



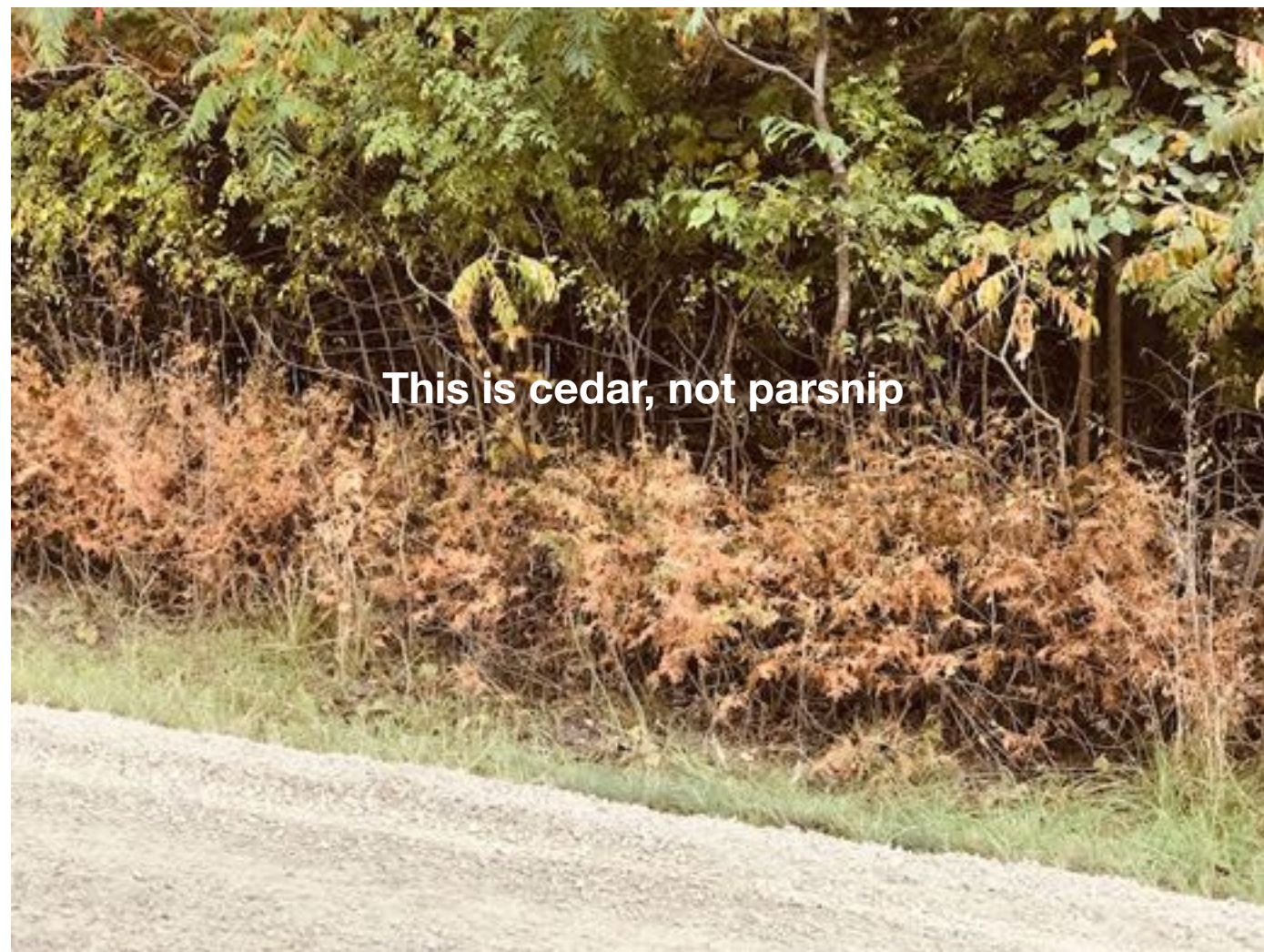
Mississippi Mills 2019 Spraying Program Residents' Report

Residents' Perspectives on Issues, Outcomes and Improvements

Background & Introduction

The Mississippi Mills 2019 Wild Parsnip Management Program Staff Report has been released and is on the Agenda for the upcoming Council meeting on Tuesday, November 19th, 2019.

As a significant number of Friends of Lanark County (FOLC) reside in Mississippi Mills, we would like to comment on the report.



Report Highlights

In summary, Public Works reports is satisfied with the herbicidal spraying program for the control of wild parsnip.

- 518 lane kilometres of roadsides were boom- and spot-sprayed.

Note: Public Works determined that roads “with more than 10% parsnip” were on the boom-spray list. Residents question how this was assessed, but as we observed up to 90% of remaining flowering broadleaf plants were also killed.



Report Highlights

- the financial cost of spraying was \$23,017.06.
- the financial cost of mowing was \$23,406.56.
- the overall budget was \$80,000.00, \$60,000.00 for parsnip.

Note: \$60,000.00 = 10 summer jobs @ \$14/hr., 35hrs per week, with 12 weeks (the parsnip growing season) of employment per person. No poison, no parsnip, more pollinators and healthier residents.



After 8 years of boom spraying,
SD&G Counties still have
parsnip and no
exit strategy from spraying

After years of spraying,
only grass remains.
There is no food for pollinators,
and no money to restore the road

Report Highlights

- the report concludes that Public Works Department monitored throughout the 2019 season and has determined that the herbicidal (boom and spot) spraying program was effective in controlling the growth of the plants; however, the overall efficacy of the program at large requires evaluation over multiple years of mechanical and herbicidal treatments due to the dormancy of the plant.

Note: What we read here is that this will be a long-term plan with no end to spraying in sight. How do we measure success? Spraying kills everything but grass. Roadsides devoid of broadleaf plants is a failure.

Let's discuss some of the other costs that are not considered in this tally.



Costs to pollinators and birds:

Roads with little or no parsnip were doused with herbicide, killing goldenrod and asters which are necessary plants to compete with the parsnip. Broadleaf plants which pollinators need were killed. Native trees and shrubs were damaged, and trees were killed. Outside contractors were negligent when they sprayed the roots of trees, cedars, fruit bearing shrubs and swaths of goldenrod. Lanark County is now having to spend money on the restoration of the roads they sprayed.



Costs to health of residents:

A man who was in his own driveway was sprayed with herbicide. The truck was going too fast and did not even stop after the incident occurred. Many Mississippi Mills residents fail to see the reasoning behind having frontages sprayed where there are no wild parsnip plants and yet other parsnips thrive on private property.

Rural children in farming communities are already being exposed to the drift of herbicides from June to October so we must stop adding to the toxic burden.



Costs to goodwill within the community:

Implementation did not go smoothly for many residents. Residents who mowed their frontage were told they needed to sign a contract in order to avoid spraying. People who requested to opt-out after the deadline were denied! Approximately 200 residents signed an opt-out agreement as that was their only recourse to avoid the spraying on their frontages. Hundreds of people signed a petition against the spraying without effect. Many residents disputed the need to boom spray roads with so little parsnip.

Note: A well-prepared audit of wild parsnip locations in collaboration with residents will avoid disagreements about the degree of parsnip infestation and the best method of controlling it in each location.



Costs to taxpayers:

Boom spraying is easy for an outside contractor but costs more money than spot spraying since more pesticide is used. Applying it where it wasn't needed was wasteful. Paperwork associated with opt-out agreements cost staff time and taxpayer money.



Mississippi Mills

NO SPRAY (OPT OUT) AGREEMENT

THE PARTIES TO THIS AGREEMENT ARE:

The Corporation of the Municipality of Mississippi Mills
 3131 Old Perth Road, Almonte, Ontario K0A 1A0
 Phone: (613) 256-2064; Fax: (613) 256-4242
 ("Municipality")

AND:

	} Full Name(s)
	} Mailing Address
	} Phone Number
	} Email

("Landowner/Occupant")

BACKGROUND:

1. The Municipality is the "road authority" under the Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.50, ("PTHIA") and is responsible for all weed control on its roads pursuant to the Weed Control Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. W.5 ("WCA").
2. The term "road" has the same meaning as "highway" pursuant to the PTHIA and includes but is not limited to all highways, streets and ditches under the jurisdiction of the Municipality ("Municipal Road").
3. The Municipality uses various herbicides as vegetation control measures on the Municipal Road.
4. The Parties wish to enter into this No Spray Agreement ("Agreement") to outline the rights and responsibilities of the Landowner/Occupant in respect to vegetation management on certain parts of the Municipal Road.

AGREEMENT:

The parties to this Agreement, in consideration of the mutual promises, terms, covenants, and conditions contained in this Agreement, agree as follows:

1. The Municipality agrees to grant permission to the Landowner/Occupant whose lands abut the Municipal Road to provide vegetation management on certain parts of the Municipal Road on the terms and conditions contained herein.
2. The Landowner/Occupant shall carry out and be responsible for vegetation control measures in accordance with paragraph 4 herein on that portion of the Municipal Road lying between the edge of



Solutions:

Residents on non-agricultural properties lost more than they gained because in addition to relatively few parsnip plants, all broadleaf plants were killed and many trees and shrubs were killed.

Solution #1: Stop boom-spraying. Spot spraying by backpack spraying would have targeted the correct plants and left the rest to thrive.



Solutions:

We are spraying in the most part to assist farmers. Remember that boom spraying does not reach the fence line and because of this, does not help the farmers.

Solution #2: Simplify the process and only apply herbicides where farmers require it as it affects their outcomes. Don't make residents who are not near agricultural properties opt-out.



Solutions:

The total cost allocated for spraying last year (approximately \$80.000) was not all spent.

Solution #3: Revenues from last year can be applied to more mechanical and manual methods of parsnip removal.



Solutions:

Manual pulling of parsnip leaves the roadsides free of seeding plants and available to competitive plants that can thrive if poisons are not applied.

Solution #4: Concentrate on non-chemical methods of control. Hire local workers.

As noted above: \$60,000.00 = 10 summer jobs* @ \$14/hr., 35hrs per week, with 12 weeks (the parsnip growing season) of employment per person. No poison, no parsnip, more pollinators and healthier residents. *After two years of spraying you likely won't need this many workers.



In Conclusion:

We hope you will agree that this presents a balanced approach that addresses the concerns of all residents. FOLC would be happy to present a delegation that outlines what we have learned about non-chemical parsnip control over the past three years. Our first-hand knowledge and our success in controlling parsnip as part of Lanark County's Adopt-A-Road program should be incorporated into Mississippi Mills' best practices.