



**Town of Aurora**

**Additional Items to  
Parks and Recreation Advisory  
Committee Meeting Agenda**

Thursday, November 17, 2016

7 p.m.

Holland Room

- Delegation (b) Barry Bridgeford, Resident  
Re: Invasive Plant Species, *Invasive Species Act*, Funding for Control



**Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee**  
**DELEGATION REQUEST**

This Delegation Request form and any written submissions or background information for consideration by either Council or Committees of Council must be submitted to the Clerk's office by the following deadline:

**4:30 P.M. ON THE BUSINESS DAY PRIOR TO THE REQUESTED MEETING DATE**

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE/ADVISORY COMMITTEE DATE: **November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

SUBJECT: **Invasive Plant Species, Invasive Species Act, Funding For Control**

NAME OF SPOKESPERSON: **Barry Bridgeford**

NAME OF GROUP OR PERSON(S) BEING REPRESENTED (if applicable):

**BRIEF SUMMARY OF ISSUE OR PURPOSE OF DELEGATION:**

**Asking committee support of a request of council to recognize the need to protect out parks and open spaces from phragmites, dog-strangling vine, and Japanese knotweed. And of a request of council to fund the Parks Division for the control and/or eradication of these species.**

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:**

Have you been in contact with a Town staff or Council member regarding your matter of interest?

YES **YES** NO

IF YES, WITH WHOM? **Manager of Parks Division & Manager  
of Environmental Initiatives.  
All councilors & mayor,**

DATE: **Oct. 20-24, 2016  
Nov. 14, 2016**

**YES**  I acknowledge that the Procedural By-law permits five (5) minutes for Delegations.

*Barry Bridgeford*  
Nov 14/16.

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Invasive Species Act

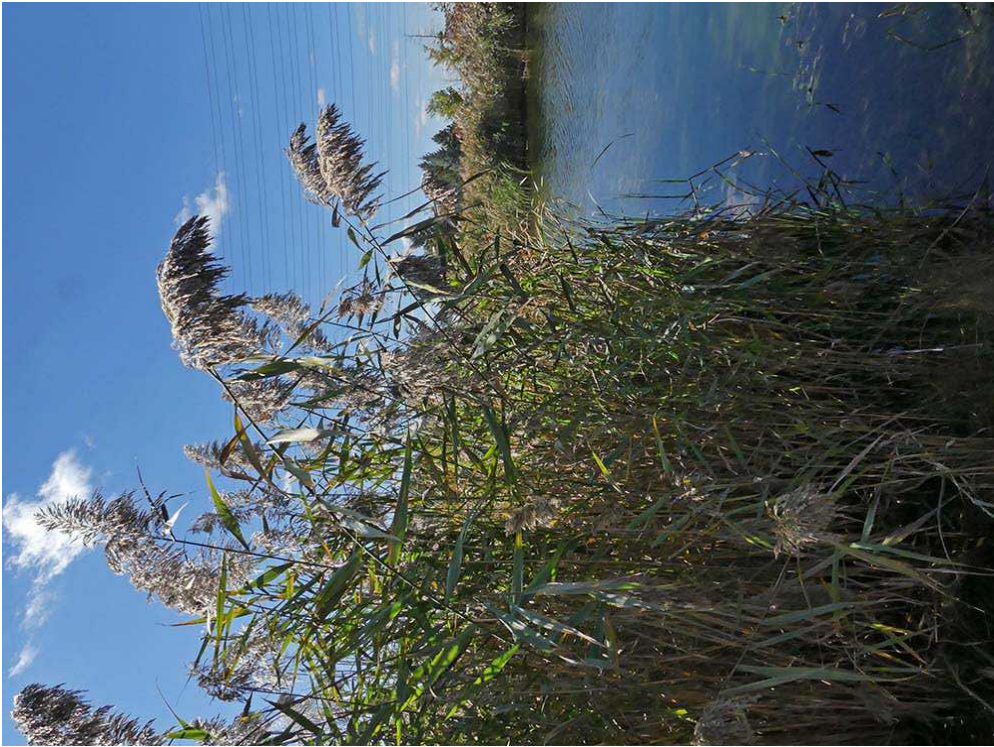
Phragmites, Dog-strangling vine and Japanese knotweed are the three most threatening invasive plants in the Town of Aurora.

The Province of Ontario's new Invasive Species Act (2015) came into effect on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of this month. Its regulations categorize these very same three invasive plants as “restricted” .

*Photo: Part of a large outbreak of Japanese knotweed at the northeast corner of Bloomington Road and Bathurst Street.*



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Phragmites

The Eurasian genotype (haplotype M) of Phragmites Australis evolved over millennia to become an integrated part of many of the biosphere's ecosystems, with the notable exception of the ecosystems of the Americas.

*Photo: This pond is on the east side of Leslie Street, north of Wellington Street. It is being encircled by invasive phragmites.*

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Integrated within its original ecosystems, phragmites was a source of shelter and food for many life-forms. At the same time it was challenged and controlled by other life-forms native to these same ecosystems.

Over recent centuries, Europeans even learned to use sheaths of phragmites to thatch the roofs of their houses.

*Photo: This outbreak of phragmites is on the south side of St John's Sideroad, only meters from McKenzie Marsh.*

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Back in the 1800's, when machinery and equipment were shipped from Europe to North America, freight crates were cushioned with sheaths of phragmites. Unfortunately, upon arrival in America this phragmites was discarded into local ecosystems.

Similarly, trans-atlantic ship ballast (often contaminated with phragmites) was dumped into local ecosystems.

*Photo: This open space is on the west side of Bayview Avenue south of Wellington Street and has been overwhelmed by invasive phragmites.*



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This particular strain of Phragmites has now spread out from the New England area, to become a biological scourge .. choking marshes, wetlands, fields, meadows and ponds.

These invasive Phragmites reed beds force out native growth and don't benefit our native wildlife .. effectively destroying the impacted ecosystems!

*Photo: The hydro right-of-way on the south side of Wellington Street has lost acres of wet meadows to a mono-culture of phragmites.*

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Japanese Knotweed

In the 1800's, Japanese knotweed was promoted as an exotic ornamental plant. However, its tenacious roots are capable of breaking through asphalt and concrete. As a foundation planting, Japanese knotweed once seriously impacted Aurora's old Church Street School.

This plant's ability to cause property, building and infrastructure damage contribute to its bad reputation.

*Photo: This outbreak of Japanese knotweed is located in a neighbourhood park in south Aurora.*



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Dog-strangling Vine

Originating in Russia and Ukraine, this weed spreads by airborne seeds, covers the ground in solid masses and can overwhelm tall vegetation.

Dog-strangling vine is particularly problematic in the southern GTA but is starting to make serious inroads in Aurora.

*Photo: Climbing up a fence on Industrial Parkway South, these well-seeded vines are just a small part of a substantial outbreak north of the Sheppard's Bush soccer fields.*



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There's currently no town funding in the 2017 budget for the control and/or eradication of these invasive plant species.

I've asked council to recognize the need to protect our parks and open spaces from these three specific invasive plant species .. and to authorize substantial funding for their control and eradication.

**Barry Bridgeford** November 17, 2016

[www.GreenAurora.ca](http://www.GreenAurora.ca)

*Photo: Part of the phragmites outbreak at the 'ARC' on Wellington Street.*

