

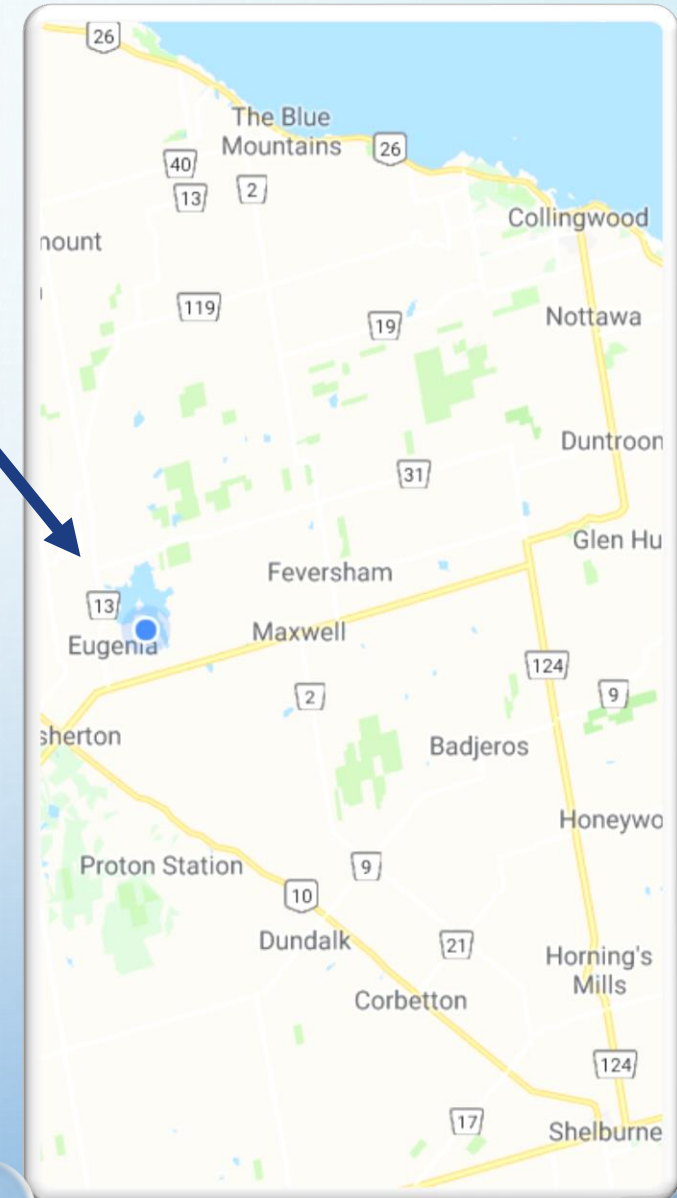
LEPOA

LAKE EUGENIA PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION (INC)

NANCY MATTHEWS PRESIDENT - AKA **THE PHRAG HAG**

LAKE EUGENIA

- 1800 ACRES = LARGEST INLAND LAKE IN GREY COUNTY
- CREATED 1915 FOR HYDRO GENERATION
- OUTFLOW INTO GEORGIAN BAY @ THORNBURY
- ALMOST 400 COTTAGES – 80% NON-RESIDENT
- STRONG COTTAGERS ASSOCIATION SINCE 1962





PHRAG OVERVIEW

- GROWTHS FIRST IDENTIFIED 2016 – LYNN SHORT HELPED US WITH EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS & PLANNING HOW/WHEN TO REMOVE
- WE TARGET JULY 20 - AUGUST 10 WITH 4-5 DIFFERENT TEAMS WORKING DIFFERENT DAYS
- GROWTHS ARE ON SHORELINES AND INTO LAKE
- SOME AREAS ONLY HAVE WATER-ACCESS



roadside
sprayed
2016



Native plants
Re-grew 2017

PHRAG-BUSTER LOGISTICS

COTTAGER CONTRIBUTIONS

- **LEPOA PHRAG-HAG:** USE EMAIL TO EDUCATE RE TECHNIQUES & TO ORGANIZE TEAMS & LINKS
- **\$\$ LEPOA TEAM :** RENTAL CUTTERS, SPADES, SICKLES, TARPS, DISTRIBUTED/COLLECTED
- **VOLUNTEER EQUIPMENT:** CANOES, TIN BOATS TO SHUTTLE PEOPLE/ TOW CANOES OF PHRAG, TRAILERS/TRUCKS FOR TRANSPORT TO DUMP



PARTNER ASSISTANCE

- **MUNICIPALITY OF GREY HIGHLANDS:** WAIVES FEES FOR BURN PERMITS/DUMP; SPRAYS PHRAG ALONG ROADSIDES, ESP. NEAR LAKES/WETLANDS
- **MNRF:** LINKS TO INFO AND OPPORTUNITIES
- **GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION:** SINCE 2017 LOANS 2 GAS-POWERED STIHL CUTTERS; PROVIDES SOME MAN-POWER FOR WEEKDAY CUTS



EQUIPMENT PROS @ CONS



SHARPENED SPADE

- PURCHASED 2016 RE LYNN SHORT
- WORKS GREAT IN SOFT/SANDY SOIL
- NOT EFFECTIVE IN ROCKY TERRAIN
- 2-HANDED SO NEED A COLLECTOR



HAND SICKLE

- DISCOVERED 2017, PURCHASED 2018
- CUT STEM BELOW ROCKY SOIL
- GREAT TO TARGET STRAYS
- ONE-HANDED SO COLLECT AS GO



STIHL CUTTER

- CUT STEMS LOWER UNDERWATER
- 1 CUTTER NEEDS 3-4 COLLECTORS
- CUTS ABOVE SOIL ON LAND
- CLEAR-CUT: NO GOOD FOR STRAYS

VERY LARGE GROWTH adjacent to a cottage / CLUMP in WATER about 40 m. along undeveloped shore



- Cut low as possible in rocky soil
- Cut below surface in water
- Work from land towards lake & drag cuttings away on tarps
- Bring back to rocky shore to burn
- Coordinate burn w. fire dept.



- **2016** after one day of cutting, rented a cutter for day two
- Did not get to the down-shore growth – just removed pods
- **2017** used 1 rental cutter for 4 hours. 12 volunteers collecting
- 2nd team did nearby growth
- **2018** used 2 GSCA cutters
- did ALL in about 3 hours
- growth visibly smaller/weaker

MANAGING PHRAG GROWTHS WITH WATER-ONLY ACCESS



- Work from outside toward land
- Collect into tarp-lined canoes
- Tin boats tow away full canoes & return with empty ones
- Team at landing point unloads canoes into truck/trailer for dump



PUBLIC DOCK success story

- **2016** using spades or secateurs
18 people attacked two growth areas for 4+ hours. Full pickup + overflowing trailer to dump
- **2017** used 2 GSCA cutters <4 hours with less volunteers collected 1 overflowing trailer
- **2018** used 2 GSCA cutters. 12 volunteers did ALL in < 3 hours. Same trailer maybe 2/3 full
- growth visibly smaller/weaker



2016



2018

PHRAG-BUSTER ACTION PLAN for SHORELINES:

EQUIPMENT FOR A PHRAG ATTACK CREW:

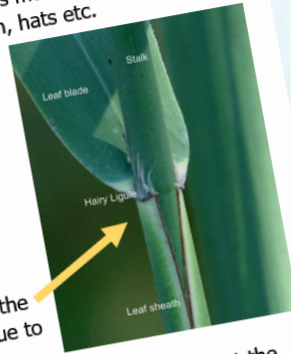
- power-cutter for water growths will be available at cut locations as much as possible
- workers need boots or waterproof shoes, work gloves, sun screen, hats etc.
- Other equipment: in water - strong secateurs or strong clippers (long-handled save bending); in soft soil; sharp spades (flat bottoms) made of beveled steel and sharpened professionally
- tarps to lay cut reeds on to move &/or dry out for burning
- a burn permit (committee will help arrange)

WORK TEAM for your area: organize & educate; set date(s)

THERE IS A RIGHT WAY TO DO THIS:

LEARN to RECOGNIZE INVASIVE PHRAG before it blooms: the tell-tale hairy node (ligule) at point where leaf meets stem is unique to phrag & not seen on any other native grasses

PHRAGS ARE ALREADY FLOWERING: snip the tops off carefully and **immediately** put the phrag in a separate plastic bag (they spread quickly in the wind)



2016 info sheet

WHY WE ALL NEED TO FIGHT PHRAG NOW

- phrag gives off a toxin which kills native plants
- unchecked reeds WILL multiply five-fold yearly
- seeds WILL be carried around shoreline & beyond
- impenetrable thickets WILL grow 14 feet tall
- large out-of-control patches are expensive to remove
- where waterfront phrag was ignored, huge thickets now block access to & views of the water
- **PHRAG is a negative impact on property value**



WHY EVERYONE on any lake is RESPONSIBLE to HELP STOP PHRAG

- Maybe you think this is someone else's problem because it's not at your place (**NOT YET**)
- Act now, before it spreads to every shoreline, into important wetlands, along riverbanks
- This needs a concentrated and on-going commitment from EVERYONE on EVERY LAKE
- And tedious as it may seem, manual cutting is the only tried and true way to control it

As for the Good News? Eugenia PHRAG growth is small enough to be contained ☺

Other Resources/Information:

- <http://opwg.ca/about-phragmites/>
- <https://vimeo.com/175624025> (video prepared for LEWESC re fighting phrag)
- <https://issuu.com/onthebaymagazine/docs/otb-summer2016-issuu> (On the Bay p.19)

Important note re Phrag-Busting Info: Every year, DO and DON'T info changes based on experiences. This latest best-practice knowledge for our area will be updated as needed.
You can help – report all phrag locations @ <https://www.eddmaps.org/ontario/>

PHRAGBUSTERS 2018:

This picture from phrag-busters Bill & Karen Scott shows uncontrolled phragmites blocking any view of the St. Lawrence River. Which pretty much explains why we need to eradicate it now, while we still can!

Plantts Point & Blue Mountain Maples:

Wednesday July 25: End of Stanley Dr: starting 8:00 AM
Mary McEwen @ email address

Friday July 27: Blue Mountain Maples starting 8:00 am
Gord Montgomery @ email address

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED from other associations:
Estimated 2-3 hours should be enough at each location

Saturday July 28: **Public Dock** starting 9:30
Contact Sue Reichstein @ email address

Sunday July 29: **104 McGee Lane** starting 9:30
Contact Gary Gingras @ email address



Samples from Phrag-Buster info

EQUIPMENT NEEDED:

- **Saturday & Sunday** we need **6 canoes & 2-3 PWCs** or tin boats to tow the phrag filled canoes to the truck/trailer for removal to the dump
- We also need a **couple of truck/trailer(s)** plus some strong people to unload the canoes and make a dump run.
 - Anyone able to provide a PWC or tin boat and or a truck/trailer for Saturday or Sunday, please contact Nancy Matthews @ email address

Many thanks to everyone who has helped with phragmites the past two years.

Hope to see lots of new (younger!) faces in 2018 !!

WHAT'S WORKING

- CUTTERS UNDERWATER DEFINITELY REDUCE AMOUNT/SIZE OF RE-GROWTH
- DIGGING OUT WITH SICKLES/SPADES ALSO EFFECTIVE BUT LABOUR INTENSIVE
- (BELOW) USED BOTH 2017, VIRTUALLY NO RE- GROWTH 2018 – SUSPECT HERBICIDE (OPG OPERATIONAL AREA: OUTFLOW DAM)



ONGOING CHALLENGES

- ROCKY SOIL NOT RESPONDING AS WELL – MAYBE USE DIG-OUT TECHNIQUE ON A PORTION (HERBICIDE WOULD BE FANTASTIC!)
- AGING VOLUNTEERS – NEED MORE YOUTH
- MEMBERS OFFERED \$\$ / UNABLE TO HIRE WORKERS

2019 ADDITIONAL GOAL

- TAKE ADVANTAGE OF LOW WATER FOR CUT/BURN EARLY SPRING & LATE FALL (OPG DRAW-DOWNS EXPOSES LAKE-BED PLANTS)
- PROBLEM: FEWER FALL/WINTER VOLUNTEERS DUE SEASONAL USAGE

stop the
Phragmites
invasion at
Lake Eugenia

Nancy Matthews, president of the Lake Eugenia Property Owners Association) On Friday, March 18, concerned members of Plantt's Point Cottage Association gathered to cut down a very large growth of invasive Phragmites.

Unchecked plantations of Invasive Phragmites are extremely dense, can grow as tall as 14 feet and eventually will become all but impenetrable.

The stand was on the shore of the lake along an uninhabited stretch of Lake Eugenia shoreline at the end of Stanley Drive.

The following day, as recommended by MNRF (and with the greatly appreciated assistance of the municipal fire Chief and Ontario Power Generation), the piles of cuttings were burned on site to destroy the seeds and prevent further spreading.

TIME TO STRIKE

With the water level in the lake rising rapidly, there was a certain amount of urgency to cut these particular plants at ground level before the area becomes submerged. When the water rises, many of the now cut plants will hopefully drown.

A few other "on-shore" growths in other areas of the lake will be tackled by cottagers over the next couple of weeks.

Given the invasive character of the plant, the entire community owes a debt of thanks to these pro-active citizens, most of them seniors, for their heroic efforts.

But it is going to take a lot more effort to stop this plant in its tracks. All waterfront residents are being asked to be vigilant about recognizing and killing any new growth before it can spread and/or go to seed.

WHAT IS IT

Phragmites Australis, is an invasive plant of the reed family that is almost impossible to kill.

In some places along the shores of Lake Huron, beaches became inaccessible. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent just to keep things from getting worse.

The plant spreads through seeds and underground rhizomes, and also will sprout "outlets" from every "joint" on the plant stem, which is why burning the cut plants is the safe method of disposal.

article sent to local newspaper

ADVANCE

Markdale • the Municipality of Grey Highlands

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 2016

.75 a copy (71c + 6c)



Above: cutting 10' tall Phrag at Plantt's Point
Below: Phrag in summer with inset seedpod

of other types of plants. Eventually, that leads to a mono-culture that destroys habitat diversity to support land-based or aquatic species – thus an extremely serious threat to shores and wetlands.

NOT JUST SHORELINES

In Grey Highlands, now is our chance to stop the invasion!

Roadside infestations, easily recognized throughout the province by the swollen brown seed pods in fall, are now attacking country roads in Grey Highlands, and will continue to spread until this invasion is taken seriously.

Farmers are concerned about the effects on drainage and wetlands.

Infestations on municipal roads were sprayed last year, but results still to be

be induced to do the same

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

-Check out the websites "stop the invasion" or the Ontario Phragmites Working Groups
-Learn to recognize the plant.
-Inhibit its growth on your property i.e. cut it and keep cutting it back.

-Report growth in public spaces.

-If you have a smart phone, download and use the reporting app.

Our Provincial highways are choked with phragmites. At the moment the Government of Ontario site does not even list it in the top 25 noxious weeds when it should likely be number one.

So most of all, maybe it is time to lobby the Ontario government to recognize this invasive threat.

FINAL WEAPON: PUBLIC AWARENESS

USE ALL AVAILABLE OPTIONS TO INFORM
RESIDENTS & AGENCIES OF YOUR PROBLEM

E.G. WE WILL SEND A PDF OF THIS TO:

- ALL OUR COTTAGERS @ OTHER LOCAL INTEREST GROUPS IN HOPES OF VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT 😊
- **GSCA & MGH** FOR ONGOING SUPPORT
- **FOCA** TO HELP EDUCATE INLAND LAKES

Many thanks to OPWG for information & support