



Annual Report 2017 - 2018

The Ontario Invasive Plant Council (OIPC) is a non-profit organization and is the primary provincial coordinating body for invasive plant management and control in Ontario. The OIPC maintains an extensive network of invasive plant managers and experts across the province, including municipalities, conservation authorities, landscape and nursery retailers, and academics. We provide citizens with practical tools and information that makes a big difference in protecting our environment and communities. People are willing to take action when they have the tools to do so. We facilitate several province-wide committees on invasive plant issues, including the Ontario Phragmites Working Group and the Horticultural Outreach Committee. The OIPC is recognized as a provincial leader in mobilizing and engaging communities, citizens and government agencies to undertake prevention and management activities.

The OIPC supports outcomes identified in Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy (2011) and the Ontario Invasive Species Strategic Plan (2012). The above actions also promotes collaboration and facilitates the work of the members of the Ontario Biodiversity Council, Ontario Federation of Angers and Hunters' Invading Species Awareness Program, Invasive Species Centre, and the Biodiversity Education and Awareness Network.

Our Vision is to provide leadership, expertise and be a forum to engage and empower Ontarians to take action on invasive plant issues. The OIPC envisions Ontario's environment, economy and society protected from the adverse impacts of invasive plants.

President's Report

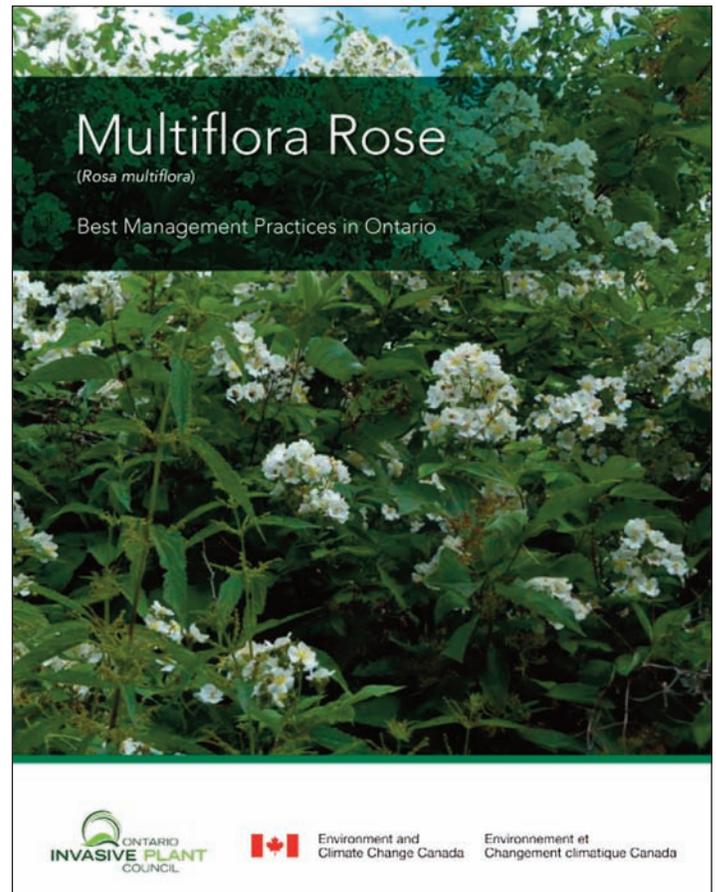
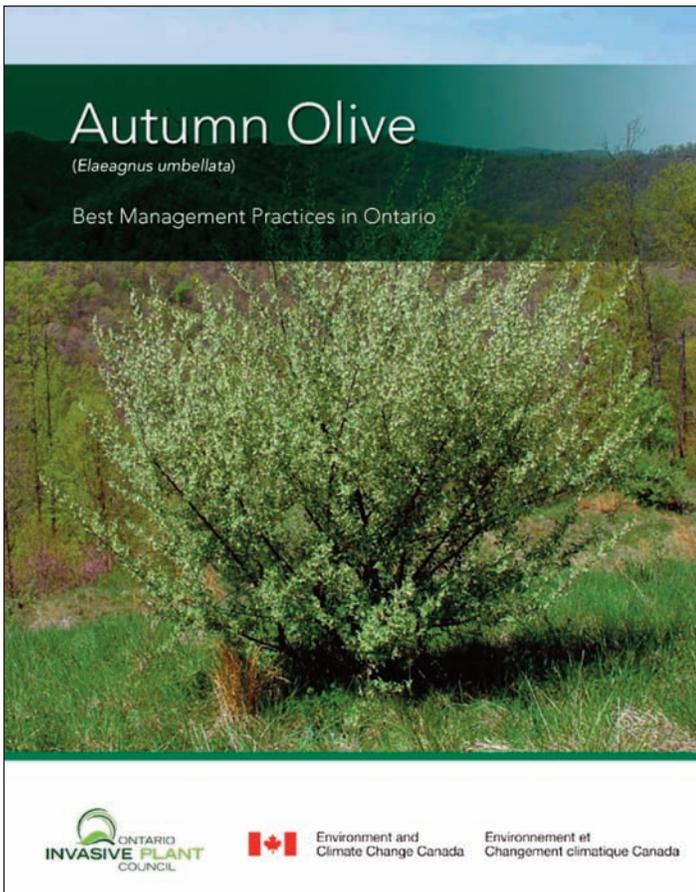
This is my fourth report to you since being elected President in 2014.

Once again, our staff members, Kellie Sherman and Colin Cassin, assisted throughout the year by interns Kate Powell and Rachel Brown, all worked hard to keep the OIPC office running well. We wished Kellie Sherman good luck in her new position with the Canadian Council on Invasive Species and then Colin Cassin as he moved to a position with the Invasive Species Centre. We were sorry to see them go but we are delighted that these two former OIPC staffers are not moving out of the invasive species world. Instead, we see them as expanding their horizons and continuing the excellent work they did for us only in slightly different directions.

We met with Minister Katherine McGarry in September 2017 and her successor, Minister Nathalie Des Rosiers, in February 2018. We plan to meet the new MNRF Minister Jeff Yurek later this year.

Some of our Exciting Initiatives and Activities

- Under the Transfer Payment Agreement with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, we;
 - Updated ten Best Management Practices documents,
 - Hosted seven excellent and informative webinars (our fifth consecutive year!),
 - Continued the updating and improvement of the Ontario Phragmites Working Group website and our own website,
 - Supported the Phragmites and Horticultural Outreach Committees in their public outreach activities (workshops, brochure development outlining information about species regulated under the Invasive Species Act),
 - Hosted Invasive Plant Management Strategy Workshops in York Region and Kingston (to assist municipalities to develop strategies suited to their area) and presented to three other municipalities and townships,
 - Continued public engagement through our Twitter and Facebook feeds,
 - Led Ontario's Invasive Species Awareness week,



- Created two new Best Management Practices documents (Autumn Olive and Multiflora Rose) with support from the Canadian Wildlife Service;
- Attending countless Outreach and Media events – many of them on weekends including Early Detection and Rapid Response workshops in Northern and Southern Ontario; and,
- Hosted an extremely successful Annual Conference in Ottawa with over 110 participants and field tours to three locations.

These are exciting times for us and to update you on items that I mentioned at our last AGM:

- We hired our first Executive Director – Belinda Junkin. Initially the job is for three days a week but we will make it full time as soon as we can.
- Replacing Kellie and Colin are Gabby Nichols and Vicki Simkovic. Gabby heads our EDRR initiative, and Vicki takes over the Coordinator role. Welcome to all three.

The other big news is that we moved from the Ontario Federation of Hunters and Anglers building this winter to Time Square in Peterborough, at 380 Armour Road unit 210. As I did last year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank OFAH for being a gracious landlord and host for the past decade and to especially thank Meghann Agnew, Accounting Manager / Financial Analyst, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, for her enormous help in the financial transition. We look forward to continuing our relationship with OFAH as we share many of the same areas of interest in regard to invasive species.

The entire board thanks the following board members who left the board:

- John Benham, Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association/Wellington County
- Suzanne Hanna, Ontario Horticulture Association
- Karen Hartley, Ontario Parks
- Dawn Sucee, Ontario Federation of Hunters and Anglers

And welcomes:

- Karen McDonald, Director-at-Large, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
- Shelley Williams, Ontario Horticulture Association

Our current board members, in addition to those I just mentioned are:

- Paula Berketo, Ministry of Transportation
- Stephanie Burns, Forests Ontario
- Michael Farrell, Vice-President, Hydro One
- John Foster, Director-at-Large
- Mhairi McFarlane, Nature Conservancy of Canada
- Michael Irvine, OMNRF
- Jon Peter, Royal Botanical Gardens, Burlington
- Iola Price, President and Member-at-Large
- Prabir Roy, Parks Canada
- Sandy Smith, University of Toronto
- Ken Towle, Conservation Ontario
- John Urquhart, Treasurer and Director-at-Large
- Cara Webster, Municipality of Toronto
- Jeanine West, Landscape Ontario
- Owen Williams, Secretary and Director-at-Large

As for the year ahead, the board and I will see us spending time on the following:

- Working with the OMNRF on initiatives related to the Invasive Species Act including more workshops for municipalities to assist them to develop Invasive Plant Management Strategies and further outreach to the horticulture community on invasive plants and the Invasive Species Act;
- Continuing work to update our Strategic Plan;
- Seeking the resources to translate some of our BMPs into French;
- Increasing our funding base and increasing the number of OIPC members;
- Working on Early Detection and Rapid Response initiatives including public outreach and training on invasive plant identification and management/control techniques;
- Increasing awareness of the EDDMapS (Early Detection & Distribution Map System); and,
- Increasing our presence on social media sites; and
- Last year I challenged everyone at the Ottawa meeting to invite one person who is not currently an OIPC member to join us. I am repeating that challenge – we are strengthened by our membership.

Thank you for a great 2017 - 18 and I am looking forward to 2018 - 19.

Iola Price

Introduction to Belinda Junkin, the new OIPC Executive Director



It is with great excitement that I welcome the opportunity to work with you, our Members, Partners and Stakeholders. I am inspired by the dedication and great work of the OIPC Team, including the Board of Directors who are very passionate about reducing the impact of invasive plants through education, training and a great deal of hard work. Since January, I have been focused internally, leading the transition to the new OIPC office and team.

OIPC is a large network and community of volunteers. Our success requires your engagement and support. I welcome your insights and thoughts and would love to hear from you. Please email me at belinda@oninvasives.ca with any of your questions, feedback or concerns. My goal is to engage with you, learn from you and to apply this feedback to creating a dynamic organization that will continue to grow.

Sincerely,

Belinda Junkin, EMBA CCLP

Outreach and Education

Committees and staff continue to develop and disseminate resources including best management practices, training webinars, workshops and many other information exchange initiatives while prioritizing municipal and horticulture related outcomes.

Winter Webinar Series

In 2017 - 2018 our annual Winter Webinar Series returned for its fifth consecutive year. The biweekly series is one of our most popular initiatives and was first established with OMNRF support. The series ran from December through March and was attended by land management staff, interested parties and the public from across Ontario. They bring vital invasive plant control information to organizations and communities that are not able to afford travel and other costs associated with acquiring this information through more traditional avenues. We also

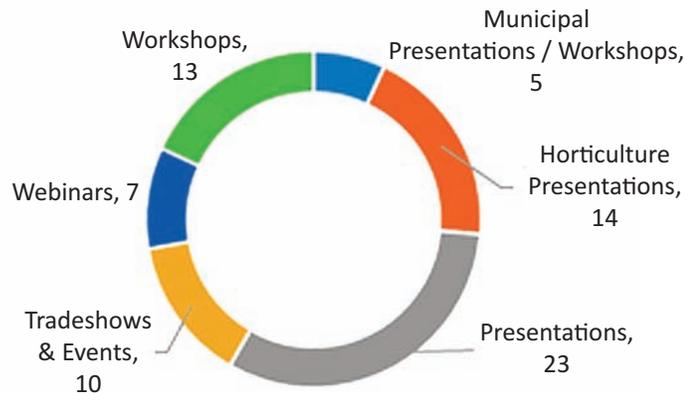
learn useful information from our participants during the Q and A sessions that follow each webinar. All webinars are recorded and are available for later use as an excellent resource for the latest and most accurate information on invasive plant control issues in the province.

2017 - 2018 Winter Webinar Series Topics:

- Building Invasive Species Awareness at the Community Level with Citizen Science & Volunteer Engagement
- Biological Control for Invasive Plants in Ontario
- Best Practices in Water Soldier, European Water Chestnut & Eurasian Watermilfoil Control
- Phragmites Control in Long Point Region
- Municipalities Finding Success in Invasive Plant Management
- A History of Purple Loosestrife Control in Ontario
- Role of Earthworms in Restoration after Invasive Plant Control

Communication

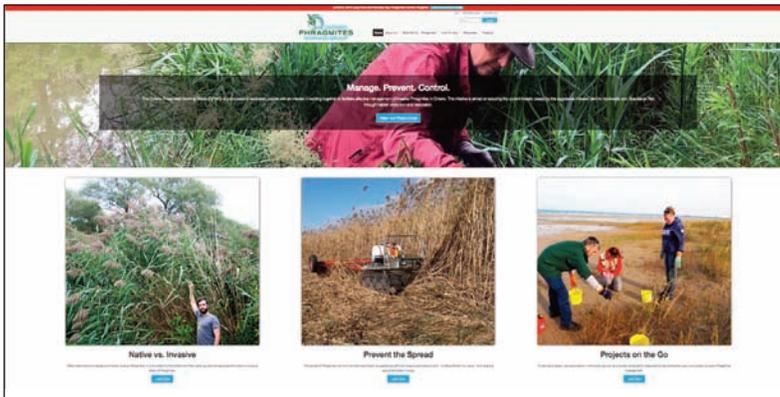
72 Educational Events in 2017 - 2018



The OIPC website (www.oninvasives.ca) remains our main method of communication with Members and the public, along with Facebook and Twitter. The website had over 175,000 visitors who viewed 900,000 pages, with majority of traffic to the website being directed by Google. The most popular pages visited after the home page are (listed in order of views);

- Grow Me Instead
- Best Management Practices
- Species
- Resources

The OIPC also receives multiple inquiries weekly via phone and email requesting assistance with plant identification, handling and best practices. We have commenced tracking this information and will be able to report on this in the upcoming year.



Phragmites Working Group (www.OPWG.ca)

website, which is a key communication mechanism when field work is underway. Working closely with our partner organizations, the OIPC posts updates on control projects throughout the province. Facebook use continues to be a significant method of communication with 242,083 people through posts and 2,258 followers. Twitter followers increased 14% with almost 2,000 followers and 183 tweets in fiscal year ending 2018. These

tweets generated almost 15,000 retweets, replies, follows, likes, links and hashtags and generated interactions or replies from over 275,000 online users.

The Ontario Invasive Species Awareness Week was led by OIPC for the 3rd year on February 26th to March 2nd. It was followed liked and shared with 32 organizations on Facebook including:

CBC.ca (*added a page about the efforts to suppress invasive Phragmites*)

Central Lake Ontario Conservation

CLC Tree Services Ltd.

Ducks Unlimited Canada - Ontario

Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council

Finger Lakes - Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance

Fort Drum Natural Resources

Friends of Britannia Village

Ganaraska Forest Centre

Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority

Georgian Bay Forever

Grey Sauble Conservation Authority

Kawartha Conservation

Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation

Lake of the Woods District Property Owners Assn.

Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance

New York State

North American Native Plant Society

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Ontario Parks Association

Ontario Phragmites Working Group

Ontario's Conservation Areas

Save the River

St. Lawrence River Institute

The Wild Pine

Committees

Ontario Phragmites Working Group

OPWG was formed in 2011 by professionals concerned about the increasing threat posed by the invasive *Phragmites australis australis* to Ontario's natural resources. In 2013 the OPWG became a committee of the OIPC. Membership in this group has continued to grow and now includes representation from all levels of government, First Nations, Conservation Authorities, NGOs, universities, community groups, private citizens and many others. The main purpose of the OPWG is to facilitate effective, efficient and environmentally responsible management of invasive Phragmites in Ontario.



Ontario Phragmites Working Group Annual General Meeting, Waterloo, January 2018.

OPWG members continue to actively share best practices and advice through their Google Groups platform which allows members to discuss a range of issues related to effective Phragmites control, while archiving discussions for future reference. OPWG members meet annually at the OPWG Annual General Meeting, which took place in January 2018 in Waterloo. This year's AGM featured record attendance, as 73 participants from across Ontario attended this one-day conference and networking event.

The Horticulture Outreach Committee

Another active committee of the OIPC is the Horticultural Outreach Collaborative (HOC). Working with members of the horticulture industry to help address this important pathway for invasive plants. Using our extensive network, including representatives on OIPC Board of Directors from organizations such as Landscape Ontario and the Ontario Horticulture Association, we continue to regularly engage members of the horticulture industry to mitigate the impacts of invasive horticultural species. OIPC staff continue to support the HOC in implementing initiatives to help bridge the gap between horticulture and invasive plants issues.

The HOC developed "Grow Me Instead native seed packets" as a component of an awareness campaign and hosted a bus tour for nursery and conservation staff to better understand the different perspectives of each group.

2017 - 2018 Horticulture Outreach Initiatives At A Glance

Invasive Species Legislation Brochure for Ontario Nursery Industry:

A brochure was developed to provide retail operations with information about species regulated under the Invasive Species Act

Invasive Plant & Horticulture Industry Meeting: A facilitated meeting was held with staff from OMNRF, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Landscape Ontario, OIPC and other important stakeholders. Participants were able to use this opportunity to develop an improved understanding of the various perspectives of the key groups involved.

Horticulture Outreach: OIPC maintained its presence at major horticulture industry events in 2017 - 2018 including *Canada Blooms*. OIPC also gave presentations to more than 20 horticultural societies, meetings and garden shows, raising the profile of the role of horticulture in invasive plant issues.

Municipal Engagement

The OIPC continued to promote and encourage municipalities to write and plan invasive plant management strategies with workshops and support, bringing leverage with our *“Invasive Plant Management Strategy: A Framework for Ontario Municipalities”* guide. In 2017-2018 OIPC hosted two Invasive Plant Management Strategy workshops in York Region and Kingston. Attendance at these events varied from 36 to 53. Prior year workshops have resulted in three municipalities (York Region, the City of Mississauga and the City of London) in preparing their own municipal strategies and a number of other municipalities have also begun or continue to develop their own strategies to address the threat of invasive plants.

OIPC is frequently contacted to provide support and resources to assist with strategy development including to provide delegations to municipal councils on the topic of invasive plants, and how developing a thoughtful strategy can be an important step enabling improved and cost-effective invasive plant control at the municipal level. Next steps include:

- 1) Responding to requests by municipal councils for presentations on Invasive Plant Management Strategies;
- 2) Supporting municipal staff in scoping what a strategy could look like for their organization; and,
- 3) Supporting municipal staff in “pre-strategy” actions into current work plans (e.g. invasive plant identification resources for summer staff training or encouraging the hiring of a hit squad made up of summer students).

We continue to receive requests for this support and look forward to continuing to provide this in the upcoming year.

2017 Conference in Ottawa Highlights

Held in Eastern Ontario for the first time in OIPC history, the field trips and one session focused on Eastern Ontario problems and strategies being developed or in place to manage and control invasive plants. Our local partners, the National Capital Commission, South Nation Conservation Authority and the St. Laurent Academy, organized and led field trips to the Mud Lake-Britannia Conservation Area, the Leitrim Wetland and the Macoun Marsh, respectively.

The conference the next day heard from 13 speakers focusing on the following themes: Success and Milestones in Invasive Plant Management: Focus on Eastern Ontario, New Research and the Future of Invasive Plant Management and Combatting Invasive Plants in a Municipal and Private Landowner Setting.



Chris Craig explaining the dynamics of the Leitrim Wetland.



Camille Tremblay holding a map of the Mud Lake area.

Financial Reports

Financial Report – Year Ending March 31, 2018

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

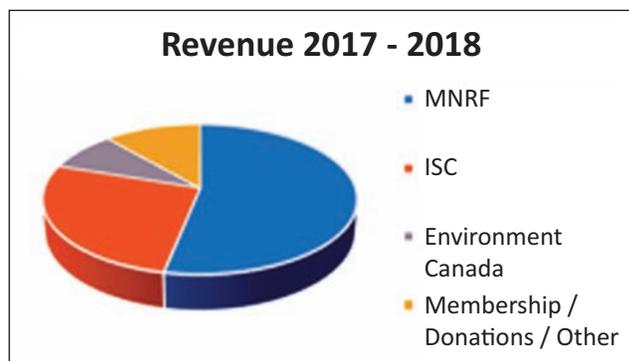
March 31, 2018

	2018 \$	2017 \$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	296,964	202,107
<u>Accounts receivable</u>	<u>12,452</u>	<u>64,770</u>
	309,416	266,877
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	20,027	32,357
Due to The Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters Incorporated	50,185	56,274
	70,212	88,631
NET ASSETS		
<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>239,204</u>	<u>178,246</u>
	309,416	266,877

Financial Reports

Financial Report – Year Ending March 31, 2018

REVENUE	2018	2017
MNRF	150,000	50,000
Invasive Species Centre	72,682	120,000
Environment Canada	24,000	24,000
Other Grants	0	18,320
Membership / Donations / Other	32,287	32,844
TOTAL REVENUE	281,969	245,164



A Transfer Payment (\$150,000) from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), to build the capacity of municipalities, conservation authorities, and environmental groups to address invasive plants in Ontario and to explore opportunities to engage the horticulture industry to promote to use of non-invasive plants. The Invasive Species Centre funding of \$75,682 was for the joint project, Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) and was made available by a Grant from the Ontario Trillium Fund to focus on creating, training and equipping EDRR networks to detect and respond to invasive species by building partnerships between federal, provincial and municipal agencies and support of citizen scientists in the area of Sudbury, Manitoulin and Sault Ste. Marie. Environment and Climate Change Canada / Canadian Wildlife Service funding was provided for the development of two new Best Management Practice documents.

EXPENSES	2018	2017
Salaries & Benefits	115,888	124,025
Project Costs	51,494	59,593
Office & Administration	27,290	27,777
Travel & Meetings	21,001	10,047
Professional Fees	5,338	3,900
TOTAL EXPENSES	221,011	225,342



Program Funding and Partnerships

Our work would not be possible without the support of our generous funding partners:



A huge Thank You to all of our sponsors including corporate, individual memberships and public donations / reimbursements:



Our field trip sponsors:



National Capital Commission
(Mud Lake-Britannia Conservation Area)



SOUTH NATION
CONSERVATION
DE LA NATION SUD
(Letrim Wetland)



(Macoun Marsh)