

Institute receives invasive species funding

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South Shore-St. Margaret's MP Gerald Keddy announced April 27 the federal government is investing \$45,000 in the Mersey Toboatic Research Institute in Kempt.

Another \$45,000 was granted to Clean Annapolis River Project.

Both, according to a government press release, are designed to help "ensure communities and businesses continue to prosper by minimizing the risks associated with the introduction and spread of invasive alien species (IAS)."

IAS are plants, animals and microorganisms that spread beyond their natural range into new locations as a result of human activity. They have the potential to threaten domestic environments, economies and society. Introduction of IAS is increasing with the growing volume of trade, broadening of trading partners, and increased travel that accompany globalization.

Examples of invaders include purple loosestrife, zebra mussel, brown spruce

long-horned beetle, and Asian long-horned beetle.

Keddy said, "These projects help communities actively reduce the introduction and spread of invasive alien species through on the ground actions, workshops, demonstrations, educational materials, and information sharing."

The An Invasive Alien Species Strategy for Canada is administered jointly by Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada,

the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Natural Resources Canada, Transport Canada, and the Parks Canada Agency.

These two projects, according to the press release, were chosen based on their ability to reduce the introduction and spread of IAS, leverage partnerships and funds, create lasting benefits, enable Canadians to become actively involved in projects that address IAS threats, and improve understanding and awareness of IAS in Canada.