

## Paddles and shirts help regenerate the Bay

This is the first summer that GBLT has broadened its reach into the summer communities of the Bay to specifically target a younger demographic. Our members of regenerate GBLT attended four regattas this past summer - Cognashene, Go Home Bay, Sans Souci and Pointe au Baril. At each event, paddles, t-shirts and hats were given away in a variety of ways including to the winners of regenerate GBLT-sponsored events, through a free raffle, and to the young boys and girls who excelled in the most regatta events.

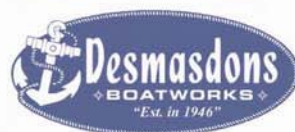


The 2nd place winners, the Robsons, of the GBLT sponsored event - war canoe - at the Go Home regatta.

Paddles and shirts were sold at the Art on the Rocks event in Cognashene. Photo by Mike Drinkwater

Need ideas for great Christmas gifts? Need to get a gift for someone who has everything? We have great gift ideas including our handmade cherry paddles for \$100, regenerate GBLT shirts for \$25 and raffle tickets for the cedar strip canoe for \$10 each or 6 for \$50. You can also make a donation in honour of a friend or family member. Just contact us at 416-440-1519 or [info@gbt.org](mailto:info@gbt.org) to find out more.

## Thanks to our generous sponsors



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*Tribute gifts have been received in memory of:*

Patricia Scoon

*Tribute gifts have been received in celebration of the marriage of:*

Marie-Anne Provost and Robert Deeks  
at Whistler, B.C. September 28, 2007



## We're Growing!

Given the incredible growth we have been experiencing over the last year, the Georgian Bay Land Trust has decided to grow our team and is hiring for a new position.

We are looking for a full-time Program Assistant based in Toronto to provide both our Executive Director and our various committees with support in all of our program areas. This position will focus especially on our core programs, Land Protection, Stewardship and Communications. This is a great opportunity to ensure that we have the capacity we need to respond to all of the opportunities coming our way, and to support our continued efforts to be pro-active in the protection of special places.

If you are interested in learning more about the position, and would like to apply, please visit our website at or call 416-440-1519.

## Upcoming Events

Our next Winterlude event will be held on Wednesday, February 6th. Everyone is welcome. More information will be available on our website soon.

And our special event - the raffle draw for the cedar strip canoe will occur this night. Come with your fingers crossed and your receipts of the raffle tickets. And be prepared to take the canoe home with you.

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# LANDSCRIPT

Preserving  
our Unique  
Archipelago

Fall 2007

[www.gblt.org](http://www.gblt.org)

## Summer Students Steward our land

by Wendy Cooper

This summer we were very pleased to not only continue our summer student program but also to expand it in collaboration with other initiatives dedicated to land stewardship on Georgian Bay. This was made possible by TD Friends of the Environment, which provided financial support for the program.

GBLT's first summer student was put in place in 2005 to ensure adequate stewardship of one of our new properties at the time, the Alexander Islands Reserve. Since that time, the role has expanded to include support for volunteer stewards and partners through the southern half of eastern Georgian Bay. This year, our summer student, Kathleen Davis from Cognashene, could be seen visiting properties and participating in events in the communities of Cognashene, Go Home, Wah Wah Taysee and Sans Souci.

In addition to our own summer student, GBLT provided support and financial contributions to two other summer student programs, the Pointe au Baril Islanders' Association (PaBIA) Marine Patrol and the newly developed Carling Crown Land Stewardship Program. These were excellent opportunities to work with many partners to spread the word about the significance of Georgian Bay and encourage visitors to both private and public land to enjoy it responsibly.

We want to thank all of the various partners who participated in the summer student program - the Eastern Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve Inc., Cognashene Association, Go Home Bay Association, Wah Wah Taysee Association, West Carling Association, Pointe au Baril Islanders' Association, White Squall, Great Lakes Sea Kayaking Association, Carling Township and Township of The Archipelago. Thank you also to TD Friends of the Environment for their support.

And most of all, we would like to thank our team of summer students - Kathleen Davis, Geoff Honsberger, Jess Overton, Harrison Bryke and Nick Pullen - who together with a fantastic team of volunteers helped to ensure the special places in our communities are being well taken care of.



**Friends of the  
Environment  
Foundation**

See below for reflections from GBLT's summer student Kathleen Davis and a member of the PaBIA Marine Patrol, Geoff Honsberger.

Kathleen Davis:

This summer I had the privilege of working as a summer student for the GBLT. Throughout my term, I had the pleasure of meeting dozens of cottagers and working with the Trust's dedicated staff and volunteers. As property monitor, my duties involved attending



Summer student  
Kathleen Davis

community events, exploring potential properties, working with local youth groups, and monitoring three of the trust's properties - The Lizard, Alexander Islands, and the Southeast Wooded Pine. As anyone who has visited these islands will know, this is pretty much the best summer job you can get! Not only were the people I met incredibly friendly, but the scenery was spectacular. And I thoroughly enjoyed learning more about the Trust and the great things they are doing to preserve the natural beauty of Georgian Bay. Thank you to everyone who helped to make my summer what it was - I look forward to remaining involved with the Trust and the "regenerate GBLT" campaign in the future!

Geoff Honsberger:

During the last two years working with the GBLT, I can say with absolute certainty that our message is getting through. Evidence of this is everywhere. From general inquiries about the organization from those who use our properties to an overall increase in the responsible use of land, I believe that people are aware, and supportive of the GBLT and its mission. It's a great feeling to be a part of something that is so vital to the continued enjoyment and preservation of the Georgian Bay area.

## Modern Voyageurs re-enact Champlain's 17th century trip



By John Catto

On July 31st, imagine my surprise to see 2 birchbark canoes pull up on the shore of West Lookout Reserve, (a GBLT property), the paddlers seemingly preparing to camp for the night. When your trusty steward went to investigate and warn off camping intruders, I was met by 4 modern voyageurs in 17th century clothing who explained that they were on a re-enactment of Champlain's voyage with Étienne Brûlé in 1612. They had bumped on several shoals on their way north and needed to dry and repair their leaking canoes which could not travel further that day.

This unusual and hardy group of travelers was led by Bob Abrames of Ottawa, with Jay Bailey from Simcoe, Ontario, Ken Ilgunas from near Fairbanks Alaska, and Patrick Ravary from Montreal. They were living strictly by 17th century standards: no sunscreen, no bug repellent, no matches, no toilet paper, no flashlights! They slept under the stars with only woolen blankets and a tarpaulin for shelter. Their diet was limited to salt pork, dried peas, tea and bannock. They were wearing authentic period clothes and were paddling in custom-made birchbark canoes!



Custom made birchbark canoe.  
Photo by John Catto

This was the half-way point of their trip which had started in Ottawa on July 1st. They had paddled down the Rideau to Lake Ontario, through the Trent-Severn Waterway System to Georgian Bay. Now they were on their way up the Bay to the French River, then through Lake Nipissing, along the Mattawa and Ottawa Rivers and back to Ottawa. They were due back in Ottawa on Labour Day weekend, and actually arrived on August 31st! A grueling trip!

In light of this tale, I could not enforce the No Camping rule, and permitted them to stay the night. Two of them slept on the adjoining Crown island to guard the food from the local young bear. In the evening they came over for a drink, accepting rum but not whisky, beer or coffee. The next morning they were up at 5:30 am and off paddling at 6:30. More of their remarkable story can be found at [www.abrames.com](http://www.abrames.com) (click through to 'voyages 2007') and at <http://voyerr.spaces.live.com/>.

## Mountain Equipment Co-op Jumps on Board to Support GBLT Again

by Janet Loughheed

GBLT volunteers will be in the Mountain Equipment Store, 400 King St. West on the November 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> weekend to promote the Georgian Bay Land Trust. We will be selling "Trees of Georgian Bay" posters and Canoe raffle Tickets. Following that weekend the posters will be on sale for the month of December.

Mountain Equipment Co-op has a history of supporting GBLT with their first gift in assisting the purchase of

Umbrella Island. Mountain Equipment Co-op consistently supports environmental groups by giving them profile through their sustainability program. This year we have approached them to support our acquisition on Giant's Tomb and NCC has approached them in support of our partnership acquisition of Sandy Island. The success of GBLT is dependant on partnerships like these. Thank you so much Mountain Equipment Co-op for being on the GBLT Team.

## Summer Events spread the GBLT word

It was another great summer for events and GBLT was pleased to organize and participate in several.

In addition to the Lizard and Umbrella picnics, we hosted our Pointe au Baril picnic on West Lookout Island Reserve, giving over 50 people an opportunity to visit this beautiful spot. Thanks to Tamara Finch and John & Margaret Catto for their assistance in organizing this successful event.

This was the 10<sup>th</sup> year that the Kemerers have produced Shakespeare on the Rocks in Cognashene. This year the play was "Much Ado About Nothing" and Cynthia Kemerer feels it was their best production yet. You can read all about this

dramatical event in "Cottage Life" magazine in the spring 2008 issue. GBLT was also pleased to participate in several community events. Mike Drinkwater and Sue Russell were in attendance at Cognashene's Art on the Rocks, and further north, Wendy Cooper and Geordie Dalglish greeted those visiting the Ojibway Art Sale. And on Saturday August 18th, 2007 the Sans Souci and Copperhead Association (SSCA) held its first ever Environment Day. A standing room only crowd of over 100 people were educated by experts from many fields including our own Wendy Cooper. Congrats to the SSCA on a terrific day!

Thank you to all of those communities for inviting us to participate – we look forward to next summer!

## Going pro-active in the neighbourhoods of the Bay

by Tom Scoon

The Board and staff of GBLT asked this question: How do we get the word out about who we are, what our mandate is and what we can do to help Landowners protect their lands from development?

The 30,000 islands along 200 plus kilometers of the east coast of Georgian Bay provide a communications challenge. The Land Protection Committee of the Board recommended, and the Board approved, the idea of splitting the coastline into theoretical neighbourhoods and creating a series of up to 12 new neighbourhood Land Protection sub-committees. Those sub-committees are charged with the responsibility of identifying properties in their neighbourhoods that may be candidates for protection and then providing general information to their owners about how they can protect their land by working with GBLT. That information

includes outlines of donations of land, easements, bargain sales and the tax benefits associated with each. It also includes outlines of our Stewardship Policies.

This year, 2007, we have established three pilot sub-committees, Pointe au Baril, Carling, and Cognashene-Go Home Bay-Wah Wah Taysee. They are formed and will be active on the Bay next summer. We hope to add the balance of the sub-committees over the next three years. We assume each committee will have 5 volunteers which will expand our volunteer base by 60 people!

GBLT expects that these sub-committees will be pro-active and has high hopes that they will be successful in protecting more of our precious landscape. Thank you to all the volunteers that have joined our pilot committees this year.

## Sandy Island is becoming a reality for GBLT!



by Wendy Cooper

We are on our way to achieving our most important goal for this year - the protection of Sandy Island.

With the Fall upon us, we have been actively fundraising over the summer for the Sandy Island project, a partnership project with the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC). We are purchasing approximately 450 acres of Sandy Island, long recognized as one of the most environmentally significant islands in the Georgian Bay archipelago.

Over the summer, we worked closely with NCC to help spread the word about this incredible opportunity and our need for financial support. Our goal is \$600,000 and as of November 1, 2007, we're over halfway there!

David Stager has been working relentlessly with the Sandy and Martyr Island Association to gain their financial support of the project and he has been joined by several others including Sans Souci residents David Roffey, Norm Playfair and Brian Chapman to make sure GBLT has the committed funds in place for the closing date.

We thank all of those who have contributed to date including members of the Sandy & Martyr Island Association and supporters from other communities up

and down the shore such as Sans Souci, Manitou, Pointe au Baril and others. Thanks to those committed volunteers and financial supporters who are making Sandy Island a reality for the GBLT.

Please consider making your own gift to Sandy Island today so you can make a big difference to the future of Georgian Bay forever.

For more information about how you can support this chance to ensure the protection of this jewel of Georgian Bay in perpetuity, please contact Wendy Cooper (GBLT) at 416-440-1519. A project sheet with more details about the project is available upon request or on our web-site at [www.gbtl.org](http://www.gbtl.org).



Sandy Island, aerial view