FRESHWATER GOLDEN CLAM

Invasive Species Alert!

IMPACTS OF FRESHWATER GOLDEN CLAM

Freshwater Golden Clams are an invasive species that have been introduced to McGeachy Pond and the Thames River. These clams are a concern because they:

rapidly reproduce
self-fertilizing, they can reach densities of 10,000 per square meter;

harm native fish and mussels
outcompeting them for habitat and food, altering food chains and reducing biodiversity;

block water in-take pipes
causing millions of dollars in damage in the power and water industries and

spread
through fish stocking and improper bait disposal.

IDENTIFICATION

- Light green to brown shell.
- Triangular-shaped shell with elevated ridges.
- Usually less than 25 mm (rarely exceeds 50 mm).
- **CAUTION:** may be mistaken for native freshwater mussels.

REPORT

SCAN ME

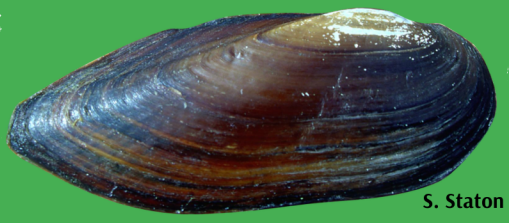
Report Freshwater Golden Clam sightings on-line or through the EDD MapS app. find · map · track

Lower Thames Conservation

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
100 Thames Street, Chatham, ON. N7L 2Y8
www.ltvca.ca | 519-354-7310

DO...

- ✓ learn how and take action to prevent the spread of invasive species.
- ✓ clean equipment with a high pressure wash, hot water OR dry in the sun for at least five days.
- ✓ drain water from motors and live wells on land, before leaving a waterbody.



Eastern Pondmussel

Freshwater Golden Clams threaten the Endangered Eastern Pondmussel, which is also found in McGeachy Pond.

Asian Clam

While Freshwater Golden Clams can reach densities of 10,000 per square meter, native freshwater mussels average around 35 mussels per square meter.

Native Mussels

There are 36 different native mussel species found in the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority watershed. The spread of Freshwater Golden Clams would harm the populations of many of these native species.

DON'T...

- ✗ release live or dead animals (clams, mussels, snails, fish, turtles etc.) into local waterbodies.
- ✗ transport water from one waterbody to another.