



GBLT Art Auction begat a great party

Successful Auction attracted over 270 people

After six months of planning the auction was over in five short hours! In those five hours, we were able to raise more than \$40,000 in support of the Georgian Bay Land Trust (GBLT). This was thanks to donations from 80 artists who provided beautiful works for the show and an army of volunteers worked throughout the day and evening to help make this event such a success. Those in attendance were able to benefit from finding a new piece of art for their home or cottage while at the same time supporting the ongoing protection of the Bay for generations to come.

The works of art that were auctioned off included original paintings in oil, acrylic, water colour, pastels or mixed media; photographs; and many prints such as giclée, mono prints, relief prints and lithographs. There were also carved wooden bowls, ceramic and pottery pieces, jewellery, books on or about art and a lovely piece of quilting with a Georgian Bay motif.



painting by Bruce Steinhoff

As people meandered among the Silent Auction pieces, prospective bidders chatted to other bidders, discussing the merits of each work of art and their connection to the Bay. Many people came early and stayed late to ensure that their bid would win the art of their choice. The live auction was directed by Heather Pigat, who volunteered to be auctioneer for the evening. An experienced auctioneer, she performed beautifully and created a wonderful atmosphere for both bidders and spectators. John Hartman, one of our best known Bay artists, helped by giving a short account of each artist's background and work.

All in all this was not just an auction, it was an opportunity to visit old friends, make new friends and appreciate the beauty of the the Bay as portrayed by an excellent group of dedicated artists. The Georgian Bay Land Trust is indeed indebted to the artists and to the buyers as well as to all the volunteers who helped make this event such a wonderful success.

Pointe au Baril Islanders Association works with GBLT to enhance the Marine Patrol

By Hilde Clark

This past summer, the Pointe au Baril Islanders' Association [PaBIA] enjoyed working directly with the Georgian Bay Land Trust to enhance our already established Marine Patrol and to mesh the environmental goals of our association with that of GBLT's. Our Marine Patrol provided the manpower needed by GBLT to carry out their mission in the Pointe au Baril area. In turn the Trust worked with our patrollers to provide funding, structure, training and equipment. In mid-June Wendy Cooper, GBLT's Executive Director, trained the patrollers by providing the foundational knowledge necessary to become the environmental eyes and ears for both GBLT and the Pointe au Baril Community.

With specific GBLT goals set up for the visitor's enjoyment of all GBLT properties, the patrollers applied these strategies and their newly acquired knowledge to the four GBLT properties in the area. Using documentation provided by the GBLT, they recorded their observations; photographed evidence of usage, used GPS to confirm the locations, and where appropriate, educated those using the properties. They engaged them in conversation in order to share information and hand out materials provided by both GBLT and the MNR.



To meet the needs of the Pointe au Baril community, the GBLT also provided additional educational handouts aimed at teaching those campers on nearby Crown Land about good stewardship of the public land – an educational goal shared by both PaBIA and GBLT.

Together, we are creating a high standard by which those who enjoy our beautiful properties will treat the environment with sensitivity and respect. We want them to leave the properties just as pristine as they found them for the next group to enjoy!

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From the perspective of one of our patrollers, Geoff Honsberger:

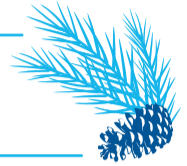
"If you are reading this you probably have a connection to Georgian Bay in some form or another. I, myself, grew up on the Bay, spending nearly every summer of my life on or near the shores of this amazing place. As I have grown older I have often wondered what I could do to give back to this place that has given so much to me. Last summer I found it.

By working as a PaBIA Marine Patroller, I found I could finally take an active role in protecting both Pointe au Baril and Georgian Bay. This year's partnership with the GBLT made the role that much stronger as we were armed with both knowledge and confidence provided by the GBLT, I honestly believe we had a positive impact on a large number of people this summer. The Marine Patrol gave much needed exposure to the GBLT and the GBLT provided much more legitimacy to our program. This partnership should definitely continue to grow into the future as a win-win situation for all parties involved."

Hilde Clark, Director on PaBIA's Executive Board • Geoff Honsberger, Marine Patroller 2006

GBLT Gets Around

Our picnics promote awareness



By Janet Lougheed

In a 2005 strategic planning process the Board of Georgian Bay Land Trust looked at key activities to undertake in 2006, with promoting awareness of the GBLT being one of the main objectives.

It was decided to organize a series of informal picnics up and down the shore that could be easily attended and combined relaxed Georgian Bay fun with the opportunity to educate people about conservation issues, the uniqueness of the Bay and the Trust itself.

The picnics were organized by local volunteers: Andy Kilpatrick in Go Home Bay /Wah Wah Taysee, Mary Dove in Pointe au Baril, Janet Murphy in Cognashene and Rupert Kindersley, Wally King and Sandy Phillips in Sans Souci. HSBC Bank kindly offered their support.

Over 150 people attended the three picnics. Conservation information was handed out at each and a decorated Muskoka chair was raffled off. The only low spot of the picnics was when the Cognashene event was rained out, but ever ready volunteer Janet Murphy quickly changed gears and The Cognashene Muskoka Chair was taken to the community's Art on the Rocks event as well as to the Cognashene Regatta. Tickets were sold for a total of \$700, all of which went to GBLT.

To add to the already great PaBIA events Tom & Pam Scoon, Don & Suzanne Kopas and Ted & Alice Kernaghan hosted cocktails for 120 people at the Ojibway Club where Tom and GBLT President John Stark spoke briefly about the Trust. Great food and a great way for people to find out a little bit more about GBLT.

Steward Peter Cooper hosted a smaller event on the Labour Day weekend to thank his local stewards, celebrate GBLT with some local cottagers and demonstrate his dab hand at smoked ribs!

We at GBLT wish to thank all the volunteers and course all the people who came out.



Linda Heron shows off the beautiful chair she painted for the Sans Souci Raffle.

Spreading the word about rare and invasive species

By Wendy Cooper

This summer, GBLT worked on spreading the word about some of the most important species found on the Georgian Bay coast and some of the species that are threatening the health of the Georgian Bay environment. These information sheets were created as tools that could be distributed during our series of picnics, which took place in the communities of Cognashene, Go Home Bay/Wah Wah Taysee, Sans Souci and Pointe au Baril. In addition, the sheets were used by our summer students, including our South-eastern Property Monitor and members of the Pointe au Baril Marine Patrol. We are also pleased that these information sheets will be used by the Sans Souci and Copperhead Association's Environmental Committee as an educational tool.



The information sheets helped to highlight some of the species that are characteristic of the eastern Georgian Bay coast and are unique to the coastal wetlands and rock barrens that are such an important component of the local environment. They include Carolina Yellow-eyed Grass, a species that is considered disjunct given the vast distance between the main population along the Atlantic coast and the population found along the eastern shore of Georgian Bay.

The information sheets also identify some of the species that are a risk to the health and viability of species such as Caroline Yellow-eyed Grass. One common culprit is a very common and popular plant, Chives. Chives are often planted by landowners who are unaware that after being planted, they typically spread very easily and as a result, out compete the native vegetation. This can result in the loss of native plants, including some of the most sensitive and rare plants that are such an important component of the local environment.

Yellow-eyed grass is a good example of a Georgian Bay species threatened by non native invasive species

If you're interested in receiving copies of these information sheets, please contact us at info@gblt.org.

A Trip to Remember

By Wally King

Leaving Gore Bay Harbour on Monday July 17th around 1000 hours with a destination of the Bustard Group of Islands by nightfall, my son-in-law Eric Armour and I set off in Fideliter (Limestone 24') fully provisioned and fueled.

In the North Channel we made good progress doing about 18 knots in modest seas, good visibility and a sunny day. We passed the narrows of the North Channel just south of Harbour Island which we learned had been raided by a combined operations unit of the RCMP and the OPP the previous week. There was a large marijuana "grow-op" and the police had removed some 1,400 plants and the perpetrators were not to be found! Eric and I had visited the Island several days earlier and recognized the healthiest growth of Poison Ivy we had ever seen. (We learned later that the police contingent were unable to report for work the next week having developed a severe case of Poison Ivy!)

We continued on our course for Little Current, stopped and fuelled up, paid our respects to Jib Turner of Turner's Store and set off for Killarney through the Landsdowne Channel. We stopped for a delightful lunch (as always) at the Killarney Mountain Lodge and checked with Heather Rand, the Dock Master as to the weather conditions. While the wind had come up there was no major concern as a storm appeared to be passing to the north and west of our location. We decided however, to proceed east through Collins Inlet, a 16 mile channel lying almost due east and west which is not only a geological anomaly, but one of the most picturesque experiences one can have on the Great Lakes. The Channel enters Beaverstone Bay to the open waters of Georgian Bay itself. While cruising the channel to Beaverstone Bay we sensed a profound change in the weather...dark cumulus clouds, dead calm waters, and a dramatic drop in air pressure. After a somewhat heated debate we agreed to return to Collins Inlet Channel.

We dropped anchor about 1600 hours opposite the old pilings on the south side, put the cover on the boat and waited for whatever weather was coming. Within 10 to 15 minutes an incredible wind force came at us with spray and wave action right over our bow. Sight was just barely possible as far as the bow. We felt Fideliter swinging from side to side almost at right angles to the original anchor line to the anchor.

This of course began to loosen the anchor. At which point we decided to start the engine and keep the bow as best we could determine, into the wind. (If we could only determine where the wind was coming from!) Visibility finally developed, although the sea and wind were still threatening. We saw a fixed dock near a fishing lodge a few yards away where a 'tin' boat with motor still attached had blown upside down over the dock to the other side. Time for another decision!

Eric, with much courage, reached the bow of Fideliter and with the help of engine power (with me at the helm) we were able to bring in the anchor and with full throttle were able to get to the windward side of the dock. Fortunately, four or five fishermen rushed down in the rain and wind to help us with a 'gentle' landing and we tied up with fenders literally flattened against the dock. (1700 hours) We were most grateful for this help as we would have ended up over the dock. We were invited to their cabins at the lodge and graciously offered overnight accommodation.

While walking up to their cabins a very large white pine tree was blown over and two rocks from the root structures were catapulted over the building landing just in front of us at the shore's edge. The tornado had passed by at 1830 hours, after which we were able to set off again for the Bustards where we were to stay overnight with plans to arrive home at Sans Souci the following evening.

In listening to Fideliter's VHF radio we then realized the extent of the storm. A 42' trawler sank just south of Harbour Island where we had been a few hours earlier. We heard MAYDAYS, PANPANS, people in distress, several had abandoned their boats and all sorts of floating debris was being reported. Later we learned the docks in Killarney Channel with boats attached had become detached. Obviously, it was a frightening experience for every skipper and crew!

There is no doubt whatsoever that if Eric and I had not made the crucial decision to return to Collins Inlet, Fideliter would have been destroyed on the rocks of the North Shore outside Beaverstone Bay and our lives would have been in the balance. As Eric said, "I guess experience counts." After some thirty years traveling the Bay and North Channel one learns to appreciate the forces of nature.

Wally King is the Founding Chairman of
The Georgian Bay Land Trust



Summer stewards learn as well as teach

Second Year of youth program By Philip Foulds

This past summer I had the pleasure of serving as the GBLT's second summer student. There are a lot of benefits to being second, the primary being that many of the people I approached during the summer were already aware of the GBLT and their commitment to preserving the natural environment around the Bay was well established. That meant that in many cases my job was to serve as a friendly reminder and to be an example of the priority the GBLT places on the successful stewardship of its properties.

I was primarily responsible for the stewarding of the Alexander Islands property which is a popular picnicking spot. I found it rewarding to educate people about the GBLT's property use policy and its goal of maintaining the integrity of the natural surroundings.

In addition to my work on the Alexander Islands I was also able to work with some of the GBLT's partner organizations including the Nature Conservancy of Canada. To go with the stewardship activities that I undertook I also did monitoring and easement work on a number of properties. I also had the pleasure of assisting the Executive Director with visits to new properties.

My experience over the summer was varied and ranged from the Great Lakes Mayor's Meeting retreat in the beautifully renovated Ojibway Club in Pointe au Baril to trudging through the back woods of Georgian Bay documenting land use and environmental impact. The job was overall an incredibly enjoyable experience and the most difficult part was finding responses to the most frequently asked question, "Can I trade jobs?"



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in Memory of:*

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Stephen French
Pointe au Baril

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Isobel MacKenzie
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Ruth Marion Martin W.R.C.N.S.
Nares Inlet

Sterling Newell
Pointe au Baril

Albert Scarlett



We are growing fast

We need volunteers for:

*Landscript
Layout four times a year*

*Communications
email newsletter and media releases*



Canada's Weatherman to speak at Winterlude

Come out to hear renowned meteorologist David Phillips, Senior Climatologist at Environment Canada and known to many as 'Canada's Weatherman' speak about conditions on the Bay past, present and future.

David will use 38 years of experience and data to enlighten us about the forces that affect the weather, and by extension effect every aspect of the unique ecology of the eastern shore archipelago, which was declared a World Biosphere Reserve by the United Nations (UNESCO) in 2004.

His talk is sure to provide for entertaining conversations at Winterlude and beyond when people connected to the Bay talk, as they often do, about 'the weather'.

February 15th at 8:00 pm. Badminton and Racquet Club, 25 St. Clair Avenue West, Toronto

Gifts for Christmas

**Wondering what to give that relative who has everything?
How about a donation to the Georgian Bay Land Trust?**

We will supply the Christmas card and you supply the cheque. It is that easy and so rewarding to you both as you will be contributing to the conservation of our favourite place, the Bay.



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