



## *The Wally King Legacy Circle*

You are invited to celebrate the creation of the Wally King Legacy Circle on October 20th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the McMichael Art Gallery as we honour a longtime supporter of the GBLT.

The evening will include drinks and hors d'oeuvres, a tour of the Ed Bartram Exhibit (with a personal tour by Ed Bartram) and the opportunity to meet the guest of honour.

The Legacy Circle has been created to celebrate planned gifts from current supporters and to encourage other Georgian Bayers to make a planned gift to the GBLT that will continue their support in perpetuity. Many people have already arranged for future gifts to the GBLT and we hope that they will become part of the Legacy Circle that will keep them informed of all our on-going activities.

E-vites have previously been sent out but if you have not received one, please make note of this event and contact Janet Lougheed at 416-440-1519 x2 for more information or to confirm your attendance.

We hope you will attend this event to thank Wally King for his outstanding support, enjoy a personal tour from Ed Bartram and help us celebrate a new level of planned giving to the GBLT.



## *In Memory of David Stager*



*Sandy Island*

This summer we lost a wonderful friend and supporter, David Stager, who passed away on July 23, 2009. David played a leadership role in the acquisition of Sandy Island in 2008 and both he and his wife, Beverly Stager have long been friends of both the GBLT and the entire Georgian Bay community. Our thoughts are with Bev and her family as we remember David's love and passion for the Bay.

**What's inside...** Bombs Away on Umbrella Island • A Summer of Explorations • Summer Student Stewards •  
My Paddle Around Sandy Island • Bayscapes Photography Auction and Poster Launch •  
Friends of the Georgian Bay Land Trust • The Georgian Bay Joint Venture Turns 10! • News from Wendy Cooper •  
Georgian Bay Query • Tributes • Upcoming Events



# Bombs Away on Umbrella Island



by Sandy Phillips, Sans Souci

As a Steward for Umbrella Island, I have seen a few unusual things such as a helicopter family picnicking next to the machine, and a full court Volleyball game underway in the four foot deep inlet. However, on July 5th we went out to the island on a combined stewardship and walk around with my daughter’s family and came upon an 18”X3” +/- aluminum cylinder washed up on the shore. She turned it over and read; “DO NOT TOUCH. CONTACT THE POLICE OR MILITARY IMMEDIATELY.”

When we returned to the cottage in Sans Souci, we notified the OPP and they advised that they would arrange for a bomb disposal squad from Borden to come out to take care of it.

On July 7th a new 23’ OPP boat stopped by the cottage to pick me up so that I could show them the way. On board the boat were: one OPP officer, one OPP trainee, two bomb squad OPP officers and a couple of red boxes labeled explosives and assorted rolls of wire etc. We pounded out through 3-4 ft. waves for the 7 miles to the Umbrella Island on a cloudy, windy day.



Once on the island, the bomb disposal crew took over and attached explosives to the canister and we were asked to take cover behind some rocks some distance away. We were glad we had done so because when the large explosion took place we could hear the tinkle of shrapnel on the rocks! No more canister! It was identified as a Coast Guard search and rescue flare that contains phosphorous, apparently very dangerous especially if it is not fully discharged. They told the tale of an OPP officer who loaded such a canister into the trunk of his patrol car. The flare ignited on the way to headquarters and, fortunately, the officer escaped before the gas tank blew up and totaled the car. The message here is if one finds such a thing leave it alone and call the OPP or the military!

# A Summer of Explorations



by Corey Ramsbottom, Victoria Harbour

*Corey Ramsbottom has spent his summer exploring and promoting many of the GBLT properties, by kayak. As a steward, Corey has submitted several reports for individual islands or properties. The following, in his words, is a brief description of his experiences.*

OK, this is not going to work... I was asked to write an article of 400 to 500 words on my stewardship kayak trips to the GBLT properties, so I sat down and started writing. After a while I hit the word count and I was up to 411 words... one problem, I was only on the first island, Little McCoy and was not quite done describing it. So I will be brief (if that is possible) and try to find the words to describe what a very special summer I had exploring these properties.

*Umbrella Island*, I have to say is my favourite, the sheer ruggedness and difficulty in approaching this island makes it a very special place. I paddled 20 kilometers in a very calm Georgian Bay this year and each stroke was worth it. I had been to this island before but the Bay was pushing in six-foot rollers and that makes kayaking very interesting.

*Sandy Island* has a very apt name if you have ever paddled around the south end of the island; it has a very shallow sandy bottom.. I have been there three times this year and I have seen a Bald eagle twice on the smaller islands where I have camped.

*Little McCoy*, again a good paddle from my kayak put in, around 15 kilometers. I found a swirl-hole on this island that was created during the retreat of the last glaciers.



Above: Corey Ramsbottom, Right: Umbrella Island.

*American Camp* was an interesting paddle for me. A little more boat traffic that I am used to but an interesting and busy island; in fact this tops my list of number of people that I have seen on any of the properties. I saw boaters exploring and walking the island, a small family having a picnic and swimming, jet skis coming in to visit the island and of course myself in my kayak.

The exact opposite was found on *Gull and Gilead Islands*, as it was just the wind, waves, many birds and myself. I was treated to the sight of several night herons from my kayak, as I would not land on these islands without upsetting the gulls. Even as I approached I had an unwelcoming committee of gulls to tell me I was getting too close.

*The Port Severn Wetlands* is a very special paddle for me as this area is a very diverse wetland, plus I live approximately 4 kilometers away from this property and visit it regularly in the spring. The shallows are a perfect spawning area for fish.

*The Lizard*, well almost... I missed this island by 400 meters after a long day of paddling.





# A Beautiful Day on the Bay (finally!)

by Kathleen Davis and D’arci McFadden, GBLT Summer Student Stewards



At the beginning of July, we sat down together to discuss possible events that we could organize or attend this summer on behalf of the Land Trust. With great enthusiasm, we proceeded to schedule at least one event per week for the entire ten-week summer. Little did we know, Mother Nature had other plans. Practically every event we scheduled was either rained out, stormed out, blown out, or otherwise subject to unusually cold weather. We were sorry to cancel some of our events, and are thankful to those of you who came out despite the weather. Your support was greatly appreciated.

“We proceeded to schedule at least one event per week for the entire ten-week summer. Little did we know, Mother Nature had other plans.”

Fortunately, we were able to enjoy a beautiful day on the Lizard Island on August 19th. In the afternoon, we hosted a Frisbee Golf Tournament for the Young People of Cognashene (YPOC), using rocks, trees, and shrubs as the holes. Despite the odd dip into the lake to retrieve a lost Frisbee, everyone seemed to have lots of fun, thanks to the help of the Cognashene recreation staff. Following the tournament, we hosted a late afternoon picnic on the Lizard – which was a great success. Many people came from Cognashene, Honey Harbour, and Go Home Bay to have a swim, enjoy a picnic, and take in the beauty of the island. Special thanks to Nancy Bennett and Ian Melhuish for helping to promote the event, and to Meg Bennett and Tristan Simpson for acting as lifeguards. We hope that everyone enjoyed their time on the Lizard – it was wonderful to see you there!

# My Paddle Around Sandy Island

by Clara Campbell, age 9, Sans Souci



On Sunday June 12th, I paddled around Sandy Island with out any help. At the beginning it was hard, but after we turned the corner it was way calmer. After the first ten minutes Mary wanted to be towed. After we turned the corner again it was open water that was not sheltered so it was rough. After the first hour and a half my Mom, Dad, Mar and I took a break. When we were done our break we went through a marshy area. There were a lot of rocks. It was good that I was in a plastic kayak. As an award I got a can of pop for paddling around Sandy Island. It took four hours but we made it around just in time before it started raining as soon as we got back. The scenery seemed beautiful. The part I didn’t like was when we saw how big Sandy Island was. I said, “Are we paddling around this island?” I also didn’t like that in some spots I kept on getting stuck on rocks over and over. I like that when I was done I was proud because it was like a challenge.



Clara Campbell

# Bayscapes Photography Auction and Poster Launch

by Tim Wilson, Cognashene Chair, Bayscapes Photography Auction

Those involved with the GBLT are a group of people who share the same beliefs and appreciation of what the earth’s geologic forces have created for us on the Bay. We admire and are in awe of this magical place and applaud the preservation efforts of the GBLT. We give thanks to every one of the thousands of people who have supported the organization up to this point. However, given the journey ahead of us, we need to continue to expand our support base.

Please join us at this year’s Bayscapes Photography Auction that will take place on Friday, November 6, 2009 at the University of Toronto Faculty Club. There will be a Silent Auction from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. and a Live Auction from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. Last year 220 people shared an enjoyable evening helping to raise a net \$61,000 for the GBLT.

We are honoured that many of Canada’s most prolific photographic artists, as well as many amateur photographers, have agreed to submit a photo of Georgian Bay. We will also have the winners of our “Rocks” photography contest. Based on what we are hearing through the grapevine, there will be many enthusiastic bidders.

Encourage your cottage friends, summer visitors and lovers of the Bay to come out and support the GBLT and help “Save Your Bay”.

The Faculty Club is located at 41 Willcocks Street just south of Bloor Street and just east of Spadina Avenue. There is plenty of parking and it is easily accessible by streetcar from the Spadina subway station.

This event is generously sponsored by: A&A Services & Marine Contracting Limited, Active Green & Ross, Napoleon Fireplaces, Payne Marine, and Toronto Image Works.



photo by Greg Miller

# Friends of the Georgian Bay Land Trust

by Nancy McFadden, Go Home Bay



Peter Cooper, Caroline Duncanson, D’arci McFadden, Janet Lougheed, Jeff Butler, Kathleen Davis

If I had only one wish at this time of year, it would be to get back to the islands. Precious memories of rocks, waves, family and friends and summer warmth abound! But it could have been otherwise! Private owners have closed some of our picnic sites of only a “few” (50!) years ago. When my mother’s favourite island, American Camp, was off limits for a number of years, I could only wistfully point out its virtues as we cruised by. Its donation

to the GBLT was cause for great celebration thanks to a huge vision, private generosity and a talented, lean organization.

Now it is all about sustainability. As the GBLT continues to acquire lands, it also assumes the perpetual responsibility of monitoring the ecology and usage of these properties. The Executive Director, Conservation Interns and Volunteer Stewards shoulder the primary responsibility but now we can all help by becoming “Friends of the GBLT”. Annual membership offers invitations to special events, a subscription to the online GBLasT and mailed copies of the Landscript newsletter, as well as access to expertise about the Bay’s environment.

One early joiner claimed that the fact that Wendy Cooper, Executive Director, is a trained biologist convinced him: “This is the right route to go; we need more knowledge based organizations.” Other “Friends” were thrilled at the price: “If I can help guarantee access to my favourite island for only \$100 (a year for a family) that sounds like the best value going.” Many have noted the focus on involving the “next” generation by offering reduced membership rates for anyone under 30. I think we would all agree that continued access to and protection of our unique natural places is the most compelling reason to become a “Friend”. Together, we can keep the dreams a reality for future summers!

Please go to [www.gblt.org](http://www.gblt.org) for more information about the “Friends of the Georgian Bay Land Trust” program.



# The Georgian Bay Joint Venture Turns 10!

by Erica Thompson, Georgian Bay-Huronian Program Manager, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Ontario Region



The Georgian Bay Land Trust (GBLT) and the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) are celebrating the passing of a decade of joint ventures on the Bay with a renewed five-year commitment.

The real measure of a partnership is the value of its joint achievements, says former Joint Venture Coordinator Ric Symmes. "Through the Joint Venture, the GBLT and the NCC have protected some extraordinary places in Canada and at the same time, have helped Georgian Bay families preserve the unique landscape and character that we all cherish."

The Joint Venture began with a group known as the "First Founders" donating \$5,000 each to kick-start the Legacy Stewardship Fund, a capital fund created to ensure that ongoing costs of caring for the properties would be available in perpetuity. The 1999 Memorandum of Understanding set the tone for the partnership, focusing on the protection of ecologically significant



properties, establishing a stewardship fund, and conducting research and mapping of the Georgian Bay area.

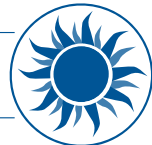
Stephen Griggs of Pointe au Baril has been close to the Joint Venture since its beginnings. As a former director of the GBLT and current NCC board member, he says the origins of the partnership between the tiny and relatively new GBLT, and the well-established and highly credible NCC, began as a way for the GBLT to leverage the skills and expertise of the NCC in Georgian Bay, and for the NCC to have the help of a dedicated, local, on-the-ground group.

"With the last formal multi-million dollar JV a huge success, I am sure that there will be even greater opportunities to collaborate in the future. I am glad (and proud) that the relationship has been so successful," says Griggs.

Since 2006 alone, 600 acres, with a land value of approximately five million dollars, have been protected through the partnership including critical projects like Sandy Island. The Joint Venture is managed by Wendy Cooper (GBLT) and Erica Thompson (NCC) who work closely together to ensure all priority projects are funded and maintained properly. Given the global significance of the area's biodiversity, and the diversity of ownership scenarios on the Bay, a collaborative approach promises to benefit all.



## News From Wendy Cooper, Executive Director



Summer is a fun time for the GBLT – it's a chance to connect with people and be surrounded by what we all are working so hard to protect – the water, rocks, trees, critters and sky (which this year included a lot of clouds and rain) of Georgian Bay and the North Channel. It's a particularly busy time for me as I try to visit as many communities as possible, visiting properties, speaking with landowners, attending community events, and connecting with some of our supporters such as our volunteer stewards and donors.

This summer was a particularly busy year for speaking at community events, partner meetings and even the occasional private function, helping to spread the word about what makes this area special and some of the unique ecological attributes that we are trying to protect. This gave me the chance to meet lots of new people, while at the same time running into old friends. By far the best part of my job is visiting with stewards as they visit our properties and meeting with new landowners who are considering donations to the GBLT. I'm fortunate to have visited so many incredible examples of the shoreline and each visit reminds me of what an extraordinary landscape we work in.

A huge thank you to all the individuals and families that hosted and helped get me to and from the many places I visited – reminding me every day what great people live, work and relax on the Bay.



John and Pinky McAllister, Peter Cooper, Wendy Cooper, Janet Loughheed

# Georgian Bay Query



## Why is an Inukshuk a Menace to Ontario's Lizards?

by Glenda Clayton, Species at Risk Coordinator Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve

Georgian Bay's rocks provide valuable real estate for Ontario's only lizard, the Five-lined Skink. Our typical landscape of rock outcrops with a generous scattering of fractured rocks on the surface provides skinks with protection from predators, an opportunity to regulate their body temperature and a nursery for their young. A study at Queen's University found a strong connection between skink populations on the southern edge of the Canadian Shield and the presence of cover rocks. Unfortunately, many of those valuable cover rocks are now gathered to build a profusion of inuksuits\* along the eastern Georgian Bay coast.

An inukshuk is a stone statue traditionally built by the Inuit to provide navigation clues in a challenging Arctic landscape. They have now become popular to build along our roadways and waterways. Since most Ontario residents navigate with maps or GPS they will likely arrive at their destination without relying on inuksuit. By concentrating the cover rocks in statues, the ideal habitat for Five-lined Skinks and other reptiles is reduced.

The Five-lined Skink is considered a species of special concern on the Canadian Shield. The Carolinian population is actually considered to be endangered since it survives in only a few fragmented areas near Lake Erie.

Adult Five-lined Skinks are from 12 to 20 cm in length and the hatchlings are just 4 to 6 cm long. The young have bright blue tails. The tail colour dulls with age, and is more commonly retained in females than males, which display grey tails as adults. They have five yellow to cream coloured stripes running from the snout to tail. These stripes may lighten with age and eventually disappear on older males. The typical black background colour of juveniles and young adult females also fades with age to a brown, gray, or olive hue in adults.



photo by Ryan Bolton

The males develop a reddish-orange colouration of the snout and jaws during the spring breeding season.

The females lay an average of 9 eggs within rotting logs or under rocks about one month after mating. They typically brood their eggs and defend them against small predators. The females place their bodies around or over their eggs depending on soil moisture. These attentive mothers will also urinate on the eggs to maintain their moisture. Sometimes the females form communal nests where they share in the care of eggs, alternating between foraging and guarding eggs so that eggs remain protected at all times. Parental care ends a day or two after hatching when the brightly coloured hatchlings leave the nest.

What if someone removes these cover rocks to build an inukshuk? If the female has a clutch of eggs both the eggs and likely the adult will die trying to defend her nest from predators. When the rocks are moved, skinks and the eggs can also be crushed. I had a camper once show me a spot where her children had inadvertently done just that and the kids were quite upset that they had killed such a beautiful animal.

Nature has done a great job scattering rocks on our landscape. Please try to leave these rocks in place. If you find an inukshuk on crown land, please put the rocks back on the bedrock to provide cover for skinks and other creatures.

\*plural form of inukshuk



photo by Paulette Light

## We want your questions!

Do you have a suggestion for a Georgian Bay Query? We have writers available to research and write answers to your questions and we would like to develop a collection of articles for future newsletters.

Please send your queries to: [info@gbt.org](mailto:info@gbt.org) or [bowden.cathie@gmail.com](mailto:bowden.cathie@gmail.com).



# BAYSCAPES PHOTOGRAPHY AUCTION

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2009! (Details inside)



### "Rocks of Georgian Bay" Poster Contest

The winners of the GBLT "Rocks of Georgian Bay" Poster Contest will be announced at the Bayscapes Photography Auction on November 6<sup>th</sup>. The posters will be available to buy rolled or plaqued that evening or at the following locations:

Artistic Dimensions, Midland  
Georgian Bay Country, Parry Sound  
Jackson's Toyota, Barrie  
Mountain Equipment Co-op (MEC), Toronto  
Parry Sound Books, Parry Sound  
Pioneer Handcraft Furniture, Port Severn  
Sojourn, Barrie

Posters make great anniversary, birthday and Christmas gifts for friends of the Bay.

### Upcoming Events

#### October 15, 2009

Cottage Succession Seminar - for reservations or more information, contact Graeme Martin at [rsvp@cottagesuccession.ca](mailto:rsvp@cottagesuccession.ca) or call (416) 545-5305

#### October 20, 2009

Launch of Wally King Legacy Circle (details on front)

#### November 6, 2009

Bayscapes Photography Auction (details inside)

#### February, 2010

Winterlude (details to follow)

### Tribute Gifts

Received from June 1, 2009 until September 15, 2009

#### In Memory

Frank T. Ansell  
John Cox  
Mary Galbraith  
Sheila Grant  
Larry Heisey  
Margaret Purves  
Mary Gifford Ryrie and Jack Ryrie  
David Stager  
Flora Catherine Strickland  
Joyce Winlo

#### In Honour

Hon. William G. Davis 80th Birthday  
Jarvis Minicog 50th Anniversary  
Wally and Marilyn King 50th Anniversary  
Ian MacDonald  
Mike Ogden



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