



Staff Report

Operations Department

Report To: Agricultural Advisory Committee
Meeting Date: Thursday, January 21, 2021
Report Number: CSOPS.21.005
Subject: 2021 Wild Chervil Management Strategy
Prepared by: Shawn Carey, Director of Operations and Wayne Dewitt, Supervisor
By-Law Enforcement Services

A. Recommendations

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee receive Staff Report CSOPS.21.005, entitled "2021 Wild Chervil Management Strategy";

AND THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee endorse the 2021 Wild Chervil Management Strategy.

B. Overview

This Staff Report provides an overview of the staff recommendations for the management of Wild Chervil for 2021 based on findings and observations of the 2020 Wild Chervil Control Program and discussions with the Agricultural Advisory Committee.

C. Background

Staff Report CSOPS.20.047 "2020 Wild Chervil Control Program Overview" provided details on the actions taken in 2020 and suggests that efforts to control Wild Chervil along the Town road allowance using broadcast herbicide spraying has been effective. However, based on observations, the presence of Wild Chervil on private land appears to be increasing and could be the new source of seed spread in the rural area.

Over the course of 2020, staff and the Agricultural Advisory Committee engaged Pesticide Specialists from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation & Parks and the Chief Weed Inspector from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs to gain better understanding of how to manage and control Wild Chervil and the associated regulatory requirements. In addition, Town By-Law staff including the Town's Weed Inspector have provided and discussed enforcement options to address Wild Chervil on private property.

D. Analysis

The following components outline the proposed approach for the 2021 Wild Chervil Control Program.

1) Herbicide Spraying

Based on the decrease in lane kilometers sprayed in 2020, staff are proposing to replace the broadcast spraying of Truvis with spot spraying along the Town road allowance. Spot spraying will enable better accuracy in targeting the desired species (i.e. Wild Chervil). However, it should be noted that this technique is less efficient and therefore likely requires more time and resources to apply across the Town's rural area. Staff are currently exploring options with various contractors to implement spot spraying. The intent of the spot spray application in 2021 will be to focus on priority locations in the rural area that pose a threat to agricultural lands.

It is important to note that as a provincially licensed vegetation management contractor, the Town's contractor is required to apply the herbicide in compliance with the *Pesticides Act* and its Regulations. As such, the contractor determines whether the areas identified by the Town are appropriate to spray and whether sections of the identified areas should not be sprayed due to regular maintenance (mowing) or other geological features such as watercourses and topography. Additionally, the contractor determines the precise timing of the spraying to ensure appropriate weather conditions for the application as required by the product/pesticide label (which is enforceable via the *Pesticide Act*). The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks is the responsible, regulatory authority for ensuring that licensed applicators are following both the pesticide label and the regulations under the *Pesticide Act*.

2) Wild Chervil Monitoring

Town staff will continue to monitor areas where Wild Chervil has been observed during early spring. This is performed by our Roads & Drainage Division, By-law and Community Services staff. In addition, staff seek information from residents regarding additional locations. The Town's website includes information on identification. Input from staff and residents will be compiled for the 2021 Anticipated Roadside Weed Spraying Map. Attachment 1 is the Anticipated 2020 Roadside Spraying Map for reference. This map is used to both inform residents that wish to request a Town issued Do Not Spray Sign and to support the public notification requirements of the *Pesticide Act*. Once this information is gathered it is then passed along to the contractor to provide them with an idea of where the hot spot locations are. New sites will be added to the mapping just before the contractor initiates their work. The contractor is also trained to identify the plant.

3) Public Notification

The *Pesticide Act* governs the requirements for public notification. Notices must include the name and intended use of the herbicide being sprayed, the federal product registration number, the timing of the application, as well as the contractor's name and contact information.

Similar to 2020, Town staff will plan on issuing a media release providing notice to residents of Wild Chervil pesticide spraying (Attachment 2). Additionally, staff will update the town website and post formal notices in local media as required by the *Pesticide Act*. The notice will also include the Anticipated 2021 Roadside Spraying Map which will identify areas in the municipality where either Wild Chervil had been previously confirmed or where there were known locations as of early May 2021. Attachment 1 is the Anticipated 2020 Roadside Spraying Map for reference. The intent of the map is to inform residents of potential areas for herbicide application.

4) Opt-Out of Pesticide Spraying and Do Not Spray Signs

This aspect of the Wild Chervil control program was formally introduced in 2020 and based on the success staff are proposing to continue it for 2021. Attachment 2 provides an overview of the process. In short, if a resident wants to avoid spraying in the road allowance fronting their property they can elect to mow or regularly cut the road allowance. Although this method is not as effective, the Town recognizes that some residents object to the use of pesticides and herbicides. Similar to 2020, the contractor applying herbicide will be advised to only spray to areas that appear to be visually unkept and where there is evidence of Wild Chervil. The Town is required to control Wild Chervil under the *Weed Control Act* and regardless of posted signs, unmaintained sections of Town road allowance will be sprayed if there is evidence of Wild Chervil in order to prevent spread.

Residents requesting signage will be asked to provide their address and contact information (e.g. email address) so staff can: track and monitor locations of no spray signs; provide information to requestors on techniques to control Wild Chervil both on their property and the Town road allowance which they have agreed to maintain; and, when and where to dispose of the signs (Town Hall or landfill).

In 2020, this approach was effective in having consistent signage throughout the rural area, track locations and provide details on the program and maintenance needs. Attachment 3 shows there were 28 signs requested and installed in 2020 and in general, the landowner was adequately managing Wild Chervil on the road allowance as most areas with posted signs were not sprayed by the contractor.

5) Proactive Compliance Approach

In November 2019, Council approved the Committee's recommendation that additional resources be applied to implement the Wild Chervil program portion of the Long Grass/Weed

section of the pending Town-Wide Property Standards Bylaw with a focus on education and co-operative compliance.

As noted earlier, the presence of Wild Chervil on private land appears to be increasing and could be the new source of seed spread. 2021 will bring more focused and proactive outreach and education measures to private property owners.

Attachment 4 outlines the general rural private properties where Wild Chervil has historically been present or was observed in 2020. Prior to the spring, Bylaw staff will be sending out letters to each private property owner notifying them of: the potential presence of Wild Chervil on their property; how to identify the species; the impacts and why it is important to control; the various management and removal techniques including their associated effectiveness; and, the regulatory requirements (e.g. *Weed Control Act*, *Pesticides Act*, etc.). Staff will monitor and track responses to this initial outreach and education effort and will follow-up accordingly. Enforcement related activities will depend on the severity of the issue and the extent of voluntary compliance.

In 2020, staff will also continue to work with the Committee and Council to extend the applicability of the existing Long Grass/Weed section of the Town-Wide Property Standards Bylaw to the rural areas in an effort to help control Wild Chervil on private property.

6) Modified Roadside Mowing

One of the approaches discussed in 2020 was to explore modifying how and when the Town undertakes roadside mowing when Wild Chervil is present and/or in known hotspots. The Town currently mows the rural road allowance around mid to end of June which is well after herbicide spray is applied and takes effect. Staff are proposing to continue with this practice. If and when herbicide spray application along the roadside is no longer needed, changes to timing and cleaning procedures of the equipment would be introduced at that time.

E. Strategic Priorities

1. Communications and Engagement

We will enhance communications and engagement between Town Staff, Town residents and stakeholders.

2. Organizational Excellence

We will continually seek out ways to improve the internal organization of Town Staff and the management of Town assets.

3. Community

We will protect and enhance the community feel and the character of the Town, while ensuring the responsible use of resources and restoration of nature.

4. Quality of Life

We will foster a high quality of life for full-time and part-time residents of all ages and stages, while welcoming visitors.

F. Environmental Impacts

Wild Chervil is an aggressive competitor with broad leaves that shade out surrounding vegetation and limit water and nutrients for other plants. When mature, it forms tall, dense vegetation stands that are unpalatable to livestock and produces large amounts of seed that are easily spread by people, animals and the wind. Wild Chervil is extremely difficult to control as it is resistant to several herbicides and has a deep root system. The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks regulates the use of pesticides to manage the protection of human health and the environment.

G. Financial Impact

The Town carries \$20,000 per year from the Roads and Drainage Division operating budget for Wild Chervil control.

H. In Consultation With

Ryan Gibbons, Director, Community Services

Wayne Dewitt, Supervisor By-Law Enforcement Services

Jim McCannell, Manager of Roads and Drainage

Will Thomson, Director, Legal Services

I. Public Engagement

The topic of this Staff Report has not been subject to a Public Meeting and/or a Public Information Centre as neither a Public Meeting nor a Public Information Centre are required. Comments regarding this report should be submitted to Shawn Carey, Director of Operations, directorops@thebluemountains.ca.

J. Attached

1. Anticipated 2020 Roadside Spraying Map
2. 2020 Wild Chervil Pesticide Spraying Notification
3. Completed 2020 Roadside Weed Spraying with No Spray Sign Locations
4. 2020 Wild Chervil Locations on Private Property

Respectfully submitted,

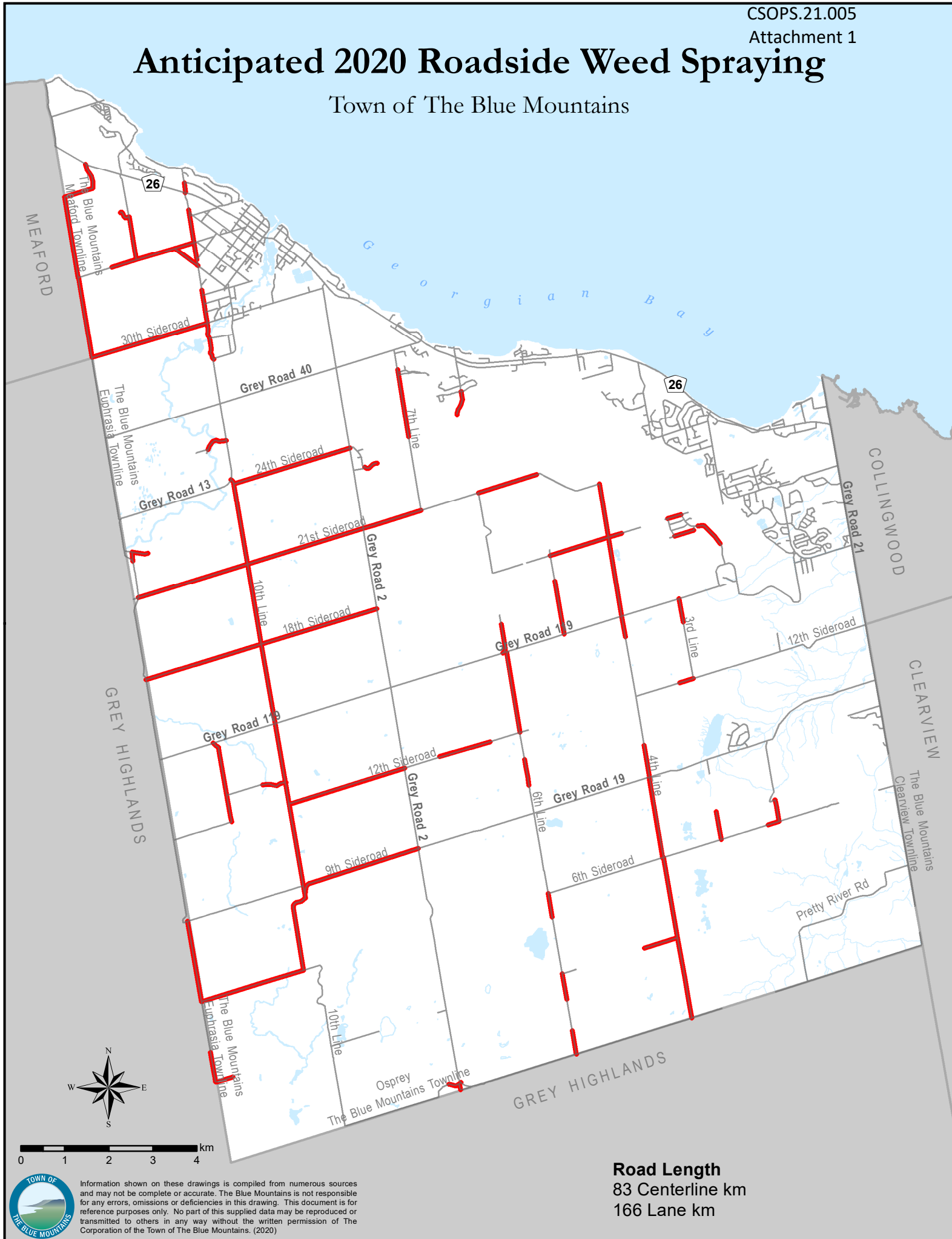
Wayne Dewitt
Supervisor By-Law Enforcement Services

Shawn Carey
Director of Operations

For more information, please contact:
Shawn Carey, Director of Operations
directorops@thebluemountains.ca
519-599-3131 extension 260

Anticipated 2020 Roadside Weed Spraying

Town of The Blue Mountains



Road Length
83 Centerline km
166 Lane km



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Media Release

May 6, 2020

Notice- Wild Chervil Pesticide Spraying Notification

The Town of The Blue Mountains is providing this advance notice to rural residents to advise that the annual noxious weed control program to manage Wild Chervil will be continuing for 2020.

The pesticide application will be conducted by a licensed technician and only applied to grass roadside areas that appear to be visually unkempt and where there is evidence of noxious weeds. In addition, a map has been included in this notice to help identify the approximate areas where the pesticide will be sprayed.

The noxious weed control program is regulated under the Weed Control Act and is used to control and eradicate Wild Chervil, which is deemed as a noxious weed in the Province of Ontario. The spraying will occur over four consecutive days, between the middle of May to early June, depending upon the weather, and the Town will issue a formal notice on the newsroom of the Town website before the spraying starts.

Opt-out of Pesticide Spraying and Do Not Spray Signs

To opt-out of pesticide spraying on the road allowance fronting a property, residents should contact the Town to receive a 'Do Not Spray' sign that can be installed on the road allowance at the limits of the property's frontage. In addition, the contractors have been advised to only apply the pesticide to grass roadside areas that appear to be visually unkempt and where there is evidence of Wild Chervil.

It is important to note that Under the Provincial Weed Control Act, the Town is required to control Wild Chervil. Regardless of posted signs, unmaintained sections of the Town road allowance will still be sprayed if there is evidence of wild chervil.

If you have questions about this process or would like to request a sign, please call 519-599-3131 ext. 276. If you live along a County Road, please direct your inquiries or questions to 519-376-7337 or via email at roads@grey.ca.

Proactive Monitoring & Cooperative Compliance

The Town remains committed to ensuring that the spread of Wild Chervil is managed and controlled. To that end, the Town recently appointed an additional Weed Inspector who will be trained on Wild Chervil identification and who will be available to assist residents. Enforcement of the Town's Noxious Weed Bylaw continues to place emphasis on education and cooperative compliance. In addition, Town staff will be monitoring Wild Chervil throughout the season in an effort to assess effectiveness of control and reducing spread.

Shared Stewardship

Wild Chervil is detrimental to agricultural lands. The Town encourages all property owners and residents to actively identify and eliminate Wild Chervil on their own properties in fields, lawns and gardens to help reduce the spread of this noxious weed. To assist with identification and elimination options, please visit the following Wild Chervil FAQ page on the Town website:

<https://www.thebluemountains.ca/roads-drainage.cfm>

Additional Information on Wild Chervil can be found by visiting the Ontario Invading Species Awareness Program website: <http://www.invadingspecies.com/wild-chervil/>

It is also important to understand that Wild chervil can be confused with Queen Anne's lace (*Daucus carota*). However, the leaves of wild chervil are more distinctively fernlike in shape. The umbels of Queen Anne's lace have bracts below them, while the umbels of wild chervil do not have bracts. Wild chervil usually flowers in mid- to late spring; Queen Anne's lace flowers later in the season. <https://cisma-suasco.org/invasive/wild-chervil/>

Road Jurisdiction

It is also important to understand that the Town of The Blue Mountains will only be spraying rural roads that are within the jurisdiction of the Town of Blue Mountains.

All County roads are within the jurisdiction of County of Grey, which administers their own noxious weed control program. For information, please visit: www.grey.ca

What is Wild Chervil?

Wild chervil is a herbaceous biennial or short-lived perennial from the parsley family, introduced to North America from Europe. It was first brought to North America as part of European wildflower seed mix used for plantings along hedgerows and meadows.

This species is short-lived, forming a rosette of only leaves in the first year, then flowering and producing seeds in the second year. As a heavy seed producer, it is easily spread to new locations. Wild chervil has few checks on its population in North America and can quickly take over an area, displacing native species and forming dense stands that are difficult to control.

Source: Ontario's Invading Species Awareness Program

What Chemical is Being Sprayed?

The licensed contractor will be using Truvist Herbicide, which contains the active ingredients, Chlorsulfuron and Aminocyclopyrachlor. PCP Registration Number 30920 in combination with Hasten NT Spray Adjuvant, which contains active ingredients Methyl and ethyl oleate (esterified vegetable oil). PCP Registration Number 28277 under the Pest Control Products Act. Truvist is an approved herbicide shown to be effective in controlling Wild Chervil along the Town road allowance.

To learn more or to view a detailed FAQ regarding the noxious weed control program, please visit: www.thebluemountains.ca/roads-drainage.cfm

For more information, please contact:

Operations Department

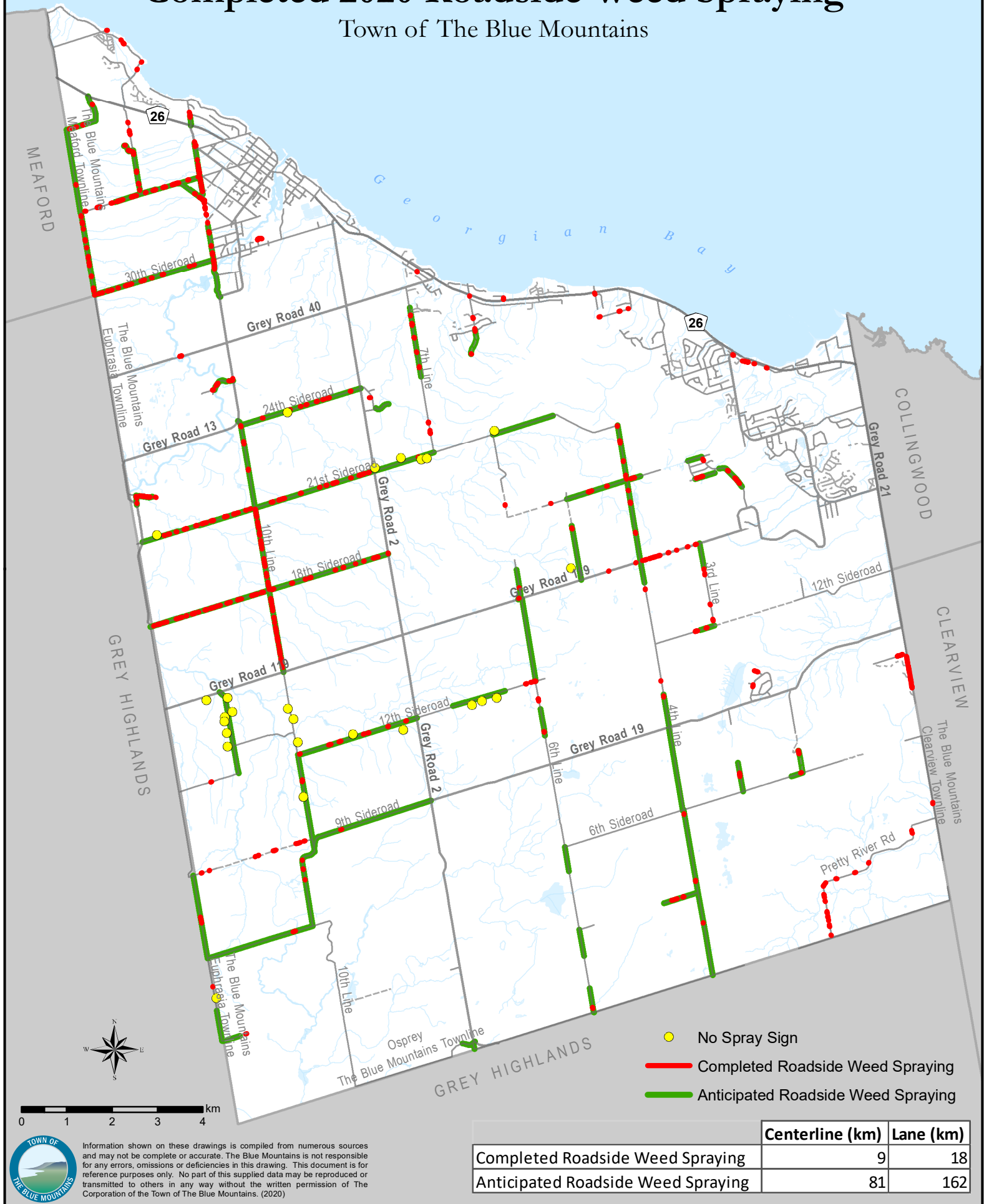
519-599-3131 ext. 276

Councillor Andrea Matrosovs

519-599-3131 ext. 406

Completed 2020 Roadside Weed Spraying

Town of The Blue Mountains



- No Spray Sign
- Completed Roadside Weed Spraying
- Anticipated Roadside Weed Spraying

| | Centerline (km) | Lane (km) |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Completed Roadside Weed Spraying | 9 | 18 |
| Anticipated Roadside Weed Spraying | 81 | 162 |



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