

## Wetland Restoration in the Sydenham River Watershed

St. Clair Region Conservation Authority

### \$ 36,500 Grant

#### HABITAT RETENTION

- 8 landowners signed agreements to retire lands+ 2 SCRCA properties

#### WETLAND RESTORATION

- 17.8 acres of retired floodplain farmland and marginal land restored to wetland habitat

#### UPLAND RESTORATION

- 5.6 acres of surrounding upland habitat restored to trees and shrubs

#### COMMUNICATION & EDUCATION

- 26 families attended a Turtle Watch event.

**Before:** A wetland plant seed bank existed but very grassy, no open water for migrating waterfowl.



**After:** Completed with two berms and minimal excavation.



## Operationalizing the Enhanced Great Lakes Marsh Monitoring Program

Bird Studies Canada

### \$ 25,000 Grant

#### SCIENCE

- 370 Standard GLMMP marsh bird point counts were completed at 185 sampling points in the new enhanced sampling framework.
- Finalized data uploaded into BSC's Nature Counts GLMMP permanent electronic archive.
- Overlap of wetlands surveyed within the new enhanced sampling framework for this project and by other major project partners such as the Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Monitoring Program throughout the Great Lakes and the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton, ON, were identified and streamlined for the 2016 field season.
- 413 volunteers conducted point counts and vegetation sampling at 1,374 points along 460 routes at 498 wetlands.
- A manuscript comparing and contrasting benefits of OEHJV wetlands for conserving marsh birds and frogs was submitted to a peer-reviewed journal. Results presented at the 6th NA Ornithological Conference in Washington, DC in Aug 2016.



# Wetland Restoration Program

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority

## \$ 40,000 Grant

### WETLAND RESTORATION

- 11 pairing ponds were created to complement larger wetlands.
- 11 wetlands have been established and reforestation was completed in Spring 2016.

### HABITAT RETENTION

- 10 acres of open water were created, 63 acres of upland habitat was planted, 36,000 trees and shrubs were planted.



## Natural Heritage Restoration Site

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority

### Greening Partnership



"Working in partnership towards the greening of Chatham-Kent"

Along with the support of our partners, the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority was able to restore this land to its natural state to conserve Native Carolinian plant and animal habitat while preserving the genetic diversity of this unique ecosystem.

Grâce au soutien de nos partenaires, l'office de protection de Lower Thames Valley a été en mesure de restaurer cette terre à son état naturel pour conserver l'habitat des plantes caroliniennes et des animaux indigènes tout en préservant la diversité génétique de cet écosystème unique.



# Water Soldier in the Trent Severn Waterway: **Monitoring, Management and Community Engagement**

Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters

**\$ 18,663 Grant**

### WETLAND RESTORATION

- The Water Soldier Monitoring Protocol was implemented on Lake Seymour, Crowe Bay and Percy Reach; over 9,000 point intercepts were sampled in June/July 2016.
- Shade cloth enclosures were installed and then removed in Percy Reach and Crowe Bay. All three installations were successful in eradicating the populations of Water Soldier encompassed under the shade cloth enclosures.
- Invasive species removal: over 50 paper leaf bags of Water Soldier were removed and disposed of from Percy Reach.

### COMMUNICATION & EDUCATION

- Water Soldier Watch Day was held on July 16, 2016: 27 volunteers sampled the shoreline of Crowe Bay for 4 hours, covering 10km.
- An open house was held on September 7, 2016, with over 50 community members in attendance, to spread awareness about the monitoring efforts and the current control efforts for 2016.



# Long Point Crown Marsh Restoration Project

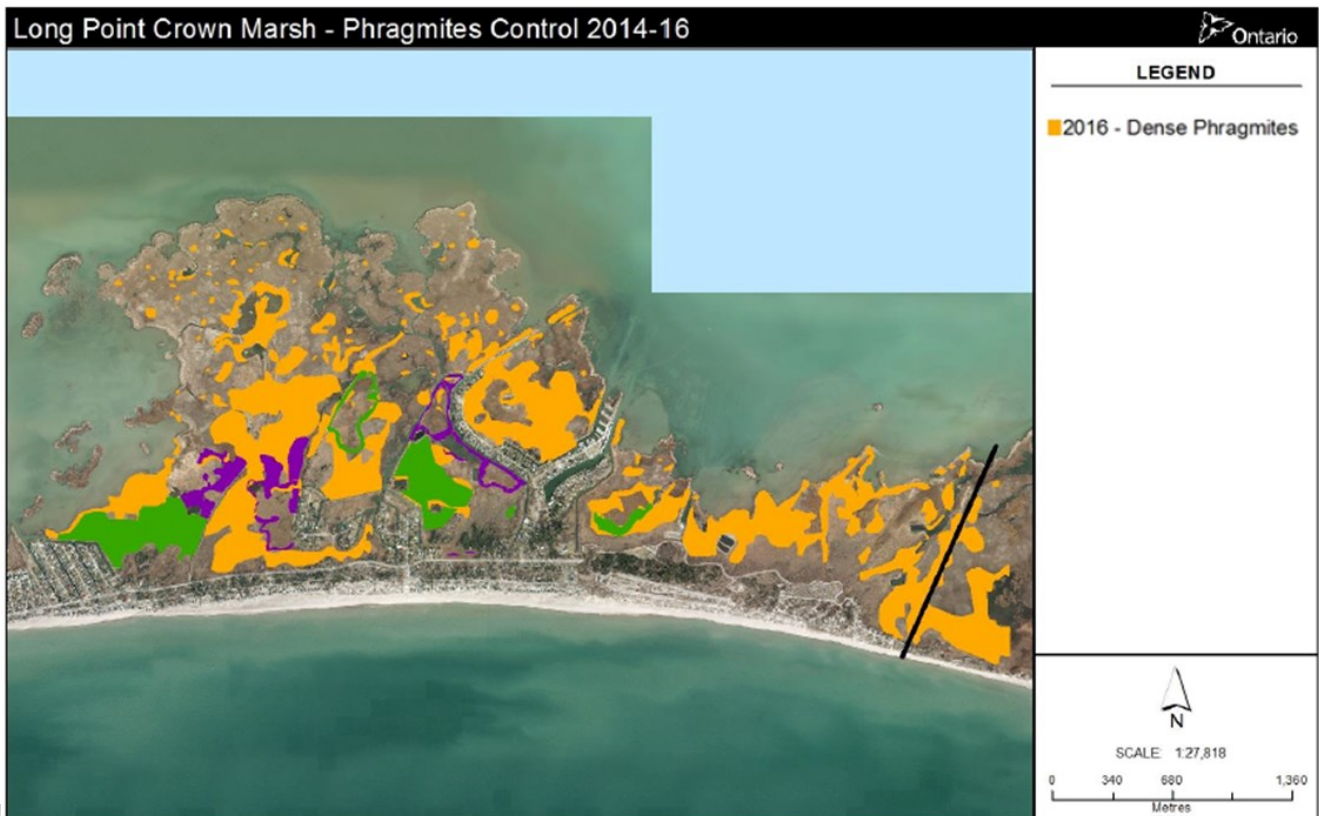
Long Point Waterfowlers' Association

## \$ 20,000 Grant

One of the biggest pressures facing coastal in the Lower Great Lakes region is inundation by Phragmites. Phragmites outcompetes native vegetation, colonizes and overtakes open water areas and has measurable role in lowering static water levels in wetlands. Controlling Phragmites using OMNRF's BMPs has shown to restore water levels and returns open water in shallow wetlands. This method involves using an herbicide treatment during dry season by a license contractor, followed by rolling and a final prescribed burn treatment to destroy existing seed heads. This allows for native vegetation communities to begin to re-generate.

### WETLAND RESTORATION

- Heavy equipment was used to ensure hydrologic connections were maintained and improved in sections of the marsh, influencing 20 acres of wetland habitat.
- Dense stands of phragmites were treated followed by rolling or cutting to ensure a safe, subsequent prescribed burn, influencing 30 acres of wetland habitat.





# OFAH Get Outdoors Youth Waterfowl Hunt

Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters

\$ 10,000 Grant

## COMMUNICATION & EDUCATION

- 16 youth waterfowl hunters received training under the Canada Firearms Safety Course and Ontario Hunter Education Course.
- Conservation workshops were held and a mentored duck and goose hunt was offered (attended by 21 youth).



Your Outdoor News Source | November/December 2016

## Youth hunters on the mark

On Saturday September 17, a group of 26 newly-licensed young hunters experienced their first waterfowl hunt on Rice Lake. Waterfowler Heritage Day -- a partnership between the OFAH and Delta Waterfowl -- is all about providing young hunters with an opportunity to practice their hunting and outdoor skills a week before the regular waterfowl season opens.

Licensed adult hunters mentor the youth and pass on knowledge by offering guidance throughout the day. The day started off with a very early breakfast provided by BJ Tackle and then it was off to the duck blinds. The group hunted until 10 a.m. and then it was off to Marshman's farm to see a retriever demonstration, process their birds and enjoy a barbeque. Supporting youth hunting and fishing opportunities continues to be one of the OFAH's core values. The OFAH provided funding for these youngsters to complete their Canadian Firearms Safety Course as well as the Ontario Hunter Education course. We take pride in investing in youth today, as they will carry on our traditions and represent the outdoors community of tomorrow.



## Amherst Island Wetland Reconstruction Project

Ducks Unlimited Canada

### \$ 135,000 Grant

The Amherst Island Marsh project is a large coastal wetland located along the southwestern shore of Amherst Island. Repair work was required along sections of the earthen dyke where muskrat burrowing had resulted in extensive slumping. This reconstruction initiative restored the structural integrity to the dyke by creating a clay core and augmenting the dyke in the slumped sections. This area will now remain a productive wetland habitat for the next 25 years. Waterfowl breeding, migratory, and staging habitat will be sustained. The local community will benefit from increased hunting, bird watching and recreational opportunities.

#### MANAGEMENT

- Recored and augmented portions of 2,044 meters of earthen dyke; refurbish existing electrical pump.

#### WETLAND RESTORATION

- Created six in-basin opening in the cattail mat totaling 1.22 acres and connect these with 1,030m of linear channels.



Above: Pair pond excavation to secure clay material for re-coring the dyke.

Right: clay material being backfilled into the excavated dyke core.



# Hullett Marsh Youth Waterfowl Introduction Clinic

Friends of Hullett

**\$ 2,000 Grant**

## COMMUNICATION & EDUCATION

- Hunt stake signs were replaced in the marsh.
- 15 walk-in marker posts were installed to improve marsh navigation.
- 2 presentations were conducted to teach youth about the importance of wetland habitat and waterfowl nesting structures.
- 3 hunting techniques were taught, including concealment, decoys and calling.
- 10 youth participated in the youth hunt, which included bird cleaning education.

