

May 2023
Phragmites Working Group
Lake Bernard Sundridge
Contact Name: Marilee.koenderink@gmail.com

Dear Sundridge/Strong/Joly Resident:

As members of the community and concerned residents, we are writing to alert you about Japanese Knotweed. The Phragmites Working Group Lake Bernard has been locating and removing stands of invasive Phragmites for over five seasons, and we have seen great success. This year, we are also attempting to locate and manage stands of Japanese Knotweed in the area.

This spring and summer, we are working to map the distribution of this invasive species to limit and track its spread. Japanese Knotweed is an aggressive, woody, invasive plant species that has established itself in and around our area. It may be on your property; if so, you will want it removed quickly. We believe it is located on more than 10 sites. Once established, Japanese knotweed becomes much harder to remove, due to its vigorous root system, which can spread up to 10 meters from the parent stem and sprout through concrete and asphalt. Japanese knotweed can reduce native biodiversity by outcompeting native species and is an extremely persistent species. If it goes unchecked, it can cause damage to the soil on your property, damage the foundation of your home, and even lower the value of your property.

Here is what you can do:

- Educate yourself and your neighbours about Japanese Knotweed.
- Identify the plant if it lives on your property and let us know.
- If you are unable to do it yourself with help from family or friends, give us your permission to assess/map/cut/remove invasive Japanese Knotweed on your property according to best practices and proper disposal methods to prevent further spread.

With your help and permission, we can show you what it is, and help you if you are not able to remove it yourself, beginning with digging. For more information, check out the following links:

<https://www.invadingspecies.com/invaders/plants/japanese-knotweed-2/>

https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/invasive-species/meet-the-species/invasive-plants/japanese-knotweed/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwu-KiBhCsARIsAPztUF0NFVm-V6-uh3tBobxBXEtaHdrETSvDoffTngQ3r1zUheXboti5TZMaAmMDEALw_wcB

https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/OIPC_BMP_JapaneseKnotweed.pdf

Please refer to the Ontario Invasive Plant Council's "Best Management Practices" for more information on the best practices on how to safely remove this plant from your property before it has become established. If you are unable to manage the plant by yourself, please contact us.

We hope you will consider joining this effort to ensure the health of our natural communities and wildlife and maintain the property and recreational values for future generations! Please email back if you need help removing Japanese Knotweed from your property in 2023.

Sincerely,

Phragmites Working Group Lake Bernard

Marilee Koenderink chair

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I would like to know if I have Japanese Knotweed on my property and how to remove it and I understand that I can ask volunteers to assist me to dig up Japanese Knotweed from my property.

Name of property owner: _____

Signature of property owner: _____

Address of property: _____

Date: _____

Do you want to receive updates and information regarding this issue? If so, please provide your email address: _____