



LANDSCRIPT

*preserving
our unique
archipelago*

SPRING 2009

www.gbtl.org

Message from the President

by Tom Scoon, *Pointe au Baril*

What a wonderful and successful year 2008 has been for the Georgian Bay Land Trust!

Some highlights of the year include: 12 new properties under protection for a total of 25 properties; 20 partnerships with like minded organizations; 10 community events; one new full time employee; and 200 volunteers.

The GBLT has established partnerships with various organizations, agencies and local businesses including, but not limited to, the Georgian Bay Association and GBA Foundation, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Parks Canada, Ministry of Natural Resources, the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve Inc. and the Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council. All are dedicated to the protection of the natural environment of Georgian Bay.

We have added one full time employee, Amanda Verschuere, our Operations Coordinator. This will allow us to almost keep up with our growth and success. Our staff, led by our Executive Director, Wendy Cooper, continues to serve with remarkable dedication and excellence.

Despite all our successes in 2008, this year will be a challenging one for the GBLT. It is hard not to be a little frightened of the economic future, but I ask you, respectfully, to continue your generous support of the GBLT. Last year was a great year for us, but it only reflects those projects completed in 2008. We are working on many other exciting projects and ideas and will need your support more than ever.

I wish to THANK all of our existing supporters and invite those that are thinking of donating to the GBLT to do so. It feels so good to give!

It will not be long before the ice goes out and our migration begins...Keep well and see you on the Bay!



Tom Scoon, President and John Catto, Stewardship Chair at Winterlude

Thank You to our Volunteers!

A big thank you to all of those that helped out with the Fall Cottage Life Show, Art Auction, and the Toronto International Boat Show. Your support has allowed us to reach out to more people and spread the excitement and passion for this special place.

Wendy Cooper, Executive Director

Introducing New Staff



We welcome Amanda Verschuere to the GBLT in her new position as Operations Coordinator. She started working with us in July 2008 as a summer student and has since been offering support in all program areas. Amanda's main focus has been and will continue to be on events, volunteers and office management.

Amanda grew up in Parry Sound and naturally developed a strong attachment to the unique landscape of Georgian Bay. She grew up swimming, hiking, paddling, skiing, and camping throughout the area. Her family owns a small campground in Honey Harbour called King's Portage Park and she fondly recalls countless childhood hours interacting with sunfish, looking for turtles, picking berries, and exploring the forest.

We are excited to have Amanda as part of our team!



What's inside... 2008 Property Update • Bayscapes Art Auction • Friend Island • Stager Stewardship Fund • Memorial Tributes to Peter Fisher • Kay's Legacy of Land • Cottage Query • Winterlude • New Directors • Pearly Mussels

2008 Property Update

by Richard Stark, *West Carling*, Incoming President
Land Protection Chair

Wow, what a year! In 2008, we added 800 acres of new land and 12 new properties ranging from Port Severn to the North Channel. We acquired new properties in virtually every community along the eastern shore, nearly doubling the lands held by the GBLT. All in all, not less than a spectacular achievement!

We have acquired 100 acres of provincially significant wetlands in Port Severn; a spectacular 15 acre promontory on Giant's Tomb; 12 ½ acres of pristine shoreline supporting a variety of wetlands adjacent to the Tadenac Watershed at Go Home Bay; a 20 acre conservation easement and a 40 acre expansion of current holdings of outer islands at Wah Wah Taysee; two outer islands in Sans Souci; 425 acres of Sandy Island near Parry Island; 50 acres including significant wetlands on one of the largest private islands in Pointe au Baril together with two contiguous properties totaling over 60 acres near the Pointe au Baril lighthouse; an island expanding our Thomson Reserve property in Nares Inlet; and finally, our first acquisition in the North Channel, a 37 acre island parcel.

Through these properties, not only have we ensured the protection of acres of coastal wetland, interior wetland, forest and rock barren habitats typical of the various classic landscapes along the eastern shore of Georgian Bay; we have also protected regionally, provincially and globally rare flora and fauna such as the Eastern Fox snake, Eastern Massassauga Rattlesnake and Stiff Yellow Flax.

This incredible accomplishment shows what can happen when you combine the selfless generosity of donors, the tireless efforts of volunteers, directors and advisors, and the unwavering determination of our highly competent and dedicated staff. It is the contagion of passion and the strength of success that drives the GBLT and all of its supporters. Looking forward in this uncertain time, it will be these qualities that will endure and make success a continuing habit at GBLT. Thanks in advance for your support in our continuing success!



One of the McLaughlin Islands, Sans Souci.



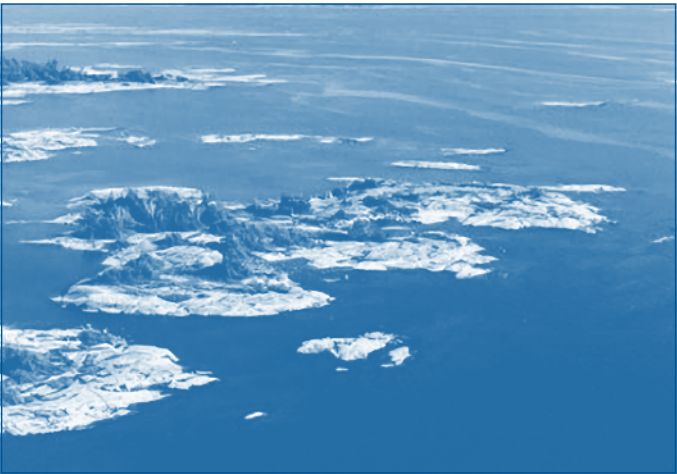
Friend Island: The historic first donation to GBLT

by Linda Swainson, *Cognashene*

Friend Island, off Pointe au Baril, is aptly named, for its history represents a sharing of interests and property across international borders.

In 1991 the American owner of the island donated the unspoiled 3.63 acres to The Nature Conservancy. This American organization subsequently transferred the land to the Georgian Bay Land Trust (GBLT) in 1992. On July 18, 1993 a bi-national ceremony marked the official dedication of the island as the first sizable land grant to the GBLT. Members attending the ceremony included the then Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Henry Jackman, representatives of the Federal Government of Canada, the Provincial Government of Ontario, former and current chiefs from interested First Nations communities, friends and family of the donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, members of the Pointe au Baril Cottager's Association and GBLT officials of the time. A bronze plaque commemorating the day was presented to Mr. Jackman where it remains permanently installed on the island as a testament to the generosity of its former owner and his conviction that islands such as his should be preserved in their unspoiled, natural state for all current and future friends of the Bay to enjoy.

Nestled in the sparkling blue waters of Georgian Bay, near Ojibway Island in the Pointe au Baril archipelago, Friend Island is a pleasing mix of smooth shield rock, glacial till, deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, grasses and fauna native to the area. Identified as a potential breeding bird site, it is also a natural habitat for the endangered Massassauga



Rattlesnake. This outer island faces the open, sometimes stormy waters of Georgian Bay, but its crenulated shoreline is protected on three sides by smaller islands which cluster around it, and on calm days its many bays are serene pools of calm, clear water which invite local cottagers and boaters to stop and linger awhile. A small shed and the bronze plaque are the only indications that man has bided here. If you sit on the warm pre-Cambrian rock and let your mind dance to the music of the waves lapping on the shore, the wind rustling in the grass and the birds calling to one another in the trees, stop a moment and give thanks to a friend who loved the Bay, and through his generosity, allows people like us to savour and love it too.

David and Beverly Stager Stewardship Fund

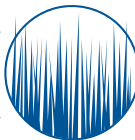
by Wendy Cooper, Executive Director

On December 16, 2008, the Georgian Bay Land Trust (GBLT) Board of Directors passed a unanimous motion that established the David and Beverly Stager Stewardship Fund. This fund was established for the 425 acres of Sandy Island, protected in the spring of 2008. The fund of \$50,000 was created from donations made by individuals as part of the GBLT's commitment to raise \$600,000, towards the \$2.3 million project done in partnership with the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC). The property was transferred to the GBLT from the NCC this past fall.

The fund was named in David and Beverly's honour after countless years of their dedication to the conservation of the last remaining large parcel on Sandy Island. David and Beverly purchased their property on Sandy Island in 1979 and 1981, and since that time, have spent every summer enjoying the nature and community of this unique part of Georgian Bay.

I first met David and Beverly when I was working on the ecological survey of the eastern shore of Georgian Bay in 2003. Sandy Island was identified as one of the most environmentally significant areas and the Stagers were kind enough to host me and another member of the team so we could complete a full ecological inventory. It was during that short visit, and further supported by subsequent visits with them, that I discovered the passion David and Beverly have for this special island.

The Stager's affection for this place, shared by many of us, is what makes projects like this possible. We are proud to honour that passion in perpetuity by the creation of the David and Beverly Stager Stewardship Fund. Like all of the GBLT's stewardship funds, it will be invested and the interest generated from the fund will be used to support the ongoing costs of managing this truly remarkable place – a commitment that I know means a lot to both David and Beverly.



New Directors

By John Stark, *West Carling*, Past President
Chair, Board Development Committee



Jennifer Kernaghan



The GBLT is delighted to welcome Jennifer Kernaghan to its Board of Directors. Jennifer’s connection to Georgian Bay started at Nares Inlet as a child. Today she is a member of the Pointe au Baril Islanders Association and the Ojibway Club. She has had a successful career in the travel industry for 7 years with Butterfield and Robinson and is now home with her two young children, Charlie age 3 and Claire age 1.

Jennifer is a founding member of regenerate GBLT, and has worked very effectively in various communications activities, with strong contributions to the organization of the recent and hugely successful Art Auction and as the volunteer who organizes our Winterlude event in February. Jennifer has recently assumed the Chairmanship of GBLT’s Communications Committee.

Adam H. Howard



The GBLT is delighted to welcome Adam Howard to its Board of Directors. Adam and his extended family have cottaged on Georgian Bay since 1890. Together with his wife and three children, Adam enjoys an island cottage in Sans Souci. Adam also has a long history of support of the GBLT and donated a conservation easement on Traux Island in 1999.

Adam has enjoyed a career with J.P. Morgan for 25 years and is currently Chief Executive of J.P. Morgan Canada and a Managing Director of J.P. Morgan. He also serves as a Governor of Trinity College School and is a past board member of World Wildlife Fund of Canada.

Kay's Legacy of Land

by Wally King, *Sans Souci*, Advisor
Founding Chairman



Kay Sloan passed away in Toronto on July 24, 2004 at the age of 90 after a very active life. She was born in Northern Ireland, her father was a Presbyterian minister and her mother was a nurse.

Kay attended Victoria College in Belfast, became a teacher, worked in a munitions factory during World War II, after which she went to Berlin as a welfare officer with the Red Cross. Kay then came to Canada to accept a position at Havergal College, ultimately resuming her teaching career with the Scarborough and York boards, retiring in 1978.

Music was a very important part of Kay’s life: singing in a church choir, and enjoying opera and ballet; she was also a very active community volunteer. The “*Neighbourhood*” newspaper describes her this way: “*Kay is a very warm-hearted, generous community spirit. For years and years, Kay has always been caring for others; the lonely, the elderly, ageing seniors and young families.*” It is this type of caring concern that set her apart.

Some months before Kay died she invited me to tea at her home to discuss her will. She was never married and had no close living relatives. She lived modestly and had accumulated a sizeable estate due to her thriftiness! Her concern was how to leave her estate and to whom.

She had already decided to leave part of her estate to her church of origin in Ireland, as well as portions to support medical research, education and the environment and nature. It was for this latter consideration that she had difficulty pinpointing an organization that would benefit from a bequest. She had heard about the GBLT and indeed, had visited Georgian Bay on a number of occasions. I explained to her that the GBLT was a registered land trust and our mission statement was our commitment to the goals that would respond best to her needs.

We heard some months after her passing that Kay had included the GBLT in her will. We were the beneficiaries of her thoughtfulness, planning and generosity. Kay was a determined character and lady of integrity and I was pleased to have met her and respond to one of her objectives. Our mission statement obviously touched her.

We are happy to have assisted Kay in responding to her aspirations meaningfully, by providing her with peace of mind and joy in knowing that her legacy would benefit all of us for generations to come.

This article was originally published in “Your guide to planned giving” by the Planned Giving Counsel of Simcoe County, and written by C.W. (Wally) King, Founding Chairman, GBLT.

Cottage Query



Why are there so many Canada Geese in Georgian Bay today?

Answer by Donald Fraser

The Canada Goose is a familiar Canadian icon, immortalized on our currency and stamps. For centuries, geese were only seen in Georgian Bay during spring and fall, typically flying high overhead in characteristic V-formation. Rarely were adult birds observed in the summer and almost never accompanied by goslings. Today, however, the Canada Goose is a common - some might say too common - summer resident of the Bay. How did this once former visitor to our skies become such a plentiful and oft-times unwanted denizen of our shorelines?

As is the case with most sudden population booms exhibited by animals, the explosion in the southern Ontario Canada Goose population can be directly attributed to human interference; in this case a wildlife management success story quickly gone bad. The geese that now inhabit Georgian Bay are the descendents of several hundred birds that were bred in captivity and released in southern Ontario during the 1960s in an attempt to bolster what was then a failing northern population. With mild winters, ample food supply, protection from hunting and possessing no genetic predisposition to migrate to the Arctic to breed, these “urban” geese quickly multiplied (by 2002 the population was estimated to be 1.6 million) and spread throughout southern Ontario.

Invariably, however, when the interests of humans intersect with those of wildlife, conflicts arise. The Canada Goose has long been looked upon as a nuisance species in urban environments; recently

this sentiment has spread to parts of our fair waters. Geese tend to take up residence wherever they find the following necessities of life: turf grasses cut short and preferably fertilized (Kentucky bluegrass is to geese what a sirloin steak is to a non-vegetarian), feeding areas with adjacent water and readily available access to walking birds such as moulting adults and goslings. In Georgian Bay, this combination of conditions is typically associated with marinas and cottages with well manicured lawns.

So how does one rid oneself of nuisance geese? Although many innovative techniques for scaring off geese have been tried, most have failed miserably. Any success has usually been of very short duration and the geese have returned undaunted and less inclined to leave a second time. Trust me - don’t waste your time and money on noise makers, shiny objects, spray repellents or owl decoys – none of these is an effective tool. A dog can be a good deterrent, but the simplest way to dissuade geese from invading one’s property is to eliminate the one thing that is attractive to a goose in the first place – a lawn. Personally, one of the things I like best about my cottage is that I don’t have any grass to cut. But if having a lawn is an integral part of your cottage experience, then you are a likely candidate for regular visits from foraging geese. Just look on the bright side – you won’t have to cut your grass as often, or fertilize it for that matter!

Donald Fraser is a wildlife biologist and cottager at Go Home Bay

Winterlude, February 11, 2009 – “Paddle for the Bay”

by Sue Russell, *Cognashene*, Advisor

Winterlude 2009 brought us a wonderful respite from winter. Nearly 100 Georgian Bayers and friends came to hear Patrick Stark talk about his epic kayak expedition around the Bay.

We had a taste of summer in February as we witnessed his journey from Parry Sound south to Beausoliel Island, west to Owen Sound and then up the Bruce Peninsula, across to Manitoulin Island, over to Killarney and finally, heading south, back home to Carling Township, 40 days later. Patrick’s photos illustrated the differences in the topography around the Bay. On the west shore where the land falls away very sharply there are no bare rocks and scraggly pines but rather cedar clad escarpment ending in boulder strewn beaches.

Imagine paddling 4 to 5 hours a day, rain or shine, calm waters or wind whipped waves; Patrick battled on to raise money for and awareness of the Georgian Bay Land Trust. In all he raised \$7,450.00 and met up with dozens of folks who were pleased to learn about the Land Trust.

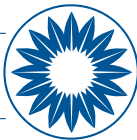
Our thanks to Patrick for his courageous and adventurous journey around the Bay in which he raised the alarm to protect the Bay. We are also grateful for his exciting entertainment at our annual Winterlude.



Patrick Stark and Wendy Cooper at Winterlude

Bayscapes Art Auction

by Carl Spiess, *Key River*
2008 Art Auction Committee Chair



2008 Art Auction Committee Chair

On November 25th, 2008 GBLT art lovers gathered at the Capitol Event Theatre in Toronto for the 3rd biennial GBLT Art Auction. On display were 83 works of art, generously donated by a variety of artists, from nationally renowned professionals, to first time hobby painters, and even a few children.

Eight of the works had been painted during our “Paint the Lizard” event in August – where artists were welcomed to the GBLT’s Lizard Island for a day of painting. These works symbolized the synergy of the GBLT and the Art Auction; namely that the GBLT protects wonderful lands, so that artists (and everyone else) can be assured of pristine vistas of rocks, water and trees for future generations.

The silent auction ran from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, and despite slower than normal sales at some of the major fall auctions at high end auction houses, we saw bidding wars erupt for many of our pieces. A bagpiper then led a parade of works to the front of the Theatre for the live auction.

Auctioneer Heather Pigat, and artist John Hartman presented the 11 works for the live auction. Again we saw solid bids and a few bidding wars that took prices to very respectable levels.

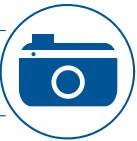
After the auction, it was a real pleasure to introduce some of the successful bidders to the artists who created the works that they had just purchased. Several artists now have standing invitations for next summer’s painting trips – completing a virtuous cycle and ensuring there will be art available for our 2010 auction. A particular highlight for me was being able to introduce Bruce Steinhoff to John Hartman; two of our live auction artists who knew of each other, have both painted Georgian Bay as a staple of their career works, but had never met.

In 2009, there will be a “Rocks of Georgian Bay” event, to follow our successful launch of the 2007 “Trees of Georgian Bay” poster event.

I would like to thank the auction committee for their dedication and guidance, the many volunteers who helped on the day of the event, GBLT staff for their professionalism, and the event sponsors. Of course, we also thank each of the artists, who join us in helping a terrific cause, gain exposure to an art loving audience and also receive tax receipts for the sale value of their works.

In addition to being a very enjoyable evening of art, drinks, food and camaraderie, we raised over \$50,000 net of all costs, a new record for the GBLT Art Auction!

Enter our 2009 Photography Contest!



Save your Bay. Take a Shot on the Rocks.



Photo by Craig Bowden

Winning photos will be featured on the upcoming “Rocks of Georgian Bay” poster and at our “Bayscapes Photography Auction” next fall. For contest details, please go to www.gbtl.org/rocks.html. Our thanks to the following sponsor of our photo contest:

Submissions due September 15th, 2009.



Pearly Mussels in Georgian Bay: A study of our native clams

by Barb Zimmerman, *Go Home Bay*, Director



People never think about the native clams of Georgian Bay; unless perhaps years ago after stepping on one while wading through shallow water, or having noticed an exceptionally beautiful half shell lying on the shore back when these bivalve mollusks possibly ranked second only to insects in abundance. We might pause to consider these seemingly dull creatures once in a while because behind their drab exterior, lying half buried in the bottom sediments, are mysterious animals of great beauty with fascinating and exceedingly long secret lives. North America is the world’s evolutionary centre of radiation of freshwater clam species, or “pearly mussels” of the mollusk superfamily Unionacea, with almost 300 species living on the bottom of streams, rivers, lakes and ponds. This species diversity in the USA and Canada is comparable to that of mammals (442 species), reptiles (340 species), and amphibians (270 species). Only native birds are considerably more diverse, at 914 species in North America. Young people growing up in Georgian Bay today may not even know what “clams” are because over the past two decades or so, our native pearly mussels have been undergoing catastrophic population crashes in lakes and rivers across North America, including in Georgian Bay where at least seven species once lived.

Pearly mussels or clams (bivalves) are soft-bodied animals enclosed by two elliptical shells made mostly of calcium extracted from the water and connected by a ligament. The enamel of the inner shell is beautifully iridescent in shades of pink, purple, cream and grey. Adults are sedentary filter feeders known to live for decades, although recent growth rate measurements indicate that individuals of at least some species may be centuries old. Pearly mussels, therefore, belong to a small select group of the world’s longest living animals. In a study by the American Fisheries Society, 72% of our native mussel species were listed as extinct, endangered, threatened or of special concern in contrast to 7% of birds and mammals. As pointed out in an Environment Canada report, no other widespread group approaches this level of faunal collapse.

Reasons for the alarming decline of pearly mussels across North America are known to be dams, siltation, pollution, mining and the introduction of exotic species such as zebra mussel and round goby. Their vulnerability to human-caused impacts is partly due

to a unique and complex life history with a larval stage that is an obligate parasite on fish. This is the secret life of pearly mussels. Females brood their eggs to the larval stage in their gills and then release the larvae. Unlike the free-living larva of most marine bivalves, the larva of pearly mussels, called glochidia, must attach themselves to the gills or fins of a specific host species of fish. After completing metamorphosis in the fish, the young fall to the substrate where they grow into free-living adults. Pearly mussels have evolved elaborate lures to elicit attacks by fish and ensure that their glochidia larva have a good chance of attaching to an appropriate fish host. Some species display lures formed from their mantle tissue or mucous strings that are adapted to attract particular fish. Others release larvae in packages that mimic worms, insect larvae or other larvae that are the prey of their fish species host. In addition to water quality and habitat, therefore, pearly mussels depend on fish populations for survival. Historically, the distribution of mussel species is known to have followed the re-invasion of lakes and rivers by host fish species after the glaciers melted. In several cases today, mussel species have become extirpated due to the disappearance of host fish.

Throughout North America, deforestation and the destruction of riparian zones, siltation, sewage, pulp mill effluent, chemical industries, steel mills, acid mine runoff, heavy metals and pesticides have all been implicated in the destruction of native mussel fauna. However, according to Canadian studies, the relatively recent introduction of zebra and quagga mussels to the Great Lakes has led to catastrophic declines in populations of our native mussels. Zebra mussels attach themselves to native unionid mussels interfering with normal activities as well as robbing them of food. As zebra and quagga mussels are now found in all of the Great Lakes and in many associated inland lakes and river systems, experts fear that pearly mussels will be completely extirpated from Great Lakes waters. Also, any factor that causes declines in fish populations leads to declines in pearly mussels. We know that Great Lakes fish communities have undergone drastic alteration and degradation over the past century. Although biologists assume that the once widespread and extremely abundant pearly mussels played an important role in nutrient recycling, water quality and as food for wild animals, increasingly it appears there will not be time to discover what this role may have been.

So, next time you are paddling around and can see bottom, try to glimpse one of our native clams. Remember that this clam may have been there before our ancestors first came to the Georgian Bay and that over those decades or even centuries, it carried on an intricately adapted, intimate relationship with a native fish species; also probably disappearing or depleted. Tell your children and grandchildren about clams because these marvelous unassuming creatures once comprised a vital part of the ecology of Georgian Bay and are testament to the extraordinary richness, complexity and wonder of evolution.



Enter our 2009 Photography Contest! Details inside.

Summer Student Program

Interested in working on the Bay this summer? The GBLT will be continuing its summer student program this year, hiring two individuals to help us with our stewardship, education and outreach programs based primarily in the communities of Wah Wah Taysee, Go Home Bay and Cognashene. In addition, the GBLT will be partnering with other summer student programs throughout the Bay. If you are interested in applying for the GBLT's summer student program or one of our partner programs, visit our website at www.gbtl.org or email us at info@gbtl.org to find out more information.

Memorial Tributes to Peter Fisher



This past fall the GBLT was the grateful recipient of an overwhelming response of donations given in memory of Peter Fisher, a San Souci cottager, who passed away in August, 2008.

Peter loved the peace and beauty of Georgian Bay and believed in the preservation of its natural environment for future generations.

At Peter's request, his family chose to designate the total gift of \$8,050 to the Sandy Island Fundraising Campaign.

His charity of choice was reflective of the strong connection Peter and his family feel for the Bay.

Joan Fisher, Sans Souci

Thanks to our generous sponsors



Our office has moved to 1179 King Street West, Suite 213, Toronto, ON M6K 2C5. We wish to thank Rockbrune Brothers Ltd., who generously helped with our move and became a sponsor.

Tribute Gifts Received

from September, 2008 until January, 2009

In Memory

Ted Medland
Elizabeth Davidson
Peter Fisher
Kenneth Baker Hodd
Saille Brock Abbott
Helen Roby
Kenneth Johnson
Lorraine Irwin
"Jes" Vorys Canby
John Thomson
Elizabeth Aird Kieser
Barbara Jane Mercer
Dorothy Leonard
Harry Marwood
Jean Leonidas

In Honour

Robert Morton
Hon. and Mrs. William G. Davis and family
My nieces and nephews (Judith Hurlburt)
Margaret Evans
Margaret Cross
Mary Sarjeant
Ray Murakami
Louisa Dalglish
Laureen and Graeme Bate and family
Barb and Loren Crabtree
John Bell
John Stark
James Eaton and Cecily Wills
Kim and Martin Abell



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