

April 6, 2018

Mr. Andre Rivette, Councillor
City of Cornwall
360 Pitt Street
Cornwall ON K6J 3P9

Dear Councillor Rivette:

I write in response to your question about the health impact of the City of Cornwall's plan to reduce lawn mowing activity across their public properties.

As you can see from the attached map published by Public Health Ontario, most of the Eastern Ontario Health Unit area is now considered endemic or a high risk for the red deer or blacklegged ticks that carry and spread Lyme Disease. As these ticks thrive and grow in grassy and wooded areas, one of the main prevention approaches is to keep grass mowed short as part of an overall landscape management strategy.

For this reason, I would recommend that the City of Cornwall not reduce their lawn/grass mowing activities, as leaving the grass tall would increase the risk of tick growth and the transmission of Lyme Disease to humans and domestic animals.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best Regards,

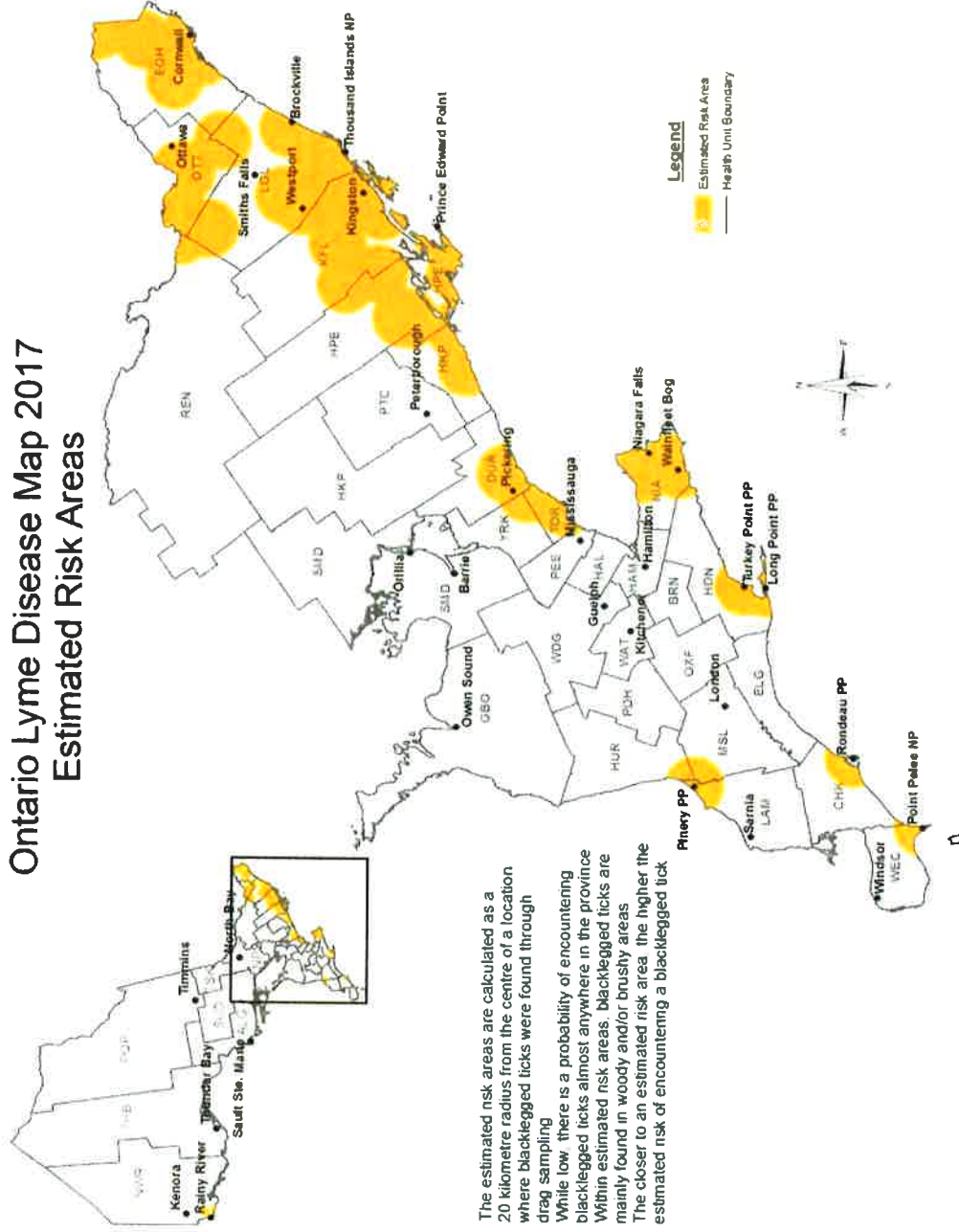


Dr. Paul Roumeliotis, MD, CM, MPH, FRCP(C)
Medical Officer of Health and CEO

PR/nd
Attach.



Ontario Lyme Disease Map 2017 Estimated Risk Areas



- The estimated risk areas are calculated as a 20 kilometre radius from the centre of a location where blacklegged ticks were found through drag sampling
- While low, there is a probability of encountering blacklegged ticks almost anywhere in the province
- Within estimated risk areas, blacklegged ticks are mainly found in woody and/or brushy areas
- The closer to an estimated risk area, the higher the estimated risk of encountering a blacklegged tick

For more information, please visit www.publichealthontario.ca/lymedisease