



Severn Sound Environmental Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Invasive Mussel Larvae Detected in Little Lake

MIDLAND, ON, May 27, 2021 – Each year, the Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) team collects samples from Little Lake in Midland. In 2020, a small number of invasive Zebra or Quagga mussel larvae were detected in one of the samples. These larvae are known as veligers, and have only been detected in one other sample from Little Lake in 2015. SSEA found no evidence of adult mussels at that time. It is still unclear whether the veligers found in 2015 and 2020 were separate introduction events, for example from improperly cleaned boats, or whether invasive mussels have now established a reproducing adult population in Little Lake.

“Invasive mussel establishment in Little Lake would greatly impact the lake’s ecosystem” says Tamara Brincat SSEA Invasive Species Program Coordinator. Invasive mussels compete with fish and invertebrates for food and spawning sites. They also filter nutrients and small particles like algae from the water and deposit it on the lakebed, enriching the sediments with nutrients. This promotes unwanted aquatic plant growth and can favour blue-green algae in Little Lake. Invasive mussels can also impact recreational use of Little Lake by clogging water intake pipes, damaging boat engines, and harming swimmers with their razor-sharp shells.

“Invasive species are a concern and the Town of Midland and SSEA are working together on mitigation steps to prevent Zebra/Quagga mussel populations and other invasive species from establishing in Little Lake” says Dylan Flannery, Manager of Operations, Town of Midland. It is important to implement measures to prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive species, including mussels and other species like the Spiny Water Flea. Recreational water users are reminded to [Clean, Drain and Dry](#) ALL equipment before it enters the lake, and after it leaves the lake.

SSEA will continue to monitor Little Lake for both invasive mussel veligers and adults. In 2021, SSEA staff will be installing artificial substrates, purchased through a grant from the Huronia Community Foundation (2019), in several locations to monitor specifically for adult populations. “We are asking people to report observations of Zebra or Quagga mussel adults in Little Lake to SSEA by emailing InvasiveSpecies@SevernSound.ca with the location and photos” says Tamara Brincat SSEA Invasive Species Program Coordinator.

At Severn Sound Environmental Association, we are committed to ensuring exceptional environmental quality and exemplary stewardship of the Severn Sound area through sound science, collaboration and partnerships. For more information about the SSEA, visit us at www.severnsound.ca.

Photos included

Flat ridge, shell can stand up on it's own



Curved ridge, shell can't stand up on it's own



Caption: Adult Zebra (left) and Quagga (right) mussel shells with distinguishing features



Caption: Zebra mussels attached to Eurasian Water-milfoil in Midland Bay

For more information:

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