

2017

# Responding to Water Soldier in the Trent Severn Waterway



OFAH Final Report to the  
Ontario Wildlife Foundation

1/30/2017

# Project Objectives

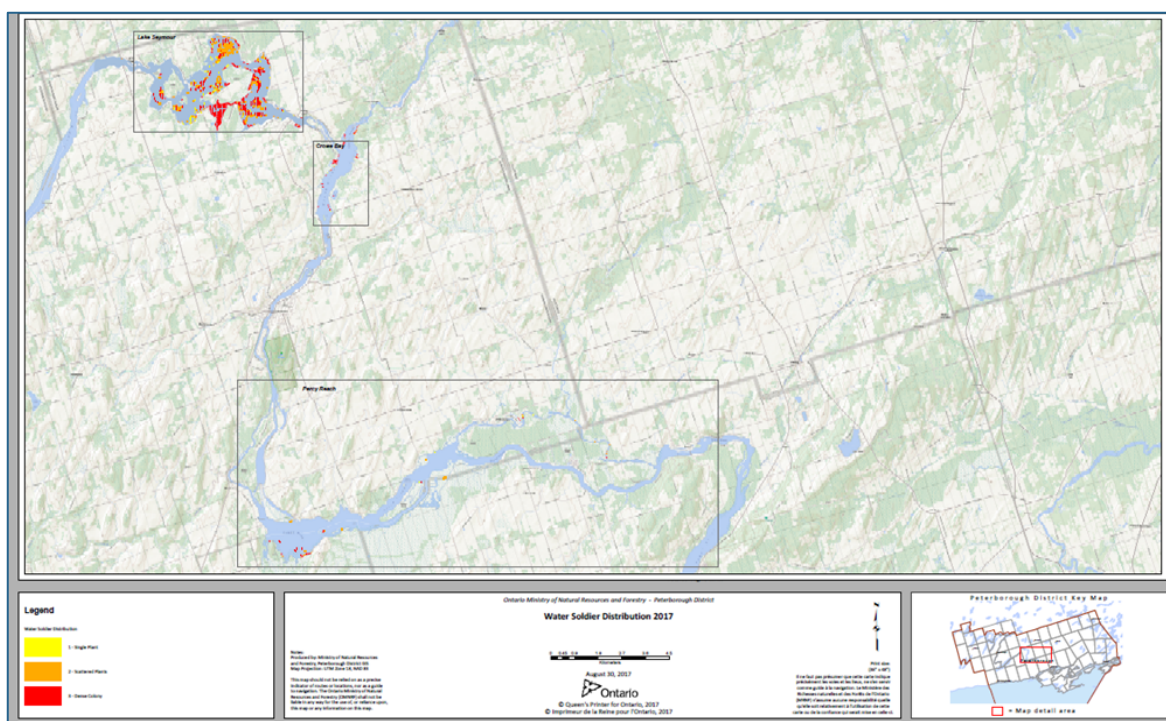
The objectives of this project were:

1. Prevent the spread and introduction of water soldier to new locations in Ontario;
2. Detect and rapidly respond to new water soldier populations within Ontario;
3. Educate the public and stakeholders on how to identify and report water soldier; and
4. Eradicate established populations of water soldier from public waters in Ontario.

## Project Results

In order to achieve the objectives listed above, staff implemented actions in three categories that support the goals and objectives of the Water Soldier Integrated Management Plan:

- 1. Monitoring and Surveillance:** Staff performed post treatment monitoring to assess the effectiveness of the herbicide treatment conducted in the fall of 2016. Reconnaissance was completed further downstream to ensure the plant did not spread into new areas. The Water Soldier Working Group carried out monitoring in the known extent and distribution of the water soldier populations on the Trent Severn Waterway (TSW), from highway 30 in the Hamlet of Trent Hills downstream to Glen Ross, Lock number 7. The monitoring area was expanded in the 2017 season to capture the area between Hickory Island in Percy Reach downstream to Glen Ross. This expansion required an additional 1,200 point intercepts to be added to our monitoring, resulting in a total of over 12,000 point intercepts being monitored (see map).

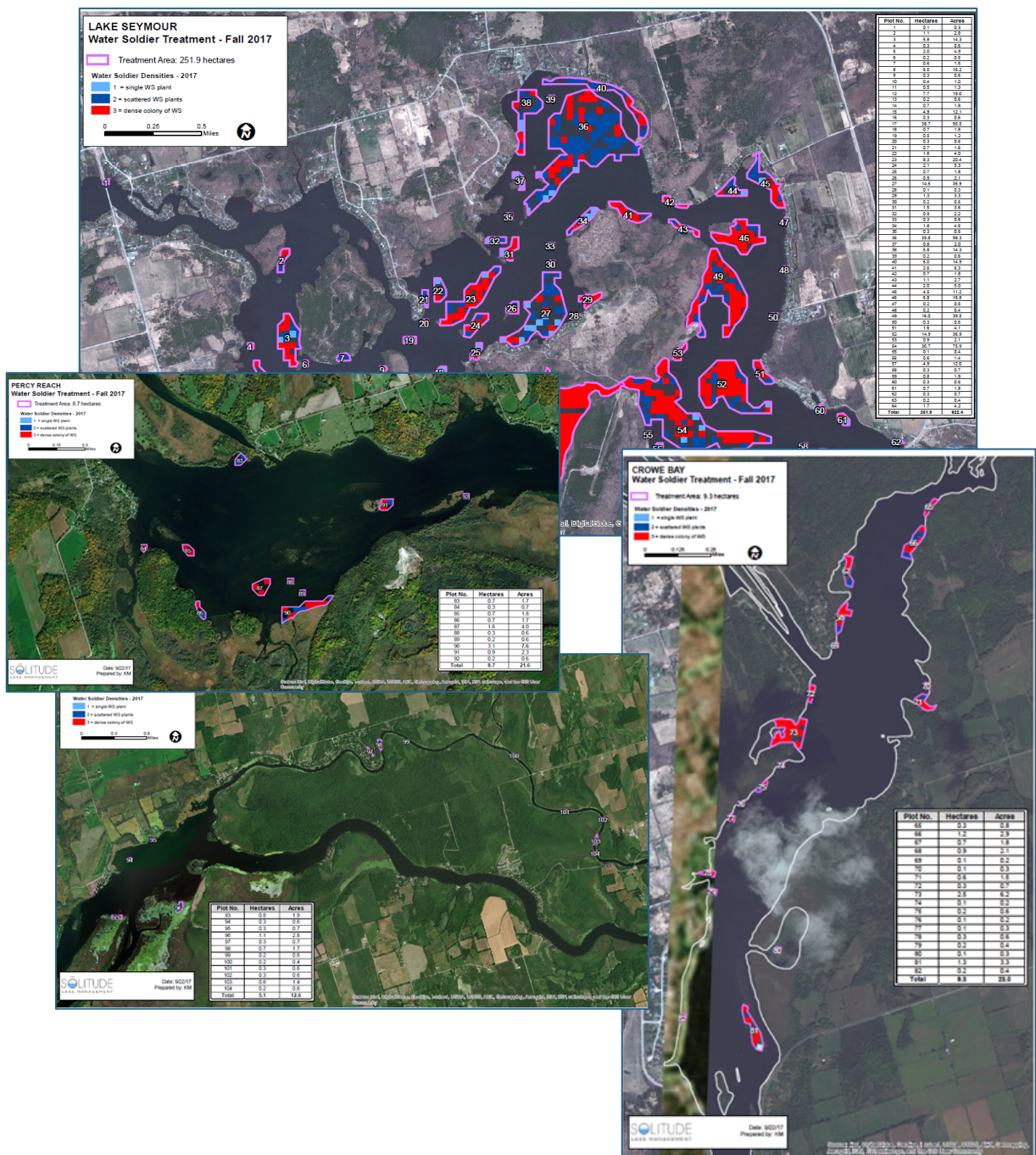




2. **Management and Control:** Staff worked with partners to coordinate the herbicide treatments for both private and wild populations of water soldier.

### TSW Herbicide Treatment

From October 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup>, SOLitude Lake Management treated the water soldier populations with the herbicide Reward. In total, 295 hectares of the Trent River was treated (see maps). The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters and the Peterborough District Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) will be assessing the efficacy of the fall treatment in the spring of 2018.



#### *Private Pond Treatments*

With funds from the MNRF, OFAH was able to hire an herbicide applicator to address several private ponds in southern and central Ontario that contain water soldier. Three ponds each received two treatments over a two week period in October 2017. The efficacy of these treatments will be assessed in the spring of 2018.

3. **Community Engagement:** Staff engaged with the public and stakeholders on key aspects of the project and how to identify and report water soldier through social media, print publications, presentations, Water Soldier Watch Day, and community information sessions.

#### *Water Soldier Watch Day*

Water Soldier Watch Day was held on August 11, 2017. In total, 28 volunteers sampled the shoreline of Percy Reach for 5 hours covering over 40 kilometers, equalling 140 hours of surveillance time. This event was promoted in Northumberland County and Hastings County and was also advertised on social media, including platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.



#### *Public Comment Period*

The Peterborough District MNRF invited public comment on the proposed control of water soldier in the Trent River. A class B environmental assessment was implemented in August to inform the public of future control measures for the water soldier in the Trent River. In total, 1700 residents adjacent to the proposed treatment areas received a direct



mail ad and were allowed a 30 day comment period so they could express their opinion and/or concerns on the matter.

### *Information Sessions*

The Water Soldier Open House was held on September 6, 2017 and had 57 members of the community attended the event to learn about the monitoring efforts and the current control efforts for the 2017 season. A second open house was held on September 7, 2017 in Trenton at the Quinte West Library to inform the public about the water soldier program and the action that has been taken to date.

**Total number of landowners engaged: 1,795**

### *Social Media*

Program staff coordinated social media posts that focused on increasing awareness of invasive species, including how to identify and report water soldier through social media. A summary of reports and the number of people reached is included below.

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Post Date	Topic	Content Posted	# Of Shares	# Of Likes	# Of People Reached
02/28/2017	Locations of water soldier	Map	8	9	2357
02/28/2017	Impacts of Water Soldier	Infographic	9	26	5,491
05/31/2017	Water Soldier	Infographic	0	2	1,478
06/14/2017	Impacts of Water Soldier	Photo	2	5	2,851
06/21/2017	Identification	Photo	0	0	1,539
06/28/2017	Locations of water soldier	Photo	1	3	1,000
07/19/2017	Water Soldier Watch Day	Poster	1	3	2,261
07/24/2017	Water Soldier Watch Day	Poster/ Pictures	6	1	1,353
07/26/2017	Water Soldier ID	Picture	1	1	1,784
07/26/2017	Water Soldier ID	Picture	3	5	2,827
07/31/2017	Water Soldier Watch Day	Picture	0	0	1,547
08/11/2017	Water Soldier Watch Day	Picture	0	0	59
08/23/2017	Water Soldier	Video	22	14	7,714
08/30/2017	Water Soldier ID	Infographic	3	10	1,088
09/08/2017	Hit Squad	Picture	0	5	2,085
09/26/2017	WHC stamp means	Picture	9	35	3,434
			<b>65</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>38,868</b>
Twitter					
Post Date	Topic	Content Posted	# Of Retweets	# Of Likes	# Of People Reached
02/28/2017	Impacts of Water Soldier	Infographic	2	0	710
02/28/2017	Water Soldier Locations	Map	1	1	324
05/31/2017	Water Soldier ID	Infographic	1	0	438
06/14/2017	Impacts of Water Soldier	Picture	5	0	1,042
06/21/2017	Water Soldier ID	Picture	5	3	1,035
06/28/2017	Water Soldier Locations	Picture	4	4	900
07/19/2017	Water Soldier Watch Day	Poster	0	2	382
07/24/2017	Water Soldier Watch Day	Poster	9	9	3,772
07/26/2017	Water Soldier ID	Picture	1	3	482
07/26/2017	Water Soldier ID	Picture	0	4	446
08/11/2017	Water Soldier Watch Day	Picture	11	16	6,311
08/23/2017	Water soldier	Video	0	2	626
08/30/2017	Water Soldier ID	Infographic	12	6	4,018
09/08/2017	Hit Squad	Picture	0	3	438
09/26/2017	WHC Stamp Means	Picture	3	4	689
			<b>54</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>21613</b>

*Print/Web Publications*

Two articles were written and published in the newspaper *Inside Belleville*.

*Presentations*

In 2017, a total of 31 Hit squad students in partnership with ISAP staff delivered over 100 presentations about invasive species, including water soldier.