

Thank you, Ganawenim Meshkiki and the Eastern Georgian Bay Initiative!

Attention: Patrick Brennan, Executive Director, Ganawenim Meshkiki

As we wrap up the third year of this grant, we would like to thank you for your generous support of the work by the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) and our partner the Georgian Bay Land Trust (GBLT) along the Eastern Georgian Bay Coast. We're delighted to share this Year 3 (2022) Interim Report with you. We have made great progress to combat Phragmites in the Eastern Georgian Bay Coast and improve Species at Risk habitat. We simply could not have done it without your support.

Our achievements over the past year:

- The generous support of Ganawenim Meshkiki and the Eastern Georgian Bay Initiative allowed NCC to continue collaborating with key long-term partner, GBLT, and establish a new collaboration with Georgian Bay Forever. With COVID-19 limitations slowly diminishing, our ability to engage with First Nations communities are returning. While controlling Phragmites along Ogemawahj Road, we had a chance to interact with staff from Moose Deer Port First Nation, who showed us additional phragmites patches that we could control. After the inaugural Ganawenim Meshkiki conference this year, NCC staff connected with Dave Rice, and we are very excited to learn more from him in the new year through meetings and workshops. Finally, NCC staff have a final draft of a letter in review to be sent to First Nations communities along the Eastern Georgian Bay Coast in January of 2023.
- Building off previous mapping efforts, NCC staff further expanded the ArcGIS Field Maps Project to include data necessary to effectively plan control efforts. In addition, NCC staff are building collaborative partnerships with new contributors to the map to expand our understanding of the extent of invasive Phragmites. The Georgian Bay Mnidoo Gamii Biosphere, Georgian Bay Forever, and Severn Sound Environmental Association have already been added to the project.
- Phragmites control were continued at two key sites: Port Severn Wetlands, and on Ogemawahj Road on the Moose Deer Point First Nation Reserve. New patches were identified and controlled in Port Severn Wetlands and on Ogemawahj Road.. Additionally, two new sites were controlled this year – one near American Camp Island and other at Russell Reserve Port Severn on Green Island. NCC also partnered with Georgian Bay Forever to control two additional sites near Honey Harbour.
- Monitoring and effectiveness assessments took place over the summer months. Occurrences of Phragmites controlled in 2020 and 2021 at Giant's Tomb Island using the cut and drown control method are showing no re-growth after two years of control. Patches previously controlled at Port Severn Wetlands and on Ogemawahj road did show significant re-growth and were cut again this year, as mentioned above.
- NCC shared the completed Phragmites control video filmed in Fall 2021 on YouTube, via social media and via an Elert posted by the Federation of Ontario Cottagers Associations (FOCA). Additionally, a direct link to the video has been added to the FOCA website on the Phragmites page and the link has been shared with attendees of the inaugural Ganawenim Meshkiki conference and with the Severn Sound Environmental Association's Invasive Species working group. The video has been viewed over 1700 times over the past 8 months. Additionally, NCC staff have initiated communications with 27 cottage associations along the Eastern Georgian Bay



coast in order to better understand the challenges faced by property owners and encourage continued control efforts.

Once again, thank you for your support. We have included specific information on our achievements in the attached table. We look forward to continuing to partner with Ganawenim Meshkiki and the Eastern Georgian Bay Initiative for the remaining three years of this grant.

Sincerely,

Jill Murray-Dimic
Senior Development Officer
Nature Conservancy of Canada – Ontario

Attachment: Year 3 Interim Report (table)
c.c. Bill Lougheed, Executive Director, Georgian Bay Land Trust