

On Friday August 24, 2018, our lake was fortunate to be included in a survey conducted by CRE (Conseil régional de l'environnement des Laurentides). This was a Working Group activity, set up by the LFSX Lake executive. The purpose of this activity, was to gather a comprehensive sampling of the aquatic plant life on our lake.

We had a group of 10 volunteers, along with the biologist from CRE, Melissa Valiquette. Over the course of 3 hours, with the use of 2 boats and a canoe, we covered the full perimeter of the lake, accessing each of the individual swamp areas (often punting in the canoe to reach to source of the streams that flow into our lake). Each group had an "aquascope" to view the growth underwater, as well as rakes to gather the plant with its full root system. Samples were collected and identified/ catalogued at the end of the session. Melissa then packaged the plants to be further observed by CRE. A full report will be provided by CRE and available on their website at some point over the next few months.

Fortunately, there were no invasive species identified. Our lake is home to a good variety of plant life. We have indigenous milfoil and bladderwort (with delicate purple flowers), that to an untrained eye, can resemble the Eurasian Milfoil. Some of the plants that we found included aquatic lobelia, bur-reed (2 varieties), a species of sponge, white and yellow (heart shaped) pond lily's and plenty of pondweeds. A mention of thanks to 3 of the volunteers who joined us from other lakes. Heather McCullough (a resident from Lake Hughes), brought 2 friends, all of whom are members of the Viking Canoe Club. They have enjoyed this lake for years and are grateful to have been able to train on it. Heather has been involved in previous surveys with CRE and brought it to the attention of our counsellor, David Zgodzinski, that this service was available to apply for. Thank you to Heather, Joanne and Barbara.

It was a successful day, with much learned on our beautiful lake. It gave us a baseline to work from. The recommendation is that we repeat the full lake observation annually. In the mean time, all residents should become familiar with the plant life along their shorelines.

Here is the Website for CRE, as well as the pdf version of the plant guide.

<https://crelaurentides.org/>

https://crelaurentides.org/images/images_site/documents/guides/Document_compl_ID_PA_2018.pdf

Stay tuned for future Working Group activities.

Sheila Yeats
August 2018
Lake Health Committee



Eurasian Milfoil sample



Bladderwort and indigenous milfoil

Sample of Bladderwort

Modern day lily pad

Site of Thurston Lake landslide entry point

Work group with aquascope

White Pond Lily

Yellow Pond Lily

Sorting and cataloguing the samples