

2017 Aquatic Invasive Species Association Pilot Project- Questionnaire

Response from Lake Wahnapiatae Home and Campers Association

Oct 23 2017

1. a. What activities did you and/or your association undertake with regards to the 2017 Aquatic Invasive species Association Pilot Project.

LWHCA (Lake Wahnapiatae Home and Campers Association) and WFN (Wahnapiatae First Nation) developed a plan for the project. As a first step, WFN set up a boat washing station in the parking/trailer parking area adjacent to the boat launch at Rocky's marina. The station included a protected tent area for attendants and an information table and the pressure washer provided by LWHCA. Signage was installed in the area.

WFN then assigned several of their summer student interns to serve as part time attendants for the boat washing station. WFN prepared an assignment schedule for the interns, as well as activity tracking sheets and a questionnaire for boaters.

Handout information and giveaways (t-shirts and floating key fobs), provided by FOCA, LWHCA and the City of Greater Sudbury, were available for distribution by the interns, to all boaters who agreed to have their boats washed. The interns manned the station from approximately 9:30 am to 4:30 pm during the week and on the weekend.

The project started at the beginning of August 2017 and continued until August 24 2017, essentially 3 weeks. Approximately 15 boats were washed during that period.

- b. Were you able to complete all activities outlined in the contract?
We were able to complete all of the activities proposed for the project.

2. a. From your experience in this program, did you encounter an initiative that worked particularly well?

The partnership of a number of groups made it possible

The project hinged on the involvement of WFN:

- **The provision of student interns at no cost to the project**
- **The provision of a station for the project**
- **The engagement of their marina in the project**

The donation of the power washer by Northstar Recreation also made the project possible.

b. How many people do you estimate were impacted by each activity? (ex. number of people who attended an event, number of people who use the boat launch each weekend etc.)

The project started at the beginning of August 2017 and continued until August 24 2017, essentially 3 weeks. Approximately 15 boats were washed during that period. The interns manned the boat washing station from approximately 9:30 am to 4:30 pm during the week and on the weekend.

3. From your experience in this program, did you encounter an initiative that did not work as well as planned?

The numbers of boats actually washed appeared low; however, without any data on the total numbers of boats launched, it is impossible to judge the success of the initiative. The modest number can also be attributed to a number of issues:

- Rocky's Marina is a relatively lightly used marina, if compared to marinas on more heavily used lakes, such as in the Muskoka area. The boat launch activity is light and sporadic during the week and increases on the weekend, particularly on holiday weekends when it can be very heavy. The period of this project did not include any holiday weekends.
- The relatively wet and cool summer reduced the number of boats launched.
- There was reluctance for many boaters to have their boats washed by young interns. This can be attributed to concerns about damage, but mainly boaters just not wanting to take the time, either when launching or taking out their boats.
- We need to encourage all of the marinas on the lake to track the number of boat launches, because we do not have any data on numbers.

4. a. What aspect of your program consumed the most funds? **The only funds provided were for the maintenance of the power washer.**

b. Please estimate the number of volunteer hours that were dedicated to each activity. **The interns were at the boat washing station for 3 weeks, 7 hours per day for approximately 150 hours. Their supervisor would have provided approximately 50 hours. LWHCA volunteers were involved in the organization of the project and review during the project for approximately 50 hours. Based on the above the total would be 250 hours.**

5. Was there an aspect of your program you could have used more funding to support? **If the project had extended over any holiday weekends, the number of interns could have been augmented with additional staff, to deal with higher boat numbers.**

6. Do you feel that your outreach initiatives impacted the views and habits of people in your community? **There was impact, but only in a minor way, due the small number of boaters who took part in the project.**
7. Do you have more activities planned for the coming months/next summer?

All of the parties learned a lot and there is interest on the part of both the WFN and LWHCA to continue with the project next year.

Some of the ideas for next year are:

- Start organizing the project earlier in the year, so as to have the boat washing project ready for the early summer holiday weekends.
- Focus on the weekends, when there are the largest number of boaters.
- Expand the project to other boat launch areas on the lake, particularly during heavily used times.
- Expand the signage at the boat launches, so as to continually increase the boater sensitivity to the issue.
- Organize the signage at the boat launch, so that boaters can't miss it.
- Organize the boat launch and take out routes to allow boat washing, without impeding the flow of traffic, during busy times.
- Put more emphasis on training the interns and consider having somewhat more senior interns, so as to avoid the activity potentially appearing like a "high school car wash".
- Schedule two interns at a time, to reinforce the message and activity.
- Connect with groups such as the police and MNRF regarding washing of their boats.
- Connect with groups organizing on-water events, such as fishing tournaments and concerts, so that boat washing is promoted and integrated into the activity.
- Develop a tracking system for the marinas, so as to document the number of boats launched.

8. From your experience in this program, did you encounter an initiative that worked particularly well?

As a pilot project, it was a success. The partnership of a number of groups made it possible.

The project hinged on the involvement of WFN:

- **The provision of student interns at no cost to the project**
- **The provision of a station for the project**
- **The engagement of their marina in the project**

The donation of the power washer by Northstar Recreation also made the project possible.

9. How likely are you to participate in a future invasive species program offered by FOCA?
If FOCA project support is available next year, LWHCA would certainly consider taking part, particularly if the initiatives outlined in item 7 above are to be pursued.
10. What other education outreach topics would you find most useful for your association?
FOCA is always trying to provide topical and useful programs and information. Your input and advice is appreciated.
Topics related to lawn care, sewage systems and shoreline management, particularly as they relate to problems such as blue green algae.