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What is EDRR?

• Run in coordination by the Invasive Species Centre and the Ontario Invasive Plant Council
• Citizen Science Network aimed at training citizens on how to detect, report and respond to invasive species in Ontario
• Eyes on the ground approach to stopping new introductions or further spread of invasive species in Ontario
• Pilot project started in 2015, effort has continued to grow in Northern Ontario thanks to a 2-year Grow Grant from Ontario Trillium Foundation
Current cities
Past pilot areas
Who do we work with?

- Local Citizens
- Other NGO’s
- All levels of government, including MNRF, CFIA, Parks Canada, Ontario Parks, Municipalities, etc.
- First Nations Groups
- Naturalist groups
- Conservation Authorities
- Stewardship Committees
- Industry Professionals
What do we do?

• Workshops on all taxa (what’s here, and what’s not)
• In-field training on Identification
• Training on reporting
• Social Media campaigns to raise awareness
• Disseminate resources and information
• Invasive species identification and management strategies for the public
• Stewardship removals with communities
Why do we need EDRR?

➢ Eyes on the ground monitoring
➢ Training on EDDMapS to contribute to provincial distribution mapping
➢ Early public awareness is key to prevention and mitigation
➢ Creating self-sustaining networks trained in invasive ID and management

Source: Southwest Montana Science Partnership
Our Approach

• To create a self-sustaining network of people and groups trained in invasive species ID and management tool

Case Study: Thunder Bay, Ontario

• Former pilot area
• Provided training, workshops, removal demonstrations
• Now, since leaving the area, is a self-sustaining network of volunteers and NGOs
• Started a Garlic Mustard Pull in 2015 to remove the invasive from a urban park
• Our first year out of the area the 3rd annual Garlic Mustard Pull was held by the Network with secondary support from EDRR
• Management plan and removal efforts will carry on long-term by the self-sustaining EDRR Network
Accomplishments Overview:

• **132** presentations and workshops given to citizens, government, first nations, land managers and industry professionals

• **645** committed volunteers with **2250** total volunteer hours

• **5** new infestations reported by the network

• Successfully established networks in **5** major cities across Ontario, most recently Sudbury
Sudbury Aquatic Invasive Species Workshop

Sault Ste. Marie Open House

Hemlock Woolley Adelgid Workshop
Lake Superior Provincial Park
Staff Workshop

MNRF Stewardship Youth Rangers (SYR) Phragmites Workshop

MNRF SYR
Hub Trail
Survey
Sault Ste. Marie Invasive Plant Workshop

3rd Annual Garlic Mustard Pull
Aquatic Invasive Species Workshop, August 23, 2018

Event Speakers:
• EDRR Ontario
• Asian Carp Canada
• Sea Lamprey Control Program
• Michigan’s Three Shores CISMA
• Invading Species Awareness Program
Crossing Borders

• Need for collaboration was identified
• New partnership with Michigan’s Three Shores CISMA (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area)
• Surveying shared sections of the Great Lakes as a collaborative effort
• Current project: European Frog-bit monitoring/control in Lake Huron
Recommendations

• Volunteer retention is a challenge, create a call-to-action with every event (i.e. EDDmapS reporter/ local ambassador)
• Collaboration is key (Government, non-profit, First Nations, citizen groups, etc.)
• Go straight to the source, identify gaps in resources and information, find the demand and create your network around that gap
• Know your network- create customized workshops and materials based on your audience (citizens, industry professionals, government, etc.)
Questions?

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