

## October 2022, Phragmites Working Group Lake Bernard Season End Report

### **1) Organizing and Participating: Year four**

The Phragmites Working Group Lake Bernard completed year four of a four-year plan to remove invasive Phragmites Australis from the shore and water of Lake Bernard. Our goal was to manage all large stands at least once in four years and then review and plan further actions. We are encouraged to see and recognize that property owners continue to manage smaller stands all around the lake. This was our group's busiest season thus far.

The following was accomplished:

#### **2022 Season as of October 2022:**

- 110 Volunteers participated in cutting events in 2022 (77 in 2019, 87 in 2020, 103 in 2021)
- 130 Lakeshore property Owners on an email list of 213 received information regularly on events
- 6 Municipal Leaders received information and gave support
- 4 Lake Bernard Property Owner Association Directors supported us this season
- 7 Local Businesses supported by providing business services (T-shirts, purchased services, food, equipment, signage etc.)
- 4 School Personnel received information by email
- 30 Youth volunteered/6 volunteer hours forms were signed
- 15 Properties were cleared that are municipal, business, church, or charity
- 5 New sites were managed, one included a 66-foot municipal easement belonging to Strong Township.
- **31 Cutting events** (26 in 2021) and **39 sites** were managed (33 in 2021).  
On some dates more than one site was managed. In addition, 3 Small wetland sites were managed in July, and Strong Township.
- **901.5 Volunteer hours** – 157 hours less than last season. The west end stands were managed in two days (164 volunteer hours less this year) with saws, Truxor, and backpack sprayers. A second private site was managed with herbicide applied by backpack sprayers this season (27 hours less needed than last season).
- 77 saw operator hours were paid for and, 21 saw operator hours were donated (120 hours saw operator hours in 2021).
- 2 Days were contracted with the Invasive Phragmites Control Centre (IPPC), for a four-person team and one Truxor to cut on the West End stand, and spray on two sites.  
<https://www.phragcontrol.com/>
- 44 truck loads (estimated), 5 dump truck loads and 1 trailer load of cut phragmites composed of: 1150 tied bundles, 248 leaf bags and some loose piles, were taken to the landfill by works or roads department crew.
- 8 sites required more than one cut;  
Examples: 5 cuts at the Dam, 2 at HANDS/Sewage pumping station, 2 days at the West End stands, 4 cuts at a site on Crescent Lane, 3 cuts another site South Lake Bernard Road.
- 8 individual sites have had removal over four seasons. Several sites in the village that have been managed for 4 or 5 seasons were smaller and done more quickly.
- Our group removed invasive Phragmites Australis on 8 sites in 2018, 13 in 2019, 27 in 2020, 33 in 2021 and 39 in 2022.

We are seeing reduction in the size of stands, smaller stalks, less density, and less regrowth, with the best results in deep water, allowing us to occasionally work on up to three small sites in one morning. More than 5 years of management is needed for the large stands: the dam, the two west end stands and several others, with the anticipated time needed for management decreasing each year.

Some sites like the environmentally complex Dam and the large West End stands need more than one method of management. The cost, years of time and human effort required to manage these large areas with saws, shovels and cane cutters is significant.

3 more satellite groups outside the immediate area have consulted with us this season to assist with their removal efforts and we will continue to assist with development of removal groups across Almaguin.

We refer to the best management practices (BMP) document which outlines all methods currently used effectively in Ontario: [https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/OIPC\\_BMP\\_Phragmites\\_April302021\\_D10\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/OIPC_BMP_Phragmites_April302021_D10_WEB.pdf)

Since the BMP was published a new herbicide has been approved for use in wetlands in Ontario: <https://www.better-vegetation-management.basf.ca/en/products/habitat-aqua.html>.

### **COVID 19 and Cutting Events**

COVID emergency measures restrictions were lifted this season. The SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variant provided challenges as various Phragmites fighters and municipal workers tested positive, creating planning challenges:

1. Group size varied through out the season. Half of the sites were managed with less than 8 volunteers.
2. Youth were often volunteers at our events; no proof of vaccination was required.
3. Seasonal cottage residents from the United States were able to assist this season with the cutting events.
4. Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Rangers were not asked for help during the winter as COVID was still a concern.
5. Garden centres were open to the public at the usual time, and we distributed 80 copies of: "Grow Me Instead- Northern version" – [https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/NorthernGMI\\_2014\\_FINAL.compressed.pdf](https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/NorthernGMI_2014_FINAL.compressed.pdf) a pamphlet aimed at preventing cultivation of invasive plants in gardens and on shorelines.

We were challenged to complete all cuts this season, did not finish at the dam and did not have the time to cut regrowth on any sites

### **Partnerships:**

We are thankful for the support, advertising, provision of administrative time, and hands on assistance from: the lead agency the Near North Enviro- Education Centre (NNEEC), as well as the Lake Bernard Property Owners Association (LBPOA), our municipal leaders, respective works and roads departments from the Village of Sundridge, Strong and Joly Townships, our 2 arborists: Todd Cruz "Wolverine" and JP Bressan "Arborist Alliance", an additional saw operator Darryl Judd, and Extreme Small Engine Repair who maintained our saws.

### **Funding:**

Recognition with our thanks needs to be given to the partners (NNEEC, LBPOA, and Strong Township) who submitted the applications for grants received from:

- **The Ontario Wildlife Foundation:** \$8,878.41
- **The Green Shovels Collaborative (FOCA):** \$5,000.00,
- **The Invasive Species Centre microgrants program** \$1,000.00
- **The Invasive Phragmites Control Fund– Green Shovels Collaborative** \$8,000.00

Donations were received throughout the summer. Cutting event costs came from fundraising until the Ontario Wildlife Foundation grant cheque was received on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Booking and committing for payment of the 2 Truxor event days by the Invasive Phragmites Control Centre (IPCC) occurred in the spring and was based on the fundraising underway.

#### **Scheduling:**

- Regular Tuesday and Friday morning cutting days were scheduled. Sites requiring saw operators were scheduled on Fridays. Two skilled arborists ran the saws at these events. One additional saw operator was recruited in July. Volunteers occasionally ran saws.
- Volunteers were asked to email if they planned to attend. Cuts started at 7:30 am with set up of the boom, signs, tarps, and tools. Saws started early if needed and volunteers arrived after 8:00 am in staggered time starts; we aimed to finish at noon. Pizza lunches were provided for the two large Truxor days. Volunteers brought their own water. Small snacks and cans of carbonated flavored water were provided. Private homeowners often provided snacks.

#### **Volunteers**

110 volunteers were an incredible force this season, and they continue to assist us to plan, evaluate, and motivate us to get the Phrag gone! The hard work being done by tenacious volunteers to address a significant environmental threat to our lake and watersheds is commendable.

**Meetings:** Meetings of the Executive were held as per the terms of reference for the working group: "6 - 9 annually or at the call of the chair."

#### **There are 8 currently on the Executive of the Phragmites Working Group Lake Bernard.**

Jocelyn Palm – Founder and Director of the Near North Enviro-Education Centre (NNEEC)

Lois Brisbois – Founding member Phragmites Working Group/Lake Property Owner

Dan Burton – Naturalist, Member Muskoka Conservancy

Marilee Koenderink – Chair, Lake Property Owner

Dave McGirr – Lake Property Owner/Supporter

Bob Attwell –Director NNEEC, Lake Property Owner

Robert Renaud – Lake Bernard Property Owners Association /Lake Shore Property Owner

Karin Mertins – Lake Bernard Supporter/naturalist

#### **Receiving Minutes:**

- Lyle Hall – Mayor Village of Sundridge
- Marianne Stickland – Counsellor Strong Township, Supporter
- Jennifer Boyce – Lake Property Owner, Supporter
- Kathy Pike – Founding member of the Phragmites Working Group Lake Bernard /Lake Property Owner
- Jeremy St. Onge- Canadore College School of Environmental Studies, Technician and Technology program
- Sue Eckersley –NNEEC /GBGC Director

Zoom meetings:

1. **April 21, 2022**, 7:00 pm – 8:30, 7 participants
2. **May 26, 2022**, 7:00 pm – 7:30, 6 plus 1 guest participating
3. **June 23, 2022**, 7:00 pm- 8:00, 3 participants
4. **July 17, 2022**, 7:00 pm – 7:30, Truxor planning meeting, 5 participants
5. **Aug 18, 2022**, 7:00 pm -8:00, 5 participants
6. **September 15, 2022**, 7:00 – 8:00, 5 participants
7. **October 20, 2022**, 7:00 – 8:00, 7 participants

## **2. Management Plan:**

We use saws for cutting for dense stands in water and on wet shoreline areas, as well as spades, or cane cutters for cutting to drown and spading on shore. We are seeing a decrease in the number of plants, the size of the stalks and the height of the stalks in sites that have been managed for four seasons.

Drowning has occurred in deeper water or murky water.

Dry land stands are resistant to management as are plants in gravel or stone shorelines. Repeated removal of regrowth works best. Consideration of all the management tools is needed as each site is different.

### **Purchased services:**

- Two local arborists cut once each week with Stihl Kombi saws. 15 cutting events required saw operators. Volunteers skilled in the use of their own saws occasionally assisted. An additional saw operator was recruited late in the season and was needed.
- Cutting in water required that the saws be assessed, greased, and maintained after each cut, as recommended by Dr. Gilbert and the supplier.
- The Invasive Phragmites Control Centre (IPCC) team of 4 was hired for two days July 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 with one Truxor for management of the two large west end stands. Under the direction of Dr. Janice Gilbert spraying of herbicide by licensed applicators occurred on two specific sites.

### **What is needed now?**

We continue to follow the recommendations for management of the phragmites on Lake Bernard from the report received in October 2019. The recommendations were for three areas:

1. The Dam,
2. The West End and
3. The smaller stands scattered along the shoreline in and around the lake.

Consultation with Dr. Janice Gilbert *Invasive Phragmites Control Centre (IPCC)*

<https://www.phragcontrol.com/> occurs in the fall and in May via pictures and emails.

8 sites have been managed for four seasons or more. Significant reductions in the size and number of plants have been obtained on 6 of those sites such that students may be able to manage them next season. Mechanical methods spading or cutting with cane cutters will still be needed. Repeated cane cutting and spading for stands in water too shallow to immediately drown, and on shorelines will be needed (more than once per season if possible).

The other 33 sites we will offer to manage with saws if needed, cane cutters and spades. Two will be assessed for the presence of Native Phragmites by submission for DNA testing.

The Dam and the West End stands will be considered for spraying to achieve a return to a native marsh and reed bed area. The 0.9-acre lakeside portion of the West End stands separated from the shore stand by a small channel (considered crown land and belonging to MNRF) was sprayed by licensed applicators with herbicide using backpack sprayers. The dead phragmites are to be removed by volunteers during the winter of 2022- 2023. Assessment will occur in the spring to ensure any regrowth is removed and native plants return. We hope backpack spraying was successful in eliminating the phragmites at a very high percentage. This is much more cost effective than paying saw operators using gas powered saws, years of volunteer events, municipal time, and equipment to take truck loads of cut biomass to the landfill. Returning the reed bed to native aquatic plants is now an achievable goal for this lake.

Strategies are always stand specific and success depends on:

- the shore bottom composition,
- size of the stand, age (how high and how long established), and
- depth of water (If the phragmites is growing in 0.6 metres of water, is cut at the shore bottom, and kept underwater for 6 weeks, a high proportion will drown. Murky water blocks the sunlight from reaching the roots).

Factors considered:

- location of the phragmites (dry land, shore, or deep water),
- the nature of the shoreline (sand or soft soil for spading versus rocky substrate which makes it difficult to spade rhizomes below the ground)
- weather – drought, flooding, or changing lake water levels, and
- climate heating (longer ice off periods, warm weather and longer phragmites growing seasons).  
It is a plant – we can tarp it, spade it, cut it, drown it, thoughtfully apply herbicide, and we can make it gone.

#### **How long will this take, how many stands are there, and can they be cut?**

Our goal for Almaguin is to be Phrag Free by 2033. It will take many years to effectively remove all the phragmites on large stands. Ongoing monitoring for regrowth and immediate management action will be needed. The number of small stands on the lakeshore is unknown. Property owners need to remove it promptly from their property. There are properties on the lake where owners do not remove phragmites from their property. All sites need to be managed.

**Our Municipalities** could declare Invasive Phragmites Australis a noxious weed, leading to more owners removing it or asking for assistance. There is no one locally to hire to clear phragmites from property, we could grow a team for hire. A coordinated watershed approach is needed to ensure the roads, CN tracks, private and municipal properties and especially wetlands are all managed according to best practices.

Please convince property owners to:

- allow assistance with removal, and
- maintain removal each season and
- begin removing using best practices if they have not done so.

**3) 2022 Volunteer Cutting events (target 20 minimum) on stands on the Lake.**

Our minimum target for cutting events, is 20 per season. For planning purposes, an event is defined as a minimum of 4 hours in length and a group of 8-10 volunteers using recommended equipment and removal strategies, with transportation of the biomass provided by either the Village or the Township depending on the location. (4 hours x 8 volunteers = 32 volunteer hours approximately per "cut" x 20 cuts = 640 volunteer hours as an annual target minimum).

**Evaluation Data Specific Cutting Events Summer 2022:**

**1. Elizabeth Street**

8:00 am – 12:00 noon. 7 volunteers, **25.5 volunteer hours** Beautiful sunny but cool – great weather. 4th cut on this site went well. Thin stalks, sparse in water. Spades and cane cutters on far shore. Alder, sweet gale, joe-pye weed growing. Is scattered back into alders on sandy shore.

**Equipment used:** Cane cutters, pool noodle boom, rake, toboggans, tractor with trailer

**Biomass removed:** 1 trailer load **Next Season:** Spading and cane cutting. Need to spade out snorkels on sandy shore now that old dead stalks are down, and new growth slowed. Pictures of cut below.

Site	Year	Volunteers	Volunteer Hours (cane Cutters and spades)	Saw operator hours	Sheaves Removed	Leaf Bags	Truck Loads to landfill	Comments
114 Elizabeth Street	2019	26(8 youth)	71.5 hrs	4 hrs saw	40	8	4 trailer loads	Did not get it all
	2020	10 (1 youth)	35.5 hrs	2 hrs saw	Piled loose in trailer	-	1 trailer load	Did not get it all
	2021	16 (1 youth)	53 hrs	No saw	Piled loose in trailer	5	1 trailer load	Got it all/less in water
	2022	7(1 youth)	25.5 hrs	No saw	Piled loose in trailer	-	¾ trailer load	Got it all /less in water





**2. Union Street**

8:00 am – 11:00. 4 volunteers, **11.5 volunteer hours**

Fence up now by property owner to property line. Permission to cut to property line and owner will cut on her side. Ditch full of Phrag which are shorter and thinner. Got it all. **Japanese knotweed** in ditch and on shore

**Equipment used:** Cane cutters, spades, rakes, toboggans

**Biomass removed:** 2 leaf litter bags, 8 tied large sheaves, 1 truck load to land fill.

**Next Season:** Spading and cane cutting. Two cutting events would reduce significantly. Pictures below

Site	Year	Volunteers	Volunteer Hours	Saw operator hours	Sheaves Removed	Leaf bags	Truck loads to landfill	Comments
2. Union Street	2019	5	14.5 hrs	No saw	25 large	10	1	Did not get it all
	2020	Not done						Fence installed
	2021	6	9.5 hrs	No saw	9 sheaves	4	1	Did not get it all
	2022	4	11.5 hrs	No saw	8 large	2	1	Japanese Knotweed



**Japanese Knotweed**

**Cleared – so much better for drainage.**



**3. Children's Garden/The Trinity** (Across from Sundridge Public School- 118 Main Street Sundridge)  
8:00 am – 10:30 am. 5 Volunteers, **10.5 volunteer hours**

**Equipment used:** Rakes, cane cutters, spades, toboggans, and tarps

**Biomass removed:** 6 leaf litter bags, spading along edge difficult in gravel. Much less but difficult to cut into stalk below ground. Cleared to drain beside new home. Owner aware of small amount on his side. This is the fifth removal for this site. **Next Season:** Could be managed by students.

Site	Year	Volunteers	Volunteer Hours	Saw operator hours	Sheaves Removed	Leaf bags	Truck loads to landfill	Comments
3. Children's Garden	2018	10	20 hrs	2 hrs saw	10 large	6	1	
	2019	26 (5 youth)	26 hrs	No saw	10 large	6	1	
	2020	10	25 hrs	-	12 large	2	1	
	2021	9 (2 youth)	21 hrs	-	10 medium	-	1	
		3 (regrowth)	4.5 hrs	-	-	6	1/2	
	2022	5	10.5 hrs	-	6	-	1/2	



**4. Sundridge Pharmacy Shoreline**

107 Main Street Sundridge 8:00am – 11:00 am. 4 volunteers **9.0 volunteer hours**

**Equipment used:** Spades, cane cutters, rakes, leaf litter bags and tarps



**Biomass removed:** 9 Leaf litter bags **Next Season:** Spades mostly next season. Some growth still on side of property in healthy native plants. Remove 2x if possible. Much less than first season. Could be managed by students next season.

Site	Year	Volunteers	Volunteer Hours	Saw operator hours	Sheaves Removed	Leaf bags	Truck loads to landfill	Comments
4. Pharmacy Shore	2018	9(1 youth)	11 hrs	-	7	4	1	
	2019	16 (6 youth)	16 hrs	-	7	4	1	
	2020	10	20.5 hrs	-	10	4	1	
	2021	6 (2 youth)	9 hrs	-	10	2	1	
	2022	4	9 hrs	-	-	9	1/2	



### 5. Sundridge Town dock Shoreline/Lions' Building Shore and Caswell's

8:00 am – 12:00 noon. 12 Volunteers (includes 4 Demo Team youth) worked on the Dock area, Lions Club and Caswell's beach. 31.5 volunteer hours. **Equipment used:** Pool noodle booms, rakes, cane cutters, toboggans. **Biomass removed:** 12 sheaves, 14 leaf litter bags, 1 truck load.

**Next Season:** Cane cutters and spades, tarps, leaf litter bags, rakes, toboggans. Could be managed by students – much less. Remove on three sites in one event.

Site	Year	Volunteers	Volunteer Hours	Saw operator hours	Sheaves Removed	Leaf bags	Truck loads to landfill	Comments
5. Town Dock Shore	2019	19	57 hrs	1 hr saw	50	3	2	
	2020	14	35 hrs	-	Loose/loaded into truck		2	
	2021	4	15.5 hrs	-	12	1	1	
		7	21.0	-		9		
All three areas	2022	12(4 youth)	31.5 hrs	-	12	14	1	



**6. Lions Building Shore/Caswell's- added to Town Dock event** See above – all three areas cleared at one event. See below the four previous seasons. One event now for all 3 much less phragmites.

Lions Building Shore/Caswells	2018	5	16 hrs	No saw	10 sheaves	5	1 truck load	
	2019	15	45hrs		12 sheaves	10bags	2 truck loads	
	2020	7	32hrs		10 sheaves	7 bags	1 truck load	
	2021	7	6 hrs		-	6 bags	½ truck load	Much less

**7. United Church Manse**

Two events. First ¼ of property done at the same time as the Presbyterian shore see below. Second event 7:30 – 12:30 3 volunteers. **13 hours**. Happily, much more pickerelweed and cattails. Adjacent property Siesta Cabins - no phragmites there. Still a fair amount of phragmites close to shore beside Siesta Cabins. Got it all this season. **Equipment used:** Pool noodle boom to mark area and prevent spread. Cane cutters, toboggans, rakes. **Biomass removed:** 35 sheaves, 1 truck load. **Next Season:** May be able to have students manage this site and Presbyterian Church shore at the same time.

**8. Presbyterian Church Shore** 9:00 am – 12:00 6 volunteers **20.5 volunteer hours** Less around the shore. Still in strip over drain between lots. **Equipment used:** Cane cutters, pool noodle boom, toboggans, leaf bags, rakes, tarps, twine **Biomass removed:** 25 sheaves. **Next Season:** Start in the drain area and marshy area United Church Manse.

United Church Manse After Shot

Before Shot



Site	Year	Volunteers	Volunteer Hours	Saw operator hours	Sheaves Removed	Leaf bags	Truck loads to landfill	Comments
7. United Church Manse	2019	11	29 hrs	1 hr saw	35	1	1 truck load	
	2020	6	22 hrs	-	16	-	1 truck load	
	2021	10	19 hrs	-	16	-	½ truck load	Less but lots in mucky area at back
	2022	9	13 hrs	-	35	4	1 truck load	Got it all
8. Presbyterian								

Church Shore	2019	12	29 hrs	-	35	2	1 truck load	
	2020	20	24.5 hrs	-	12	-	1 truck load	
	2021	10	10 hrs	-	7	-	½ truck load	Much less
	2022	6	20.5 hrs		25	-	1 truck load	

### 9. Sewage Pumping Station and 10. HANDS Shore (combined event)

8:00 am – 10:30 am 6 Volunteers, 15.00 hours. Return to remove regrowth 3 hrs. Total 18 hours. Lots of native growth now. Water level down old mat of dead rhizomes floating in front of shore. Lifted or cut out with spades and bagged. Both adjoining shores have much less phragmites and much more native shore plants. Regrowth and spading of the entire area were needed x 3 this season. Cattails, alder, joe-pye weed, sedges and grasses are scattered along the fringe nearest the black willow.

**Equipment used:** Cane cutters, spades, leaf litter bags, twine, tarps, toboggans, pool noodle boom

**Biomass removed:** 9 leaf litter bags, 8 tied sheaves = 1 truck load **Next Season:** Spading on shore.

Remove any strands in water. Assess for new growth and remove.

Site	Year	Volunteers	Volunteer Hours	Saw operator hours	Sheaves Removed	Leaf bags	Truck loads to landfill	Comments
9. Sewage Pumping Station	2018	9	25 hrs	-	9	20	2 Trucks	Towering over heads
	2019	26	26 hrs	-	10	12	1	
	2020	8	15 hrs	-	8	10	½	
	2021	11	15 hrs	-	4	7	½	Spading now
10. HANDS Children's' Mental Health	2018	9	25 hrs	-	8	24	2 Trucks	15 feet tall
	2019	10 (2 y)	17 hrs	-	17	10	1	
	2020	8	12.5 hrs	-	8	8	1/2	
	2021	11	15 hrs	-	8	7	1/2	Spading now
Combined sites	2022	6	18 hrs	-	6	6 + 3 =9	1/2	Sites done at same cut



### 11. Private Road Lake Bernard Drive

Three dates: 1<sup>st</sup> cut 10:30 am to 12:00. 6 volunteers - 6.5 hrs. 2<sup>nd</sup> cut 8:00 am – 10:30. 8 volunteers- 19.5 hrs. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1 volunteer – 3 hrs. Close to railway tracks on side of a private road along cottage properties/and homes. Lots of alder, some cat tails, wild rose, sedges. On opposite side of wire fence is CN property. CN has been notified and asked to manage the Phrag as it is damaging private property. Owners loaded

own vehicle and took the load to the landfill. **Equipment used:** Spades, cane cutters, rake, leaf bags, tarps **Biomass removed:**20 sheaves, 17 bags. **Next season:** Return 2x. CN needs to spray their property.



Site	Year	Volunteers	Volunteer Hours	Saw operator hours	Sheaves Removed	Leaf bags	Truck loads to landfill	Comments
11. Private Road Lake Bernard Drive	2021	7	10.5 hrs	No saw	5	5 bags	1 truck load	On Train track easement – asked for management
	2022	5 (1youth)	6.5 hrs	-	20 sheaves	7 bags	1	CN notified 2 <sup>nd</sup> time
	2 <sup>nd</sup> cut	8	19.5			4 bags		
	3 <sup>rd</sup> cut	1(owner)	3 hrs			6bags		

**12. Albert St South Aggregate Lot (privately owned) Industrial** Sprayed July 22 late afternoon using backpack sprayers by Invasive Phragmites Control Centre (IPCC). Will assess in spring next season and consult with owner and IPCC.

Albert St South Aggregate Lot Business	2021	10 volunteers	21 volunteer hrs	6 hrs saw	31 tied sheaves	7bags	2 truck loads	Japanese Knotweed as well on site
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### 13. West End Stand (1.3-acre shore stand)

Day 1: 7:00am – 6:00 pm. 21 volunteers (12 youth). Total 95.0 hours, including saw operator (donated) 5.5 hours. Day 2: 7:30 – 6:00. 13 volunteers Total 68.5 hours, including saw operator 3 hours, and 8 hours donated 11.0 hours. **Total 163.5 volunteer hours and 16.0 saw operator hours**

Data collection continued for submission to the Phragmites Adaptive Management Framework (PAMF) <https://www.greatlakesphragmites.net/pamf/>, for the receipt of the third year of management direction. Pictures of the stand after ice off were sent in May 2022 to Dr Janice Gilbert from the IPCC for



confirmation of the management plan for the season. See below May pictures of rhizomes under water and regrowth on stand early May after ice off.



July 21 – 22, one Truxor piled cut phragmites, in the middle. Volunteers used sleds to carry cut phragmites to the Sunny Ridge Road boat launch where it was bundled for the Township to transport to the landfill. One student from the township helped throughout day 2. Additional cut phragmites was used to make piles to block sunlight from the rhizomes to further hinder regrowth. It was noted that the stalks were less high, and not as dense with no seed pods forming this season. The stand was cut in a little over one day whereas last year it took four days with more saw operators (164 hours more).

**Equipment used:** Pool noodle booms, cane cutters, saws, toboggans, rakes, rubber fish nets, waders, Truxor. **Biomass:** 3 truck loads were taken to the landfill. Cut Phragmites was left in the middle in piles back from the edge. The stand is flatter, easier to walk on this season. The Truxor cut the Phrag. There was less muck on the corner adjacent to the lakeside stand. The channel between the shore portion and the lakeside portion was much wider. Booms were left in place for several days. Volunteers returned to check for cut material to piles on site. **Next season:** Review in the spring after ice off. Plan with IPCC, MNRF and two adjacent owners for next steps. Four years of management has occurred. Repeated



cutting with saws have decreased the new growth on the edges leaving the spongy mat of old rootlets that take a very long time to break down.

Site	Year	Volunteers	Volunteer Hours	Saw operator hours	Sheaves Removed	Leaf bags	Truck loads to landfill	Comments
West End Stand (1.3 acre shore stand)	2019	27 volunteers	118 hrs	27hrs	-	-	Piled on site	
		23 volunteers	74 hrs	34				
		11 volunteers	48 hrs	25,5				
			Total 240	Total 86.5				
	2020	10 volunteers	30 hrs	3 hrs			Piled on site	
		13 volunteers	36.5hrs	12 hrs				
		13 volunteers	39 hrs	12.5 hrs				
		9 volunteers	33 hrs	9 hrs				
		6 volunteers	11 hrs	Total 36.5	-	-		
	2021	14 volunteers	64.5 hrs	10 hrs	-	-	Piled on site	Sinking/less dense/wet/fewer flowers and seed pods
2 volunteers		-	10 hrs	-	-			
3 volunteers		-	14 hrs	-	-			
			Total 64.5 hrs	Total 34 hrs				
2022	21 volunteers	95 hrs	5 hrs			Piled and 3 truck loads removed	Smaller, narrow stems, less dense.	
	13 volunteers	68.5 hrs	11 hrs			Saws on edge /piled		
			Total 163.5					



**14. West End Stand (0.9-acre lakeside stand) Truxor was used last season**

This season the Invasive Phragmites Control Centre (IPCC) was contracted to spray using backpack sprayers on the lakeside portion which is considered crown land. A work permit from the MNRF was obtained. The site was assessed prior to application and the 4-member team walked the stand and applied spray to the leaves in full emergence at that time. The work was completed in the afternoon. This stand is separated from the shore stand by a small channel. In 2021 volunteers and the IPCC Truxor and team worked on the edge of the stand and cut a significant swath, but we did not get all the phragmites. **2022 Equipment Used:** Jon boat, backpack sprayers – 4 member IPCC team.

**Next season:** Remove dead phragmites in the winter. Assess in the spring/send pictures to Dr Gilbert. See picture by drone October 2022 below.



West End Stand (0.9 acre lakeside first cut)	2021 Truxor 2 days	21 (6 youth) 15 (1 youth)	140 hrs 113 hrs Total 253	IPCC team 2 cutting and truxor			65 boat loads= 20 truck loads	IPPC Truxor and four of team
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**15. 23 Tamarack (Behind garage in water)**

Two events: Day 1: July 22. The Truxor cut in water and up on sand part of shore. 4 volunteers finished used cane cutters, gathered, piled and bundled on a tarp on shore. Total of 6 hours counted as Truxor day activity. Day 2: Two weeks later. 7:30 – 9:00 am. 5 volunteers Total of 5.5 hours. Volunteers loaded, raked, and transported to the roadside where Phrag was unloaded piled on tarps and covered for pick up. **Equipment Used**: Truxor bags, tarps, twine, rakes. **Biomass removed**: 18 leaf litter bags, 10 bundled sheaves 1 truck load

**Next Season**: Recommend owner’s brush pile be removed or burned to ground level to allow access to phragmites rhizomes. Cut and spade in water and on shore. Recommend removal of ground wasps which stopped removal at side of stand this season.

23 Tamarack behind garage	2020	10 volunteers	16 hrs	3hrs saws		6 bags	
	2021	6	13.5 hrs	4 hrs saws	60 sheaves	10	3 truck loads
	2022	5	5.5	Cut by Truxor	10 sheaves	18	1 truck load



**16. Shaw’s Lakeshore 2022** One volunteer this year. 1 hour and 1/3 of a leaf litter bag to clear the Phrag.

B & A Shaw	2021	4	4 hrs	-	-	1 bag	
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**17. 89 High Rock Drive**

7:30 – 11:30 noon. 9 volunteers, Total 22 hrs, 3 hours saw operators.

**Equipment used**: Cane cutters, saws, toboggans, pool noodle boom, leaf litter bags, tarps, twine, boat.

**Biomass removed:** 3 leaf litter bags, 50 tied sheaves

**Next season:** Two saw operators. May need to do 2 cuts so that both get done the same season. Adjoining property did not get completely cleared this season. Need both cut each season for best effect. Perhaps a Truxor cut. Need a large group to cut with cane cutters on shore.

89 High Rock Drive	2021	2(owners) 18(8 youth)	10 volunteer hrs 45.5	4 saw hrs	25 sheaves 72 sheaves	11 bags 6 bags	1 truck load 4 truck loads
	2022	9	22 hours	3 saw hrs	50 sheaves	3 bags	1 truck load



### 18. 99 High Rock Drive

2022 Owner did all the management this year which weakened the stand next door. **Next season:** Help owner in any way – offer saws, spades and volunteers to keep getting it gone.

99 High Rock Drive	2021	11 (1 youth)	8 volunteer hrs	2 saw hrs	20 sheaves		1 truck load	
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### 19. 109 High Rock Drive

8:00 – 11:30 am

5 volunteers worked for **16.0 hrs**. Neighbour had cleared on his side. Hot, no breeze. Piled on tarp on shore, tied and bagged. Four days later 3 volunteers brought the tied and bagged Phrag to the roadside up the driveway. Another **4.5 hours** Total 20.5 hours. Could have used a saw on shore.

**Equipment Used:** Cane cutters, saws, toboggans, rakes, pool noodle boom, tarps, twine **Biomass**

**Removed:** 12 tied sheaves, and 27 leaf bags – 1 truck load. **Next Season:** Spades and cane cutting- may not need saws. Less Phrag this year.

109 High Rock Drive	2020	11	25 volunteer hrs	20 saw hrs	-		5 truck loads
	2021	12(1 youth)	13.5 volunteer hrs	3 saw hrs	70 sheaves	10 bags	3 truck loads/much less
	2022	5 volunteers + 3 to bring to road	16.0 + 4.5 volunteer hrs	-	12 sheaves	27 bags	1 truck load Very hot day



**20. 139 High Rock Drive**

Day 1: 9:30 – 11:00 am. 9 volunteers (3 youth) and 2 saw operators. **12 volunteer hours including 2.5 hours saw operator hours.** Day 2: 10:00 – 12:00 pm. 5 volunteers and 2 saw operators.

**7.5 volunteer hours including 2.5 hours saw operator hours.** Day 3: 9:00 – 10:00 am. **4 volunteers, 4 hours** to tie and move to roadside the piled Phrag.

**Equipment Used:** Cane cutters, saws, tarps, toboggans, rakes, leaf bags, twine, pool noodle boom

**Biomass Removed:** 20 leaf litter bags, 30 tied sheaves

**Next Season:** Get all the Phragmites on this property and along the adjacent township property.

139 High Rock Drive	2020	4 volunteers 6 volunteers	13 volunteer hrs 15 hrs	- -	20 sheaves -	5 bags 3 bags	2 truck loads 1 truck load	
	2021	5 (2 youth) 15 (5 youth)	13 volunteer hrs 25.5 volunteer hrs	2 saw hrs 3.5 saw hrs	50 sheaves	10 bags	3 truck loads	Stand extends around the corner
	2022	9 (3youth) 5 volunteers 4 volunteers	12.0 volunteer hrs 7.5 volunteer hrs 4.0 volunteer hrs	2.5 saw hrs 2.5 saw hrs -	30 sheaves	12 bags	2 trucks	Stand continues to next property





### **21. 293 High Rock Drive**

Day 1: 7:30 – 11:30 am. 11 volunteers, 2 saw operators 3.5 hours saws. 21 volunteer hours. Day 2: 10:30 am – 12:00 noon. 4 volunteers. 6 volunteer hours. Day 3: Owners 4 more hours approx. 9 more bags Day 4: Owners 4 more hours approx. and again 9 more bags.

Third season cut. Thinner stalks, easier to walk and cut. Native plants and shrubs on shore. Owners removed a large amount. **Equipment Used**: Saws, cane cutters, toboggans, pool noodle boom, leaf bags, tarps, twine, rakes. **Biomass Removed**: 32 leaf bags, 40 + sheaves. **Next Season**: Assess to see if saws are needed. May be able to cane cut only, with some spading.





293 High Rock Drive	2020	12	40 volunteer hrs	2 saw hrs			1 Dump Truck	
	2021	17(3 youth)	49.5 volunteer hrs	7 saw hrs	36 sheaves	4 bags	4 Truck loads	
	2022	11 (3 youth) 4 2 2	21 volunteer hrs 6 volunteer hrs 4 hrs approx. 4 hrs approx.	3.5 saw hrs	40+ sheaves	4 bags 10 bags 9 bags 9 bags	1 truck 1 truck 1 truck 1 truck	

**22. Strong Township ditch/shore area beside #293 High Rock Drive**

8:00 am – 12:00 noon

**Day 1:** 7 volunteers, 2 saw operators. **Total 24.5 volunteer hours, 5 hours saw operation.**

Phrag in the ditch on roadside, along the drain in amongst the brush and extending out into the lake Much less in water this year. Volunteers carried it out on sleds and up the side of the ditch to the roadside. Did not get all of this stand. Some remains amongst the brush. Plumes were forming when we cut. **Day 2:** 3 volunteers hauled the cut Phrag up the steep part of the ditch to the roadside where it was bundled and tarped for pickup. **Biomass removed:** Total both days: 2 leaf bags, 45 sheaves, 2 truck loads. **Equipment Used:** 2 saws, cane cutters, toboggans, leaf bags, tarps, twine, rakes. **Next season:** Ensure cleared on lakeside. May need saw. Use cane cutters in the brush. May be able to spade in ditch.



Strong Township ditch/shore area beside #293 High Rock Drive	2021	7(2 youth)	24.5 volunteer hrs.	6 saw hrs.	30 sheaves	-	4 truck loads	Did not get it all.
	2022	7 3	24 volunteer hrs 1.5 hours	5 saw hrs	30 sheaves 15 sheaves	2 leaf bags	1 Dump truck 1 Truck	Did not get it all

**23. 65 Turtle Lane shore and garden**

8:00 am – noon. 6 volunteers. **Total of 16.5 hours** Spading and cane cutting in the front section where previously mowed. Less tall this season, Plumes formed. 3 – 5 feet high. Tall stalks where we did not get it all last year. Stalks thin. Happily, more pickerel weed, rushes, grasses, and sedges. Owner should burn brush pile. **Equipment Used:** Saw, spades, cane cutters, tarps, twine, leaf bags, rakes, waders, Jeep (owners). **Biomass removed:** 3 leaf bags, 45 tied sheaves. 1 truck load. **Next Season:** See if spades and cane cutters will be enough or if saw is still needed.





65 Turtle Lane beach and garden	2020	8 volunteers 4	27 volunteer hrs 15 volunteer hrs	- 9 hrs saws	20 sheaves 15 sheaves	7 bags 15 bags	2 truck loads 1 truck load	Garden tarped
Beach only	2021	14 volunteers	49 volunteer hrs	No saw	30 sheaves	8 bags	2 truck loads	Garden now mowed
Beach only	2022	6 volunteers	16.5 volunteer hrs	Saw 3.5	45 sheaves	3 bags	1 truck load	Brush pile has Phrag

#### 24. High Rock, 843 High Rock Drive

1:00 pm – 3:30 pm. 3 volunteers for **7.5 hours**. Water over knee deep. Good drowning effect. Someone had been removing and laying to dry on rock shore. Less this season.

**Equipment Used:** Cane Cutters, Phrag toboggans to pull to shore, tarped, tied, carried to roadside

**Biomass Removed:** 15 tied sheaves, 1 leaf litter bag. **Next Season:** Hope more drowning. Go twice and get it early and then later in season to have most effect.



High Rock 843 High Rock Drive	2021	6 (1 youth)	17 volunteer hrs	No saw	21 sheaves	No bags	2 truck loads	
	2022	3	7.5 volunteer hrs	-	15 sheaves	1 bag	1 truck load	

#### 25. The Dam (In water and along Bernard Creek)

We did not get the sides to Bernard Creek done this fall. We did one in water event.

**Day 1:** In water stand, 5 volunteers, 1 saw operator cutting Total: 16 hrs volunteers, 1.5 hrs saw

**Day 2:** 3 volunteers. Moved tied Phrag to roadside. Total: 3.5 hrs.

**Equipment Used:** Saws, cane cutters, waders, toboggans, rakes, tarps, twine, leaf bags, noodle boom



The Dam (in water and along Bernard Creek)	2019	15 (2 youth)	90.25 volunteer hrs	14 hrs saws	259 sheaves	10 bags	5 truck loads	Huge effort/muck Did one side in water
	2020	12	39.5 volunteer hrs	18 hours saws	Loaded 7tarp loads loose	3 bags	1 Dump Truck + 1 half ton	In water/shore Bernard Creek
	2021	12(10 youth)	49.5 volunteer hrs	8.0 hours saws			6 Truck loads	In water done
In water cut	2022	8	19.5 volunteer hrs	1.5 hours	35 sheaves	3 bags	1 Truck load	Did not get it all

**26. The Dam (the Ditches)** Two of the three cutting days were spent on the ditches.

The ditches along the road are near the lake and Bernard Creek. In 2021 they were dug out last season removing the old stalks. For two seasons we have cut with saws to decrease the formation of seeds, stress the rhizomes, remove sight line hazards on the road and remove fire hazards left by the stalks. The in-water stand on private property was cut for a fourth season. There were four events at the dam this season – we did not get it all.

Day 1: Ditches, 10 (3 youth) volunteers, 2 saw operators. Total: 31 hrs volunteers and 5 hrs saws. 35 sheaves and 3 leaf litter bags. 1 truck load

Day 2: Ditches, a morning shift and an afternoon shift.

20(12 y) volunteers, 3 saw operators Total: 54.5 hrs volunteers and 6.5 hrs saw operators

The Dam (ditches)	2021	15(6 youth)	33.5 hrs	6.5 hrs saws	45 sheaves	15	5 Truck loads	Ditches Ditches Ditches Ditches/did not get it all
		3	19.0 hrs	14.0 hrs	75 sheaves		5 Truck loads	
		8	22.5 hrs	5.5 hrs	30 sheaves	13	2 Truck loads	
		1	1.5 hrs	-	-	13	1 Truck load	
		Total 76.5 hrs						
	2022	10 (3 youth) 20 (13 youth)	31.0 hrs 54.5 hrs Total 85.5 hrs	5 hrs saws 6.5 hrs saws	50 sheaves 80 sheaves	6 4 bags	2 Truck loads 2 Truck loads	Ditches/Turtle sighting





**Grand total:** 105 volunteer hrs, 13 saw operator hours. Less time this year as we did not clear Bernard Creek on either side of the dam nor finish the ditches past the dam

**Biomass removed:** 165 tied sheaves, 13 bags, = 5 Truck Loads approximately

**Next Season:** Go early in season (June) and cut ditches x1, cut down sides to creek early (June). Cut in water after July 15. Get all of the in water Phrag. Clear shore of Bernard Creek both sides.

See below in water stand before cut

After cut





2022 Drone shot showing roadside to fence cleared and in water portion      2022 Shows Phrag going down Bernard Creek  
 This area has not been managed completely and needs to be a focus next season.

**27. 16 Birch Lane (2 stands in 2020. Second stand has new owner 1085 High Rock Road)**

2022 First stand cut by owners in two cuts. First cut 2 leaf litter bags using cane cutters. Second cut 2 bags. Phrag close to shore where water is shallower. Less this season.

Second stand: 2 volunteers. 4.5 hours. 22 sheaves and 1 leaf litter bag removed.

**Equipment Used:** Cane Cutters, rakes, and toboggans.

**Biomass removed:** First Stand: 4 bags approx. Second Stand: 22 sheaves and 1 leaf litter bag removed

**Next Season:** Cane cutters and toboggans and twice if possible. See below the amount of regrowth.

Stand 1: Small number of stalks, 4 bags removed. Stand 2: 1 truck load removed



16 Birch Lane	2020	28	99.5 hrs	14 hrs saws	-	-	2 Trailer Loads	2 stands
	2021	10 (2 youth)	35 hrs	No saws needed	-	-	1/3 Trailer load	Much less
	2022	Stand 1: 2 volunteers	4 hrs	No saws	3 leaf bags	-	1 truck load	Much less
		Stand 2: new owner 2 volunteers	7.5 hrs		1 leaf bag	22 sheaves		2 <sup>nd</sup> stand late in season
109 Birch Lane	2022	1 volunteer	1 hr	-	1 bag	3 sheaves	-	

**28. 4 Crescent Road**

8:00 – 10:00 am. 4 volunteers, **Total:** 11.5 volunteer hours. Owners had worked on own for 3 hours and asked for assistance. Removed with spades and cane cutters. Water level very low. May get some drowning when rain comes in the fall. Noted Japanese knotweed on another property close by.

**Next season:** Spades and cane cutters. Inform owner with Japanese knotweed regarding management issues.

4 Crescent Road	2022	4 volunteers	11.5 hrs	No saw	4 leaf bags	20 sheaves	1 truck load	1sr cut
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**29. 36 Crescent Road**

4 removal events this season. Day 1: 2:30 – 5:30. 7 volunteers. 19.5 volunteer hours. Dry land spading and cane cutting. Piling. Leaf bags used as old plumes with seeds still on stalks. 12 leaf bags filled  
Day 2: 7:30 – 11:00. 13 volunteers (1 Y). 31.5 volunteer hours. 2.5 saw operator hours. 12 bags, 60+ sheaves. Day 3: As part of event next door, 5 volunteers. 7.5 volunteer hours. Piles on tarps on shore. Some taken to road by neighbour using ATV and trailer. Day 4: 7:30 – 9:30 am. 4 volunteers. 7.5 volunteer hours. Day 5: 1 volunteer. 3 hours. Boom removed. Final pile bundled moved to trailer area, tied and bagged. Owner moved by trailer the tied Phrag to the roadside for pick up.





36 Crescent Road	2022	7 volunteers	19.5 hrs	-	12 bags	-	1 Truck	
		13 volunteers	31.5 hrs	3.5 hrs saw	12 bags	60 + sheaves	1 Truck	
		5 volunteers	7.5 hrs	2.0 hrs saw	-	-	-	
		4 volunteers	7.5 hrs	2.0 hrs saw	-	-	-	
		1 volunteer	3.0 hrs =	-	4	60	1 truck	
			<b>Total 69 hrs</b>		<b>28 bags</b>	<b>120 sheaves</b>	<b>3 trucks</b>	

### 30. 364 Crescent Lane

7:30 am – 12:30 noon

9 Volunteers, 2 saw operators **Total Hours: 33.5 volunteer hours, 6.5 hrs saw operators**

Second year much easier to cut. Neighbours' lots both sides also cut with permission. Owners have been cutting periodically close to dock area each season. Creek on property with some healthy shrubs, cotton grass, sweet gale, joe-pie weed, rushes alder, jewelweed and turtles. Piles left on shore of adjacent lot to be removed from that site. **Equipment Used:** Pool noodle booms, cane cutters, saws, tarps, rakes, waders, toboggans **Biomass removed:** 2 truck loads? Owner used ATV with several trailer loads to bring to roadside throughout the cut. **Next Season:** Need to keep clearing and adjacent properties within same two weeks if possible. Would be ideal to have a second cut as well.

364 Crescent Road	2021	13 (1 youth)	45.5 hrs	4 hrs saws	Loose loaded in truck	6 truck loads	Large stands properties both sides	
	2022	9 volunteers	33.5 hrs	6.5 hours Saw used both sides	Loose loaded in truck	6 loads	Removed cut Phrag from adjacent lot	



**31. 370 Crescent Road**

Day 1: In- water Phrag cut and piled on shore when neighbour site cleared. One saw operator 1.0 hour and one volunteer piled on shore. Day 2: 9:00 – 10:00. 3 volunteers. 3.0 hours. Bundled and bagged cut Phrag and hauled it roadside to the tarp for pickup.



370 Crescent Road	2022	2 3 volunteers	2 hours 3 hours	1 hour saw	3 leaf litter bags	20 bundles	1 Truck load	Small Phrag site. Repeated removal will work.
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**32. 678 South Lake Bernard Road**

Day 1: 7:30 am – 12:30. 11 volunteers (5 youth). 30.5 hours. First season cut. Rained. Owner used ATV and trailer to load cut Phrag from dock and remove to roadside. Dry land cut with cane cutters and spades. 50 +sheaves and 3 leaf litter bags removed. Owner terrific, provided refreshments for all. Day 2: 7:30 am – 12:00 noon. 13 volunteers (5 youth). 40 hours. 2<sup>nd</sup> cut with cane cutters on shore area. Owner removed 10 sheaves yesterday + 45 this cut = 55 sheaves and 2 leaf litter bags trailered to the roadside. Day 3: 7:30 am – 12:00. 6 volunteers. 17.5 hours. Owner had used own saw the day before (5 hrs approx.) to cut down Phrag in shore area. Owner loaded into his trailer and unloaded the 100 sheaves at the roadside for pickup (7hours) Total hours 31.5 hours **Equipment Used:** Cane Cutters, sleds, tarps, twine, saw (owners), ATV and trailer(owners) **Biomass removed:** 5 leaf bags, 205 sheaves 4 truck loads. **Next Season:** Early removal to water using saws. Spade in water. Test for native Phrag one spot.

678 South Bernard Lake Road and 66 foot Right of way Strong Twp	2022	11 (5 youth)	30.5 hours	No saw	3 leaf bags	50 +sheaves	1 Truck	
		13 (5 youth)	40 hours	No saw	2 leaf bags	55 sheaves	1 Truck	
		6	31.5 hours = 102 hours	5 hrs owner	-	100 + sheaves	2 trucks	





**33. 698 South Lake Bernard Road**

8:00 am – 11:30. 13 volunteers. (5 Youth). 17.5 hours. 4 hours saws. 7 leaf litter bags. Lovely cool day. Some in brush on shore. Owners moved the tied and bagged Phrag to roadside for pickup. (3 hours)

**Equipment:** Cane cutters, saws, sleds, rakes, tarps, twine, leaf litter bags, pool noodle boom, nets

**Biomass Removed:** 7 bags 40 sheaves

**Next Season:** Cut it early in the season. Use cane cutters or saws when water is highest. Ensure Phrag in brush on shore is spaded or cut.

698 South Lake Bernard Road	2022	13(5 y) 2 owners	17.5 hrs 3 hrs	4 hours saws	7 bags	40 sheaves	1 truck	First year
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**34. Albert Street North – both sides on ramp**

Albert Street North stands (both sides) was cut and taken to the landfill by one volunteer. Third year municipal and private property. Good cat tail growth, and 2 frogs on site. Total: 5.5 hours and 6 sheaves.

**Equipment:** cane cutters, twine, boots, gloves, tarp

**Biomass Removed:** 6 sheaves

**Next season:** Winning here!! Go back assess and remove!!



**35. Pevensey Road Phrag stand**

One Phrag fighter, this roadside stand is almost gone! Half as much as last year. 1 sheaf, half an hour. Monitoring each season and removing.



**36. Strong -Joly Boundary Road/Strong Township side**

One Phrag fighter second year removal. 1 smaller bundle and ¼ hour volunteer time.

Strong – Joly Boundary Road/Strong side	2021	1 volunteer	1 hour	-	No bags	2 sheaves	Taken by volunteer to landfill	
	2022	1 volunteer	¼ hr	-	-	1 sheave	Taken by volunteer to landfill	

Strong-Joly Boundary Road/strong side	2021	1	1.0 hr	-	2 sheaves			
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**37. Old Man’s Lake**

The Phrag Fighters on Old Man’s Lake got it gone! Without assistance from the Phrag fighters of Lake Bernard, they removed the Phrag for a second season on the site cleared last year. Determined they are managing this on their own!!!

Old Man’s Lake	2021	7	17.5 hrs	-	12 bags	1 truck load	New group
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**38. 4081 Highway 520, Magnetawan**

3 sites. 7:30 – 12:00 noon. 13 volunteers (5 youth). Demo Team enlisted to help with **3 of 7 properties**.

The new owners organized a day for a start to full removal. A test for DNA identification was done on some Phragmites that morphologically looked like native not introduced phragmites. It appears that there is native and invasive on at least one of the three sites. Contact has been made requesting DNA kits for further testing next season. A Snapping Turtle Found later on site!

**Equipment:** Cane cutters, saws, sleds, rakes, tarps, twine, leaf litter bags, pool noodle boom, nets.

**Biomass Removed:** 20 + sheaves, 6 leaf litter bags.

**Next Season:** Consult with experts, obtain samples for further testing, share directions, and discuss with owners, assist as needed with removal days. Involve all 7 sites and support as needed.





#### **4) Provision of Educational Materials and Education Sessions:**

**1. Zoom Presentation to Municipalities:** Education on Prevention of Spread of Invasive Phragmites to the Tri Council meeting by zoom presentation at the April 28 meeting, 19 in attendance – PowerPoint presentation sent out with minutes previously. “Clean Drain Dry” boating regulation and “Clean Equipment Protocol” [https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Clean-Equipment-Protocol\\_June2016\\_D3\\_WEB-1.pdf](https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Clean-Equipment-Protocol_June2016_D3_WEB-1.pdf) was shared.

**2. Zoom Presentation by Janice Gilbert:** May 26, 2022, to 8 Phragmites Committee members. Answered questions about the planned backpack spraying for two sites/dry land: Crown land/MNRF permission obtained, and private Industrial aggregate lot. Covered: no risk to bees/sprayed on leaves, no risk to adjacent water/dries fast, no risk to fishing or swimming adjacent/no risk to Species at Risk. Done by licenced applicator with many years of experience. Great research ongoing for 5 years being done by Dr Rebecca Rooney on the restoration of the wetlands at Point Pelee. See her video from the Ontario Invasive Plant Council <https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/> - conferences that took place remotely in January, including the first ever **National Phragmites Conference**. See as well Heather Braun’s video report the third presentation – and many others on this link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnRUzr8IkeSL4xA-uFqneSA>

**3. Interactive Display South River Outdoor Show May 21 and May 22:** Invasive species banners provided by NNEEC and a two table display was set up beside the Eagle Lake Conservation Association table as they also are Phrag Fighters. Three NNEEC staff who are Phrag Fighters assisted and answered questions. 150 + conversations on invasives held. Garlic mustard, Japanese knotweed and Phragmites

specimens displayed. Clean Drain Dry resources were on site. Recruited 8 more Phrag fighters, 1 more for the Almaguin Lakes Association.



**4. The Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre:** Presented on June 11 a behind-the-scenes virtual tour by zoom at NNEEC, to 26 who were keen to hear more about how removing invasive *Phragmites australis* helps restore habitat for our endangered freshwater turtles.



**5. A PowerPoint presentation was given June 15, 2022 to the Almaguin Lakes and Watersheds Association:** Regarding invasives and phragmites control resources including: the Almaguin Demo Team, Communities of Practice committee for municipalities, and MTO contacts for reporting Phragmites. 19 attended.

**6. Demonstration and presentation given to small group private home July 12:** Phragmites brochures, map, equipment, and pictures provided to group of 8.

**7. Canada Day Booth:** Display at the waterfront: June 25, 4pm. Two Phrag fighters were in attendance to provide information on the phragmites group and invasives in general.

**8. Sunflower Festival Booth:** August 6th booth with invasives display. Phrag Fighter albums, map, Specimens of: Phragmites, garlic mustard and Japanese knotweed were displayed. “Grow Me instead” and phragmites spading and cutting to drown post cards distributed. Cane cutters, small cloth produce bags + T-Shirts for a donation as well as handouts were offered with the display. Approximately 6,000 thousand attended the event – visitors stopped by continuously.

**9. Lake Bernard Property Owners Association events:** 5-minute power point presentation at annual meeting on July 9 and booth set up at Cheers to Summer event.

**10. Webinar: Phragmites "Lookalikes" - Is this Phragmites?** - Native grasses and Phragmites Lookalikes in the Almaguin Area on Saturday July 16. Small group in attendance.

**11. Deer Lake Association – Labour Day –Presentation on September 3 -Labour Day weekend. Power point presentation** - Over 40 attended. 2 Phrag fighters presented on Phrag, garlic mustard and Japanese knotweed samples taken and passed around with pictures and cutting to drown and spading post cards.

**12. Wilfred Laurier, Geography and Environmental Sciences students** (3rd year) Researching phragmites identification through in the field measuring of phragmites stands stalks and through use of drones on Lake Bernard. Met with group of 5 on site in October to go over the invasive phragmites on the west end stands, and the history of the Phragmites Working Group. Provided resources.

**13. The following links and videos were distributed** with mail outs to the phragmites fighters during this year season:

- <https://www.greenshovels.ca/>
- Grow Me Instead (North) Ontario Guide: [https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/NorthernGMI\\_2014\\_FINAL.compressed.pdf](https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/NorthernGMI_2014_FINAL.compressed.pdf)
- 2020 Phragmites Best Management Practices: <https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Phragmites-BMP-2020.pdf>. Impact of Phragmites on sensitive area.
- **Impacts of Phragmites on Species At Risk video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dsYdegvppSI>
- **Handouts distributed:** The Ontario Phragmites Working Group (OPWG) “Cutting to Drown” <https://www.opwg.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/OPWG-Cut-to-Drown-Postcard.pdf> and “Spading” <https://www.opwg.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/OPWG-Spading-Postcard.pdf> postcards are posted on the NNEEC website: <https://www.nneec.ca/phragmites>. Almaguin Freshwater Turtles information sheet was handed out.
- Our favorite expert from the **Manitoulin Phragmites Project:** presented two webinars--one all about Phragmites and what to do about it, the other about American vs. European Phragmites- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbjZ2ZAG1Mj49TYSgIK329A>
- **“Phragmites australis: Why we cannot afford to ignore this invasion”** - Sundridge Phrag Fighters made Janice's PowerPoint presentation as part of Watersheds Canada's free online Freshwater Stewardship Community zoom presentations. Thank you to Janice M. Gilbert for sharing the research and community science work being done around invasive phragmites. Janice's full presentation on [YouTube channel](#).

#### **14) Hands on Demonstrations:**

At all of the cutting event locations June to mid-September, demonstrations were given at each site to the owners and neighbours who were present and to new volunteers. Postcards were distributed at each event. Cane cutters were available for a donation.

**15) Offering Homeowner Visits:** Homeowners received assistance with identification, education, and removal strategies. We obtained a signed “Neighbour Information Permission” form asking for volunteer removal assistance when necessary. 5 new sites (private and municipal) were managed with organized cutting events.

**16) Support from Municipal Workers:** Staff and students from the Village of Sundridge and Strong Township assisted in various capacities: with removal of the phragmites to the landfill; returned the tarpaulins/bricks after each truck load; with phragmites removal on township property- one for a full day at the Truxor event. We had municipal support from the mayors, councils and works departments. We received site visits, emails of support and thanks.

#### **17) 2022 Enlisting Garden Centres:**

Distribution of pamphlets: “Grow Me Instead – northern version”:

<https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/resources/grow-me-instead/> .

As part of the provincial initiative to educate and encourage growing native plants on the shoreline, this was sent by email to over 200 on the email out list. 80 paper copies were distributed to Kidd’s Hardware Garden centre, Nicholson’s and Foodland’s Garden centre once they opened in the spring.

#### **18) Communicating:**

Three newspaper articles were written for outreach in the Almaguin News:

<https://www.nugget.ca/news/homeowners-ready-to-resume-battle-against-invasive-plant>

<https://www.northbaynipissing.com/news-story/10579885-sundridge-area-homeowners-ready-to-resume-battle-against-invasive-plant/>

<https://www.northbaynipissing.com/news-story/10711675--successful-season-in-tackling-invasive-phragmites-in-almaguin-s-lake-bernard/>

The Lake Bernard Property Owners Association provided support over the season with Facebook posts advertising the activities and events of the group. The lead agency, the Near North Enviro-Education Centre, provided an excellent link on their website to information on provincial sites, the plan from the Invasive Phragmites Control Centre for removal on Lake Bernard, education information and the plan for the season.