



**Environmental
Advisory Committee
Meeting Agenda**

Thursday, June 15, 2017

7 p.m.

**Holland Room
Aurora Town Hall**



**Town of Aurora
Environmental Advisory Committee
Meeting Agenda**

Date: Thursday, June 15, 2017

Time and Location: 7 p.m., Holland Room, Aurora Town Hall

1. Approval of the Agenda

Recommended:

That the agenda as circulated by Legislative Services be approved.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

3. Receipt of the Minutes

Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of April 6, 2017

That the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting minutes of April 6, 2017, be received for information.

4. Delegations

(a) Ryan Ness and Angela Wallace, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

Re: The Living City Report Card

5. Matters for Consideration

6. Informational Items

- 1. Memorandum from Program Manager, Environmental Initiatives
Re: Invasive Plant Species Update**

Recommended:

1. That the memorandum regarding Invasive Plant Species Update be received for information.

- 2. Memorandum from Program Manager, Environmental Initiatives
Re: Corporate Environmental Action Plan Update Status**

Recommended:

1. That the memorandum regarding Corporate Environmental Action Plan Update Status be received for information.

7. New Business

8. Adjournment



**Town of Aurora
Environmental Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Date: Thursday, April 6, 2017

Time and Location: 7 p.m., Holland Room, Aurora Town Hall

Committee Members: Councillor Paul Pirri (Chair), Councillor Tom Mrakas (Vice Chair), Irene Clement, Larry Fedec (arrived 7:04 p.m.), Melville James, Jennifer Sault, Sara Varty (arrived 7:04 p.m.), Nancee Webb, Kristina Zeromskiene (arrived 7:04 p.m.), and Mayor Geoffrey Dawe (ex-officio member)

Member(s) Absent: None

Other Attendees: Christina Nagy-Oh, Program Manager, Environmental Initiatives, and Linda Bottos, Council/Committee Secretary

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

1. Approval of the Agenda

**Moved by Jennifer Sault
Seconded by Irene Clement**

That the agenda as circulated by Legislative Services be approved.

Carried

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*.

Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 6, 2017

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3. Receipt of the Minutes

Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of November 24, 2016

Moved by Nancee Webb

Seconded by Melville James

That the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting minutes of November 24, 2016, be received for information.

Carried

4. Delegations

None

5. Matters for Consideration

1. Memorandum from Mayor Dawe

Re: Anti-Idling

The Mayor provided a brief overview of the memorandum. The Committee expressed support for the campaign, and provided suggestions to increase public awareness regarding idling vehicles.

Moved by Nancee Webb

Seconded by Larry Fedec

1. That the memorandum regarding Anti-Idling be received for information;
and
2. That the Environmental Advisory Committee recommend to Council:
 - (a) That staff be directed to draft an anti-idling by-law; and
 - (b) That staff be directed to draft an anti-idling education campaign that details the effects of idling vehicles.

Carried

Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
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6. Informational Items

2. Memorandum from Program Manager, Environmental Initiatives Re: Bring Your Own Bottle Initiative at Town Facilities

Staff provided background information regarding the initiative. The Committee inquired about the elimination of the sale of bottled water and pop. Staff advised that pop will be removed from one beverage machine at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex as a pilot project for the month of September 2017.

**Moved by Sara Varty
Seconded by Kristina Zeromskiene**

1. That the memorandum regarding Bring Your Own Bottle Initiative at Town Facilities be received for information.

Carried

2. Extract from Council Meeting of December 13, 2016 Re: Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of November 24, 2016

The Committee inquired about whether there has been any follow-up regarding New Business Motions No. 3 and No. 4. The Chair and staff indicated that updates will be provided at a future meeting.

**Moved by Irene Clement
Seconded by Jennifer Sault**

1. That the Extract from Council Meeting of December 13, 2016, regarding the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting minutes of November 24, 2016, be received for information.

Carried

Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 6, 2017

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7. New Business

Councillor Mrakas noted that nominations for the 2017 Community Recognition Awards are being accepted, and he encouraged Committee members to make submissions.

Staff advised that Rick Hansen Public School is requesting volunteers for Aurora's Annual Clean-up Day on Saturday, April 22, 2017.

8. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Mrakas

Seconded by Nancee Webb

That the meeting be adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Carried

Committee recommendations are not binding on the Town unless adopted by Council at a later meeting.



Legislative Services
905-727-3123
councilsecretariatstaff@aurora.ca

Town of Aurora
100 John West Way, Box 1000
Aurora, ON L4G 6J1

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: Environmental Advisory Committee - June 1, 2017

SUBJECT: The Living City Report Card

NAME OF SPOKESPERSON: Ryan Ness/Angela Wallace

NAME OF GROUP OR PERSON(S) BEING REPRESENTED (if applicable): Toronto & Region
Conservation Authority

BRIEF SUMMARY OF ISSUE OR PURPOSE OF DELEGATION: TRCA recently released *The Living City Report Card: A Progress Report on Environmental Sustainability in the Toronto Region* (reportcard.trca.ca). The Living City Report Card examines indicators within six themes: carbon, air quality, waste, water, land use, and biodiversity. We would like to share the findings of this report with the EAC.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

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

Yes No

IF YES, WITH WHOM Christina Nagy-Oh DATE April 20, 2017

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



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Town of Aurora
Infrastructure & Environmental
Services

Memorandum

DATE: June 15, 2017

TO: Environmental Advisory Committee

FROM: Christina Nagy-Oh, Program Manager, Environmental Initiatives

RE: Invasive Plant Species Update

Recommendations

- 1. That the memorandum regarding Invasive Plant Species Update be received for information.**

Background

A resident and Heritage Advisory Committee member provided an overview of invasive plant species in Aurora at the November 24th EAC meeting. He noted that there is no funding for the control and/or eradication of these species. The Province of Ontario has proposed the following three invasive plants: Phragmites, Dog-strangling vine and Japanese knotweed be regulated as “restricted” under its new Invasive Species Act (2015), came into force in November 2016. The same three invasive plants appear to be the most threatening in the Town of Aurora.

This memo was drafted in response to the following Motion carried at Council in December 2016.

New Business Motion No. 3

1. That the Environmental Advisory Committee recommend to Council:
 - (a) That staff be directed to investigate the feasibility of containment or removal of phragmites, and report back to Council within the first quarter of 2017; and
 - (b) That a public education strategy be developed regarding phragmites, dog-strangling vine and Japanese knotweed.

Carried

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Invasive Plant Species Update

Town Trial Pilot Project To Date

The following information was obtained from the April 11 2017 Council meeting discussion between Councillor Pirri and Director Al Downey. Mr. Downey was asked to respond to the above EAC Business Motion No.3.

Last year the Arboretum committee, in partnership with Parks staff, initiated a pilot project to attempt to eradicate phragmites on the lands just north of Tim Hortons, with a cost of approximately \$10,000.

Questions /Concerns to date:

- Will pilot be successful? If pilot is successful, staff has a method in order to refer to and a cost estimate based on same project square footage.
- Determining the cost estimate in relation to various strategies (ie control, eradicate)
- Determine if we want to use mechanical or chemical techniques. Different cost implications relating to both techniques.
- Considered a new field of expertise for most municipal parks operational staff
- If Town successfully remove or eradicate an area of particular invasive plants, there is a solid possibility that the plants could re-emerge in the case of the adjacent municipalities failing to eradicate the plants in their jurisdiction
- Overall level of success of program, given the numerous uncontrollable variables and lack of proven standard operating procedures
- council needs clear understandings on what are expectations for success

a) Preliminary Summary of Staff Research

Examples of Invasive plant species strategic plans to control Phragmites, dog-Strangling vine, and Japanese knotwood:

- Invasive Specie Management, City of Brampton- Municipal Wide Initiative(2016)
- Town of Caledon urban Forest Study, Town of Caledon(2011)
- Natural Heritage and Environmental Management Strategy (NHEMS), City of Brampton- Municipal Wide initiative (2015)
- Invasive Plant Management Strategy for the York Regional Forest, York Region (2014)
- West Collingwood Community Action Plan in association with Town of Collingwood, 2016
- Greening the hill: A public Guide to environmental strategy, Town of Richmond Hill (2014)
- Phragmites Management Project, Township of Tay (2016)
- Oakville Species Strategy includes Ontario Invasive Species Strategy (2012), Town of Oakville
- Urban Forest Strategic Management Plan 2008-2027, Town of Oakville

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Invasive Plant Species Update

Public Education & awareness campaign across municipalities:

Georgian Bay forever's Invasive phragmites Workshop in partner with Town of Collingwood

- Fighting invasive Phragmites in Collingwood
 - Community in Action
 - Information on Phragmites (i.e. Maps, Control methods, background information)

Town of Collingwood's Website:

- Updates on phragmites control projects
- Education: Presentations, Upcoming Workshops to discuss the removal and management of invasive phragmites
- Picture promoting "Raising Awareness on Phragmites" Event
- Promoting "Fight the Phrag" and linking it to other organizations involved

Tay Township's Website:

- Information on incoming events and Workshops on Phragmites
- Tay township Shoreline guide provide information and education about various aspects of Tay Shoreline, including invasive species management (i.e. Phragmites), and to improve awareness
- A link to learn how invasive species threaten Ontario's biodiversity is provide on the Sustainability and the Environment
- Information on what " Invasive species may be in your garden"
- Other useful education and awareness campaign on other invasive species and how to deal with it

Town of Richmond Hill- Community Stewardship Program 2016

As part of the program, the Town of Richmond Hill works together with local community groups and thousands of volunteers to plant more than 10,000 trees, shrubs and wildflowers, clean up streams, *remove invasive plants and spread the word about the importance of our green spaces.*

The Community Stewardship Program includes a number of green projects and events, including:

- Invasive plant removal
- Tree planting events
- Woodlot restoration
- Stream rehabilitation
- Green space monitoring
- Restoration site maintenance
- Native plant gardening

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Invasive Plant Species Update

The program helps to create a vibrant community by establishing a healthier urban forest and natural corridors throughout the town's greenway system.

Under the things to do section, there are links to community tree planting and stewardship events, where it provides information on ongoing and incoming projects and events.

Under find or learn about section, there are information and guides on native plants species and on what to avoid to plant.

Public education and awareness on Native vs Non-Native Species, King Township

King Township has a dedicated website to spread awareness on invasive species affecting its township. The website helps to educate the public on the difference on native and invasive species and to inform on the importance of planting native species. Also, it provides weed control and techniques to avoid the growth and spread of noxious weeds.

Upcoming events organized by King Township Parks' recreation & culture in partner with Toronto and Region Conservation and Cold creek Stewardship:

- Stop the spread: Invasive species Walk & Pull on June 17 at Cold Creek Conservation Area
- Invasive Species Awareness Hike on August 23 at Cold Creek Conservation Area

b) Aurora's Invasive Species Public Education an Outreach Plan

The PMEI met with the Manager of Communications regarding an invasive species initiative and the suggested timeline for kick starting the public education campaign was fall 2017. Mr. Barry Bridgeford, (previous delegate to EAC) collaborated with the Town's 2017 Eco festival, held on April 29th. Barry prepared detailed invasive species education and awareness materials to share with festival participants.

The following promotional channels were suggested for this public education campaign:

- Media release/Public Service Announcement
- Social media postings
- Website content
- NoticeBoard (directing back to website)
- Handout/flyer/poster placed in participating facilities

Attachments

Attachment 1: Invasive Plant Species Additional Information

Attachment 2: Invasive Plant Species in Aurora and the Invasive Species Act, Author Barry Bridgeford.

Attachment 1: Invasive Plant Species Additional Information

Cynanchum Rossicum (Dog-strangling Vine):

- Invasive perennial herbaceous plant
- Family: Asclepiadaceae (milkweed family)
- Forms thick mats of vegetation which hinder recreational activities, choke out native species, and negatively impact managed woodlots
- Spreads quickly along roadsides, ditches and fence lines

*Dog-strangling Vine is regulated as a restricted species under the Ontario Invasive Species Act, 2015

Reynoutria japonica var. japonica (Japanese Knotweed)

- Native to eastern Asia
- Semi-Woody perennial
- Spread along roadsides and near building
- Grow through concrete and asphalt

* Japanese Knotweed is regulated as a restricted species under the Ontario Invasive Species Act, 2015

Phragmites australis subsp. australis (European Common Reed):

- Native to Euroasia
- Invasive and perennial
- Spread in coastal wetlands, stream banks, lake shores, wet field, beaches and ditches
- Allelopathic
- Monoculture stands

Existing Policies and Programs

Ontario's Invading Species Awareness Program:

The program focused on regulating the spread Dog-strangling Vine, Phragmites and Japanese knotweed as restricted under the Invasive Species Act

Actions:

- Learn to identify these species and avoid accidentally spreading the invasive plants
- Educate the public to effectively and environmentally manage these invasive species on the private properties
- Promote the sale of native species
- Designate trails and keep pets on a leash to avoid the spreading of these invaders
- Raise awareness on how to prevent the spread of Dog-strangling Vine, Phragmites and Japanese Knotweed
- Encourage people to report any illegal importing, distribution or sale of Dog-strangling vine and Japanese Knotweed.

<http://www.invadingspecies.com/invaders/plants-terrestrial/>

Town of Caledon urban Forest Study prepared by Toronto and Region Conservation (2011) Partnership: Region of Peel, City of Mississauga, Brampton City, Credit Valley Conservation, and

The study was a baseline to better manage the forest in Town of Carleton, as well develop and implement invasive species control strategies in infested areas.

Goal:

- Implement preventive measures to mitigate the spread of invasive species
- Enhance public outreach programs that utilize community-based social marketing

Reference:

Town of Caledon urban Forest Study_ Technical Report, 2011.

<https://www.peelregion.ca/planning/climatechange/reports/pdf/Caledon-Urban-Forest-Study-Tech-Report.pdf>

Invasive Species Management (specified in Woodland Management Plan/Periodic Ecological Review.), City of Brampton (2016)

Invasive Specie Measures:

- Invasive species that detract from biological diversity and inhibit pedestrian movement in woodlands will be controlled.
- Herbaceous species will be controlled by repeated pulling of plants prior to seed set.
- Woody invasive species will be controlled by trimming flush to the ground followed with treatment of stubs with a herbicide approved for use.
- In areas with severe infestations, canopy and soil management may be required to alter environmental conditions of the woodland.

Reference:

Woodland Management Plan_ City of Brampton (2016)

<https://www.brampton.ca/EN/Business/planning/development/Documents/CD/CD%20Process/CITY%20OF%20BRAMPTON-Woodland%20GL-2016.pdf>

Natural Heritage and Environmental Management Strategy (NHEMS), City of Brampton (2015)

Natural Heritage and Environmental Management Strategy (NHEMS) is to include and implement the Ontario invasive species Strategy and Ontario biodiversity Strategy (2011). The Ontario invasive species Strategy is intended to “prevent new invaders from arriving and surviving in Ontario, to slow and where possible reverse the spread of existing invasive species, and to reduce the harmful impacts of existing invasive species.” The Ontario Biodiversity Strategy (2011) highlights four goals critical to Ontario’s Biodiversity:

- Engage people
- Reduce threat
- Enhance Resiliency
- Improve Knowledge

Each goal is supported by long-term objectives, outcomes, key actions and targets.

Environmental initiatives,

2012 <https://www.brampton.ca/EN/residents/Environment/Documents/Appenidx%20I%20Environmental%20Initiatives%20April%202012.pdf>

Natural Heritage & Environmental Management strategy, 2015

[https://www.brampton.ca/EN/residents/Environment/Documents/Brampton%20NHEMS%20Background%20Report%20FINAL%20\(Dec%202015\)v2.pdf](https://www.brampton.ca/EN/residents/Environment/Documents/Brampton%20NHEMS%20Background%20Report%20FINAL%20(Dec%202015)v2.pdf)

Invasive Species Strategic Plan, 2012_ Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

<https://www.ontario.ca/document/invasive-species-strategic-plan-2012>

Ontario Biodiversity Strategy_ Ontario Biodiversity Council

http://www.oakville.ca/assets/general%20-%20environment/Ontario_Biodiversity_Strategy_2011.pdf

http://ontariobiodiversitycouncil.ca/homepage_banners/ontarios-biodiversity-strategy/

*** The strategy is adopted by Town of Oakville***

Invasive Plant Management Strategy for the York Regional Forest, York Region (2014)

The Invasive plan management Strategy is intended to prevent reduce and mitigate the effects of invasive plants in York Region Forest.

Objectives:

- Prevent the introduction and spread of invasive plants in YRF
- Raise awareness of, and educate the public and forest users about invasive plant threats and management
- Control existing invasive plants in the YRF and restore areas where invasive plants have been removed
- Enhance community and partnership collaboration

Reference:

Developing an Invasive Plant Management Strategy for the York Regional Forest by Dayna Laxton

http://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Presentation_OIPC_Invasive_Plant_Management_Strategy_Workshop_Bancroft-Jan-2017_for_posting.pdf

Phragmites & Invasive Species Action Plan for the Nottawasaga Valley Watershed, Nottawasaga valley Conservation Authority (2016)

The report focuses on Phragmites ecology and management but also addresses other current and potential invasive species issues. An Action Plan was recommended to work with various watershed partners and champions to address invasive species within the watershed. Nottawasaga valley Watershed partnered with Georgian Bay Forever, Blue Mountain Watershed Trust, the Town of Collingwood and several condominium associations to monitor and control Phragmites along the Collingwood shoreline.

This Action Plan consists of the following components:

- providing invasive species identification and monitoring services in the watershed
- development of education and outreach material regarding invasive species including Phragmites
- hosting a workshop to inform all watershed partners about invasive plant issues, invasive plant identification and best management practices for control
- Providing coordination and logistical support, as capacity allows, for invasive species monitoring and control in the watershed
- applying for project grants and participating in invasive species-related projects when the opportunities arise
- providing support for municipalities in efforts to implement non-regulatory and regulatory strategies (by-laws) that will aid in the outreach, education and enforcement to assist with control of invasive species in the watershed
- Monitor a range of aquatic and terrestrial invasive species issues with watershed partners and to provide vigilance/early warning for emerging invasive species issues

[http://www.nvca.on.ca/Shared%20Documents/Phragmites%20Action%20Plan_FinalDraft%20\(3\).pdf](http://www.nvca.on.ca/Shared%20Documents/Phragmites%20Action%20Plan_FinalDraft%20(3).pdf)

West Collingwood Community Action Plan in association with Town of Collingwood, 2016

Town of Collingwood Population based on Statistics Canada (2011): 19,241

The project supports the goal of enhanced research and monitoring by mapping current stands and following the invading front of Phragmites. It improved conservation of aquatic habitats and species by being a part of the province-wide effort to control Phragmites and provided a drive to protect a critical part of Ontario's environment and economy. This project aims to add on to these initiatives by educating local residents and empowering them to carry out the monitoring and control efforts within their community.

The Town of Collingwood played an important role by providing in-kind support to control Phragmites on Town property and to pick up and dispose of cut Phragmites from the various control sites. They provided a crew of five Parks and Recreation staff in 2016 to cut and remove Phragmites west of Sunset Point. They also liaised with the condominium associations and community groups to collect and transport cut stalks to the Collingwood Transfer Station.

Greening the hill: A public Guide to environmental strategy, Town of Richmond Hill (2014)

Town of Richmond Hill Population based on Statistics Canada (2011): 185,541

The Town developed an invasive Species management action plan that consists of best management practices for non-native species posing a threat to ecosystems in Richmond Hill to reduce the damage caused to the local environment. Under this plan, the Richmond's hill Community stewardship program works with agencies and community volunteers to improve the local environment through activities such as tree planting, stream restoration, and invasive species removal.

Goal:

- To prevent and reduce the negative impacts that invasive species have on the natural environment

Actions:

- Develop an Invasive Species Management Plan/Strategy
- Establish invasive species best management practices (BMPs)
- Implement BMPs on Town-managed land

- Create invasive species management standards and specifications for the development or redevelopment of Town land
- Advance the Emerald Ash Borer Management Strategy
- Continue to promote and plant native species
- Pursue partnerships to manage invasive species
- Develop a community education and outreach program for
- invasive species management and native plant species promotion

<https://www.richmondhill.ca/en/shared-content/resources/documents/660-environment-strategy-public-guide.pdf>

<https://www.richmondhill.ca/en/find-or-learn-about/Trees-and-Yards-Native-Species.aspx>

https://www.richmondhill.ca/en/things-to-do/Community-Stewardship-Program-and-Tree-Planting.aspx?_mid_=1138

Township of Tay: Phragmites Management Project (2016)

Township of Tay population (Statistics Canada): 9,736

The project provides a learning opportunity for both municipal staff and community members on how to best manage invasive Phragmites. This experience empowered volunteers to take action on their own properties and transfers the knowledge to multiple areas of the community to enhance stewardship of the Township's natural environment.

Purpose:

- Recognize that the spread of phragmites is problematic and contribute to the change of ecosystem change and instability.
- Cause economic or environmental harm to human, animal, or plant health
- Phragmites have the ability to displace and eradicate native species, and reduce the economic or recreational value of the landscapes

Goal:

- Remove the plant to increase economic and recreational value of the landscapes
- Increase the township leadership on invasive species management, providing both volunteer and a learning experience for participants
- Improve the ecological health of the local shorelines

<https://www.sustainablesevernsond.ca/mobile/portfolio-item.php?id=17>

http://www.tay.ca/en/living-here/resources/documents/tay-shoreline-guide_2015_final_sec.pdf

Other ongoing projects:

http://opwg.ca/2016eur/?utm_source=phragmitesnet&utm_campaign=82db3b6cdc-Phrag_Friday_09.15.16&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e7a3f61037-82db3b6cdc-427593617

URBAN FOREST STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT PLAN TOWN OF OAKVILLE: 2008 - 2027

Objective 5. Develop campaigns specifically for invasive species problems and extreme weather events.

- Research existing materials to educate people regarding invasive species problems and what to do before and after extreme weather.
- Research potential threats to Oakville regarding these specific problems.
- Create and distribute Oakville-specific educational materials for imminent threats.
- Database of addresses that have received relevant materials

<http://www.oakville.ca/assets/general%20-%20environment/OWLSFinalPDF.pdf>

<http://www.oakville.ca/assets/general%20-%20residents/2008ufsmp.pdf>

Public education and awareness on Native vs Non-Native Species, King Township

King Township has a dedicated website to spread awareness on invasive species affecting its township. The website helps to educate the public on the difference on native and invasive species and to inform on the importance of planting native species. Also, it provides weed control and techniques to avoid the growth and spread of noxious weeds.

Upcoming events organized by King Township Parks' recreation & culture in partner with Toronto and Region Conservation and Cold creek Stewardship:

- Stop the spread: Invasive species Walk & Pull on June 17 at Cold Creek Conservation Area
- Invasive Species Awareness Hike on August 23 At

Control methods:

Control methods for Phragmites include herbicide application as well as mechanical control through excavation, mowing/rolling, hand cutting, flooding, prescribed burning, mechanical excavation and tarping.

Funding:

Ministry of natural resources and Forestry: Land Stewardship and Habitat Restoration Program

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/land-stewardship-and-habitat-restoration-program>

Invasive Plant Species In Aurora and the Invasive Species Act pg. 1/8



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 has proposed that these very same three invasive plants be regulated as “restricted” under its new Invasive Species Act (2015), which will come into force in November 2016.

Attachment 2

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

Invasive Plant Species In Aurora and the Invasive Species Act pg. 2/8

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.

Invasive Plant Species In Aurora and the Invasive Species Act pg. 3/8



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.

Invasive Plant Species In Aurora and the Invasive Species Act pg. 4/8



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.

Invasive Plant Species In Aurora and the Invasive Species Act pg. 5/8



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.

Invasive Plant Species In Aurora and the Invasive Species Act pg. 6/8



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.

Invasive Plant Species In Aurora and the Invasive Species Act pg. 7/8

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.

Invasive Plant Species In Aurora and the Invasive Species Act pg. 8/8



There's currently no town funding for the control and/or eradication of invasive plant species. It's ironic that at this very time that Aurora's Parks Division needs funding to do this, they are being directed by council to shave their 2017 budget.

I ask that council recognize the need to protect our parks and open spaces from these three specific invasive plant species .. and that they authorize substantial funding for their control and/or eradication.

Barry Bridgeford

www.GreenAurora.ca

October 20, 2016

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



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Town of Aurora
Infrastructure & Environmental
Services

Memorandum

DATE: June 15, 2017

TO: Environmental Advisory Committee

FROM: Christina Nagy-Oh, Program Manager, Environmental Initiatives

RE: Corporate Environmental Action Plan Update Status

Recommendation

- 1. That the memorandum regarding Corporate Environmental Action Plan Update Status be received for information.**

Background

At the request of the Chair staff are providing a status update on the Corporate Environmental Action Plan (CEAP).

Staff worked on the CEAP update from May – August 2016. This included meeting with the related advisory committees, CEAP staff working group and conducting internet research. The first of the CEAP draft was scheduled for the September 2016 EAC meeting. The project was temporarily delayed in late 2016 due to the shift in operational priorities as outlined at the November 24, 2016 EAC meeting.

Staff intends to restart the CEAP update and bring forward a draft for EAC in September 2017.

The planned update will primarily focus on the development of Community Energy Plan and climate change adaptation.

Attachments

None