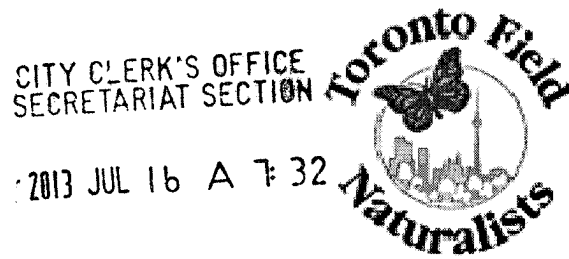


mm37.16.4



Toronto Field Naturalists  
2 Carlton St. #1519  
Toronto ON M5B 1J3  
office@torontofieldnaturalists.org

Re: Reference item #MM37.16

Mayor Rob Ford and  
Members of Toronto City Council  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Mayor Ford and Toronto City Councillors:

I am writing on behalf of Toronto Field Naturalists to support motion MM37.16, moved by Councillor Mike Layton. Keeping Asian carp out of the Great Lakes needs to be a very high priority on both sides of the border. The City of Toronto should do what it can by writing a letter to the Ontario and federal Ministers of the Environment and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to urge U.S. authorities to quickly and fully implement a preferred solution to the invasive carp issue.

Toronto Field Naturalists have been promoting a love of nature in Toronto since 1923. We are a 800 member charitable, non-profit organization which stimulates public interest in natural history and encourages the preservation of our natural heritage, which includes the aquatic ecosystems in Toronto.

Evidence from their effects on the Mississippi river system suggests Asian carp will severely harm the health of the Great Lakes ecosystem, and adversely affect boating and tourism industries, if they enter the Great Lakes.

If Asian carp were to establish in the Great Lakes, they could rapidly dominate the ecosystem, as they have done in the Mississippi. Because they are prolific breeders, have no natural predators, and can consume as much as 20 per cent of their body weight in a day, they can monopolize food sources and push out native species. Commercial and recreational fishing industries would be severely affected.

Asian carp could also be catastrophic to the Great Lakes' \$16 billion boating and tourism industries. These fish pose a physical threat to boaters because they leap out of the water when disturbed, creating a hazard as the fish crash into boats, hitting people and damaging equipment.

We have a narrow window of opportunity to act. Once they become established, there is little chance of eradicating Asian carp from the Great Lakes. Protecting the health of the Great Lakes and connected rivers requires immediate and decisive action.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me if you require any further information.

Sincerely,

Bob Kortright

Past President, Toronto Field Naturalists