

Children's author founder of National Trust in the U.K.

A bountiful and precedent setting donor

by *Wally King*

Following a recent reference in *Landscript* by Dr. Norman Pearson to the National Trust in the UK, my wife, Marilyn and I decided to explore the Lake District of Cumbria on a visit in September of this year to learn more about this Trust and its properties. The National Trust owns an immense tract of land in the Lake District comprising nearly all of the Central Fell Area and six of the major lakes -- truly one of England's most beautiful landscapes.

However, this article is not meant to be a travelogue, but a very brief story of a wonderful woman born in London 1866. She became an accomplished artist and author. Her subjects were mostly animals, insects and plants all drawn and painted with remarkable skill and sensitivity.

Despite bouts of Rheumatic Fever in 1885 and 1887 she persisted in her artistic work and scientific initiatives even to having a paper she had written read aloud (women then were not permitted to speak) at a meeting of the distinguished scientific body of the Linnean Society, which was devoted to the study of Natural History.

In the summer of 1905, now Mrs. William Heelis, she had become quite financially successful in her own right and was able to purchase Hill Top Farm, which was followed by the purchase of Castle Cottage, both in Sawrey, in the Lake District. Thus began her interest in Land acquisition, preservation and the National Trust, which acquired some 4,000 acres with her financial help. She was generous in her financial contributions (often given anonymously) to the Trust and in her practical encouragement of its conservation aims. She recognized that the peace and beauty of the Lake District were being threatened by insensitive development.

Mrs. Heelis died December 22, 1943 after a remark-

ably busy life, including becoming an accomplished sheep farmer. She had become a munificent benefactor of the National Trust; a truly remarkable woman with an indomitable spirit of commitment to the purposes of Land Trusts.

Now, if you haven't already guessed, Mrs. William Heelis is none other than Beatrix Potter. Today millions of people around the world read her books in 23 languages. Some 40 million copies have been published and a whole mini-industry produces Beatrix Potter merchandise. I am not sure whether the National Trust is receiving royalties but if so what a fantastic memorial!

The Georgian Bay Trust Foundation has a way to go but perhaps we will inherit a Beatrix Potter, a truly Tribute Gift Legacy!! Together with the National Trust, the Lake District National Park Authority administers a large area of land. The Authority has two purposes;

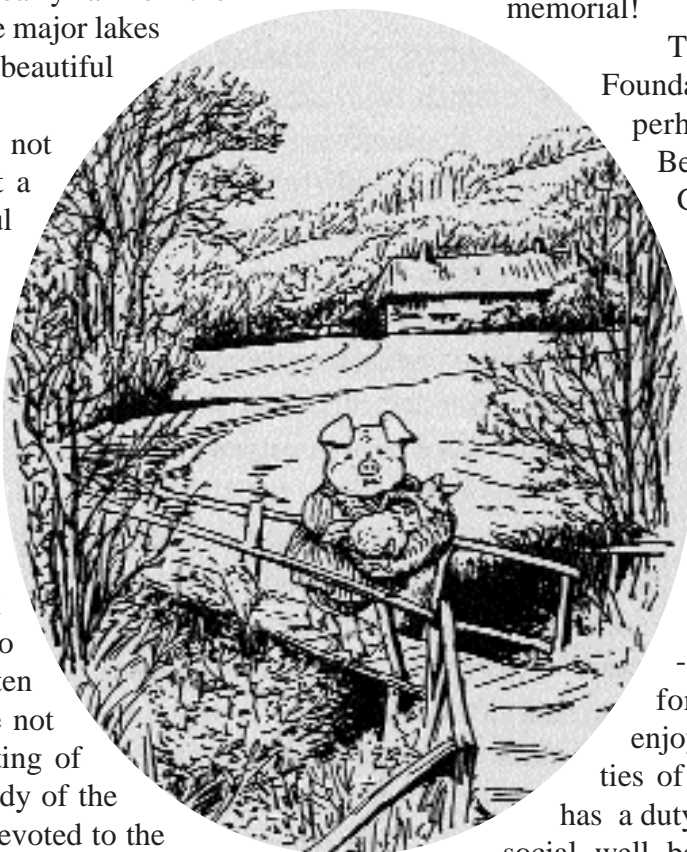
- to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the Lake District.
- to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park. It also has a duty to foster the economic and social well being of local communities within The National Park.

These principles, which are so appropriate and concise can readily apply to our Land Trust in Georgian Bay as our mission statement for years to come.

Thank you Dr. Pearson for yet again sowing the seed, which has become the pine tree and 'canoe' of our great heritage on the Bay.

Wally King is a founding member of the Georgian Bay Land Trust and is an advisor to the Board of Directors.

Illustration from Beatrix Potter's The Tale of Little Pig Robinson, with her famous Hill Top Farm of the Lake District in the background.



Georgian Bay Land Trust hosts annual gathering of provincial alliance

by **Gloria Boyd**

The Ontario Land Trust Alliance held its annual meeting at Resort Tapatoo on Otter Lake near Parry Sound on October 4 to 6. The Georgian Bay Land Trust, under the direction of Executive Director Christopher Baines, hosted the 2002 fall gathering. OLTA is an umbrella organization composed of 31 land trusts throughout Ontario, whose objective is to preserve ecologically significant land for future generations.

Participants attended specialized seminars which covered a wide variety of subjects such as dealing with municipalities, insurance liability on undeveloped land, fund raising, and legal considerations relating to land trusts. The meeting provided an opportunity for the 66 registered participants to exchange ideas and solutions to matters affecting land trusts.

On the Saturday evening a ban-

quet was held at the resort at which Norman Miller, M.P.P. took time out from his busy schedule to welcome the participants. His comments were followed by the main speaker of the evening, Karl Schiefer, who gave a lecture on "An Ecologists View of Georgian Bay". In his presentation Dr. Schiefer used a series of coloured slides to illustrate how Georgian Bay is a unique formation within the Great Lakes and that this produced an ecology that was not found elsewhere. Both speakers were introduced by Wally King, a founding member of the Georgian Bay Land Trust, who acted as master of ceremonies for the dinner.

Following the speakers there was a silent and a live auction, the proceeds of which went to further the objectives of OLTA. The auctioneer of this highly successful event was Dave Walker of the Rideau Waterway Land Trust. The band Neon Cactus entertained the gather-



Stew Hiltz, chair of OLTA, led a round-the-room update of news from the representatives of the many Trusts attending the conference.

ing.

The conference coincided with the Parry Sound Doors Open event. This allowed the members' spouses to visit the West Parry Sound Museum, the observation tower, Belvedere view, the Old Fire Hall, and other places of interest. On the Friday afternoon, prior to registering at the conference, some of the participants took the three-hour Island Queen cruise through the islands of the Sound. Others enjoyed a walk through the Blackstone Lake property belonging to the GBLT.

The hosts, Georgian Bay Land Trust, felt that the annual meeting of the Ontario Land Trust Alliance was very successful.

Gloria Boyd is a long time cottager on Good Cheer Island, Sans Souci and wife of Treasurer of the GBLT,



Marina Martin, from the Lower Grand River Land Trust, and friend pass the No Trespassing sign on the Blackstone Lake property where several participants enjoyed a walk.

Where There s a Will

Georgian Bay Land Trust can be designated as a beneficiary in your will. Here is a suggestion for the wording.

I give and bequeath to the Georgian Bay Trust Foundation Inc, Toronto, Ontario, the sum of \$ _____, or _____% of my estate, or the residue of my estate.

If you wish to designate a specific use for your bequest (Stewardship, Operations, Land Acquisition, Education) please call Nancy Christie at 416 222 6164

An introduction to our new board members

Barbara Zimmerman



Barbara is a conservationist. Perhaps her many years on the family island in Go Home Bay has heightened her awareness of the necessity of conserving the beauty all around her. Her great grandparents built the family cottage in 1912 in Go Home Bay and her family have enjoyed the Bay ever since.

Barbara is a biologist by profession and is presently running a conservation and development project for Conservation International (based in Washington, D.C.) with the Kayapo Indians in the Brazilian Amazon.

Barbara is also a part-time professor in the Faculty of Forestry at the University of Toronto and is the mother of three children.

With her innate interest in conservation Barbara will be a strong member of the fund raising committee.

Graham King

Graham and his family have been cottaging in the Sans Souci are of Georgian Bay for thirty-four years. He joined the Georgian Bay Land Trust because he is a firm believer in the concept that “we do not inherit land from our ancestors, rather we borrow it from our children.” He comments that being involved with GBLT provides the opportunity to assist in ensuring that future generations will be able to experience the tranquillity and natural wonders the

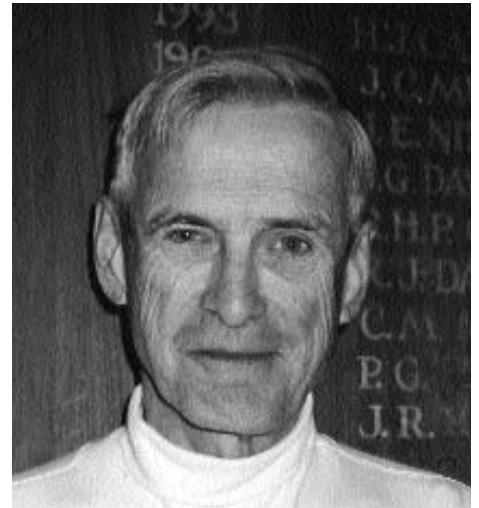


Bay has to offer.

Graham is a lawyer with the firm of Borden Ladner Gervais LLP based in Toronto. Prior to practising law he was Vice President of Hughes, King & Company Ltd, MMA Investment Managers Ltd., the Captstone group of mutual funds, and was previously with the Corporate and Investment Banking Group at TD Securities.

In joining the GBLT team Graham brings his financial and legal experience to the board and to the portfolio of Corporate Secretary

Bill Montgomery



Bill was one of the founders and the first president (for six years) of the Sandy and Martyr Islands Association. He currently holds the position of vice president and his late wife Betty was the secretary

Bill and his family have summered on Endymion Island in the Martyr Island group since 1960 where his father purchased the first island in the group. Bill and his three children and five grandchildren represent the fifth generation to enjoy Endymion.

Bill is a mechanical engineer and with his late wife Betty founded WGM Limited in 1969 which specializes in high tech custom production equipment solutions for Canadian Manufacturers. He is the president and CEO of his company at the moment but looking forward to some of the responsibilities being taken over by some of his children and their spouses who are presently in the business

With his business skills and his love of the Bay Bill will be a great asset to the Land Trust.

Joint Venture to protect our shores

The Georgian Bay Land Trust and the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) are working together on a joint project to preserve and protect the unique and fragile ecosystem of Eastern Georgian Bay. This rich and striking landscape, immortalized by the Group of Seven paintings, has been proposed as a potential UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve.

Ecological Significance

Eastern Georgian Bay is of ecological significance due to its great diversity of flora and fauna. It supports the highest diversity of reptile and amphibian species in Canada. The intermingling of northern and southern landscapes provides a spectacular interface between

quartzite/granite geology and adjacent limestone.

Status and Threats

Eastern Georgian Bay is a popular cottage and recreation area. As the population of southern Ontario increases so will the demand on the resources of Georgian Bay. Intensified use of the regions means that natural habitats will be fragmented by marinas, buildings, roads and shoreline development. Species will have to cope with increased noise and light pollution, inadequate sewage disposal, fuel spills and high boat wakes, all of which contribute to decreased water quality and impaired aquatic habitats.

(continued on page 4)

Joint Venture

(continued from page 3)

Conservation Action

Recognising the significance of Great Lakes coastal ecosystems, a variety of international, national, provincial and state initiatives are now aimed at protecting the great Lakes' key natural features. Few resources, however, are currently directed to land protections as a means of conservation.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Georgian Bay Land Trust have established a partnership to address this by focusing on the protection of significant natural areas primarily through conservation easements and land donations. In Eastern Georgian Bay, 8,901 acres (3,593 hectares) of habitats have been protected collectively by the two organizations to date.

The Georgian Bay Legacy Fund has been jointly established to ensure that properties protected by this partnership will be managed and cared for well into the future. With a growing recreational demand and declining availability of undeveloped sites, land real estate prices in the area will continue to rise, substantially increasing the cost of natural habitat conservation. Action is required now.

NCC and GBLT in partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources are conducting a detailed inventory

of Eastern Georgian Bay. Through the process of identifying the natural communities, imperilled or declining species can be highlighted and a prioritised preservation strategy developed.

Georgian Bay is a community with historical family connections and a shared concern for its future generations. The NCC and GBLT are collaborating to preserve and protect the outstanding features of Eastern Georgian Bay.

Directors of GEORGIAN BAY LAND TRUST 2002-2003

President:

Nancy Christie..... 416 222 6164

Vice Presidents:

Stephen Griggs..... 905 271 5939

John Stark.....905 629 2500

Chairman:

Neil Davis..... 905 451 6714 ex 226

Treasurer:

Sandy Boyd.....416 681 3950

Corporate Secretary

Graham King 416 482 1792

Founding Chair;

Wally King..... 416 485 2336

Members at large

Anneliese Grieve..... 905 420 5089

Paul Jarvis,..... 416 789 2275

Don Lawson, 416 864 2867

Bill McCoy,..... 440 247 6147

Bill Montgomery..... 416 239 8034

Sandy McLaren,..... 416 489 9097

Sandy Phillips,..... 912 598 9371

Georgia Rennick,..... 416 865 7743

Karl Schiefer,905 794 2325 ex 213

Barbara Zimmerman.....416 978 4972

Editor LANDSCRIPT; Sue Russell..... 416 923 4919

Advisory Board:

John Birnbaum..416 486 8600

John Hackett. 416 482 5002

Carl Speiss, Web Master... 416 862 3150

Anne Larson..... 416 967 0873

In memoriam

The Trust has received donations in memory of:

Allen T Lambert, O.C. October 25, 2002

Nathaniel (Dan) Miller, Kent, England, killed

in Bali, Indonesia, on Oct 12, 2002

Ann McCain, wife of Dr. French McCain,

September 25, 2002

William Jackson, September 9, 2002,

Mary Kinnear, member, Iron City Fishing

Club, November 8, 2002.

Membership

[] I want to help the Georgian Bay Land Trust preserve and protect unique and significant sites. Enclosed is my tax receiptable contribution* of.....\$_____

[] I would like to become a member of the Trust. (\$100.00).....\$_____

[] Please send me more information

Total enclosed \$_____

*Tax receipts will be issued for amounts over \$25.00

Name.....

Address.....

.....Cottage location.....

Phone no.email.....

Georgian Bay Land Trust Foundation Inc
P.O. box 99, 2482 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON. M4P 3E3 ph. 416 440 1519