

The background of the slide features a photograph of a road with yellow lane markings, partially obscured by a dense field of tall, green reeds or phragmites in the foreground. The text is overlaid on this image.

ONTARIO MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION WEST REGION PHRAGMITES CONTROL

**OIPC Phragmites Working Group
Waterloo – March 3, 2016**

Legend

- MTO_Regions
- Major Lakes



Produced by: MTO Geomatics
Geomatics Centre, 4800 Keele Street, 4th Floor, Toronto, Ontario M3J 1R8
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Map Source: Data obtained from the Ministry of Transportation

BACKGROUND

- MTO is comprised of 5 regions, each with a regional office.
- NWR, NER, ER, CR and WR.
- Head office is in St. Catharines.
- Total highway network is in excess of 16,000 km
- NE and NWR have the most at just over 11,000 km

BACKGROUND

- Rest of the km's are shared between the 3 southern regions.
- WR has approximately 2,000 km of highways.
- = 4,000 km of vegetation of various widths.
- Interchanges and medians add to this.
- Approximately 6,000 ha of vegetation in WR alone.

WEST REGION BACKGROUND

- Regional office is located in London.
- Region is divided into 3 areas.
- Each area is maintained by a private contractor, called an Area Maintenance Contract (AMC).
- They do summer and winter maintenance under lump sum payments but.....

WEST REGION BACKGROUND

- Almost all vegetative work is initiated and paid extra through MTO.
- This includes tree removals, noxious weed and invasive species control.
- MTO does not have any specialized workers or equipment anymore, so all work is contracted out.

WEST REGION BACKGROUND

- Herbicide treatment of Phrag is not new to MTO West Region.
- We have kept it in check north of Hwy 401/402 for many years now.
- Two lane highways are in pretty good shape with lower density. Freeways have higher density and are being addressed.



CHALLENGES

- Funding
- ESA, water courses, private lands, grass that is cut, sensitive crops etc.
- Erosion issues after die off
- Contractors ability to complete the work
- Highway traffic, medians, wind, public perception
- Traffic control costs
- Maintenance ditching

CHALLENGES

- Construction projects
- Standing water – dryer in August/September
- Large stands of Phrag more difficult to spray

PAST PROJECTS

- Wick weeder application trial in 2011
 - In median areas close to passing traffic
 - Limited/poor success
 - Worked well on other noxious weeds







PAST PROJECTS

- Ecoblade
 - Closed herbicide system that allows a herbicide to be applied to cut stems through a rotary mower.
 - No drift, spray free technology
 - Minimizes public complaints
 - Suitable for highway medians or other areas of high traffic volumes
 - Can be used for brushing or noxious weed control too.







EXCEPT
AUTHORIZED
VEHICLES

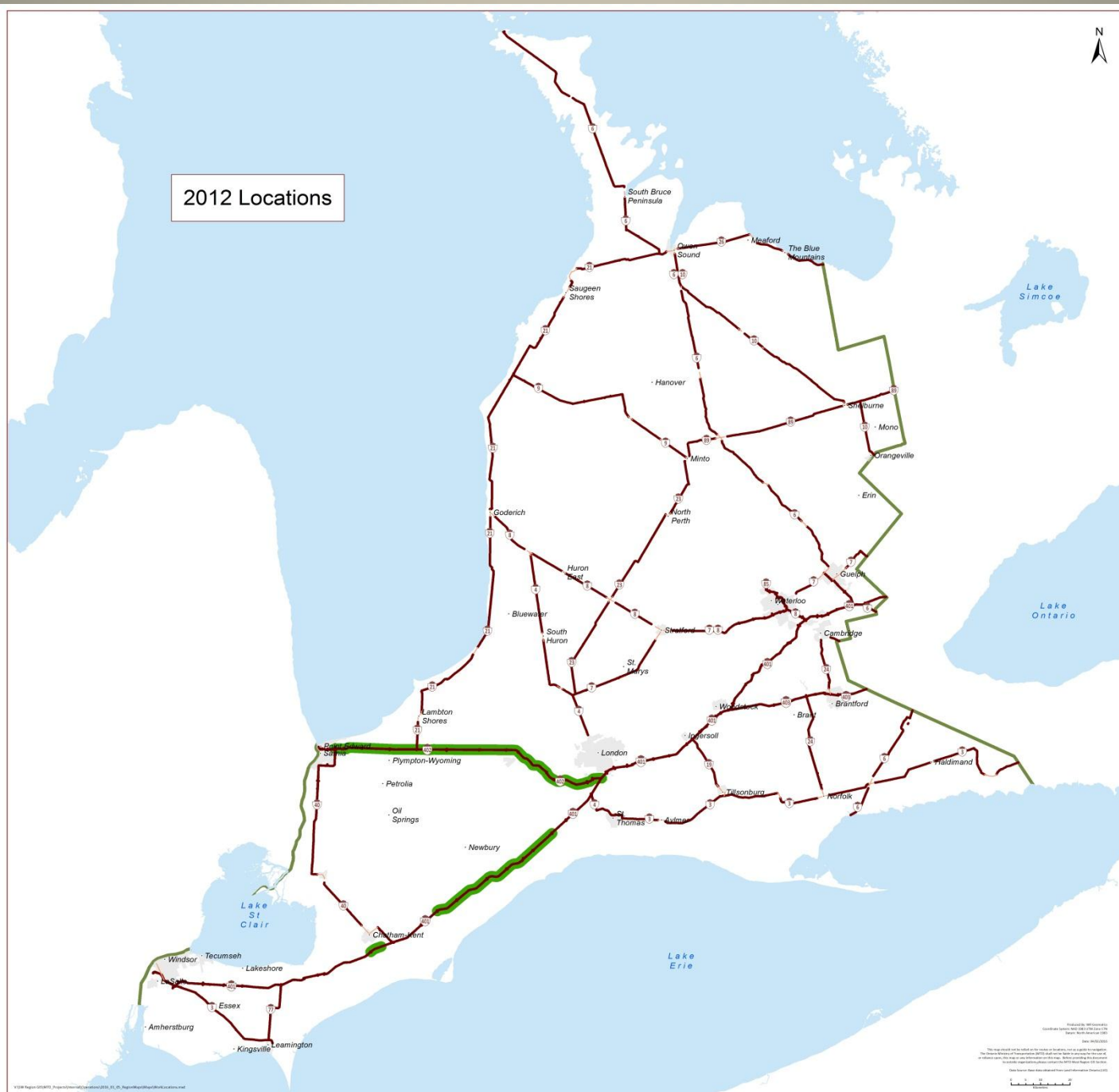
CONSTRUCT
ZONE
BEGIN



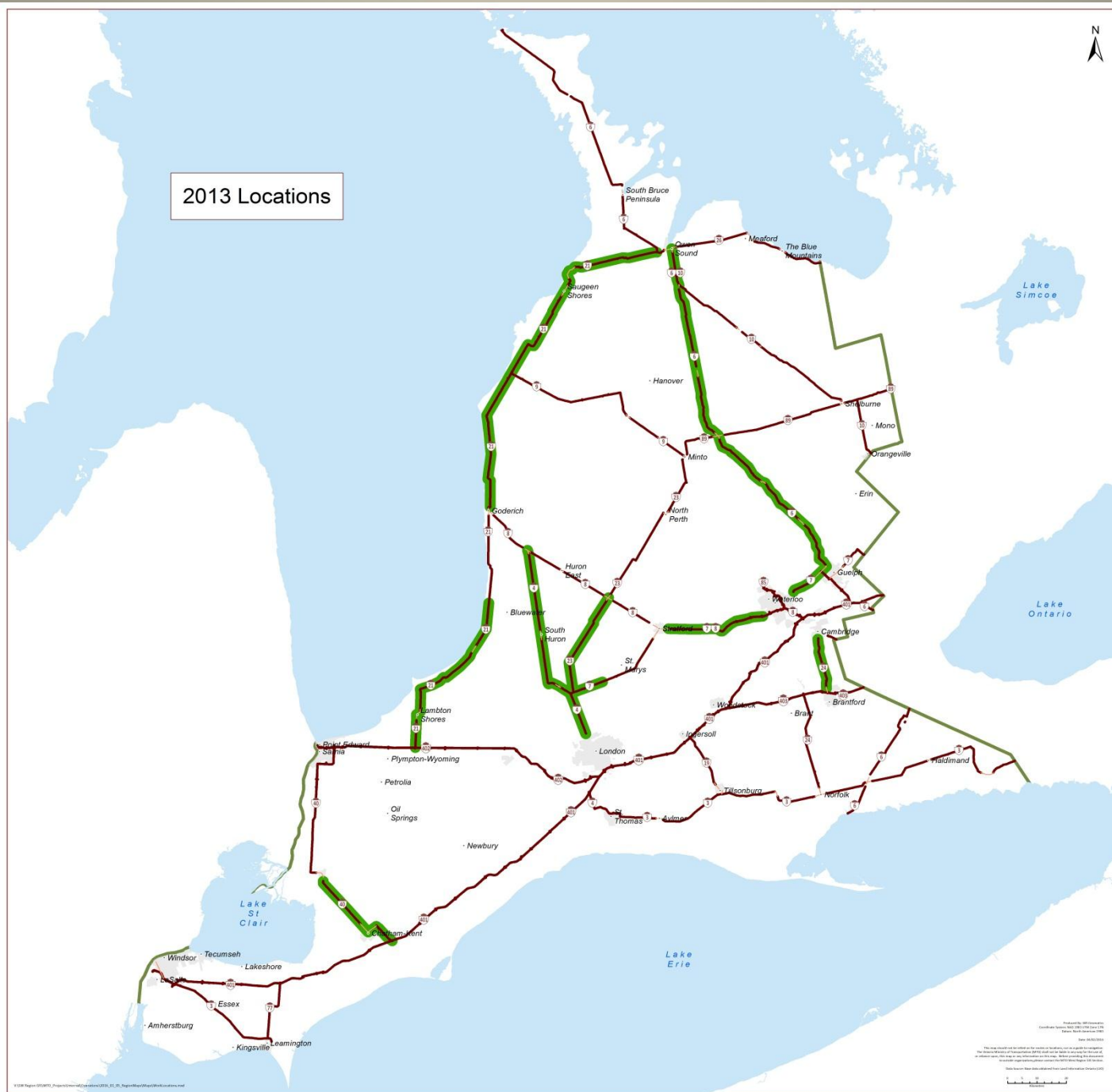
PHRAGMITES SPRAYING
IN WEST REGION
OVER THE YEARS

2012-2015

2012 Locations



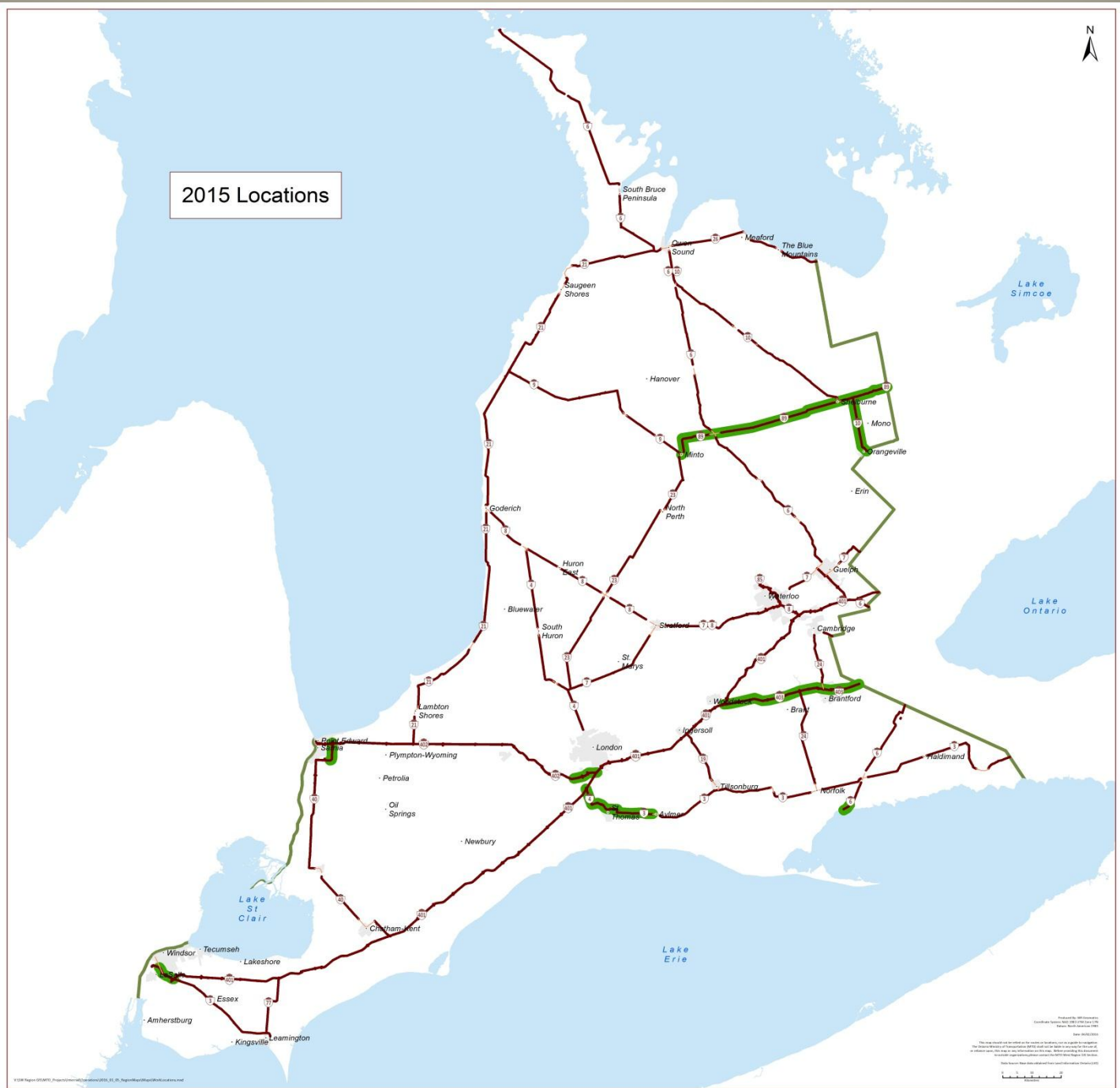
2013 Locations



2014 Locations



2015 Locations



CURRENT PROJECTS

- MTO Vegetation Working Group
 - Provincial consistency on vegetation projects
 - BP's for Phragmites Control
 - Equipment cleaning protocol
 - Noxious weeds and other invasives
 - Poison ivy, Hogweed, Wild parsnip, wild chervil etc.
 - Construction disturbance

CURRENT PROJECTS

- MTO has funded a research project in conjunction with McMaster University to map changes in distribution patterns of Phrag along highways using aerial photos.
- This will help generate accurate data for managing control measures as we go forward

CURRENT PROJECTS

- Methodology Trials For Efficiency of Control in Large Areas:
 - Cut late fall – spray late spring
 - Highway 403 – Brantford to Woodstock
 - Roll in winter – spray late spring
 - Highway 402 at Modeland Rd. Sarnia





MOVING FORWARD

- Working group
- Inventory
- Plan
- Funding



WHERE ARE THE PLOWS ?



THEY'RE OUT THERE !



WHY IS MTO NOT OUT THERE CONTROLLING PHRAG ?



WE'RE OUT THERE !



THANK YOU !

Murray Purcell
General Services Coordinator
659 Exeter Road
London, ON

murray.purcell@ontario.ca