

EAGLE LAKE 2020 PHRAGMITES CONTROL PROGRAM

The Eagle Lake Conservation Association has organized its third annual program to control the invasive phragmites that have taken root in almost thirty locations in or near Eagle Lake. Once again we hope to partner with Machar Township to maximize the effectiveness of the program. In 2018 our volunteers removed over half of this invasive vegetation in three full days of cutting. Last year we extended the program to five days and all the phragmites were cut and transported to the Machar landfill where they were burned. Each year of removal eliminates the possible spread of this insidious vegetation. In addition, once they are removed, phragmites do not grow back as densely the following year.

Based on the experience gained over the past two years the Organizing Committee has identified a schedule for this year's removal program. Cutting activity will be limited from 9am until noon for six days. If we receive the same level of support from our volunteers as we had for the two previous removal programs, we are confident that we will achieve our goal of again removing all the invasive phragmites from the Lake. We will be acquiring new cutting blades for our motorized brush cutters that will make them far more efficient and eliminate the mechanical breakdowns that were experienced in the past two years.

Recognizing the threat that Covid 19 presents, the 2020 program will differ significantly from previous years. Consistent with Provincial direction, teams will be limited to a maximum of ten participants. Disposable masks and hand sanitizer will be provided, and volunteers will be required to wear masks when in proximity to other participants. To the greatest extent possible volunteers will be assigned independent work areas to maximize use of the cane cutters and sharpened spades. Each work site will be assigned a supervisor who will ensure social distancing measures are complied with and that volunteers take regular breaks for refreshments. The ELCA will provide water, Gatorade, and power bars throughout the mornings. Volunteers are asked to bring work gloves and wear sturdy footwear. For those willing to work in the water, we request that they bring waders or other footwear suitable for working in water.

The 9am to noon scheduled days for 2020 are:

Saturday July 25
Sunday July 26
Tuesday July 28
Thursday July 30
Saturday August 1
Tuesday August 4

We welcome your continued support and hope that you will participate in this year's program. Please register by emailing to: mpmconsulting@gmail.com _ or phoning _705-386-2803.