

May 15, 2017

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**Did you know? Weed control in Campbell River**

Periodically, beginning in late spring/early summer, the City applies herbicide as needed to curbs and sidewalks, fence lines, sports fields, gravel walkways and other landscaped areas.

Beginning the week of May 23, weather permitting, targeted spraying will begin in some areas.

*“In accordance with the City’s integrated pest management policy, we use a number of methods to control weeds in parks, along roads and at the airport, which can include the application of commercially available pesticides when alternative methods are not viable,”* explains Ron Neufeld, deputy city manager and general manager of operations for the City. *“An outbreak of major weeds like plantain and dandelion on sports fields can destroy the turf, which would mean costly replacement if we didn’t occasionally use this type of management to preserve the field. Along roadways, weeds accumulate in the seam between the curb and sidewalk. As they grow, die and decay, this builds up organic material, which, with the freeze-thaw cycle will eventually break out the curb – which leads to costly repairs. A few species of noxious weeds such as knotweed and giant hogweed are also difficult to control by any other means, and, under the BC Weed Control act, the City is required to manage these.”*

City employees are certified applicators and undertake this work following recognized best management practices.

Application along roadways takes place starting at 5 a.m. to ensure the product has dried and is considered safe before most people and pets are out walking. Temporary signs are also placed at the application site to notify people.

The herbicide will not be applied during rainy or windy conditions, so the schedule could change depending on the weather.

*“We appreciate the help of property owners in areas where herbicide will not be applied assisting the City’s efforts to control weeds by scraping vegetation from curbs and sidewalks to slow their growth and the related build-up of organic material in the seams,”* Neufeld adds.

Under the City’s nuisance bylaw, homeowners are not permitted to apply a pesticide or herbicide to any boulevard.

The City expects to apply herbicide twice this year in problem areas, and aims to reduce frequency of the herbicide application in future years.

More information is available at [www.campbellriver.ca](http://www.campbellriver.ca) under Your City Hall / Green City/ Environmental Protection / Pesticide Awareness.

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