



LANDSCRIPT

*preserving
our unique
archipelago*

SUMMER 2009

www.gbtl.org

Get off your rock and be a friend of the GBLT



Julie Detaille and Charlie Kernaghan

A new program has been launched as a support group for the Georgian Bay Land Trust called "The Friends of the GBLT". This group will be a broad based membership organization that supports the goals of the GBLT. "The Friends will provide a tremendous opportunity for people to learn about the role of the GBLT in preserving the Bay and to get involved in our activities" notes Tom Scoon, President of the Board of Directors of the GBLT.

Friends will receive the GBLT newsletter, email updates and alerts, and be invited to attend special events and educational opportunities. The Friends kicks off the 2009 membership drive with "Get Off Your Rock and Be a Friend of the GBLT". Wendy Cooper, Executive Director of the GBLT says, "The Friends will be a great way to get our message out and most importantly enable as many people as possible to show their support for the GBLT".

An individual membership in The Friends will cost \$50 per year while a family membership will cost \$100. Those under

30 can join for \$20. An early bird special family membership will cost \$85 if you join before August 1st. New friends can join by contacting the following Friend's volunteers in your community:

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Go Home Bay | Doug and Nancy McFadden –
nancyanddoug.mcfadden@gmail.com |
| Cognashene | Tim Topornicki – timt@topperlinen.com
Peter Cooper – pcooper@pivotalolutions.com |
| Pointe au Baril | Ian MacLeod – ian@butterwood.ca
John Orviss – 416-488-3080 |
| Sans Souci | please see the website |

TO BE A FRIEND YOU CAN ALSO GO TO THE WEBSITE:
www.gbtl.org OR CALL OR EMAIL THE OFFICE:
416-440-1519 X2 OR info@gbtl.org. 276

During a typical summer, the Executive Director, Wendy Cooper, visits more than 10 new potential properties to meet with landowners and talk about options for working with the GBLT.

Pathfinders

by Jeff Miler, Pointe au Baril

I know how Canada geese must feel when it’s time to head north for the summer.

Four hours drive north of Toronto, in Lake Huron’s Georgian Bay, there’s a rocky island of stunted pines and creosote-smelling cabins, no different from a thousand others scattered through this lake-and-islands country. Seen from a distance, it blends in with the surrounding islands to form an uninterrupted, featureless green horizon that looks like the mainland. But every summer I’m able to leave the dock at Pointe au Baril Station and unerringly find my way through the maze of islands without even thinking.

As a child, I could never see how we’d find our own island. But at just the right moment, Bonpapa, my grandfather, would tell me to look to starboard, and I’d watch in awe as the land slowly began to pull apart. Suddenly open water would appear, and we’d swing into the north channel and home. Osawa Island.

My grandfather had been taught how to navigate the islands by his father, who had brought the family to Georgian Bay in 1906 for a summer in the wilderness. Arriving at Pointe au Baril Station by steamer (there were no roads then), they paid Indian guides to lead them to a suitable island. Tents were pitched, camp ovens set up, privies built, and secluded places—one for men, another for women—established for what would become ritual morning dips in the lake.

During the day the women wore long dresses, the men starched collar shirts, while the children ran barefoot and free. At night around the campfire, everyone would sing songs, play games, or watch shooting stars.

Animals and Indians hadn’t yet receded into the shadows of memory. Bears still lumbered into the clear waters to fish for bass, perch, and muskie, or waddled into blueberry patches for a leisurely afternoon of gorging. Bald eagles still waltzed with the wind. And the somber Ojibwa would glide up in their canoes and offer birch bark baskets and trinkets decorated with

porcupine quills, bear claws, and deer teeth. In the early years they bartered for clothes and blankets, then for money. Later, they were gone.

By the time I arrived, the family had bought an island and named it Osawa (Ojibwa for “brown,” our family name). Cabins had been built, and five camps (for my grandfather and each of his four siblings) had developed. Only a few cabins had generator electricity. There were no radios, TVs or telephones.

Bonpapa taught me what his father had taught him: When paddling a canoe by yourself, always sit in the bow and face the stern. When using a crosscut saw, let gravity and the blade do the work. And if you cup your hands just so and nestle your lips to your thumb joints, you can answer the plaintive call of the loon.

Today Osawa hasn’t changed much. Now, though, the family is nearly 200 strong, the sixth generation having joined the yearly migration.

Every time I return to the island, I’m surprised to find the beauty more intense than I remember. It’s especially so in the late afternoon, when a stillness settles in, as the day takes a deep breath and holds it for a moment before sighing into sunset. And when the loon calls like a lost soul searching for home, my thoughts once again turn to my pathfinder—Bonpapa.

Why is it that people—and animals, for that mater—go back to the same place year after year? Is it habit or something coded in the genes?

For me, it is family, and roots that run so deep they draw sustenance from past generations. So every spring I guess it’s not too surprising that when the geese are flying and the breeze is scented with the smell of pines, I get the old urge to head north—and it feels right.

Abridged version of article previously published in Islands Magazine.



Osawa Island, Pointe au Baril

Georgian Bay Query



Blasto What?

Answer by Rick Hayward, Boater

So what is Blastomycosis? “Blasto” for short, is a fungal disease found in humans, dogs, occasionally cats, and other mammals. Astonishingly, it is often misdiagnosed as a viral infection or cancer. Your dog would most likely get it by inhaling the spores from the Blastomyces dermatitidis fungus through the nose, then allowing it to thrive in the body as a yeast. Blastomycosis grows in the environment as a mold, in warm, acid sandy soils and rotted wood near water.

Blastomycosis is thought to be mostly found within North America. The most frequent cases in Canada have been reported in Kenora and along the shores of Georgian Bay, especially in Point-au-Baril and Sans Souci.

This is not to suggest a panic, but rather to point out, quite rightly that Blastomycosis is prevalent in certain areas and so your pet and you to a lesser extent, since we as humans do not usually breathe close to the ground, are therefore at risk. Because there is no vaccine for Blastomycosis, the best defences are awareness and early treatment. This means recognizing the symptoms and taking immediate action.

Here are typical symptoms to watch for:

- coughing
- shortness of breath
- poor appetite
- exercise intolerance
- weight loss
- listlessness
- depression
- lameness
- blood in the urine
- anorexia
- enlarged lymph nodes
- testicular inflammation
- skin lesions, or small draining ulcer(s) on the skin, like a small abscess - draining bloody or purulent (pus) material
- fever that doesn’t respond to antibiotics - 103 degrees or higher
- eye problems: including redness, pain, swelling, excessive tearing, clouding of the corneas, and even blindness

To diagnose Blastomycosis, you need to get a positive sample of the blasto yeast from a lymph node, draining a skin lesion, a lung wash, or by sampling material coughed up by the dog or alternatively through a blood test now available in the United States. About 65 percent of dogs diagnosed with blastomycosis do survive. Because the treatment is long, complicated, and expensive with the potential for serious side effects, some owners elect to euthanize affected pets. In treated dogs, survival rates are approximately 85 percent, but up to 25 percent suffer relapses. Dogs with brain or eye involvement have a worse prognosis.



Bosun

So what can you do?

1. Speak to your veterinarian about Blastomycosis, especially if you are a cottager or boater in the Georgian Bay region.
2. Immediately take your dog to your veterinarian if he develops any of the symptoms
3. Consider health insurance; the treatment for Blastomycosis, even when caught early, is very expensive.
4. Visit the website www.blastomycosis.ca and learn more about Blasto. You will be amazed at the number of cases that you will read about, and from places that you have likely been with your dog, and may very well go again.

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@gblt.org or bowden.cathie@gmail.com.

Interesting and useful websites:

Indigenous seeds: www.naturesgardenseed.com
www.wildflowerfarm.com
Water levels: www.lre.usace.army.mil/hh/GreatLakesWaterLevels/GLWL-CurrentMonth-Meters.pdf

Summer Student Stewards



Kathleen Davis and D'arci McFadden

With successful summer experiences stewarding in both 2007 and 2008, Kathleen Davis and D'arci McFadden are pleased to be returning to the Georgian Bay Land Trust as Conservation Interns for the 2009 season. In addition to the traditional island monitoring responsibilities in the Wah Wah Taysee, Go Home

Bay and Cognashene communities, we will be expanding the program again this summer!

In order to develop the "Regenerate GBLT" program, we are looking forward to running educational programs at the Cognashene and Go Home Environmental Days, Cognashene Recreation Program and Go Home Bay nature walks. You will also find us present at all the community events including regattas, art shows and group picnics. Additionally, we will continue to monitor cruiser mooring sites across all the communities to ensure they are having minimal impact on the surrounding area. We hope our work will continue to reassure cottagers, residents and boaters that the GBLT is a vital organization dedicated to preserving the unique beauty of the islands and waters around South Eastern Georgian Bay.

Kathleen and D'arci are respectively studying Law and Politics at Queen's University but cannot wait to get out in the sun and onto the rocks by June 26th. We look forward to seeing both new and familiar faces out at the islands this summer so if you have any questions or inquiries feel free to contact us!

Enter our 2009 Photography Contest!



Save your Bay. Take a Shot on the Rocks. Give us your best shot.

It is time to submit your photos of the unique stripes, colours, bands, folds, and swirls that characterize the rocks of Georgian Bay.

The area is blessed with some of the most stunning rock formations in the world. Grab your camera, find your favourite smooth shoreline or exposed outcropping, and capture it in just the right light.

The Georgian Bay Land Trust looks forward to featuring the top 25 photo submissions in our 2009 "Rocks of Georgian Bay" poster.

A panel of photographic and environmental experts will select the photos to be included. Proceeds from the sale of this poster will go entirely to the efforts of the Georgian Bay Land Trust. The poster will be unveiled at the "Bayscapes Photography Auction" event to take place in the fall of 2009 in Toronto.

Deadline: September 15, 2009

For more information contact us at 416-440-1519 x.3 or rocks@gblt.org



Photo by Craig Bowden

Volunteers



Jim Beatty, Parry Sound



Jim Beatty, representing the fifth generation of Beatty's on Georgian Bay, was born and raised in Parry Sound and so experienced first hand the wonderful opportunities afforded by this unique water body. The first few generations used the Bay primarily for commercial purposes such as logging and shipping. For later generations, recreation became paramount. As a youngster, boating on the bay meant picnics, or perhaps visiting family friends but it was experiencing the thrills of the sometimes wild and rugged Georgian Bay environment that often conjures the most vivid memories. Jim would always say, Georgian Bay gets in your blood...it's a sense of freedom that you get every time you get beyond the inner channels and islands.

Jim left the Parry Sound area for a number of years to attend post secondary school. After a brief stint lecturing at University, he came back closer to home to work in the Resort and Tourism industry in Muskoka. It is here that he met his wife, Bonnie, and shortly after they began to raise their three children, Anne, Kate and Andrew. During the early 90's, Jim, Bonnie and their family moved back to Parry Sound where Jim continued to pursue his interest in tourism offering business management services both locally, the most notable being Iron City Fishing Club, and internationally.

Jim joined the Board of Directors of the Georgian Bay Land Trust in 2003 because of his desire to serve an organization that was extremely well run but more importantly had a mission of preserving and protecting the unique islands and mainland properties of Georgian Bay. Jim shared this value not only because of the ecological and geological importance of Georgian Bay, but because this protection would help to ensure that the Bay would be available for enjoyment by all. Others could experience the wild, the openness, the rare beauty, the picnics with family and friends that Jim and his family enjoy. Jim believes the Georgian Bay Land Trust is singularly focused on protecting property and in a very tangible, measurable way making a tremendous difference. The result, in his opinion, is that future generations will be afforded the same luxury of being able to explore the bay as we do today.

The GBLT now has more than 50 stewards helping to monitor our properties – you'll be able to recognize them from their "steward" hats!

Rick Hayward, Boater

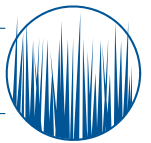


Rick says that he has had a romance with Georgian Bay his whole life, remembering fond memories of childhood summers at the family cottage, extensive boating trips with his father and grandfather and now on his own boat "Fynder" which he shares with his partner John O'Connor, son Joshua and two Irish Water Spaniels.

Rick, who was formerly a vice president with Nestle Canada, now runs a consultancy practice specializing in accessing government grants. Rick elected to spend a portion of his professional time in the area of social responsibility. He chose the Georgian Bay Land Trust because of its strategic endeavour to protect the landscape and integrity of the Bay while providing access and education for those that use it, seeing the latter as a significant challenge. Rick was also impressed with the organization of the GBLT and the commitment by both staff and volunteers.

You can find Rick at Bayport in Midland.

Upcoming Events!!



- July 11th** Paddle around Sandy Island at 1:30 p.m. Sign up by emailing info@gblt.org or calling 416-440-1519 ext 3
- July 18th** Patrick Stark speaking about his trip around Georgian Bay by Kayak at 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. in Sans Souci (location to be determined)

August 9th Picnic at Pointe au Baril (location to be determined)

We will be present:

- July 6th** Parry Sound Sailing Event
- July 18th** Cognashene Environment Day
SSCA Activity Day
- July 25th** Pointe au Baril Junior Regatta
- August 1st** Bayfield Nares Regatta
Cognashene Regatta
Go Home Bay Regatta
Pointe au Baril Senior Regatta



The GBLT is participating in more than 10 community events this summer – keep an eye out for us! (see page 5 for details)



Bayscapes Photography Auction

Friday, November 6th, 2009
Faculty Club, University of Toronto

Featuring the work of:
Leading Canadian photographers plus
our 25 "Rocks of Georgian Bay" photo contest winners
and a selection of Georgian Bay photographs.

For more information on the event and the photo contest
see www.gbtl.org/rocks.html

Sponsored by: Payne Marine



Tributes

Tributes are financial gifts that can be given to the GBLT for several different reasons. One is in **memory** of a loved one or a respected friend, who has recently passed away. Another reason is to **honour** a family member, a local cottager, boater or resident, who has made a difference in the donor's life or in their community. A third area of donations is for family and friends to **honour** an occasion in someone's life, such as a birthday, anniversary or significant milestone.

Keep the GBLT in mind when you want to make a donation in tribute of someone special.

Thanks to our generous sponsors



Tribute Gifts

Received from February 1 to May 31, 2009

In Memory

Josette Neely
Harry Marwood
Eric Ford
K.D.C. Turnbull
Warner Bacon
Dodie Cox
Mary Gifford Ryrie & Jack Ryrie
Fred Laing
Flora Catherine Strickland
Dr. James Simpson Tait
Phyllis Porter

In Honour

David & Susan Herbold
Phillip & Geoffrey Spiess
Sandy Boyd

Of special note, a donation
has been received recognizing
the loss of the Simpson's houseboat,
the Vancrofter (Cognashene).



By including Georgian Bay Land Trust in your will
you are helping to create a legacy of nature conservation
for future generations.



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