

SSEA Invasive Species Program Update

BY ROBYN RUMNEY AND ANNA MCCLYMONT



Invasive species are plants, animals and micro-organisms that occur outside their normal range. The problem with invasive species is that they lack natural predators and competitors to keep their populations in check, allowing them to out-compete native species. Their successful establishment can cause damage to the environment, the economy, and human health.

The Township of Tiny's natural environment is at risk from non-native species invasions. One well-known example is a plant that has become common along Tiny's shorelines, Phragmites (*Phragmites australis*). This oversized grass easily out-competes native shoreline and wetland plants, and can take over large areas of beach. Tiny residents should also be aware of lesser-known invasive species such as goutweed and periwinkle, as they can also have a negative impact.

In 2017, the Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) sought support from municipalities within the Severn Sound area, including the Township of Tiny, to collaborate in the creation of a watershed-wide invasive species program. This program aims to comprehensively address invasive species at a regional level, by mapping, monitoring and controlling problematic invasive species, fostering community involvement and education, and creating a long-term invasive species strategy for the area. By applying a coordinated approach to managing invasive species, SSEA is improving efficiencies and the effectiveness of invasive species management, since invasive species are not restricted by municipal borders.

The program to date has already had an effect in Tiny. The first step was invasive species mapping, especially along roadways. These maps will be used to monitor invasive species and prioritize control efforts in years to come. Furthermore, the SSEA has collaborated with the Great Lakes Commission, a binational agency focused on improving the environmental wellbeing of the Great Lakes basin, to enrol a Phragmites stand at Wahnekewening Beach as a research site.

This research program, the Phragmites Adaptive Management Framework (PAMF), involves monitoring the long-term vigour of Phragmites stands after management efforts, such as removing the aboveground portion of the plant. This information will be used to determine the best Phragmites removal technique based on the site and growing conditions.

In August 2017, SSEA staff worked with the Township of Tiny to host a successful community Phragmites removal event at Wahnekewening Beach. This event not only removed Phragmites and assisted with PAMF research, but also engaged and informed many volunteers and community members, increased accessibility of the public beach, and restored the ecosystem.

Last fall, SSEA also collaborated with the Township of Tiny and the Lafontaine Area Shoreline Homeowners Association to remove invasive spotted knapweed and transplant native beach grasses throughout Lafontaine Beach Park. Once spotted knapweed becomes established, it can dominate native plant communities. The event resulted in removal of approximately 30 yard-waste bags of knapweed from the site thanks to volunteers.

The Invasive Species Program continues into 2018, expanding on the current invasive species mapping and managing prioritized invasive species stands. Education will also continue to be a priority, as public knowledge is instrumental in detecting invasive species before they become established and more difficult to manage. Through collaboration, invasive species in the Severn Sound water-

shed area can be successfully controlled and their negative impacts mitigated.

How You Can Help

Community members and visitors can do their part to help with SSEA's Invasive Species Program, and in turn prevent invasive species from impacting the Township of Tiny. Report any invasive species sightings to the SSEA office at 705-527-5166. Watch for 2018 volunteer opportunities assisting with invasive species removal. More information about invasive species and how to help prevent their spread can be found on the SSEA website: https://www.severnsound.ca/programs-projects/wildlife-habitat/invasive_species.

Robyn Rumney was an invasive species intern with the Severn Sound Environmental Association; www.severnsound.ca. Anna McClymont is the association's Invasive Species Program Coordinator.

Invasive Phragmites Research Volunteers Needed

Professor Lynn Short is continuing her research at Wymbolwood Beach for a third season investigating non-chemical control of invasive Phragmites. Volunteers are needed for Friday mornings from May to August to record data measurements or remove Phragmites using the selective spading technique. All tools will be provided. Practical clothing, work gloves and sturdy footwear are suggested. Come out and learn about this problem plant that is taking over our beaches.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Lynn at lynn.short@humber.ca or 647-273-5966.

www.tinycottager.org

Tiny

COMMUNITY BBQ

GROWN IN TINY

Learn about and embrace Tiny's rich agricultural roots! Featuring a local area farmers market and agro-themed fun and games for all ages!

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday
July 21st
11:30am - 3:00pm
Perkinsfield Park

Meet Your Neighbours | Great Food | Live Music
Free to all Township of Tiny Residents

Security & Monitoring
Fire & Safety
Audio Video
Lock, Key & Safe

WWW.HURONIAALARMS.COM

1-844-363-9311

Midland- Collingwood - Muskoka

Safe, Secure and Sound

"PAINTING GEORGIAN BAY ONE COTTAGE AT A TIME!"

TOTAL HOME CARE

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE, PAINTING AND CONSTRUCTION, ODD JOBS

Phone: 705.527.0549

Cell: 705.528.4618

E-Mail: totalhomecare@live.ca

163 Lindsay Street, Midland, Ontario L4R 2T7

Patrick Murray

Owner / Operator

Welcome Back Tiny Cottagers

This summer enjoy some R & R & R;
Rest, Relaxation and Reading!
Your Penetanguishene Public Library
invites you to come in and
"check out" everything that your
library has to offer.

www.penetanguishene.library.on.ca

2018 Township of Tiny Events

Tiny

May 26: Recreation Master Plan Open House
8:30am, Tiny Community Centre

May 26: Town Hall Meeting - 10:00am - noon,
Tiny Community Centre

June: Recreation, Parks & Seniors Month -
Calendar of Events!

June 2: National Health & Fitness Day
www.tinyhealthandfitnessday.com/

June 19 Senior Symposium
or 21: 10:00am - 1:00pm,
Tiny Community Centre

July 12-15: Festival du Loup, Lafontaine
<http://festivalduloup.on.ca/en>

July 13: Mayor's Charity Golf
Tournament & Dinner,
Brooklea Golf & Country Club

July 21: Tiny Community BBQ,
Perkinsfield Park

Aug.12: Balm Beach Family Fun Day

Aug. 25: Fire & Emergency Services
Family Fun Day,
Wyevale Fire Hall

Sept. 16: Terry Fox Run, Perkinsfield

Visit www.tiny.ca for more information about Township events