

Request for Halifax & West Community Council Consideration

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Agenda Item
(Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon at least 5 working days prior to the meeting) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Added Item
(Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon at least one day prior to meeting) | <input type="checkbox"/> Request from the Floor |
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Date of Meeting: June 28, 2016

Subject: Control of *Rosa multiflora*

Motion for Halifax Regional Council to Consider:

Request a staff report regarding an urgent response and financial implications to appearance of Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*) in Point Pleasant Park, including work to GPS sites and schedule cutback and/or removal by early Sept. 2016 with follow-up and monitoring for new sites in subsequent years.

Reason:

Multiflora Rose (*R. multiflora*) was introduced to eastern North American and likely Nova Scotia in the 1800s as an ornamental, and was later promoted for use in erosion control and creation of natural hedges to control livestock. It "colonizes gaps in woodlands, forest edges, prairies and old fields...the arching canes and thorns form impenetrable thickets. Canes that climb into trees can add weight to the branches, making them vulnerable to breaking in windstorms. Most species of birds and mammals eat the fruits and disperse the seeds." (Source: S.R. Kaufman & W. Kaufman. 2007. Invasive Plants: a guide to identification, impacts and control of common North American species. Stackpole Books.)

In 2012 *R. multiflora* began to become prominent around Halifax, e.g. along sections of route 333. In 2013, it was removed from Point Pleasant. In the spring of 2016, a large thicket with fruit from 2015 still present close to the parking area. Root stocks occurred over an area of approximately 2 x 2 m, the vegetation covering an area of about 3 x 3 m. The largest stems were about 2 cm in diam. A resident cut the plant back to stop fruit production.

Once fruit starts to be produced within PPP, Multiflora Rose will spread very quickly and within 2-3 years produce many clumps of this size and larger making control impractical or very expensive. Currently there may be a dozen or so plants (colonies) within PPP, and it could be controlled fairly simply and inexpensively. Expense will increase dramatically if resources are not dedicated this summer season. Halifax Field Naturalists and the Nova Scotia Wild Flora Society could be asked to help document its current occurrence.

Outcome Sought:

Plants cut back to stop fruit production in immediate term, rootstocks should also be removed in the medium term.

Councillor Mason

District 7