FLOWERING RUSH REPORT 2021

This hot summer of 2021 helped the flowering rush thrive. The flowering rush flowered much earlier this year and increased in density. This helped in the identification of the various plots in the lake. The areas of Gainford, Woodland Bay and Kokomoko grew thicker than in previous years and extended further from shore due to the lower lake level.

Many floaters were found across the entire lake. These rhizomes were picked up by kayak using butterfly nets. Small pockets of rush at the eastern end of Lake Isle were removed by hand digging. Two small plots were removed from the western end of the Sturgeon River connecting Lake Isle and Lac Ste Anne. Areas of past removal of flowering rush by Bay Bridge did not reappear this year. To date, no flowering rush has been found in the west basin of Lac Ste Anne.

It is of note that last year we removed 52 truck loads of floating islands of flowering rush at the west end of Lake Isle and this year due to low lake levels there were no floating islands to deal with.

The team recommends spraying in 2022 from Fry’s Beach on the south shore going west to Hoffman’s Beach on the north shore. We also recommend continuing efforts of mapping and digging in future years until spraying is approved for the entire shorelines of Lake Isle.

Since Alberta Environment Invasive Species Department has limited capacity due to a shortage of staff, we recommend that the monies left over from the ACP Grant be carried over to continue with the 3-person team for the 2022 and 2023 years. This will enable continuing mapping and digging of the smaller plots in Lake Isle, the Sturgeon River connecting Lac Ste Anne, and the west basin of Lac Ste Anne.