

TOWN OF LADYSMITH

GOVERNMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

Mandate –To advise Council on a broad spectrum of issues related to departmental matters

Monday, August 17, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

Council Chambers, City Hall

AGENDA

Chairperson: Councillor D. Paterson

- | | <u>Pages</u> |
|---|--------------|
| 1. CALL TO ORDER | |
| 2. AGENDA APPROVAL | |
| 3. DELEGATIONS | 1 - 2 |
| 3.1 <u>Barbara Fysh</u>
Re: Sculptor Peter Toth "Trail of the Whispering Giants" | |
| 3.2 <u>David Walbank, Rotary Club and Philip Smith, JB Solar</u>
Re: Donation – Solar Hot Water Heater | |
| 4. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT (Verbal Report) | |
| 5. STAFF REPORTS | |
| 5.1 <u>Building Code Update</u> | 3 - 4 |
| 6. MEMBER SUBMISSIONS
None | |
| 7. CORRESPONDENCE | |
| 7.1 <u>M. Volden</u>
Re: Drainage Ditch Methuen Avenue | 5 - 9 |
| 8. NEW BUSINESS
None | |
| 9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
None | |

ADJOURNMENT

The Trail of the Whispering Giants:

Alabama	Dotham	Mississippi	Ocean Springs
Alaska	Vaidez	Missouri	St. Louis
Arizona	Winslow	Montana	Red Lodge
Arkansas	Little Rock	Nebraska	Lincoln
California	Desert Hot Springs	Nevada	Reno
Colorado	LaJolla	New Hampshire	Laconia
Connecticut	Loveland	New Jersey	Atlantic City
Delaware	Groton	New Mexico	Las Cruces
Florida	Bethany Beach	New York	Dunkirk
	Deland	North Carolina	Cherokee
	Fort Lauderdale	North Dakota	Mandan
	Punta Gorda	Ohio	Akron
Georgia	Colquitt	Oklahoma	Broken Bow
Hawaii	Haleiwa, Oahu	Oregon	Astoria
Idaho	Idaho Falls	Pennsylvania	Hillsboro
Illinois	S of Utica	Rhode Island	Sharon
	Hopewell	South Carolina	Williamsport
	Ottawa	South Dakota	Narragansett
Indiana	Fort Wayne	Tennessee	Charleston
Iowa	Iowa Falls	Texas	Aberdeen
	Osceola	Utah	Cleveland
Kansas	Troy	Vermont	Johnson City
Kentucky	Paducah	Virginia	Texarkana
Louisiana	New Orleans	Washington	Murray
Maine	Bar Harbor	West Virginia	Burlington
Maryland	Ocean City	Wisconsin	Virginia Beach
Massachusetts	Plymouth	Wyoming	Vancouver
Michigan	Springfield		Wheeling
	Lansing		Hayward
	Wakefield		Worland
Minnesota	Two Harbors		

Cabot's Pueblo Museum, 67-616 E. Desert View Ave. Desert Hot Springs CA 92240
760) 329-7610 • www.cabotmuseum.org

Waakiye

and the Trail of the
Whispering Giants



“Waakiye,” meaning
“Traditional Helper”
in the Lakota language,
was carved in 1978, by
Hungarian-born sculptor
Peter “Wolf” Toth.

During a 21-year period
(1971-1992) Toth
carved 67 giant Native
American heads; at
least one in each of the
50 states plus several in
Canada. The first giant,
which he began at the
age of 24, was carved
from the cliff at Wind
and Sea Beach in La
Jolla, California. All of
the subsequent colossi
have been made from
giant logs. Waakiye was
the 27th sculpture in the
“Whispering Giants”
series.

Born in 1947, Peter Toth (rhymes with "oath") was one of eleven children. His family fled from Hungary during the 1956 uprising. They lived in refugee camps for two years before emigrating to the United States and settling in Akron, Ohio. Learning about Native American culture, he empathized with the tribes' situation and saw a parallel to the violent repression he had experienced in Hungary. Expanding on his desire to highlight the struggle of American Indians for justice and recognition of their human rights, the statues represent all humanity and stand against injustice to all people. He has been adopted into several tribes as the result of his mission.

The Desert Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce invited Toth to come to California and carve a sculpture. Toth, later joined by his wife Kathy, traveled the US in a Dodge van, spending summers in the north and winters in the south, and "stopping wherever local officials would allow or invite him to carve one of his 'Whispering Giants.'" He did not accept money for his work and lived on donations, sales of small carvings and sales of his self-published book. Cole Eyraud, who was the vice-mayor as well as the curator of Cabot's Pueblo Museum, saw the similarities between Toth's tribute to Native Americans and Cabot Yerxa's and volunteered the museum to be the site for the statue.

A 45-ton giant Sequoia redwood log was donated through the efforts of the Riverside County Fire Department and the state Division of Forestry. The 750-year-old tree, which was almost 200 feet tall, was originally from the Sequoia National Forest near Porterville. It had been struck by lightning in the mid-1950s. Moving the log which had been earmarked for the sculpture, a segment 10 by 20 feet and weighing 40,000 pounds, from central California was no easy task. Bad weather delayed the arrival of the log until the end of February 1978.

Toth used power tools for the rough shaping, and then set to work with a #5 chisel and a hammer. All of the work was done on site. The finished face is 22 feet high, eight feet in diameter and weighs 20 tons. The feather is made from an Incense Cedar from Idyllwild, it is 15 feet tall, four feet with and one-and-a-half feet thick. The pedestal is 5 feet tall, extends 4 feet into the earth and is made of 2,000 pounds of steel and 33 yards of cement. Local rocks decorate the outside surface. The overall height of the sculpture - base, face and feather - is 43 feet. The project was sponsored by Landmark Conservators (Cole Eyraud's management company for Cabot's Pueblo Museum), the Desert Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce and the California State Department of Forestry.

On May 20, 1978, Waakiye was ready to meet the public. Dennis Banks, educator and founder of the American Indian Movement was the guest speaker, and about 250 people showed up for the event. This project could never have been achieved without donations and community support - the donation of Peter Toth's time and talent, the donation of the land, of the tree, the transportation... every step of the project required an act of generosity. At the dedication ceremony, Peter Toth said simply "The American Indian is a proud and often misunderstood people. They have suffered atrocities ever since the first white man landed on this shore. Even as a young boy I had admiration for my Indian brothers and perhaps this monument and all the others... will bring awareness of a proud and great people."

We are fortunate that Waakiye has survived the years in relatively good condition. Other giants have not been so fortunate. See the list on the following page for the other Whispering Giants - not all of them remain. Some websites, such as this one from David Schumaker, can provide current information. <http://www.dcschumaker.com/>



Town of Ladysmith
STAFF REPORT

To: Ruth Malli, City Manager
From: Joe Friesenhan, Director of Public Works
Date: July 28, 2009
File No:

Re: **BUILDING CODE UPDATE**

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Government Services Committee recommend to Council to support the Building and Safety Branch proposals to include high-efficiency toilets in new construction and solar hot water ready construction for new single family houses in the BC Building Code.

PURPOSE:

To obtain Council input on proposed new building code updates

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND:

The Building and Safety Policy Branch is seeking public input on three proposals for changes to Provincial building regulations.

1. High-Efficiency Toilets – all new construction to include high-efficiency (including dual-flush) toilets. The requirement supports greening the BC Building Code and Living Water Smart, BC's water plan.
2. Solar Hot Water Ready – Local government option to require Solar Hot Water Ready construction for new single family houses. Supports the 100,000 Solar Roofs Initiative and the Provinces commitment to reduce GHG emissions.
3. Letters of Assurance – Update to Building Code's Letters of Assurance. Responds to industry requests and supports the Modernization Strategy's shift toward more clearly defined responsibilities and accountabilities.

SCOPE OF WORK:

Invite to comment on these proposals through the public review until September 14, 2009.

ALTERNATIVES:

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

CITIZEN/PUBLIC RELATIONS IMPLICATIONS:

Council support of the proposals would reinforce the Towns commitment for water conservation and to reduce GHG emissions.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL INVOLVEMENT/IMPLICATIONS:

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

SUMMARY

The Building and Safety Policy Branch is looking for public input into changes to the Building Code. The first two changes also reflect Councils commitment for water consumption and for reduction in GHG emissions. Public review is available online through the Building and Safety Policy Branch website at <http://www.housing.gov.bc.ca/building/consultation/>

I concur with the recommendation.



Ruth Malli, City Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

None.

RECEIVED
JUL 29 2009

TOWN OF LADYSMITH

To: Mayor Hutchins and Council

July 28, 2009

I am writing in regard to the drainage ditch backing Methuen Ave. In response to my first letter I was notified that the matter was to be referred to staff for further review. However, comments made by Mr. Joe. Driesenhan in the recent article in the Chronicle are very upsetting and offensive to my neighbors and myself. He indicates that the ditch is too steep to hold standing water. Well, I can tell you there is always standing, stagnant water in areas of the ditch even in these dry conditions.

Does anyone from Public works ever examine this eyesore not to mention breeding ground for mosquitoes. I have also noticed the invasive plant - Purple loosestrife - growing in this ditch. Please see attached information on this invasive plant which is becoming such a problem in other parts of Canada.

My property backs the lane and there are many mosquitoes in my yard. Company that I have had can't believe the number of bites they received while visiting.

Mr. Driesenhan also states that this ditch has historical value. Poor Ladysmith if this is an historical site!! Why isn't something done, as taxpayers we deserve some answers to the problem rather than feel we are as much as called liars.

I walk my dog down that lane every day so I know the concerns first hand.

Flooding during heavy rains is also a concern due to the poor drainage due to weeds and garbage that clog the ditch.

Yours truly -

Marlene S. Tolden

#14-332 Belaire St Box 1473 V9G 1B1

search...

Invasive Plant Council of BC

HOME ABOUT US BC INVASIVE PLANTS REGIONAL COMMITTEES RESOURCES NE

Home > [BC Invasive Plants](#) > [Invasive Plant Watch](#) > Purple loosestrife

In This Section

[Invasive Plant Watch](#)

[Impacts of Invasive Plants in BC](#)

[How Can I Manage Invasive Plants?](#)

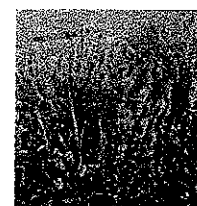
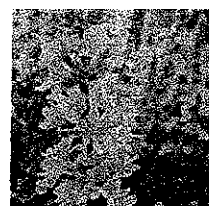
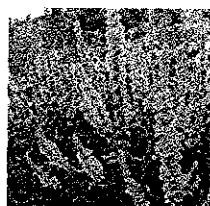
[Community Mapping Network Invasive Species Atlas](#)

[E Flora](#)

[Invasive Alien Plant Program \(IAPP\)](#)

Purple loosestrife

(Lythrum salicaria)



Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) is a woody half-shrub, wetland perennial considered regionally noxious under the BC *Weed Control Act*. Purple loosestrife is found in wet areas at low- to mid-elevations, growing in ditches, irrigation canals, marshes, stream and lake shorelines and shallow ponds. It is common in the Fraser Valley and frequent on southern Vancouver Island and in the Okanagan. There are also localized patches in the Kootenay and Omineca regions.

Shrub-like in appearance, purple loosestrife has stiff, four-sided stems ending in dense spikes of showy purple flowers. Plants have narrow, stalkless leaves, up to 3 metres in height at maturity.

Often confused with fireweed, purple loosestrife is an escaped ornamental that tolerates a wide range of weather conditions and will grow in standing water. It distributes through water, humans and animals, with a single plant producing million seeds that drop in early fall when temperatures cool. Dense stands of loosestrife threaten plant and animal diversity in wetland ecosystems.

Refer to [Weeds BC](#) for information on prevention and control methods.



Leafy spurge

Home About Us BC Invasive Plants Regional Committees Resources News and Events Links C

Website Design by Motiontide Media | Copyright 201

This page was printed from the www.invadingspecies.com website

Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)

Purple loosestrife, a beautiful but aggressive invader, arrived in eastern North America in the early 1800s. Plants were brought to North America by settlers for their flower gardens, and seeds were present in the ballast holds of European ships that used soil to weigh down the vessels for stability on the ocean. Since it was introduced, purple loosestrife has spread westward and can be found across much of Canada and the United States.

Characteristics

Flower: Each flower spike is made up of many individual flowers. Individual flowers are small and have five or six pink-purple petals surrounding small, yellow centers. Purple loosestrife generally flowers from late June to early September and require pollination by insects or birds.

Seed Capsule: As flowers begin to drop off, capsules containing many tiny seeds appear in their place. Depending on where you live, plants may go to seed as early as late July.

Seed: Each mature plant can have more than thirty flowering stems which can produce up to 2.7 million seeds annually. As tiny as grains of sand, seeds are easily spread by water, wind, wildlife and humans. Germination can occur the following season and in many environmental conditions. Seeds are hardy and can lay dormant in the seed bank for several years before sprouting. Ornamental "seedless" cultivars have been shown to produce viable seeds when fertilized with pollen from naturalized populations.



Leaves: Leaves are downy, with smooth edges. They are usually arranged opposite each other in pairs which alternate down the stalk at 90° angles, however, they may also appear in groups of three.

Stalk: Stalks are square, five or six-sided, woody, as tall as 2 m (6.5 ft) with several stalks on mature plants.

Perennial Rootstock: Mature plants can reproduce vegetatively with underground stems that can spread at a rate of 25 cm (9.8 in) each year. On mature plants, rootstocks are extensive and can send out up to 30 to 50 shoots, creating a dense web which chokes out other plant life.

Distribution

Purple loosestrife is now found throughout most of North America with the exception of Mexico, Florida and northern Canada. Currently, the area of greatest concentration and impact has been in southern Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia and adjacent areas in the northeastern United States. The spread of this plant occurs primarily on disturbed soils of recently built roads, canals, railway lines and cultivated areas. It appears purple loosestrife thrives in areas of populated places with connecting roadways and degraded and disturbed wetland habitats. Purple loosestrife can also invade healthy wetland habitats and since seeds can be spread by water, it can spread within the watershed. Most of the isolated



incidents of purple loosestrife have likely resulted from intentional introductions or escapes from ornamental gardens.

 [Download Purple Loosestrife distribution map](#)

Impact

Purple loosestrife is a very hardy perennial which can rapidly degrade wetlands, diminishing their value for wildlife habitat. Wetlands are the most biologically diverse, productive component of our ecosystem. Hundreds of species of plants, birds, mammals, reptiles, insects, fish and amphibians rely on healthy wetland habitat for their survival. When purple loosestrife gets a foothold, it forms a dense monoculture, replacing native plant species and the habitat where fish and wildlife feed, seek shelter, reproduce and rear young.

Since purple loosestrife can invade drier sites, concern is increasing as the plant becomes more common on agricultural land, encroaching on farmers' crops and pasture land. The spread of purple loosestrife also has a direct economic impact when plants clog irrigation or drainage ditches on farmlands or cause degradation and loss of forage value of lowland pastures. An estimated 190,000 hectares of wetlands, marshes, pastures and riparian meadows are affected in North America each year, with an economic impact of millions of dollars.

Prevention

One of the simplest prevention measures one can take is to be sure that purple loosestrife (or one of the many "sterile" cultivars) is not growing in your garden and that you don't intentionally or unintentionally plant it (some wildflower seed mixes may contain purple loosestrife so be sure to read the label). The best time to control purple loosestrife is in June, July and early August when it is in flower and easy to recognize before it goes to seed. Hand-digging young plants can be done in an area with a small infestation. Cutting the flowers stalks before they go to seed also ensures that seeds will not produce future plants. Proper disposal of the plant to ensure that seeds do not contaminate other areas is important. This can be done by putting plants in plastic bags that will remain intact at the landfill site. Plants can also be incinerated. Chemical control (herbicide) is another form of control but should only be used on individual plants, in dry, upland areas and on your own property.



For large infestations, the most effective method has been biological control through the release of insects that are the plant's natural enemy in its native habitat. Two beetle species: *Galerucella pusilla* and *Galerucella calmariensis* eat the leaves and new shoot growth which seriously affects growth and seed production of the plant. These beetles will not eradicate purple loosestrife, however, they will act to significantly reduce plant numbers and reduce seed production and therefore, the spread. The O.F.A.H. in partnership with Ontario Beetles and the Ministry of Natural Resources co-ordinated a beetle release program in Northern Ontario in 2003 and will be conducting 80 releases in Eastern Ontario in 2004, with new the partners

Ontario Wildlife Habitat Fund and Ducks Unlimited Canada.

Many organizations throughout North America have taken action to control the spread of purple loosestrife. National wildlife services, state/provincial natural resource and environment agencies, universities, nursery trades associations, and conservation and community organizations have responded to the purple

loosestrife invasion by raising awareness of the threat posed by this invasive plant, and how to prevent its spread. OFAH programs such as **Project Purple** and **The Biological Control of Purple Loosestrife** are examples of such actions that are being taken in Ontario and are available for the public and other conservation groups to get involved.

© 2009 Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters
All Rights Reserved