
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL]Phragmites in Professor's Lake

From: info@myprofessorslake.org <info@myprofessorslake.org>

Sent: Thursday, June 10, 2021 11:56 AM

To: Brown, Patrick - Mayor

Cc: McKelvey, Brian; Plaggemeier, Dirk; Fortini, Pat - Councillor; KYarde-CO@ndp.on.ca; PLRA; Rick Dorian; Ferreira, Joe; Fagan, Edward (Parks); Lucas, Blaine

Subject: [EXTERNAL]Phragmites in Professor's Lake

Dear Mayor Brown,

Thank you for your personal interest in issues of concern at Professor's Lake.

The Professor's Lake Residents Association (PLRA) would like to reinforce the comments made by Rick Dorian on the topic of Phragmites taking over large sections of the shoreline of Professor's Lake.

Residents of the area have been very concerned with the alarming progression of the Phragmites invasion for many years. The Association has invited city officials to speak on the topic at each of our annual meetings for at least the past three years, and the answer has always been the same — a method of control is being studied but needs approval. It is somewhat surprising to now learn that even though a control chemical has been approved city staff did not realize that a spray permit had to be obtained.

The Phragmites is now in its new growth phase and from the research we have done this is the best time of year to tackle the problem. Our understanding is that eradication of Phragmites is a multi-year undertaking, so the sooner action is taken the better. We would appreciate hearing about a possible action plan on this topic.

Another problem that has gotten much worse around the lake is the rapidly expanding goose population. This winter we had hundreds of geese over-wintering on a small section of open water at the north end of the lake. Four years ago we only had six goslings born on the lake. This has rapidly expanded to well over thirty-six goslings born this year. Those born on the lake in one year normally return to mate the following year, so we could see well over a hundred goslings born on the lake next year.

Many of the lakeside residents have had to install fencing along their waterfront to protect their backyards from being destroyed by the geese. The birds like to feed on the grass, but the amount of droppings left on a lawn by four adult geese and twenty goslings in an hour's visit is stunning. Goose droppings have also fouled the walkway in a number of areas, making it rather unpleasant to walk the path. The adult geese are often quite aggressive to pedestrians as they protect their young.

We have brought the goose matter to the attention of Kathy Duncan, Manager of Animal Services at the City, and have also had a visit from Danny Moro of the Toronto Region Conservation Authority. Again, little corrective action seems to have been taken. Given the additional goose droppings deposited in and around the lake we worry about the number of beach closings there may be this summer due to water quality issues.

The Phragmites and goose invasions are both issues that are seriously impacting people's enjoyment of the amazing Professor's Lake, and it appears that neither are being effectively addressed. We would ask that concrete action plans be developed to address these two issues, with targets and follow up reports on progress made available to the PLRA for dissemination to our lake residents.

In fact, the PLRA would like to extend an invitation to you, Mayor Brown, and your staff to take a walk around the lake with our PLRA Leadership Team to view the issues first-hand. Let us know a date/time that is convenient for you and we will gladly join you.

Yours Sincerely,

John Frim, Treasurer, PLRA
for
PLRA
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