

Thank you from Georgian Bay Forever. Please see **follow-ups and updates** from the invasive Phragmites workshops.

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Committed Phragbusters, thanks for great workshops and great feedback.  
Here are 5 updates to your requests:

## 1. Identification - more info

[Please find](#) Lynn Short's presentation on Identification in video form (**5 min**), and a post on 5 tips for identification. To come: GBF is working on further identification online tools, including video from the Collingwood session that Bert Liverance kindly videotaped. [Email me](#) with any pictures, or identification tools you don't mind sharing. I would be happy to post them for the group.

## 2. Process for selective cutting - more

**In water:** [This page](#) has been updated to include the observations you had (timing, other steps, roles, more tools, a step on waivers etc.) Note: for **beaches** and soft substrates (not in water), Lynn Short has provided this [How to](#) that I have put in video form.

**To come:** We will be [posting community cuts](#), so you can always join one to learn how to do it - or [contact me](#) to post your group to gain more exposure. I am always [open](#) to further suggestions from the group.

## 3. Government Information , roads, drainage, municipalities and more

This [page is the beginning](#) of a collection of information around government actions (drainage, roads, municipalities etc.) GBF also [emailed](#) municipal attendees to the workshop with information and key follow-ups from the workshops.

Ministry of Transportation update: Central Region will also be implementing Phragmites control measures on their highways. The Western Regions already do. We will continue to follow developments of the Western region, Central region, and the Eastern region.

## 4. More Communication Help

There was hunger to know more about how to get people involved and retaining them. There is no easy answer to this - keep networking and advantaging opportunities. Here are items we are working

on to help coordinate, integrate and spread the message.

- **Find your community, and post your community** - GBF is posting [key Georgian Bay community leaders and contacts online](#), and their cut dates as available. (So far Honey Harbour, Collingwood with Aug .6 cut, Woods Bay, Wymbolwood Beach). You can reach out to the leader in your community or as a leader, if you're not listed, [please contact communications](#) and we will list you and help promote your group with the GBF audience. Keep us updated with cut information that we can also help to promote.
- **Leave information:** [Phragmites Info Sheets](#) you can leave with neighbours. Please contact [communications](#), and I will send you a batch of 25 via snail mail while quantities last.
- **Fun Phragbuster wearables.** GBF is going to work on a design for t-shirts and perhaps hats, and send out an email about how you can order them.
- **Signage**, particularly on highways and roadways to spread awareness. GBF is in touch with OIPC and OPWG to see what they are doing on signage. GBF will also spread the idea to the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) to understand if this is an option that they can undertake to help educate the public.

## 5. Most popular issue: Disposal, disposal, disposal....



## **This an issue for many cottagers, who find themselves with multiple bags or piles of invasive Phragmites stalks.**

Collingwood was able to work with their Parks department, and Honey Harbour found an amazing private company who hauled away and disposed of the stalks. Working these kinds of partnerships as community leaders is a great idea.

The optimal solution would be to have the municipalities designate some kind of drop-off area or create a pick-up schedule. GBF will work with GBA and selected municipalities to determine if this is feasible.

In the meantime, the best options are listed in this [process page under planning an disposal](#). or steps are slightly abbreviated here:

### **Step 1. Drying - Critical step**

- a. Identify a place to spread the Phragmites out to dry on tarps . An open field or paved area is best.
- b. Or apply thick plastic over piled materials to kill still alive plants
- c. Leave in yard bags with the top open in a dry storage space for a few months (until dry)

### **Step 2. Dried material disposal. Options:**

- a. Either burn in small batches over time, if permitted by by-laws. Consider applying for a burn permit for a large amount.
- b. Bury. This should be low risk as stalks are dried and without seedheads or rhizomes and roots.
- c. Leave as debris piles in a designated spot (not in the water, or near it )

I enjoyed meeting you at the workshops and sharing stories. We'll see you this summer!  
Please forward this email to anyone you think might be interested in Phragbusting and helping  
the Bay's wetlands!

Heather Sargeant  
Communications Director

