

PORTAGE LAKE INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES – UPDATE

by Mary Reed

On May 21st, Lakeshore Environmental Inc. did an extensive plant survey of the lake. In addition to surveying for submerged and emergent non-native and native plants, they also collected additional water quality data for the lake and its tributaries. They will continue to collect samples and monitor the lake throughout the summer and after any treatments. Storm drain data will also be collected. From this data, they produced an updated water management plan for Portage Lake with GPS detailed maps of the lake showing exact locations and densities of phragmites and eurasian watermilfoil. They also calculated a new estimated budget for treatment from this data. A copy of this report is available in the Township Office and the library.

The Onekama Township Board hosted an informational meeting on July 14th to share this information with the community. Options for funding were also presented and questions from the audience were answered. They will have the first of 2 public hearings on the proposed special assessment on July 27th at 7PM at the Onekama Township hall. This is the “hearing of intent” and they will share updated information and answer questions. The second hearing is tentatively scheduled for August 11th at the Farr Center. This meeting will present information on assessments. The goal is still to be able to obtain the necessary permits and funding in order to treat phragmites and eurasian watermilfoil in September 2009.