



David Phillips confirms the Inconvenient Truth at our Annual Winterlude

By Sue Russell

David Phillips was a big draw at Winterlude this year. Eighty-five friends of the Georgian Bay Land Trust came to hear Canada's weather man tell us what to expect in the next half century. More of all the bad stuff such as tornadoes and heavy rains in some parts and drought in other parts of Canada will be experienced. Storms will take out the hydro in Georgian Bay more frequently. Polar bears and other arctic animals will be at risk. Water levels in the Great Lakes will continue to fall as condensation increases with less ice coverage in the winter.

The good news is that warmer temperatures will allow a longer growing season for fruits, vegetables and flowers (imagine wineries in Collingwood), the tundra will be forced farther north allowing the timber-line to advance northward, and we can look forward to more hot summer days in Georgian Bay. Ron McFeeters attended the Winterlude and sent us the following:

In 1907 Sir Frederic Stupart, my wife's grandfather who built our Go Home Bay cottage in 1911, was the Director of Dominion Meteorological Services and wrote an article on "The Climate of Toronto". Among the factors of most significance then were the geographical features - the Great Lakes and the height of land north of the city rising up to south of Georgian Bay. A few years later in a paper entitled "Is the Climate Changing?" he noted that "the carbonic acid gas theory finds little favour with the meteorologist".



A century later David Phillips, a learned professional Meteorologist, enlightened us with an encyclopaedic lecture on our present situation. His wide-ranging illustrations and graphs of changing weather patterns - warmer temperatures - heavier rains - stronger winds - fierce freezing ice storms make a convincing picture of Climate Change. He covered all such major influences and added references to accompanying changes sometimes not observed, such as the decreasing differences between daytime and night-time temperatures when the night-time cooling is much less than formerly --- greenhouse effect again. Canadians are fortunate to have such knowledgeable and informative professionals in our services.

Obviously global warming is not just a current problem but has been around for over a century. Phillips (and Al Gore) have warned us and now we have to do our bit.

GBLT's Land Protection Committee leads the way in acquiring land

By Tom Scoon

Many of us on Georgian Bay have noticed the increased pressure for development. The natural world and open spaces are increasingly giving way to human activity. Improvements in transportation, communication and creature comforts are contributing to this accelerating trend. The Georgian Bay Land Trust (GBLT) senses that it is in a race against time in its efforts to acquire land for environmental and natural state

protection. In response to our concerns we have adopted a strategic goal of increasing the number of protected acres from the current 400 to 2000 by the year 2010.

GBLT's Land Protection Committee is responsible for the identification, review and acquisition of new properties. It is currently and actively working on acquiring 18 new

properties and another 16 are on hold and may become active at any time. A property under consideration goes through a thorough evaluation and approval process. It should be noted that most Georgian Bay properties meet our requirements for acquisition.

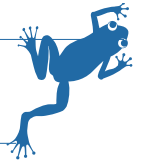
GBLT's Land Protection Committee, in order to meet its land acquisition ambitions, is in the process of establishing neighbourhood property committees (NPC) which will be more proactive in pursuing land. We will establish 3 NPCs this year: Cognashene, Go Home and Wah Wah TaySee together as one; Carling; and Pointe au Baril. We hope to have the balance of the NPCs in place in 2008. Each NPC Committee will recruit up to 7 volunteers and they will be educated in GBLT practices and provided with manuals and communication materials designed for landowners. If you are interested in becoming a neighbourhood volunteer and are willing and able to work hard please contact Wendy Cooper at wendy.cooper@gblt.org



This photo was taken by Ralph Grose and won the top prize of the Toronto Camera Club this winter.

Finally I want to thank all those people who have made gifts of property and funds. We hope you will continue your support and encourage others to become involved with the Georgian Bay Land Trust as we persevere in preserving these special places. Our success depends on your generosity.

History of Manitou preserved for ever



by Darin Buckland, Steward of the island

On the earliest National Geographic Society maps of Canada, only one name appeared on the great empty expanse of the eastern shore of Georgian Bay; south of Parry Sound - Manitou Dock. This was the name of the steamboat landing that served just about everyone who cottaged or lived near Twelve Mile Bay and it made us the best known, in fact the only known name on those early maps. A small island, it boasted a fine long dock, a waterproof shed and enough frogs to keep the children busy while waiting for the

steamship. The earliest visitors were from Pittsburgh and the services of the steam vessel City of Midland were indispensable. It brought visitors, produce, hardware, milk and the odd crate of beer. What hooked them was the clear water, excellent fishing, loons calling across a silent bay, flaming sunsets and the still of a morning dip.

It was only in the fifties that the iron ships stopped running, and Manitou Dock became once again a small island. The dock itself was used as a gathering place for the yearly Manitou Association Annual meetings but over the years the ice and the water slowly dismantled the docks to become watery sentinels, teeming with fish in the safety of the deep rock and timber cribs.

Under the direction of our current President Ian Baines, the association set out in the fall of 2005 to investigate the possibility of placing the island under the protection of the Georgian Bay Land Trust. It seemed the ideal way to keep the history and character of this island and the memories of past and present cottagers forever protected. The Manitou Association welcomes visitors to our remote little piece of history, encouraging those who follow GBLT low impact regulations. There is a long standing rumour of a rattlesnake nursery on the island, but that is probably just a fable. Or is it?

As stewards, Ian Baines and I will protect the island for the purpose of conserving its natural & cultural character while allowing the public to appreciate its beauty.



Dos and Don'ts about our Georgian Bay Trees

By Douglas Deeks

Isn't it strange that one of the primary symbols which embodies the passion for Georgian Bay is naturally ill-suited to being there at all. The pines found in the paintings of Casson, Jackson, Withe and others which hold such beauty in our eyes are actually the tortured survivors of the many seeds that have had the misfortune of finding themselves at the mercy of the harsh growing environment of the Bay.

Like a person's errant choice to be on its waters in late November, a tree finds the eastern shore of Georgian Bay to be a most inhospitable place to take root. Unlike most of us who are fair weather residents and choose not to be caught out on hostile November days however, the tree is here full time and has no such choice.

The landscapes of Georgian Bay that for many have become synonymous with the beauty of nature, dotted the way they are with their lone, bent and oddly beautiful pines, are thought to be worth preserving. How best do you protect something that is continually evolving and constantly threatened? I see three basic positions that exemplify the reaction of most:

1. You try to preserve it exactly as you would like to remember it;
2. You leave it alone to face all and whatever pressures come about;
3. You protect it by offsetting the added pressure brought about by unusual or unnatural circumstances

I don't think I'll debate these positions in this short space but will instead speak to some observations on each and let you take it from there.

As third and fourth generations of cottagers pass through the Bay every family points to their rock's fabled pines nostalgically. And now it seems all the trees found in the pictures of the past which still dominate our horizons of choice today are dying and we find ourselves rallying to the cause of these trees and debating or acting on the merits of each of the three aforementioned positions.

So, do you rally to save the pine and correct its misfortune with vigour and passion, entailing the use of imported fertilizers, pesticides, soils and even a few prayers? Or do you

stand by and observe young pines standing incongruously dead due to stress factors that could unobtrusively be mitigated?

Pines and the white pine in particular face numerous challenges and in Georgian Bay these challenges are magnified by the harsh, terrifically challenging growing conditions which are presented to the seeds that attempt to take root. Most of the 250+ diseases and pests that challenge the venerable white pine are native to the shores of Georgian Bay, several others of which have been sadly introduced by us – the well intended “protectionists”. Few of these pests are actually killers on their own but when given the opportunity to piggy back each other they can gradually and sometimes swiftly overcome the strongest tree.

Who are the big players in the killing of the pines? There are no stars amongst this crew and instead just a bunch of dull roll players with whom you are no doubt already familiar: age, drought, soil/nutrient limitations, weather, blister rust. To a lesser extent, pine shoot beetle, butt rot, sawfly, air pollution, pine weevil and a host of others contribute to the trouble but it is this former group that are the root cause of most of the orange needles you see around you.

Whatever your stance on the pines and their inevitable mortality the following is a short list of sensible practices that will keep your actions or non actions clear of unintended consequences:

1. Do water trees during the long hot and dry spells
 2. Do prune diseased or damaged branches at the trunk
 3. Do allow previously cleared spaces to regenerate with native species
 4. Do let old trees die and new trees grow
 5. Do prune trees rather than remove trees to enhance views
 6. Do leave deadwood, leaves and brush on the ground for improved moisture retention, as a nutrient source and as habitat
 7. Do identify the future generation of pines and start to admire them
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1. Do NOT use pesticides or chemical fertilizers
 2. Do NOT introduce foreign plants, soils or seeds
 3. Do NOT remove other living trees/shrubs to assist the growth of “special” individual trees

Announcing the 'Shoot a Tree Save the Bay' Photo Contest



That's the slogan for our New Trees of Georgian Bay Poster project. We're going to assemble 30 or so great photographs of the Bay's most amazing trees into a poster for every Bay lover to put up in their home or cottage or give as a gift to someone else who loves Georgian Bay. Best of all, the proceeds will go entirely to the efforts of the Georgian Bay Land Trust. A panel of photographic and environmental experts will pick the photos that go on the poster, so give us your best shot.

Contest open to all. Find the most characteristic, sexy, benign, storm-wracked, friendly, denuded, whatever, tree– and catch it at its most affective appearance and send it to us. The best of the bunch will be acclaimed and put on our poster. The winners will be announced at our November event and the poster will be available for sale that evening. Contest deadline October 11th, for contest details check out our website at www.gblt.org

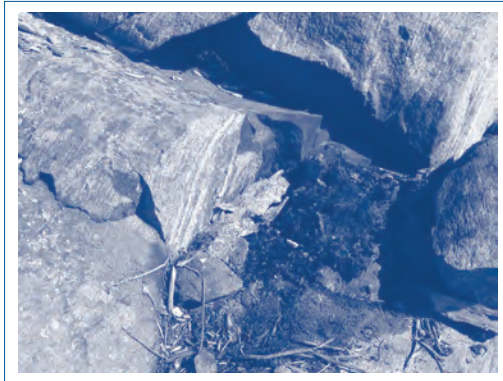
Picnic Fires damage our rocks

John Catto
Member of the Board of Directors of the GBLT
Cottager at Pointe au Baril

Although we may not notice at the time, picnic fires can do substantial damage to our beautiful Georgian Bay granite. It is hard to believe that a little fire can do permanent harm but there is plenty of evidence that it does. As we try to clean up after the fires that have been built on our Land Trust properties, we find that frequently a number of the rocks and base rock around the fireplace have cracked and split, permanently scarring the area.

This can be particularly alarming and unsightly when it occurs in the most popular and beautiful sites on our Georgian Bay outer islands. Many years ago this was not of great concern to people because there were so many islands and so few picnickers, but times have changed and increasingly heavy use of the best locations is leaving scars that will never go away.

If you need to cook, please use a small propane or Coleman stove to cook your corn, hot dogs or marshmallows and leave your picnic site as beautiful as when you arrived.



Tribute gifts have been received in Memory of :

Cliff Beatty, Manitou

Douglas Bowie

Mrs. Elizabeth Bryce , Pointe au Baril

Warren Bryce, Honey Harbour

James Burris , Pointe au Baril

John Clark, Key River

Dorothy Leonard, Cognashene

Dr. Robert Leuty, Go Home Bay

Diana MacFeeters, Go Home Bay

George Mara, Pointe au Baril

Ruth Martin, Bayfield-Nares

Joan McMaster, Go Home Bay

David Perry

Carolyn Rea, Cognashene

Dick Stamberger, Sans Souci

Joan Stewart, Pointe au Baril

Mrs. Mona Trusler, Go Home Bay

Dorothy & Carl Wilson

Help wanted

Volunteers needed for:

Landscript

Layout and design four times a year

Communications

Email newsletter and media releases

Thanks to our generous sponsors



Glenn Burney
Marina



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Summer's events

July 28, Picnic on the Lizard, Cognashene

August 11, Shakespeare on the Rocks," Much Ado About Nothing", Kemerer's, Bone Island, Cognashene

August 12, Picnic near MacKenzie Point, Pte au Baril

July 21, Picnic on Umbrella Island, Sans Souci

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