



INVADING SPECIES HIT SQUAD


Sophie Monfette, Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters



Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters

- Ontario's largest non-profit, charitable fish & wildlife conservation organization
- strive to ensure the protection of hunting/fishing heritage & the enhancement of hunting/fishing opportunities
- encourage safe and responsible participation
- champion the conservation of Ontario's fish and wildlife resources
- Together with our partners, we deliver a broad range of conservation initiatives
 - Lake Ontario Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program
 - Invading Species Awareness Program





A future that includes healthy lakes & forests,
bountiful fish & wildlife, and opportunities for all
Ontarians to share our passion for hunting,
fishing and conservation.

Invasive species threaten our vision for the future.

Invading Species Awareness Program

- ❖ Partnership of the OFAH & MNRF since 1992
 - Generate education & awareness of invasive species
 - Focus on key pathways for introduction/spread
 - Facilitate monitoring & early detection initiatives
 - Invading Species Hotline
 - EDDMapS Ontario
 - Contribute to surveillance, control & response efforts
 - Eradication of water soldier



- Prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species to Ontario's waters and woodlands
- Public awareness is key to preventing the introduction and spread of invasive species



Invading Species Hit Squad



- Program that has been delivered since 2006
- Important to connect with and engage members of the community
- Increased awareness plays a critical role in prevention and early detection/reporting
- Early detection facilitates response



➤ Leverage funding sources & build partnerships to **increase opportunities to engage local communities**

Partnerships

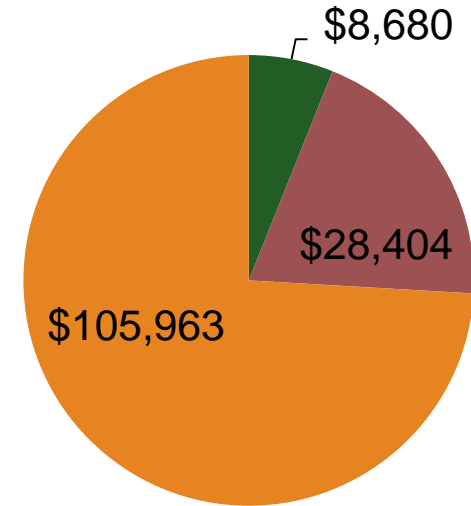
- Critical for program delivery
- Provide guidance, supervision, and a “home base”
- Enable on-the-ground delivery of programming specific to a community or watershed



Funding

- Canada Summer Jobs is a funding program delivered by Employment and Social Development Canada
- OFAH works with a community partner and applies to this program for funding
- If successful, the student hired is an OFAH employee; however, they work out of the community partner's office
 - Contracts can be 6-16 weeks long

2017 Funding Breakdown



- Community Partners
- OFAH
- Canada Summer Jobs

Responsibilities

How to prevent intro/spread of invasive species

- Become knowledgeable about key invasive species

- Become knowledgeable about key pathways of spread
- Become knowledgeable of the prevention methods for invasive species

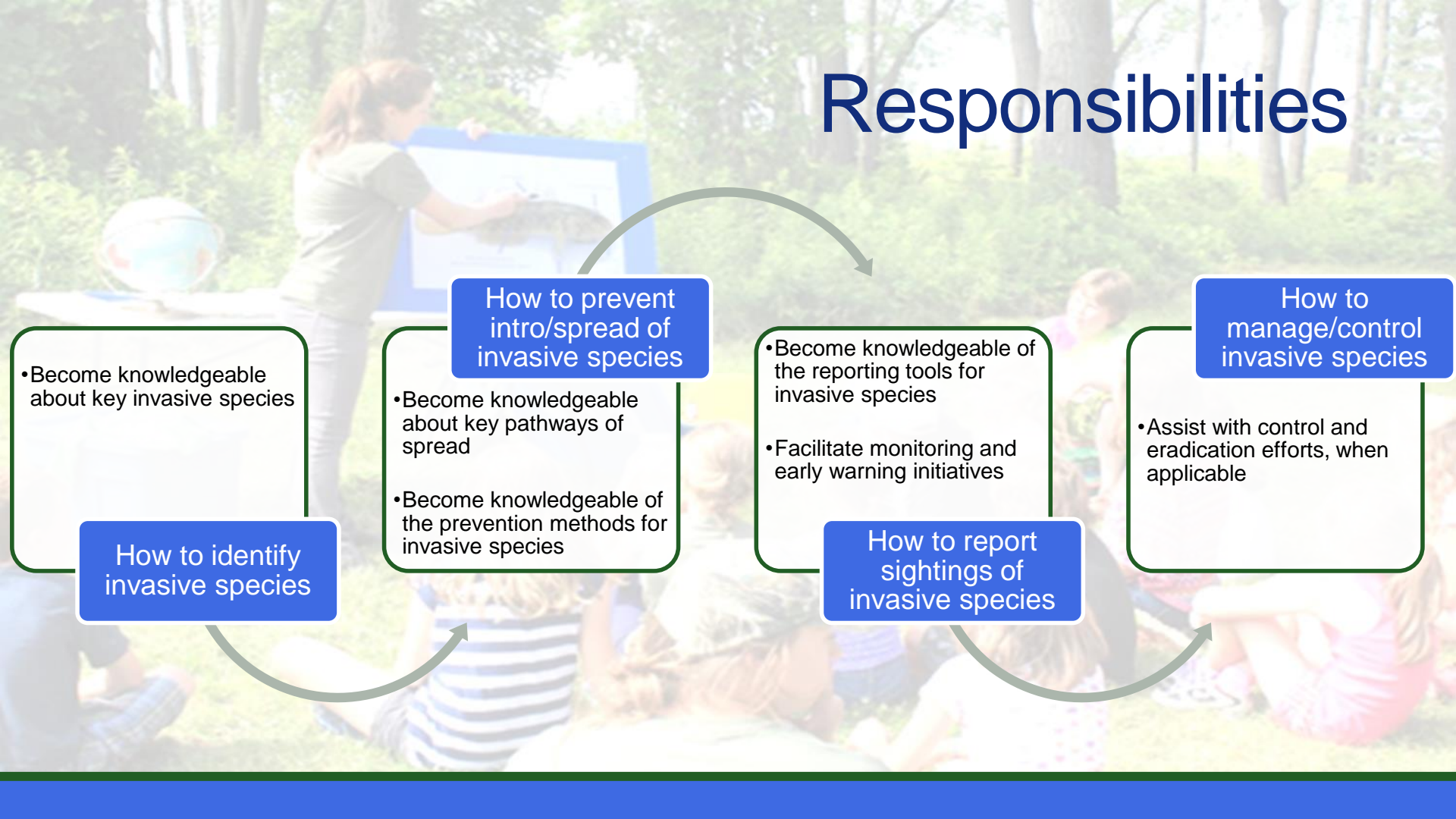
How to identify invasive species

- Become knowledgeable of the reporting tools for invasive species
- Facilitate monitoring and early warning initiatives

How to report sightings of invasive species

How to manage/control invasive species

- Assist with control and eradication efforts, when applicable



Invading Species Hit Squad Training Workshop



NEWS LOCAL

Hit Squad sets sights on invaders

OSIELE WINTON SARVID The Packet & Times
Monday, July 14, 2014 6:54:34 EDT PM



Invasive species 'hit squad' member monitoring Wasaga Beach

NEWS Aug 14, 2015 by Ian Adams Wasaga Beach



Invading Species Awareness Program (ISAP) Hit Squad member Skylar McKay, who is working in the Wasaga Beach area this summer to raise awareness about invasive species such as phragmites. - IAN ADAMS

Skylar McKay is ready to put a hit on phragmites.

McKay, a graduate of Fleming College's environmental technician program, is this summer's invasive species 'hit squad' member in Wasaga Beach Provincial Park.

The position is a partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters.

The Invading Species Awareness Program (ISAP) Hit Squad works across the province to spread awareness about the impacts invasive species has on the environment, economy, and society.

Invasive species phragmites taken root in Scugog

Nearly 200 infestations of 'nuisance' plant found across the township

NEWS Jul 13, 2017 by Chris Hall Port Perry Star



PORT PERRY, ONT. Lauren Negazis from the Invasive Species Awareness Program and Geoff Carpentier from the Environmental Advisory Committee demonstrated the height of a stock from a sub-species of Phragmites which is an invasive species plant that has been noted in over 200 locations in Scugog. A very large colony can be seen at the intersection of Hwy 47 and Lakeshore Road. July 11.

Up close and personal with invasive species

By Clifford Skarwell, Peterborough Examiner
Friday, June 6, 2014 3:52:56 EDT PM



Invasive species a growing threat

By Clifford Skarwell, Peterborough Examiner
Wednesday, July 2, 2014 11:25:50 EDT PM



Laura Wernick, an Invasive Species Community Outreach Liaison working with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH), takes a photograph of a Yellow Flag iris showing species on Wednesday, July 2, 2014 at Shawanaga Park in Peterborough. Many people are not aware that their activities could be harming invasive species," said Wernick. "I'm excited to increase public awareness about how invasive species are introduced and

NEWS LOCAL

Invasive species 'Hit Squad'

Saturday, July 2, 2016 5:10:18 EDT PM



Trident woman Kayla Greenough will be working with the Invading Species Awareness Program (ISAP) Hit Squad, aiming to identify invasive species in the local area. Submitted photo.

Recommended 10

Twitter

A local woman is taking on invasive species in Trenton this summer.

As part of an Invading Species Awareness Program (ISAP) Kayla Greenough will be looking for residents' help in reporting invasive species.



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Case Study #1: Manitoulin Island



- Estimated number of contacts reached = 60,000
- Visited 40 parks, resorts, marinas, museums, township offices, information centres
- Worked with Ontario Stewardship Rangers
- Six newspaper articles featured in three different newspapers
- Radio interview given on 100.7 *The Island*



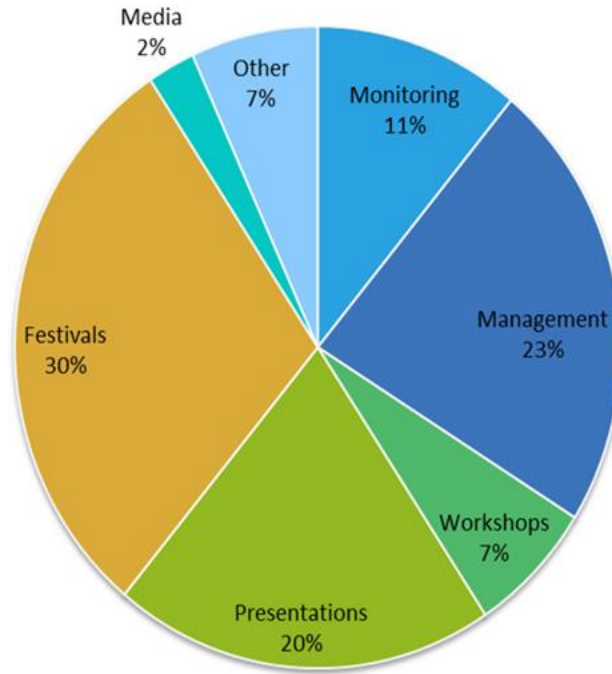
Case Study #2: Durham Region

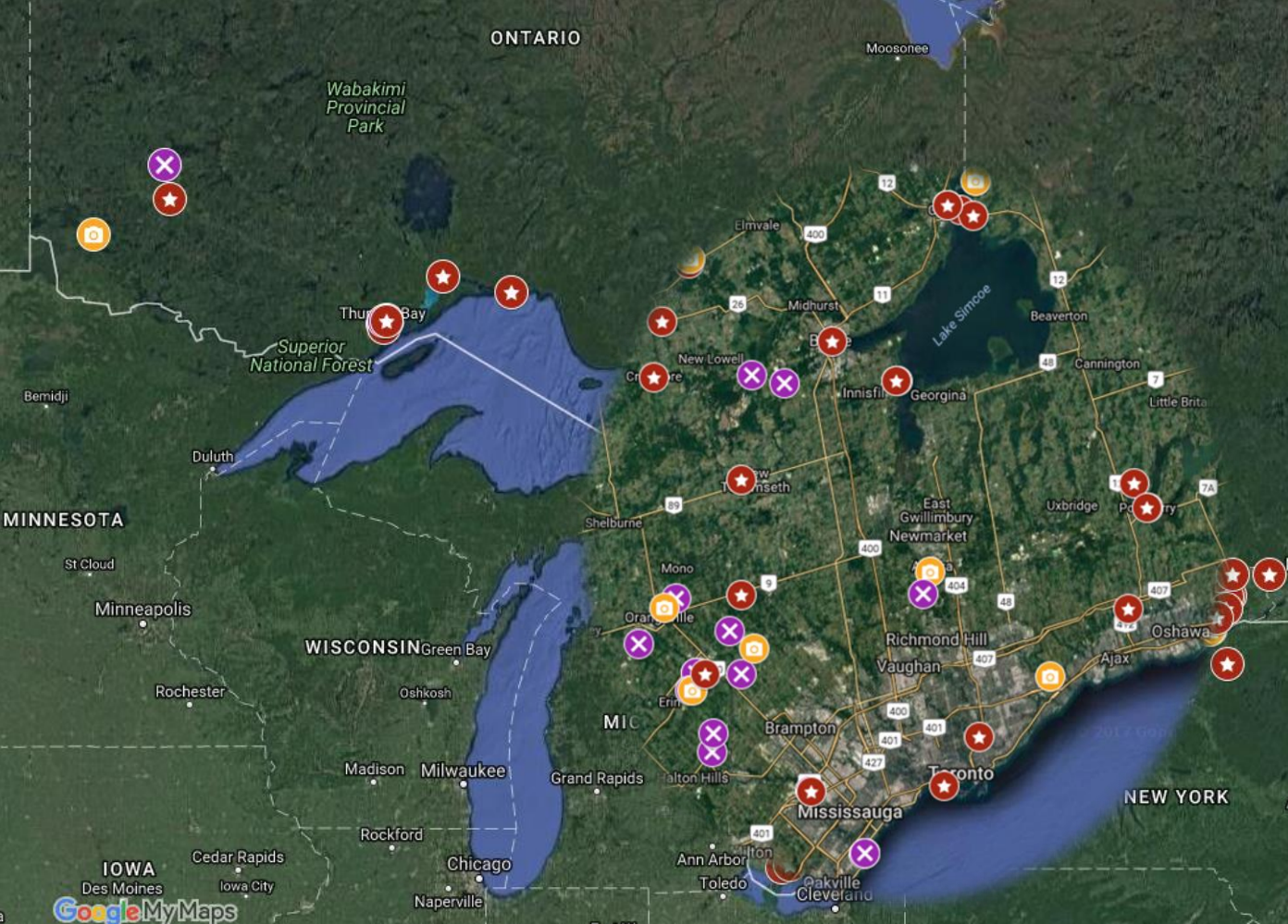


- 8 public outreach events (e.g., fishing derby, community presentation, interpretive programs, info booths)
- Monitored 25 SWMP for invasive species
- Coordinated invasive species removal from Enniskillin Conservation Area

Achievements

- On the ground delivery of 118 events in 2017
- Focused on awareness, reporting and/or management





Hit Squad: 2006-2017

- Received >\$810,00 in funding from CSJ
- hired and trained 259 students
 - Many have continued their careers in the environmental field
- Built relationships with 53 partners
 - With this small investment, partners have built/expanded invasive species programs in their community



Thanks to our partners!



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Invasive
Species
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Ducks Unlimited Canada
Conserving Canada's Wetlands



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Lake Ontario
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RIDEAU VALLEY
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thinking forward



Fleming College



Lake of the Woods District
Property Owners Association



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TO REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES:

1-800-563-7711

www.EDDMapS.org/Ontario