



- EWM Mapping Project 2025 overview
- 2026 Micro-grant project

Pike Lake Community  
Association  
Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM)  
Project

June 2026 AGM



## What is Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM)?

- Aggressive, non-native aquatic plant that roots in lake bottoms
- Spreads rapidly through fragmentation.
- Forms dense, tangled mats; degrades water quality and fish habitats
- Reduces biodiversity, and deoxygenates water when decomposing, killing other aquatic species
- Can increase mosquito habitat (stagnant water)
- Can cause damage to boat motors
- Negatively impacts swimming and can devalue property values

# Why This Matters for Pike Lake

- EWM was identified throughout the lake in 2025
- Dense growth can affect recreation and ecosystem health
- Early detection and mapping are important
- Understanding distribution helps guide future stewardship decisions



# Preventing EWM Spread

- Illegal to possess or transport EWM in a provincial park or conservation area or bring into Ontario
- Never keep or grow Eurasian water-milfoil in an aquarium, water garden or for any other purpose.
- Do not release live bait or aquarium plants in the lake
  
- Avoid boating/canoeing/paddling through dense mats; fragmentation can spread EWM quickly through the lake;
- Ensure boat propellers and fishing gear are clean so as not to carry plant fragments to other areas
- Clean, drain and dry all watercraft, equipment and trailers before moving to another lake (it's the law)
  
- Report sightings to the Lake Steward: [Info@PikeLake.ca](mailto:Info@PikeLake.ca)

# Invasive Species Centre Micro-grant

- PLCA awarded a \$1,000 microgrant by the Invasive Species Centre
- Drone-based shoreline imaging to create a digital, georeferenced map
- Project to be led by Lake Steward with volunteers
- Project to be carried out in collaboration with Wade Leonard, geography teacher - Granite Ridge Education Centre, Sharbot Lake
  - Experienced since 2017 working with other lake associations (e.g., Sharbot Lake, Palmerston Lake, Williamson Lake)
  - PLCA participated in drone mapping workshop May 22, 2026; 7 other lake associations (22 participants)
- Mapping will support future monitoring and stewardship
- Timely updates shared; final geo-referenced map posted on website

# How the Mapping Will Work

- Lake Steward leading project and coordination
- Drone imaging along shoreline areas
- Mapping expected over 1 day either July or August
- Boat-based survey with volunteers
- Permission will be asked for the use of several docks for drone takeoff and landing

## Privacy and Data Protection

- Focussed on shoreline water only: imaging limited to lake surface and nearshore aquatic vegetation.
- Flights will avoid capturing images of cottages, docks, or private land
- Data filtering will crop/remove any incidental images that include private property before processing
- Final map will show EWM locations and density areas; without identifying individual properties, docks, or specific addresses

# Community Engagement & Knowledge Sharing

- Communique sent out in advance of AGM
- Updates to be shared in newsletters and website
- Community engagement is a key part of this project; volunteer opportunities available
- Educational materials will be shared in newsletters and website
- Information on identification and prevention will be posted
- Questions or concerns contact Lake Steward [Info@PikeLake.ca](mailto:Info@PikeLake.ca)

# Possible Actions to Remove/Control EWM

- Diver-Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH)
  - Best for targeted removal
- Benthic Barriers (Bottom Mats)
  - Good for small, concentrated patches
- ProcettaCOR FX (Targeted Herbicide):
  - Most powerful option for established infestations
- Milfoil Weevil (Biological Control):
  - Experimental, longer-term
- Rototilling:
  - For large, dense beds in sandy/silty bottoms

# Next Steps and Timeline

- Communications of Award - June 2026
- Drone imaging - July /August 2026 (1 -2 days)
- Data processing and filtering, draft map - Fall 2026
- Review map and finalize - Fall 2026
- Assess results, speak with RVCA experts - Winter 2027
- Share map, develop mitigation/action guidelines - Winter 2027
- Community Presentation at AGM - Spring 2027
- Train volunteers for future survey repetition - Summer 2027
  
- Timely updates to be shared in newsletters, AGM, and website