

Pretty flower destroying area wetlands

By LISA BOONSTOPPEL-POT
The Herald
Everyone comments on how pretty purple loosestrife is, but wetlands biologists say it is a monster in disguise that is slowly choking the life out of Halton Region wetlands.

"It's a monster plant that takes up space and gives nothing," said Glen Hooper, a wildlife biologist with the Maple District Ministry of Natural Resources office. "And there's nothing we can do about it."
What he and other biologists

are worried about is that this seemingly innocent plant will wipe out lush, green wetlands and turn them into beautiful, but virtually lifeless, purple plains. The plant has already infested marshes and waterways in eastern Ontario and is rapidly

thickening in southern and western Ontario. The banks of the Credit River running through the Glen are plagued with the purple invader.
Biologists believe purple loosestrife seeds arrived in ballast water dumped from European ships at the turn of the cen-

tury. They speculate the reason the plant has regenerated so abundantly in recent years is partially to do with the greenhouse effect (the warming of the planet), according to an Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters press release.
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The day the music died

For the Scotsdale Symphony Summer Home Committee, the music died when the Toronto Symphony Orchestra decided indefinitely to postpone a study to find a summer home for the symphony.

"We're very disappointed that the Toronto Symphony Orchestra (TSO) has abandoned its study to find a summer home," said Carol Howitt, chairman of the SSSH committee which decided to disband after hearing the news. "It has always been a dream of ours to encourage music in the area, especially at Scotsdale."

Scotsdale Farm is located on Trafalgar Road, just north of Georgetown.

The committee, which formed two years ago, never lost its enthusiasm in promoting the Scotsdale Farm on Trafalgar Road just outside of Georgetown as a prime sight for the orchestra but committee members felt they were in limbo after TSO put the study on hold.

The study, which was originally scheduled to begin last September, was going to determine which of 17 sites the TSO

would consistently draw the most people. Scotsdale Farm was one of the 17 sites to be reviewed.

"We thought Scotsdale was the best site," said Ms. Howitt. "We felt it had a good chance of being chosen as the summer home of symphony because it's beautiful land, is close to many centres, and was widely supported by many local agencies."

The Director of Special Concerts and Outreach for the TSO, Marion Hart, said the study was postponed because of tough economic times.
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Value of chip wagons questioned

French fry lovers rejoiced when four new chip wagons rolled into town this summer but Halton Hills councillor Marilyn Serjeantson said not all residents are fans of the french fry vans.

"People are complaining about the chip wagons," she said last Thursday after council directed staff to conduct a report to monitor community reaction to the chip vendors.

"Some people feel they don't add to the town."

But Lynda Roach, who helps her son Mike Spark with the Mikey's Fries Chip Wagon at Delrex Boulevard and Guelph Street, thinks just the opposite.

"I know I'm biased, but I believe chip wagons really add to

the town," she said. "Eating chips outside is a social thing. They're an attraction just like the hot dog stands in Toronto are."

She said business has been "pretty good" and isn't worried that a Town study will hurt chip wagon owners.

"We serve a need in this community," she said. "The number of people who eat fries proves that."

Ms. Roach does agree, however, that all chip wagons should conform to certain health and aesthetic standards.

These standards, along with how many chip wagons should be allowed to operate in the Town, and where they should park will

all be addressed in the chip wagon report scheduled to be undertaken sometime this fall.

Currently, the Town has issued four licences to chip wagons. Two trucks are located in Georgetown, one in Norval and the other in Acton.

Bob Ustrzycki, By-law Enforcement and Licensing Officer for the Town, said to get a permit, prospective chip wagon operators have to meet health and safety standards and get permission from a commercial or industrial property owner to park on his land.

License restrictions were reviewed and adjusted last fall by council because the old criterium for catering truck licencing was so restrictive, it became prohibitive, he said.

Personally, Coun. Serjeantson said she's like to see stricter standards on how chip wagons should look.

"Maybe restaurants and residents aren't unhappy with the wagons at all," she said. "Then there is no problem but I think there should be an opportunity for people to express their views."

Local farmers warned about dangerous fuel

Approximately 30 farmers in Halton Region and surrounding area have been warned that a contaminated fuel delivered to the farms from the Georgetown Co-Op Fuel Depot sometime in June is highly explosive, said Glen Pershbacher, vice-president with the Co-Ops Petroleum Division in Mississauga.

"All the customers have been contacted and all the product has been identified," said Mr. Pershbacher Tuesday.

He said dyed diesel fuel was

contaminated with gasoline which makes it more explosive than regular diesel. This mixture was delivered to approximately 30 farmers. The product was identified at the Georgetown Co-Op Fuel Depot on Guelph Street.

How the fuel was mixed is still under investigation. Also under investigation, said Mr. Pershbacher, is the possibility that the contaminated fuel may have been the cause of a blast that killed two workers at a Caledon East truck repair shop June 26.

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Hanoverian horse

Gina Smith showed off the fine form of World Cup IV at the fifth annual Hanoverian Mare Show for Eastern Canada, held on Saturday at Windswept Farm near Georgetown. Smith is on the Canadian Dressage team that will be competing in the upcoming Pan American Games, being held in Cuba. The host farm's mare, Alabama, was chosen Grand Champion Mare of Show out of 48 other horses. (Herald photo)

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Recreation and Parks Director responds to criticism

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