## Invasive Phragmites

Collaborating to Address the Threat

Wetland Restoration via Phragmites Control in the Long Point Region





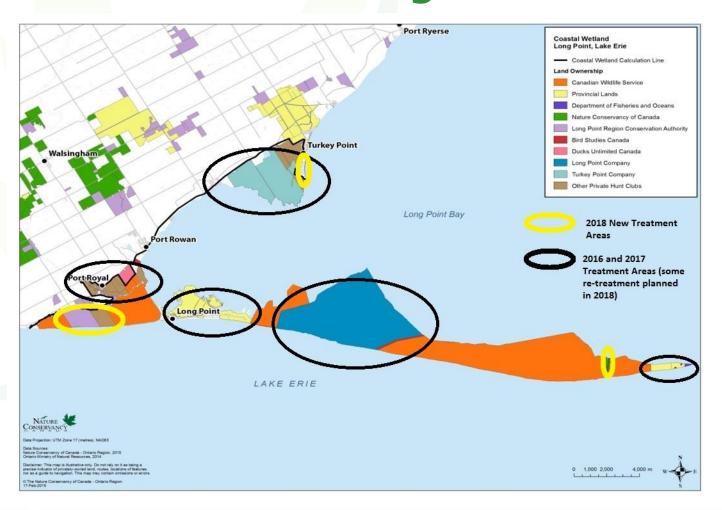
# Phragmites (Phragmites australis)

- Perennial grass; spreads by seed, rhizome, stolon
- Forms dense stands that choke out other vegetation; inhospitable to wildlife
- Allelopathic; nutrient competitor
- Canada's worst invasive plant (P. Catling, 2005, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada)
- European native no natural controls in North America





## Phragmites Control in the Long Point Region





#### NCC's Role

- Support the MNRF-led application for Emergency Use Registration of glyphosate (RoundUp Custom) for use in aquatic habitats
- Leading the control work on private lands in Long Point region – aerial and ground
- Support and deliver aspects of Communication and Monitoring Plans
- Support and participate in the Long Point Phragmites
  Action Alliance (LPPAA)

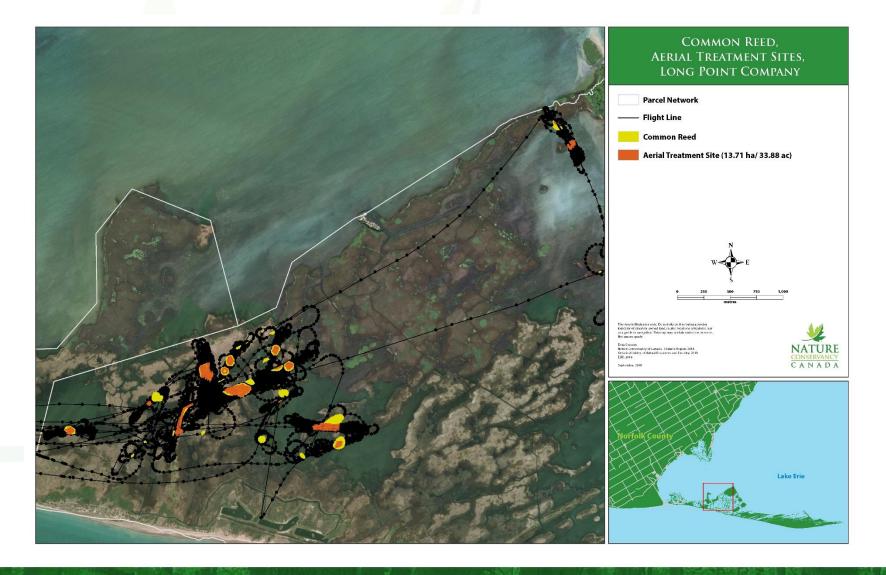


#### Tools of the Trade



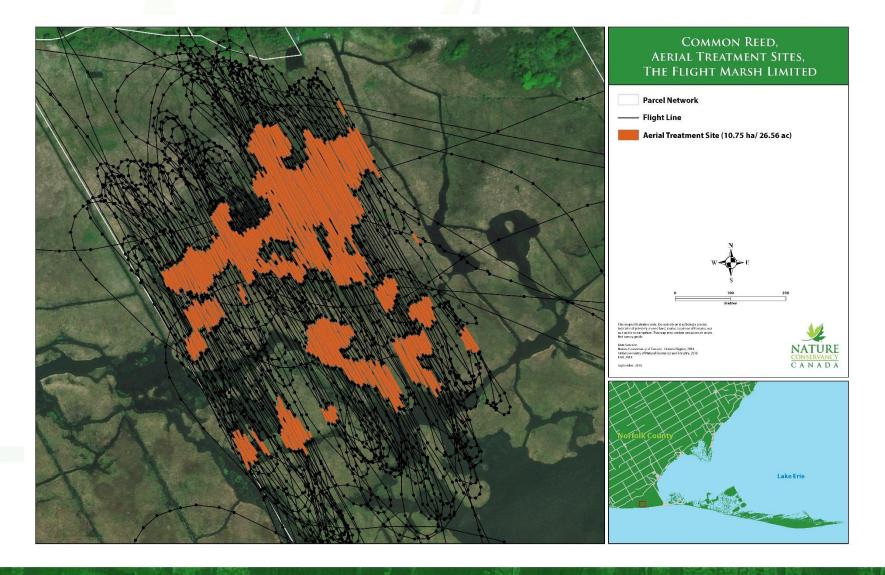


#### **Aerial Treatment**

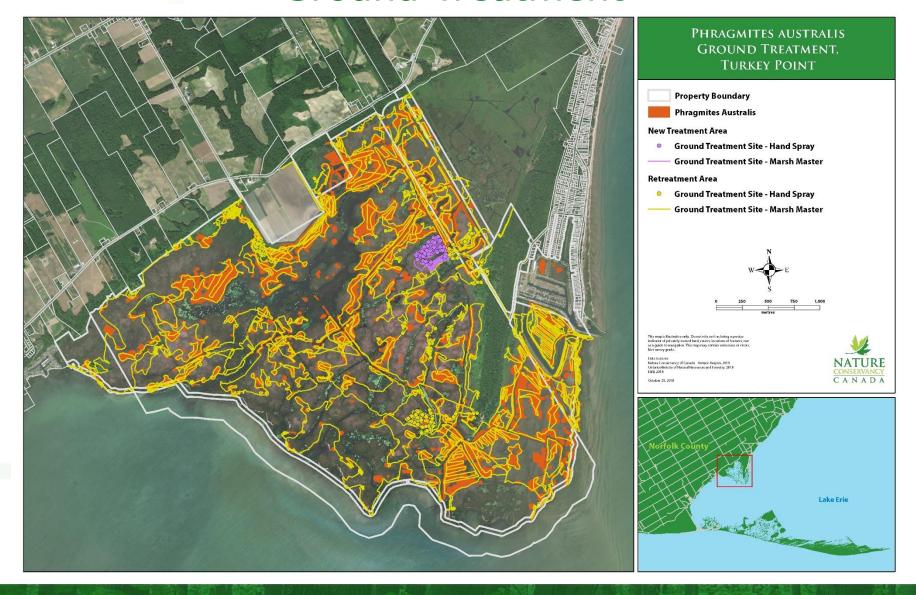




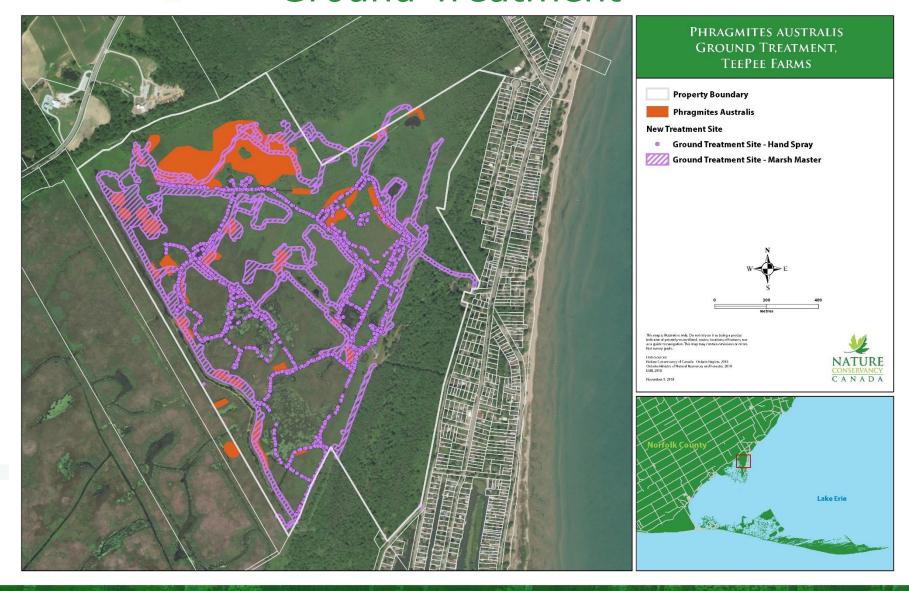
#### **Aerial Treatment**



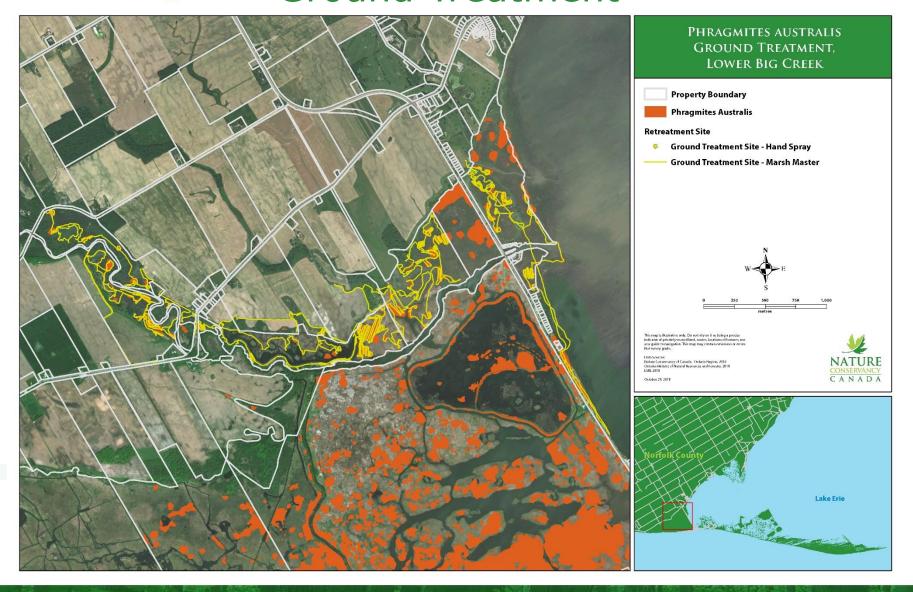




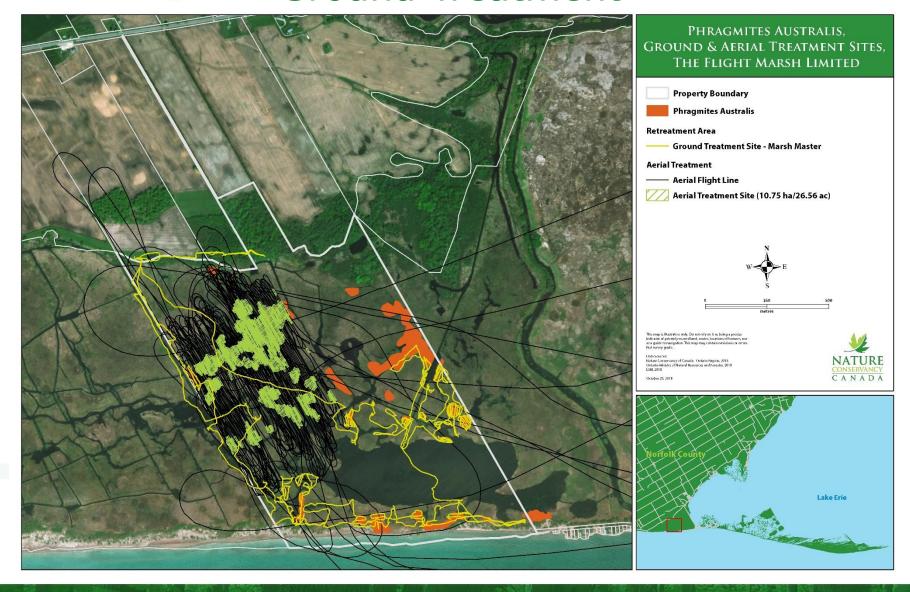








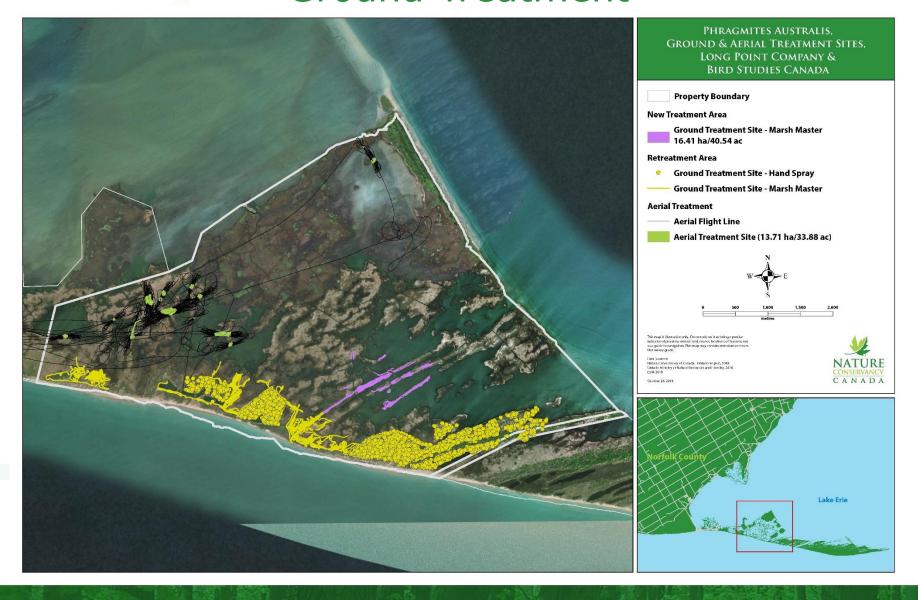












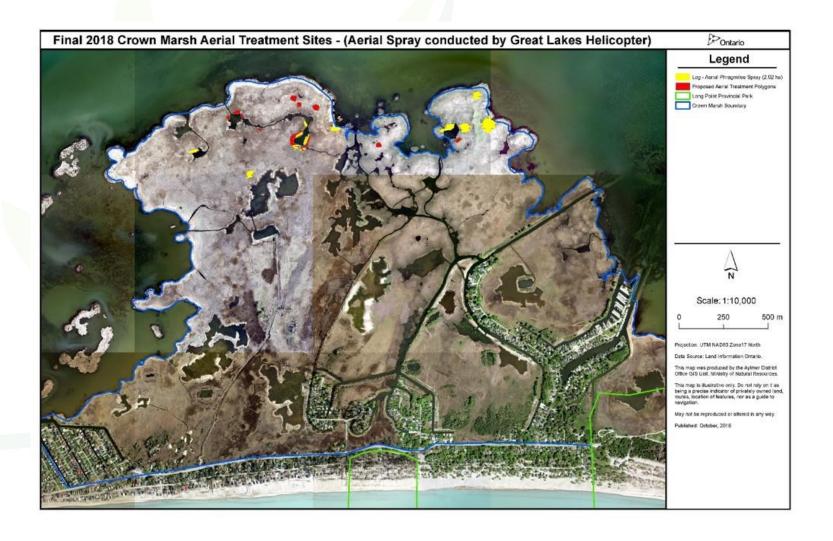


#### **OMNRF Ground Treatment**



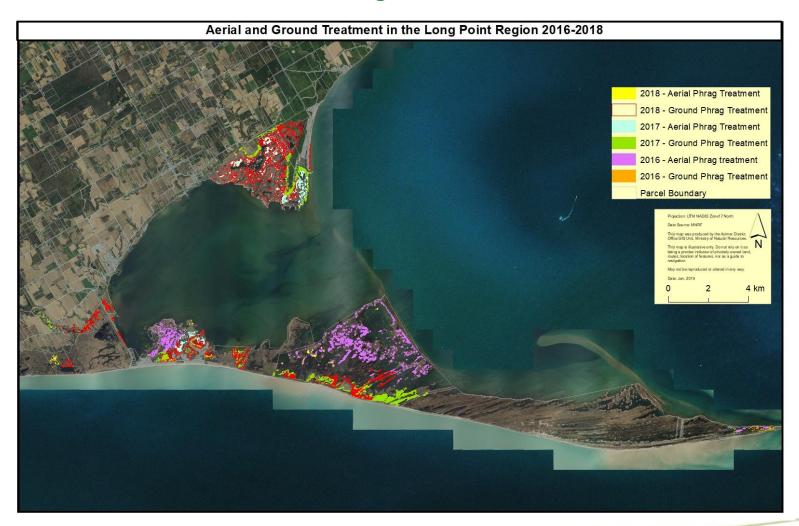


#### **OMNRF** Aerial Treatment





#### Pilot Project Scale





#### Monitoring our work

- Drinking water quality highest importance
- Efficacy did it work?
- Fate of the herbicide water and sediment sampling
- Impacts to aquatic organisms confirm existing science
- Effects on fish and fish habitat
- Sensitive vegetation community response
- Benthic invertebrate monitoring as indicator species for reptiles and amphibians
- PAMF Phragmites Adaptive Management Framework



## Next Steps – Integrated Pest Management

- Develop follow-up treatment plans for sites that were treated with herbicide using guidance from MNRF's Invasive Phragmites BMP, 2011
- Could including cutting, rolling or prescribed burns







### Next Steps – Landscape-scale Phragmites Control

- Develop a pilot landscape-scale project in the Long Point region
  2019 Big Creek Watershed inland treatment Phase 1 begins
- Identify follow-up treatment needs in 2016 2018 spray sites
- Engage federal government ECCC Canadian Wildlife Service
- Expand to include other critical coastal wetlands in the lower Great Lakes and associated watersheds



## Questions?



