

Adopt – A- Road Project “Friends of Bolingbroke Road”

Report to the Directors LSRLPOA June 2, 2018. Eileen Barbeau

As you know, our association was involved last year in sponsoring this program and subsequently individual members volunteered to help eradicate the wild parsnip. It is a 2-year commitment and so our involvement is continuing this year. Our aim is to convince the County that we are effective in compliance with the *Weed Control Act* so that they do not spray herbicides which potentially have serious effects on the environment and on our watershed.

This is the plan:

Sandy Parks is the group coordinator for the “Friends” who will be the contact person with the County (this year a Vegetation Management Intern) and will coordinate community volunteers to work on both sides of the road from PIN 4452 to Hwy #7. The rest of the area, from PIN 4452 to the Railway bridge, both sides, will be the responsibility of the Lake Association and I will be the coordinator of these volunteers. Ideally we will each find volunteers who are willing to look after a specific section of the roadside, initially pulling plants /collecting garbage there and subsequently checking back biweekly throughout the season.

The County will be mowing a few times and will also be taking care of the deep ditches. This work will be coordinated with Ken Parks who will also be doing some mowing.

Work has started as now is the time to dig out as many of the young plants as possible which consist only of leaves at this stage (dandelion removal tools work quite well). If left they will produce stalks and subsequently flowers and seeds, an exceedingly effective mode of propagation. Then, despite producing sap, which can have dermatological effects for some people, the stalks are easier to pull out. However, this part of the cycle moves quickly and much labour is needed to complete the task before seeding occurs. Last year this was quite stressful and took much time and frequent effort by a few people from both the community and the association. Thus we decided to begin work earlier this year.

So far from May 25 – May 31..... 28 volunteer- hours have been given by 8 Association members resulting in many parsnips being pulled and garbage (including a TV!) taken to the dump. Many thanks are due to them for their commitment in very hot and humid weather.

The County mowed roadsides on May 30.

In the future....more volunteers are needed to share this work – all our section has not been done once yet. There have been no responses to the requests in the Bulletin and on the website; all involved to date volunteered last year to some extent and responded to a personal request to help out again this year. Some people have indicated a wish to assist but medical conditions preclude or make involvement very difficult. This is understandable. It is hard to see, though, why more people do not associate helping eradicate the parsnip with protecting the environment from unnecessary dangerous herbicide spraying.