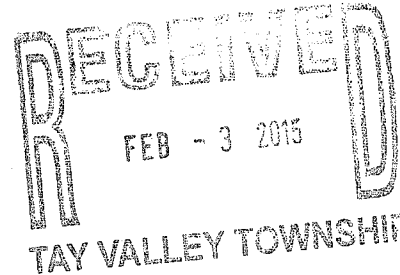




Environment Canada  
Environnement Canada

4905 Dufferin Street  
Toronto, ON  
M3H 5T4

January 30, 2015

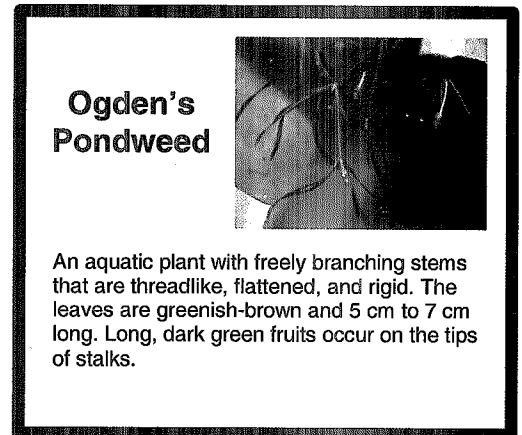


Dear Landowner or Land Manager,

**Re: Consultation on the Proposed Recovery Strategy for the Ogden's Pondweed in Canada**

We are writing to you to ask for your input and advice on the proposed Recovery Strategy for the Ogden's Pondweed.

Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service is developing a recovery strategy for the Ogden's Pondweed (*Potamogeton ogdenii*). The Ogden's Pondweed is listed as Endangered under both the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) and Ontario's *Endangered Species Act, 2007*. In Ontario, the Ogden's Pondweed has been found in only three sites, all in southeastern Ontario. You are receiving this letter because land you own and/or manage is likely to have, or is adjacent to, the habitat necessary for the survival and recovery of the Ogden's Pondweed.



We are inviting you to comment on a draft of the recovery strategy. A summary is enclosed with this letter and the full document is available online:

[http://www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/document/default\\_e.cfm?documentID=2715](http://www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/document/default_e.cfm?documentID=2715).

*What is a Recovery Document?*

Under SARA, a plan must be made for the recovery of each species listed as 'at risk'. These planning documents are called recovery strategies, action plans, and management plans. Each document provides information about one or more species at risk, identifies major threats to the species and its habitat, establishes recovery objectives and recommends broad strategies to help guide the activities needed to conserve and recover the species. Recovery strategies and action plans may also identify habitat that is critical to the species' survival or recovery and describe activities that are likely to result in the destruction of critical habitat.

*We want to hear from you!*

You are receiving this letter because you own and/or manage land with proposed critical habitat for the Ogden's Pondweed and we would like your input on the recovery strategy. Proposed critical habitat, and how it was identified is described in the recovery strategy.

Canada 

Your property and address were identified through aerial imagery and Ontario's Land Registration system. The Property Identification Number (PIN) listed for your land parcel is printed on the mailing label. For species on private or provincial land, the intent of SARA is to protect critical habitat as much as possible through voluntary actions, stewardship, provincial law and municipal bylaws. SARA recognizes the important role landowners play as stewards of Canada's natural heritage.

This is an invitation to participate in the public process of reviewing and providing comments to inform the development of the final recovery strategy and to be a part of larger efforts to ensure the survival and recovery of species at risk.

*How to provide feedback*

Your comments are important. Comments can be submitted on the SAR Public Registry [www.sararegistry.gc.ca](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca) during the public comment period that is open between **January 29, and March 30, 2015**. You can also provide your comments to Environment Canada via e-mail: [speciesatrisk\\_ontario@ec.gc.ca](mailto:speciesatrisk_ontario@ec.gc.ca), phone: 416-739-4254, fax: 416-739-5845 or mail: Consultation Biologist, Canadian Wildlife Service – Ontario, Environment Canada, 4905 Dufferin Street, Toronto, ON M3H 5T4.

We appreciate your input on the recovery strategy. Your comments will be considered as we finalize the recovery strategy, which will also be posted to the SAR Public Registry.

To learn more about species at risk in Canada and what is being done to help them, please visit the SAR Public Registry at [www.sararegistry.gc.ca](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca).

We appreciate your participation in this process.

Sincerely,



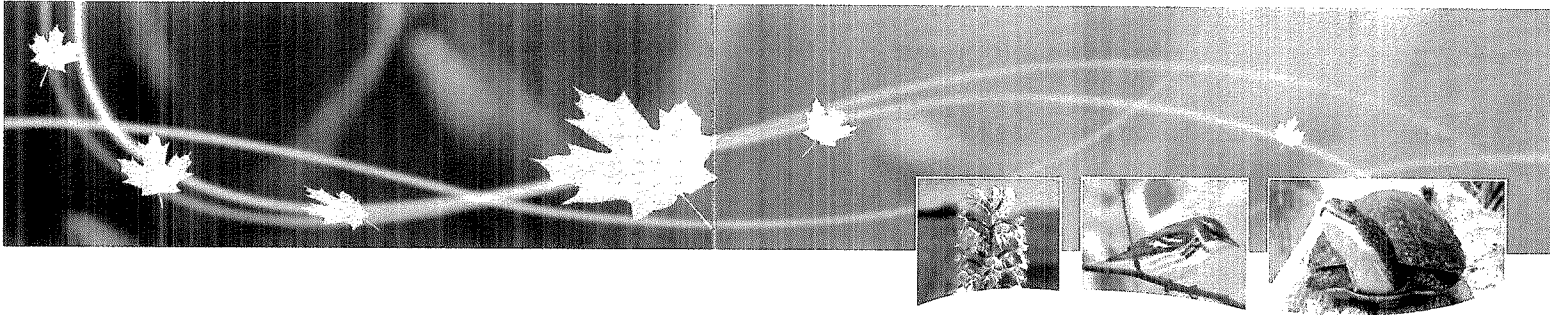
Carole Lemay  
Regional Director  
Canadian Wildlife Service – Ontario

Enclosure  
Summary of the Proposed Recovery Strategy for the Ogden's Pondweed in Canada



Environment  
Canada

Environnement  
Canada



Summary of the proposed Recovery Strategy for the

## OGDEN'S PONDWEED

The Government of Canada is adopting the Government of Ontario's Recovery Strategy for the Ogden's Pondweed (*Potamogeton ogdenii*) in Ontario. To complete the requirements of the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) Environment Canada has produced an addition to the provincial recovery strategy.

### Status

The Ogden's Pondweed is listed as Endangered under the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) and Ontario's *Endangered Species Act, 2007* (ESA).

### Description and Distribution

The Ogden's Pondweed is an aquatic plant with freely branching stems that are threadlike, flattened, and rigid. The leaves are greenish-brown and 5 cm to 7 cm long. Fruits occur on the tips of stalks, and are 10 mm to 30 mm long. Fruits are cylindrical in form and dark green in colour. Winter buds are uncommon, but can be produced at the tips of stems, or along the stem.

The Ogden's Pondweed is found in northeastern North America. In Canada, this species is found only in southeastern Ontario. The presence of this species in Ontario is known from three collected specimens: one in Hastings County, a second in Murphy's Point Provincial Park, and a third near Davis Lock in the Rideau Canal. The species has not been found at any of these three locations since the original collection of the specimens, more than 20 years ago.



Ogden's Pondweed © C.B. Hellquist

### Habitat Needs

In Ontario, Ogden's Pondweed has been found in sites that are associated with marble bedrock and that are likely to have alkaline (non-acidic) water. One of the specimens was described to occur "in 7 to 10 feet of water". Another site where Ogden's Pondweed was found consisted of beaver ponds along a small creek with slow flowing water.

### Threats

Due to the lack of known current Ontario populations, the threats are described as possible, rather than certain. These potential threats are based on research from the United States and include habitat loss (due to shoreline development or loss of beaver ponds), competition from invasive plants, and excess nutrients in the water (from runoff).

## Population and Distribution Objectives

The population and distribution objectives for the Ogden's Pondweed are to ensure the persistence of populations where they exist in Ontario.

## Broad Strategies and General Approaches to Meet Objectives

- Encouraging and/or conducting genetic research;
- Encouraging the submission of Ogden's Pondweed data to Conservation Data Centres;
- Educating agencies and planning authorities on the requirement to consider the protection of Ogden's Pondweed and its habitat;
- Supporting partners and Aboriginal communities to undertake activities to protect and recover the Ogden's Pondweed;
- Conducting surveys;
- Monitoring population size and specific threats

## Critical Habitat

*Critical habitat is a component of a recovery strategy or action plan that is essential to the survival or recovery of a listed wildlife species. For a full description of critical habitat, please refer to the Act.*

Critical habitat is identified where Ogden's Pondweed habitat exists within the following geographic townships:

- 1) South Crosby, located in the Municipality of Rideau Lakes in the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville.
- 2) Burgess, located in the Municipality of Tay Valley in the County of Lanark.

Within these townships, critical habitat is:

1. An aquatic vegetation community where Ogden's Pondweed exists or has existed at any time in the past, that is in an area of a stream, river, or other body of water that is less than five metres deep.
2. Any part of a river, stream, or other body of water within an area described above, up to the high water mark.
3. The area above the high water mark that is within five metres of an area described above.

## Activities likely to result in the destruction of critical habitat

- Physically removing the material on the bottom of a water body where the plant roots (e.g., channel dredging, dock installation);
- Significant changing the shoreline in the zone up to 5m above the high water mark (e.g., extensive clearing of natural vegetation);
- Draining of ponds that are used as habitat;
- Release of nutrients into the waterway

## Measuring Progress

Every five years, the success of recovery strategy implementation will be measured against the following performance indicators:

- Populations persist if they are once again confirmed to exist in Ontario

One or more action plans will be developed by December 2022

For more information, please contact us directly at:

Canadian Wildlife Service, Ontario Region  
Environment Canada  
4905 Dufferin Street  
Toronto ON M3H 5T4

Fax: 416-739-5845  
Email: [speciesatrisk\\_ontario@ec.gc.ca](mailto:speciesatrisk_ontario@ec.gc.ca)

You can also visit the following websites for more information:  
SAR Public Registry ([www.sarregistry.gc.ca](http://www.sarregistry.gc.ca))

Cover photos:

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