



August 21, 2017

RE: Notice of Herbicide Application to Control Invasive Phragmites

Dear Park Visitors, Campers and Leaseholders:

This letter is to inform you that Ontario Parks will be applying the liquid herbicide Roundup® Custom for Aquatic & Terrestrial Use (active ingredient glyphosate; Registration no. 32356) to control the invasive grass *Phragmites australis*, also known as Phragmites. This application is part of a Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry pilot project using ground herbicide to control Phragmites growing within wet areas and to promote the recovery of native marsh flora.

Although Roundup® Custom is not approved for general use in Ontario, Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency has approved an emergency use registration of the product for this pilot project. Rondeau Provincial Park will be using the herbicide to treat up to 83 hectares of the marsh currently dominated by Phragmites. Phragmites will be treated from the ground using a mix of spray equipment mounted on utility task vehicles or boats, and backpack sprayers.

Application of herbicide must occur under specific weather conditions; therefore, herbicide application will occur on days that meet those weather conditions between the dates of September 1st and October 31st 2017. Ontario Parks will provide regular updates, including information on the specific treatment dates (once known), at the park office and the Visitor Centre, as well as on the Ontario Phragmites Working Group website at <http://www.opwg.ca/projects/rondeau-bay-phragmites-control-program/>

To ensure public safety, certain areas of the park, including some roads and trails, will be closed during treatment and for a period of time post-treatment. Signs will be posted approximately 48 hours prior to application at all access points to the treatment area, including at the Marsh and Spicebush Trails, as well as at the park office and the Visitor Centre. Trails that provide access to the marsh will be closed and staffed during treatment and Ontario Parks requests that all park users refrain from entering the marsh for 24 hours after treatment is complete.

Enclosed with this letter is a project map showing the locations of barriers and signage, as well as areas targeted for ground treatment.

Ontario Parks is following the guidance in Ontario's Invasive Phragmites Best Management Practices (see: <https://www.ontario.ca/document/invasive-phragmites-best-management-practices>). This includes following chemical treatment with rolling and burning. Provided weather conditions are favourable, Ontario Parks will conduct a prescribed burn of the treated areas. Prescribed burning of treated Phragmites has been shown to help increase the recovery of native marsh flora. Fire eliminates the dead plant material and seed heads, preventing them from overwhelming the surrounding aquatic and terrestrial landscape. The prescribed burn is likely to occur between early January and late February of 2018.

For additional information please do not hesitate to contact me at (519) 674-1760 or brad.connor@ontario.ca.

Should you wish to speak with a Pesticide Specialist, you may contact the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, at 519-873-5000.

Should you wish to report a spill or overspray incident or issue during application, you may contact the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change's Spills Action Centre (SAC) at 1-800-268-6060.

After the Phragmites herbicide treatment and prescribed burn have been completed at Rondeau, I encourage you to take time and observe the recovery of the sites and the regrowth that takes place. We also encourage you to take advantage of the numerous programs offered at the Visitor Centre through the Natural Heritage and Education Program, specifically on prescribed burns and their benefits to the park.

Sincerely,

Brad Connor
Park Superintendent
Rondeau Provincial Park