



Managing introduced Phragmites as communities and drone scouting other invasives

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Ontario Phragmites Action

Invasive Species: Introduction

The risks they pose

- Invasive species: introduced + causes harm
 - Ecosystem
 - Economy
 - Human health
- Reproduce aggressively, for plants often vegetatively
- Often spread/introduced accidentally by us
- Common invaders, emerging threats, and high priority

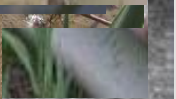


Phragmites australis subsp. australis

The spread of European Common Reed

- Grass introduced from Europe unintentionally, likely shipping ballast
 - Spread today by construction transport corridors, accidental
- Plant methods of spread:
 - Seeds
 - Rhizomes
 - Stolons
 - Adventitious roots
 - Fragments

vegetative



Phragmites australis subsp. australis

The impacts of European Common Reed

- Problematically grows dense, tall, and quickly into monocultures
 - **Ecosystem**: displaced native plants, stuck turtles, lower water table, habitat loss for species at risk
 - **Economic**: lowered property value, management costs, agricultural losses
 - **Human**: can impede drains, block infrastructure access, block sightlines, impede recreational activities, fire hazard

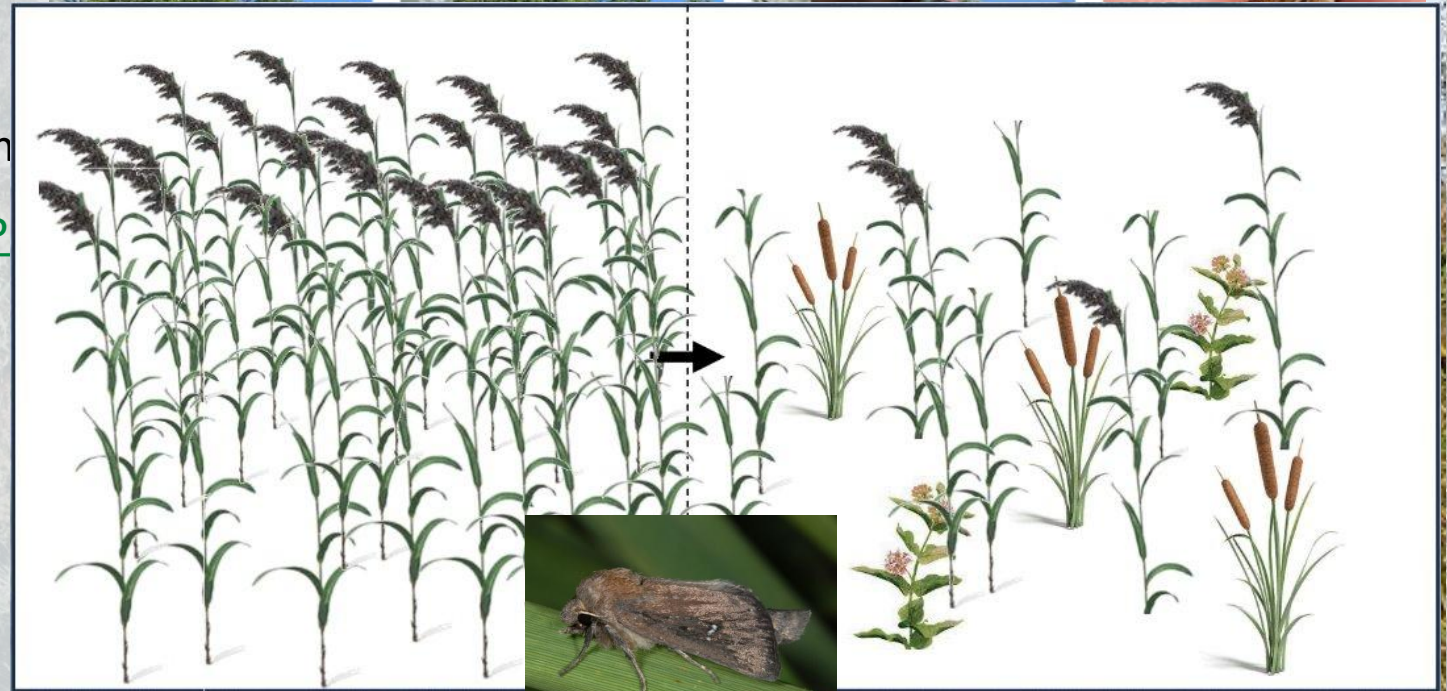


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Methods of Control

The tools in our toolbox to address Phragmites

- Phragmites does not respect property lines
- [Invasive Phragmites Best Management Practices](#)
- For the goal of eradication:
 - Herbicide
 - Cut-to-drown
 - Spading
- For the goal of suppression:
 - Biological control



Ontario Phragmites Action

Addressing the Threat as a Community

How OPA is facilitating a landscape approach

- Ontario Phragmites Action (OPA) is establishing Phragmites Management Areas (PMAs)
 - Forming communities for collaboration, share resources, overcome jurisdictional boundaries
 - Can be defined by any number of features
- Consider unique regional strengths, challenges, needs
- 3-year program funded by the **Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources** which began in 2024



Invasive
Species
Centre



NATURE
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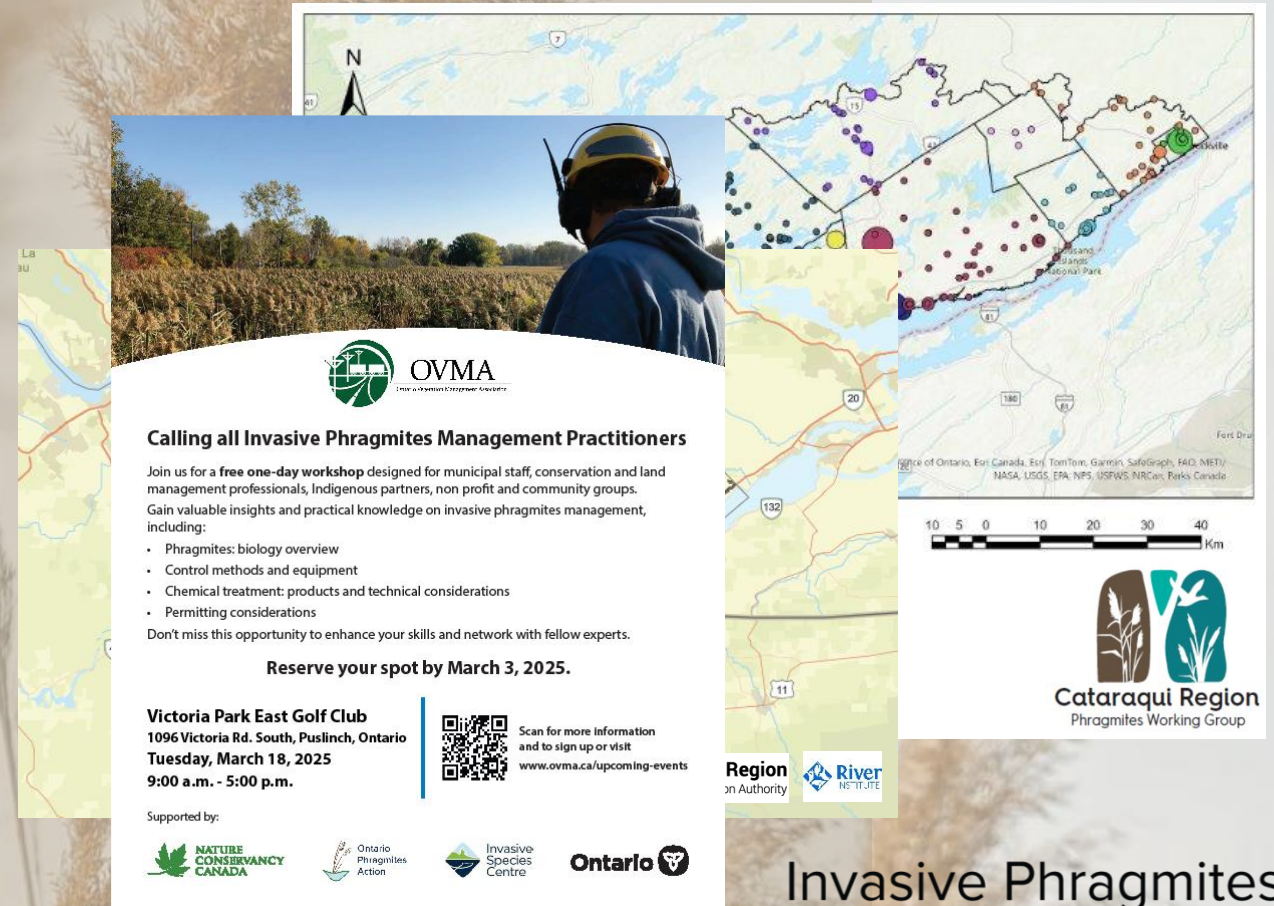


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Results and resources

- PMA successes
 - Mapping data
 - Treatment along roads
- OPA resources
 - Invasive Phragmites Control Fund
 - Genetic testing
 - Training events, resource development
 - Biocontrol development



OVMA
Ontario Vegetation Management Association

Calling all Invasive Phragmites Management Practitioners

Join us for a **free one-day workshop** designed for municipal staff, conservation and land management professionals, Indigenous partners, non profit and community groups. Gain valuable insights and practical knowledge on invasive phragmites management, including:

- Phragmites: biology overview
- Control methods and equipment
- Chemical treatment: products and technical considerations
- Permitting considerations

Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your skills and network with fellow experts.

Reserve your spot by March 3, 2025.

Victoria Park East Golf Club
1096 Victoria Rd. South, Puslinch, Ontario
Tuesday, March 18, 2025
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Scan for more information and to sign up or visit www.ovma.ca/upcoming-events

Supported by:

- Nature Conservancy Canada
- Ontario Phragmites Action
- Invasive Species Centre
- Ontario

Region of Ontario
River Institute

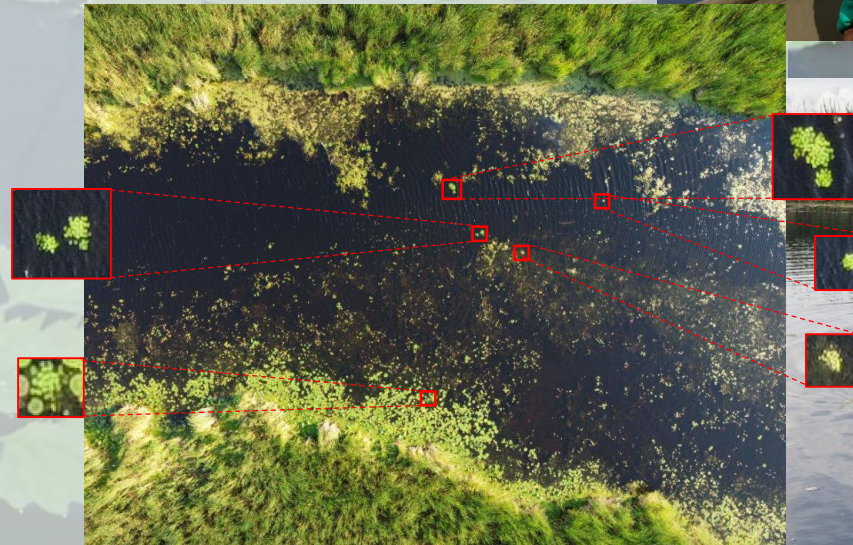
Cataraqui Region
Phragmites Working Group



Drone-driven invasive mapping

Developing an AI tool to make detection streamlined

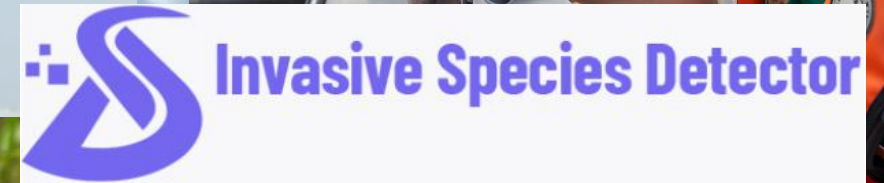
- European Water Chestnut: invasive floating plant
 - Forms dense mats, can cause fish kills, has sharp seedpods
- Drone imaging facilitates scouting while minimizing disturbance
- Image processing time-consuming
- DUC partnership with Saiwa Inc.
 - Development of AI tool
 - Much faster image turnaround



Drone mapping future

Expanding DUC's tool to emerging threats

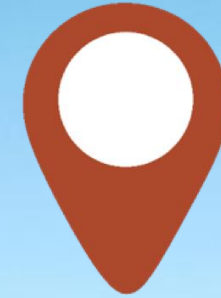
- Water Soldier: a new threat
 - Dense mats crowd out other plants, alters water chemistry, serrated leaves can cut swimmers
- Recently found in Lake Simcoe: huge risk for spread from human activity
- Expanding use to new invasive species to facilitate rapid response to new threats



Actions You Can Take

For Phragmites and other invasive species

- **Prevention:**
 - Don't buy invasive plants or gift them to neighbours
 - Don't move firewood or disturb invasive species
 - Clean, drain, and dry watercraft & clean your hiking boots
- **Mapping and sightings:**
 - OFAH Invading Species Hotline
 - EDDMapS
 - iNaturalist (with Seek)
 - Protect native lookalikes
- **Active removal:**
 - Organize a volunteer removal with your lake association
 - Join a local PMA or participate in PMA-organized events



EDDMapS
find • map • track



Invading Species Hotline

1-800-563-7711

Get Involved with a PMA

OPA Regional Coordinator Contacts

North Region – Derissa Vincentini

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South Region – Kyle Borrowman

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Central Region – Terry Rees

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East Region – Matt Bolding

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Questions?

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