

## **PORTAGE LAKE INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES (UPDATE #2)**

The Onekama Township Board has hired a lake management company, Lakeshore Environmental Inc., Grand Haven. They will assist the Invasive Species Committee in the development of a 5 year plan for financing and management of non-native invasive plant species in and around Portage Lake. Because eurasian watermilfoil and phragmites spread so rapidly, the committee has determined that detecting invasives early and responding quickly to their spread will result in the best control and least cost. The first step is to do another survey of the lake this spring.

The Watershed's Monitoring Committee requested that we expand the parameters of the invasive plant species survey and obtain additional data on the water quality of our lake. The last detailed lake survey was done in 1993 by Snell Environmental. While some additional data has, and is being collected, the Monitoring Committee recommended we get an expanded set of baseline data. In addition to collecting extensive data in and around the lake, Lakeshore Environmental will gather water quality samples at the streams and and storm drains.

During the last week of May you will see boats on the lake and people surveying the shoreline, streams and storm drains. This will verify the October invasive species survey and pinpoint exact locations for treatment. Several survey methods will be used including a point-intercept grid survey which involves conducting measurements at GPS defined locations. Follow up surveys will be conducted after treatment to evaluate treatment success and record the relative abundance and locations of native plants.

The committee will host a Community Forum on "Invasives" at 7PM, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at the Farr Center. Lakeshore Environmental will present a power point program and a list of Frequently Asked Questions and other literature will be available. You are encouraged to go to the onekama.info website for information. Also, the internet dvd "Why Aquatic Herbicides Affect Plants and not You" is another good source of information..

### **Mark Your Calendars:**

May 19<sup>th</sup>: Community Forum on Invasive Species. Farr Center at 7PM.

June 6<sup>th</sup> Phragmites Workshop at the Hagerty Center in Traverse City. Informative program presented by experts from the DEQ, DNR, Beaver Island and MNFI. The program is from 9 to 12Noon and will be repeated from 2 to 5 PM. It is free to the public. Call Denise Baker at 231-935-1514 for reservations.