



MEDIA RELEASE

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New Invasive Species Action Fund supports on-the-ground action in Southwestern Ontario

Sault Ste. Marie, ON – Thanks to an investment from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Invasive Species Centre is supporting [61 new collaborative action projects](#) by community groups, Indigenous organizations, and municipalities on critical invasive species, including invasive plants, aquatic plants, and forest pests.

Invasive species are those that are introduced to an ecosystem outside of their native range and have the potential to impact the ecology, economy, or society. Ontario is one of the highest-risk provinces for the introduction of new invasive species in Canada. Invasive species can damage lakes, lands, forests, and communities and are one of the greatest threats to the natural world. Invasive species are costly, responsible for an estimated [\\$3.6 billion dollars of impact each year](#) to forestry, fisheries, agriculture, infrastructure, tourism, and recreation in Ontario.

The Invasive Species Centre, through the first round of the Invasive Species Action Fund, is pleased to support 151 groups, including 1,400 support staff and volunteers for on-the-ground action to stop invasive species. The funding is supporting 61 Indigenous groups and communities and 72 municipalities and conservation authorities. Projects will engage almost 8,000 people at 104 events, including over 1,800 youth in Ontario in 2023.

“Working collaboratively, the Invasive Species Centre helps communities reduce the spread of invasive species which impact their parks, forests and lakes resulting in long-term positive change on the landscape,” said Sarah Rang, Executive Director.

In Southwestern Ontario, the Invasive Species Action Fund is pleased to support the following organizations and projects:

Beamsville: Niagara Bruce Trail Club, Buckthorn & invasive honeysuckle removal on high priority Bruce Trail Conservancy Nature Reserves

Brantford:

Freedom House International, Giant Hogweed Mitigation Project
Kayanase, div of Grand River Employment & Training Inc, The Mohawk Village Memorial Park Naturalization Project

Chatham: Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, Managing New Invasions in the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority and Urban Stewardship Invasive Removal Program

Goderich: Maitland Trail Association, Control invasive Buckthorn on the Sifto Loop

Hamilton: Hamilton Naturalists Club, Managing Invasive Species at Hamilton Naturalists' Club Nature Sanctuaries

London:

ReForest London, Buckthorn Busting in London's Celebration Forest

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, Invasive Species Management, Inventory, Monitoring, Mapping and Community Engagement in the UTRCA Watershed

Niagara Falls: Heartland Forest Nature Experience, Invasive Purple Loosestrife Community Engagement Removal Project

St. Thomas: Kettle Creek Conservation Authority, Tackling Invasive Species at Kirk Cousins Management Area

St. Catharines: The Green Herons, Stop the Sticky Bedstraw Brah

Wainfleet: Ontario Nature, Controlling Invasive Hemlock Woolly Adelgid at Harold Mitchell Nature Reserve

Waterloo: University of Waterloo, Managing Garlic Mustard at the University of Waterloo

Windsor: The Corporation of the City of Windsor, Invasive Species Control Implementation and Early Detection Activities in the Ojibway Prairie Complex

Regionwide: Landscape Ontario Horticultural Trades Association, Monitoring for Invasive Species on the Landscape in Central and Southern Ontario



Image 1: Volunteers remove invasive buckthorn with Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre



Image 2: Species Invaders program at Conservation Halton remove invasive species with new tools

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About the Invasive Species Centre

The Invasive Species Centre is a not-for-profit organization that prevents the spread of invasive species in Canada and beyond by connecting with stakeholders to catalyze invasive species management and communicate policy and science knowledge. Visit our [website](#) to learn about invasive species, register for events, sign up to receive news and find out how you can take action. Funding from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry supports the Invasive Species Action Fund.

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