

Invasive Species: A Quiet Invader in the Tay Watershed

You know that moment when something looks a little *too* lush along the shoreline, taller, thicker, almost suspiciously thriving? It might not just be a good growing season. A handful of invasive species, think towering phragmites, sneaky Eurasian watermilfoil, and the all-too-familiar wild parsnip, are quietly growing roots in the Tay Watershed. They may look impressive (some even pretty), but they tend to crowd out native plants, tangle up waterways, and generally make life harder for the ecosystems we all enjoy.

The catch? Once they settle in, they're tough to evict. That's why folks across the watershed, from municipalities to conservation groups, are starting to pay close attention. The encouraging part is that small actions really do make a difference. Things like cleaning your boat between lakes, sticking with native plants, and knowing what not to touch (looking at you, wild parsnip) all help keep these unwelcome guests in check.

If you're curious to dig a little deeper, the Invasive Species Centre has plenty of simple, practical resources and species guides: <https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/>. And locally, Friends of the Tay Watershed will be hosting their Tay Walk at the Perth Wildlife Reserve on May 30 (rain date May 31), a great chance to explore, learn, and see the watershed up close with others who care about it. And keep an eye out and watch this space for more articles.