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September 19, 2024

Tom Woodcock, Ph.D./ rare Charitable Research Reserve Board of Directors
Planning Ecologist
rare Charitable Research Reserve
1679 Blair Road, Cambridge ON N3H 4R8

Re: Correspondence of September 18, 2024- Giant Hogweed Mitigation

The Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) General Membership will receive your letter as correspondence at its September 27, 2024 board meeting. On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank you for sharing your concerns.

The GRCA is aware that giant hogweed, an invasive species that arrived in North America about a century ago, has spread throughout southern Ontario. We also recognize the impact it has on human health if someone comes in contact with this plant and appreciate your concerns.

Please note that the GRCA has a limited role in management and mitigation of invasive species and most legislation falls under the jurisdiction of the provincial and/or municipal governments.

Having said that, we will continue to work within our own role to help mitigate the local impact of giant hogweed where possible. Giant hogweed has been located on several GRCA properties near Belwood Lake, St. Jacobs, Kitchener, Guelph and Cambridge. A program is in place to eliminate the plant whenever it is found on GRCA property and we have the resources in place to address these instances as quickly as possible.

Beyond the removal of the plant on our own properties, we provide information through our communications channels, and in particular on our website about how to identify it, the hazards it poses to human health, and contact information for the public to report suspected instances of giant hogweed.

Once again, we thank you contacting us with your concerns.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lawson".

Samantha Lawson
Chief Administrative Officer