



Property Spotlight: GBLT adds Little McCoy Island and St. Davids Island to its Protected Properties

In partnership with the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the GBLT has successfully secured the permanent protection of **Little McCoy Island**, part of the Mink & McCoy group of outer islands spanning over twelve kilometers between the communities of West Carling and Pointe au Baril. The entire group encompasses more than 70 islands, at least 30 of which are part of the McCoy group located at the north end.

Little McCoy is a magnificent 37-acre island that provides an important stopover site for birds migrating along the Georgian Bay coastal flyway, and supports several rare reptile species including three nationally threatened species, the Eastern Massasauga rattlesnake, the Eastern Foxsnake and Blanding's Turtle. This habitat is also ideal for other species at risk, such as the Map Turtle and Spotted Turtle. The combination of coastal wetlands with interior bog, exposed rock barrens and sheltered pockets of shrubs and trees provide an ideal set of habitats for a variety of fauna.

In addition to the environmental significance of the property, the McCoy Islands, and Little McCoy in particular, have long been a destination for people seeking the Georgian Bay experience.

The Little McCoy Island project was completed thanks to



St. Davids Island

generous funding contributions from the Nature Conservancy of Canada through the Government of Canada's Natural Areas Conservation Program, and generous support from the Pointe au Baril community. The project was also made possible by the support of the McCoy family, who have shown a true commitment to preserving this island for future generations.

The GBLT and American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts worked together to facilitate the donation of **St. Davids Island**, a beautiful 13.4-acre island located at the southwest end of the Shawanaga Inlet in Pointe au Baril. Its large size includes both coastal marsh vegetation as well as rock barren.

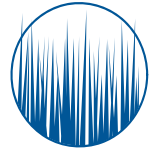
The seven donors are the third generation of an American family with cottages on nearby islands. According to Evelyn Newell, one of the donors, her great-grandfather bought the island from the Crown and gave it to her grandmother in 1909. The property passed to Evelyn's mother and aunt, who in turn deeded it to their children nearly 30 years ago. The donation to American Friends made it possible for the current owners to protect land they genuinely love, in a way that was financially feasible. The GBLT will steward St. Davids Island as part of a network of preserves in Pointe au Baril.



Little McCoy Island

Little McCoy Island: A Family Treasure

by Sandy McCoy, Pointe au Baril



Little McCoy Island, which my family had owned since 1959, is now a GBLT property and protected forever.

I had the pleasure of taking GBLT Executive Director Mark Carabetta to Little McCoy last summer. It was a hazy, windy day, and we bounced over the Bay at one-third speed. As I always do, we walked Little McCoy clockwise, starting with the smooth expanses of flat pink granite on the northeast portion of the island. This area features distinguished and battered white pines that have sent up five or six main trunks over the year - octopus trees. We visited the leatherleaf bog and the small forest. We encountered a young Massasauga rattler. I have toured the island every summer of my life, and I thought that I knew every plant there, yet Mark pointed out a new one to me: a club moss trailing through the grasses.

I introduced Mark to the rocks that dominate my memories of Little McCoy. In some areas the granite has separated into huge plates and blocks. The blueberries and struggling birch and pine

trees are placed just so. There are depressions in the rock that look like an expensive gardener had been brought in to add a water feature, complete with irises and lily pads. Near the water, the granite gently tapers into the lake as if it were a beach. On a sunny day, the rock is pale pink and the water is blue, crystal, and green.

My family had always wondered what would happen to Little McCoy after us. How would the McCoy family ensure that Little McCoy remain as it is? Bequeathing it to a younger generation didn't seem plausible. In guaranteeing its preservation, the GBLT performed a very important service for us, and we thank everyone involved with the GBLT. I would like to extend specific thanks to the donors of the Little McCoy project. These donors performed truly important work from which we will all benefit. The members of the McCoy family are all very grateful.

I am also very grateful to my father who brought Little McCoy and Georgian Bay into my life so many years ago. He is the real hero here.

Winterlude: A Review

by Sonora Carabetta, friend of the GBLT, age 12

This year's Winterlude was a huge success! There was a great turnout and a mind blowing presentation by Jeff MacInnis, the first man to lead a team through the Northwest Passage. The Georgian Bay Land Trust held a wonderful reception in Toronto, at Bishop Strachan School, which provided us with shelter from the snow outside and a cozy place to see Jeff's presentation.

While the snow drifted outside, we had a blast inside. Drinks and food were served, and attendees had a chance to talk to some of the Directors and staff of the Georgian Bay Land Trust to learn more about their latest projects. Then Jeff MacInnis stunned us with tales of his adventures.

The intriguing presentation by Jeff was amazing. He told of his chilly adventures through the Northwest Passage, which he crossed with a partner using only an 18 foot boat named Perception, powered by wind alone! Jeff's training for this journey took place on ice-covered Georgian Bay, a place he is passionate about protecting and preserving. His successful passage covered 4,000 kilometres and took over 100 days. He also told about participating in an Eco-Challenge, a skill-testing race through dense tropical rainforest. In addition to fascinating stories, he shared outstanding photographs of wildlife from his journey through the Northwest Passage and footage from his Eco-Challenge.

After his stories the trip home in the snow was a piece of cake.

"As the newly appointed Lead Steward for the American Camp Islands, I'm looking forward to a great summer, working with GLBT'S host of volunteer stewards. One of my pet projects for this summer will be to establish a kayak patrol group. This group of volunteer stewards will patrol the off-bounds land around American Camp. Paddling between the reefs and islands is truly enchanting, so if you can spare an afternoon or two this summer, please contact Barb Hale through the GBLT."

Barb Hale, GBLT Volunteer Steward

New Board Appointments



We are pleased to announce and welcome two new senior leaders who have joined our Board of Directors.



Shannon Beddoe

Shannon is an associate lawyer at Lax O'Sullivan Scott Lisus LLP, a civil litigation law firm in Toronto, Ontario. She holds a J.D. from the University of Toronto Faculty of Law and a B.A. in History and Philosophy (Great Distinction) from McGill University. She is a member of the Ontario Bar (admitted 2011), The

Advocates' Society, the Ontario Bar Association, the Toronto Lawyers' Association, and Young Women in Law.

Shannon has been involved in numerous causes, including Best Buddies Canada, an organization that creates opportunities for friendships for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Shannon also volunteers with the Ontario Prader-Willi Syndrome Association, which supports people, including one of her close family members, born with this rare genetic disorder.

Above all, Shannon is a lifelong lover and devotee of Georgian Bay. Her family has summered in Go Home Bay for five generations. Shannon's maternal grandmother, Joan Redfern (nee Ballantyne), is the granddaughter of the late Adam Walker Ballantyne, original owner of site #137, presently owned by Adam Zimmerman. Shannon and her family now spend their summers on site #141, an island known in Go Home as "The Ferrie's", a reference to its previous owner Ken Ferrie and family. Shannon's maternal grandfather, Donald Redfern, purchased the island in 1983.

Rick Hayward

Rick is the founder and president of Brendain Incorporated, which specializes in interim leadership, business development, and government relations, including the management of proposals and submissions for major funding applications. The practice focuses primarily in the food and agriculture sector and is recognized as a leader in the industry.



Rick has held a number of volunteer board positions in the private sector and is active with the Harvard Business School alumnae through the Harvard Club of Toronto.

"A lifetime romance with Georgian Bay" is how Rick describes his affection for what he considers a gem in Canada. He spent his

childhood summers on Woodland Beach at his family cottage and explored just about every corner of the Bay aboard his father's boat, and now on his own "Fynder" with his partner architect John O'Connor.

Rick has been active with the GBLT through participation on the Long Term Stewardship Committee, has written an article on Blastomycosis for the *LandScript*, and is an avid supporter of the annual auctions.

Farewell to Mark

By Peter Cooper, Chair, GBLT Board of Directors



Many of you will already have heard that our Executive Director, Mark Carabetta, will be leaving us in July. Mark and his family have decided, for career and personal reasons, to return to the United States. Mark joined the GBLT in November of 2011 and under his direction the organization has grown significantly. During his time with us, Mark shepherded a number of important and complex land protection projects. He developed a strong working relationship with American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts, the U.S. charity created to remove tax barriers from land donations made by Americans, and also streamlined the

format for Property Management Plan documentation.

While Mark's departure represents a challenge for the organization, our staff, board, advisors and supporters should know that we have established a capable search committee to help with the job of identifying a new Executive Director to lead the GBLT. In the meantime, Mark and his team are focused on the job at hand and a busy schedule of events for the summer of 2013. I certainly will miss working with Mark. It has been a great experience and I hope that you will join me in extending best wishes to Mark and his family.

Leaving a Legacy: Gifts of Residual Interest



Are you thinking of giving your property to the GBLT?

We have some supporters who have asked about leaving their property, with or without buildings, in their will to the GBLT. Most of them are interested in giving the property now but using it until their death. They then have a life interest in the gift. This is called a gift of residual interest. A gift of residual interest is an arrangement where a donor irrevocably gives real estate or personal property to a charity while retaining the right to use the property for life or for a term of years.

Why would you like to do this?

As a donor you retain the right to use the property with the ability to continue using it as before, with no impact on your lifestyle. If married, you could retain use for your lifetime and also for the lifetime of your surviving spouse. Alternatively, use could be retained for a certain period of time. When the property's title passes to the GBLT (with your life or other interest registered on title), you receive an immediate donation receipt for the present value of the donated residual interest. If the use of the property is retained by you only, or by you and your spouse, you must recognize only the portion of the capital gain allocable to the donated residual interest. There is no taxable capital gain when you give a residual interest in a principal residence. The gift removes the donated property from your estate, resulting in lower probate and other estate-related fees in the future. Also, your wishes are less susceptible to challenge by heirs than if you had made a bequest.

Who can give gifts of residual interest?

This gift appeals primarily to upper-income donors 60 years of age plus; with the optimum being 75 years of age or older.

Usually the donor has extensive holdings and may be planning a bequest to a favourite cause but would like to reduce income tax in the present year without any change in personal living standards. A donor may wish to donate a residual interest in their principal residence, recreational property or other real estate that the donor wants to see preserved.

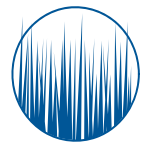
How do I make such a gift?

The property is appraised and the value of the residual interest is determined. Legal documents are signed by the donor and the organization and filed in the Land Title office. The GBLT issues a donation receipt for the present value of the donated residual interest. If appreciated property is donated, the amount of the capital gains must also be calculated. The property vests in the organization, subject to the life interest retained by the donor. Upon death, the donor's right to use the property ceases, only if the donor was given the right to use the property. The GBLT then has complete control of the property.

Important considerations

Residual interest gifts are irrevocable. The donor cannot regain title to the property. The property has been removed from the donor's estate and will not pass to other beneficiaries. Valuations can be a sensitive issue. Use an appraiser to value the property. Use an actuary to calculate the donation receipt. Valuations of the property, life interest and residual interest may be reviewed by Canada Revenue Agency. Check with the GBLT in advance regarding its policies about acceptance of such gifts, including policies regarding who is responsible for upkeep/repairs, insurance, etc. while the life interest is in existence.

Low Water Levels in Georgian Bay



Water levels in Georgian Bay are currently at an extremely low level. This issue is causing great concern in the Georgian Bay community. As landowners and environmental stewards, the GBLT shares the concerns that so many are feeling about water levels.

The GBLT meets regularly with and supports the actions of groups who are seeking solutions to the complex issue of Georgian Bay water levels, and who have the knowledge and expertise to take direct action in this area. The GBLT will remain focused on our mission by working to increase the number of properties under permanent protection, and by building our stewardship team and relying on the best available science to ensure that our growing system of reserves is properly looked after. We will also continue to engage and educate the Georgian Bay community about the ecological importance of this special place. By focusing on our core mission while supporting the capable work of others on the water level issue, the GBLT will continue to preserve the unique and sensitive environment of Georgian Bay for future generations to enjoy.

"Working with the GBLT to help conserve this beautiful land has been an honour and an extraordinary experience. Not only is the Bay one of the most gorgeous places on earth, but it also has some of the most incredible people, who it was our pleasure to meet. Georgian Bay is facing many challenges but with education and everyone's help we are up to the challenge!"

Paige Stewart, GBLT Summer Conservation Intern

The Quest for a Georgian Bay Tartan



by Peter O'Brian and Carolyn Bennett, Thunder Beach

One of the most important bonds Carolyn and I have shared since the day we met on January 1st, 1979, is Georgian Bay. Our year round cottage at Thunder Beach has been our retreat for over 30 years. My grandparents and my late parents had their cottages in Nares Inlet and Carolyn's father's family had a cottage at Sunnyside Beach at Meaford. We are both Georgian Bay campers; I was a counselor at Camp Hurontario at Twelve Mile Bay and Carolyn was a camper and counselor at Camp Shawanaga at Port Severn. In late February, 1979, while visiting the McNamara's at Thunder Beach, we walked out onto the ice on the Bay and decided to get married. We were married that May.

Carolyn is a Member of Parliament and we have attended the Speaker's Robbie Burns Supper on Parliament Hill every year since she was elected in 1997. Having celtic family backgrounds, we wondered what tartans we should sport for the occasion. As proud Canadians we started focusing on Canadian tartans. We wondered where we truly located ourselves and concluded that our hearts were in the Bay. But we didn't have a Georgian Bay tartan. Then we found out that Muskoka had one and we had to do something about that.

Carolyn and I thought that a tartan for the Bay should be classic and simple, more old style. We felt it should primarily be comprised of the blues of the water and the sky, with dark green for the pines, pink for the granite rocks, and white for the clouds and the snow. One evening at the cottage in late 2011 we just started doing some layouts. In early 2012, we took three designs to Margaret Struth-Gaff, the president of Burnetts & Struth Scottish Regalia in Barrie, and, as an accomplished tartan designer herself, she kindly gave us her reaction to each one. We went away and played with it some more. Once we got the blues right (from a print we have of A.Y. Jackson's "Islands, Georgian Bay"), and saw that our granite pink worked best when it ran inside the forest green, we added a second white line, and it seemed to work. We took it back to Margaret and she liked it. Next we had to get it approved by the Scottish Registry of Tartans and have Lochcarron Weavers create a sample. Margaret organized all this for us and by October of 2012 we had scarves and sashes and sufficient material to tailor a kilt.



Carolyn Bennett & Peter O'Brian

The tartan was approved as "Georgian Bay, Waters of" and Carolyn's sash and my kilt were made in time for this year's Robbie Burns Supper on Parliament Hill. We were delighted to get positive reviews from several Scots of Parliament and



*"Freshwater sea of deepest blue,
Great Lakes sky of softer hue,
Pink granite rocks, green white pines,
Snow and cloud in two white lines,
That's Georgian Bay, and its colours true."*

Poem by Peter O'Brian

had a laugh when Maclean's posted a shot of us on their website. Since then we have added Georgian Bay tartan blankets to the inventory, all of which is handled by Burnetts & Struth Scottish Regalia.

Carolyn and I travel around the Bay every summer in "Fair Farren", our 1987 Limestone. We always go to Killarney, usually via Pointe au Baril and Nares Inlet, and often visit a destination in the North Channel beyond Little Current, such as Kagawon, the Benjamin Islands or Gore Bay. Last summer we ventured further, to Meldrum Bay on Manitoulin Island and Drummond Island, Michigan. The families of many residents of Lafontaine, near Thunder Beach, came from Drummond Island in the 1830's, including our boat mates Patrick and Helen McNamara, who came with us on the trip. We have also gone to Owen Sound, Hay Island, and Cape Croker, on the west side. And now when it gets chilly at sunset on the Bay, we reach for our blue tartan blankets.

Keep tuned for how you can be the proud owner of a Georgian Bay tartan tie, blanket, wine bag or ladies bag! Watch for GBLasT announcements over the coming months and see samples while out and about with GBLT staff and volunteers around the Bay this summer.

Blanding's Turtles in the Georgian Bay Archipelago



By Chantel Markle, M.Sc student in Dr. Chow-Fraser's lab, McMaster University



Blanding's turtle (Emydoidea blandingii)

The Blanding's turtle is a shy freshwater turtle, usually recognized by their domed shell and bright yellow throat. In Ontario, they are designated as a threatened species and their populations have been declining because of habitat loss and poor habitat quality. Understanding how the Blanding's turtle uses habitat can help us create strategies to protect their populations from further declines.

Although Blanding's turtles have been seen throughout the Georgian Bay archipelago, there have been no published studies on what habitat they are using in this region or what areas they inhabit. But, with the help of Parks Canada ecologists in Georgian Bay Islands National Park and volunteers from the Georgian Bay Land Trust, the Chow-Fraser lab has set out to identify critical habitats used by these turtles on Beausoleil Island and to develop a model to predict suitable habitats for this species on other islands.

The Chow-Fraser lab radio-tracked Blanding's turtles on Beausoleil Island in 2011 and 2012. To do this, we attach a radio-transmitter on the turtles' shell. Each transmitter has a unique signal which allows us to re-locate individuals throughout the summer. Tracking where the turtles go and what habitats they use has allowed us to identify the nesting, feeding and hibernation sites on the island, as well as corridors that link these critical habitats. Currently, we are using our results from Beausoleil Island to develop a habitat suitability model to produce a map of potential Blanding's turtle habitat within the Georgian Bay archipelago.

We plan to spend this summer surveying some of the islands to validate our predictions. You may see us conducting turtle



Chantel Markle holding a Blanding's turtle that was located during a survey in Georgian Bay.

surveys on islands of the Georgian Bay Islands National Park and on properties owned by the Georgian Bay Land Trust. We hope that Parks Canada, Ontario Parks and other management agencies will be able to use our maps to protect critical habitat and connecting corridors for Blanding's turtles. Our surveys may also reveal unique sites that should be further studied. Ultimately, we aim to provide an estimate of the potential distribution of this threatened species in this beautiful and pristine area of Georgian Bay.

We would like to thank the Georgian Bay Land Trust and Parks Canada for endorsing our project and for providing logistical support for the field work this summer. We would also like to thank the Sierra Club for providing funding for this project. If you would like to help protect the turtles in your area, please report any sightings to Chantel Markle (marklece@mcmaster.ca). It would be most useful if you can provide a photo and associated GPS coordinates.

***Stumbled across (or into)
Georgian Bay's biggest pothole?!?***



Post a picture with the location on our Facebook page and you could win a signed copy of "*Canadian Shield: The Rocks that Made Canada*" by Nick Eyles.

Georgian Bay Query: Why is some lichen on our rocks red (aka Giant's Blood)?



by Dr. Steven Harris, fungal biologist at the University of Nebraska.

One of the defining features of the Georgian Bay shoreline is the ubiquitous rock formations that range from tiny “flat-top” islands to sheer cliffs. Although rocks are generally considered as being rather inhospitable to life, a quick glance at these rocks reveals that their surfaces are covered with a colourful assemblage of lichens. What are lichens? Though often mistaken as plants, they are actually a symbiosis between a fungus and an alga (or in some cases, between a fungus and a bacteria). The visible part of a lichen is primarily composed of the fungus, while the algal partner is inside surrounded by fungal cells. In this symbiosis, the algal partner provides the fungus with food (mostly glucose) generated as the result of photosynthesis. It is not entirely clear what benefit algae derive from the partnership, though shelter and a means for dispersal have been suggested as possibilities. Curiously, most lichenized fungi do not grow very well when separated from their algal partner, whereas the alga grow just fine by themselves. This supports the idea that lichens might be less of a symbiosis than an example of fungi enslaving algae to provide a source of food.

Lichens are cosmopolitan organisms that predominate in harsh environments that typically cannot support animals or plants. For example, they commonly inhabit rock surfaces on rugged seashores, moorland, high mountains, and arctic tundra. They possess several key traits that enable their survival in these environments, including minimal nutritional requirements (i.e., sunlight), slow growth (often ~1 mm/year), and the production of pigments that mitigate the effects of radiation. Furthermore, lichens play a vital role in these ecosystems by contributing to the weathering of rock. Vivid examples of this

can be observed along the Georgian Bay shoreline. Lichens are amongst the first colonizers on the smaller outer islands that are really nothing more than a rock outcrop. On those islands that have been exposed for a longer period of time, the action of lichens and other microbes on rock generates loose soils that can be colonized by mosses and plants.

The “Giant’s Blood” lichen belongs to a cosmopolitan genus known as *Xanthoria*. Well-known species include *X. parietina* and *X. elegans*. The most visible feature of this lichen is its bright orange/red colour, which is due to the accumulation of pigments such as anthraquinones and carotenoids. The synthesis of these pigments is thought to correlate with exposure to sunlight. Because sunlight is essential for photosynthesis, the lichen will typically be found on exposed surfaces, with pigment intensity being greatest in those locations that are more exposed. However, a trip to the Georgian Bay shoreline in mid-winter may provide another clue to the location of the “Giant’s Blood” and other lichens on rock surfaces. In particular, why are they so prevalent on sheer cliffs? The answer may lie in the heavy snowpack that usually lies at the top of these cliffs. The slow melting of this snow provides a persistent source of moisture that drips down the cliff face and supports lichen growth as long as there is some exposure to the sun. During the summer months, these lichens may simply “hunker down” until the next winter. All in all, the “Giant’s Blood” is a representative example of a versatile group of organisms that add considerable colour to the Georgian Bay shoreline.

Dr. Harris hopes to sample Little McCoy and other GBLT out islands this summer for his research.



Pond at Pine Island, by Ralph Grose

The MacCallum/Jackman Cottage Gallery: A Group of Seven Legacy



By Shannon Beddoe, GBLT Director, Go Home Bay

The artwork of the Group of Seven holds a special place in the hearts and minds of Georgian Bay cottagers. We feel deeply connected to the familiar images of windswept pines and wild grey-blue waters, and proud that they were painted in a place we call "home".

As the story goes, it was 1915 when Dr. James MacCallum commissioned J.E.H. MacDonald, Arthur Lismer, and Tom Thomson to do a series of mural paintings to decorate his cottage living-room. It was a friendly, informal project intended to brighten and warm the new cottage. The artists had each been regular guests of MacCallum's and had grown close to the Doctor himself and were fond of painting the grand scenery of the Bay. The painted panels were to be a surprise for the rest of the MacCallum family when they arrived at West Wind Island for their annual vacation in late June.

The mural paintings all depicted some aspect of Go Home Bay: the timeless shape of the rocks, the violent yet stoic waves, the luxurious afternoon skinny-dip, the simple but treasured family picnic. The day Dr. MacCallum revealed them to his wife, she is said to have exclaimed, somewhat indignantly: "...What have you done with my living-room!?" Her supposed indignation must have passed quickly - the paintings remained in the cottage living-room for over fifty years.

Dr. MacCallum died in 1943. During his lifetime, he tried to find a means of turning his cottage over to the federal government to serve as a trust for young artists, but was unsuccessful because

of the difficulties involved in maintaining the island and appointing a permanent caretaker. West Wind Island therefore became part of his estate, and in 1949, was purchased by H.R. and Mary Jackman, mural paintings and all.

In 1967, cognizant of the artistic value of the murals that remained in the living-room and concerned for their preservation, the Jackmans decided to donate them to the National Gallery of Canada, thus completing the work of Dr. MacCallum. The 'MacCallum-Jackman Cottage Gallery', as it is now known, was built as a replica of Dr. MacCallum's original cottage living-room. Each mural painting was hung in its original place.

The story of the murals used to end there. But last summer, Dr. Eric Jackman, the son of H.R. and Mary and the current owner of the storied cottage, added another chapter: "I always thought it would be nice to put the pictures back up - either to have modern artists do new paintings, or do the historically correct thing and commission an artist to recreate the originals." Dr. Jackman settled on the latter. He commissioned the talented Sarah Merry, an OCAD and Slade School trained artist and the daughter of Jackman's old college friend, to reproduce all of the mural paintings in their original size and form.

Merry completed the first reproduction nearly fifteen years ago, and has since worked steadily on the remaining reproductions, which include paintings and photographs of the originals. Last summer, she triumphantly completed the final reproduction.



Work in progress, photo credit: Sarah Merry



The artist, Sarah Merry & US Ambassador,
David Jacobson



photo credit: Sarah Merry

Dr. Jackman hurried to install them before the church service he had agreed to host at West Wind Island in mid-August: "I asked George Rossiter, a good carpenter, to come and help me, and so he came for a couple of weeks. We were taking stuff down, cutting the photographic pictures down to size, put framing around all of the pictures and paintings to hold them in place. It was a lot of work, but we got them done in time for the church service."

The turnout at the church service was more than double the usual number. Over one hundred attendees gathered on West

Wind Island and in the Jackman cottage to admire Merry's work, celebrate the incredible project, and commemorate the legacy of Dr. MacCallum. There was a sense of celebration, a sense of historic significance, and a sense of community that imbued the occasion. For Dr. Jackman, the occasion was also deeply personal. "The cottage is the only permanent home that all my children know," he said. One cannot help but see the parallel with the paintings themselves, which, although replicas, seem to have been returned to their permanent home, too. "To the place we all think of as home, regardless of where we live the rest of the year. The place where our souls are, even if our bodies are not."



photo credit: Sarah Merry

The 2013 Grenville Volunteer Award Recipient: Jon Grant

By David Doritty, GBLT Director, Pointe au Baril



Those of us involved with the GBLT have always believed that we have the best volunteers on Georgian Bay. We usually meet them at events or they become involved through another volunteer. They are always asked if they would like to help.

Jon Grant, the leader that he is, came to us and asked, "Can I help?". We said yes, of course, and help he did.

Jon became Co-Chair with Jennifer Ivey-Bannock of our fundraising initiative, "Leaders of the Bay." Jon of course jumped in and joined first. Then he proceeded to help us acquire more leaders. To quote Janet and John Irving from Pointe au Baril, "Jon was the reason we became involved in the GBLT. His passion for Georgian Bay matched our own love of the place, and his tireless volunteerism for the GBLT won us over. He is a most worthy recipient of this award."

Jon personally was responsible for recruiting the most supporters and the program has raised over \$2 million dollars for the GBLT in the last 5 years. Like the Irvings, our new donors respected Jon's tenacity and commitment to Georgian Bay and they could not help but commit. Many of the people Jon recruited have gone on to support capital gifts, or have become more committed through volunteering, donating land and joining our Board of Directors.

Leadership, hard work and commitment are the skill set Jon brought to the GBLT. Since Jon's involvement, we have acquired an additional 1200 acres of land. This would not have been possible without those pledged gifts that Jon secured for us. We are honoured he chose us as his charity of choice. As a result he has made a visible impact on our ability to preserve land.

We are pleased to honour Jon as the recipient of the 2013 Grenville Volunteer Award for his outstanding commitment to the GBLT and its mission. We can't thank you enough Jon. We could not have done it without you!



A short examination of Archipelago

By GBLT staff

Those of us who love Georgian Bay often talk about “our unique archipelago” and we speak proudly of the fact that eastern Georgian Bay contains the world’s largest freshwater archipelago. On some maps the area is referred to as “the 30,000 Islands”; this name was in fact officially recognized by the Canadian Geographical Names Committee in 1989. We’ve heard widely varying claims about the actual number of islands, so we thought we’d take a closer look. What exactly is an archipelago? How many islands make up the archipelago of eastern Georgian Bay? Is it really the world’s largest freshwater archipelago? And where is the world’s largest saltwater archipelago?

The origin of the word is from the early 16th century: from the Greek *arkhi*, meaning “chief,” and *pelagos*, meaning “sea.” The word was originally used as a proper name for the Aegean Sea, which is notable for its large numbers of islands. Later, usage of the word shifted to refer to the Aegean Islands. It is now used to refer to any island group, or sometimes to a body of water containing a large number of scattered islands.

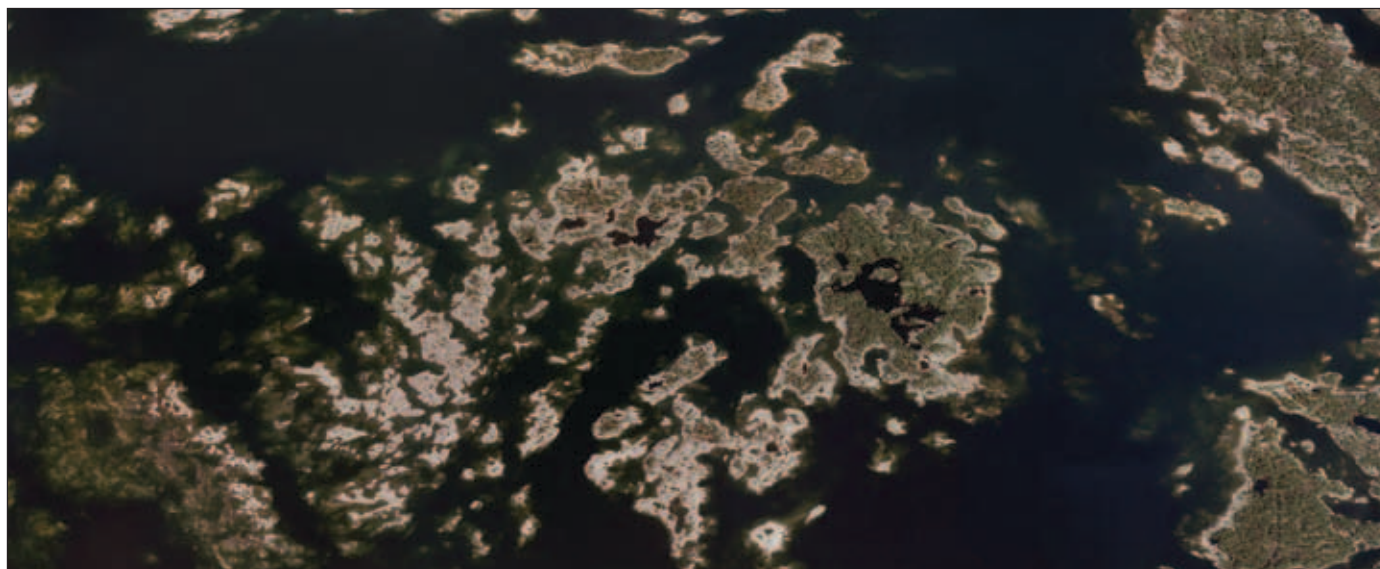
Pinpointing the world’s largest saltwater archipelago depends on whether you define it based on its total area, or by the number of islands it contains. The world’s largest archipelago by area, at over 2 million km², is the Malay Archipelago, consisting of over 25,000 islands located between mainland Southeastern Asia and Australia. The Archipelago Sea, located in Finnish territorial waters of the Baltic Sea, is the largest archipelago in the world by the number of islands, estimated at 50,000.

There is a notable saltwater archipelago in Canada. The Arctic Archipelago is comprised of about 36,500 islands and is situated in the northern extremity of North America. It covers about 1,425,000 km², an unimaginably huge area, encompassing the entire northernmost portion of Canada. This obviously eclipses our archipelago in terms of both overall size and number of islands, although we do come close on the latter measure.

How many islands are there on eastern Georgian Bay? The number of islands arguably varies as water levels rise and fall, and also by what constitutes an “island”. The figure can only ever be an estimate. Henry Wolsey Bayfield, who also gave Georgian Bay its enduring name in honour of England’s King George IV, surveyed Lake Huron, Georgian Bay and the North Channel during the years 1820-1822. Bayfield is said to “have charted and defined 34,560 islands on the east side of Georgian Bay”. A remarkable achievement given the massive area covered and technology available at the time, not to mention the treacherous terrain and seas we know he must have encountered. Bayfield’s detailed survey remained the recognized chart for Georgian Bay for close to 70 years.

Other Great Lakes/St. Lawrence archipelagos include the Apostle Islands, a group of 22 islands in western Lake Superior off the Bayfield (yes, Bayfield) Peninsula in northern Wisconsin, the Lake Erie Islands, a group of 28 that straddles the Ontario /Ohio border in mid-Lake Erie, the Thousand Islands (in fact over 1800 islands by a very inclusive definition of “island”) at the top of the St. Lawrence downriver from Kingston, and the Hochelaga Archipelago at the confluence of the Ottawa and the St. Lawrence Rivers. This last of course includes the island of Montreal, and is also known as the Montreal Islands. Here too the estimated number of islands varies, between a generally accepted 234 to as many as 325.

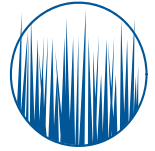
Thirty thousand appears to be a conservative estimate of the number of islands in eastern Georgian Bay and would apply during times of any water level, although as in other archipelagos, the requirement for qualification as an island remains pretty vague. Ours is though by all accounts the largest of its kind in both area and number, and we are hugely privileged to spend time there.



A mini-archipelago in Wah-Wah Taysee, including American Camp

Seeding the Roof: Green Living on the Bay

by Diane Ashton, Go Home Bay



Blue Vervain

The Madawaska Club at Go Home Bay has built a new multiuse facility. This was built to store sailboats in winter and then to be used for summer activities such as crafts, woodworking and yoga. Architect Ian Macdonald designed the building with a green roof. We gave Mother Nature a helping hand by seeding the roof of the new building with a selection of native wildflowers and grasses. The roof had been prepared with a 4" to 6" depth of Sopraflor, a lightweight plant medium especially formulated for green roofs. Our goal was to promote an abundance of native plants that will thrive on the roof

without supplemental watering. The plants will help keep the building cool in the summer, minimize runoff and prolong the life of the roof itself.

Sedums are often chosen for green roofs because of their ability to thrive in hot, dry conditions but these plants are not native to the eastern shore of Georgian Bay, and we refrained from using them. With advice from Wendy Cooper, a selection of native wildflowers and grasses were chosen and purchased from the Wildflower Farm on Hwy 12 near Warminster. They include: Pearly Everlasting, Wild Columbine, White Aster, Smooth Aster, Canada Milk Vetch, Hare-bell, Smooth Wild Rose, Blue Vervain, and Bottlebrush grass, as well as a "nurse" crop of annual rye grass to protect the young seedlings this summer.

It will take a few years for the plants to fully establish themselves as some are biennials, but we're on our way to a green future!

Wildflower Photography: Capturing the shy Nodding Trillium

by Gordon Bowbrick, Parry Sound resident and GBLT volunteer

Oftentimes getting that special photograph is the result of equal measures of good technique, good planning, and good fortune. When it comes to photographing wildflowers, good insect repellent or protection and rainwear also come in handy.

I had been looking for the opportunity to photograph the shy and diminutive Nodding Trillium for some time. Having had the good fortune to meet a Bruce Peninsula National Park staff member who could direct me to a location where a few of these beauties were known to grow, I visited the site at Crane River. However, when I arrived, the blooms were well past their prime for that season. This is where good planning comes in. I made notes of the location of the plants and the date and returned the following year one week earlier in the season. The blooms were in pristine condition.

Part of the challenge of photographing wildflowers is getting the image you want without negatively impacting the plants. Even kneeling close to some plants can compact the soil and damage the roots. A longer lens helps in this regard while also tending to throw distracting backgrounds out of focus. For this Trillium photo a fill flash was bounced from a white reflector up into the bloom to even out the lighting as these flowers hang downward and the plants grow in the shade of a spruce tree beside a creek.



photo: Gordon Bowbrick
Trillium cernuum
(the Nodding Trillium)



TAKE A WILD SHOT

ENTER THE 2013 GBLT PHOTO CONTEST: NATIVE WILDFLOWERS OF GEORGIAN BAY

Enter the 2013 GBLT photo contest by submitting your digital photos of the native wildflowers of Georgian Bay. Top 25 entries will be selected for the "Native Wildflowers of Georgian Bay" poster, revealed at the "Bayscapes Photography Auction". Deadline is Sept. 15, 2013. Details at www.gblt.org.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, July 13

Little McCoy permanently protected by the GBLT -

A Celebration Picnic and Nature Walk!

Bring your bathing suit, a picnic lunch and come spend the afternoon enjoying the island. Depart from the Ojibway Club at 11 AM; Picnic at 12 PM.

Saturday, July 20, 12 pm picnic, 1 pm walk

GBLT Rock Walk and Talk with geologist Nick Eyles

The Umbrellas, Sans Souci

Bring a picnic and explore the unique geology of these billion year old islands.

More information at www.gbtl.org

Sunday, July 21, 3-5 pm

Photography workshops at the Lizard, Cognashene

Join photographer Ariel Estulin as we explore and photograph this unique feature.

rsvp at info@gbtl.org

Sunday, July 28

Guided Paddle of the Tadenac Coastal Lots, Wah Wah Taysee

Bring your kayaks and canoes to explore a diversity of coastal wetlands with a botanist.

Tuesday, July 30, 12 pm picnic, 1 pm walk

Rain date Wednesday, July 31

GBLT Rock Walk and Talk with geologist Nick Eyles

Painted Rocks, Bayfield

Bring a picnic and explore the unique geology of these billion year old islands.

More information at www.gbtl.org

Monday, August 5, 1 pm

Environment Day at Go Home Bay

The Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve will present its Environment Report Card on the "State of the Bay." GBLT will discuss the stewardship and safeguarding of Go Home Bay. Kids' activities and lots of fun things to do!

Tuesday, August 6, 11 am-2pm

Kid's Games Day at American Camp Island, Wah Wah Taysee. Ages 5 and up.

Thursday, August 22, 5-7 pm

Cocktails at the Lizard, Cognashene

Come for friendly drinks on the rocks. BYOB; no glass please.

Friday, November 15

Bayscapes Photography Auction

Steam Whistle Brewing, 255 Bremner Blvd., Toronto

2013 Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon – October 20, 2013

Have fun, get fit and help protect Georgian Bay's natural beauty at the same time! For our second year, we have signed up for the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon's Charity Challenge. There is a 5k, half-marathon or marathon – something for everyone! Simply register for the Charity Challenge and start collecting pledges in support of GBLT. Alternatively, pledge a runner or a team.

This year we have set a goal of raising at least \$22,000 for our 22nd year. Together we can reach this goal!

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For a list of our Directors, visit our website at www.gbtl.org/directors

Tribute Gifts

Received from January 1 to April 30, 2013

In Memory

Anne Ferguson

Archibald Roy Campbell Jones

Cathy MacNiven

Doreen Bray

Dr. Hans A Corver

Roma Maxine Hall

In Honour

Jamie & Gillian Coyles

Tom & Virginia Atkins



"Cathy MacNiven's long-time love of Georgian Bay enveloped her and quickly captured us. She was the architect of so many of our most cherished summer memories which will stay with us forever. As a tribute to Cathy, we wish to honour her memory with this donation."

Stephen Smith, in memory of Cathy who cottaged in Sans Souci

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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