



Township of Wainfleet

"Wainfleet - find your country side!"

June 23, 2021

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

RE: Resolution – Action on Invasive Phragmites

Please be advised that at its meeting held on June 22, 2021, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Wainfleet passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS Phragmites australis (Phragmites) is an invasive perennial grass that continues to cause severe damage to wetlands and beaches in areas around the Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS Phragmites grows and spreads rapidly, allowing the plant to invade new areas and grow into large monoculture stands in a short amount of time, and is an allelopathic plant that secretes toxins from its roots into the soil which impede the growth of neighboring plant species; and

WHEREAS Phragmites results in loss of biodiversity and species richness, loss of habitat, changes in hydrology due to its high metabolic rate, changes in nutrient cycling as it is slow to decompose, an increased fire hazard due to the combustibility of its dead stalks, and can have an adverse impact on agriculture, particularly in drainage ditches; and

WHEREAS invasive Phragmites has been identified as Canada's worst invasive plant species by Agriculture and AgriFood Canada; and

WHEREAS the Ontario government has made it illegal to import, deposit, release, breed/grow, buy, sell, lease or trade invasive Phragmites under the Invasive Species Act; and

WHEREAS roads and highways where Phragmites that are left untreated become spread vectors that continually risk new and treated wetlands and coastal shoreline areas; and

WHEREAS according to "Smart Practices for the Control of Invasive Phragmites along Ontario's Roads" by the Ontario Phragmites Working Group, best road management practices for Phragmites australis include early detection, herbicide application and cutting; and

WHEREAS these best management practices are most effective when used in a multi-pronged approach as opposed to when used as stand-alone control measures; and

WHEREAS mother nature does not recognize political boundaries, and therefore it is imperative that Municipalities, Regions, the Province, and the Federal government work together in collaboration to eradicate Canada's worst invasive plant species: *Phragmites australis*;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Wainfleet directs its staff to implement best management practices to promote early detection of invasive *Phragmites*, and to implement best management practices for invasive *Phragmites*, and to collaborate on the eradication of *Phragmites* in Ontario; and

THAT the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Wainfleet directs staff to insert clean equipment protocols into tenders and that there is oversight that the protocols are followed; and

THAT the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Wainfleet requests the Ontario Ministry of Transportation to map and treat invasive *Phragmites* annually on all its highways; and

THAT the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) and the Niagara Region communicate strategies on mapping (detecting sites) and controlling invasive *Phragmites* on their respective highways, the specific highway management plans and results by each MTO region and each highway in Niagara Region and work in coordination with the Township of Wainfleet; and

THAT the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Wainfleet directs its staff to send this resolution to all municipalities in the Great Lakes watershed, to the Minister of Transportation, Christopher Balasa the Manager, Maintenance Management Office, and MPP Sam Oosterhoff; and

THAT the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Wainfleet requests all levels of government to consider funding support to aid the Township of Wainfleet in managing invasive *Phragmites* and directs staff to send a copy of this resolution to the Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks and the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Regards,



Meredith Ciuffetelli
Deputy Clerk