



## Message from the President, Tom Scoon

Our Annual General Meeting and celebration was held on June 10th, 2008 at the Toronto Botanical Gardens.

Those in attendance included our Directors, Advisors, and staff as well as invited representatives from our various partners and those who had donated land to GBLT since it was created in 1991.

During the meeting, we were able to thank the hard work of our two retiring Directors, Evelyn Newell and Nancy Christie.

I was especially pleased to celebrate a number of successes over the previous year including the following:

- Doubling of land under protection
- The acquisition of 450 acres on Sandy Island in partnership with NCC (Nature Conservancy of Canada)
- The successful launch of the Leaders of The Bay Campaign
- Our "Shoot a Tree, Save the Bay" contest resulting in the Trees of Georgian Bay poster
- New Partnerships including the Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council

Next year sees us reviewing our Board and Staff Structures in an effort to improve our capacity followed by a review and creation of a new strategic plan.

GBLT is on a roll as we see unprecedented numbers of land acquisitions in the next year. More important is the increasing support of the Georgian Bay community with their financial generosity and personal time to assist our work. We could not be successful without this most important commitment.

## Artists and the Lizard

In spite of the disappointing weather in the morning of Saturday, July 26, six determined artists arrived on the rough shores of the Lizard Island for the Paint the Lizard event. By 1 pm the rain clouds had disappeared and the warm sun with strong west winds prevailed.

Although most of the artists were local painters from Cognashene and environs, several came from further away. Margaret Ludvig and her daughter had come from Toronto and were staying at the Delawana Inn for the weekend, while Joanna Van Kempen drove up from Aurora for the day. Rod Prouse came over from the Balm Beach area by car, then from Honey Harbour by taxi boat with Margaret and Joanna, for the day. Charles Beck had only to come from his island just a kilometre away and Catherine Young Bates was staying on Minnicognashene Island for the week and arrived with Katie Russell in the early afternoon.

Our grateful thanks to these hardy souls who love the Bay so much they are willing to put up with the hardships of wind, weather and rough rocks to express themselves with their art. We hope to see the results of their endeavours at the Art Auction in November.

## Art Auction Update

Georgian Bayers that are 18-30 years old are now eligible for a youth rate of \$25.00 a ticket to attend GBLT's Art Auction. This includes admittance to the event with food only. Look for our e-newsletter, GBLaST, with pictures of the upcoming artworks. For tickets on-line, or to view all of the artwork, go to [www.gbtl.org](http://www.gbtl.org) or call Janet Loughheed at 416-440-1519, extension 2 or email [janet.loughheed@gbtl.org](mailto:janet.loughheed@gbtl.org).

## Introducing New Editor



In this issue, GBLT welcomes and introduces Cathie Bowden as the new volunteer editor of Landscript. Cathie comes to us with a wealth of volunteer experience in her previous community in Mississauga. Having recently moved to the Barrie area, Cathie says of her newest volunteer venture, "I am looking forward to being involved with and learning more about the people and places

in my spiritual home of Georgian Bay". Cathie cottages in Cognashene with her husband Craig, who is a GBLT steward.

GBLT would like to thank Sue Russell who retired as editor last year after serving for five years. She was a driving force in the production of our newsletters and set a high standard of excellence for the rest of us to follow. We send out 550 newsletters three times a year across North America with the support of over a dozen writers from around the Bay.

We thank Cathie and Sue for their hard work in making Landscript such a great success.



We would like to extend a huge **THANK YOU** to our many volunteers who work very hard on behalf of GBLT with various different positions and duties.



# Paddle for the Bay Update

by Patrick Stark

This summer I decided to dedicate some time to help raise money and awareness for the GBLT. I spent 40 days circumnavigating Georgian Bay in my kayak and raising money through donations. I had a goal of raising \$5000 or \$5 for every km I paddled during the 1000km expedition, I surpassed my goal and raised almost \$7500. Awareness for the GBLT was raised with media coverage in several magazines, articles in newspapers including the National Post, being a guest on a radio morning show, and appearing twice on Rogers TV.

During my expedition, I had the pleasure of experiencing all the distinct environments that the Bay has to offer. From the archipelago of islands along the Eastern shore to the endless beaches in the Southern Bay, the towering limestone cliffs along the Bruce Peninsula, and the quartz La Cloche mountains in Killarney. I paddled in flat calm water, wind whipped whitecaps, and huge rolling swells. I had an interesting encounter with a black bear, a strangely friendly deer, a near miss with the Chi-

## Summer Students

by Matthew Eaton-Kent and D’arci McFadden



This summer was full of interesting adventures for the summer stewards. In the first weeks of July we concentrated on running many of the regenerate GBLT programs for the young people of Georgian Bay, as well as attending some of the community events to meet new people and spread the word about the land trust. For the kids in Cognashene we ran two different programs, one at the Lizard for kids 11-14, and one for kids 7-10 on the beach that included games and environmental education. In Go Home Bay, we ran a craft class to replicate “The Trees of Georgian Bay” fundraising poster, which was later displayed at the Go Home Bay Art Show.

For the older generations, we attended Environment Days in Cognashene and Go Home Bay, as well as the GBLT’s “Paint the Lizard” event and Cognashene’s Art on the Rocks. The days in between community events were spent traveling out to the Lizard, the Madawaska Club lands, South-West Wooded Pine and the Alexander Islands. Over the course of the summer we spotted a few rare species, including a hog-nosed snake on the Lizard



Cheemaun ferry, some close lightning strikes, and I even saw a water spout touch down.

This expedition was a wonderful way to spend my summer and I was thrilled to be able to help out the GBLT. After spending 40 days on the bay I can say with confidence that it is worth all our efforts to protect this amazingly unique place.



and an eastern foxsnake and blue-tailed skink on Long Island, a Madawaska Club property. We also removed some chives, an invasive species, from American Camp and the Lizard, though there appeared to be far less of the alien plant as in years past. For the most part the islands remained in pristine condition, with the exception of a few scratches on the rocks at South Pine from snowmobiles

As we approached the August long weekend, we started to see the number of visitors and community events pick up. At American Camp on July 28th, we had many visitors, including a helicopter that landed on one of the outer islands, which we chased off rather quickly. That week also saw the Cognashene Corn Roast, as well as Regattas in Cognashene and Go Home Bay, which we attended to distribute information about the “Paddle for the Bay”, a 40-day solo kayaking trip around Georgian Bay to raise money for the GBLT.

On the Sunday of the August long weekend, the GBLT held its annual pan-communities picnic, which saw over 100 visitors from Honey Harbour, Cognashene, Go Home Bay, Wah Wah Taysee, Twelve Mile Bay and Sans Souci. In August, we also attended a very special Art Show in Go Home Bay, the Tuesday picnic on Long Island and a nature walk with David Trusler. As the summer wore on, we began to get visitors from further away, including a large group in a train of boats that came down to American Camp from Iron City and a group from Parry Sound on their annual trip to South Pine, who finally made it down after the weather began to improve.

Overall, we had an incredible summer, meeting lots of people and encouraging everyone to responsibly enjoy the Bay we all know and love.



# Exploring the Biodiversity of Sandy Island

by Dan Kraus NCC



When you stand on the shores of eastern Georgian Bay it’s easy to think that the islands, wind-swept pines and shallow bays go on forever. With 5,000 km of coast, almost 20% of the entire length of the Great Lakes compressed between Severn Sound and Killarney, eastern Georgian Bay has the longest freshwater coastline in the world. However, this coastal landscape, while locally common and widespread, is actually very rare and very restricted in its range. Unique in the Great Lakes, the terrestrial, wetland and nearshore aquatic habitats are so elaborately blended that they create new ecological landscape – a landscape that is not found anywhere else.

On August 16th conservation partners and the local cottage community gathered to celebrate an important achievement in this unique landscape. In 2008 the Georgian Bay Land Trust (GBLT) and Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) raised over \$2.3 million to purchase 450 acres of Sandy Island. This was the largest private conservation project in the history of the region. This celebration included a brief field trip to introduce partners and the community to the special species and habitats of Sandy Island, which is located west of Parry Island on the Waubuno Channel.

Sandy Island has long been recognized as a key site to conserve the biodiversity of eastern Georgian Bay. It is home to several species at risk including the globally endangered Eastern Foxsnake and Eastern Massasauga and several species of plants that are rare in Ontario. Researchers have documented over 335 species of plants and 73 breeding birds.

While the richness of Sandy Island’s wildlife is impressive, it is best known for its diverse and rare habitats. Sandy Island is one of the larger islands in eastern Georgian Bay and the sandy shorelines are very uncommon in the region, with over 95% of the coast characterized by bedrock shores and cliffs. So far, twenty different habitat types have been documented ranging from rock barrens to rich bogs. Of these, almost half are known to be globally rare.

Sandy Island’s habitats include narrow coastal wetlands dominated by Soft-stem Bulrush and Common Three-square. These coastal wetlands provide important feeding and nursery habitats for fish,

and re-fueling sites for migratory waterfowl. Sandy Island’s coastal wetlands are very diverse - with few steps inland you can move from a wetland dominated by herbaceous plants and grasses to shrubs such as Sweet Gale and Speckled Alder.

Other parts of the coast include sand and cobble beaches. Both these habitats are very rare in eastern Georgian Bay, and are considered to be globally imperiled. Most of the cobble beaches have large rounded rocks within a matrix of sand. These cobble beaches are very rich in plants such as Kalm’s Lobelia and Round-leaved Sundew. In some places small “storm beaches” have formed, where ice and waves have created ridges of cobble. Two other very specialized plant communities are associated with these beach habitats. Low beach sand ridges or dunes have formed just above the high water mark and support Canada Wild Rye. Sandy and fine cobble shores also support a suite of plants known as Atlantic Plain Coastal disjuncts, including Carolina Yellow-eyed Grass and Bayonet Rush. These species once ranged from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic coast when these regions where once connected by higher post-glacial water levels approximately 11,000 years ago. Today, these disjunct plants can be up to 1000 km away from their main range.

This coastal fringe of Sandy Island transitions into forests dominated by White Pine. Hardwoods such as Red Oak, American Beech, and the understory tree Striped Maple become more common inland where the soils are deeper and can hold more moisture. These forests are older-growth and generally undisturbed. They contain a rich assortment of wildflowers, grasses and sedges including Canada Mayflower and Star-flower.

The celebration of Sandy Island’s conservation was also a celebration of hope. If we can do this, we can do more. In 2007, the Georgian Bay Land Trust and Nature Conservancy of Canada worked with other partners to develop a strategic conservation plan. The plan identifies what we must do to protect this region. The plan also makes it clear that protecting the biodiversity eastern Georgian Bay is a big job, and it can’t be done alone. We need to forge creative partnerships, we need to focus on the places that could be lost, and we need the support of people that love this landscape and are committed to its long-term conservation.





## Winterlude

Winterlude speaker this year will be Patrick Stark. Patrick circumnavigated Georgian Bay by kayak this past summer. Patrick will share his stories and show slides of his "Paddle for the Bay" which raised over \$5,000 for the GBLT and brought awareness to the entire Georgian Bay about our activities. Winterlude is a free event, coffee and cookies to be served. All welcome.

**Date:** February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
**Place :** Rosedale Golf Club  
**Time** 7:45



"Trees of Georgian Bay" posters would make great Christmas, birthday and anniversary gifts for friends of the Bay. They are available through our website and after November 15th at MEC (Mountain Equipment Co-op) in Toronto and Burlington.

## Tribute Gifts Received

### In Memory of:

William Mosley  
Robert Strathy  
Gregory Coburn  
Dr. John Gilray  
Mona L. Campbell  
Richard Daly Junior  
Marie Segal  
Marian Watt  
Thomas Bata  
Ted Medland  
Jackie Desmarais  
Elizabeth Davidson  
Peter Fisher

### In Honour of:

Geoffrey and Phillip Spiess  
(10th Birthdays)  
Paul Jarvis  
Peter and Sue Russell  
William Eaton  
Roy Hardie  
Steve Jenks  
Edward Hartley  
Clive W. Robinson



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Frank Lloyd Wright



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