

Chestermere Aquatic Invasive Species Watch List

Current Invasive Species in Chestermere Lake

Flowering Rush is a weed that has already been found in Chestermere Lake. Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development says that it can quickly “form dense stands which may interfere with recreational lake use. Flowering rush may also crowd out native plants and in turn harm fish and wildlife.”¹

This plant can spread by seed, small bulbs that break off when the plant is disturbed, any root fragments that break off when the plant is pulled out and by rhizomes.

What to do: If you believe you have found Flowering Rush, do not disturb the plants. Call the Chestermere Parks Department at 403-207-2807.



Significant Threats to Chestermere Lake



Zebra & Quagga Mussels are small creatures that can infest our lake, damage pumps and irrigation systems, and clog boat props. They are almost impossible to remove.

These species have already infested many lakes in North America and are transported on boats and boating equipment. Mussels can survive for up to 30 days outside of water and the larvae are too small to be seen.²

Once they establish in a lake, they can cause significant damage and inconvenience. They can reproduce at a rate of up to 1,000,000 new mussels per year, can infest irrigation pipes, can cut people wading in shallow areas and create obnoxious odors.

What to do:

If you want to launch a boat that has been in any body of water outside of Alberta:

- **Clean:** Always clean, drain and dry your boat and all recreational gear.
- **Dry:** Keep the boat out of the water for at least 30 days to ensure no mussels have survived.
- **Inspect:** If it has not been out of the water for more than 30 days, have your boat inspected. Call Toll Free: 1 855 336-2628 (BOAT) for the nearest inspection site.



Photo courtesy of the National Park Service

For more information on the threat these mussels pose to our lake, please visit www.esrd.alberta.ca/fish-wildlife.

Potential Threats to Chestermere Lake

Eurasian Watermilfoil is a weed that has many of the same negative features as Flowering Rush. Eurasian Watermilfoil can already be found across most of the United States and as well B.C., Ontario and Quebec.³

It can also be transported on boats or boating equipment. Even a small piece is enough to take root in a new body of water.

What to do: Always clean, drain, and dry your boat and boating equipment thoroughly. Follow the other instructions for mussels to avoid transporting Eurasian Watermilfoil.



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¹ [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/prm13978](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/prm13978)

² <http://esrd.alberta.ca/recreation-public-use/invasive-species/aquatic-invasive-species/default.aspx>

³ [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/prm14061](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$Department/deptdocs.nsf/all/prm14061)