

**Ministry of Natural
Resources and Forestry**

Office of the Minister

Room 6630, Whitney Block
99 Wellesley Street West
Toronto ON M7A 1W3
Tel: 416-314-2301
Fax: 416-314-2216

**Ministère des Richesses
naturelles et des Forêts**

Bureau de la ministre

Édifce Whitney, bureau 6630
99, rue Wellesley Ouest
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 1W3
Tél.: 416-314-2301
Télééc.: 416-314-2216



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Ms. Ann Rooth
Deputy Clerk
City of Kawartha Lakes
PO Box 9000
26 Francis Street
Lindsay ON K9V 5R8

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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
KAWARTHA LAKES

Dear Ms. Rooth:

Thank you for copying me in your Council's resolution in support of the Township of Georgian Bay Council's resolution regarding invasive plant species. I commend the City of Kawartha Lakes for expressing an interest in this important issue. As my ministry is the provincial government lead for invasive species, I would like to provide you with the following information.

The Ontario government shares your concerns regarding the threat that invasive plant species pose to Ontario's biodiversity and natural environment, and has taken strong action to combat this threat. In 2012, our government released the Ontario Invasive Species Strategic Plan which provides a framework to prevent, detect, respond, manage and adapt to invasive species. An inter-ministerial working group from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR), the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC), the Ministry of Transportation, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs has been established to coordinate provincial actions under this plan.

In 2015, our government also passed the *Invasive Species Act* and recently regulated a number of species, including phragmites and Japanese knotweed, as restricted. This will enable new tools in the management of these invasive plants across the province.

Further, my ministry has entered into an agreement with the Ontario Invasive Plant Council to help support the development of best management practices for the control of invasive plants on roadways. Best management practices have been developed for a number of species including phragmites, Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed. You can learn more about this at www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/resources/best-management-practices. This information helps land managers to better understand and control invasive plants on their property.

The Ontario government is further assisting municipalities and community groups by funding control of invasive plants, such as phragmites, through programs like MNR's Land Stewardship and Habitat Restoration Program and the MOECC's Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund.

My ministry recognizes the importance of continuing our joint efforts to manage invasive species. I assure you that we will continue to work closely with other ministries to ensure a modern and effective approach to controlling invasive plant species in our province.

Should you require any additional information, please contact Ala Boyd, Manager, Natural Heritage Section, at (705) 755-5088 or ala.boyd@ontario.ca.

Thank you for writing.

Best,



Kathryn McGarry
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

- c: Premier Kathleen Wynne
The Honourable Chris Ballard, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change
The Honourable Jeff Leal, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
The Honourable Steven Del Duca, Minister of Transportation
Laurie Scott, MPP, Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock
Ala Boyd, Manager, Natural Heritage Section