



Round Lake Property Owners' Association  
Box 204, Killaloe, ON, KOJ 2A0

By Email May, 2025

Dear Hon. Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and  
Hon. Mike Harris, Minister of Natural Resources

We are writing to you to express **deep concern over the lack of information, and surveillance at Ontario Provincial Parks, with respect to Invasive Species Prevention.** Without prevention, we are afraid that invasive species, such as Zebra Mussels, will invade our Lake forever harming the eco-system and **costing 1000s of dollars in tourism dollars to the area.**

As you know, as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, Ontario has regulated watercraft (boats, canoes, kayaks) as a carrier of invasive species under the *Invasive Species Act*.

The Round Lake Property Owners' Association has been working hard to build partnerships and awareness, in the County of Renfrew, concerning invasive species prevention.

We have found that your Ministry is not supporting prevention in Ontario Parks. After a visit last summer to two provincial parks, Bonnechere and Rideau River, it was found that **Parks Staff had little information, communication tools or regulation signage to provide visitors on Invasive Species Prevention.** Since that time, we have met with Jason Mask at the Bonnechere Park, who has been working to put further initiatives into place. But there is still much work to do in Ontario.

**The new online method of registration to Ontario Parks does not provide information on watercraft as a carrier of Invasive Species. Park guests who bring watercraft and who register online, have little to no communication with Park Staff about the risks of invasive species.**

We would like to ensure that visitors going to Ontario Parks are aware of the Invasive Species Act and the implications of transporting invasive species. We would like to ensure that the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks works with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to better ensure Park Guests understand and comply with the Invasive Species Act. This should occur through **better Ontario Parks website communications, such as a pop-up window ensuring guests have an online waver to Clean Dry and Drain their watercraft before bringing it to Ontario Parks. The Ministry should also ensure that Park Guests have information and education, and clear signage on Invasive Species prevention, and the understand the implications of not complying with the Act.**

Let's work together to act on this before our Provincial Parks become infested and unusable, as they have in other provinces.

Sincerely,

Scott Gardner (A/President) Round Lake Property Owners' Association (RLPOA)  
Dr. Suzanne Hill, Communications, Invasive Species Prevention (ISP) Committee,  
RLPOA

cc. Mr. Billy Denault, MPP Renfrew, Nipissing and Pembroke  
Hon. Stan Cho, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming