



P r e s e r v i n g o u r U n i q u e A r c h i p e l a g o



ANNUAL REPORT 2005

*The Georgian Bay Land Trust seeks to
preserve the unique archipelago and its adjacent
water bodies which lie along the eastern shore and
North Channel of Georgian Bay that are of ecological,
geological and historical importance, and to promote
the appreciation of this special area.*



P r e s e r v i n g o u r U n i q u e A r c h i p e l a g o



"The Georgian Bay Archipelago is quintessential Canadian wilderness – a rare gem that is, due to its relative accessibility, prone to being sullied and endangered. Although it is difficult to halt the intrusion of modernity, the setting aside and preservation of relatively pristine oases can at least hold some of it at bay. How delightful a legacy to provide some assurance that future generations may be able to enjoy some of the beauty and serenity that we have grown to love in our own lives."

Peter Watson, Donor

President's Report

The Georgian Bay Land Trust has emerged as a major Canadian land trust. 2005 has been another successful year in our efforts to preserve and protect eastern Georgian Bay and the North Channel. Growing support from so many Georgian Bay connected families, together with strong relationships with other Georgian Bay organizations, government agencies and the community at large, are responsible for GBLT's growing prosperity. Our volunteer base continues to swell as more individuals become aware of the excellent work of GBLT making it the force to reckon with in the movement for conservation on Georgian Bay.

2005 saw a number of positive developments:

- Evolution of the very successful partnership with the Nature Conservancy of Canada to move GBLT into the lead land trust position.
- Appointment of a first ever GBLT Director of Development.
- Initiation of a pro-active stance for property acquisition activities.
- Expansion of stewardship activities into a growing volunteer stewards network, assisted by a first ever summer student.
- Creation of a Community Advisory group to work with volunteers who are permanent residents on Georgian Bay.
- Expansion of membership activities into communications, awareness, branding and annual giving activities.

Skilled and effective leadership on the part of GBLT's Board of Directors supported by excellent staff, together with significant volunteer commitment, have served GBLT well in its journey since 1991. This report outlines what has been achieved in the past year, so one can only imagine what is possible in future.

The strength of GBLT is in the people serving it - the organization belongs to all of them. Most importantly, GBLT relies on the dedicated Georgian Bay supporters who share the passion we all have for preserving this special place for future generations. Thank you for your confidence in the work of GBLT, and your gifts of stewardship, time and money.

John Stark



Executive Director's Report

2005 was marked by rapid growth and numerous opportunities for GBLT to achieve even greater conservation success. This growth is essential as we work harder and faster to achieve our mission of protecting special places on the Bay before they are lost forever. GBLT programs continue to mature with the help of the many new volunteers who contribute in a variety of ways - serving on our Board, participating as members of committees and task forces, acting as stewards, organizing events, participating in Trust activities and much more.

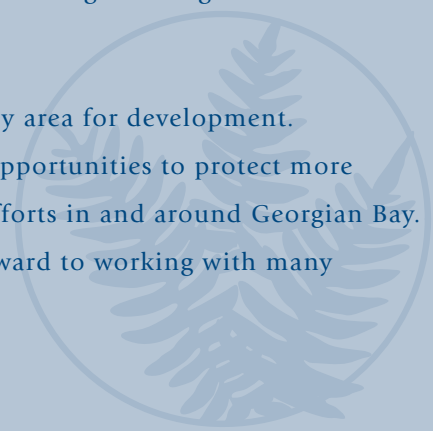
GBLT has been fortunate to benefit from the personal contributions of many people who bring a wealth of knowledge, experience and enthusiasm to its work.

2005 has seen many of our programs expand. Some of my most memorable highlights include,

- Our first season with an organized network of stewards, supported by our inaugural summer student, Andrew Williams of Go Home Bay;
- The addition of Janet Lougheed as our part time Director of Development, bringing a wealth of experience and passion for Georgian Bay; and
- The series of Focus Group sessions that helped educate GBLT about neighbouring communities' interests and opinions about our efforts.

Looking forward to 2006, increased awareness of The Trust is a key area for development. Working closely with our communities, we plan to identify new opportunities to protect more special places and engage additional people in our stewardship efforts in and around Georgian Bay. Thank you to all those who have helped us in the past. I look forward to working with many of you in the year to come!

Wendy Cooper



Key Activities From 2005

Land Protection

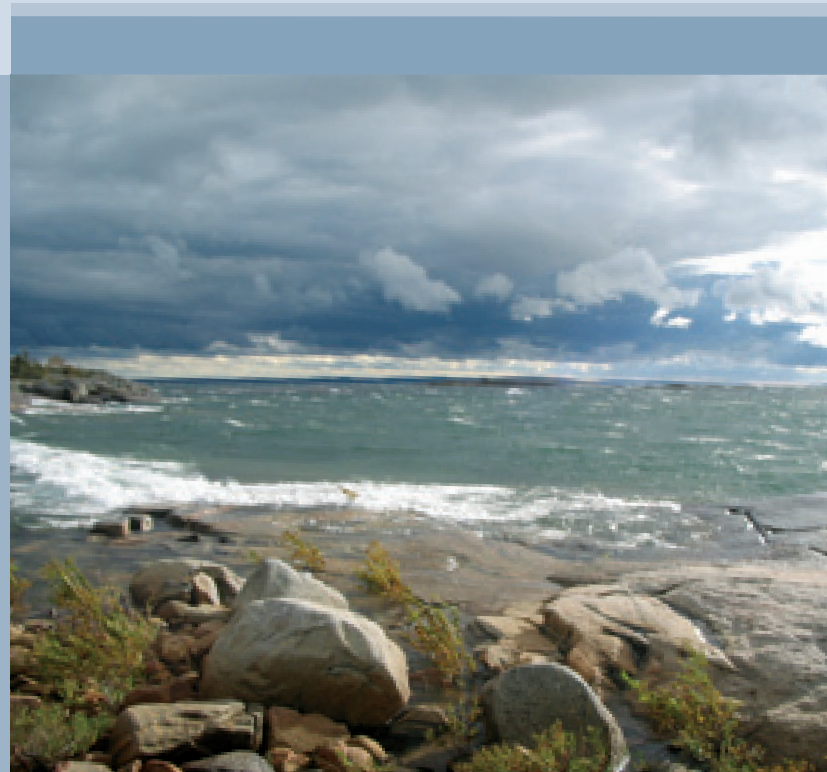
Our Land Protection Program is charged with the task of identifying properties of interest and working with landowners who are interested in protecting their properties to expand our network of reserves and increase the number of acres protected for future generations.

The Property Committee continued its work on various projects and began working with new families in communities such as Cognashene, Wah Wah Taysee, and Pointe au Baril.

As of December 2005, the Property Committee was actively working on 12 new projects.

For 2006, plans are underway for a pro-active approach to land protection. This will focus our efforts on the critical properties that represent some of the best opportunities and examples of

the Georgian Bay environment. To achieve this, we are refining our criteria with help from the Great Lakes Conservation Blueprint, a science-based approach to identifying the best examples of the Great Lakes environment prepared by the Nature Conservancy of Canada.



Board of Directors

In June of 2005, John Stark assumed the Presidency of the GBLT following Nancy Christie who had served as President since June 2001. Under her leadership, GBLT experienced significant growth and development and John looks forward to building on Nancy's efforts. Sandy Boyd completed a 4 year term as Treasurer, and Jim Beatty assumed the responsibilities of financial leadership of The Trust. Also in 2005, GBLT was fortunate to have John Catto join the Board. The Catto family, including John, his wife Margaret and her family, have been strong supporters of GBLT, donating a significant property in the Pointe au Baril area in 2003. Since that time, the family has continued to steward the property.



A complete list of the Board of Directors and Advisors is below

President - John Stark

Chair - Nancy Christie

Past Chair - Neil Davis

Treasurer - James A. Beatty

Secretary - Graham King

Vice-President, Property - Sandy McLaren

Vice-President, Stewardship - Tom Scoon

Vice-President, Fundraising - Donald Lawson

Vice-President, Communications - Caroline Duncanson



Directors:

John Catto

Anneliese Grieve

Evelyn Newell

Dana Porter

Georgia Rennick

Sue Russell

Karl Schiefer

Barbara Zimmerman

Advisors:

Chris Baines

John Birnbaum

Sandy Boyd

Stephen Griggs

John Hackett

Paul Jarvis

Wally King

Bill McCoy

Sandy McCoy

Sandy Phillips

Carl Spiess

Our thanks to those who contributed to the creation of this report,

Sally Lennox, Design & Photography
Diana E. Cape, Graphic Resources Network

Stewardship

2005 was the first year of our formalized Stewardship Program. An extensive network of volunteer stewards was created, led by individuals and families that have taken on the responsibility of Lead Steward. It was an important development and will be key to enhancing our ability to responsibly care for our properties. This network of volunteers is supported by our newly created Stewardship Committee, which consists of representatives from our steward group as well as members of the GBLT Board. In 2006, this network will be further strengthened with additional volunteers. When visiting our properties, please keep your eye out for our stewards (they can be identified by their GBLT hats and t-shirts) and help them help us keep our properties protected!

Our first summer student was also hired this past year. While his responsibilities focused on the Alexander Island group, he also provided support for both our Stewardship & Land Protection programs. Not only did this new initiative assist the work of GBLT, it also created a wonderful opportunity for a student interested in learning more about the Georgian Bay environment to make a meaningful contribution to its protection.

In 2006, we plan to create an environmental component to our monitoring program with the goal of establishing consistent data on our properties. This information will guide our land-use decisions in the future. In order to achieve optimum results, we will partner with like-minded groups on the Bay.



Communication

LandScript, GBLT's quarterly, is a lively newsletter full of Georgian Bay information, trivia and lore. Thanks to Editor Sue Russell, LandScript brings GBLT to our supporters throughout the year.

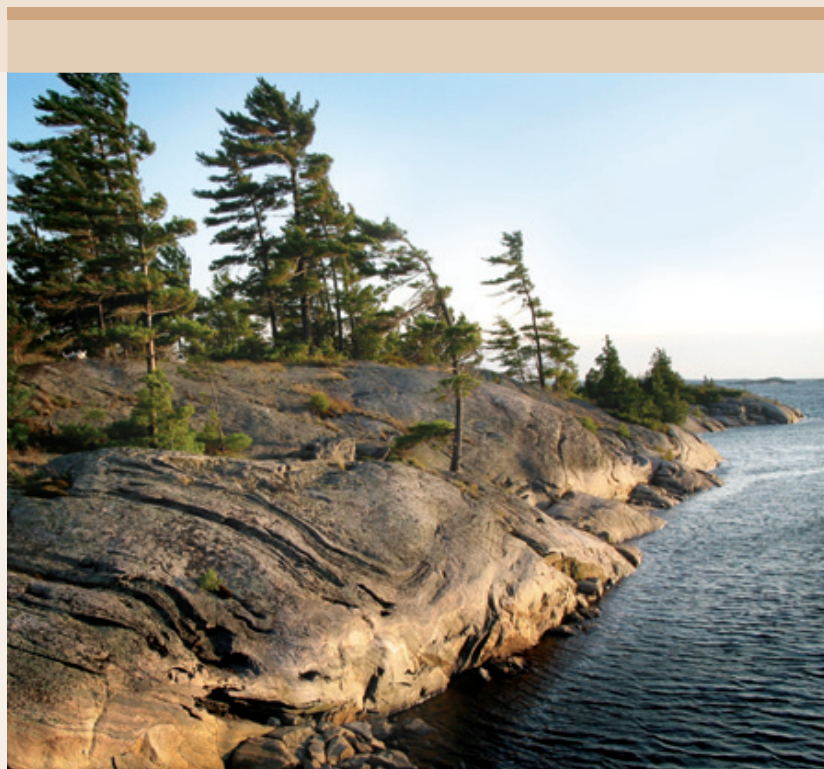
www.gblt.org

Updated in 2004, the GBLT website contains current information about GBLT, its activities and the Georgian Bay environment. An added feature: donors can make their contributions to GBLT via the website. Thanks to Matt Murphy who maintains our website.

2005 was a building year for our expanded Communications Program. Focus groups were conducted in a number of communities up and down the shore to learn more about what people know and think about GBLT and how we can better communicate our efforts.

In 2006, the information collected from the Focus Groups will guide a new Communications Committee. This committee is responsible for managing our activities related to raising awareness, communicating our successes and

working with partners to help promote the significance of Georgian Bay from a regional, national and global perspective. Committee activities will consist of enhancing existing initiatives like our quarterly newsletter, LandScript, and the development of new initiatives such as our Community Advisory Group and updated communications materials.



Fundraising

2005 was a critical year for our fundraising program. The Campaign for Conservation in partnership with the Nature Conservancy of Canada was successful, thanks to generous donors from across the entire Georgian Bay area. Subsequently, an ongoing relationship with NCC was initiated with GBLT identified as the lead land trust for the eastern shore of Georgian Bay and the North Channel. Our thanks to Stephen Griggs for Chairing our Joint Venture Committee and guiding its efforts.

To build on the success of GBLT's Joint Venture with NCC, Janet Loughheed was hired, with support from the Sustainability Network, to create a Fundraising & Communications Plan for GBLT. As a result of that plan, Janet Loughheed will continue as a part-time Director of Development for 2006. She will work with our volunteers to implement a new Fundraising and Communications Plan focused on raising awareness, communicating our successes and building a stable base of operational support. Highlights of this plan that will be implemented in 2006 include our first Annual Giving Campaign, a series of community picnics to celebrate our properties and the continuation of our Stewardship Fund program, which ensures ongoing financial support for the stewardship of our properties.



Thank You!

We would like to thank all of those that supported the Georgian Bay Land Trust in 2005. More than 600 donations were made in 2005; 370 annual gifts were given in support of operations and 65 gifts in support of our Stewardship Funds. The remaining gifts were made in memory or in honour of individuals or as gifts for birthdays, weddings and other special occasions.

In addition, 20 acres was transferred into the ownership of GBLT expanding on an existing reserve in the Pointe au Baril community, and GBLT worked in partnership with The Nature Conservancy and the Nature Conservancy of Canada to secure 17 acres in the Wah Wah Taysee community.

The additional support of many volunteers through participation in our events, facilitating the acquisition of new properties and the ongoing stewardship for our network of reserves has also been vital to GBLT's successes in 2005.

Goals for 2006

Looking forward to 2006, the Georgian Bay Land Trust will strengthen its capacity by creating a broader network of volunteers to support our many program areas. Specific areas for attention in the year ahead include:

- *Building our network of volunteer stewards to strengthen our stewardship efforts.*
- *Taking a more pro-active approach to land protection, ensuring that we don't miss opportunities to protect some of the best examples of Georgian Bay's unique environment.*
- *Increasing public awareness of GBLT, what The Land Trust is accomplishing and how this affects individuals, families and communities who share an interest in protecting the Bay.*
- *Undertaking our first Annual Giving Campaign thus establishing a base of operational support while at the same time, continuing efforts to increase stewardship funds so as to ensure long-term financial support for our mission: the stewardship of land.*



Partners

Nature Conservancy of Canada

The Georgian Bay Land Trust has been working in partnership with the NCC since 2000 on the Campaign for Conservation. In 2005, the GBLT & NCC began a new relationship, identifying GBLT as the lead land trust on the eastern shore & North Channel of Georgian Bay with the NCC continuing to provide support for projects of shared interest. Of the various projects underway, land protection opportunities and a regional application of NCC's Great Lakes Conservation Blueprint have been identified as priorities for the partnership for 2006.

Georgian Bay Association & GBA Foundation

The GBLT & GBA continue to work together on related issues relevant to the protection of the Georgian Bay ecosystem. The focus of GBLT's work is preservation of land and adjacent water bodies, while the GBA works actively on matters of policy, advocacy and research that relate to the Bay, supported by their fundraising arm, The Greater Bay Area Foundation (GBA Foundation). Opportunities to promote and support each other's work are ongoing and sharing of information benefits both organizations.

Local Associations and Organizations

Good relationships exist with local residents' associations and other regional organizations such as the Georgian Bay Reptile Awareness Program. These groups have been generous in providing GBLT with opportunities to participate in local events and to work together on activities of shared interest.

Parks Canada

GBLT works with Parks Canada on land protection projects of mutual interest in the communities of Cognashene, Go Home and Wah Wah Taysee and shares information to support and promote stewardship efforts on Georgian Bay.





visit
www.gbtl.org

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