

Progress Report – Year Two, Eurasian Milfoil Project @ Big Cedar Lake

Date: January, 2013

To: Big Cedar Lake Milfoil Solution Contributors

From: Brian Stock, President – BCLSA & Project Lead & Liaison with Milfoil Solution

Re: Progress Report for Year Two (Summer 2012)

Happy New Year and thank you for your participation in our project with EnviroScience (now called Milfoil Solution) to reduce Eurasian Milfoil at Big Cedar Lake.

Please find posted on the BCLSA Website the 2012 Milfoil Progress Report for Big Cedar Lake prepared by Milfoil Solution Inc.

This letter is a summary of the report's findings and the BCLSA Board's recommendation for 2013 and beyond.

In 2012 the weevils were stocked in July, one month earlier than in 2011 and as a result the follow-up survey which was the basis for this year's report was conducted in late August. By measuring in late August you are seeing Milfoil at its peak and are able to determine the effects of the weevils when the Milfoil is most dense.

The report states that the summer of 2012 in Ontario had ideal conditions for Milfoil growth across Ontario, thus like many lakes in Ontario, Big Cedar saw an increase in densities of Milfoil in various parts of the lake.

But in saying that, the Biologists from Milfoil Solution are very pleased with the progress we are making in Big Cedar Lake. In the report, you will see in quantitative numbers in the sampling sites are both up and down due to the increase in this year's milfoil density. But what is most important is the qualitative results they found in the lake. In all survey sites and in general in the lake, the biologists saw significant weevil damage done to the Milfoil plants.

This damage results in the following:

- a) the stems having various "black" marks on the stem indicating the plants are dying;
- b) the plants appear bent over;

- c) the plants are not reaching the surface (even during a year when the water level was low) and;
- d) open areas within the stocking sites.

What has become clearly evident over the last two years is that we are playing "catch up". Milfoil is still growing in our lake but we are making progress. We need to continue to build on the Weevil program until the Weevils are ahead of the Milfoil. That will happen, but that is a few years away yet. If we stop the program today, or reduce our Weevil stocking, the Milfoil will continue to grow at a faster pace.

Therefore after discussions with Milfoil Solutions, the Board is recommending that the Association continue at the 2012 level of 35,000 weevils for 2013 plus continue to encourage as many people as possible to purchase private weevils in 2013 (last year 27,000 private weevils were purchased). With at least this level of commitment for 2013 and most likely 2014 and 2015 we can win the battle against the milfoil.

The question always is what is the cost to save our lake? Projecting our needs for next year and forecasting how many cottages/residences will contribute, the cost per lake lot is the same as last year \$350. On our website, you will see a section that thanks each contributor that allowed their name to be published. If we can get more than 80 households to contribute the cost per household will go down. Please encourage your neighbours to join the fight to save our lake.

In order to keep the contribution at \$350 this year we are planning to take advantage of an early payment plan offered by Milfoil Solution. The early payment requires us to pay by April 1st, so please try to have your contribution submitted **by March 15th**.

Thanks for ongoing support and if anyone wants to get further involved with the Board's work please let us know.

Brian Stock
Chair
BCLSA

Please see attached to this email:

- 1) 2013 Membership/Weevil Contribution Form
- 2) Best Practices towards protecting our Weevil investment