

April 8, 2019

City of London, Long Range Planning and Sustainability Department
ATTN: Linda McDougall

Dear Ms. McDougall,

The Invasive Species Centre commends the City of London for the excellent work completed under its London Invasive Plant Management Strategy. Not only was London the first municipality in Ontario to create, approve and implement an invasive species strategy, but your implementation can now act as a model for other Ontario municipalities to follow. Beyond the tremendous ecological benefits of this strategy, London is enabling community-led engagement around invasive species control such as the notable buckthorn removal work undertaken at the Kilally Meadows Environmentally Significant Area.

The implementation of the strategy has been thoughtful and well-advised. Use of provincial standards for invasive species management as well as investing in biological control efforts such as those targeting purple loosestrife and dog-strangling vine are but two examples of a thoughtful approach to addressing established invasive species within your municipality.

City staff have also worked to develop partnerships with organizations such as the Invasive Species Centre to work collaboratively on invasive species issues facing London and other communities alike. Recent examples include partnering to deliver a workshop on oak wilt, and invasive disease threatening native oak trees. Staff from the City of London also recently participated in the Invasive Species Centre's municipal economic survey, which helps all Ontarians better understand just how costly invasive species are at the community level. With the average Ontario municipality spending \$3.06 per person, per year on invasive species control, London is making strides towards costs saving through prevention and action. The Invasive Species Centre looks forward to working with the City and the broader London community to help prevent and reduce the spread of invasive species.

Sincerely,



Tracey Cooke
Executive Director