



## Public Notice

# Invasive Mussel Substrates installed in Orr Lake to help detect the presence of adult Zebra and Quagga mussels

This notice is to inform the public that the Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) is installing invasive mussel substrates in Orr Lake to help detect the presence of adult Zebra and Quagga mussels.

In September 2021, the Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) completed a shoreline survey of Orr Lake. During their survey, SSEA detected invasive Zebra and Quagga mussels in Orr Lake for the first time. In an effort to help determine whether there is an established population in Orr Lake, the SSEA, in partnership with the Township of Springwater, is installing artificial invasive mussel substrates in June of 2022.

Invasive mussel establishment in Orr Lake would greatly impact the lake's ecosystem. Invasive mussels compete with fish and invertebrates for food and spawning sites. They also filter nutrients and small particles like algae from the water and deposit them into the lakebed, enriching the sediments with nutrients. This promotes unwanted aquatic plant and blue-green algae growth in Orr Lake. Invasive mussels can also impact the recreational use of Orr Lake by clogging water intake pipes, damaging boat engines, and harming swimmers and pets with their razor-sharp shells.

### What are mussel substrates?

The mussel substrates being used in Orr Lake are stacked plates that are anchored into the sediment using cinder blocks. Mussels will typically attach to coarse material, and if there are adult mussels in the water, they should attach themselves to the substrates and become easily identifiable. View the attached photos to see what the substrates look like.

### Where are the substrates located?

There are a total of five mussel substrates being installed in Orr Lake along the north west waterfronts. See the attached map for locations.

### Can I touch/move them?

**Please do not touch, move or remove** the substrates. It is important to identify whether adult mussels are present. The substrates must be kept in their specific locations for this work to be successful.

### What should I do if I observe Zebra or Quagga mussels in Orr Lake?

Your observations can help! Be on the lookout for adult mussels attached to hard substrates (docks, rocks, garbage or lake bottom) and plants. If you do observe a Zebra or Quagga mussel (see photos below) in Orr Lake, report your observation to [InvasiveSpecies@SevernSound.ca](mailto:InvasiveSpecies@SevernSound.ca) with the location and photos. Then, if safe, you can remove the mussels wearing gardening/work gloves and leaving them to dry out on land for a week in an area where pets/people will not step on them. You can dispose of the dried-out adults in your household garbage.

**Caution:** Zebra and Quagga mussels have a razor-sharp shell. If you are cut by a Zebra or Quagga mussel, we advise you to seek medical attention.

It is also important to implement measures to prevent the introduction of other aquatic invasive species, such as Round Gobies. Recreational water users are reminded to [Clean, Drain and Dry](#) ALL equipment before it enters the lake, and after it leaves the lake.



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**Photos included**

Flat ridge, shell can stand up on it's own



Curved ridge, shell can't stand up on it's own



Caption: Adult Zebra (left) and Quagga (right) mussel shells with distinguishing features



Caption: Zebra mussels attached to Eurasian Water-milfoil



Caption: Mussel substrate above water.



Caption: Floating mussel substrate underwater.