

CITY OF BURNABY

ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

RE: BIOLOGICAL CONTROL AGENTS FOR PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS

AND

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

1992 NOVEMBER 18

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Burnaby Council request that Burnaby Lake be considered by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; and the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks as a candidate site for the release of the three insect species approved for biological control against the purple loosestrife.
2. THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to the Parks and Recreation Commission for their concurrence and recommendation of support to Burnaby Council.

R E P O R T

1.0 BACKGROUND

Purple loosestrife, an introduced species with no natural enemies in North America, has invaded meadows, wetlands, and disturbed areas and caused significant ecological damage to wildlife habitat in Canada and the United States. One of the major infestations of purple loosestrife in the Lower Mainland is located at Burnaby Lake. An extensive screening program identified three European insects as appropriate biological control agents for purple loosestrife in North America, and the insects were approved for release in the United States. In 1992 July, the insects were approved for release in Canada, subject to provincial endorsement.

In 1992 September, the UBCM adopted a resolution, proposed by the Comox-Strathcona Regional District and amended by the City of Burnaby, requesting the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to prohibit the sale and cultivation of all varieties of purple loosestrife and to evaluate the appropriateness of releasing the three insects for biological control of the plant. On 1992 September 21, a copy of the purple loosestrife resolution adopted by Burnaby Council was sent to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The Minister's response (attached) indicating that the three insect species have been approved for release in the province was received at the regular council meeting of 1992 November 02.

BCIT students are collecting baseline information on the distribution, density and condition of purple loosestrife at Burnaby Lake as part of BCIT's 1992/93 Burnaby Lake studies. BCIT has also indicated their willingness to assist in monitoring any release of biological control agents against purple loosestrife at Burnaby Lake.

INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION:

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2.0 SITE SELECTION FOR RELEASE OF BIOLOGICAL CONTROL AGENTS

Staff have contacted the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to obtain additional information on the release of the biological control agents. Mr. Roy Cranston of the Ministry provided the following information.

- o The three insect species are being propagated by Agriculture Canada in Lethbridge, Alberta.
- o The availability of the biological control agents will allow two initial releases of the insects in British Columbia in 1993. One release will likely be on the coast; one release will likely be in the interior.
- o Mr. Cranston and his colleagues will work with the Fish and Wildlife Branch to select the release sites.
- o Selection criteria for release sites have not been finalized but will likely include: accessibility, protection from disturbance, size of purple loosestrife infestation, etc.
- o Selection of sites will probably occur in late November.
- o If "extra" insects of any of the three species are available, they may be released at additional sites.

On the basis of the foregoing, the Environment and Waste Management Committee is recommending that Burnaby request that Burnaby Lake be designated as a candidate site for the release of the three insect species approved for use against purple loosestrife. The Environment and Waste Management Committee will keep Council and the Commission informed if it is in receipt of any new information on this subject (including the selection of release sites).

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor L. Rankin
Chair

Councillor D. P. Drummond

Councillor D. Evans

Councillor D. Lawson

Councillor C. Redman

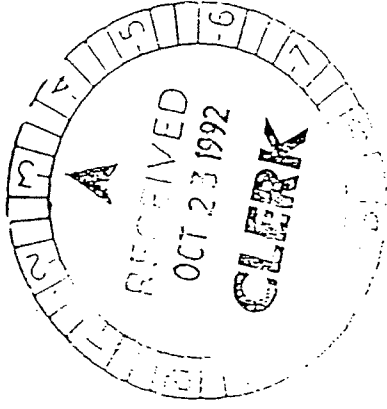


Province of
British Columbia

Ministry of
Agriculture, Fisheries
and Food

Parliament Buildings
Victoria
British Columbia
V8V 1X4
Telephone: (604) 387-1978

OFFICE OF THE
MINISTER



October 15, 1992

His Worship Mayor William J. Copeland
and Members of Council
The Corporation of the District
of Burnaby
4949 Canada Way
Burnaby, British Columbia
V5G 1M2

Dear Mayor Copeland and Members of Council:

Thank you for your letter of September 21, 1992, regarding the weed purple loosestrife.

The Biological Control Committee of the British Columbia Plant Protection Advisory Council has evaluated the appropriateness of using the three insect species for biological control and has recommended approval. As a result, my Ministry will request Agriculture Canada to release the agents for distribution in British Columbia as soon as sufficient quantities are available.

As you know from our recent discussions, I am committed to listing purple loosestrife as a noxious weed if effective control measures can be found.

Yours truly,

Bill Barlee

Bill Barlee
Minister

cc: Comox-Strathcona Regional District

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