

Environmental Protection designations) and Agricultural System mapping (Agricultural designation). These are the most refined mapping layers available within the municipality, and are used in the Adopted OP. The less refined Provincial Natural Heritage System and the Provincial Agricultural System have been removed.

- **Growth Management.** In 2019, the province modified its policies surrounding settlement area expansions. Minor adjustments can now occur without a Municipal Comprehensive Review. Density targets have been removed since the Township has no fully serviced settlement areas. Major settlement area boundary expansion can occur only as part of a Municipal Comprehensive Review. Tiny Township's settlement areas are defined in the Growth Plan as rural settlements. Policies have been added that permit employment land conversions outside of a Municipal Comprehensive review.
- **Shoreline Designation.** Bed and Breakfasts are now a permitted use, but only if there is a site-specific Zoning By-law Amendment.
- **Second Units.** The Planning Act now permits two second units per lot, including one in an accessory building. In Tiny two second units are now permitted in the Rural, Agricultural, Greenlands, Country Residential and Settlement Area designations, but NOT Shoreline.
- **Renewable Energy:** Changes have been made to the Adopted OP to reflect the Provincial repeal of the Green Energy Act. However, Section D.14.1 still stands. It states: "the Township is not a willing host for industrial wind turbines."
- **Mineral Aggregate Resources II Mapping.** The map in Appendix 3 reveals that the County has substantially expanded the amount of land designated Mineral Aggregate Resources II.
- **Appeal of the County's OP Greenland Designation:** Many discrepancies between Tiny's and the County's OPs have already been resolved. All natural heritage features (significant woodlands, significant valleylands, ANSIs, etc.) form the Township's Greenland designation. The County identified some additional minor lands to be designated as Greenland. See Appendix 5.

SEWAGE SYSTEM REINSPECTION PROGRAM:

In 2019, Tatham Engineering inspected the northeast quadrant of the Township, completing 1490 inspections; 269 revealed deficiencies and more will be found once all reports have been submitted. Among deficiencies to date:

- 71 root intrusions into the leaching bed area
- 62 septic tanks need replacement
- 32 instances of vehicles parking or driving on the septic tank or leaching bed
- 26 needed information on the sewage system from the resident
- 13 had eavestroughs or sump pumps draining onto the septic tank or leaching bed
- 12 had a structure or patio on top of the leaching bed
- 12 had an outdoor sink or shower drain discharging onto the ground
- 9 had a septic tank or leaching bed near a lake.

In 2020, inspections will be done in the northwest quadrant of the township, excluding Thunder Beach.

BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT RELATED TO COVID-19 PROVINCIAL ORDERS:

Ten days after the Province issued a Declaration of Emergency on March 17, 2020, it gave by-law officers province-wide authority to enforce various emergency orders. Since then, according to Steve Harvey, Tiny's Chief Municipal Law Enforcement Officer, half of his department's activity has concerned rules restricting park use. Only walkthrough use of parks (including Tiny's five beach parks) is permitted (no sitting, swimming, paddle-boarding). Benches and equipment are taped off. Social distancing is required. Gatherings of more than five people are not permitted. At the last meeting in April, he reported that compliance has been very good but not perfect.

Jackson Park is closed, the boat ramp is buried in sand, and even when the sand has been cleared on May 4, only emergency services will be allowed to use it.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (FOR TINY) RELATED TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC:

On May 25 Treasurer Doug Taylor will present an extended report focusing on cash flow, given the many negative and positive impacts of the pandemic. He envisions several "what if" scenarios and intends to raise concerns and suggest options.

COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE UNDER EMERGENCY DECLARATION:

Council will meet every third week starting May 25, 2020 for the duration.

Let's support our local businesses!

Invasive Phragmites and High Water Levels: The Bad News and the Good News

by LYNN SHORT, WYMBOLWOOD BEACH



Photos by Lynn Short

A Phragmites fragment.



These fragments can take root if not disposed of.

Invasive non-native *Phragmites australis* has been a big problem in Tiny Township. When uncontrolled along the shoreline, it interferes with the enjoyment of lakefront beaches, outcompetes beneficial native vegetation and threatens the beach ecosystem. It also destroys natural wetland habitat, invades agricultural fields, blocks roadside ditches, poses a fire risk, grows through shoulder asphalt and blocks roadway sight lines.

First, the bad news

The shoreline of Georgian Bay has been dramatically changing because the water levels have risen over five feet in recent years. Wave action has caused erosion of the sand along the shore. The native beach plants are well adapted to fluctuating water levels and erosion; however, the problems associated with Phragmites are greatly amplified.

Eighty percent of the biomass of Phragmites is composed of rhizomes (underground stems) that grow deep into the sand. Due to shoreline erosion, vast amounts of the beige tubular underground rhizomes have been exposed. The wave action breaks off short fragments and carries them to other locations along the shore. If left alone, these rhizomes will quickly take root in the new location. This is one effective way in which Phragmites spreads and starts new colonies.

To prevent this spread from happening, it is essential to monitor the shoreline in the spring to locate, remove and destroy these rhizome fragments. Some of the fragments may be seen lying on the surface of the sand, but there will also be some that have been buried. Many of the buried rhizomes will likely sprout later in the spring. It will be necessary

to remove the new growth before it gets well established. Remember the phrase, "early detection, rapid response."

Now, the good news

With rising water levels, some Phragmites colonies will be flooded. Phragmites growing in water of a depth of at least six inches are easier to control than Phragmites growing on land. Cutting Phragmites stalks growing in water can be especially effective because it prevents rhizomes' access to essential oxygen. The plant will actually drown. This cutting can be done using pruners, raspberry cane cutters or a sharpened spade to cut the stalks as far below the surface of the water as can be reached. Larger colonies could be cut in this way using mechanized cutting tools. It is very important, when using any of these approaches, that the cut stalks not be allowed to float away and take root elsewhere. They must all be recovered for disposal.

Disposal

Rhizome fragments or cut stalks can be dried and burned if this is permitted, or they can be packed into paper yard waste bags for pick-up or delivery to a municipal waste facility once thoroughly dried out. Alternatively, they can be solarized (heat treated) in large black industrial garbage bags left in the sun for 2-3 weeks before being taken to a municipal waste facility.

In conclusion, this spring/summer season provides new opportunities to be good stewards of the land by controlling non-native Phragmites.

For more information about controlling invasive species, go to www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca



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I'm not a member of a FoTTSa beach association, so please send me a complimentary discount card

Kindly mail donation to:

Federation of Tiny Township Shoreline Associations,
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