

Great Day for Dedication of Lizard Island

by Sue Russell

Sunday the third of August was an important day in Cognashene. Although the weather was threatening rain about 75 people turned out to celebrate the dedication of the Lizard Island to the Georgian Bay Land Trust. Large and small boats flocked to the island where three crews of boat girls and boys were kept busy ferrying passengers from their moored boats to the temporary dock.

In a south wind the crowd gathered on the west side of the island with a beautiful view of Giant's Tomb. Chris Baines, our M.C. introduced David Allen, president of the Cognashene Cottagers Association, who welcomed us and declared how fortunate we were to have such a great piece of property in our area to enjoy. Nancy Christie, President of the Georgian Bay Land Trust then thanked the McCarthy family for their most generous gift. Nancy introduced René McCarthy



Nancy Christie, President of the GBLT, addresses the crowd on the Lizard with Renate Humphries who spoke about her memories on the Lizard Island

Humphries and asked her to say a few words about her memories of the family's use of the island.

The Lizard had been owned by the McCarthy family since 1918 and was named the Lizard because of its long narrow shape. For many years it was used as a fishing, camping and picnicking spot by the family as it is a great place for swimming in the

clear, cold waters off the rocky shores and for walking a couple of kilometres from one end to the other. The berry bushes produce a great harvest of blue berries, black berries, Saskatoon berries, raspberries and sometimes cranberries. The island supports several Atlantic Coastal Plain species of vegetation as well as a variety of sedges which are rare

and uncommon for the Muskoka district.

A plaque was unveiled by René which will be permanently mounted on the island in a prominent spot. This will remind visitors of the generosity of the McCarthy family and of their obligation to leave the island as they find it.

Joint Venture

Georgian Bay Land Trust and Nature Conservancy of Canada join forces

by John Stark

Thinking of Georgian Bay brings to mind visions of diverse landforms, striated rocks, windswept pines, crystal clear water, blue horizons and spectacular sunsets. This "Sixth Great Lake" offers extraordinary bio-diversity of both land and aquatic natural habitats - some of which are globally rare. Parts of Georgian Bay remain in relatively pristine condition giving a taste of what explorers of long ago enjoyed, protected by its inaccessibility by either land or water. Regrettably this is not for long unless action is taken immediately. There is imminent danger of losing this as time is limited before the untouched areas become the focus for development. Once lost this beauty can never be reclaimed. Georgian Bay is an endangered area.

With this sense of urgency in mind the Joint Venture of the Georgian Bay Land Trust (GBLT) and the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) was formed.

GBLT is an organization of passionate volunteers

recognizing the need for land conservation in the region. In its short 12 year history, GBLT has protected 11 properties on the Eastern Georgian Bay and has emerged as Ontario's major land trust. But as a volunteer organization its resources are limited.

The NCC is a national conservation organization with seven regional offices. Since 1962 NCC has helped to preserve 1.7 million acres of ecologically significant land across Canada, an area the size of PEI. NCC recognizes Eastern Georgian Bay as an area of national significance and has designated it as one of 50 national "Masterpiece Sites" for focused conservation action over the next five years.

Working in partnership with NCC with shared objectives since 1999 the GBLT brings unique and passionate strengths to this Joint Venture. The collaboration significantly strengthens land conservation efforts on the Bay to forever preserve the magnificent natural features that we know and love. I look forward to sharing the progress being made in coming issues.

John Stark is Vice President of the GBLT and Chair of the fundraising activities of the GBLT-NCC Joint Venture

A Case for Land Trusts

Why you should give, how you should give and benefits derived from giving land

In Ontario the public sector has historically assumed an active role in land conservation and protection. However it has become increasingly apparent that the public sector faces limitations that hinder its ability to ensure that natural features and systems are preserved.

Major challenges faced by the public sector in preserving land include: limitations in funding, the role of the public sector in the political process and the complexities in the public sector structure. As Ron Kanter wrote in his study, "Presently there is no single overall, coordinated approach for dealing with greenlands".

Given the nature of these challenges, the benefits of and need for private sector initiatives such as land trusts and stewardship are obvious. The fact that the majority of regional greenlands are privately owned is an additional challenge.

As a starting point in overcoming these challenges there is a need to recognize opportunities for private sector involvement in public sector processes. Similarly government bodies and agencies need to recognize and provide opportunities for private sector involvement in land protection.

Research and Conservation strategies

To foster increased private sector involvement and public/private sector cooperation in land preservation it is necessary to identify the significant natural areas, catalogue natural areas and heritage features, and address future courses of action such as acquisition strategies, stewardship

programs, and detailed management plans.

Private organizations often provide a unique perspective and can assist government bodies in identifying alternative methods of achieving desired outcomes, and identifying how private sector efforts might be coordinated with future public sector initiatives preserving natural features.

Acquisition/Preacquisition

Land Trusts are often able to acquire lands through purchase, donations or other means, whereas public sector bodies are typically limited by funding, procedural requirements and their prescribed role and mandate. A coordinated effort between local government and land trusts would provide greater opportunities to identify and protect natural areas.

An opportunity for cooperative efforts between land trusts and government bodies is where land trusts acquire land on behalf of government bodies then sell it to that body at a later date. One of the several advantages in this process is the fact that the land trusts may be able to acquire a property in a more cost efficient and timely manner as they may be more successful in negotiating transactions.

Management

The use of private ownership as a means of protecting natural features was incorporated into a project at Lighthouse Point in the Town of the Blue Mountains. This project involved the development of condominium units on a site on the shore of Georgian Bay. One of the natural

features of this site was a provincially significant wetland located in the centre of the property and on the shoreline. In developing the property it was decided that the wetland should remain in private ownership with each of the condominium owners as part owners and stewards. The condominium documents require a 100% approval of 250+ homeowners to make any changes to the wetland. The decision to keep the wetland in private ownership was felt to be the optimum strategy to ensure the long-term preservation of this feature and was later incorporated into the marketing program as a defining feature of the property.

If the natural environment is to coexist in any sustainable manner it is clear that the role of protecting land cannot be achieved through public sector efforts alone. Based on the example above, significant opportunities could arise if there were a more cooperative effort between the public and private sector bodies, agencies and organizations presently involved in land conservation protection and the educational use thereof. As a starting point privately owned lands and organizations active in land protection such as the Georgian Bay Land Trust need to be more recognized in the larger public planning and policy formulation processes of Ontario.

Edited from a paper written for Malone Given Parsons Ltd. by Richard W. Harrison and Sean Finlay.

Welcome to our new Executive Director

by Nancy Christie

The Board of Directors of the Georgian Bay Land Trust is pleased to welcome Wendy Cooper as its new Executive Director.

Many of you will remember Wendy Cooper from her scientific presentations at Winterlude and other GBLT events - both in cottage country and in the city. With a science background and recent experience as a stewardship officer for the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), Wendy is well qualified to guide GBLT's efforts to preserve and protect land.

Wendy's administrative experience includes writing grant proposals, working with interest groups, conservation authorities and government agencies in



Wendy Cooper

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Sans Souci Auction raises over \$3000 for GBLT

by Nancy Christie

A warm sunny day on Georgian Bay was the perfect atmosphere for bidding on antiques --- and more! On August 23, over 60 people crowded the MacNamara building on Frying Pan Island in the Sans Souci area. This was the Second Annual Auction to raise money for the Georgian Bay Land Trust.

Ernie Kovacs was the auctioneer for the live auction items, and he reminded people to consider the cause they were supporting: the preservation of Georgian Bay in its natural state.

Bidding was especially "hot" on two pieces of original art, donated by Marilyn Phillips and Lu Robitaille, as well as a woven pine needle basket hand made by Vicki Phillips, and a quill box donated by Neil Cameron. Other items that attracted a great deal of attention included an aerial photograph of your cottage donated by Kathy Sutton, a local flight offered by Harold Blower,

a tennis lesson and lunch given by Peter Hatcher, a "Shoot like a Pro" photography lesson by Nancy Westaway and dinner for 8 donated by Ernie and Donna Kovacs. Another big



hit was a gift certificate for pies, preserves or bread baked by Barbara Martin, the champion pie baker at the Sans Souci dockhouse. Unique NHL t-shirts donated by Pete Conacher, paddling shirts and caps from White Squall, a set of oars donated by Sheila Wangler and 2 Blue Jays tickets given

by Stephen Smith attracted the sports minded spenders.

Other winning items included dinners at Deer Horn and Henry's, a trip on the Chippewa, a night at Victoria Manor B and B in Parry Sound, lunch and tour of a GBLT property, gift certificates for use at Beatty's stores, the Bay Street Café and Orr's Fine Meats. In addition, there were several antique items: a cedar flag pole donated by Sandy Phillips, an old, but working, ice cream maker donated by Penny Pepperell, and a two-man cross cut saw from Ted Christie. All of these were in addition to some practical items such as a toaster oven, comforters, a set of cups and saucers, a pair of boat seats, and lawn chairs.

Excitement mounted as the close of bidding neared on the silent auction items.

Eager bidders raised the ante one after the other to ensure that theirs was the highest bid on selected items. Almost everyone had a treasure to take home, and a good time was had by all.

GBLT is most grateful to both donors and purchasers for their support of this exciting event.

Meet our new board members

Dana Porter

I have spent most of my summers over the last 30 years in Northeastern Georgian Bay-- initially doing canoe trips in the area and since 1989 cottaging near the mouth of the Key River. My wife and I have two children, ages 10 and 13, and we spend as much time in the area as we can.



Since 1998 I have served as an active director of the Key River Area Association, a GBA member organization. I am presently chair of the

KRAA Park Committee, which is involved with the expansion of the French River Park as part of the Province's Lands for Life initiative.

I am a partner with Stikeman Elliott LLP in Toronto, practicing in the area of commercial real estate.

I hope to be able to contribute to the GBLT not only with my legal and real estate expertise, but also with my knowledge of the Northeastern part of the Bay, a region where there is an opportunity for the GBLT to play an important role in conservation.

Jim Beatty

With a Master of Science degree from Dalhousie I taught for two years at Dalhousie and Guelph Universities.



Then I returned to the Muskoka area and began a career in the tourism field where I worked for fifteen years as General Manager/owner of several resorts, in tour operations, passenger cruise vessels, and media and marketing ventures..

About ten years ago our family moved back to Parry Sound where I took over the family business and continued to develop our own business management firm. Today we have several business interests and are very much a part of the fabric of the local community boards and organizations.

The Georgian Bay Land Trust vision of preserving the unique characteristics of the Bay is also my vision. I feel that I can contribute not only as a local and long time Georgian Bay resident but also due to my support and affiliation with the Iron City fishing Club

Maurice East

I was in the Air Force during the war and for a few years after as a pilot and an officer. When I resigned my commission I got in to the resort business in Muskoka. I was part owner and manager of Limberlost Lodge and then Muskoka Sands.

In 1962 my partner and I bought Killarney Mountain Lodge and ran two hotels at the same time. Then in 1970 my partner and I split and I bought the Killarney Mountain Lodge outright. We moved here then and have been here ever since.

My long time knowledge of the north end of the Bay, of the people and places here, gives me a great advantage as a member of the Board of Directors on the Land Trust. I have an abiding interest in the preservation of the whole area.

I find that many people in the south end of the Bay don't understand the intrinsic value of the wildness of the north. I will try to change their perspective.



The North Channel

The North Channel, that beautiful stretch of water north of Manitoulin Island, is now included in the aegis of the Georgian Bay Land Trust. The

Trust has established a beachhead at the north end of the Bay where untold wonders of flora, fauna and minerals can be found - to say nothing of the fantastic scenery there. This area must be protected from any more development and mining.

The Trust is looking forward to building up good relationships with the residents and cottagers in the area and to finding active volunteers as members on our Board of Directors representing the North Channel. There will be a concerted emphasis on this area in the coming years.

Wendy Cooper

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securing and stewarding land, and preparing management plans for specific properties. In addition, she brings an extensive knowledge of Georgian Bay as a result of her studies throughout the area in 2001 and 2002 as part of the Georgian Bay Coast Project undertaken co-operatively by NCC and GBLT. She has also worked for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in various capacities, including as a Species at Risk Biologist and a research assistant.

Wendy is deeply committed to the preservation of Georgian Bay. As GBLT embarks on an expanded program to protect land along the Eastern shore of Georgian Bay and North Channel, the importance of strong staff support is critical. We are confident that Wendy Cooper's energy, skills and expertise will provide co-ordination and logistical support to enhance the work of a highly committed Board. Welcome Wendy! We look forward to working with you.

Shakespeare raises \$1200

Once again the Kemerer family produced Shakespeare on the rocks, under the souging cedar trees. About 75 people enjoyed Twelfth Night and altogether they raised \$1200 for the Land Trust.

This is becoming quite a professional event now that they have Jane Carnwath as coach who taught Shakespeare in college in the States. Also they have Chris Fisher, a previous director of his own theatre company and Prof. Janie Keogh who has acted in Summer Theatre.

Along with these professionals there was Brad Osborne, owner of the Beehive in Honey Harbour acting along side Bill Saunderson and three of the Kemerer family.

The cost of admission, the sale of lucky draw tickets and several donations brought the total to \$1200. The GBLT is very grateful to all those who produced, directed acted and donated to this endeavour. Thank you all.

Tribute Gifts have been received in Memory of:

NANCY BOYD
RUTH BREITHAUPT GORDON
JEAN G. EAKIN
CELESTE ROBITAILLE
GLYNIS SMITH
ADRIENNE BOONE TAIT
PROF JOHN WILSON

Contributions from all over

The bride is Jennifer and the groom is Ed. They cottage in Pointe au Baril and they love the Bay so much that they are going to donate \$10.00 per guest to honour their marriage. The guests will be informed of their generosity. How about that for devotion.

In their wisdom the Church on the Rocks in Cognashene have voted to donate \$500 to the Georgian Bay Land Trust. Thank you so much

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