

Invasive species in Kespukwitk

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Invasive species have been identified as a major threat to various Species at Risk in Kespukwitk. The Nova Scotia Invasive Species Council managed field projects involving Phragmites (*Phragmites australis*) and Dog-strangling Vine (*Vincetoxicum rossicum*) in the region in the summer of 2022. Phragmites has been identified as one of Canada's worst invasive plants, with major impacts on wetlands and species at risk in Ontario. Records from Nova Scotia include several sites in Kespukwitk and appear to be increasing. We conducted baseline surveys for invasive Phragmites throughout southwest Nova Scotia to document occurrences and improve our understanding of the spread and impacts of the species. Dog-strangling Vine is only known to be established in two locations in Nova Scotia. We engaged the municipality and local residents in conducting surveys, landowner outreach, and weed-pulls to prevent the spread of Dog-strangling vine in Kentville. We implemented actions outlined in our community-based management strategy (developed in 2021) including more emphasis on seed pod removal and consideration of chemical control options.

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