

Ministry of Natural
Resources and Forestry

Office of the Minister

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Ministère des Richesses
naturelles et des Forêts

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Ontario

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His Worship Larry Snively, Mayor
Mr. Morley Bowman, Councillor
Mr. Chris Vander Doelen, Councillor
Ms. Kim Verbeek, Councillor
Town of Essex
33 Talbot Street South
Essex ON N8M 1A8

Dear Mayor Snively and Colleagues:

Thank you for meeting with my Parliamentary Assistant Mike Harris at the 2019 Association of Municipalities of Ontario Conference. Mr. Harris has passed along the details of your meeting, and your delegation's concerns about shoreline protection and phragmites. I understand that these matters are of great concern to your community and would like to provide you with some information.

Flooding is a serious problem that is becoming increasingly common as Ontario experiences more frequent extreme weather events. Ontario's government is putting people first by taking swift action to address concerns from those affected by flooding. Our number one priority is the safety of the public and protection of our communities. We want to help Ontarians protect what matters most by improving flood resources and increasing awareness about flood risks.

I understand that you have requested funding for shoreline protection related to high lake levels and erosion. The Disaster Recovery Assistance program is administered by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. You can find more information at: www.ontario.ca/page/guidelines-apply-municipal-disaster-recovery-assistance-mdra.

Regarding your concerns about phragmites, my ministry recognizes the importance of the prevention and control of invasive species. This invasive plant poses a threat to our natural resources, biodiversity and our economy.

As Mr. Harris mentioned, we are working with partners on a pilot project using an overwater herbicide to restore Long Point and Rondeau coastal wetlands from the effects of phragmites. Since 2016, my ministry has obtained emergency registrations from Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) for the use of Roundup Custom for Aquatic and Terrestrial Use Liquid Herbicide. Over this period, approximately 1,200 hectares have been treated within the Long Point Region.

Early results have been very promising. A comprehensive monitoring program led by the University of Waterloo has demonstrated no negative environmental effects from the treatment, and large-scale successful control of this invasive plant is being observed.

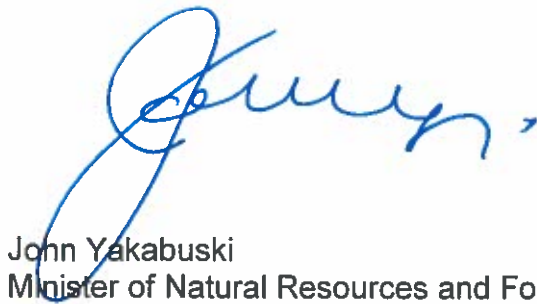
The active ingredient in the herbicide is glyphosate. It is registered by the Environmental Protection Agency for use in the United States and has been used in many areas, including Michigan, to control phragmites. It is also known in the United States under the alternative brand names of Aquamaster Herbicide and Roundup Aquamaster Herbicide.

My ministry has played a leadership role in this pilot project to help support understanding of this tool in the management of phragmites. Environmental monitoring information has been shared with PMRA and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks as the regulatory agencies responsible for the registration and use of pesticides in Canada and Ontario. It is hoped that this information will help support registration of an herbicide product in the future.

If you have further questions about this pilot project, please contact Terese McIntosh, Manager, Biodiversity Section, Natural Resources Conservation Policy Branch, at (705) 313-1083 or terese.mcintosh@ontario.ca.

I look forward to working together into the future.

Sincerely,



John Yakabuski
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

c: Terese McIntosh

