



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 3
Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council
June 7, 2018

TO: Chair and Members of Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council

Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY:

Brad Anguish, Director, Parks and Recreation

Original Signed

Jane Fraser, A/Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: June 7, 2018

SUBJECT: Sullivan's Pond Aquatic Weeds

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

January 11, 2018 Harbour East - Marine Drive Community Council meeting:

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee:

THAT Harbour East – Marine Drive Community Council request a staff report regarding possible options for cutting or reducing the aquatic weeds in Sullivan's Pond in the Halifax and Area Model Yacht Club course.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter

Agreements, (S.75) (1)

- The Municipality may agree with any person for the provision of a service or a capital facility that the Municipality is authorized to provide.

BACKGROUND

At the November 2, 2017 Harbour East – Marine Drive Community Council meeting, a presentation was given by the Halifax and Area Model Yacht Club regarding the Club's activities at Sullivan's Pond. The Club races two types of model boats on a course situated on the west side of the Pond using approximately ¼ of the Pond's total area (see Attachment A). The Club races on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. The Club indicates that Sullivan's Pond is one of the best courses in North America due to the prevailing winds, its layout, urban setting, and the shore walls that allow participants to easily get their boats in and out of the Pond. The Club also attracts a steady stream of spectators, adding to the vitality of the park.

The Club does not book the Park for these events and does not pay any user fees.

The issue facing the Club is the aquatic weeds as they can tangle up the model boats once they reach the surface. For several weeks each year the Club is prevented from using Sullivan's Pond due to plant growth. The weed growth is a relatively new change in the environmental conditions at Sullivan's Pond, having only arisen as an issue over the last few years.

The Club has proven to be very successful and has produced national and international champions. The club would like to be in the position to host regattas in Dartmouth, but they currently cannot because there are no guarantees as to when the weeds will shut down their activities.

DISCUSSION

A similar problem occurred upstream of Sullivan's Pond in Lake Banook and Lake Micmac where aquatic weeds were impacting safe boating operations for pleasure craft and canoe/kayaks on and around the Municipally-owned designated race course. In that case, consultants hired to study weed management options recommended weed harvesting, rather than pesticide application, dredging, or other treatments.

On February 2, 2018, Parks Operations' staff met onsite with the contractor that performed the weed harvesting in Lake Banook and Lake Micmac, along with a representative from the model yacht club, to review the race course area that is impacted by the weeds. The purpose of the meeting was to identify the area of concern and how the contractor would perform the weed harvesting.

The use of this pond for this activity starts in April and goes to the end of October. Typically, the weeds at Sullivan's Pond have impacted the group anytime between July and September. Weed harvesting (one-time) could take place in June.

Harvesting Options

There are 2 options that can be considered for cutting or reducing the aquatic weeds in Sullivan's Pond.

- 1) Dredge the pond to void it of all weeds in the Halifax and Area Model Yacht Club course route.
- 2) Harvest the weeds in the Halifax and Area Model Yacht Club course route.

The most favourable option is to harvest the weeds from the pond (utilizing sustainable practices) in a similar approach to the weed harvesting activities in Lake Banook and Lake Micmac. By utilizing special harvesting equipment, this option is the most environmentally sensitive approach. Removing the weeds through dredging could potentially upset the spawning cycles of aquatic life and overall pond ecosystem dynamics. Also, this harvesting approach does not require a provincial water course permit by the Department of the Environment or Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

2018 is the third and final year of the weed harvesting project in Lake Banook and Lake Micmac. The results of this work, along with the findings of the upcoming Lake Pollution Control Study for these same lakes, should provide a better understanding of this watershed, along with options for management. Parks staff recommends waiting until the results are in from these scientific research efforts. Lake Micmac and Lake Banook are in a subwatershed of the Shubenacadie River system that originates with Lake Charles and is

shared with Red Bridge Pond and Sullivan's Pond. Findings from the study may shed light on the entire river system's nuisance weed germination factors and potential remedies for future control of nuisance weed growth and spread.

Staff has received a quote of approximately \$10,000 to harvest the weeds in the requested location (see Attachment A). This service level is not currently budgeted in the approved 2018/19 Budget & Business Plan for Parks & Recreation, therefore, a funding source will need to be identified for the weed harvesting within Sullivan's Pond to advance. Staff would note that it appears the Halifax and Area Model Yacht Club is the sole beneficiary of any weed harvesting program at Sullivan's Pond.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications resulting from this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Halifax and Area Model Yacht Club was engaged for the purposes of this information report.

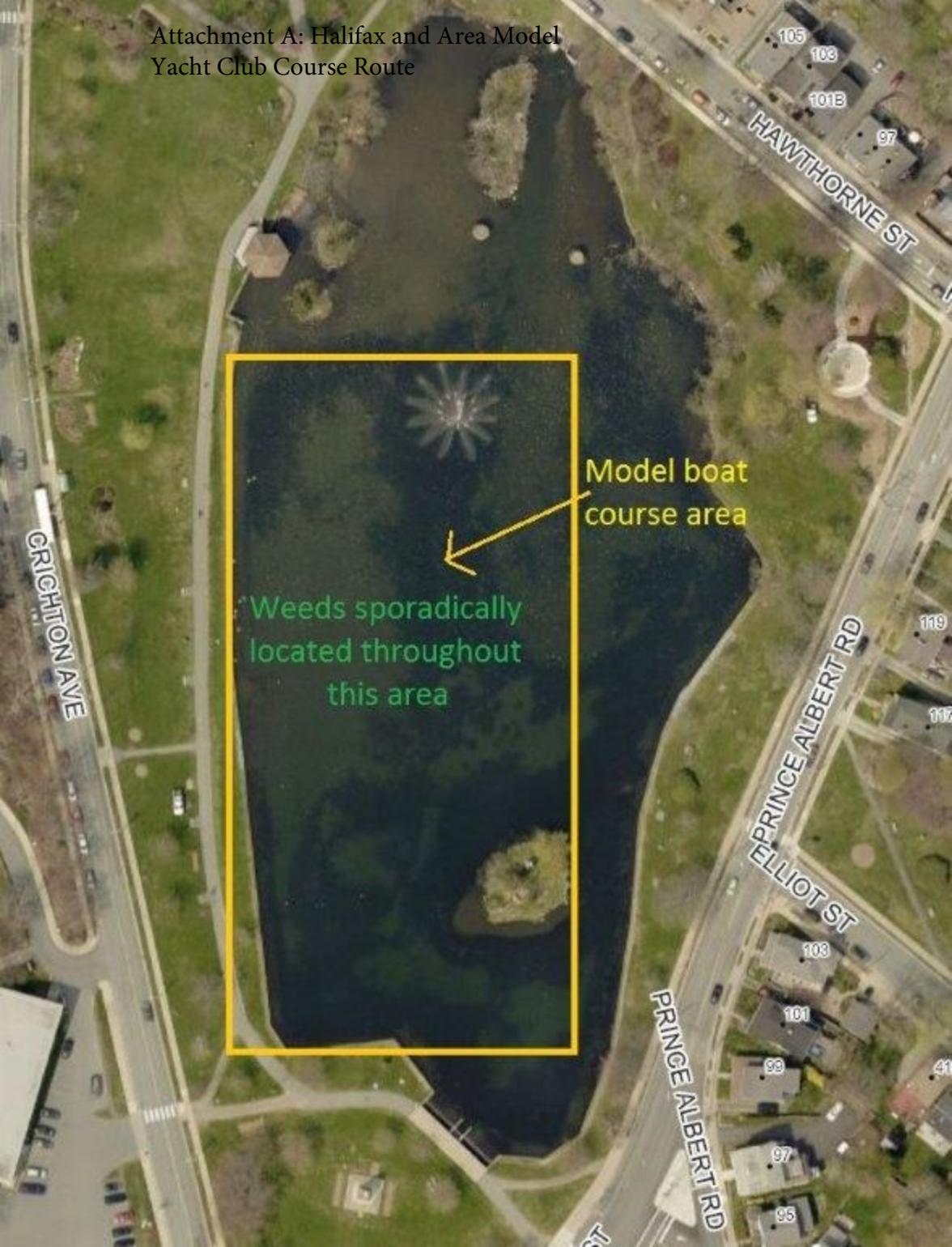
ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Halifax and Area Model Yacht Club Course Route

A copy of this report can be obtained online at halifax.ca or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Rob Mullane Superintendent Park East, 902.490.5819.

Attachment A: Halifax and Area Model
Yacht Club Course Route



CRICHTON AVE

HAWTHORNE ST

Model boat
course area

Weeds sporadically
located throughout
this area

PRINCE ALBERT RD
ELLIOT ST

PRINCE ALBERT RD