

# Information Report

**Title:** 2024 Phragmites Control Program Update

**Report Number:** Parks & Facilities-2025-04

**Director:** Community Services

**Manager:** Parks & Facilities

**Meeting Date:**

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

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## Executive Summary:

Since 2017, the Municipality of Kincardine has partnered with the Invasive Phragmites Control Centre (IPCC) to manage invasive Phragmites. Focused primarily on the shoreline, with additional work along secondary roads and natural areas, these efforts have been highly successful. Control is now shifting to low-density colonies and preventing further spread, especially as declining Lake Huron water levels create conditions favorable for Phragmites growth. The 2025 budget continues funding for control measures and public education efforts. This report summarizes 2024 activities and outlines recommendations for 2025 and beyond to ensure long-term protection of Kincardine's shoreline.

## Context and Background Information:

Since 2017, the IPCC has led Phragmites control efforts along a 19-kilometer stretch of shoreline, following the Invasive Phragmites Management Plan. Between 2017 and 2021, amphibious machines (Truxors) were used for high-density lake patches, achieving significant success. In 2022, focus shifted to managing smaller colonies as water levels dropped, which could encourage further expansion. Continued control efforts are essential to prevent spread, with the 2024 actions serving as a foundation for ongoing protection.

## Consultation Overview:

In 2024, control work took place over 5.5 days, targeting remnant patches along the shoreline and adjacent areas. Methods included cutting-to-drown and herbicide treatments, with additional manual cutting conducted. Moving forward, control efforts will focus on areas at risk from low water levels, using backpack herbicide applications and, where necessary, Habitat Aqua for shallow water patches.

To ensure long-term control, further involvement from volunteers and expanded management of other invasive species could be considered. The 2025 budget remains at \$28,300, with additional funds for outreach materials potentially available through grants.

The Phragmites control program in Kincardine involves several key stakeholders, each with distinct interests in the ongoing efforts to manage invasive species:

1. **Municipality of Kincardine:** Responsible for ensuring environmental health and shoreline integrity, the municipality aims to prevent the spread of Phragmites and maintain long-term control through public awareness and funding support. Tasked with coordinating and managing the control program, municipal staff ensure compliance with regulations and oversee the execution of the plan.
2. **Invasive Phragmites Control Centre (IPCC):** As the lead agency in Phragmites management, the IPCC focuses on controlling invasive species, implementing effective management strategies, and engaging the community through education and outreach.
3. **Kincardine Residents Against Phragmites (KRAP):** This local volunteer group is dedicated to preserving the environment by contributing to monitoring and reporting Phragmites sightings, promoting grassroots involvement in the control efforts.
4. **Local Residents and Landowners:** Concerned with the ecological and aesthetic impacts of Phragmites, these stakeholders are interested in participating in control efforts to protect their properties and the surrounding environment.
5. **Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA):** Focused on regional ecosystem conservation, the SVCA aims to prevent the spread of invasive species and ensure the protection of local natural habitats.
6. **Bruce Power:** With a strong interest in regional environmental health, Bruce Power supports initiatives that protect local ecosystems, aligning with stewardship efforts to control invasive species.
7. **Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation:** Dedicated to preserving coastal ecosystems, the Centre plays a key role in supporting regional efforts to manage invasive species and protect the shoreline.
8. **Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MECP):** The MECP ensures that invasive species control activities, such as herbicide use, comply with environmental regulations and supports long-term management strategies.
9. **Local Fish and Hunt Clubs:** These groups are concerned with maintaining healthy wildlife habitats and ecosystems that support recreational activities, advocating for effective invasive species management to preserve biodiversity.

These stakeholders collaborate to protect Kincardine's shoreline, ensuring the ongoing success of Phragmites control efforts and the broader goal of preserving local ecosystems.

While Phragmites control in Kincardine has seen success, continued action is necessary. Repeated efforts will help protect Kincardine's shoreline and ecosystem from invasive species, ensuring ongoing environmental health.

**Origin:**

Invasive Phragmites Control Program 2024 Summary Report

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**Attachments:** Invasive Phragmites Control Program 2024 Summary Report, IPCC

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