

STAFF REPORT: Director of Special Projects (Sustainability)

REPORT TO: Council
MEETING DATE: July 11, 2011
REPORT NO.: SPS.11.8
SUBJECT: Wild Chervil
PREPARED BY: Peter Tollefsen, Director of Special Projects (Sustainability)

A. Recommendation

THAT Council receive Report No SPS.11.8 entitled "Wild Chervil" dated July 11, 2011 and;

THAT Council pass the following resolution:

WHEREAS Anthriscus Sylvestris (L)/Wild Chervil, a noxious weed as declared by Grey County By-Laws 3360-92 and 3373-92, is rapidly expanding throughout the County and will soon be spreading beyond Grey County's boundaries;

AND WHEREAS Wild Chervil is an aggressive weed that smothers out all other vegetation and dramatically lowers crop yields, particularly forage crops;

AND WHEREAS there is no pesticide yet approved to manage Wild Chervil;

AND WHEREAS Grey County is the largest producer of forage crops in Ontario;

AND WHEREAS agriculture is a key economic driver in Grey County;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Town of The Blue Mountains hereby supports the County of Grey in its efforts to find mechanisms to manage the control of the infestation, including support from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs in areas such as, but not limited to:

- 1) Naming Wild Chervil as a noxious weed under the Weed Control Act.
- 2) Developing a Provincial strategy to manage Wild Chervil infestation.
- 3) Support in fast tracking approval of a pesticide to manage Wild Chervil.
- 4) Provincial funding for Grey County specifically to control the weed before it moves to other parts of the Province.

B. Background

At the request of Grey County Council, a meeting was held between staff from Grey County and the local municipalities who are involved in weed control management. The subject of the discussion was an update on the status of Wild Chervil and how best to manage it. Resulting from the meeting, Warden Arlene Wright will be requesting a meeting with the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural affairs to discuss this issue.

There was agreement in the group that resolutions of support from each of the municipalities and agricultural advisory committees would assist in showing the Minister the seriousness of this matter.

A similar resolution is going to the July 6, 2011 Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting.

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

By addressing the wild chervil problem is aligned with the goal of – *Ensuring long-term financial sustainability.*

D. Environmental Impact

Managing the spread of wild chervil would have a positive impact on the environment.

E. Budget Impact

None at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Tollefsen
Director of Special Projects (Sustainability)

For more information, please contact
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