

Invasive Species

Through the Docktalk program, FOCA encourages landowners to help prevent the spread of invasive species.

Why? To prevent the degradation of the lakeside environment, such as:

Hostile takeover: loss of habitat

On land or in water, invasive species can move in and take over. Invasive plants monopolize land and nutrients, choking out native vegetation. Invasive animals compete with native species for food and space. Add fast reproduction to the equation and it's easy to see that invasive species can overwhelm an ecosystem in no time.

Loss of native species and biodiversity

Without key food sources and habitat, many species' populations plummet. If the takeover is hostile enough, invasives can cause the loss of native species in local areas. Some invaders are predators, diseases, or parasites that directly harm native species.

Extremely difficult to get rid of

Because invasive species are not native to the area, there are usually no natural forms of control such as predators or disease. And because they are fast reproducers, catching up to their spread and cutting it off is extremely difficult. Prevention is worth a ton of cure.

An invasive species

is an exotic, or alien, species that negatively affects the environment (native species or an ecosystem), the economy, or society. Invasives tend to be hardy, fast at reproducing, and have no natural predators in their adopted homes.

If you find invasive species or think you have invasive species on your property

Call the invading species hotline at **1-800-563-7711**

or

Visit **www.invadingspecies.com**

Learn to recognize invaders

Your first defence against invasive species is knowing what they look like and knowing the signs of an invasion. Find out what species could be moving into your lakefront uninvited and be ready with their eviction notices. For more information and before taking any steps, contact the invading species hotline.

► Spread the word — but don't spread invasive species. Find out how...

HOW ?

FOCA encourages landowners to take the following steps to prevent invasive species from moving to your lakeside property:

Inspect outdoor articles

Invasive species can move around by hitching rides on outdoor items. Eggs, seeds, and adult animals are most commonly transported. Check all items left outdoors for freeloaders before moving to another location.

Use local firewood

Many insects (eggs, larvae, pupae, adults) and diseases can travel inside cut logs. Do not move firewood between regions. Use local wood only.

Be informed, make smart gardening choices

Before planting a garden, check that your chosen plants are native or non-invasive species. Gardens are a common source of invasive species—some plants may look great but their impact is far too costly for everyone.

FOCA encourages landowners to take the following steps to prevent invasive species from moving in to your lake:

Drain water from equipment

Drain water from the motor, live well, bilge and transom wells while on land, immediately after leaving the waterbody.

Inspect and wash equipment

Many invasive species can cling to equipment, surviving the sun and weather on land long enough to make it to the next body of water. To stop freeloaders, inspect your boat, trailer, and boating equipment and remove plants/ animals before leaving the waterbody. Wash and dry your boat, trailer, and other equipment at the boat launch.

Empty bait buckets safely

Bait buckets should be emptied on land. Never release live bait caught in one lake to another waterbody.

No pets, please

Do not release or flush aquarium pets or aquarium water into a waterbody, drainage ditch, or sewer.

For more information contact:

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Resources online:

www.foca.on.ca
www.invadingspecies.com or call the Invading Species Hotline 1.800.563.7711
www.great-lakes.net/envt/flora-fauna/invasive/invasive.html
www.hww.ca/hww2.asp?id=220
www.issg.org/database

Your local contact:

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