

Good evening dear Chair and dear Councillors,

We are here tonight to discuss the ways of controlling noxious weeds in the Township.

We live on Rosetta Road and for years we have been doing all we can to avoid the spraying of the part of the Rosetta Road and the 9 Concession A Lanark. These are the roads we walk every day, and we care for our neighbourhood, our waters and Nature surrounding us.



For several years the Council has voted for the roadside spraying of wild parsnip.

However, the way the road side spraying was handled last year was unacceptable. I had shared my experience with all of you in the email sent on February 8th and therefore I will not repeat all the details here again. The main problem was the wrong timing of the spraying. It took place weeks before any wild parsnip was visible and random plants were sprayed along the roads.

It is clear that the contractor, who did the herbicide spraying, didn't know how the wild parsnip plant looks like, or he just didn't care.

The Report #RDS-2026-23 Noxious weed control /Roadside spraying program update from January 27, 2026 states:

“Targeted spot spraying within the Township was completed in mid-June, 2025 by a contractor procured by the County. June is identified as the ideal month for the initial spray program as this is often before the plants have the opportunity to go to seed.”



This picture was taken on June 17th on the 9th Concession A Lanark and it shows the Golden Rod plants dying off after being sprayed with the herbicide.

There was no wild parsnip anywhere around.



This picture was taken on June 25th along the Rosetta Road.

The wild parsnip plant is the same height as the grass around it.



We pulled the wild parsnip along this section of Rosetta Road on July 14th.

The plants are full height, sticking up way above the grass and very easy to identify. They just started to flower, perfect time to pull them out.

This was also the week when one of our neighbouring Townships, Mississippi Mills, did the spraying.

As you can see, timing is everything.

Based on the Staff report #RDS-2026-28, presented today, we are about to repeat the same procedure, and I am afraid that the same mistake can happen again.

From page 2 of the report: “The RFP specified that the contractor shall commence work on or about 25 May 2026 (subject to growth and weather conditions), and that the first application shall be complete before Monday, 6 July 2026 (subject to conditions).”

I have just demonstrated with pictures that even the latest date July 6 may be too early to spray.



Are we going to spray the toxic chemicals randomly around the roadsides of our township in June and let the wild parsnip spread freely for the rest of the summer again?

It is clear that the arbitrary dates *“as recommended by the County”* are wrong and in contradiction to its own **County of Lanark IPM Vegetation Management Plan**, which speaks about the *“herbicide application when foliage has fully emerged, ideally before flowering”*.

But we can avoid any confusion and misuse of the toxic chemicals by voting for option 3 presented in the report.

Option 3 – Council may decide to opt-out of spraying the noxious weeds, and to only conduct roadside mowing and hand pulling to address noxious weeds within the township.

It is a much better targeted approach. Only the wild parsnip will get removed, and hiring local people instead of outside contractors would benefit the community. No additional surveys and other paperwork would be required, no mistakes will be made and both our environment and the health of local residents will be protected.

Please choose this year a different approach and vote for option 3.

Our community would appreciate it very much.

Thank you for your attention.