2008 EWM Synopsis from fall survey:

This fall (September), 1.4 acres of EWM was mapped as treatment plots on Big and Little Round Lakes. This does not include coverage in Hinton Bay. Again, due to lack of information, this Bay was not surveyed. However, this is going to be completed the first Saturday in October. It is anticipated that this acreage may increase somewhat, but the total acreage on both lakes will most likely be below 10 acres based upon the 2007 maps.

The Aquatic Plan Management Plan being developed by the Round Lake Association developed a treatment threshold of 500 sq ft and a mean sample density within the plot of at least "2." This means that on average, a 1 meter rake tow yields EWM taking up at least ½ the tine space and less than all the tine space. Any areas of EWM that did not meet or exceed this threshold was entered as sporadic coverage, recommended for SCUBA hand pulling and not mapped. There were several such locations mapped, but all were quite small at much less than 0.5 acres each. All plots that did meet or exceed this threshold were mapped and surveyed. Again, this resulted in 1.4 acres of EWM (not including Hinton Bay).

It is difficult to compare the coverage of EWM on Big and Little Round Lakes between 2007 and 2008 (following the June 2008 treatment) due to lake of information provided prior to the Fall 2008 survey. In order to compare, all treated areas needed to be known and surveyed for EWM density and native plant presence. However this information was unable to be obtained by the surveyor. However, recently the 2007 treatment plots have been provided, mapped and digitized, allowing for a very a limited comparison.

When reviewing the EWM that was mapped in 2007 and treated in June 2008, there are some interesting observations. First, the acreage reported for treatment is 10.8 acres by the applicator but when we mapped these same plots, we had 6.9 acres. This could be due to most applicators adding a "buffer" to the outside to make sure the plot gets treated adequately due to navigational error. Second, the plots from 2007 are quite different from the plots mapped this fall (2008). This could be due to a couple of different reasons. These may include:

1. The areas mapped and treated last year didn't follow a threshold and some may have been sporadic and therefore not mapped this time as a treatment plot.

2. The treatment was effective resulting in sporadic or limited coverage this fall resulting in no observation or mapping as a treatment plot.

The fact that many of the plots are so different with only a few adjacent to one another between the two years indicates that the EWM may have very well responded to the chemical treatment in some areas. Treatment success can range widely especially in big lakes. Wind and water currents can greatly affect contact concentrations of the herbicide, affecting the amount of plant reduction. In addition, there is always concern about misidentification of EWM. A few of the areas mapped and treated last year were observed this fall as having little or no EWM and good coverage of the native Northern watermilfoil. It is paramount that these areas are left and managed using hand pulling only, as long as EWM density is low. Native plants, especially Northern watermilfoil can effectively compete with EWM, reducing its growth.

Now that the issues of information gathering and sharing are being ironed out, the future management of EWM in Big and Round Lake is encouraging. The vast majority of Big Round Lake is not very good habitat for EWM. There are some key bays in Little Round Lake to watch closely. In Big Round Lake, Richardson's Bay, School House Bay and Hinton Bay are the main areas that EWM would tend to spread quickly. As a result these areas should be monitored closely. If the Round Lake Association is diligent with management, there is a high probability that the spreading of EWM can be contained and maybe even reduced. The Association is proceeding correctly through the development of an Aquatic Plant Management Plan as well as organizing invasive volunteers. Through this work continued monitoring and management practices will be successful. The key is continued monitoring and sound management of EWM through chemical treatment and hand pulling.