

Snapshots

Noxious Weeds

- At our annual meeting with Minister Wowchuk in 2008, we discussed a wide range of weed control issues that basically stem from the need to review *The Noxious Weeds Act*.
- In fact, we have seven active resolutions relating to improving weed control and securing more Provincial resources for this effort.
- The only way to effectively control weeds is through a coordinated effort by the Province and municipalities.
- Last February, Minister Wowchuk committed that her department would initiate a review of the act, but we are not aware of any action on this commitment.
- We will be meeting with Minister Wowchuk in April to discuss various issues and weed control will certainly be on the agenda.

Beaver Control Program

- The AMM recently met with Minister Struthers to discuss the topic of beaver control.
- The bulk of the Province's control effort is administering the Problem Beaver Management Program that pays trappers for every beaver pelt collected.

- One of the key municipal concerns with this program is ensuring that the program's compensation rates are high enough to encourage trapping.
- We were pleased to see the Province commit to increase the rates from \$15 to \$20 per pelt from October 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009.
- However, this increased rate should be maintained beyond this since beavers often cause problems year-round.
- Another concern is that the Province should commit more efforts to managing the beaver population on Crown lands.
- The current program doesn't address these areas and dams on Crown land can have major impacts for neighbouring municipalities.
- Minister Struthers indicated his department will be reviewing the Problem Beaver Program within the next few months and is prepared to meet with AMM to identify possible changes.
- The AMM was involved in the last program review and the Province accepted some of our recommendations, so we are hoping to engage in an equally productive process this time.