



LANDSCRIPT

*preserving
our unique
archipelago*

SPRING/SUMMER 2008

www.gblt.org

Port Severn Wetlands

by Karl Schiefer

Early in 2008, the Georgian Bay Land Trust acquired one of its largest and ecologically most significant properties to date. We assumed ownership of 135 acres (54 ha) of lakeshore and wetlands along the southeastern coast of Georgian Bay near Port Severn. This represents a large portion of the Potato Island and Oak Bay wetland complex, an area that has been classified and designated as a "provincially significant" wetland by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and as a heritage area site by the Muskoka Heritage Foundation. This area provides critical habitat for several Species at Risk, all of which are listed as Threatened.

This property was donated to the Land Trust by Oak Bay Developments Inc., a corporation who acquired these, and a large tract of adjacent lands, for (*continues inside...*)



Our Dogs

by Barb Zimmerman

We love dogs. We love your dogs and we love our dogs. Dogs have been the loyal and unflinching companions of humans for many thousands of years. Wherever on earth humans live, dogs are there with them. Indeed, one would be justified in proposing that dogs are part of the essential human experience. The oldest discovered fragment of dog bone is from Germany and dates back to about 14,000 years before present. DNA evidence shows that dogs are descended from Old World wolves and they accompanied the first people to colonize the New World.

As strong as our ties are with dogs, we ask you to leave your dogs at home when visiting certain GBLT properties such as South-east Wooded Pine Island, and for those properties where dogs are permitted, make sure you keep a careful watch over your dog to make sure he or she is not disturbing the

natural environment. GBLT properties are home to sensitive fauna and flora. "Sensitive" means that there are not many left - anywhere in the world. Arguably, Georgian Bay is the last surviving range for species such as the Massasauga Rattlesnake, Eastern Foxsnake, Eastern Hog-nose, and plants such as Stiff Yellow Flax. Many other threatened and declining bird, amphibian and reptile species breed and make Georgian Bay their home for at least part of the year. These species need your understanding and support.

We ask that you leave your dog at home when visiting certain properties because some dogs can wreak havoc in sensitive wetlands as well as kill and disrupt breeding bird, reptile and amphibian species. And for those properties where dogs are permitted, make sure they respect the rules as well. Thanks for your support!

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Meet our Volunteers!

by Courtney Oliver

GBLT has initiated a new piece in our newsletter whereby we profile one of our dedicated volunteers.



Who: Sandy Phillips
What: Co-Lead Steward
Where: Umbrella Island

Sandy Phillips is one of GBLT's longest-running volunteer stewards. Located in the San Souci Area, the Phillips family has been summering on the Georgian Bay since 1903. Sandy and his family have been concerned for many years with preserving properties in their natural state to ensure the enjoyment and appreciation of future generations. This led the family toward their decision to sell Umbrella Island to GBLT.

Now the fourth and fifth generation of Phillips – and cottagers in general – can visit Umbrella Island and see how the flora and fauna struggle to survive untouched in the harsh environment of Island to GBLT.

We would like to thank Sandy for his commitment to the stewardship program on Umbrella Island. If you would like to join GBLT's stewardship team, contact us for more information at info@gblt.org.

Ontario Marine Operators Association Clean Marine Program

Submitted by Al Donaldson

What is the Marine Industry Doing For the Environment?

The OMOA is the largest marine trade group in Canada, representing 400+ marinas, yacht clubs and boat dealers as well as another 170+ suppliers to the industry. In 1997, the OMOA, with support from the Ontario Ministry of Environment (MOE) and Environment Canada (EC), produced a Clean Marine Practices Handbook. Like the customers they serve, marinas unknowingly had developed habits over the years that were detrimental to good environmental management. This handbook demonstrated "Environmental Best Management Practices" in all areas of marina operations. The handbook was updated in 2000, is currently being revised again and more than 350 marinas and yacht clubs are putting it to good use.

Environmental Certification or "Eco-Rating"

In 2000, a method of auditing the environmental performance of participating facilities was developed based on the activities described in the handbook. This "Eco-Rating" audit of more than 220 business practices results in a rating from one (good performance) to five (world leaders in environmental protection) green leaf anchors.

This Program has enjoyed considerable success in the eight



The Successful Closing of Sandy Island

by Wendy Cooper

this outer island Sandy reports that everyone who visits the Island respects the objectives of GBLT and that the family is delighted!

A message from Sandy:

"We continue to be concerned that more and more people mean an ever greater threat to the quiet natural state of the Georgian Bay and to the peace state of its water. Rowboats, canoes, even sailboats and small runabouts seem to be disappearing in favour of ever-larger boat engines, personal watercraft, ultra-lights, and floating airplanes. Noise and water pollution are upon us! We volunteer with GBLT and the Sans Souci and Copperhead Association to do what we can to minimize all threats to this unique natural wonder we all call "The Bay"; certainly would encourage everyone to take an active role to help in this objective!"

We would like to thank Sandy for his commitment to the stewardship program on Umbrella Island. If you would like to join GBLT's stewardship team, contact us for more information at info@gblt.org.

Ontario Marine Operators Association Clean Marine Program

Submitted by Al Donaldson

years since its inception, more than 260 marinas and yacht clubs have been Eco-Rated, making it the most successful marina program in the world. MOE has extended their support and funding for 2008 and GE Commercial Finance is now a major sponsor as well.

To put the success of the Clean Marine program into perspective, some statistics are in order:

- In 2007, more than 97,000 sq ft of shrink-wrap that formally went to landfill was collected and recycled by 10 Ontario contractors
- Participants used low-toxicity anti-freeze for winterizing engines; more than 20% was saved for re-use and 24,000 litres were recycled.

One supplier of Ecologo (Federal Government certified) environmentally responsible bottom wax has sold 750,000 bottles, eliminating the use of other less desirable products.

The OMOA is committed to the Clean Marine Eco-Rating program, and moving toward the ultimate goal of every marina in Ontario being part of the Clean Marine Eco-Rating Program.

To find out whether your marina is a green marina, visit OMOA's website at www.omoa.com/clean_marine.asp



hours of effort from a number of people and communities who share our passion for this unique place. We are especially grateful to the local community, Sandy and Marty Islands, and the adjacent communities of Sans Souci and Cafling who contributed not just funding, but volunteer support and great guidance on the effort. We would also like to thank those throughout the Georgian Bay area who have helped us raise \$550,000, leaving only \$50,000 left to raise to complete our goal of \$600,000.

The strength of our stewardship program is our network of volunteer Steward teams who lead the effort to manage each of our properties.

We look forward to building our team for Sandy Island who will have an opportunity to help develop and implement a management plan, the document guiding our stewardship efforts and priorities. With a property as unique as this one, this will be a fun and exciting task.

If you are interested in learning more about the property, would like to make a gift in support of the project or participate as part of our Steward team, contact us at info@gblt.org.

GBLT Supports the Georgian Bay Osprey Society

by Sue Russell

The Return of the Osprey

To say that we are excited to announce the closing of the Sandy Island project would be a significant understatement. After years of effort on behalf of many individuals, organizations, and agencies, the majority of Sandy Island has been secured for protection in perpetuity.

Although the Nature Conservancy of Canada in partnership with the Georgian Bay Land Trust completed the official transaction, the success of this project is the result of countless

This data is on file and can be viewed on our website: www.gbospy.org. From zero birds in 1950 to over 60 nesting pairs this year, we have come a long way in assisting our osprey. These birds are at the top of the food chain in the Bay and as such, are an invaluable asset in monitoring the health of the ecology of the Bay.

For more information about the great raptor, go to our website where you can also admire some great photos. Contact us if you wish to become a member to help preserve our birds or to become a monitor. Sue Russell, 705 756 1670 or 416 923 4919

The Georgian Bay Osprey Society has monitors who keep watch on these nests all summer long. The monitors send in their data to us, which allows us to keep track of how many birds are nesting among our islands, how many eggs are laid, how many hatch and ultimately, how many of the chicks fledge and fly away to the south at the end of August. If you are interested in helping us monitor the osprey, please contact us at the link below. This is an ideal way to learn more about these birds and it will give you an excuse to paddle out and view the nest from a closer angle. (But not too close to frighten them.)





Cottage Queries

This month's question: What is the 'Green Flash'?

Submitted by: Cathie Bowden

The Green Flash

I wonder how many people have heard of the phenomenon called 'the green flash'? How many of you have looked for it? How many have actually seen it?

For many years, those who have looked for it in vain have dismissed the green flash as a fantasy. Let's take a look at exactly what it is and how and where one might see it.

For those who have never heard of this effect, the green flash is an atmospheric phenomenon that usually occurs when the sun is setting, although it has also been seen during the sun's rising. The answer to the cause of the green flash can be found in the laws of physics. As the light of the sun passes through the layers of the earth's atmosphere, it is slowed down and is bent or refracted. The shorter the wavelength of the light, the more it is bent (more than the long wavelength).

While sunlight is thus spread out into a spectrum, the longest wavelengths (red) are at one end and the shortest (violet) at the other. The spectrum gracefully arches around the disk of the sun and ranges from violet at the top to red at the bottom.

The lower the sun, the greater the thickness of air the light must pass through before reaching the eye of the observer. Therefore, the dispersion of light is greatest at sunrise and sunset. The human eye often cannot see this spectrum as long as a good portion of the sun is visible, for obvious reasons as the light is too bright to observe the sun for a very long period of time.

As the sun disappears, the colours of the rainbow spectrum disappear one by one, the lowest red rays first, then orange, yellow, green, etc. We do not see this orderly disappearance of colour because the atmosphere filters out the other colours and disperses, absorbs and scatters the colours. For example, the red rays sink, the orange and yellow are absorbed and the

blue and violet are scattered away. Vapour, oxygen, ozone and water in the air chiefly affect the orange and yellow light. As research has shown, the colour least affected is green and this is what we see.

Seeing the Green Flash

Dust and haze may greatly hamper the possibility of being able to see the green flash, although density and temperature can act to increase the intensity and duration of the flash. Also, the slower the sun is setting, the longer the green flash lasts. This is mostly seen as one moves from the Equator toward the poles. In Norway, the midsummer flash may last as long as 14 minutes, seven during the slow sunset and another seven at the sunrise.

If you decide to make a more serious attempt to see the green flash, you will find your best aid may be low-power binoculars or a small telescope. Of course, you must be very careful not to damage your eyes, and use the binoculars only at the very last moment, when the sun has almost disappeared.

If you do succeed in seeing the green flash, please note that photographing it requires a camera lens with quite a long focal length, which is not available on standard cameras.

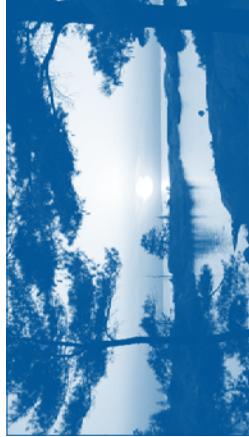
Remember, the flash is most likely to be seen in a setting where there is a sharp horizon and the sky is free of haze... over water. And out here on Georgian Bay there certainly is plenty of water!

Article by: Kelly Anderson [aboard the Crystal Harmony]

October 2, 2005

Article slightly abridged for GBLT Landscript

Send us your cottage queries to info@gblt.org with "cottage queries" in the subject line and we will do our best to answer your questions.



Bayscapes Art Auction

by Carl Spiess

Following up on our successful Art Auctions in 2004 and 2006, and our exciting 2007 Photo Contest, the next Art Auction will be held on the evening of November 25th, 2008, at the Capitol Event Theatre in Toronto.

Artists donate paintings for the auction, and the GBLT uses the sale proceeds to protect lands in Georgian Bay. This will ensure that future generations have unspoiled lands and wind-swept pines to enjoy.

A unique feature of the art auction this year will be our "Paint the Lizard" event. Interested artists are welcome to paint, sketch or use pastels to create an artistic masterpiece of Lizard Island. For artists interested in participating, transportation to the island will be provided on July 26. The finished pieces will be included as a special feature of the auction on November 25th. For more information about the "Paint the Lizard" event on July 26th, please contact Janet Lougheed at janet.lougheed@gblt.org

We expect to have approximately 80 paintings in the silent auction and a selection of paintings for the live auction portion of the evening. Many artists join us as our guests for the evening, and even guests who don't intend to purchase any art come to visit with fellow Georgian Bay friends knowing that their admission contributes to the fundraising efforts of the GBLT.

An Artist's Thoughts on Painting Georgian Bay

By Janet Lougheed

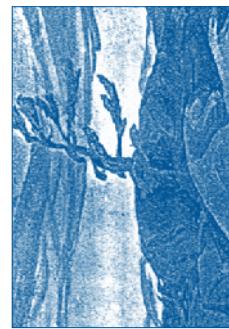
This article has come to us from Margo Mackay, medical artist and retired professor of U.L.T., who visits Go Home Bay on a regular basis. Her mother, Mollie, was a practicing artist and grew up in Toronto. Mollie and other artists in the 40's would go up to Wakunda Island in the Cognashene area yearly to paint. This article was found by Margo among her mother's papers and was written in the 40's for "Etcetera" magazine.

Wakunda Island Scene, Georgian Bay

by Mollie Bell, reprinted from Etcetera

On the day that I did this sketch, there was stiff breeze, as indeed there had been for several days previously. There seemed to brood over the spot a spirit of turbulence and unrest, in keeping with the wildness of the place, and at the same time there was kindled within me a feeling of remoteness, and of harmony with the universe.

Some of these thoughts I have tried to transfer to the canvas, which tells its own story in its own language, a story I could never attempt in words.



Painting by
Mollie Bell

Port Severn Wetlands (*continued*)



development of a major golf course and condominium/cottage complex of up to 500 units (Port Severn Village). When first proposed, this development raised serious concerns regarding the potential impact that such a large-scale project could have on the adjacent wetlands. Based on this concern, the project was appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) by the Georgian Bay Association (GBA) on the basis that lakeshore buffer zones were inadequate to protect the ecological integrity of these wetlands. A lengthy series of discussions and negotiations between the GBA, the developer and the Township of Georgian Bay occurred over a six- to eight-month period. All parties came to an agreement that the Georgian Bay Land Trust was an appropriate organization to take ownership of these lands and provide the necessary long-term stewardship to protect these important wetland habitats.

Subsequently, the Land Trust carried out a number of site investigations with the developer to ensure that lakeshore buffer zones and future land use would be appropriate to provide the necessary level of environmental protection. Based on these agreements, the OMB appeal was withdrawn and the lands conveyed to the Land Trust.

The outcome of this process may serve as a useful example of how the Land Trust can effectively play a role in protecting ecologically significant properties, that could be compromised by various forms of lakeshore development. Many community plans and municipal Official Plans call for the protection of environmentally sensitive areas that could, as in the case of the Port Severn Village development, be threatened by development pressures. The Land Trust has the mandate and obligation to protect its properties.

Providing for the successful, long-term stewardship of the Potato Island and Oak Bay wetlands will be a challenging task. While much of the wetlands remain in a relatively pristine condition, previous disturbance has occurred in several locations. These include several dredged channels to provide boat access to the shore and a causeway across the wetland to provide vehicle access to Potato Island. Major construction activity on adjacent lands over the next several years and the longer-term use of this area by new residents of Port Severn Village will require ongoing monitoring, planning and management.

There is, however, also a unique opportunity for GBLT on this property. Not only will we be protecting a very important wetland ecosystem, but we also have the opportunity to provide public education on the importance of wetlands and the role and activities of the Georgian Bay Land Trust. Unlike the majority of our properties, this one has easy road access for the general public. It will also have, as provided for in the multi-party agreement, a public hiking trail along the lakeshore in the buffer zone which will provide direct views over many parts of the wetland. It is intended that interpretive signage will be placed along the trail to provide information on wetland ecology, the Land Trust, and appropriate human activity to protect the wetland.

The Land Trust would like to acknowledge and thank all of the parties who were involved in this process for their foresight, enthusiasm and commitment in providing for the protection of this important area. We would also like to invite GBLT members and the general public to enjoy a visit to this property as the facilities become available. As is the case with all GBLT properties, we will be working with the local community to develop a team of volunteer Stewards to lead our stewardship activities.

Paddle for the Bay

by Conney Oliver

This Canada Day, kayaker Patrick Stark will begin his quest to circumnavigate Georgian Bay to raise awareness about the unique natural and cultural features of the Bay. His goal is to raise \$5 for every kilometer he paddles during his 1000 kilometer, 40 day expedition for a total of \$5,000 in support of the efforts of the GBLT.

Who Is Patrick Stark?

All you need to know about Patrick Stark is embarking on a 40 day kayaking expedition where he will circumnavigate Georgian Bay to raise awareness for the unique archipelago, while also raising money for the Georgian Bay Land Trust (GBLT).

There has already been a reasonable amount of press covering the trip, which is fantastic but we wanted to highlight more about "who is Patrick Stark".

As many of you know, Patrick Stark is embarking on a 40 day kayaking expedition where he will circumnavigate Georgian Bay to raise awareness for the unique archipelago, while also raising money for the Georgian Bay Land Trust (GBLT).

Nine to five, Patrick works as an Industrial Designer who maintains his interest in environmentalism by keeping on top of the latest energy efficient lighting technologies. One day soon, he hopes to become involved in lighting up the lives of those in Sub-Saharan Africa with inexpensive lighting solutions.

When Patrick is not innovating the lighting world, he can be found with his friends, family, and his three cats. Kayaking tops his list of favourite activities along with downhill skiing and running.

Previously he completed many shorter kayaking trips around the Bay in addition to a whitewater canoe trip on the Spanish River, hiking trips in our provincial parks, and a four day kayak trip in Algomaquin park which is now referred to by his friends as "The Death Trip". Decidedly, portaging 5.5 km with a fully loaded kayak was a "poor" idea.

If you thought a 40-day kayaking expedition would tire Patrick out, you are mistaken. He plans on more adventure in Nevada this fall where he will be reaching new highs; namely the summit of Mount Charleston. Before he gets to Nevada though, Patrick will be averaging about five hours of paddling a day with a daily goal of about 25 km commencing July 1st.

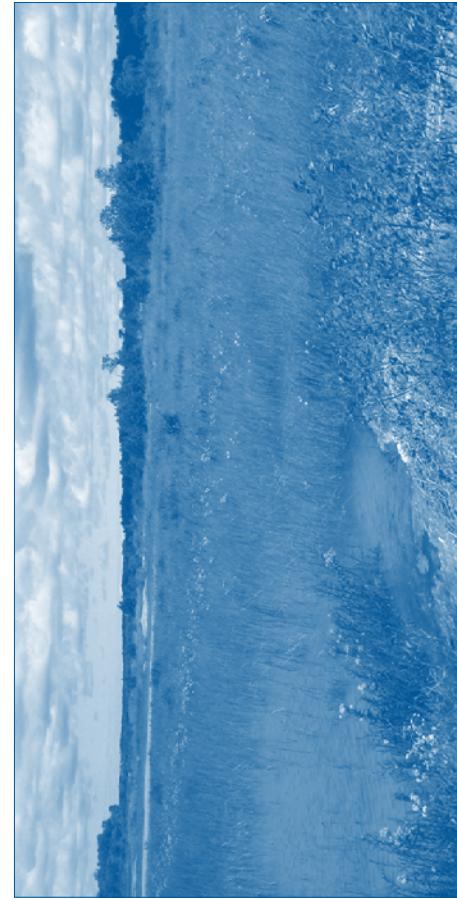
We would like to thank everyone who has already contributed to the expedition and a special thanks to White Squall for their sponsorship and top quality gear. For more information on White Squall check out their website at www.whitesquall.com. Good luck Patrick, we will be watching and rooting for you on the Bay this summer!

If you would like to sponsor Patrick's Paddle for the Bay initiative or would simply like to learn more about the trip please visit our website at www.gblt.org.

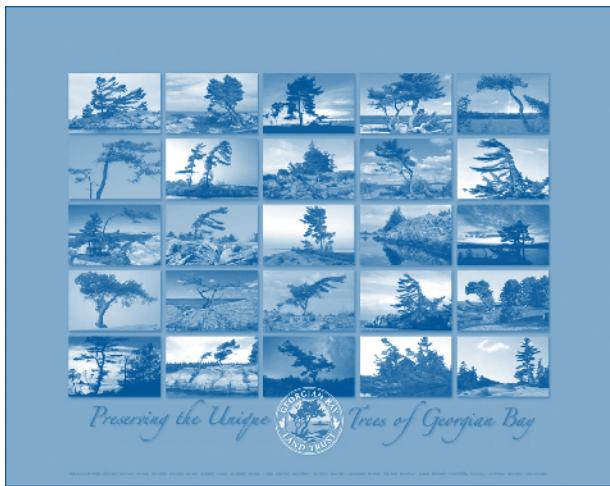


The Route (weather depending, of course):

July 1st	Leaving Nias Island near Killbear Park (near Parry Sound) and heading South down the coast.
July 3rd	Twelve Mile Bay area
July 5th	Honey Harbour area
July 10th	Collingwood
July 14th	Owen Sound
July 23rd	Tobermory (with several extra days built in here to wait for the perfect weather to cross over towards Manitoulin Island)
July 31st	Killarney
August 4th	French River / Bustards
August 8th	Shawanganga area
August 9th	Finish at Nias Island



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- Sojourn- Barrie
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- Honey Harbour Boat Club
- The Beehive - Honey Harbour
- Artistic Dimensions - Midland
- King Bay Marina - Mactier
- Parry Sound Books - Parry Sound
- Township of the Archipelago - Parry Sound
- White Squall - Nobel
- Killbear Marina - Nobel
- Ojibway Store - Pte au Baril
- Killarney Mountain Lodge - Killarney

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Thanks to Payne Marine, Glenn Burney and Desmasdons for achieving "Eco-Rated" recognition. For a complete list of Eco-rated marinas, please visit http://www.marinasontario.com/clean_marine_marinas.asp

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Ivan Laverne Walden
Lucas West
William Mosley
Lawrie Fabens
the birth of Robert DiLorenzo-Graham
Peter & Sue Russell's 50th Wedding Anniversary



Volunteer Opportunities:

GBLT is currently looking for volunteers to help with:
• Art Auction Fundraiser this November
• Stewarding new GBLT properties
Please contact us if you are interested in volunteering.

Upcoming Events:

"Paint the Lizard" - July 26, 2008
American Camp Picnic - August 3, 2008
Pointe au Baril Picnic - August 10, 2008



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