

OUR PARTNERS IN HABITAT RESTORATION



For further information on Phragmites: visit our website, follow us on Facebook, or contact us at lspcg2014@gmail.com

www.lspcg.com



More information can also be found at www.opwg.ca

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In 2009, members of the Port Franks Beach Homeowners Association and the Windsor Park Association became concerned when monoculture stands of non-native invasive *Phragmites australis* (European Common Reed) appeared on the Port Franks beach and in the watersheds flowing to Lake Huron (Ausable River and Mud Creek).

The Lambton Shores Phragmites Community Group (LSPCG) was created as a result of this concern. A group of dedicated volunteers, LSPCG is committed to working together with Conservation Authorities, other organizations and private landowners to restore wetland habitat and beaches and control invasive Phragmites. Ipperwash Phrag Pighters was formed in 2016 to undertake restoration work on the Ipperwash beach, coastal dunes and wetlands, working alongside LSPCG.

As of 2022, with financial support from the provincial and federal governments, and others, restoration work has been completed on over 120 ha (300 acres) in Lambton Shores. To date, almost \$1.2 million has been spent on restoration, including over 15,000 volunteer hours. Members of Council for the Municipality of Lambton Shores and staff have supported our efforts, including hiring a wetland ecologist to create a Management Plan for the Municipality and have provided partial funding for our restoration projects and other initiatives.

The Management Plan can be viewed at: www.lambtonshores.ca





Photo courtesy of Ausable Bayfield Conservation

Effects of Invasive *Phragmites australis*

Loss of biodiversity and species richness:

Phragmites causes a decrease in biodiversity by developing into monoculture stands which crowd out native vegetation and wildlife.

Loss of habitat:

Monoculture stands result in a decrease in available natural habitat and food supply for various wildlife species, which may include Species at Risk. Phragmites stalks are rigid and tough, and do not allow for wildlife or humans to easily navigate through a stand.

Changes in hydrology:

Phragmites produces a substantial amount of dead stocks which accumulate with time. This slowly decomposing material can interrupt surface and shallow groundwater flows in coastal areas, favouring its growth.

Increased fire hazards:

The high percentage of dead stalks within a stand are dry and combustible, increasing the risk of fires.

Economic and social impacts:

Phragmites can have many negative effects on economic and social issues. Effects on agriculture and crops can lead to economic losses, while monoculture stands can affect property values, recreation and raise aesthetic concerns.

***Phragmites* has no natural predator but control can be accomplished with a well-planned approach.**

Projects Undertaken in Lambton Shores:

- Port Franks • Grand Bend • Ipperwash • Lambton Centre
 - Lake Valley Grove/Sunnidale • Pine Tree Estates
- A Provincially Significant Coastal Meadow Wetland
 - Municipal and County Roadsides

Phragmites australis (frag-MY-teez) is an alien, invasive plant

Phragmites is a perennial wetland grass which forms dense, near monoculture stands. It is a member of the Poaceae (grass) family and is also known as European common reed, common reed, or common reed grass. The name Phragmites is derived from the Greek term phragma, meaning fence, hedge, or screen. It is native to Eurasia and was likely introduced more than once to North America in the 1800s along the Atlantic coast, as both a seed contaminant in soil ballast and intentionally introduced through the horticulture trade.

Phragmites is an aggressively spreading grass that can reach heights of more than 5 m and densities of over 200 stems/m². In 2005, it was recognized as Canada's worst invasive plant by scientists at Agriculture and Agri-food Canada.

Rapid expansion of this plant occurred during the 1990s and it has since spread throughout Ontario and become one of the most significant threats to Great Lakes coastal habitats, where it has drastically reduced plant and wildlife diversity, as well as threatened a high number of species at risk. It is also a common sight along Ontario's major highways and secondary roads which act as vectors to spread the species.

Source: *Best Management Practices in Ontario*
 Web: www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca

