

OIPC Invasive Species Conference and AGM

AGENDA

Note: this agenda is subject to change.

Date: October 15-16 2018

Time: Day 1: October 15 - Field Tours and Evening Social & Ribbon Cutting
12:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Day 2: October 16 - Conference and AGM
8:30 am- 4:30 pm

Location: Canadian Canoe Museum, 910 Monaghan Road, Peterborough, Ontario, K9J 5K4

Day 1: October 15, 2018 - Field Tours and Evening Social & Ribbon Cutting

Field Tours

12:00 pm – 5:00 pm, OIPC Office, 380 Armour Road, Unit 210, Peterborough, Ontario

This year's field tour will consist of two locations. The first stop on this tour is to Ground Covers Unlimited, a wholesale nursery located in Bethany, Ontario, which has transitioned to exclude invasive plants like Goutweed from its nursery stock. The owners of the nursery, will share their experience and perspectives of working within the horticulture business and undergoing a transition to selling non-invasive plants to retailers.

The second stop on the tour is to the Hazel Bird Nature Reserve, one of the Nature Conservancy of Canada's feature properties within the Rice Lake Plains. The property hosts some of the largest tracts of tall grass prairie and oak savannah ecosystems remaining in Ontario as well as habitat for Species at Risk including the eastern hog-nosed snake. Currently this habitat is threatened by fragmentation and non-native species. Currently the property is being managed to remove invasive species through a variety of techniques including prescribed burns.

What to bring: Water, closed-toe footwear, long-sleeved shirts, long pants and any additional weather appropriate clothing (i.e. rain gear). A washroom will be accessible on the coach bus. Snacks and a bagged lunch will be provided and are included in the ticket cost.

Please note, you will be provided with meal options from which you can choose prior to the tour date. Confirmation details will also be sent prior to the event.

Directions: Event location can be found here <https://goo.gl/maps/UsHrDjokGkP2>

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species is or is not native. This is not a straightforward determination. Because Ontario was completely covered by ice during the last great glaciation, all plants and animals are introductions to the province. Some species were actually here before the glaciation and are therefore re-introductions. Natural spread of many species followed in succession as the ice retreated. Because many of the most undesirable species were introduced by human activity, the point in history that is often used in defining the native condition among flora and fauna is the arrival of Europeans in the Americas. This usually refers to the arrival of Christopher Columbus in 1492. But Europeans were in North America at least 500 years earlier. As well, other humans reached North and South America much earlier by tens of millennia and could also have spread different species through trade and other means. This recent information could impact the way that native species might be interpreted in legal matters.

10:20am – 10:40am Diana Mooij, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

2018 Update on the CFIA's Invasive Plant Program - The Canadian Food Inspection Agency established an Invasive Plants Program in 2011. This presentation will provide an update on some of the invasive plants currently under eradication including kudzu, jointed goatgrass and *Arundo donax*. A preview of some of the plant species being considered for regulation under the Plant Protection Act, and currently going through the risk analysis process, will also be provided.

10:40am – 11:10am Break and Network

11:10am – 11:30am James MacKay, MSc., City of London

The London Invasive Plant Management Strategy - The City of London is an identified leader among other municipalities and other levels of government in demonstrating a proactive approach to the management of invasive species in our Parks, Woodlands and Environmentally Significant Areas (ESA) since 2006. Within our ESAs, Council approved Conservation Master Plans (CMP) direct and emphasize the need for invasive species control projects. In addition, the City has a woodland management fund that is used in part to address invasive species management in Woodlands. It is widely recognized that if invasive species are ignored, not only does this affect human health and the health of ecosystems in the long-term, but drastically increases costs associated with controlling invasive species once they can be no longer be ignored and action must be taken. With the help of the Ontario Invasive Plant Council's (OIPC) strategic framework for developing a City-wide invasive species management strategy, London has completed and is implementing a Council approved London Invasive Plant Management Strategy (LIPMS) document that will address invasive plant species control over the short and long-term. A major component of the strategy includes multiple City Service Areas such as the Stormwater Management Unit, Parks Operations, Urban Forestry, and Environment and Parks Planning, in the identification and control of the priority species, making the strategy truly "City-wide".

11:30am – 12:00pm Keynote Speaker

12:00pm – 1:00pm Lunch and Canoe Museum Tour

1:00pm – 1:30pm AGM

1:30pm – 1:50pm Jennifer Bowman, MSc. and Sophia Munoz, Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG)

Driving Phragmites to eradication: Five years of management at the Royal Botanical Gardens - Invasive *Phragmites australis* has established and spread aggressively into wetlands of the Great Lakes region. Using GIS and aerial photography, 94 stands of *Phragmites* occupying

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a total of 11.3 ha in the Cootes Paradise watershed were identified. A management plan modeled after the Ministry of Natural Resources Best Management Practices for *Phragmites* was developed for RBG properties and treatments were initiated in 2013. Management consists of glyphosate application in early autumn, smashing of treated stands in the winter, and measuring stem counts in the following summer. All stands showed an excellent kill rate of 90% or greater. Touch-up treatments have been performed each year, however, in 2017 45% of stands showed no regrowth and required no follow-up treatment. Many sites have seen natural regeneration of diverse plant species from the seed bank while restoration plantings have taken place in stands that have seen 10% or less regrowth after herbicide treatment(s). This presentation will look at the success of RBG's management strategy and highlights from the subsequent restoration of its wetland habitat.

1:50pm – 2:10pm Janice M. Gilbert, Ph.D., Invasive Phragmites Control Centre (IPCC)

Controlling Invasive Phragmites: Light at the end of the tunnel - Controlling Canada's worst invasive plant, *Phragmites australis*, is challenging given the reed's effective strategies for spreading and thriving in a range of environmental conditions. In wet sites, control efficacy is particularly challenging given the lack of herbicides currently available for use in aquatic environments. Cutting to drown is proving to be a viable option for significantly reducing Phragmites densities where water depths are sufficient. The Cutting Program operated by the Invasive Phragmites Control Centre utilizes specialized amphibious machines called Truxors which are able to cut and remove large, dense Phragmites cells that are too daunting for manual labour. Working with local groups numerous sites on the Lake Huron shoreline are systematically being restored. Information about the Cutting Program and the projects will be provided.

2:10pm – 2:30pm Brad Hayhoe, BASF

Research on Habitat Aqua (Imazapyr): Review of the research and success in Phragmites control - Habitat Aqua is the first submitted herbicide with an over-water use (aerial application). One of the fits for this product is its use on *Phragmites* and other invasive weeds. I will review the research-and the success that BASF has had using it in *Phragmites*, *Spartina* and flowering rush (*Butomus*) control in Canada, and the United States. Imazapyr has been used extensively in many large applications ranging from forestry to brush control on rights-of-way as well in environmentally sensitive areas to control invasive weeds such as *Phragmites* since 1985. In 2004 Habitat Herbicide was approved in the US to provide effective, long-lasting control of undesirable emergent and floating aquatics, however in Canada we have applied for *Phragmites*, *Spartina* and *Butomus* initially. Over the years, Imazapyr has been shown to be extremely safe as it binds with an enzyme found only in plants (not in people, mammals, birds, fish or insects) and can be used to promote the growth and re-colonization of the desirable, native plants that provide forage and enhance wildlife habitat.

2:30pm – 3:00pm Break and Network

3:00pm – 3:20pm Robert McGowan, Invasive Species Awareness Program (ISAP), Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH)

Management and Control of Water Soldier (*Stratiotes aloides*) in Ontario - Water Soldier is an invasive aquatic plant native to Europe and northwest Asia. The first discovery of a wild population in North America occurred in 2008 when it was discovered in the Trent Severn Waterway (TSW) in Ontario. Since then, it has spread nearly 50km downstream in the TSW, and unrelated occurrences have been discovered in a tributary of Lake Simcoe and numerous private

ponds. Water Soldier has the potential to invade lake and river ecosystems throughout Ontario and the Great Lakes basin causing immeasurable ecological damage to native species. These consequences to the region's fisheries, tourism and recreational values has led to Water Soldier being added to the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers' *Least Wanted* list, and the list of Prohibited species under Ontario's *Invasive Species Act*. An inter-agency working group has been established in Ontario, with representation from the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Trent University, Lower Trent Conservation, United States Army Engineer Research and Development Center, Parks Canada, and the Invasive Species Centre, to coordinate a response and develop an Integrated Management Plan for Water Soldier (IMP). The goals of the IMP are to prevent new introductions and address existing populations that threaten to invade provincial, national, and international waters. With guidance from the IMP, the inter-agency working group is implementing the fifth year of a multi-year project that seeks to eradicate Water Soldier from Ontario.

3:20pm – 3:40pm Robert Canning, Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA)

Severn Sound Environmental Assoc. (SSEA) is a not-profit responsible for the protection and stewardship within the Severn Sound watershed since 1997. Acknowledging the growing impacts of invasive species and a general lack of knowledge surrounding the diversity and distribution of these species in the area, the SSEA initiated a pilot project to address these issues and provide expert invasive species support to municipalities and local residents. Launched in 2017, and covering an area of just over 1,600 km², the objective were to actively locate and track invasive species, facilitate management actions and increase public awareness related to the identification, impacts and control of these alien invaders. Following a review of the first year of the pilot project, it became evident that public participation was essential for: increasing the scope and robustness of invasive species mapping, generating the primary workforce for control projects and acting as the first line of defense in the prevention and early detection of invasive species. The SSEA has focussed on public communication and involvement in an effort to maximize resources and opportunities for successful invasive species management within the community. To date, the SSEA invasive species pilot project has reached nearly 1,000 people at events and has supported 150 volunteers in public management projects that have resulted in the removal of over 3600 kg of invasive plant material from public shorelines, green spaces and community parks.

3:40pm – 4:30pm Wrap up and Close