



Staff Report

Report Title: Lakeshore Environmental Year End Summary

Prepared By: Mike Fair, Director of Community Services

Department: Community Services

Date: Jan. 15, 2024

Report Number: CS-2024-01-3

File Number: C11 CS 24

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Attachments: 1918-2023 Lake Huron Water Levels, 2012-2023 Great Lakes Water Levels

Recommendation:

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report Number CS-2024-01-3 Lakeshore Environmental Year End Summary, as prepared by Mike Fair, Director of Community Services.

Background:

The following report is the Annual Lakeshore Environmental report which includes details on Algae, Phragmites, Tree Permits and Lake Levels.

Discussion:

Algae

The algae clean-up was scheduled at regular intervals in 2023. The total contracted budget was \$20 000.00. The schedule started in May with a complete shoreline cleanup and continued bi-weekly until the end of June. Clean up was conducted weekly beginning in July with a primary focus on the Point Clark Lighthouse beach, Bruce Beach and Lurgan Beach. Amberley Beach and Boiler Beach were visited but clean-up was often not required. The final shoreline clean-up was conducted at the end of September. A total of 75 hours were expended in 2023.

An industrial bin was placed at Lighthouse Parking lot during clean ups to reduce the man-hours and transportation costs associated with disposing of algae.

Invasive Phragmites (Common Reed)

Staff spot sprayed the lakeshore as required in late May and June to control phragmites which is starting to re-emerge as the lake levels decline again.

Lake Huron Coastal Centre

The Lake Huron Coastal Centre continues to work with the Township of Huron-Kinloss installing sand dune fencing, coastal planting projects, and an inventory of the Boiler Beach accesses with recommendations for future maintenance.

The Community Services staff partnered with the Lake Huron Coastal Centre and local residents to plant another five-hundred trees and shrubs along boiler beach road to stabilize the shoreline and preventing sand from drifting across the road.

The Best Management practices guide for living on / near the lakeshore has been distributed to all lakeshore residents and continues to be a helpful tool for guidance along the shoreline. The guide can be found on the Huron-Kinloss website at <https://www.huronkinloss.com/media/ijwo0031/shoreline-best-practices-guide.pdf>

Algonquin Bluff Tree Permits issued

Several inquiries were received regarding tree cutting permits. Staff issued 6 permits under the guidance of the Municipal Tree Cutting By-law and responded to numerous inquiries.

Motorized Vehicles on the Beach

There were 4 permits issued for Motorized Vehicles on the Beach. The primary reason for issuing permits is tree removal from private property that access was not possible through the private property.

Great Lake Water Levels

The Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (GLERL) is an effective resource that provides up to date information about the Great Lakes and factors that influence lake levels. Attached are two publication of the Great Lakes Water Levels including the historical 1918-2023 graph and 2012 -2023 graph.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) generates a Great lakes Dashboard Project (GLPD) that acts as a multi-agency gateway to long-term, basic-scale hydrological and climatological data for the Laurentian Great Lakes. The link below leads to real-time data on water levels and hydroclimate of Lake Huron and the other great lakes.

https://www.glerl.noaa.gov/data/dashboard/GLD_HTML5.html

Financial Impacts:

There are no financial impacts.

Strategic Alignment / Link:

The information provided in this report is consistent with and in keeping with the Township's Vision and Mission. The recommendations contribute to our goals in achieving a prosperous and environmentally conscious community

Respectfully Submitted By:

Mike Fair, Director of Community Services

Report Approved By:

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer