

Upcoming Events in 2011

The GBLT is sponsoring or will be present at the following events. More information will be available on our website: www.gbtl.org.

Saturday, July 16th, 4:00 p.m., The School House, Sans Souci
History of Georgian Bay Talk with Jamie Hunter, curator of the Huronia Museum

Saturday, July 16th, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Minnicog Island, Cognashene Cognashene Environment Day

Sunday, July 24th, 10:00 a.m., Ojibway Club, Pointe au Baril
History of Georgian Bay Talk with Jamie Hunter, curator of the Huronia Museum

Date TBA, Cognashene (specific location TBA)
History of Georgian Bay Talk with Jamie Hunter, curator of the Huronia Museum

Thursday, August 18th, 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Lizard Island
Cognashene Cocktails, picnic and walk with the GBLT Summer Students

Friday, November 4th, Capitol Event Theatre, Toronto
Bayscapes 3rd Biennial Photography Art Auction
Silent Auction begins at 6:00 p.m.

Thanks to our generous sponsors



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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Tribute Gifts

Received from December 10th, 2010 until May 20th, 2011

In Memory

Major General Gordon Austin
Stewart Bell
Eve Bongard
Bernice Cooper
H.M. Cooper
John Duras
Will Gordon
Albert Jefferey
Gordon Kelly
Trisha Langley
Kenneth Malcolm
Jock Maynard
Dr. Phillip McFarlane
Ian and Pat Outerbridge
Balwaty Persaud
Carolyn Starr Rea
Dr. Douglas Robertson
Nick J. Scale
Alfred Reed Schroeder
Janet Smith
Janet and Ralph Smith
J.T. "Jay" Stoner

In Honour

Anonymous
John, Jenn, Caitlin and Eric Bate
Jamie and Gillian Coyles
Polly Culp
Louisa Dalglish
The Hon. William G. Davis
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Bob and Heather Jarvis
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Mike and Evie Ogden
Peter and Sue Russell
Mary Sarjeant
Bill Schreiber
John and Chris Stark
John Stark



LANDSCRIPT

*preserving
our unique
archipelago*

SUMMER 2011

www.gbtl.org

Announcing GBLT's Newest Reserve— Kenerick Island Reserve in Norgate Inlet

By John Hartman, Kenerick Reserve Steward

The Kenerick Island Reserve sits alone in the middle of Kenerick Bay, in the species rich estuary of the Giroux River, with a clear northwest view to the open water.

My first extended visit to this sparsely settled corner of the Bay was in 1985 when I paddled into the inlet with my father and son, Joseph. We were hoping to buy an island from George de Savigny, whose father had purchased it from the Kenerick family. Professor Kenerick built the cottage in the early 1900's and each summer hired an Ojibway family to help run the cottage. These families camped on nearby Kenerick Island Reserve.

The de Savigny's did not have staff, and by the 1950's the Kenerick Island Reserve stopped being used as a summer camp and has remained undeveloped since. Sometimes fishermen or

duck hunters stop for a shore lunch but mostly this charming island is the home to species that populate the larger inlet such as sandhill cranes, blue tailed skinks and mud puppies.

Norgate Inlet is also full of artists. I have painted there each summer for 23 years. Tim Zuck lives in Norgate Inlet in the summer months and has made paintings of Norgate subjects for the past 15 years. The filmmaker Christopher Chapman cottaged for ten years in Norgate and documented the area in a series of photographs, shown at the Royal Canadian Academy.

This generous gift from the Estate of Susan S. Wilson and Patricia Davidson is a wonderful way to ensure that this island, full of rich ecology and history and an inspiration to local artists, will be protected in perpetuity.



Kenerick Island Reserve in Norgate Inlet

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Celebrating an Exceptional Volunteer— Dr. Karl Schiefer

By Chris Baines (with a little help from sources), Cognashene



Dr. Karl Schiefer

Karl has a Masters and PhD in Aquatic Ecology from the University of Waterloo. He taught graduate courses at the U. of W. and then became president of Beak Consultants, a position he held for 10 years. Beak was the largest biological based group in Canada with 350 scientists and 8 offices. While Karl was president, Beak was recognized as one of the 50 best-managed private companies in Canada.

Karl has a compelling interest in the pristine ecosystems on Georgian Bay that are rare and unique for the Great Lakes coastline that are under development pressure. He sees the Georgian Bay Land Trust as the vehicle to protect this landscape. Karl’s involvement with our Land Trust commenced in 1994 and he has stayed closely involved since—on the Land Protection Committee, Cognashene Neighbourhood Committee and most importantly as our “big thinker”. He is not only competent but combines that asset with a disarming charm and convincing manner that has won over audiences along the Bay coast and in the ministries of provincial and federal governments.

Dr. Karl Schiefer has had a long and storied relationship with Georgian Bay and its organizations. He grew up going on picnics and hikes where he developed his love of nature and the environment. Karl and his siblings each own a cottage on Georgian Bay and his passion for the Bay has been tied to his life’s work. He has spent 35 years performing research and environmental assessments in the Great Lakes.

When Karl was approached by the GBLT in the early 1990’s, he was a Cognashene seasonal cottager and Caledon resident. We asked him to act as a resource for us on our increasing number of Georgian Bay/Great Lakes environmental files. He was clear with his conditions:

1. He would volunteer—so he could step back at anytime.
2. He wanted to avoid presentations to governments—in order to remain a resource for them elsewhere
3. He wanted to bring his golden retriever to meetings—but might agree to leave her in his truck, if he could have breaks to water her.

Karl hopes the GBLT will continue to focus on applying science to the preservation and protection of lands with delicate ecosystems that need to be safeguarded for future generations. He realizes that governments have a keen interest in the environment, but unfortunately have made substantial cuts to the funding of their programs. This does not bode well for the careers of young people wanting to be involved in this vocation.

Like many others, Karl is first a resident, volunteering his time for his community; then a scientist intrigued by the unique Georgian Bay ecosystem; and finally a teacher, appearing at seminars and workshops to help educate the public on environmental matters. He feels the GBLT offers a unique opportunity to acquire property for the sake of its protection. “Governments acquire land for tourism and to increase public profile. The GBLT is free of those constraints and can focus on preservation for its own sake, preserving property with intrinsic value and no economic benefit for the GBLT.”

The GBLT owes Karl a tremendous debt of gratitude and we hope he will continue his work for many years for the benefit of us all.

Introducing New Staff

Laura Gibson, Communications-Development Administrator



Laura comes to the GBLT from four experiential years at the Bata Shoe Museum where she held the position of Visitor Services Manager and Membership coordinator. Prior to her time at the Bata Museum, Laura was living in the United Kingdom completing her MA

in Museum studies at the University of Leicester. This program nurtured her passion for cultural resource management and an interest in non-traditional, museum based education. She has a great love for the Bay having spent time visiting friends in Cognashene and camping and kayaking in the Killarney and Massassauga areas. Laura is grateful to be working for an organization that celebrates these unique places and is thrilled for the opportunity to join such a passionate and exceptional group of supporters.



The 20th Anniversary of the Georgian Bay Land Trust

By Brenda Spiering, GBLT Volunteer

This year marks a special anniversary for the Georgian Bay Land Trust (GBLT) and it has much to celebrate! It has been 20 years since the Land Trust was established as a not-for-profit charity. Its mandate was to preserve the unique archipelago and adjacent water bodies that lie along the eastern shore and North Channel of Georgian Bay.

Over the years, the GBLT has grown to become steward to over 2,000 acres of land. This includes islands, wetlands and general mainland properties, many of which harbour vegetation and species that have regional, provincial and global significance. All are protected for the purpose of conserving the natural and cultural character of the properties and where appropriate, provide the public with the opportunity to appreciate Georgian Bay’s rugged beauty.

Many of us who have grown up picnicking on such vast expanses of unspoiled rocks such as Friend Island, donated to the GBLT in 1992, can sometimes forget how lucky we are. With so many of today’s shorelines impacted by fragmentation, it’s truly an amazing privilege to be able to visit a quiet natural area such as a GBLT property for an afternoon of peace and relaxation.



American Camp. Photo by Ralph Grose.

The community of Pointe au Baril is contributing to the celebrations with the Payne 50th Anniversary Challenge. Payne Marine has generously offered to match all gifts to the GBLT Land Acquisition Fund up to \$25,000. Its goal is to partner with its customers and the local community to raise \$50,000 to celebrate Payne’s 50 years in business and 20 years of success at the GBLT.

There are a variety of ways to donate land to the GBLT to help preserve our unique wilderness. These include transferring land, retaining ownership and other flexible options. The GBLT is also always looking for volunteer stewards to help make sure protected properties are only used in ways that will not have a negative impact on their environment. Both Canadian and U.S. donors who contribute funds to the GBLT are also eligible to receive a tax receipt. Visit www.gblt.org for information on how you can make a donation and help us protect the beauty of our rugged shores for generations to come.



Mike and Mark Payne



Friend Island

Beware the Tax Traps When Passing Assets to Family

By Tim Cestnick, President and CEO of WaterStreet Family Wealth Counsel

This article has been reprinted from The Globe and Mail, dated February 24, 2011.

There are a lot of things I want to pass along to my kids. My love for hockey is one of those things. I'll admit it: I'm a fanatical hockey dad. How fanatical you ask? Well, consider that each of my kids learned to shoot with a hockey stick before they could eat with a fork.

Next to a passion for hockey, there are other things I'd like to pass on to my children. The cottage, for example. Shares of my holding company, for another. The trick is to avoid tax traps while making these transfers. Today, let me share one of those common traps, and how to avoid it.

The story

Consider Mary. Mary owns a cottage with a value of \$700,000, and for which she paid \$200,000 many years before. While she still uses the cottage in the summers, her son Mitch uses it much more. She has felt for some time now that she'd like to transfer ownership of the cottage to Mitch. Last year, she did just that.

Specifically, Mary sold the cottage to Mitch at a very favourable price—just \$100,000. It was an amount Mitch could afford. The problem is that Section 69 of our tax law deems Mary to have sold the cottage to Mitch for the true fair market value of \$700,000. The result? Mary paid tax as though she had sold the property for \$700,000, which triggered a tax liability of \$116,025 (at the highest marginal tax rate on capital gains in Ontario in 2010; Mary is preserving her principal residence exemption for her city home).

What about Mitch? His adjusted cost base for tax purposes remains at \$100,000—the amount he paid. So, if he were to sell the property for its fair market value of \$700,000, he'd pay tax on a \$600,000 capital gain. This is a double tax problem, because Mary has already paid tax on the \$500,000 gain in value from \$200,000 to \$700,000. Yikes. This is not good planning.

The solution

What could Mary have done differently? Mary could have instead gifted the cottage to Mitch. This would have still triggered a capital gain for her, but Mitch's adjusted cost base would be the current fair market value of \$700,000. Alternatively, Mary could have sold the cottage to Mitch for the full fair market value of

\$700,000, and taken cash for \$100,000 (which is all he could afford) and taken back a promissory note, or a mortgage, from Mitch for the balance. She could then forgive the promissory note or mortgage at the time of her death with no negative tax consequences. I like this latter alternative because Mary could also have deferred tax on much of the capital gain by taking advantage of the "capital gains reserve" provision in our tax law. This provision allows a taxpayer to pay tax on a capital gain over a period as long as five years when the sale proceeds are not fully collected in the first year.

Other stories

There are other examples where this tax trap can catch you. Suppose, for example, you own shares in an operating company with a value of \$1-million, and your adjusted cost base is nominal—assume zero. Suppose you want to transfer ownership to a child and do this by selling your shares to your child's holding company for, say, \$750,000. Perhaps your plan is to claim the capital gains exemption to shelter the \$750,000 capital gain from tax.

Your problem? You guessed it. Section 69 deems your selling price to be \$1-million, but your child has an adjusted cost base in the shares of just \$750,000, which creates a double tax problem if your child ever sells the shares for more than \$750,000. In this case, there's a second problem: The transfer to your child will not be taxed as a capital gain (and therefore can't be sheltered using the capital gains exemption) but rather will be deemed to be a dividend because of Section 84.1 of the Income Tax Act.

In this case, an estate freeze could have worked to transfer ownership to your child (I've talked about estate freezes before—see my article July 3, 2008, at www.waterstreet.ca).

The moral of the story? Any time you want to transfer assets to others—particularly those related to you—get professional tax help.

Tim Cestnick, FCA, CPA, CFP, TEP is President and CEO of WaterStreet Family Wealth Counsel, and author of the The Tax Freedom Zone and 101 Tax Secrets for Canadians 2010, among other titles. You can reach him via e-mail at tccestnick@waterstreet.ca



Follow us on Twitter!
[@gblt_tweets](https://twitter.com/gblt_tweets)

This summer, follow our summer students who will be tweeting about their day to day experiences out on the bay including encounters with visitors, weather notes and interesting and rare species sightings.

Piping Plover on Ontario Great Lakes Beaches



By Suzanne Robinson, Ministry of Natural Resources

You may see a new face at the beach this summer. The Piping Plover, an endangered shorebird, is making a comeback after an absence of over 25 years.

Piping Plovers nested along many Great Lakes beaches, but the population plummeted to 17 pairs in 1986, none of which were in Ontario. Conservation efforts have helped increase the population size, and in 2007 a pair successfully nested at Sauble Beach and each year since then this species has nested there and at Wasaga Beach. Pairs choose a nest site on the open beach. Their eggs are camouflaged, and so are the birds. Piping Plovers are often confused with Killdeer, and Semi-palmated Sandpiper; however, Piping Plovers only have a single black mark on the forehead (headband) and chest (necklace).

To support Piping Plovers on Ontario beaches, nests are protected at known breeding sites, and observations are recorded in provincial and federal databases. If you think you have seen a Piping Plover on a beach, contact your local MNR office or Canadian Wildlife Service. If possible, take a photo for verification, but avoid approaching the birds (especially if they appear to be injured; this display could mean you are near an almost invisible nest—observe from 50m back if possible).

Sighting information, along with the dedication of community volunteers, has greatly assisted the recovery of Piping Plovers in Ontario.



Piping Plover runs along the shore. Photo from Google Images.

"GBLT is for the Birds" Photo Contest



Do you ever find yourself gazing at the birds when you're on the Bay, marveling at their beauty? Ever taken out your camera and snapped a photo of those avian visitors? If you answer yes to both of those questions, we want YOU to send us your photographs because it's time for the 2011 GBLT Photo Contest!

This year's contest theme is BIRDS. Terns, wrens, warblers, herons, loons—all of the varied species that make Georgian Bay their (permanent or temporary summer) home. Everyone is welcome to enter, both professionals and amateurs. There is no entry fee, however, a gift of \$25.00 to support this project would be greatly appreciated. Please see our website donation page for ways to give.

Photo requirements:

- Please send a picture of one or more birds
- Photos can be black and white, colour or duo tone
- Photos must be at least 3 Mb in size
- Only 2 photo submissions per person
- All photos must come from the Eastern shoreline and North Channel of Georgian Bay
- Photos may be from any decade
- No people or buildings can be submitted in the photo

Send your digital photos with your name, address, telephone number and email address to info@gblt.org or mail prints to:

GBLT Photo Contest
1179 King St. W. Suite 213
Toronto, ON M6K 3C5

To view submitted bird pictures and to find the form to submit with your photo, please go to www.gblt.org.

Agreement

All photographs chosen for this contest become the property of the Georgian Bay Land Trust and may be reproduced and used in GBLT activities. The Land Trust retains the right to crop or colour alter such photos.

Judging

Judging will be based on photographs of birds that best represent and reside in our unique archipelago. All judges decisions are final.



The Role of GBLT Advisors

By Donna Douglas, Go Home Bay cottager and writer

“We won’t let you go!” says the board to advisors

What do you do with board members who retire? In the case of the Georgian Bay Land Trust, they’re certainly not put out to pasture! In fact, the 27 advisors now serving the GBLT in various capacities are absolutely critical to the future of this organization. Now that the Land Trust is 20 years old, their function is taking another turn.

Continuity. Context. Vision. History. Background. Challenge. Stewardship. Linkages. Connectedness. Identity. Visibility. Advice.

This is why advisors are as important to this organization as staff and board members.

The Georgian Bay Land Trust had its birth two decades ago during an afternoon meeting in Toronto. Cheque books came out and people with a commitment to preserving the wild, unoccupied, significant lands of the Bay put their pens to paper and raised enough money to get started.

It’s been like that ever since. Generous, committed people care enough to make a five- year funding commitment so the Land Trust can seek out and acquire land holdings that should be stewarded and protected in perpetuity.

The trust operates with five committees: Land Protection, Stewardship, Communications, Fundraising, Finance. Ad hoc groups handle specific issues.

Current president Richard Stark gets his impetus from cottage life at Carling where his family has been for 48 years. He knows when his presidency ends, his advisor term begins. Here’s how Richard sees advisors... “an enormous wealth of experience. Past board members, presidents, very active people with Bay connections for fundraising and property opportunities, a sounding board. A lot are high achievers with much to offer. They’re invaluable. “While advisors have more ‘dock time’, what they give is continuity. They stay engaged in the mission: close, accessible, and committed.

As an advisor, Jon Grant is like gold to an organization such as the GBLT. In addition to being one of the founders, he’s also past chair of the Nature Conservancy, past president of Quaker Oats, and an enthusiastic Pointe au Baril cottager for many years. He also heads up the Leaders of the Bay program for the GBLT. Jon says this program really makes a difference. “You can give a lot of money to large institutions and you’re thanked and it’s over. When you contribute to the GBLT, two things happen: it’s a small organization and they appreciate the money, and the impact lasts forever. You’re giving a legacy! The Land Trust is forever.”

Jon also pays homage to anyone who gives, regardless of the size of the donation. “When you list your donors, list them not by the amount of money. People contribute what they can and that’s how they should be recognized.” As Jon looks at his 20 year commitment to the Land Trust, he sees his value mostly in the Leaders campaign, annual giving in five year commitments.



Jon Grant

“One of the things we’ve learned is that people who give a modest donation every year to an organization have a commitment. Often something happens in their lives that enable them to send in a big cheque. These consistent donors are so important to the Land Trust.”

What is the challenge for decade three? “Up to 40% of properties up and down the Bay are owned by people in the U.S. It’s been very difficult for them to donate properties in the past but now we’ve got a way to do that and give tax deductions. We must continue to raise money to acquire significant pieces of property on Georgian Bay, property that should be maintained and protected. Funds and memberships, that’s my commitment,” says Jon.

For advisor Stephen Griggs, this 20-year landmark is just that. As the lawyer who volunteered his talent to draw up charitable incorporation papers, Stephen stayed on for 12 years to serve on the board and now is an enthused advisor. The Griggs’ island



Stephen and Cathy Griggs



at Pointe au Baril has a nest of three cottages, and has been enjoyed by many generations of extended family. Stephen lives and breathes the importance of retaining wild, open, significant spaces on Georgian Bay.

“The advisors are the GBLT’s institutional memory,” he says. “We give background and history and consultation when needed. We give perspective.” He makes the point that advisors by nature are well connected in the Bay and are useful for various projects and land acquisitions. He says advisors tend to meet once a year with monthly connections for specific purposes.

Stephen talked particularly about acquisitions and processes in the early years and the importance of the early connection with the Nature Conservancy of Canada. As he looks at his own two decades of commitment, he says it’s paid off for his family. “My kids ended up wandering around Georgian Bay and seeing other properties. They have a sense of its importance.”

John Stark spent his early years at Go Home Bay and Cognashene and now calls Snug Harbour his cottage home. He’s the Land Trust’s most recent past president and now serves gladly as an advisor. “As an advisor I’ve had a couple of key issues that relate to what I did as president,” says John. “The first is confidential policy and personnel and the second is fundraising.”

John has seen the Land Trust shift its financial issues from the board directly raising money through events, to developing policy and programs that reach out to the greater community to raise funds. The work is now spread out over a committee structure. “We don’t interfere but we’re available. We don’t attend meetings or deal with minutes. We don’t have to organize what’s next.

We don’t have to go to board meetings. We’re available when called upon.”

John’s very involved in the Leaders of the Bay program. He’s escorting a cruise to an outer island for a picnic and geological discussion... a meaningful thank you for leaders.

He sees the GBLT much like the National Trust in England. People belong. People are engaged in their holdings. It’s the Georgian Bay connection. There’s a different attitude and it makes for spectacular relationships... no politics, no infighting, and no competitiveness. It’s unique.

“And when you support this, it’s forever.”



Richard Stark, John Agnew and John Stark

One of My Favourite Things About Georgian Bay

By Peter Koetsier, Honey Harbour

I am a seasonal cottager, so each spring means opening up. As I write this, that job is about half done. It is early May, and so it is still mostly quiet, allowing peaceful enjoyment of the great natural beauty that surrounds me. I work hard at the chores that must be done, but I also take a break by the lake’s edge, in the warmth of the sun and the coolness of my beer. I feel so fortunate and somehow at peace with the world and myself. There is a definite restorative power in shoulder season work weekends.

Then, in the evening, I get to sit in an old chair, enjoying the warmth from the fire, a good book in my hand, a glass of perhaps port at my side, some favourite music playing, and my tired body telling me that I have earned this time before going to bed.

My favourite music is from a European jazz and classical label, ECM. Not well known, but absolutely wonderful. Many ECM recordings seem to sound better at the cottage. Their byline used to be “The Next Best Sound to Silence”. I would normally agree. Except, because of my time on Georgian Bay, I would add there is actually one sound even better than ECM music.

I love the peace and quiet that is possible at the cottage and the chance to get back in touch with myself. However, there is one

sound that I will always allow—no—desire, to break that silence—a loon’s call. Magical! Timeless. Mysterious. Wonderous.

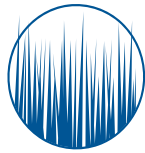
That must be one of my favourite things about Georgian Bay—the call of the loon. Last night was my first night at the cottage this year, and, yes, I did hear the loon call. I then knew I was where I should be—my spiritual home. For me, Georgian Bay is the home of the loon and my soul.



Photo of loons by Doug Grundy.

Invasive Phragmites in Southern Georgian Bay

By Andrew Promaine, Manager, Resource Conservation, Georgian Bay Islands National Park



Invasive Phragmites on Georgian Bay

Phragmites, also known as common reed, is a perennial grass that has both a native and non-native strain. The native strain of phragmites is a natural component of some wetland communities. The non-native strain that originated in Europe is invasive to North America.

Over the past 10 years, the rapid spread of invasive phragmites has become an ecological threat in the shorelines and coastal wetlands of southern Georgian Bay. It grows so aggressively that it leads to decreased native plant diversity by creating dense

monoculture stands. The invasive phragmites can grow as high as 3 meters or four to five times taller than the native strain. As it spreads across the shoreline it can act as a barrier for viewing and even accessing the natural waterfront. A decline in lake levels combined with the species ability to rapidly colonize recently exposed areas, have aided in its spread. In 2007, staff at Georgian Bay Islands National Park began to notice pockets of phragmites establishing itself in the shallow exposed areas on the southern half of Beausoleil Island. It appears that Southern Georgian Bay contains both the native and non-native species plus the potential of cross-fertilization between the two strains. Apparently, invasive phragmites is affecting our native biodiversity by displacing sedges and bull rushes along the shoreline. As part of a control measure, between 2008 and 2010, park staff experimented with the efficacy of stem cutting during late summer when they had almost completed their primary vegetative growth but before they produced flowers or seeds (late July). Results show that stem cutting significantly reduces the growth and density of phragmites. Although new stems were regenerated, no flowering occurred during the rest of the production cycle. However, this does not appear to be a long-term solution. Although the plant is reduced in growth, the disturbance of cutting may, in fact, encourage more optimal conditions for its survivorship. Other options being tested elsewhere may have to be considered.

In the end, like many invasive species, managing phragmites is increasingly complex in a National Park setting. The reality is that once the plant becomes established, it becomes nearly impossible to eradicate it completely.

Invasive phragmites is also found on the adjacent provincial parkland to the GBLT's property on Giant's Tomb Island. Our stewards will be monitoring the population so that it doesn't spread further.

Jamie Hunter, Curator of Huronia Museum

By Laura Gibson, Communication-Development Administrator



Jamie Hunter

Jamie Hunter is curator and director of Huronia Museum and Huron-Wendat village and has held these positions for 26 years. He is happily married to Rosemary Vyvyan and they currently live in a home in rural Tay Township overlooking Georgian Bay. They also have a cottage in the greater Sans Souci area and are members of the Sans Souci Copperhead Association.

Jamie has a BSc and a MA in Museum Studies and his interest is in the archaeology, history and culture of Georgian Bay.

Jamie Hunter will be giving three talks this summer in the Sans Souci, Cognashene and Pointe Au Baril areas about the activities of Camp Franklin and Camp Wakunda, two thriving and accommodating adult camps established in the 1920's in the mid and southern part of Georgian Bay. He will discuss the diverse programs and activities that these adult camps offered to adults in the mid 20th century and will bring a selection of artefacts to accompany his lecture.

Georgian Bay Query



How does one garden in Georgian Bay without introducing invasive species?

Answer By Wendy Cooper, Executive Director of GBLT

It's always great for gardeners to be mindful of their surroundings when embarking on gardening efforts, particularly in a natural setting like eastern Georgian Bay. Many invasive plants are introduced to natural areas due to well meaning gardeners who are unaware that the beautiful flower they planted has the tendency to wander and outcompete native plants in natural wetlands and meadows. Good examples of those include purple loosestrife and chives (yes chives!).

The best solution is to consider native plants when you are planning your garden. Not only do they have a better chance of surviving but they also tend to be lower maintenance, given their familiarity with the area, and don't require the same amount of watering and care. If you are interested in learning about native plants in your area, you can contact the GBLT office at 416-440-1519 or info@gblt.org to get a list of plants that are native to the eastern coast of Georgian Bay.

If you can't resist a garden with plants that aren't native to Georgian Bay, the key is to do your research so you know that the plants you

are choosing aren't likely to wander beyond the boundaries of your garden and compete with the native plants found on the natural portions of your property and adjacent properties.

Here are a few tips to keep in mind when planning your garden:

- Avoid bringing in fill or soil from other places; although you can't see them, seeds are hiding in that soil and are likely to germinate and grow; although not all the plants found in the fill or soil will be invasive, it's better to be safe than sorry.
- Avoid well known invasive plants like purple loosestrife, common reed (*Phragmites australis*), stonecrop (*Sedum acre*), chives (*Allium schoenoprasum*), and field bindweed (*Covolvulus arvensis*)—all of these plants are well known invaders who do well outcompeting native plants on Georgian Bay.
- Don't be shy to ask questions—ask your local garden store or wherever you are sourcing the plants the likelihood that a plant you are choosing will spread and err on the side of caution and don't plant it if you're not sure.



Non-invasive Cardinal Flower, native to the Georgian Bay. Photo from Google Images.



Invasive Chives Plant. Photo from Google Images.

20-20 Vision Thank You

Thank you to all of those that participated in our 20 year vision survey. We had 115 responses and 28 of those from the 30 under age group. There were many great ideas and valuable insights that the board will benefit from as it develops the vision.

While We Were Away...

By Derek Bowen. Sans Souci

As most of us have water access only cottages, I think that we would agree that the winters can seem a bit longer than to those people who have the luxury of drive-to. Growing up on a part of the Bay with road access, I always knew that the cottage was only a short drive away even in the dead of winter. I never had to say to myself “I wonder what it’s like at the cottage today”. It was always possible to go and see for myself, even if I never chose to.

For those of us with water access cottages the winter can be a very long, drawn-out affair as we sit and ponder the goings-on at our summer paradise. However, with today’s technology and cottage country internet connectivity, we no longer have to simply sit and wonder. With the telcos finally installing relatively inexpensive 3G service in the area it is now possible to leave an internet connection on year-round. And with that comes options. Last summer I installed a closed circuit CCD camera at my cottage, aimed to the south and out over some islands and the open water. And what a great winter this has been. My camera takes pictures every hour on the hour, seven days a week and e-mails them to me, and has been doing so fairly reliably since last October. Imagine my excitement as I sat in my office over the



Spring Thaw. Photo by webcam.



Winter. Photo by webcam.

winter, looking out the window at the bleak weather conditions in mid-January, receiving e-mails from the cottage showing me the weather up there. And as we all know, even bad weather at the cottage is still, somehow, pretty good weather.

I saw the first ice. I saw the first snowmobile tracks. I saw the blizzards. I saw some beautiful evening skies. And I saw the ice finally clear. Most of all, I rarely wondered how things were at the cottage and that made the winter pass much more quickly.

While there are commercial cameras available, they are quite pricey and do not necessarily have the flexibility of the system which I built. For example, I can send an e-mail to my camera and ask it to take a picture and send it to me at any time. There have been a few technical issues, however: some relating to power, some relating to internet reliability, and others related to software. Of course, there is always next winter to sort out some of these issues. I am hoping by then to have more extensive telemetry, such as air and water temperature, and various weather conditions. Ironically, yes, I am looking forward to next winter.



In Memory of Doris McCarthy, 1910 –2010 Georgian Bay Artist Extraordinaire

By Wendy Wacko, Jasper, Alberta



Artist Doris McCarthy with her niece, Beth McCarthy

Doris passed away early in the morning on November 25th, 2010. The news spread quickly. CBC radio from Calgary called before noon but it was too difficult to speak. I took a drive to Jasper Lake and walked among the sand dunes where we had often sat and painted so many years ago. I was able to speak later that day and did my very best to explain how she had touched so many people in such a very positive way.

A very powerful service took place on December 5th at St. Aidan Anglican Church in Toronto. A very large choir was behind the sanctuary and faced the congregation. The Church was adorned with original McCarthy liturgical art. The carving on the cross that was carried in the processional, the Christmas crèche, woodcarvings, a large wall hanging at the back of the church, and the Pall draped on the coffin with red and gold leaves, were all great works designed and crafted by Doris. It was a great honour to be asked to do one of the readings. I practiced the piece 20 times and it was read with affection. I felt it was the last gift I could give her.

Doris believed that God is Love, and that love exists deep in the heart of every man, and needs to be nurtured. “I see God in nature, and that God is real to me.” Inspired by some of the intellectual controversial views expressed in “Conversations with God”, Doris believed that infinity reaches as far in as it does out, and that the past, present and future can become one.

Doris McCarthy received The Order of Canada, The Order of Ontario, five honorary Doctorates and an honorary Fellowship to the Ontario College of Art and Design. In November 1999, McCarthy was named the first “Artist of Honour” at the McMichael Canadian Art Collection. On March 11, 2004, the University of Toronto, Scarborough Campus, opened the

“Doris McCarthy Gallery”, in her honor. To celebrate her 100th birthday, the gallery hosted a retrospective of her work that spanned eight decades.

My favourite written tribute was by The Honorable John McKay, a Scarborough resident.

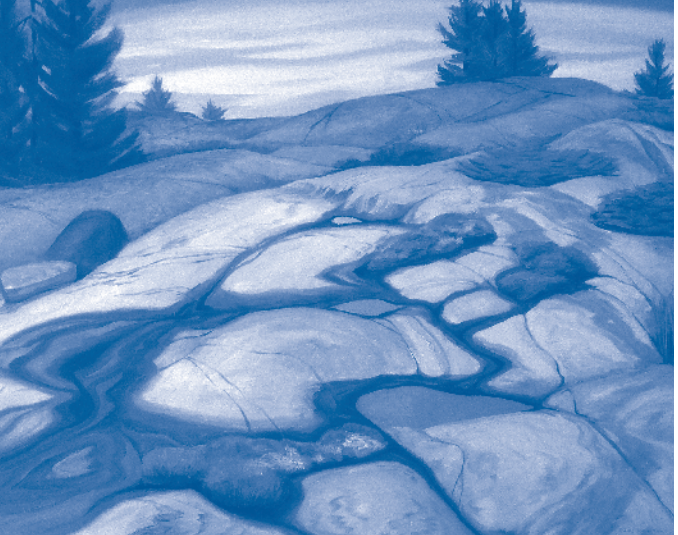
“Great art can define a nation, and define its image of itself. A painter of the Canadian landscape, McCarthy possessed more than mere brilliance at her craft, but also a deep insight into the profound connection that attaches Canadians to our solemn land.”

Georgian Bay provided Doris with the solitude she needed to create some of her most powerful work. The gentle rhythm of the shield rocks is echoed in many of her paintings. Most of her large canvases were produced from her modest screened-in studio near Snug Harbor. This time was sacred, a time to concentrate on the work she had done throughout the year on painting trips that provided endless inspiration.

Politically outspoken and always a great supporter of the NDP party, Doris would have been overjoyed by the election results this spring. She cared deeply about our fragile environment and had no patience for anyone who abused the land in anyway.

Doris slipped gently away. She spent the last two years of her life in bed looking out at the clouds above Lake Ontario. Late at night or early morning, she seemed to be alert, wanting and able to talk. It was difficult to hold back the tears on my last visit. “Don’t be sad, dear. I am so lucky to have had this extra time, to lay around and remember all the great adventures, over and over again.”

If you knew her, you loved her. She had a most generous spirit, was compassionate and had an immense passion for “Life Long Learning”.



The High Place by Doris McCarthy. 3’x4’, oil on canvas.



Save your Bay

by becoming a Friend or Pledge for the Bay