

Hand Delivered

August 17, 2012

Dear Neighbour,

One of the leading threats to Ontario's biodiversity is invasive species, especially Phragmites. Lambton Shores Phragmites Community Group along with the municipality of Lambton Shores, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources ("OMNR"), Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority ("ABCA") and Nature Conservancy Canada ("NCC"), have a detailed action plan to deal with the threat posed by invasive Phragmites in Port Franks and are developing a long range plan for the remainder of Lambton Shores. Together, we're working to restore native plant diversity in our community.

Further to our letter of July 12, we are pleased to advise that we are anticipating imminent approval of an OMNR application to begin treating Phragmites *australis* on approximately 82 acres of infested lands in Port Franks. Work is expected to begin after Labour Day and areas being sprayed will be posted 48 hours in advance of any spraying taking place.

The purpose of this letter is to seek your consent to apply herbicide to Phragmites located on your property. All work done will be in accordance with the OMNR's Best Management Practices which you can see online at:
http://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/files/Phragmites_BMP_July_13.pdf

Also, in the Phragmites BMP, you will see that an important control step as part of an overall management plan, is the use of prescribed burns. However, prescribed burns are subject to OMNR's Prescribed Burn Application process which requires a different application form than that for a herbicide exemption. Information on prescribed burns is attached.


While not all land in Port Franks is suitable for a prescribed burn, we are also asking for your consent now, so that it can be included in the burn application. If it is later determined that your property is not suitable for burning, no burning will occur on your property.

Sufficient monies have been committed by ABCA and NCC and the municipality of Lambton Shores to begin the initial treatment but we are still working on obtaining financial commitments for the remaining work required. This will be a multi-year project. While no individual homeowner will be required to pay for treatment, we would strongly encourage you to consider making a donation to Lambton Shores designating it towards Phragmites control and habitat restoration. The municipality will then issue you a tax deductible receipt.

To obtain more information about our plans, we are holding a Phragmites Information Meeting on Saturday, September 15 at 10:00 am at the Legacy Recreation Centre, 16 Allen Street, Thedford. There will be ample opportunity to discuss any questions you may have or, if you prefer, feel free to contact me directly before then.

If you need more time to consider this, we can return next week to pick up both signed consent forms or, alternatively, you can drop them by my house at 10039 Wedd Rd. before August 31. Once again we very much appreciate your cooperation and support.

Sincerely,
Lambton Shores Phragmites Community Group



Nancy Vidler, Chair, (519) 243-2562

Attached: Prescribed Burn information
Herbicide spray consent form
Prescribed burn consent form

Prescribed Burn Information

Prescribed burns are highly regulated by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and can only be performed under predetermined conditions such as wind velocity and direction, humidity levels and moisture content of the material being burned. The ideal time for a prescribed burn for this particular fuel type (Phragmites) is prior to spring season conditions. Extreme care and caution is taken to ensure the prescribed burn occurs only within the boundaries of the burn plan and that it is controlled at all times. Safety is a key component of prescribed burn planning and delivery.

Prescribed burns are routinely and safely undertaken by municipalities (such as in Toronto's High Park and Windsor's Ojibway Park) and by conservation authorities, provincial parks and other landowners to eliminate unwanted vegetation. Part of the importance of prescribed burning is to eliminate the thick biomass that carpets areas infested by Phragmites. This will then allow the native seed stock residing in the underlying soil to regenerate and re-populate the area with native plants, four to five years earlier than if left unburned. It also allows easier spot treatment for any residual Phragmites the following season. Another reason to remove the biomass is to deter a naturally or deliberately-set uncontrolled fire from occurring by eliminating as much fuel source as possible. The greatest risk for property damage is from an uncontrolled fire.

The OMNR Prescribed Burn application process requires considerable preparation work and it can take up to six months from application date to receive approval for a typical plan. It is only the first stage of the planning process and is not a commitment to burn. It is merely a notification of intent and to identify the reasons to burn.

Rural Lambton Stewardship Network ("RLSN") has an OMNR certified Prescribed Burn Team with many years of experience. They have been assisting us to begin the OMNR Prescribed Burn application process. RLSN will be involved in overseeing safety and quality during the process, obtaining approval from each municipal fire chief and ensuring all necessary permits and liability insurance are in place prior to conducting any prescribed burn. All work performed will be done to OMNR standards.

I, _____
(*please print your name*)

am a property owner of lands in Port Franks known municipally as

(*identify municipal address- continue on line below if required*)

I grant permission to apply herbicide to Phragmites *australis* located on this property in accordance with Ontario's Phragmites Best Management Practices and an Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Pesticides Act exemption approval. I have discussed this matter with all other parties having an ownership interest in this property and am authorized by them to sign this consent on their behalf.

(*signature*)

(*please print name*)

Witnessed by:

(*signature*)

(*please print name*)

I, _____
(please print your name)

am a property owner of lands in Port Franks known municipally as

(identify municipal address- continue on line below if required)

I grant permission to apply herbicide to *Phragmites australis* located on this property in accordance with Ontario's Phragmites Best Management Practices and an Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Pesticides Act exemption approval. I have discussed this matter with all other parties having an ownership interest in this property and am authorized by them to sign this consent on their behalf.

(signature)

(please print name)

Witnessed by:

(signature)

(please print name)