

Our Generous Donors Honoured

by Sue Russell

Saturday July 10 was a beautiful Georgian Bay day, a light west wind and cloudless blue skies dominated the celebration of three of the very generous donors to the Georgian Bay Land Trust. The newly opened Charles W. Stockey Centre in Parry Sound was the venue for this happy occasion. Many members and donors to the GBLT attended this reception to pay tribute to the Alexander family, the Davidson Family and the King Family.

President Nancy Christie welcomed the crowd and introduced Glen Campbell of the Nature Conservancy of Canada, which was the joint host of the reception with



Mr. Fred and Mrs. Jane Schneider of Cognashene donated generously to the Land Trust in the early 90's.

the GBLT. Glen talked of the importance of the joint venture between the two conservation organizations and of how rapidly the NCC is expanding its holdings across Canada. He then introduced John Stark, Vice President of the GBLT.

John Stark spoke about the importance of donors for the conservation of land and remarked on



President Nancy Christie addresses the celebratory crowd with a photo of American Camp on her left. This property is being donated to the Land Trust by the Douglas and Marylon Alexander Family.

how extremely generous many families have been. He especially mentioned the Schneider family of Cognashene who gave one of the very first large donations which got the Land Trust off to a great start in the early 90's. He spoke of the success of the Legacy Fund campaign in co-operation with the Nature Conservancy of Canada. With a goal of \$4.5 million we have already realized \$2.5 million. "With faster highways and easier access to the Bay, market values and waterfront taxes are soaring. There are many pressures to divide and develop these fragile properties" he said. "Georgian Bay cottagers need a conservation alternative to avoid development and destruction of these fragile ecosystems. We would like to accept more donations of land, but even these donations require funding for stewardship, and to cover property tax obligations in perpetuity. That's why we need this Legacy Fund."

Our Chairman and past president, Neil Davis then spoke to the assembled islanders. He talked

about the enormous gift of land, American Camp, which the Alexander family is considering donating. This group of islands is quite a remarkable archipelago. They are all quite flat islands but with a sudden cliff of about 10 feet falling off into the Bay on the north-west side of the major islands. Sixteen of these islands have been gifted to the Nature Conservancy, U.S. and will be turned over to the GBLT.

Neil then introduced the Davidson family, Bruce, Alex and Janet and gave a bit of the family history of their lives on Georgian Bay. Their maternal grandfather, Alex Dawson bought the 40 acre Snug Island, sight unseen in 1923 from the Eaton family. While the cottage was being built the family were guests of the lighthouse keeper, Mr. Bottrell who manned the Snug Harbour lighthouse at the south end of the island where it stands today. The fifth generation of Davidsons now spends time at the island. Neil thanked them profusely for the generous monetary donation from the Elizabeth Davidson family.

The third family introduced

(continued on p 2)



Marilyn & Wally King (on right) are honoured at the celebration and are joined by Glen Campbell, John Stark and Jon Grant (from the left)

Donors Honoured

(continued from p 1)

to us was Wallis King's. Wally and Marilyn arrived in 1968 to the Sans Souci area of the bay and Wally was involved early on in his fight for the protection of the land. He was a leading light in the formation of the Township of the Archipelago and subsequently founded the Georgian Bay Trust Foundation, Inc., now known as the Georgian Bay Land Trust. From the beginning Wally has generously supported the Land Trust both monetarily and voluntarily, serving as president of GBLT, a member of the board and now a member of the advisory board of the Trust

This was truly a happy occasion and a great opportunity for friends of the Land Trust to recognize several outstanding benefactors. To enhance the occasion The Charles W. Stockey Centre, built on the shore of the Parry Sound Harbour, was blessed with the brilliant afternoon sunshine and cool breeze coming in from the harbour. The view was captivating.



Bruce Davidson talks to John Stark, vice President of GBLT. The Elizabeth Davidson family has donated generously to the Land Trust

Three Bears

by Sue Russell

Three Bears Island is actually three islands, the Poppa Bear, Mumma Bear and Baby Bear. Many years ago one of the islanders in Sans Souci suggested that the three islands be named the Three Bears and the name stuck. The largest island, 1.7 acres, is now part of the Massasauga Provincial Park and the two smaller ones belong to Philip Deck. The middle sized one

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is 1.3 acres with a cabin on it and the wee one is just 0.3 acres, too small to develop. The property was given to the Georgian Bay Land Trust by Professor John Kleinschmidt in the late 90s and early in 2004 Mr. Deck, a neighbour, purchased the two smaller islands from the Trust. In return a conservation easement was placed on the two islands ensuring that these two islands will be preserved in perpetuity in their natural state.

There is quite a history to these islands. They were owned for many years by an academic couple from the United States, the Kleinschmidts, who spent several months each summer on the island. Because the island has no electricity the Kleinschmidts made do with all the paraphernalia required for their creature comforts, such as a hand pump, potties, gas stove, etc. and a marvelous collection of unusual but handy tools; a swedish saw, several axes, many household goods like dishes, tables, mirrors, all of which had great charm. The rough, one room log cabin, built by Wellington Welsh, was only about 12 by 18 feet but visitors say that, although the building was very small it was immaculate and everything stored neatly as one would aboard a ship.

When the Land Trust received the island in 2000 on the death of one of the owners, an auction was held to dispose of the contents of the cottage. My husband and I came home from the auction with a handsome copper dustpan, two wooden stools, two life jackets, a Delft (?) cream jug and a unique vacuum cleaner, about the size of a dust-buster that plugs into the cigarette lighter in the boat. Where else would you find treasures such as these?

The gift of these islands and the subsequent sale of the property allowed the Land Trust to use the funds obtained to purchase land of greater environmental significance. At the same time Philip Deck, who

owns the island adjacent, realized the importance of preserving the islands in their natural state. By negotiating an easement on the islands he has been able to keep the ownership in his own hands, reduce the taxes on it (as it will never be developed) and still preserve the land. He is occupied now with taking down the cottage and adjacent cabins. The Georgian Bay Land Trust is indeed indebted to Philip Deck for his thoughtfulness and generosity.

New Board Member Tom Scoon

Our new director, Tom Scoon, is a Toronto Resident who cottages at Pointe au Baril with his wife Pamela and two sons, Tim and Andrew. Tom is a Real Estate Developer who concentrates on redeveloping old buildings in downtown Toronto for office and retail use.

Tom has had great volunteer experience on the Board of Governors of Upper Canada College. In particular he was Chair of the Norval Outdoor Environmental Education Committee. He has worked with the Evergreen foundation on the Advisory Board of the Toronto Brick Yard redevelopment and is actively working with the Ojibway Historical Preservation Society Committee.

Tom's experience with real estate management will be very useful on our Property Committee

In his other spare time Tom coaches baseball, hockey and soccer, depending on the season. We look forward to working with you, Tom.



American Camp Revisited

by *Sue Russell*

It was blowing a gale but we went anyway. It was day in June when the wind doesn't usually come up this strong. But we had arranged to meet some of the other directors of the Land Trust at American Camp. In Chris Baines old Chris Craft there were Paul Jarvis, Sandy McLaren, Wendy Cooper and myself. We were following Neil Davis through big seas, with Sandy Boyd, Don Lawson, Wally and Graham King on board, in his father's Limestone boat and we all know how well that travels in rough water. Just past Townsend Island, after leaving Cognashene we hit the three foot waves. We said if Neil turns around so will we. He didn't.

It took us over half an hour to get to American Camp from Cognashene and found a fairly sheltered spot to tie up. We rather doubted that we would see John Stark and Nancy Christie as they would have had to round Moose Deer Point, the most dangerous spot on the route down from Sans Souci. But within five minutes of our arrival they appeared around

the corner in John's 250 hp outboard.

Marylon and Doug Alexander are considering donating this land to the Greater Bay Conservancy in the U.S. and then it will ultimately be transferred to the GBLT. This is a group of islands in Wah Wah Taysee where many of us have enjoyed picnics and overnight camping for years. It has never been built on and now it won't ever, but will be preserved in all its glorious, natural state forever. We marvelled at the beautiful flat rock stretching for many acres. Ravines in the rock protect groups of cedar and white pine, with the occasional birch tree. Bays jut into the unforgiving rock on all sides and silent ponds harbour lilies and frogs.

The high winds made us realize the relentless pounding of waves on these smooth, rocky shores but we could also imagine the hot sunny days of July when the cool breeze from the west would make this a lovely cool spot to spend an afternoon.

The Georgian Bay Land Trust is looking forward to a positive decision of the Alexander family.

Douglas Martin

Obituary

Douglas Martin died in May 2004, at the age of 83. He and his extended family are long time residents of Bayfield-Nares and he was a most active participant in the creation of the township of the Archipelago, a Director and Treasurer during the re-activation of the GBA in 1974 and for many years after.

Douglas was also a founding Director and Treasurer of the Georgian Bay Trust Inc. in 1992.

Douglas was an ardent and committed resident on the Bay and his contribution to its well being will be felt for years to come. We have lost a dear friend and one of our finest citizens who exhibited all the qualities of character and human kind that we all aspire to achieve.



Directors of GBLT withstand strong winds on American Camp's very smooth rocks



One of many inlets on the American Camp Islands

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Stewardship of Georgian Bay Land Trust Properties.

by Wendy Cooper

The work of the Georgian Bay Land Trust (GBLT) really begins when properties are secured through a donation, conservation easement or purchase. By taking on a property in one of these three ways, the GBLT has made a commitment to protect the property in perpetuity. Often the GBLT relies on the support of the local community to assist in watching over our properties and ensuring that they are being maintained, improved or remediated.



Justin Rae and Becki Simons, are members of the Pointe au Baril Marine Patrol who monitor Friend Island at Pointe au Baril

This year, the GBLT has focused on the development of our Stewardship Program with the help of a number of volunteers. Right now management plans are being completed for each property. These plans document baseline information on the property, providing an overall description of the property's natural values and significant features. They also suggest a number of activities to direct stewardship over the next 5 years. In addition to the management plans, monitoring forms have been created for each property. These forms are distributed to the various stewards who have volunteered to look after one or more properties. In this way the GBLT keeps track of the use of properties for permitted (e.g. picnicking, swimming) and prohibited uses (e.g. fires and camping). Stewards also help to keep track of the various interesting species that make our properties their home.

Our stewardship group for Friend Island, one of GBLT's oldest properties, is the Pointe au Baril Marine Patrol. The Marine Patrol's primary responsibility is to make a presence on the water, reminding people in Pointe au Baril to boat safely. They have other responsibilities as well such as the Senior Drop In Program where the patrollers visit a list of individuals who are at their cottages on their own. However they have taken on the extra task of stewarding Friend Island. Members of the Patrol visit the property on a weekly basis to do a walk-around and monitor use of the property to ensure that it is in accordance with

GBLT's guidelines for property use.

The Marine Patrol also looks out for interesting species, such as reptiles, to keep track of how often the island is used by some of Ontario's most rare snakes. In addition, the Patrol is participating in our photo-monitoring program. This program consists of taking photos on a regular basis at the same location. These photos help to document any change in the vegetation on the property in response to changes in natural conditions such as water level or human-induced changes such as low-impact recreation (e.g. picnicking). At the end of the summer, the Marine Patrol will submit its completed reports and pictures. These will be used as a source of information in updating the management plan in 5 years.

Our thanks to the Pointe au Baril Marine Patrol and all of our stewards for taking such great care of our properties!

New Board Member Caroline Duncanson

Caroline is a fourth generation cottager in the Go Home Bay community, who has been actively involved in the local association, including being President of the former Go Home Bay Association and a director of the Georgian Bay Association. She and her husband Bob and three children aged 21, 19 and 16 try to spend as much time at Go Home as possible.

Caroline is currently a teacher in Toronto, but was formerly co-founder and owner with her husband of an environmental products store in Toronto, Earthlygoods, which supplied many cottagers with solar, water treatment, and cleaning products as well as composting toilets. Conservation and other environmental issues are very close to her heart, and this passion comes from the many years spent on the Bay and being part of a community which has made

preservation of wild space a priority. She looks forward to being part of the Land Trust which shares this vision. Welcome to the GBLT Board of Directors, Caroline



GBLT launches new website

by Paul Jarvis

In January of this year the GBLT had the good fortune to be contacted by Nick Jones. Nick is an independent Internet Consultant who is an avid Georgian Bay Kayak enthusiast and shares the same love and values about the Bay that we all do. Nick offered his time and expertise to help us create a new internet presence. Nick's first challenge was to find a student group from one of the many fine Ontario Design Colleges that were willing to take on the project as part of their curriculum.

Centennial College in Toronto stepped up to the plate. A team of 4 students:

Reena Patel, Alex Cleary, Jeff Sheridan and Judy Lu Zhu were assigned to the project to manage a variety of disciplines including Project Management, Interface Design, Site Architecture and Programming. The objectives for the site were as follows:

¥ Create a new interface that will provide a modern look that reflects the environmental nature of the trust.

¥ Provide an intuitive and easy to navigate interface that will allow interested parties to access critical information quickly and efficiently.

¥ Create a visually appealing



The screenshot shows the Georgian Bay Land Trust website. The header includes the organization's name and a navigation menu with links for Home, About, Properties, News, Georgian Bay, Donate/Membership, and Contact. The main content area is divided into three columns. The left column lists GBLT Newsletters with dates and subscriber counts, and includes a quote from a member. The middle column is titled 'The Georgian Bay Land Trust' and describes the organization's vision and provides contact information. The right column is titled 'What We Offer' and lists several services provided by the trust, including preserving significant areas, working with individuals and families, and offering expertise in conservation management. A 'Donate Now' button is visible at the bottom right of the page.

structure that will generate interest from new prospective donors.

¥ Create a professional graphic interface that will maintain brand consistency and integrate with other communication materials.

¥ Create a site that can be updated by a person who is not technically inclined.

Four different Interface designs were put forward. One of the designs really captured the essence of what we were looking for visually and organized our information in a very simple but intuitive format. With Nick's strategic input and my vision the design was finalized and then populated. With the curriculum term coming to an end for the

Centennial College team, the Site was turned over to my wife, Stacey Jarvis and me to finalize and launch. Online donations were added through canadahelps.org, new items were added such as: Membership Categories and Planned Giving and, just recently, GBLT's Upcoming Events were added to the News page.

It's a great site. It's visually appealing; very intuitively organized; it has an interactive map of the Bay showing our properties in all of their natural beauty; it allows for quick, easy donations online and it is visually consistent with all of our other communication materials.

GBLT printed communication materials were designed by UweHahn at COTU Graphics.

Nick Jones owns and operates Jones Consulting Inc., Interactive Strategy and Consulting. Jones Consulting specializes in helping companies maximize their use of the Internet to communicate with, interact with and service their customers. This includes the delivery and maintenance of effective, informative and engaging Websites, Email Services, Newsletters and Online Marketing Campaigns. His contribution to GBLT's communications strategy has been significant. Thanks Nick



The screenshot shows the 'Preservation and Protection' page on the Georgian Bay Land Trust website. The header is identical to the homepage. The main content area features a large image of a pine tree on a rocky shore overlooking the water. Below the image, the text reads: '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.'

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If you have renewed your support for the upcoming calendar year, we thank you and ask you to pass this form to a friend or a colleague who might be interested in learning more about The Georgian Bay Land Trust and its programs



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