

Community Progress Report *October 2014*
Phragmites Management Area V (Wood Drive)

Partnering with the Municipality of Lambton Shores (MLS) and St. Clair Region Conservation Authority and with funding provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources *Land Stewardship and Habitat Restoration Fund and COA*, the Lambton Shores Phragmites Community Group has been able to initiate habitat restoration along the shoreline in the Wood Drive community. The following summary has been prepared to keep you informed.

- The project began in the spring when the Phragmites was rolled to compress the standing dead stalks using a retrofitted Centaur. This machine enables the contractor to cross rough terrain (there are lots of rocks!) and access remote and difficult to reach cells. Unfortunately because of wet weather and westerly winds, we were unable to burn as originally planned. Rolling, however, is an important step as then the emerging new shoots could then be easily observed and this resulted in a more efficient herbicide treatment.
- In October, the herbicide application was completed. This was done using the Centaur, Kubota, air boat and back packs. Using an air boat, both sides of Butler's Bay Boat Channel and the Shashawanda Creek were treated. Phragmites in standing water could not be treated because Ontario law does not permit this.
- A total of 57 acres has been treated in this first phase of the project.
- The next step is to complete a second roll; and to burn the standing dead stalks. We hope (weather, winds and water levels permitting) that this will take place by the end of November.

The LSPCG would like to thank the Wood Drive community for their support and words of encouragement. This project has been challenging because of the weather conditions and higher water levels. Having the *Invasive Phragmites Management Plan for the Municipality of Lambton Shores* (available on the MLS website) has enabled us to adapt our plans to continue moving forward in restoring this coastal meadow wetland.



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