

## **Noxious invasive plants in the urban setting – lessons learned from practical experience**

Starting with a brief overview of the problems of noxious and invasive species in the human and urban context (social, health, cultural, economic, environmental), some examples shall be given of a variety of tools to deliver effective control of the most serious noxious and invasive species that may be found in a typical city.

Sara will present some low-cost tools created specifically for parks staff tailgate meetings or workshops; simple, effective communication with Parks staff working in the field; an example of a risk management protocol and operational protocol for removing and disposing of Giant Hogweed; the importance of inventory, mapping, timing, the choice of manual, mechanical or chemical options, and pros and cons of methods of pesticide application.

If there is time, the complexities of the legal framework surrounding this topic will be summarised.

Presented by: Sara Rowland, BSc. MSc. MICFor. CEnv.

### **Who is Sara Rowland?**

Sara Rowland is the first Urban Forestry Planner employed at the City of London, the "Forest City".

Upon first leaving school in England, Sara worked as a trainee bank manager but soon realised her vocation lay someplace else! Sara returned to school to take a degree in traditional forestry, focussing on timber and fibre production. Sara then worked as a forest and tree specialist in municipal governments in England for 15 years, and at Barcham Trees, Europe's largest container-grown tree nursery, becoming a Chartered Forester and Chartered Environmentalist along the way. Over the years Sara saw behind the high walls of many top-security estate properties – a particularly memorable visit was to assess the impact on mature trees of the planned re-location of the Royal Windsor Horse Show which meant she got to walk – unaccompanied - around the Queen's extensive private grounds at Windsor Castle.

In 2004 Sara moved to British Columbia to pursue a Master's degree at the University of British Columbia, specialising in forest ecosystem restoration and culminating in publication of a paper exploring the functional ecology of various oil sands forest reclamation treatments in northern Alberta. Sara then worked with the Greater Vancouver Invasive Species Council and the Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council, overseeing and implementing invasive species inventory and control in the field, focussing mostly on Giant Hogweed and Japanese knotweed infestations.

In her current role at the City of London Sara delivers projects including invasive species inventory and control; woodland reclamation and restoration after Emerald Ash Borer and other impacts; writing new by-laws, planning policies, practice notes

and guidelines; administering and enforcing the Tree Conservation By-law and overseeing the development of the City's new Urban Forest Strategy.

Now a Canadian citizen and married since 21 June 2014 to Mark, who is a forester and a Weed Inspector, Sara is settling into a very busy life on a hay farm developing a new woodland garden replacing about three-quarters of an acre of lawn, a change that attracts regular Sunday drive-bys in the summer, and fulfilling a life-long dream to own a horse. She has four. Plus two dogs, four geese, ten ducks - and a freezer full of pork from two heritage-breed pigs.