

Lands and Forests

Invasive and Endangered Species



Lands and Forests Committee Members

Sue McPhedran (Chair) – Woods Bay

Mike Berton – Pointe au Baril Islanders

Alan Bowers – Twelve Mile Bay

Michael Dymond – Honey Harbour

Freda Klassen – Northern Georgian Bay

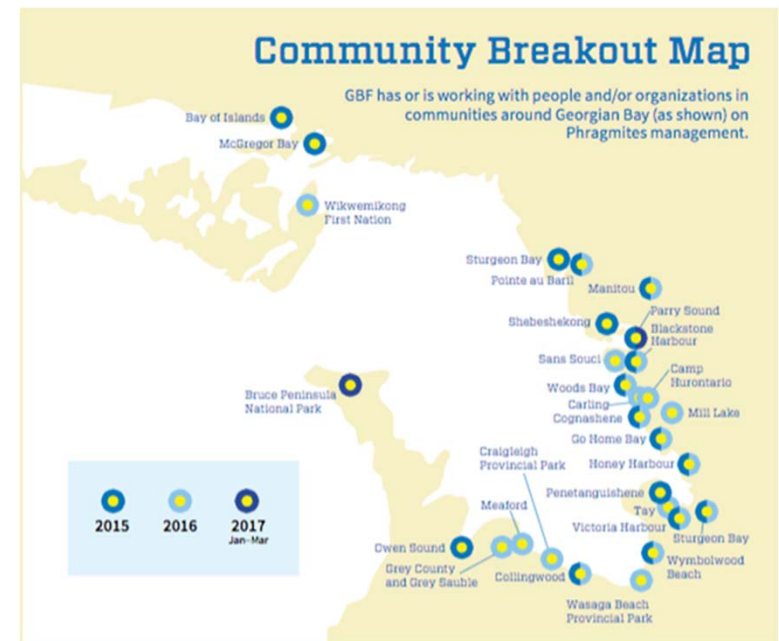
Invasive Aquatic Species - Phragmites

- Familiar sight along shoreline and roadside ditches
- Increasing awareness of need to eradicate
- Initiatives in place in communities to map, harvest and dispose of biomass
- Annual support within groups, both in terms of volunteer hours and funding to support Phragmites projects
- GBA Phragmites Network formed to connect and support member groups



Phragmites Network

- Joint effort by GBA and GBF with goal:
To support our member associations and share best practices as we strive to eradicate invasive Phragmites along the Georgian Bay shoreline
- Representatives from each community association in the GBA
- Connected by e-mail and conference call
- Many have taken advantage of GBF coaching
- Several have 3-4 year history of cutting Phragmites
- Manual and power tools have been effective
- Timing of cut important
- Stands require several years vigilance to prevent regrowth
- Spoken to municipalities regarding their role



Phragmites Network

- Aware of challenges facing community groups
 - Funding
 - Volunteer retention
 - Reintroduction
- Currently working with GBF to plan and support 2019 projects

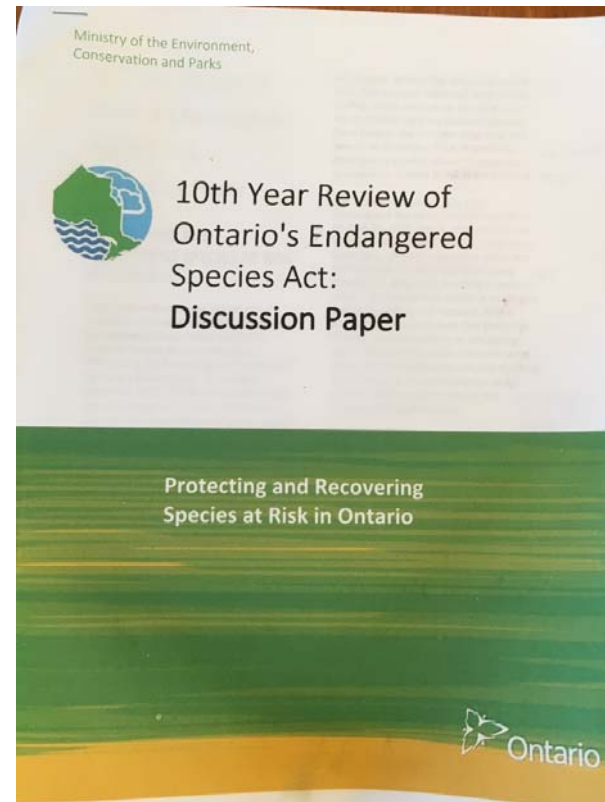


Species at Risk (SAR)

Contributed to GBA Fisheries and Forestry Submission to the

10th Year Review of the SAR Act

- Presumed that review is intended to support the implementation of existing Act
- Primary goal of enabling “positive outcomes for Species at Risk” is attainable with appropriate resources applied
- Once listed, SAR recovery efforts must be monitored and evaluated
- Past exemption history is of concern
- Recommendations listed in Fisheries Committee report



Three Things to Take Away Today

Purposeful stewardship of the Georgian Bay shoreline is necessary to maintain a functional ecosystem

Volunteer projects (i.e. Citizen science) are valuable contributions to supplement/enhance any government protection effort.

Climate change is having an increasing impact on the Georgian Bay ecology:

- Last year's fire at Henvey Inlet destroyed ~12,000 hectares of prime forest
- In addition to increasing fire risk, higher temperatures impact the health of native flora and fauna, and wetlands