



SPRING 2023





## Invasive Species

Muskoka Conservancy works to fight invasive species every year on our nature reserves.

When it comes to invasive Phragmites, these invasives threaten 25% of Ontario's Species at Risk, according to 2015 MNRF study.

Invasive Phragmites can:

- Alter suitable habitat, including nesting and hibernation habitats.
- Outcompete native vegetation, including food sources.
- Limit the movement of species.
- Alter prey availability.

To combat the invasive species on our nature reserves, it involves making a plan of action and then getting volunteers to help us execute that plan.

For Bert and Millie's Marsh, we have one or two Phragmites Phighting days during the summer. On these outings volunteers help us selectively spade the invasive phragmites and place them in bags in the sun to destroy them.

If you would like to volunteer to help us manage invasive phragmites, we have opportunities available during the summer.

Contact us about volunteering at [conservation@muskokaconservancy.org](mailto:conservation@muskokaconservancy.org)

### INVASIVE PHRAGMITES

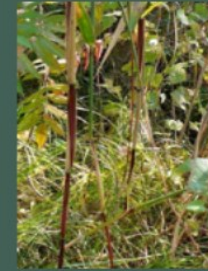
- Aggressively spreading wetland grass forming dense, near monoculture stands
- Up to 5m tall, and commonly found in road sides and wetlands
- From Eurasia, introduced as seed contaminant in soil and/or intentionally for gardening and horticulture
- Differences can be seen between the native and invasive species. Invasive have larger seed heads, with dense very tall stands.



NATIVE



INVASIVE



NATIVE



INVASIVE

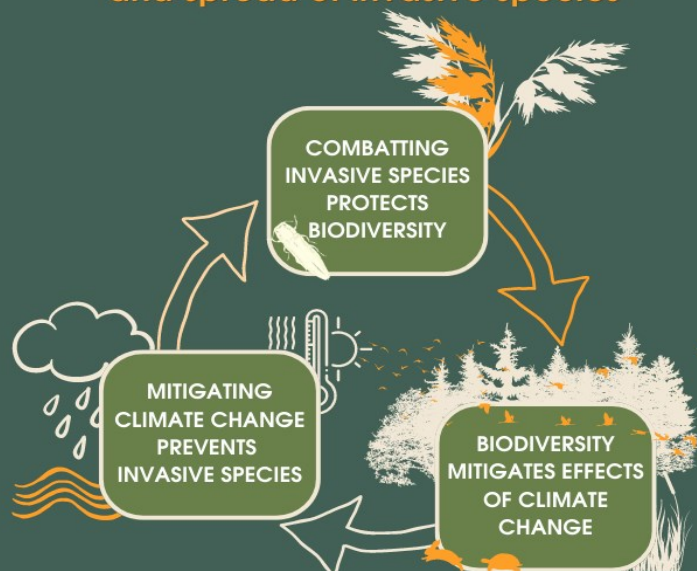


25% of Ontario's Species-at-Risk are threatened by Invasive Phragmites according to a 2015 MNRF study

### ECOSYSTEM EFFECTS

- Alter wetland structure and suitable habitat, including nesting and hibernation habitats
- Outcompete native vegetation, including food sources
- Limit the movement of species
- Fragment habitats
- Alter prey availability

**Climate Change can accelerate the introduction and spread of invasive species**



## Save the Dates!

### May 6, 2023—Native Plant Sale

Back this year, we are having our native plant sale. Native plants are important for ecosystem health and dynamics between other organisms. They are low maintenance and support local pollinators too. Keep an eye out for the online order opening date!



### June 9, 2023—Annual General Meeting (AGM)

We are going live at the Raymond Community Hall! Friday, June 9th, at 10 am we will be holding our AGM. Mark this date on the calendar, there are more details to come!



### Aug 27, 2023—Muskoka's Incredible Race

This summer, Muskoka's Incredible Race and Muskoka Conservancy are teaming up for a fundraiser to be held on August 27, 2023!

This fun and informative event, will open for registration this spring! Find out more about Muskoka's Incredible Race here: [muskokasincrediblerace.ca](https://muskokasincrediblerace.ca)



## Become a Member in 2023

By renewing your membership each year, you drive nature conservation steadily forward. Thank you for being part of a vibrant community of people dedicated to protecting nature!

### Online

Visit  
muskokaconservancy.org  
click donate in the top right

DONATE

### Phone



Call 705-645-7393 ext.200  
to make a donation over  
the phone

### Mail

Send a cheque or  
credit card information  
to:

Box 482  
47 Quebec Street  
Bracebridge, ON  
P1L 1T8



### In Person



Always welcome to visit  
our office at  
47 Quebec Street  
in Bracebridge



## Upcoming Webinars

Are you curious about how you can tell which trees are which during the winter months before leaves sprout in Spring? Join us for our March Webinar to learn how to identify common Muskoka trees by only their twigs and buds!

The webinar will be held over zoom on Tuesday, March 28th, 2022 at 10:00am.

Please register for this event by emailing [info@muskokaconservancy.org](mailto:info@muskokaconservancy.org) or calling 705-645-7393 to receive the zoom link!



## CanadaHelps—Make It Monthly

Making a monthly donation is a great way to support Muskoka Conservancy. It allows you to give a little bit each month, which can add up to a significant contribution over time. And this month, your donation can go a bit further!

For March 2023, CanadaHelps will make a one time \$20 donation to us for all new monthly donations of \$20 or more to Muskoka Conservancy!

Visit: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/id/66290/> to set up a monthly donation.



## Upcoming Nature Quests

March's Nature Quest will take participants out to Upjohn Nature Reserve with MC Conservation Coordinator, Amanda and native plant expert, Laura.

The Winter Tree ID Nature Quest will learn and use tips and tricks to identify trees without the help of their leaves. Using just the tree's buds and twigs.

March 30th,

Registration is required for this event. **Registration capped at 10 participants.** Please register for this event by emailing [info@muskokaconservancy.org](mailto:info@muskokaconservancy.org) or calling 705-645-7393.

For this event you will need: Appropriate clothing and footwear for the weather, water and a snack, allergy or other emergency medicine if needed.



## Wood Duck Boxes Refresh with the Muskoka Field Naturalists

While walking the Beaver Pond Loop on Muskoka Conservancy(MC)'s Upjohn Nature Reserve, you might have seen the wood duck boxes on trees in the water.

During the winter, when volunteers can walk out on the icy pond, these duck boxes are checked for use and get new filling!

With wood shavings donated from a local MC volunteer. The team from Muskoka Field Naturalists

and MC's Conservation Coordinator, Amanda, set out to check and refresh!

This year, 2 of the 5 boxes were used. Before the team puts more shavings into the boxes, they are checked for bits of egg shells, nesting materials and other signs of use.

Below, are some photos from the excursion. As well as the photo on the cover for this edition of our newsletter.



## Michael Foster Photography Contest



It is time for our annual Michael Foster Photography Contest!

This year's theme: "The Forest is Alive"

The winner will receive a mounted copy of their photo and named Muskoka Conservancy's AGM as the recipient of the Michael Foster Photography Award winner for 2023.

Please submit your photos to [fo@muskokaconservancy.org](mailto:fo@muskokaconservancy.org) by April 30th, 2023 for consideration.

To be eligible, the photo must have been taken in the last 12 months. A maximum of 4 photo entries per person.

Michael Foster was a very accomplished photographer and Muskoka Conservancy has been blessed with many of his stunning images of our nature reserves. Michael had an eye for the beauty of Muskoka and a love for our natural landscape. We are so pleased to be offering this award in his memory.



## Visiting MC's newest Nature Reserve

Last week, Muskoka Conservancy staff made a visit to Barkway Lake Nature Reserve.

This nature reserve is our most recent acquisition. It was made possible through the ECCC's Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund and the Ontario Land Trust Alliance.

In this visit we were able to visit the wetlands, take a look at rock ridges that will be great reptile habitat, and found some sliding otter prints in the snow.

We look forward to visiting this nature reserve again and observing more of the plant and wildlife found throughout the 170-acres!



**Thank you to our  
official partners!**

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**Muskoka Conservancy's Shop Items  
Available at the Muskoka Conservancy  
Office, 47 Quebec Street, Bracebridge or  
in Toronto from Elizabeth Mason at  
(416) 924-4868!**

Our items include coffee mugs, toques,  
books on butterflies and reptiles, note  
cards, and "Made in Canada" tea towels.

For shop inquiries, email-  
[info@muskokaconservancy.org](mailto:info@muskokaconservancy.org)

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**Our Nature Quest  
program runs year-round,  
so be sure to check our  
website and social media  
for updates on upcoming  
events!**

