

Notice of Railway Maintenance – Ottawa, ON

Removal of hazardous vegetation is being planned in the City of Ottawa to improve safety of train operations in the region.

Ottawa, June 2, 2015 –VIA Rail Canada Inc. is pleased to provide advanced notice that we will be carrying out a vegetation control program along rail lines within the City of Ottawa during the spring and summer of 2015. Our vegetation control program consists of grass, weed, and brush control on and along train tracks in our right of way. This work is important to ensure vegetation adjacent to tracks does not pose hazards to safety, both for our neighbours in the community as well as train passengers and VIA Rail staff.

At VIA Rail, safety is our top priority. If left uncontrolled, vegetation can pose risks to the safe operation of trains, including trackside fires, impaired visibility of train signals at railways crossings, and even tree branches falling onto the tracks. Brush-cutting along the railway corridor will remove all vegetation on our property and any falling or dead trees that pose immediate hazards will be dealt with on a priority basis.

In addition, a Ministry of Environment approved herbicide treatment will be applied to the ballast area, also known as the track bed. This is necessary to completely remove vegetation growth in the track area which could interfere with safe train operations. All of the herbicide application work will be done by Ministry of Environment certified licensed herbicide contractors and applicators in accordance with provincial standards, regulations and guidelines for herbicide use as documented in the *Pesticide Act* and issued by the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.

As such, VIA Rail Canada and its contractors will perform vegetation control in our right of way to eliminate hazardous brush and weeds in the areas indicated on the maps below. This notice is to inform citizens of the upcoming work, specifically along railway adjacent to residences on Ramsgate Private, Marble Crescent, Springland Drive, Cromwell Drive, Colman Street, Avenue O and Avenue P and possibly Flannery Drive.

Figure 1: Alta Vista area vegetation control



Figure 2: Barrhaven area vegetation control (near Moodie Drive and Highway 416)

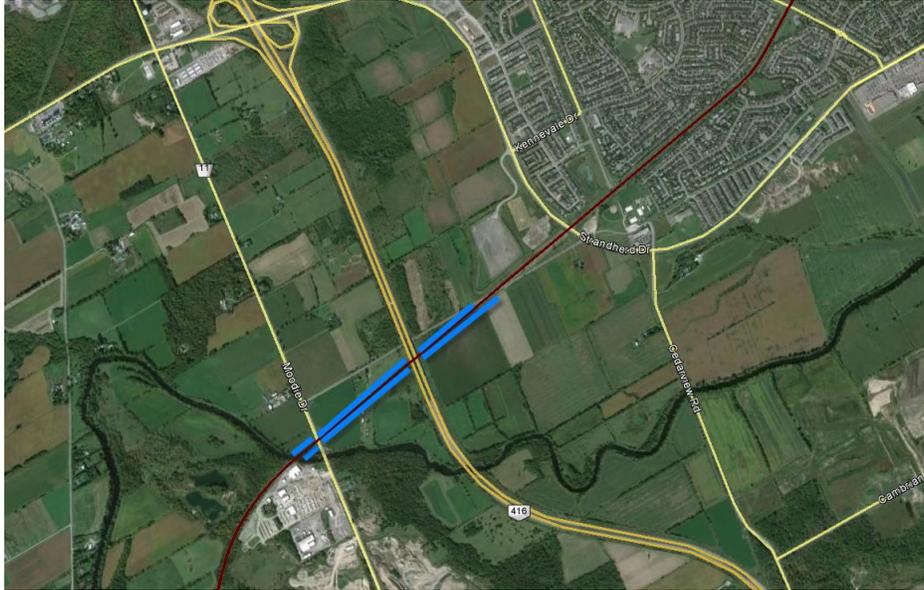
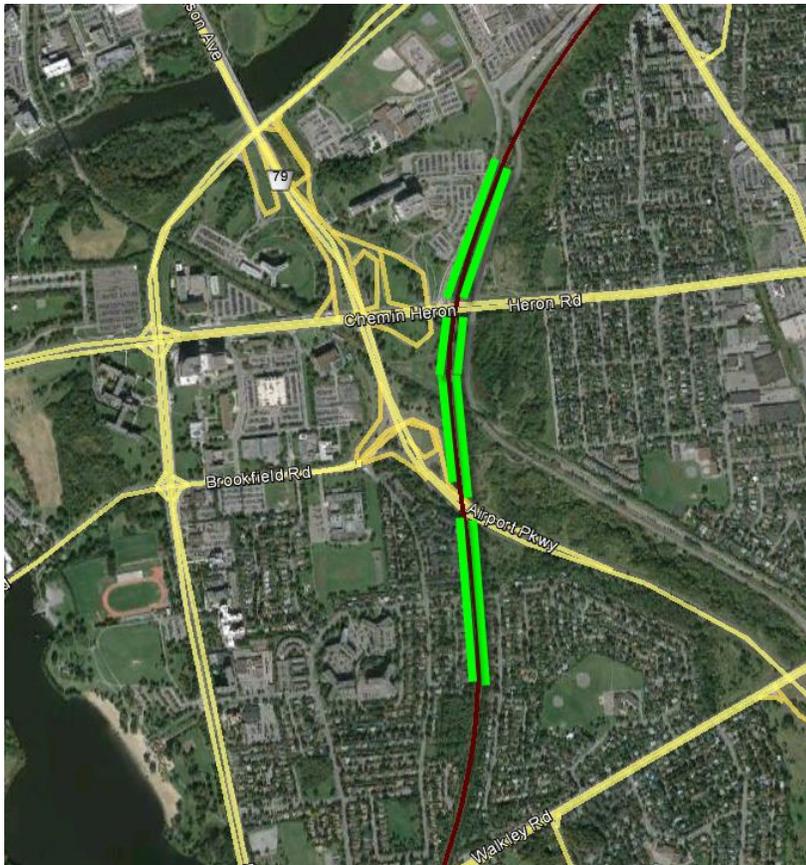


Figure 3: River Ward / Capital Ward vegetation control



About VIA Rail Canada

As Canada's national rail passenger service, VIA Rail Canada (viarail.ca) and its 2,500 employees are mandated to provide safe, efficient and economical passenger transportation service, in both official languages of our country. VIA Rail operates intercity, regional and transcontinental trains linking over 400 communities across Canada, and safely transports nearly four million passengers annually. The Corporation was awarded seven Safety Awards by the Railway Association of Canada over the last eight years, and was the recipient of the 2012 Agent's Choice Award voted by Canadian travel agents and presented by Baxter Travel Media. Since 2007, the Government of Canada has invested almost a billion dollars in VIA Rail.

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