

# HCM News

The United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria

September, 2013

## A Sad Day in Head, Clara & Maria

At 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 9, 2013 the last train passed over the trestle in Bissett Creek. We no longer have the distinction of having an intersection of all four modes of transportation at this location. Before this time, at this point there crossed water,



road, rail and air traffic. As much of our other history before it, that distinction has now been lost. Thank you to Richard Wilson for noting this historic event and bringing it to my attention to share with our readers.

*The Bissett Creek Bridge was ingeniously squeezed through an opening in the Bissett Creek Railway Subway, creating the appearance of a multi-level structure. (Photograph taken on May 21, 2011 - © Cameron Bevers) From <http://www.thekingshighway.ca/PHOTOS/Hwy17photos6.htm>*

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## Hall Construction Well Under Way

Construction of the Community Centre commenced on Monday, July 29, 2013. Much of the demolition has been completed with progress well under way with the construction of the new section. Much work remains. If you are interested in reducing the overall costs to the municipality by sharing your skills contact us or Darryl Francoeur of Mackey Construction to volunteer your time and talents.



(Continued on Page 6)

“The Ancient Romans had a tradition; whenever one of their engineers constructed an arch, as the capstone was hoisted into place, the engineer assumed accountability for his work in the most profound way possible—he stood under the arch.”

Michael Armstrong

Are you willing to stand under your arch?

MMAH's Municipal Councillor Guide

## SECTION 2: An Overview of Local Government

A municipality may be described as an incorporated area created by the provincial government and endowed with certain powers and responsibilities.

In addition to municipalities, there are a number of other locally governed boards and special-purpose bodies, such as school boards, health units, library boards and conservation authorities, with responsibility for public services at the community or regional level.

In northern Ontario, most of the population lives in municipalities, but most of the land mass is “unorganized territory” – i.e., territory which is not incorporated for municipal purposes. Local services boards have been created in some localities to deliver basic community services to the residents of these areas without municipal organization.

Your day-to-day activities as a council member will often involve working with local boards and commissions, other municipalities, other levels of government and various municipal associations. All of these bodies play a part in the functioning of local government.

This section will provide you with a general description of municipal government structures and services, and of the links between municipalities and other players in the local government sector. For more detailed information, you may wish to consult other materials located on the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing site at [Ontario.ca/mah](http://Ontario.ca/mah).

## Municipal Government

A municipality is defined in section 1 of the Municipal Act, 2001 as a “geographic area whose inhabitants are incorporated.” Section 2 of the act provides that “municipalities are created by the Province of Ontario to be responsible and accountable governments with respect to matters within their jurisdiction, and each municipality is given powers and duties under the act and many other acts for the purpose of providing good government with respect to those matters.”

### Municipal Roles and Responsibilities

The Municipal Act, 2001 establishes the basic framework for municipal government. Section 8 of the act provides that the powers given to municipalities under all acts should be interpreted broadly so as to allow the municipality to “govern its affairs as it considers appropriate and to enhance the municipality’s ability to respond to municipal issues.”

Authority for important municipal activities can also be found in many other acts, including the Planning Act, the Building Code Act, 1992, the Social Housing Reform Act, 2000, the Police Services Act, the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997, the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, the Ontario Works Act, 1997 and the Day Nurseries Act, all administered by the provincial government. (You can find a more complete discussion of municipal powers in [Section 3: Councillors as Law Makers](#).)

It is important to note that some municipal services are mandatory – they **must** be provided; others are optional – they may be provided at the discretion of council.

(MMAH)

# HCM Procedure By-Law 2012-14

## BY-LAW NUMBER 2012-14 Continued

Every Communication, written or otherwise, addressed to Council, and included on an agenda and considered in Open Session by Council or a Committee thereof shall be deemed to be a Communication in the public domain.

Prior to each piece of correspondence being debated, the Head of Council shall briefly summarize the content when members of the public are present.

All notification to be provided to Council members from the municipal office including notice of special meetings is considered to be delivered once it is sent via email to the email address on file for each Council member. It is incumbent on the Council member to notify staff if and when they require alternate delivery or if their contact information has changed.

## PETITIONS

Any petition designed to be presented to Council, shall be legibly written or printed and shall not contain any obscene or improper content or language and shall be signed by at least two (2) ratepayers or residents and filed with the Clerk.

Every petition shall be delivered to the Clerk not later than five (5) business days preceding the commencement of the next regular meeting of Council to be included on that meeting's agenda.

## REPORT OF THE REEVE

The Reeve shall briefly report on matters of interest to Council and such report shall include items of interest from meetings of County Council and any committees attended by

the Reeve as municipal representative of Head, Clara & Maria at the County.

## STAFF REPORTS

Reports from administration are for information purposes only and deal only with the administrative duties and activities of the employee.

If a decision of the assembly is required, the matter may properly be placed under addendums or in another appropriate place on the agenda.

Any questions, comments, and answers may not go into discussion or debate but, again are for information only and need to be placed in another more appropriate place on the agenda if they require attention by the assembly.

Reports from Municipal employees shall deal solely with matters previously delegated to them, that fall within their jurisdiction are routine in nature or for information purposes only.

## READING OF BY-LAWS

Reports of all proposed/draft by-laws will be provided to each member of Council to provide background information and to explain the necessity for the by-law.

Every By-Law shall be introduced by a motion for first and second reading which shall be duly moved and seconded, specifying the title and number of the by-law. This motion shall be carried without debate.

To Be Continued.

# Strategic Planning and You

**The following list has been determined to be priorities for staff and Council to focus on for the upcoming year(s). Now Council wishes to obtain feedback from you; the ratepayer and resident.**

If you are interested in having a say in which issues are receiving Council and staff priority; here is your opportunity. Please rank the items the way you determine priority. Your list will be compiled with others and ranked alongside that of Council and staff.

Your list may be submitted anonymously.

Council will then review the compiled stats and will ultimately vote on a ranking to provide direction to staff for the upcoming year(s). When completing this exercise it is important to think long-term.

Following this exercise a committee will be formed to further assist in creating Vision and Mission Statements for the municipality. This exercise will provide Council and staff with a map. *Without a map, not only will we not know where we're going; we won't even know if or when we get there.*

Please help by ranking the following list and submitting it to the office by mail, drop box or by email to [twpshcm@xplornet.com](mailto:twpshcm@xplornet.com).

Simply prioritize the attached list by inserting the numbers 1—16 beside the topics which you feel require the most attention—1 being the most important, requiring the most immediate attention and 16 the least. When completed not all items will have numbers beside them as the list has 24. That is OK—8 items will fall off your list.

## WISH LIST FOR PRIORITIZING EXERCISE

Complete application for expansion of Bissett Creek waste site	
Look into the erosion at Mackey Park	
Improve signage on buildings and parks	
Mackey Park upgrades (walking trail)	
Settle ORNGE Contract	
Lobby for changes to Municipal Elections Act – re: election of head of council.	
Look at expanding wellness clinics – lobby the county	
Investigate municipal composting	
Look into improved archival storage	
Review recycling program	
Update website	
Develop a communications strategy	
Economic Development Strategy	
Municipal Marketing Strategy	
Beautification Program	
Review staffing needs & opportunities	
Maintain fiscal responsibility	
Investigating more community recreation/social programs	
Develop list of drivers/persons in need for transportation	
Review Boat Launch Infrastructure	
Examine alternate sources of revenue	
By-law review (for enforcement purposes)	
Reviewing equipment needs of roads department/disposal sites	
Review/add staff pension/benefits	

If you are interested in participating in a larger capacity you are welcome to express your interest in becoming a participant in future committee meetings for Strategic Planning including creating a Vision and Mission statement for the Municipality, please contact office staff so we can let you know where and when.

Although Council has completed some steps in this Strategic planning exercise they are interested in public consultation and input. If you see this as your opportunity to participate in your local municipality without making a huge time commitment; please let us know. The meetings will mostly consist of the sharing of ideas concerning what you feel our municipality is about; where we are now and where we would like to be in the future. There will likely only be one or two such sessions. The more voices, the better. Please let us know of your interest.

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## WASTE DISPOSAL SITE SURVEY

Council is considering its options concerning the disposal sites and site hours for the next winter season. Please respond to the following question to provide Council with your thoughts on this matter. Please check the applicable box below and submit to the municipal office. You can use the office door drop box, mail or email at [twpschm@xplornet.com](mailto:twpschm@xplornet.com). You may also phone your responses in for consideration to 613-586-2526. If you call after hours you may leave a message which staff will later retrieve.



As usual, you may also contact your member of Council although specific data is easier to base decisions on than “I’ve heard from some ratepayers and they ...” It is often difficult to quantify “some” and “they”.

**1. I feel that having the disposal site open in the winter is:**

**A convenience I can do without;**

**A necessity;**

**A waste of my tax dollars.**

**2. I reside in HCM:**

**Permanently;**

**Seasonally;**

**Am a “snowbird”.**

For this purpose “Winter” is defined as November to and including March. As usual, the squeaky wheel gets the grease; and if you feel strongly about this issue, no matter your preference, please contact the office.

Survey responses will be forwarded to Council for their consideration at an upcoming meeting. Watch the agenda for date and time and Council minutes for Council’s decision.

### CONSTRUCTION FROM PAGE 1...

We understand that change is difficult for some but it is often required nevertheless. To clarify rumours and misinformation still circulating; the extension **will not** cause your taxes to go up this year or next and has been **fully funded** through grants, past surpluses and reserve funds specifically allocated to this project. There are NO loans or debt involved.

Once completed we will have a facility which will include a greatly expanded and updated kitchen allowing safer and more comprehensive use while meeting Board of Health requirements. The building will be better equipped to host large events and to serve as an evacuation or housing centre if ever required for emergency management purposes; one of the requirements of our grant application.

A new “family” washroom will meet Building Code requirements based on increased hall capacity as well as provide a much needed baby change station. Since washroom changes in 2011, counter space was eliminated and babies

had the unpleasant and unsanitary experience of being changed on the bathroom floor.

The single shower, which takes little space and is low cost, has been added for emergency purposes. It allows the hall to be used for various additional purposes and without noticeably increasing costs.

The new washroom will provide private access to washroom facilities for office staff so that hall use will no longer be interrupted during office hours.

Remember, this building is a community centre but is also the **only** municipal building in the community and serves many purposes only one of which is community gathering. At some point, it may be called upon to serve an emergency purpose and if so, it will now be adequately equipped.

Emergency services are one of the services which are mandatory (see bottom of page 2). Many may not agree that this is an appropriate responsibility for municipalities (including some staff and council members) however until the legislation changes, we have legislated obligations which must be met.

### YOGA IN THE TOWNSHIPS

Yoga begins once again on Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 10 am.

Due to Hall renovations, we'll begin the series of classes at the Balla-Boudreau household (indoors or out).

Cost is \$60 for 6 sessions, or \$15 per individual session. Wear comfortable clothes. A few extra mats are available for those who don't have one. Hilary also brings supports and booster blocks. Please call Cathy at 613-586-2634, or email: [balla-boudreaudc@hotmail.com](mailto:balla-boudreaudc@hotmail.com).

Come and enjoy! Stretch and strengthen those vulnerable muscles and joints. Stay healthy as we age to perfection...



## In the Community

### Missing Link Snowmobile Club

#### Next Meeting

Tues Oct. 1, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.

Gibson's, Stonecliffe (MG)

#### Volunteers and Plants Wanted

Work is complete on the steps and slope at Old Mackey Park and looks wonderful. The area is now crying for a little vegetation to finish the project. We have learned of interest from a number of residents who have extensive perennial gardens and are willing to share plants. We are planning to hold a "landscaping" afternoon in September to plant along the border of the rocks and grass. If you have any perennials to donate or are willing to participate please let me or Gayle Watters know.



### Vesey's Fall Bulbs

#### Order Forms Attached

It's time for Fall bulbs. Please review and share the attached order form with friends and family. Orders are to be in to the Municipal Office by **October 1, 2013**. Please support by beautifying your yard and helping us support community projects such as Mackey Park improvements. Gifts received from Vesey's have been planted in the memorial beside the Office and may also be used at Old Mackey Park. Thank you for your continued support.

### MISSING LINK SNOWMOBILE CLUB

*The Missing Link has spent considerable time and money trying to assist various landowners with challenges with property and trespass in an effort to maintain access for the snowmobile club during the winter months. In Bissett Creek work has been completed on the Spearman property to eliminate "ATV" travel through the property. This spring fences were constructed across the pipeline on both sides of the railroad track, with lockable gates installed to be opened for "snowmobile only" travel. The upper gate exiting the Spearman property from the pipeline (at the west end) was reinforced and a rock wall installed to deter travel around the gate. Weeks ago Mr. Spearman called to say someone had cut the gate post off and actually took the gate post from this west entrance/exit.*

*We have inquired locally about any "noticed" ATV travel in this area, but so far have had no luck.*

*Possibly someone has seen someone or knows of this damage to property and trespass, and might be able to relay this information to us, that we may have a word with this person or persons.*

*If you have any information concerning this vandalism and trespass, please contact the executive or other member of the Missing Link Snowmobile Club. Thank you. (DA)*

## RABIES IN ONTARIO IN 2013

**What is rabies?** - Rabies is an infectious disease caused by a virus that infects nerves in mammals. The rabies virus travels to the brain through nerves. Once it reaches the brain, the virus reproduces and then travels through the nerves back to most parts of the body.

Eventually, the virus reaches the salivary glands where it is released into the saliva in the mouth. By this time, the disease has usually damaged the brain, producing either submissive or violent behaviour. Rabies can be prevented if a person is vaccinated soon after being exposed to a rabid animal. Death is caused by asphyxiation or cardiac arrest.

**How is rabies spread?** - Rabies is spread by infected mammals to other mammals (including humans) through saliva. This can occur in three main ways: biting; contact with the virus through an open cut, sore or wound or contact with the virus through mucous membranes (mouth, nasal cavity, eyes)

**What is the rabies situation in Ontario?** Rabid foxes: The number of cases of rabid foxes has dropped significantly over the past couple of decades due to intensive rabies control efforts by MNR since 1989. The last rabid fox reported in the province was in 2009. Ontario, formerly the rabies capital of North America, used to report almost 1500 cases per year. At present, remnants of 'Ontario fox' strain of rabies are found mainly in southwestern Ontario, and occasionally in northern Ontario.

Rabid raccoons: Like any mammal, raccoons can pick up various strains of rabies, but it is most susceptible to the raccoon strain. Raccoon strain rabies originated in Florida and has been moving northward for over 50 years. The first case in Ontario occurred in 1999 in Leeds-Grenville County in southeastern Ontario. The Ministry of Natural Resources' (MNR) raccoon rabies con-

trol program held the number of cases to just 132 and in 2008 was able to declare the province free from the raccoon strain of rabies. However, the province remains vigilant in monitoring for new outbreaks as the disease remains at our doorstep on the borders with New York State.

Rabid skunks: In Ontario, skunks primarily carry the Ontario fox strain. Skunks were responsible for one of the two Ontario fox strain rabies cases in 2011. This decline is likely due to a more effective oral rabies vaccine called ONRAB that has been developed for use in foxes, raccoons and skunks; as well as successful efforts to control rabies in foxes.

Rabid bats: Rabid bats accounted for 24 cases in 2011. Bats carry bat strains of rabies. As bats in Canada are insectivores, no efficient way of vaccinating them has yet been found. International research is being conducted to find effective vaccination methods for bats.

Rabid pets: In the late 1980s, almost 200 cases of rabid dogs and cats were reported each year. With the reduction of rabies in wildlife and mandatory pet vaccination, there has been a significant decrease in the numbers of rabid dogs and cats over the past decade. It is law that cats and dogs must be vaccinated against rabies in most parts of Ontario.

Rabid livestock: In the late 1980s, an average of 300 cases of rabid livestock (including cattle, sheep, goats, and horses) were reported each year. With the reduction of rabies in wild animals, the figure has dropped significantly. In 2011, there was one rabid cow and no reported cases in 2010.

Other rabid animals: Although in far fewer numbers, other reported mammals that are occasionally confirmed as being rabid in Ontario include coyote, wolf, groundhog, white-tailed deer, black bear, rabbit/hare (wild or domestic), beaver, mink, weasel, muskrat, fisher, otter, field mouse, wild boar (wild released), elk (from a zoo), llama (domestic), bison (domestic), ferret (domestic) and squirrel. Any mammal (including humans) can contract

# In the Community—Public Library

rabies.

For additional information contact...[http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Rabies/2ColumnSubPage/STEL02\\_168959.html](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Rabies/2ColumnSubPage/STEL02_168959.html)



## HCM Library Community News

With school soon starting up again the library is an excellent place for students to visit for access to on-line homework sites and research projects. Check us out - we have three stations available and two laptops for patron use.

The Book Bingo Challenge only has four months left to finish up your reading challenges. As one who has followed the bingo program I have enjoyed the opportunity to read books not usually a choice of mine. There is still time for you to start and put the push on to complete a row or two and maybe qualify for a prize at the end of the year. **Bingo pages are**

**available at the library.**

Our visit from the Deep River and District Hospital Board Chair Jeff Bishop and member Janet Gow was very well received and provided the basis for a lively discussion about what is happening at the hospital and what is coming.

Come out to our next Coffee Morning for information, companionship and of course, coffee.

## REMEMBER YOUR VALU- MART SLIPS

fee. Watch bulletin boards and email notices for our next event.

Now available for all our patrons is the drop basket for DVDs and smaller books. A basket has been attached to the Township Office door on the inside under the mail slot for the convenience of dropping of books and DVDs to help avoid late charges. Just slip the items through the slot and the basket will catch them. Please ensure DVDs are secure in their cases before pushing through the slot. Also, larger books will not go through the slot. You will have to return them while the library is open which includes Township Office Hours—

Monday to Friday, 8:30—4:00.

New DVDs in are; *The Zoo, August Rush, A Summer Genoa, Best Exotic Marigold Hotel, Quarter* and of course the first three seasons of *DownTon Abbey*. DVDs are a 7 day loan, for free, now you can't beat that!

Of course the library is still collecting Valu Mart receipts so save them up and drop them off to the library or to any board member for delivery. (GW)

## MNR and Wild Animals

The following information is from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources website and effective July 1, 2013.

**The Law**—You don't need a permit to scare away, capture or kill most wild animals, if the animal is causing damage to your property. You do need to follow certain rules. Special rules apply to: Endangered/threatened species, moose, white-tailed deer, American Elk. You can also use someone else to remove the animal for you, if they meet certain criteria. This person is considered a "wildlife agent".

A Wildlife Agent must meet at least 1 of these criteria: have a valid H1Outdoors Card; have a valid trapping license; be employed to control wildlife by a municipality; (More on page 11)

### HEAD, CLARA & MARIA'S

#### CHALLENGES WITH CANADA GEESE!

The Municipalities' recreation budget supports five main facilities. They are the three boat launches at Mackey, Stonecliffe and Deux Rivieres, the ball field at Stonecliffe and last but not least, Mackey Park.

Mackey Park has been slowly upgraded to improve the functionality and enhance the beauty of this tremendous Municipal asset. We have removed dead and dangerous trees, added a children's playground and equipment, built a permanent pavilion and this year placed erosion control and stair access at the beach all in an effort to make the Park more user friendly.

These efforts have resulted in a noticeable increase in the use of the Park for events such as Canada Day celebrations, birthday parties, wedding showers, graveyard fundraising mass and luncheon, and visits to use the playground and beach.

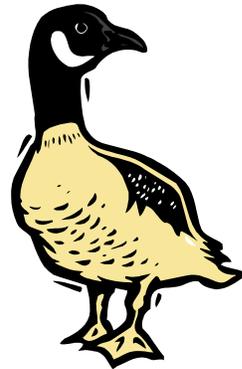
Our problem is that the Canada geese have been more attracted to the facility but unlike the human visitors, they don't use the washrooms and leave their droppings all over the place.

This year, in an effort to keep the geese away, a schedule was started in May and volunteers were asked to sign on for stretches of four to five days. These volunteers have visited the Park two to three times every day since then and have erected foil, strings, ribbons and other paraphernalia to scare and keep away the geese. They have also picked up and disposed of the goose droppings so visitors can enjoy

the place without having to dodge the droppings, especially in the children's playground area. This has amounted to hundreds of volunteer hours spent in the effort, an extremely high cost for the results we have achieved.

The goose patrol effort was partially successful at the beginning of the season but with the increase in the size of the flocks and the geese wanting to fatten up for their trip South we are at the point of fighting a losing battle.

My heartfelt thanks and admiration go out to all



those dedicated volunteers who have been and are still continuing with this job. I for one am reluctant to ask volunteers to repeat this process again next year.

This problem was discussed at Council's meeting on Thursday, August 22 and Council has agreed that a more permanent solution is necessary. We intend to declare the geese a nuisance and their droppings a health hazard to the users of our boat launches and especially the children's playground at Mackey Park.

We intend to seek the necessary Federal and Provincial permissions to authorize the use of firearms to cull the geese flocks and are soliciting letters of support to back up our requests. We feel most of our residents will support this initiative.

**I have volunteered to take the lead in this endeavour so if you have any comments pro or con please contact me directly at [hcmjimg@gmail.com](mailto:hcmjimg@gmail.com) or 613-586-2761**

Thank you

Jim Gibson, Councillor - United Townships of Head Clara and Maria

# COUNCIL AND OUR COMMUNITY

## COMMON SENSE

### IMPROVEMENTS TO TRAIL SAFETY

(Excerpts from AMO Watch file Guest Column, July 11, 2013)

Many pieces of information land in a councillor's email inbox every month but the following story and campaign may prevent accidents and save lives.

On Easter weekend 2011 Jason Goemans and his son were riding on their ATV near Haliburton. One minute they were enjoying a leisurely ride and the next Jason woke up on the ground. They had hit an unmarked chain that hung between two trees. Although they were driving slowly, the chain was hard to see (see the photo of the accident site on the website below), there was no time to react. Hunter Goeman's neck was broken by the impact; he died in his father's arms at 3 ½ years old.



Using colourful barrier's will ensure your intent is clear but will also ensure safety, reduce risk and potentially save lives. Protect your property and lives.

This tragic accident was easily preventable. Adding signage or markers to warn of these hazards is simple to do. Common sense dictates that anyone who hangs a hazard across a road or trail has a responsibility to protect others from harm.

Our community is crisscrossed with exceptional recreational trails to be enjoyed in all seasons by residents and visitors alike. If you know of potentially lethal barriers across roads or trails in

Head, Clara and Maria Township please take action for improving public safety. Where they do exist, they should be clearly marked.

I hope that all of you will consider visiting the website [www.commonsefence.com](http://www.commonsefence.com) that tells more about the call to action for public safety on all local roads and trails.

You can also purchase a durable weatherproof vinyl CAUTION banner for \$30 that can be easily seen from a distance - it could reduce risk and saves lives. (DG)

### Wildlife (Continued from page 9)

... be an OSPCA agent or employee; be your immediate family member; be authorized by the MNR.

### Rules for Removing Animals

You or your agent must: abide by all municipal by-laws and other applicable laws; not harass, capture or kill more wildlife than is necessary to protect your property; deal humanely with wildlife that is killed, captured or harassed; restrict activity to your property; not destroy the den of a fur-bearing mammal or black bear; release captured live wildlife within 24 hours; release captured wildlife within 1 km of where they were captured; release wildlife on private property only with the landowner's permission.

Wildlife agents can only act, if the landowner of the property asks them to.

If you kill a black bear—anywhere in Ontario—you must report the dead bear to the MNR. If you kill a wolf or coyote in most parts of central and northern Ontario (Wildlife Management Units 1-42, 46-50 and 53-58) you must report the dead wolf or coyote to the MNR.

For more information call 1-855-613-4256 or Email: [mnr.rasc@ontario.ca](mailto:mnr.rasc@ontario.ca)

# THE GIANT HOGWEED

## THE PLANT

Giant hogweed may grow six metres tall. Stems are 2-8 cm in diameter, but may reach 10 cm, and are marked with dark purplish blotches and raised nodules. Numerous white flowers form a flat-topped, umbrella-shaped head up to 75 cm across.

## THE DANGERS

Giant hogweed is one of a handful of plants that can cause a significant reaction, if sap from a broken stem or crushed leaf, root, flower or seed comes into contact with moist skin (perspiration will suffice). Irritation is not immediate.

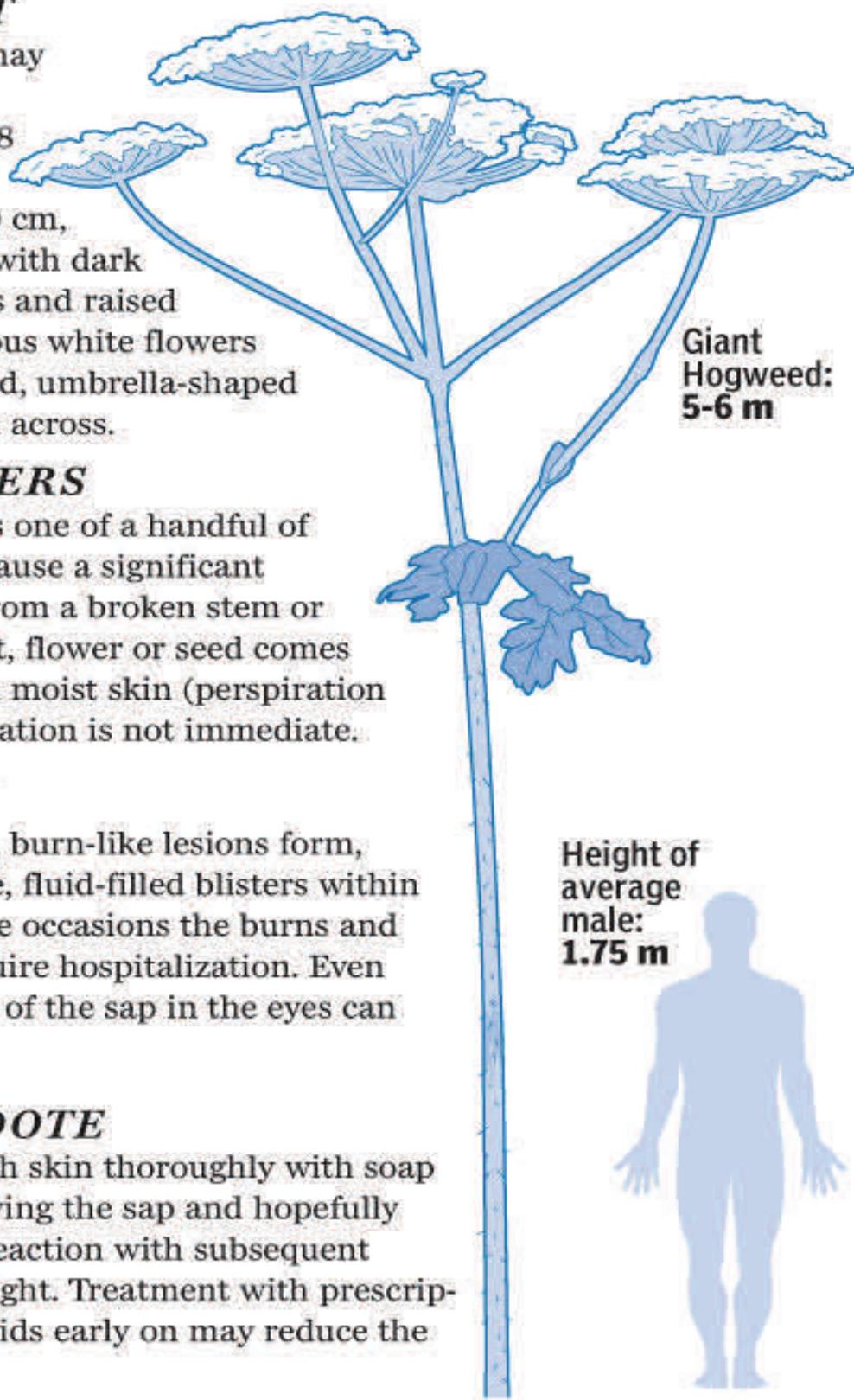
## THE BURN

Within 24 hours, burn-like lesions form, followed by large, fluid-filled blisters within 48 hours. On rare occasions the burns and blisters may require hospitalization. Even minute amounts of the sap in the eyes can cause blindness.

## THE ANTIDOTE

Immediately wash skin thoroughly with soap and water, removing the sap and hopefully preventing any reaction with subsequent exposure to sunlight. Treatment with prescription topical steroids early on may reduce the reaction.

SOURCE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



JONATHON RIVAIT / NATIONAL POST

# NOXIOUS PLANTS & SAFETY

Giant hogweed came originally from Asia, and is now firmly established throughout much of southern Ontario.

A member of the carrot and parsley family, it is distinguished by its huge size -it can grow up to 20 feet in height, with leaves up to five feet in width.

It generally prefers damp, rich soils, such as that found along roadside ditches, or in other moist, disturbed areas.

If the sap from a broken stem or crushed leaf, root, flower or seed comes into contact with damp skin (perspiration will suffice) and the skin is exposed to sunlight, severe burns, blistering and painful sores may result.

Even a tiny amount of sap getting into the eyes can result in temporary or permanent blindness. The only known antidote to contact with the sap is immediate, thorough washing using soap and water. Once irritation begins, medical advice should be sought.

Those most at risk include road maintenance crews cutting roadside ditches, lawn and garden maintenance labourers and other outdoor workers or recreationalists.

The sap can be spread by pets or livestock that have been in contact with the plant, as well.

There are a number of distinguishing features that separate giant hogweed from similar plants. First

and foremost is its size -it truly is "giant".

Stems are one to three inches in diameter (sometimes reaching four) and marked with dark purplish blotches or spots and covered with sturdy bristles. The flowers form a flat-topped, umbrella-shaped head up to 2.5 feet wide. The leaves are deeply incised and can reach up to five feet in width.

The most common "look-alike" in Renfrew County is cow parsnip, an innocuous native that also likes roadside ditches. It seldom exceeds five feet in height, and the leaves are only two to 2.5 feet across.

Cow parsnip lacks the purple blotches seen on Giant Hogweed, and it is covered with fine hairs rather than the coarse bristly hairs; these finer hairs give it a "fuzzy" appearance. The flower heads are similar -flat-topped and umbrella-shaped -but less than a foot across.

Giant Hogweed can be difficult to eradicate. A number of herbicides are effective, though none are effective at killing the plant's perennial roots.

Cutting the plant off with line trimmers can be very dangerous, as the rotating line can spray the sap a considerable distance; further, cutting the plant off stimulates budding on the rootstock.

The plant can be cut off using shears or a bladed tool, though it will sprout again.

If there is only a single plant, it can be dug up, though this is a difficult process.

An effective procedure for controlling giant hogweed is to cut off the flowering heads, and seal them inside plastic bags and leaving them out in the sun until all seeds are killed (at least one week).

The leaves can then be sprayed with herbicide, ensuring complete coverage.

Numerous applications need to be done to kill the rootstock, and the site should be revisited for years to be certain more plants aren't sprouting.



It is essential that you wear protective clothing and eye protection when working around giant hogweed.

Skin contact with soiled clothing or tools should be avoided.

For more information, contact Jeff Muzzi, manager of forestry services, county of Renfrew at 613-735-3204.

From...  
<http://www.thedailyobserver.ca/2010/07/08/giant-hogweed-confirmed-in-laurentian-valley>

## Meet and Greet—MEET TRANG!

What a wonderful woman to meet - lovely, responsive and willing to embrace anything that comes her way! Trang has experienced a lot - and Mackey is one of those cultural experiences which Trang trumps as the ultimate cultural experience. Born in Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam, she was raised in a very small one-room house, with a second level for sleeping for her mum and 4 kids. The house was bought by her mother, which gave her family independence and security when her parents soon divorced. How did she end up living in Mackey with Jonathan? What a change her life has taken!

After high school, Trang went to school to become a qualified seamstress. After the 1 year program, she operated a small business from home for 10 years, thanks to friends who helped her purchase a small sewing machine. She eventually saved enough money to pay for her ticket to Canada.



In May 2004, Trang moved to Toronto to live with her father's sister. Life in Canada was very foreign, to say the least. In Vietnam, people socialize in the streets. Everyone's home is small, so meeting and chatting is a street affair; people rarely feel alone. In Canada people are reserved and meet in their homes or restaurants, isolating for people new to a country or neighbourhood. The food was strange and language incomprehensible. There was so much to learn!

Through her uncle, Trang was able to acquire a job at Hydroform Solutions in Brampton, eventually becoming a machine operator. She loved her job, and here she met Jonathan Desjardins. Her life was taking a new turn.

They worked on different shifts, and it wasn't until 2007 that Jonathan brought her roses and took her out for Chinese dinner. Valentine's Day he brought chocolate, and the romance was clinched. Trang travelled to Vietnam in March for her sister's wedding and stayed for a month. Jonathan and Trang texted and phoned throughout this separation. They were hooked.

Beautiful Amy was born in 2008. Trang's mother visited the family that winter in Brampton which included a trip to Mackey. Not surprisingly, she was baffled by the isolation and cold, and was glad to return home.

After a year's maternity leave, Trang returned to her job and again enjoyed her work and colleagues. Jonathan, however, was anxious to move back to his family and the outdoor lifestyle of Mackey. Trang agreed to the move as long as she could find work here.

With her seamstress training and her machine operator experience, she was offered a job at Allen Vanguard in Pembroke, making protective suits for security dismantling bombs. In July 2011 they moved to Mackey, staying with Trang's in-laws, Tom and Lorraine, until they found the house on Jennings Road 6 months later.

Unfortunately the company downsized just before Christmas, and Trang found herself house

-bound with a 5 year-old and no paying job for the first time in her adult life. It was pretty isolating for Trang until eventually she met Linda Chartrand, her neighbour, at the mail. Linda introduced her to the Exercise group, the Library, and many of the volunteering activities in the Townships. Trang and Amy visit the library just about every Saturday, and you've probably met Trang as a volunteer at a number of community events. She has met Hope who also has children, and she is finally feeling like she belongs.

Trang is working on her oral and written English, and now works at the cafeteria at AECL, Chalk River. Her life is enriched with people and activity. She is enjoying the quiet beauty of Mackey, for she herself is quiet and private. She dreams of owning her own place with her family, establishing a garden ,and learning about computers and Canadian cooking. She has learned to love the sound of the water as the waves hit the shore at Old Mackey, and loves the time spent with her husband and daughter fishing and boating and being together.

Trang would like to supplement their income by working as a seamstress from home on weekends , a job she loves and does well.

If anyone has sewing needs, please call Trang at 613-717-6473 (evenings), or email [jon.desjardins@hotmail.com](mailto:jon.desjardins@hotmail.com). You may also call Cathy BB during the day at 613-586-2634 to book time with Trang.

Life is opening up once again for Trang. She firmly believes that life is what you create. "Don't let yourself feel trapped; use your freedom to be yourself," expounds Trang from that wisdom that comes from experience. From feel-

ing isolated and alone, Trang now could not go back to the city of noise and cars. She loves the sound of the birds in the morning and the mystery that surrounds her. Mosquitoes, however, still pose a challenge...So introduce yourself to Trang when you see her, and watch her face light up with that wonderful smile of hers. Welcome to the Bush, Trang. (CBB)

### TIPPING FEES AND PAYMENT OPTIONS

Since April of 2012 staff and residents have been working through the growing pains of a new Waste Management program and bringing waste to the disposal sites. We have modified our process so that most times our attendant can fill out your tipping slip at the site. You must ensure that Bill has your correct mailing address AND your qualifying municipal address. Without them you will not be eligible to dump waste at our sites.

Bill is not in a position to carry change or accept payment due to security and safety issues. You will be sent an invoice. Payment must then be made at the municipal office. Available options include cash, cheque or money order. Payments may be made in person, via mail or by dropping an envelope in the mail slot in the office door. We do apologize however credit card or on-line payments are cost prohibitive. Should tipping slips remain unpaid, they can and will be added to the tax bill after year end. *Effective December 31, 2013 all overdue and unpaid invoices will be added to the tax bills.*

## RECYCLING COLLECTION DATES FOR 2013—

Mackey and Stonecliffe— SEPT. 3—Tue., 16, 30; OCT.  
15—Tue., 28; NOV. 11, 25; DEC. 9, 23

Bissett Creek and Deux Rivieres—Tuesdays with garbage.

### Garbage

#### Deux Rivieres and Bissett Creek Garbage Collection

Tuesday 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

#### Stonecliffe and Mackey Garbage Collection

Thursday 9:00 - 12:00 noon

### DISPOSAL SITE HOURS APRIL-DECEMBER

#### Bissett Creek Road Site

Tuesday 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Saturday 12:45pm - 3:45pm

#### Stonecliffe Site – Kenny Road

Thursday 12:45pm - 4:15 pm

Saturday 8:30 am to 12:00 noon

### CONTACT Council or Staff

15 Township Hall Road  
Stonecliffe, Ontario  
K0J 2K0

Phone: 613- 586-2526

Fax: 613- 586-2596

Email: [twpshcm@xplornet.com](mailto:twpshcm@xplornet.com)  
CBO/Fire Safety Officer : 613-586-  
1950 or 613-401-6955  
[www.townshipsofheadclaramaria.ca](http://www.townshipsofheadclaramaria.ca)

**EMAIL LIST** If you would like to be on our community email list please contact the Municipal Office. It is the intent of staff to keep email addresses secure by using BCC however; we can not guarantee confidentiality.

## TO REPORT BEAR PROBLEMS

Bear Reporting Line: 1-866-514-2327

(TTY) 705 945-7641

In a life-threatening emergency, call 911.



Most problems between black bears and humans occur when bears are attracted by the smell of and rewarded with an easy meal. When bears pick up a scent with their keen noses, they will investigate it - even at your cottage property. If bears are rewarded with feasts of bird food, garbage or pet food, they will return as long as the food source continues to be available. It takes all cottagers and residents working together to eliminate these attractants and to stop bear problems.

**BUT REMEMBER, JUST BECAUSE YOU SEE A BEAR DOESN'T MEAN IT'S A NUISANCE BEAR!**

## COUNCIL CONTACTS

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