

## THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP:

1. Get rid of invasive plants on your property.
2. Purchase or cut wood on the island.
3. Report invasive and new species.
4. Never release your aquarium plants, fish, or animals.
5. Plant native plants in your garden.
6. Do not dispose of invasive plants in garbage or compost. Burn them.



Help Protect Georgina Island's

Trees and Forests To Learn more

go to: [www.invadingspecies.com](http://www.invadingspecies.com) or

visit the York Region or MNR

Websites

**Giant Hogweed** (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) is a perennial plant and a member of the carrot family. It is a garden ornamental from southwest Asia that is naturalizing in North America and becoming more common in southern and central Ontario. Giant Hogweed has the potential to spread readily and grows along roadsides, ditches and streams. It invades old fields and native habitats such as open woodlands.

The clear watery sap of Giant hogweed contains toxins that can cause severe dermatitis (inflammation of the skin). You can get severe burns if you get the sap on your skin and the skin is then exposed to sunlight. Symptoms occur within 48 hours and consist of painful blisters. Purplish scars may form that last for many years. Eye contact with the sap has been reported (in the media and by various web sites) to cause temporary or permanent blindness. However, evidence of permanent blindness linked to exposure to Giant hogweed cannot be substantiated by any existing research. Coming in contact with Cow parsnip and Wild parsnip can cause similar reactions. Do not try to remove Giant Hogweed call a Professional.



GIANT  
HOGWEED

### Chippewas of Georgina Island Community Climate Change Adaptation Program & The Environmental Co-ordinator

Georgina Island Band Office

R.R. #2 Box N-13

Sutton West, On. L0E 1R0

Contact Kerry-Ann Charles or

Rebecca Trumble

at (705) 437-1337



## CHIPPEWAS OF GEORGINA ISLAND

### INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES

Climate plays an integral role in shaping the diversity of our natural ecosystems. Climate change has the potential to alter ecosystem structure and function to an extent that will pose considerable threats to plant and animal species. These changes will also affect species richness and biodiversity and may be beyond the limits of adaptation.

**Invasive Plants can be poisonous to people and animals causing burns & rashes.**



**Wild Parsnip:** **CAUTION** some people develop a rash from contact with wild parsnip. The root is edible. **Use extreme caution its' sap causes burns. Use gloves to pick.**

Wild Parsnip



**Invasive Dog Strangling Vine**

Dog-strangling vine prefers open sunny areas, but can grow well in light shade. It grows aggressively up to two metres high by wrapping itself around trees and other plants, or trailing along the ground. Dense patches of the vine can "strangle" plants and small trees.

Dog strangling vine can affect insects like the Monarch Butterfly because it looks similar to native Milkweed, the butterfly will lay its eggs on it but dog strangling vine can not sustain its larvae.



**Buckthorn:** Buckthorn thrives in a variety of habitats and forms dense thickets that crowd and shade out native plants. It can alter nitrogen levels in the soil, creating better conditions for its own growth and discouraging the growth of native species. Common Buckthorn is usually the first shrub to leaf out in the spring and the last to drop its leaves late in the fall. It often grows two to three metres tall. Occasionally it reaches six metres, with a trunk up to 25 centimetres in diameter. Smooth, dark green leaves are finely toothed, 2.5 to six centimetres long, and arranged in opposing pairs along the stem. Most branches older than one opposing pairs along the stem. Most branches older than one year end in a short, sharp thorn. Flowers have two to six small yellowish-to-green petals. Common buckthorn produces clusters of berry-like black fruit in late summer and fall.



Common Buckthorn

**Purple Loosestrife:**

Purple Loosestrife is a very hardy perennial which can rapidly degrade wetlands and diminish their value for wildlife habitat. Many plants, mammals, birds, insects, amphibians, and reptiles rely on a healthy wetland for their survival.



Purple Loosestrife

**Phragmites**

Invasive Phragmites is an aggressive plant that spreads quickly and out-competes native species for water and nutrients. It releases toxins from its roots into the soil to hinder the growth of and kill surrounding plants. While it prefers areas of standing water, its roots can grow to extreme lengths, allowing it to survive in relatively dry areas. It has stems that are tan or beige in colour with blue-green leaves and large, dense seedheads



Phragmites

**Garlic Mustard:** Chemicals in garlic mustard appear to be toxic to the eggs of the butterfly, as evidenced by their failure to hatch when laid on garlic mustard plants. Many native wild flowers that complete their life cycles in the springtime (e.g., spring beauty, wild ginger, bloodroot, hepatica, toothworts, and trilliums) occur in the same habitat as garlic mustard. Once introduced to an area, garlic mustard outcompetes native plants by aggressively monopolizing light, moisture, nutrients, soil and space.



GARLIC MUSTARD