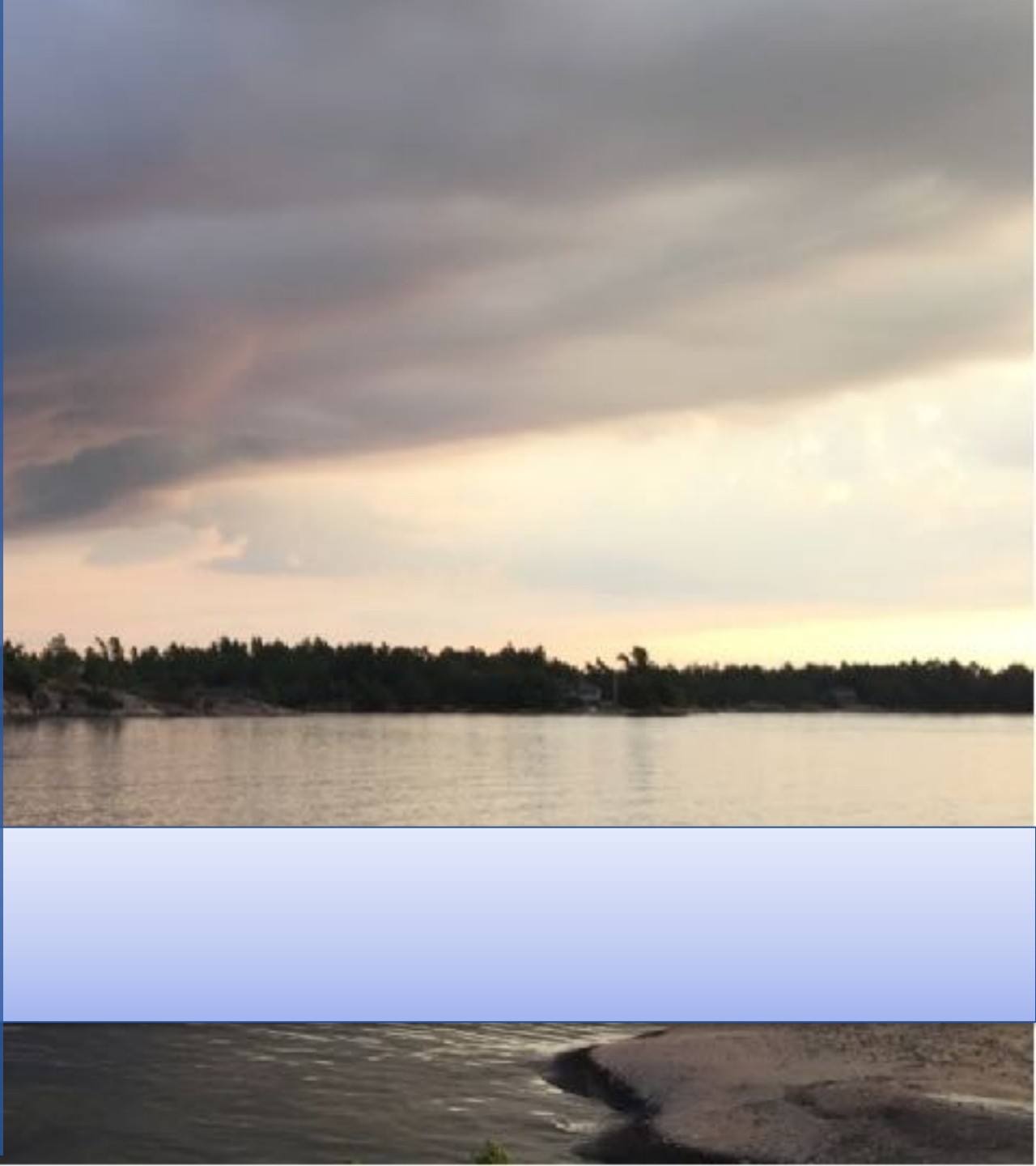


**McGregor Bay Association
Phrag Free McGregor Bay Project**

**Invasive Phragmites
Workshop w/ Nicole Carpenter
From Georgian Bay Forever**

July 24 2025



McGregor Bay is Whitefish River First Nations Traditional Territory - Robinson Huron Treaty

- **Phrag Free McGregor Bay Project** is a collaboration between:



*Whitefish
River*
FIRST NATION



GEORGIAN BAY
FOREVER



Funding for this project - many thanks to:



Ontario
Phragmites
Action

Invasive Phragmites
 Control Fund

The Ontario Phragmites Action (OPA) program coordinates a collaborative, province-wide effort to combat the impacts and spread of invasive Phragmites. This initiative is made possible by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and led by the Invasive Species Centre and the Nature Conservancy of Canada, alongside a network of dedicated partners.

The views expressed here are those of the McGregor Bay Association and do not necessarily reflect those of the Province, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, or the Ontario Phragmites Action program and its key partners.

Project Leads

- WRFN
 - Keith Nahwegahbow - Lands and Resource Officer
 - Matt Gibson - Lands Field Technician
 - Reta Meng - Species at Risk Biologist
- MBA
 - Doug Whitton - Board Member
- GBF
 - Nicole Carpenter - Science Projects Manager: Phragmites Research

Why are we doing this workshop?

- Canada's **worst invasive plant**, non-native European Common Reed aka Phragmites, not to be confused with the native Phragmites plant
- Without a **plan** to control invasive phragmites, they will overtake all native plants
- **Early detection** and rapid response is key to success



What are the potential environmental threats from invasive phragmites ?

- Environmental harms include - reduced biodiversity and habitat quality for **Species at Risk** and other wildlife
- Invasive Phragmites **outcompetes native plants**, over time it will reduce native plants, amphibians, fish, reptiles, birds by filling in breeding wetlands with dense impenetrable invasive phrag.



What are the potential environmental threats from invasive phragmites ?

- **Recreational** areas are destroyed by invasive phragmites if they are not controlled at an early stage of spread. Unique locations such as Red Sand Beach are most vulnerable.
- McGregor Bay is the type of environment that is **difficult to access** and will be expensive to manage and control if the spread increases.



What is the goal of the Phrag Free McGregor Bay Project?

- Find all the Invasive Phragmites in McGregor Bay
- Mapping all the invasive phrag patches in McGregor Bay - GIS software (WRFN)
- Develop a plan to remove and control the future spread through best removal practices - herbicides, cutting etc.
- If time allows, start removing phrag

Summer 2025 =
Mapping
+ Planning

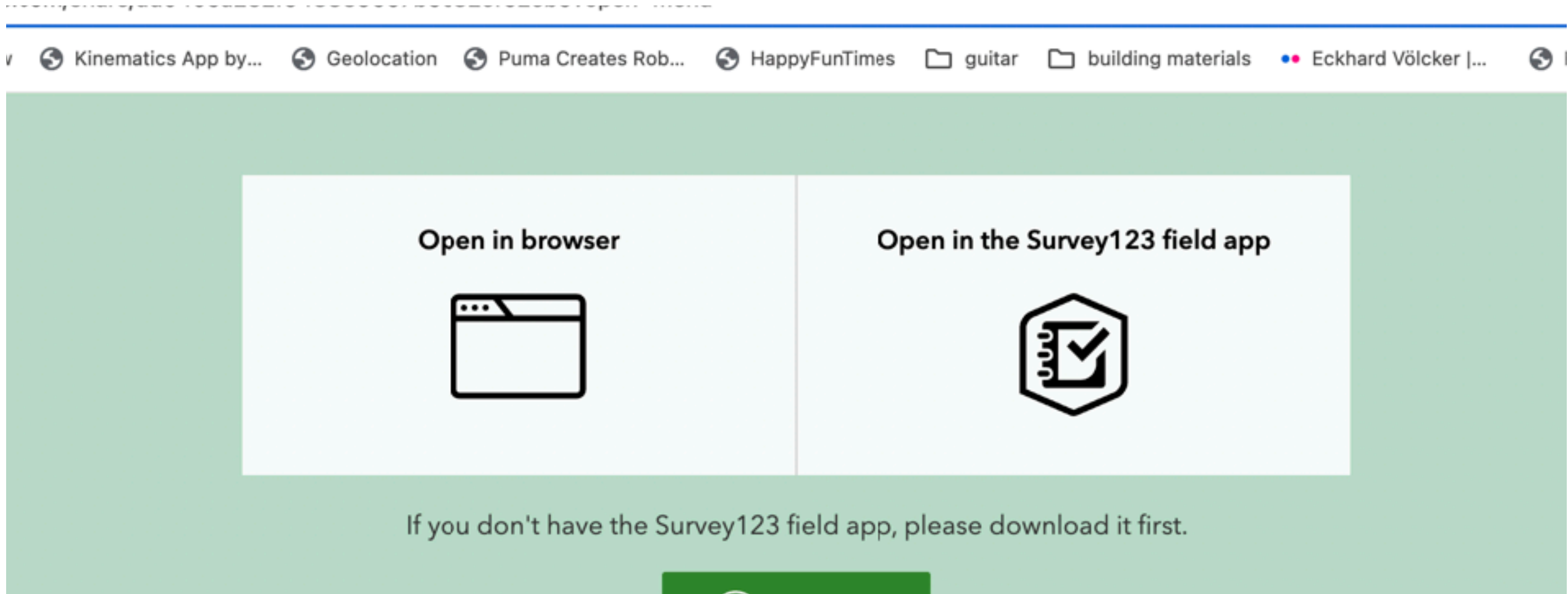
What do we want McGregor Bay Association volunteers to do?

- Find invasive phragmites patches in your specific area of the bay
- Upload **photos and gps coordinates** of suspected invasive phragmites patches to **survey 123** for WRFN field technicians to ID

Survey123: <https://arcg.is/0C9Ojy>

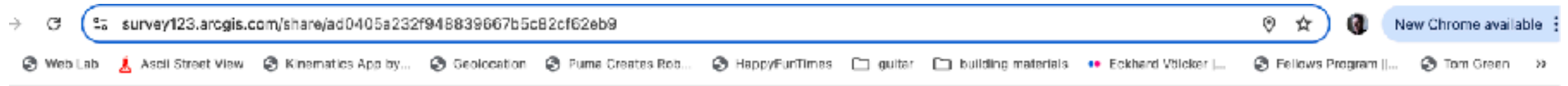
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What do we want McGregor Bay Association volunteers to do?

Survey123: <https://arcg.is/0C9Ojy>



WRFN Phragmites Survey 2025

- Whitefish River First Nation Phragmites Mapping Survey. The purpose of this survey is to locate and map Invasive Phragmites.

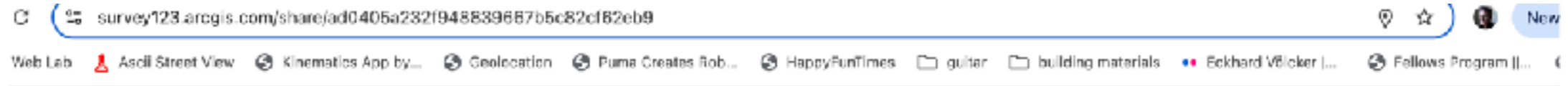
Date and Time*

 7/21/2025	 01:10 PM
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Personnel*

<input type="checkbox"/>	WRFN Lands Staff
<input type="checkbox"/>	McGregor Bay Association Volunteer
<input type="checkbox"/>	WRFN Community Member

What do we want McGregor Bay Association volunteers to do?



Location*

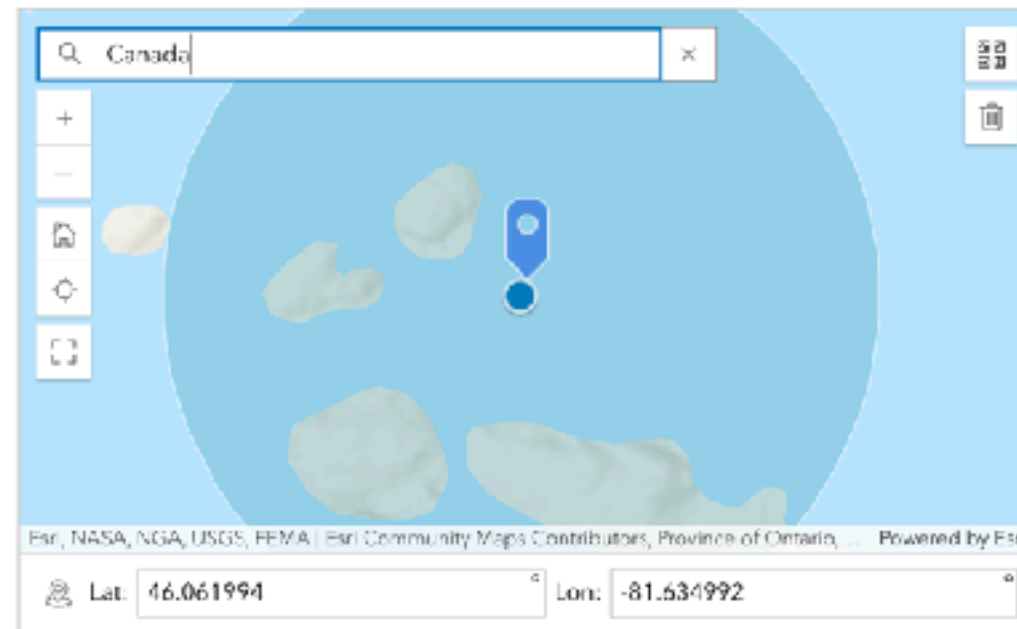
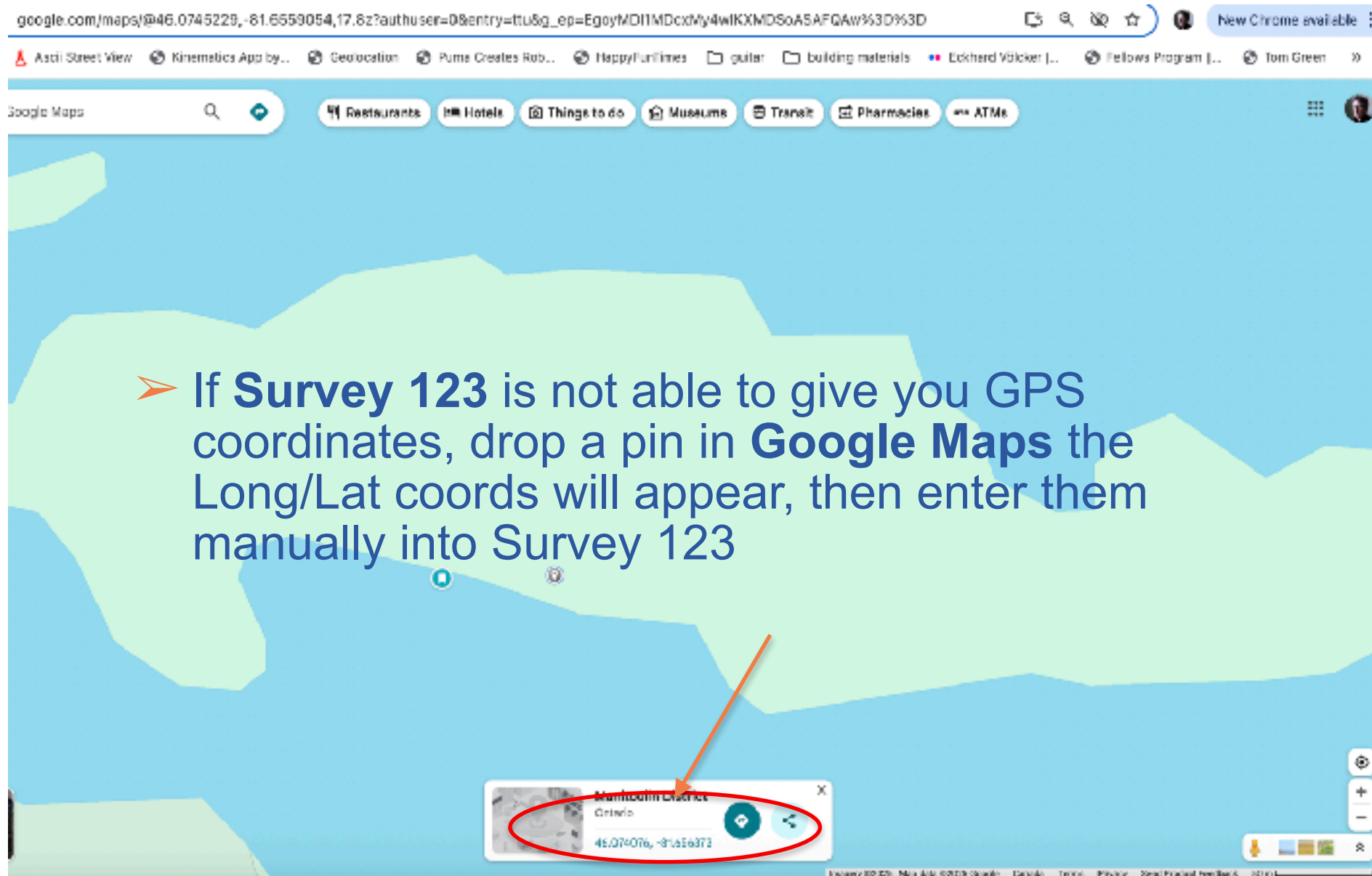


Photo of Phrag*



Comments

What do we want McGregor Bay Association volunteers to do?



- If **Survey 123** is not able to give you GPS coordinates, drop a pin in **Google Maps** the Long/Lat coords will appear, then enter them manually into Survey 123

What do we want McGregor Bay Association volunteers to do?

- Organize your friends, family and neighbours so that each invasive phrag patch is documented only once on the **survey 123 web page**, rather than having multiple uploads for the same phrase patch!
- Volunteer when there is a request from the McGregor Bay Association for people to **cut phrag**

What do we want McGregor Bay Association volunteers to do?

- For all of you who are volunteering to participate in this project - the McGregor Bay Association is **extremely grateful !**
- We will be thinking of ways to show our appreciation !

- You are appreciated by the MBA !!!
- A lot

Questions?

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landstech@whitefishriver.ca

More Resources on Phragmites Control

Cutting methods

- **Cut to Drown**
- This method cuts the stalk of the plant underwater close to the lake bottom. The plant should drown if the water is deep enough.
- The tool for cutting the stalk in the water is a Raspberry Cane Cutter sold at Lee Valley Tools
- <https://www.leevalley.com/en-ca/shop/garden/garden-care/pruners/10242-raspberry-cane-cutter>
- <https://www.opwg.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/OPWG-Spading-Postcard.pdf>

More Resources on Phragmites Control

Cutting methods

- **Spading**
- Using a sharp spade, the phragmites stalk is cut at a 45 degree angle. This can be done on dry land or in the water.
- Princess Auto has good serrated shovels.
- <https://www.princessauto.com/en/fibreglass-d-handle-serrated-edge-shovel/product/PA0008593303>
- <https://www.opwg.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/OPWG-Spading-Postcard.pdf>

More Resources on Phragmites Control

Resources

- **Ontario Phragmites Action**
- <https://ontariophragmitesaction.ca/>

- **Ontario Phragmites Management**
A comprehensive guide to managing invasive phragmites.
- https://www.greenshovels.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/FY2024_GS-Phragmites-Guidebook_Final_Web.pdf

More Resources on Phragmites Control

Resources

Invasive Species Centre

- <https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/invasive-species/meet-the-species/invasive-aquatic-plants/phragmites/>

More Resources on Phragmites Control

Resources

Clean Equipment Protocol For Industry

- https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Clean-Equipment-Protocol_June2016_D3_WEB-1.pdf

Clean Equipment Protocol For Industry - Summary

- https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/CEP-One-Page-Summary_FINAL.pdf