

**Meeting Notes**  
**Sifton Bog Environmentally Significant Area**  
**Oakridge Secondary School, October 9, 2014**  
**Master Plan Update - Community Input**

**Presentations**

- Conservation Master Plan Background - James McKay, City of London [see presentation #1](#)
- Invasive Species Update - Brandon Williamson, Upper Thames River Conservation Authority [see presentation #2](#)
- Water Monitoring Update - James McKay, City of London [see presentation #3](#)
- Looking Ahead to 2015 - James McKay, City of London [see presentation #4](#)

**Community Input (Questions-Q, Answers-A, Comments-C)**

*Invasive Species:*

- Q. What should homeowners be doing related to invasive species?
- A. Help with monitoring, don't dump any garden waste in ESA's, choose plant species wisely, contact UTRCA ESA staff with any questions, visit [www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca](http://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca) for more information on choosing or identifying species.
- Q. Is there an issue with tall ornamental grasses?
- A. Yes, many are invasive such as Phragmites, visit this site for native species [http://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/files/GMI\\_Booklet\\_spreads\\_2011\\_Final\\_web.pdf](http://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/files/GMI_Booklet_spreads_2011_Final_web.pdf)
- Q. Is Garlic Mustard a problem in the bog
- A. Yes
- Q. Is there an Adopt an ESA Program at Sifton bog?
- A. Yes
- Q. What was the largest Goldfish removed from Redmond's Pond
- A. 9 inches
- C. Concern about hydro (London Hydro) staff clearing under hydro line on west side of bog. Concern if there is buckthorn in this area.
- Q. Can the City recommend cutting considerations for under the hydro line?

*Deer:*

- Q. What is the current status of deer in the bog?
- A. Number of deer in the bog has diminished - there is a carrying capacity of 10 deer in the bog. Currently fewer than 10 deer in the bog, "not feeding deer" message seems to be getting out to the public.
- Q. Are there any results from the deer exclosure study?
- A. No, to date the results have been inconclusive.

*Water Monitoring:*

- Q. Are the old piezometer water monitoring stations still being used?
- A. Yes, and more stations are being added in the lagg zone
- Q. Are the water levels changing over time?
- A. The bog water cycle is dependent upon precipitation and evapotranspiration and there was some drainage in the past.
- Q. Where was the Kirk Drain?
- A. It was a tile drain graded to flow to the Thames River to allow peat harvest and growing celery in the bog many years ago. This drain has been capped for many years.
- Q. Is the old City well on lower Old Hyde Park Road still in use?
- A. This well remains as a groundwater resource and back up well for the City.

*Land Use:*

- Q. Has the City of London been able to acquire the land immediately to the east of Sifton Bog?
- A. No, several attempts have been made with the landowner to purchase the property without success to date.
- Q. Is there a valve on the east side of the bog for bringing more surface water to the bog from the development area?
- A. Yes, if more water is necessary for the bog, a valve can be opened to obtain roof water from the houses in this area.

*Trails:*

- C. The boardwalk to Redmond's Pond will need attention in 3-4 years. As the boardwalk is in a nature reserve zone, will need to determine the future of this boardwalk. The cost of replacement is high.
- C. Please include Thames Valley Trail Association in all trail plans for Environmentally Significant Areas in London.