

July 14, 2010 – Excerpts from Woodstock Sentinel Review

The giant hogweed has arrived in Oxford. The tall plant, a cousin to the smaller common hogweed, can cause extremely adverse skin reactions when touched. Its presence has been confirmed along Oxford Highway 2 between the CN Railway line and the roadway east of Oxford Road 22.

The dangerous part of the giant hogweed is its transparent sap, which can cause extreme reactions when it comes into contact with skin or eyes. Its sap, when in contact with skin, reacts in sunlight and can lead to redness and itching within 24 hours of contact and severe burns over 48 hours. The scarring can last for life since the chemical in the sap can get into skin cells and actually kill the cells. If the sap comes into contact with eyes, it can lead to temporary or permanent blindness.

If the sap comes in contact with skin, it should be immediately washed with soap and water and kept out of the sun for several days afterwards.

If you suspect you have giant hogweed on your property, you can call the Ministry of Natural Resources in Aylmer at 519-773-9241 or call Oxford County's weed inspector Carol Tattersall at 519- 539-0015 ext. 3132.

To read the full article and watch the posted video, go to

<http://www.woodstocksentinelreview.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?archive=true&e=2668072>