

Via email to: clerk@toronto.ca



201-159 King St.
Peterborough, Ontario
K9J 2R8

Re: Reference item MM37.16

Mayor Rob Ford and Members of Toronto City Council
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

July 12, 2013

Dear Mayor Ford, and Toronto City Councillors:

The Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations writes today in support of this motion MM37.16, moved by Councillor Mike Layton. The City of Toronto should take a leadership role, and strongly encourage the Ontario, and federal Ministers of the Environment and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to urge U.S. authorities to quickly and fully implement a preferred solution to the invasive carp issue.

Keeping Asian carp out of the Great Lakes needs to be a top priority on both sides of the border.

For over 50 years, FOCA (www.foca.on.ca) has been a supporter of sustainable aquatic environments, and the communities they support. Our 50,000 member families, many with primary residences in the GTA and other Great Lakes' communities, are very concerned about the potential impacts of introduced species and the affect they will have on our quality of life in Ontario. We have already seen the impacts from the many existing and looming invasive species introductions, including forest pests like the Emerald Ash Borer, aquatics like the Zebra and Quagga Mussel. These invaders have proven to alter the environment, damaged our economy, and negatively altered our communities in dramatic fashion. The Asian Carp has the potential to have significant impacts on all of us, no matter which Great (or not as Great) lake that we live, recreate or fish on. There is abundant evidence that the Asian carp would dramatically harm the health of the Great Lakes ecosystem, and the boating and tourism industries, all of which are critical to the City of Toronto.

If Asian carp were to establish in the Great Lakes, they could rapidly dominate the ecosystem. Because they are prolific breeders, have no natural predators, and can consume as much as 20 per cent of their body weight in a day, they can monopolize food sources and push out native species. Asian carp essentially have the ability remake an aquatic ecosystem by altering food webs to meet their needs. Commercial and recreational fishing industries would be severely affected.

Asian carp could also be catastrophic to the Great Lakes' \$16 billion boating and tourism industries, and also to Ontario's many inland lakes. These fish pose a physical threat to boaters because they can leap out of the water, creating a hazard as the fish crash into boats, hitting people and damaging equipment.

We have a narrow window of opportunity to act. Once established, there is little chance of eradicating Asian carp from the Great Lakes. Protecting the health of the Great Lakes and connected rivers requires immediate and decisive action.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me if you require any further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry Rees". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Terry Rees, Executive Director
Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations
trees@foca.on.ca
705-749-3622