific data on inland lakes within the area.

Verdone offers free presentations to local lake associations & community groups in an effort to tackle local water quality issues. The presentation will last approximately 30 minutes and address issues like; local aquatic invasives, harmful algal blooms, good stewardship practices, and healthy shoreline living. Contact her if you are interested today!

The Central
Algoma Freshwater
Coalition

Executive

Edith Orr,

Chair

Paula Antunes,

Secretary/Treasurer

Directors

Eden Boyko

Neil Duguay

John Fullerton

Nancy Maltman

John Milito

Peggy Milito

David Ratz

Joanne Springer

Staff

Lindsey Verdone

Project Coordinator

cafreshwatercoalition@gmail.com

705-297-2201

About The Central Algoma Freshwater Coalition...

The Central Algoma Freshwater Coalition (CAFC) is a recently established not-for-profit group dedicated to the protection, improvement and restoration of the watersheds throughout the Central Algoma Region. CAFC provides information and practices that enable the general public to become good stewards of our natural resources for the benefit of current and future generations.

GET YOUR TICKETS FOR THIS YEAR'S GREEN EXPO MEAL

CAFC will be hosting a fundraising dinner again at the 3rd annual Green Expo on **July 22nd at 7:00pm**. The dinner will take place at the Johnson Township Community Centre in Desbarats ON. Doors open at 6:00pm and guests can grab a refreshment at the cash bar, held by the Bruce Mines Legion Branch 211. The dinner, prepared by Cheryl Larrett, will highlight local meats from **Penokean Hills Farms** and local produce. The evening entertainment, provided by the **Country Bumpkins**, will begin shortly after 8:00pm and beginner square dancers are welcome.

Proceeds from the local meal supports CAFC's initiatives

and projects to improve, protect and restore water quality in Central Algoma's local lakes, rivers and streams. "We are happy to be back hosting the local meal at the Green Expo again this year," said Edith Orr, chair, CAFC. "Opportunities like this allow CAFC create such strong and creative partnerships with local organizations working towards a common goal." Collaboration at the Green Expo will teach local cottagers, landowners and residents about exciting environmental projects that are taking place within the Central Algoma district.

The 2011 Green Expo is hosted by the East Algoma Stewardship



**GLOBAL CHALLENGES
LOCAL SOLUTIONS**

Council, in partnership with the Township of Johnson, The Kensington Conservancy, The Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre, Algoma Power, CAFC, Clean

North, Walmart, Child Care Algoma and Northern Credit Union. The event presents local solutions to many global challenges and presents a wide variety of green exhibitors & presentations.

TICKETS:

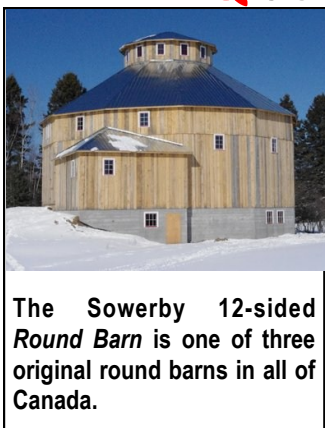
Dinner & Dance: \$25.00

Dinner Only: \$20.00

Children (under 12): \$12.00

Tickets are available at the Township of Johnson Municipal Office, The Desbarats Farmers Market and the Blind River & SSM District MNR offices. For more information on the local meal, please email cafreshwatercoalition@gmail.com or call 705-297-2201.

FREE BBQ at CAFC's Annual Meeting in Sowerby this year



The Sowerby 12-sided Round Barn is one of three original round barns in all of Canada.

Learn about CAFC and how hard we have been working this year at our Annual General Meeting, being held at the Sowerby Hall (Bright & Day Recreation Centre), just off Highway 17 on Basswood Lake Road in Sowerby. The CAFC staff and Board of Directors will be serving up BBQ burgers with fresh salad and dessert for guests who are interested in coming. **Dinner is FREE for all**, so come and enjoy the evening with us!

Guests are also welcome to take part in a tour of the newly renovated Round Barn in Sowerby, a culturally significant jaw-dropper filled with rich history. There will be two tours taking place:

TOUR 1: 5:00pm

TOUR 2: 8:30pm

We hope to see you there!



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WHEN:
Thursday, July 14th 2011

WHERE:
Sowerby Hall
(Off Hwy 17 at Basswood Lake Rd)

TIME:
6:00pm: BBQ
7:15pm: CAFC Annual Meeting

Visit us in our NEW OFFICE!

We are having an **OPEN HOUSE** on **Wednesday, August 3rd from 1:00pm—4:00pm** to showcase our NEW office, located on HWY 17 in Bruce Mines, in the same building as the barber shop.

9112 Highway 17 East
Bruce Mines

Stop by and visit! We have plenty of information and resources on:

- Local aquatic invasive species
- Harmful Algal Blooms
- Nutrient Loading Effects
- Good Stewardship Practices
- Healthy shoreline Living



Have you seen this around your shorelines?

Beware of Eurasian Watermilfoil!

This invasive species has been spotted in several locations in the Central Algoma region and is affecting our water quality. This water weed rows rapidly and forms a dense canopy on the water surface, interfering with recreation, inhibiting water flow, and tangling boat propellers.

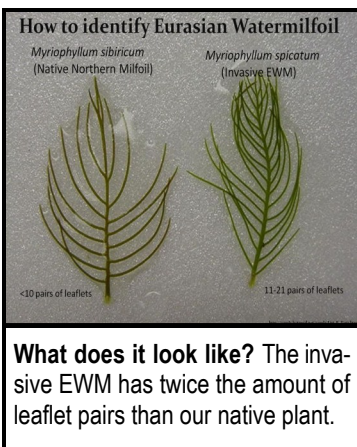
Where did it come from?

No-one knows for sure how this invasive made its way from Eurasia to our northern waterways, but it is suspected that the plant was released intentionally as a water plant, or unintentionally through the ballast water of ships.

Where does it grow?

It is spotted mainly in slow-moving, quiet waters. Depth is not a concern for this plant—it can grow up to 20 feet tall underwater!

How does it spread? This invasive species spreads predominately by plant fragments, although reproduction by seed also occurs. These fragments grow roots, stems, and leaves as they float along the water until they eventually attach and take root in the bottom sediment of lakes, ponds, streams, or ditches. A single stem fragment hitching a ride on a boat or trailer can spread the plant from lake to lake.



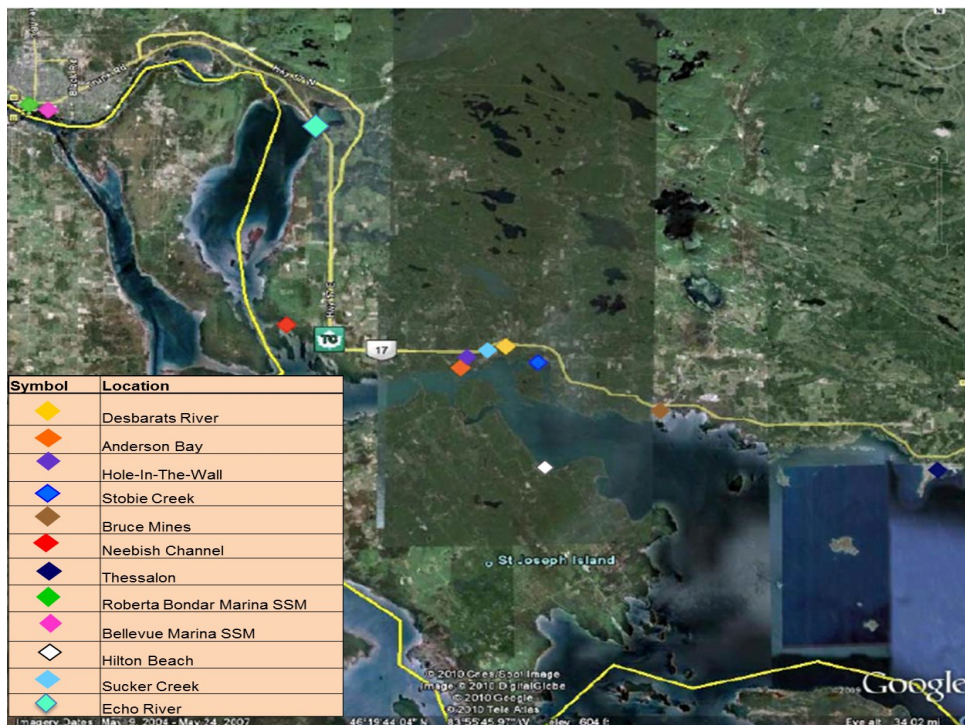
Why should we be concerned?

Invasive species like Eurasian Watermilfoil compete aggressively with native plants. It begins spring growth earlier than our native species because it begins its growth cycle the previous fall and can survive under ice during the winter months. The dense canopies form quickly and shade surrounding vegetation. No sunlight means no survival for competing native species which leads to a decrease in diversity of native plants. At the end of the growing season, the large mat decays and degrades water quality by using up oxygen needed to support fish populations. It also accelerates nutrient cycling by up taking **phosphorus** from the lake sediment and leaking them into the water as it dies and decays. High phosphorus leads to enhanced algal growth which reduces a lake's water quality and clarity.



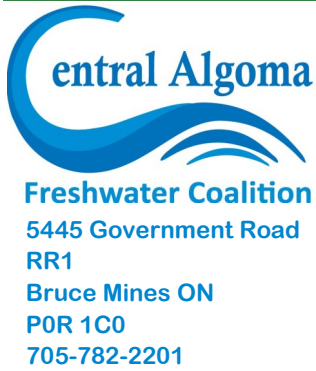
Lets practice good stewardship! Maintain proper upkeep on your septic tank to reduce the nutrient impact on your lake.

Local Eurasian Watermilfoil Infestations



Eurasian Watermilfoil tends to congregate along hardened shorelines that have been altered by humans, such as boat launches and marinas. It is here that they have virtually no predators. Normally, Eurasian watermilfoil can be controlled by a weevil that feeds on our native Northern Milfoil. This weevil controls our native species but will feast on the heartier invasive Eurasian watermilfoil if it has the opportunity. Unfortunately, this weevil lives and burrows in softened shorelines where the natural habitat usually has not been altered by human activity. It is predominately present in marinas because of its ability to 'hitch a ride' on boats entering and leaving marinas. High boat traffic combined with hardened shorelines makes this aquatic plant a tough invasive to extinguish!

Lesson of the day: Inspect and clean your boat to stop the spread of invasive species!



Email Lindsey at cafreshwater-coalition@gmail.com to be added to our distribution list.

Would you prefer a copy mailed to you instead? Call Lindsey at 705-297-2201 for your copy today!

We are always looking for reader input and ideas. Do you have an article you would like to share? Or perhaps a Good Stewardship Story? **Let us know!**

This Volume has been prepared by:
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Be part of the solution. Become a CAFC Member.

You, your organization or lake association is invited to become an important supporter of this initiative by becoming a member.

Your Annual membership fee will provide a base budget for work of the Coalition and demonstrate the commitment of local partners working towards a common goal.

A strong diverse group is an essential component in meeting one of the goals of the Coalition.

Let's work together to protect our freshwater!

Name: _____
 Organization: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

- Membership Type: Individual \$25.00
 Organization \$100.00
 Lake Association \$100.00

Please make cheques payable to The Central Algoma Freshwater Coalition
 5445 Government Road
 RR#1
 Bruce Mines ON P0R 1C0

>>Upcoming Events

July 2011

July 1 2011
Happy Birthday Canada!

July 14 2011
FREE BBQ at our Annual General Meeting (See pg.2)
Contact cafreshwatercoalition@gmail.com for more info

July 22 & 23 2011
3rd Annual Green Expo (See pg. 2)
Contact eastalgoma@gmail.com for more info

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

'When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world.'
 ~John Muir