Big Cedar Lake Stewardship Association - BCLSA

Trent University Weevil Project Update

To: All Big Cedar Lake Cottagers/Residents

From: Brian Stock, President of BCLSA

Date: July 29, 2016

Hello to Big Cedar Residents:

In past years, updates on the Weevil program have occurred at the end of the summer. But after receiving a recent update from the Trent University team and hearing of the good news they shared, I felt it was important to provide the Lake Residents with an interim update.

This year's program started in mid-June with a survey of the lake by the Trent team. The purpose of the survey was to access milfoil growth and weevil population around the lake. Prior to the survey being done, the Trent team had expressed some concerns about the growth of milfoil this year due to the low water levels (the sun would be able to penetrate further down into the lake and allow the milfoil to growth faster) and the higher water temperature, which both could promote the more rapid growth. But the survey produced the opposite results. The growth and density of milfoil is clearly down in Big Cedar Lake this year.

In all sites stocked last year and in all control sites where the milfoil was hand pulled last year the density of milfoil was dramatically down and in many cases the milfoil was no longer seen in those areas. In addition, in the areas that still had sparse milfoil or denser milfoil there was still a good population of weevils.

As a result of these findings, the Trent team had to pick new sites for this year's program. As you will recall from the AGM, the goal of the program was not only to stock the lake with Weevils, but also put Benthic Mats planted with native plants into the lake. In order to test the viable of the new mat program, they located the densest patches in the lake. These areas also had to be large enough to support two large sub areas – one area with mats and a second area close by that would be stocked with weevils. In addition, the chosen areas had to be at a manageable water depth, which could be reached without scuba equipment.

As a result there were four types of sites chosen:

1) Large sites – there were 3 large sites chosen by the Trent Team where milfoil was the most dense. In each of these sites, 10000 weevils were stocked and six 2 metre by 2 metre mats were placed on the floor of the lake (check for a video on the BCLSA website shortly that shows the mats in the water) and native plants were placed into these mats.

Picture of underwater mat, held down by rocks with native plants embedded.

2) Smaller sites – there were 2 smaller sites chosen by the Trent Team where milfoil was still dense. In each of these two sites 5000 weevils were stocked.

3) Hybrid Site – one hybrid site was chosen by the Trent team where milfoil was still dense but was suitable for mats and suction dredging. The suction dredging is a process being conducted in British Columbia and Washington State by the respective Universities. Dr Sager knows the professor at UBC that is conducting the work. After reviewing the UBC work, the Trent team created a hybrid site. In order to help with the suction dredging we solicited the help of Bill and Terry Cole who had been building a very similar machine. The suction dredger takes the milfoil at the root and empties the whole milfoil weed onto a barge/raft. In the Hybrid site chosen, there are two sections a) a dredged section 4M X 10M with mats and with native plants (completed by mid-August) and b) in another non dredge section, mats 4M X 10 M and stocked with weevils (completed now)

4) Control sites –a yet to be determined number of sites where Trent measures the density of milfoil and weevils and watch the progress.

Now the plan for August is to monitor all of these sites and report in on their progress.

I hope you see from this brief update that good progress is being made and the Trent team is continuing to challenge their own thinking and finding new ways of combating milfoil. One the goals of this year's program is see if the "mat/native plant" program could be a program that individual residents could utilize themselves in and around their own cottages.

But I cannot emphasize enough that the battle with Milfoil is ongoing and your continued support is required and appreciated. For those who have not contributed so far this year, please send your cheque today – the long term health of our lake depends on it. Contribution form on next page.

Remember the Paddlefest on Saturday August 6th. Thanks to Chris Liedtke and her great team for all their hard work for the Paddlefest. It has been a great lake event for the last four years and I am sure this year will be bigger and better. Join in on the fun, I look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you for your support,

Brian

Big Cedar Lake Stewardship Association
Annual Membership & Lake Program Contributions

Membership Fee for the BCLSA is waived for 2016

Please complete the form below and submit with your Lake Program Contribution for 2016

Last Name, First Name: _____

Lake Address: _____

Fire Route, Lot #: _____ _____

Email: _____

Phone #'s: Cottage:_____Home:_____

2016 Membership Fee: $0
2016 Lake Program Contribution per cottage/household: $375.00

Membership Fee	**$____waived_____**
(March 8, 2016 – Feb. 28, 2017)	
Lake Program Contribution	**$_____375.00_____**
Cheque or Etransfer Total	**$_____375.00_____**

Please make out cheque in the name of "Big Cedar Lake Stewardship Association" and mail to:

Don Austin
C/O Big Cedar Lake Stewardship Association
85 Somerset Road
London, Ontario
N6K 3M6

OR

Send via internet banking transfer to: dbaustin@rogers.com with reference to your name/lot# and breakdown of fees.

Follow up with completed form to Don via mail or scan and attach to your email. Give answer to security question that you used in your Etransfer.