



NEWS RELEASE

Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Receives Funding to Support Invasive Phragmites Control

For Immediate Release

September 25, 2026

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is pleased to announce it has received funding through the 2026/27 Invasive Phragmites Control Fund (IPCF), administered by the Invasive Species Centre with support from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

As part of this year's funding program, five organizations, including the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, Niagara Region, the City of Niagara Falls, Niagara College, and the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, were collectively awarded more than \$80,000 to support invasive phragmites management efforts across Niagara. The Town received \$10,000 to support treatment activities at priority areas of concern, including stormwater ponds, roadside ditches, and municipal drain and drainage areas.

"Protecting Niagara-on-the-Lake's natural environment requires proactive action against invasive species," said Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa. "This funding will help the Town continue important work to protect local ecosystems, maintain critical drainage infrastructure, and preserve the natural spaces that residents and visitors value."

Invasive phragmites are an aggressive, rapidly spreading plant species that can displace native vegetation, reduce biodiversity, degrade wetlands and wildlife habitat, restrict access to natural areas, and impede drainage infrastructure if left unmanaged.

The Town has been actively managing invasive phragmites and raising awareness about the impacts of the species and the methods used to control its spread. Funding support from the IPCF will help offset project costs and allow the Town to continue implementing evidence-based management practices that support long-term environmental health and community resilience.

"Invasive phragmites can have significant impacts on both natural habitats and municipal infrastructure," said CAO Nick Ruller. "This funding supports our ongoing efforts to address infestations in key locations throughout the community while helping to protect biodiversity and improve the effectiveness of our drainage systems."



The Town thanks the Invasive Species Centre, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and project partners across Niagara for their support and collaboration in advancing invasive species management initiatives throughout the region.

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