



# Media Release



June 18, 2015

**For Immediate Release**

## Local “Hit Squad” member is fighting invasive species

### Invasive species student on the job in Finch

Invasive species pose a growing threat to Ontario’s biodiversity and cause millions of dollars in damage annually. There are more invasive species in Ontario than anywhere else in Canada, so it is a good thing that the Invading Species Awareness Program (ISAP) Hit Squad is working across the province again this summer to spread awareness about the impacts that invasive species are having on our environment, economy, and society. One member of the squad is located here in Finch this summer.

Locally, Sydney Allen is an Invasive Species Community Outreach Liaison working with the South Nation Conservation Authority (SNC) and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH).

“Monitoring and removing invasive species, as well as educating the public about them, will help to control populations and prevent their spread,” says Allen. “I’m very excited to be working with OFAH and SNC this summer, and am looking forward to educating and informing people about invasive species in my area.”

The OFAH partners with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to deliver the Invading Species Awareness Program. This program uses public education to prevent the introduction of new invasive species, and to stop the spread of those already here.

Over the course of the summer, the Invading Species Hit Squad, comprised of about 25 summer students, will monitor local lakes, waterways and forests, looking for zebra mussels, spiny water flea, round goby, giant hogweed, garlic mustard, and other invaders. They will also be engaging their community to increase awareness of invasive species. Funding is being provided by the federal government’s Canada Summer Jobs program.

The public and media is invited to contact Sydney Allen at (613) 984-2948 or email her at [sallen@nation.on.ca](mailto:sallen@nation.on.ca).

To report a sighting of an invasive species, or request information materials, call the **Invading Species Hotline** at **1-800-563-7711**, visit [www.invadingspecies.com](http://www.invadingspecies.com) or [EDDMapS.org/Ontario](http://EDDMapS.org/Ontario)

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