

For the Love of Art For the Love of the Bay

Artists and buyers support Land Trust Art Auction

by *Sue Russell*

Georgian Bay appeals to artists today as it once did to the Group of Seven. However today the art sells like hot cakes, whereas 75 or so years ago the Group of Seven had great difficulty in appealing to the general public. The artists' interpretations of wind, water, rock and sky are as various now as they were then. But our enlightened art buyers today don't hesitate to invest in the modern renderings produced by the talented artists of the Bay.

Or so it would seem judging by the wonderful results of the art auction put on by the Georgian Bay Land Trust in November. We grossed over \$40,000 in a half day of bidding on 83 pieces of art. Seventy-five artists donated their works in oil, water colour, acrylic, mixed media, ceramics, pottery, stained glass, quilting, sculpture and wood carvings. The success of the sale is due to the generosity of these artists who received no



Roberta McWhirter arranges display of pottery, and wooden bowls.

remuneration as well as to the enthusiastic buyers.

Three hundred visitors came to the show and sale during the day and many of them stayed for the live auction after 8 pm. Ten paintings which were valued over \$1,000.00 were in the live auction and this seemed to be the highlight of the day. The Hon. Bill Davis said a few (very funny) words to the crowd to warm everybody up. He didn't hesitate to bid regularly and went home with a piece from his favourite artist Roy McMurtry.

Our committee of eight started in May to contact artists. By November we were turning away artists who were keen to contribute. We didn't have room to display any more pieces. The organization of the sale was very professional (so we were told). The works were displayed in a masterful way to optimise the viewing and

allow large crowds to mingle and weave through the display.

We were fortunate to have found six sponsors who contributed to the costs of the show; Davis, Webb, Schulze & Moon; Gordon Bay Marina; Honey Harbour Boat Club; Inn at Christie's Mill; Killarney Mountain Lodge and Sutton Graphics.

We are also grateful to the Badminton & Racquet Club whose premises were very suitable and the service excellent.

The event was a resounding success and yes, we will do it again, but in a few years when the artists are ready to donate again and the buyers are looking for more art.

The following are the artists who so generously donated their art.

Geoffrey Armstrong, Tandy Sean Arnold, Karl Au-Yeung, Elisabeth Bacque, Scott Barnum, Ed Bartram, Eldo Baumeister, Jill Cameron, Elizabeth Campbell, Barbara Carr, Ray Cattell, Christopher Chapman, Ken Danby, Corkie Davis, Steven Duff, John Duncanson, Anna Edels, Doug Edwards, Pat Fairhead, George Fells, Kittie Fells, Bill Franks, Catherine Cram Gillespie, Jacquie Green, T-Bu Grieve, John Hall, Bill Harris, W.R.Harris, Paul Hughes, Marguerite Emma Hunt, Barbara Jackson, Kathy Johnstone, John Joy, Cynthia Kemerer, Rosemary Kilbourne, Nancy Lang, John Lennard, Sally Lennox, Jim Lorriman, Heather Lougheed, Margaret Ludvig, Dianne McGibbon, Sharon MacKinnon, David McEown, Grace McKenzie, Mary McLean, Mary Anne Boeckh Macleod, Doris McCarthy, Roy McMurtry, Bill Michaud, Norval Morriseau, Charles Pachter, Jan Phelan, Nancy Powis, Carol Prior, David Rea, Jack Reid, Lu Robitaille, Margaret Rossiter, Katie Russell, Ingrid Saaliste, O.K. Schenk, Jocelyn Shaw, Lori Skinner, Alan Stein, Bruce Steinhoff, Jackie Sture, Kathy Sutton, Iris Vermeulen, Anthony Van Tulleken, Margaret Watson, Nancy Webb, Beverley Weiss, Carol Wishart.



Carl Spiess helps display the art and admires Mary McLean's water colour

Ontario Government comes to the aid of Land Conservation

GBLT pays no more taxes

At last the Ontario government has recognized the value of land under conservation. For many years now the Georgian Bay Land Trust has been urging the provincial government to give Conservation Organizations tax relief from paying taxes on qualifying properties. Although the Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP) was established in 1998 it has taken these past six years for GBLT along with the other land conservation organizations in Ontario to establish criteria that would identify properties having significant environmental value.

This tax relief will be a great financial saving for the Georgian Bay Land Trust and it will allow for many more properties along the eastern shore to be protected.

Community Conservation Lands

The Ontario government has added natural areas of significance owned by non-profit charitable conservation organizations and conservation authorities to the properties eligible for tax relief under CLTIP. These are known as Community Conservation Lands. The properties must meet one of the following 11 criteria:

- o Natural heritage features or areas identified in the Provincial Policy Statement
- o Regionally significant Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest
- o Habitats of species of special concern
- o Species occurrences or ecological communities

designated as S1 (extremely rare), S2 (very rare), or S3 (rare to uncommon) by MNR's Natural Heritage Information Centre

- o Natural areas within the natural core area, natural linkage area or countryside designations in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan

- o Natural heritage areas identified within a regional or watershed plan or strategy

- o Lands within a municipal official plan or zoning by-law designated as environmental protection or an equivalent designation

- o Lands located within a Featured Area (Signature Site) set out in the Land Use Strategy that contribute to natural heritage protection such as the Great Lakes Heritage coast - Georgian Bay..

- o Escarpment protection areas within the Niagara Escarpment Plan

- o Areas identified under the Great Lakes Wetlands Conservation Action Plan

- o Areas within or adjacent to protected areas, such as provincial parks, that contribute to the natural heritage objectives of the protected area. As you can see the GBLT properties could qualify under more than one of the criteria.

It has taken many years of dedication, time and effort to achieve this goal and the GBLT is most grateful to the many volunteers working towards this end. Neil Davis, our Chairman, was one of the leaders of this group. We thank all concerned, including the provincial government, for recognizing the importance of this program.

Winterlude 2005

*To celebrate mid winter we invite you to a social evening
Our entertaining speaker will be*

John Fraser
*Master of Massey College,
Journalist, Speaker, Author,
Editor, who will tell us about*

**Surviving
Georgian Bay**

**Thursday February 24, 7.30 pm
Badminton Racquet Club
25 St. Clair Ave West**

Come and bring a friend
Cash bar

Refreshments
Donations accepted

John Fraser is the fourth Master of Massey College and prior to this appointment was the twelfth editor of Saturday Night. His journalistic career began with writing for the Toronto Telegram and then briefly with the Toronto Sun. He then joined the Globe and Mail where he was ultimately the National Editor and European Correspondent.

John has written eight books and is a frequent contributor to numerous anthologies, magazines and international journals. He has been twice honoured by the Queen, (Silver Jubilee Medal in 1977 and Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002), by professional organizations (three National Newspaper Awards and eight National Magazine Awards), and his alma mater, Memorial University in Newfoundland (D.Litt.) as well as King's College University of Halifax (DCL). In January he was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada.

John is married to Elizabeth Scott MacCallum. They have three daughters and live in the Master's Lodging at Massey College.

John is a relative newcomer to the Bay, and has had to learn survival techniques. This promises to be a very entertaining evening. Hope to see you there.



Charitable giving costs less than you think

by *Rob Short*

Everywhere we turn today someone seems to be asking us to give to a charity . It is however, more important than ever to give as governments everywhere are pulling away from their commitments to fund important causes just as the need continues to grow. The one thing governments are continuing to do is to make it easy to contribute by offering generous tax incentives. Assuming you have already contributed \$200 or more to charities in any one tax year, then every additional dollar you contribute will cost you only 54 cents. (If your income is between \$20,000 and \$70,000 then it will cost you 60 cents) It doesn't matter very much what your tax bracket is as the savings are about the same to all Canadians.

Now, it can get even better than that. If you hold any stocks or mutual funds that have gone up in value, then donating these in-kind to a charity allows you to take advantage of another tax break. The capital gains inclusion rate is reduced to 25% and you still get a donation for the full market value of the shares.

For example. If you make a \$100,000 in-kind donation that has a cost base of \$20,000 then only 25% of the gain of \$80,000 is included in your income. If you sell the shares first and then donate the \$100,000 you would be taxed on the \$80,000 gain at a rate of 50%. Your tax savings benefit by donating in-kind is about \$9000.

Now, here is my super strategy you could employ to make charitable donations. It combines the tax benefits of a flow-through share purchase* with the low inclusion rates on capital gains for in-kind donations to a charity.

This is how it works

June 2005	Buy a Flow Through Share	\$100,000
April 2006	Receive Tax Deduction (46%x100000)	(\$46,000)
April 2006	Receive Tax Credit on Deal	(\$10,800)
Dec. 2006	Donate Shares to Charity	(\$46,000)
April 2007	Pay Capital Gains Tax (25%x45%x100,000)	\$11,500
NET COST		\$8,700

Therefore, for a cost to you of \$8,700 you have donated \$100,000 to your favourite charity. If you can find nine other friends to do this with you then you will have raised \$1,000,000. It does take a long time to play out so the charity will have to wait a bit to receive its money. Like any investment it can go up or down. If for example it was to drop 10% in value, the charity would receive only \$900,000 and your cost would be \$12,150. If the investment was to rise by 10% then the charity would receive \$1,100,000 and your cost would be \$5,250.

So if you have charities, such as the **Georgian Bay Land Trust**, that have a longer time horizon to receive funds and have members or contributors that fit this tax profile then this idea might be right for them

I hope this article has inspired you to reconsider giving to the GBLT. It is not as costly as you think to donate and if you can arrange your donations in a tax effective manner then the benefits to society will surely outweigh your costs.

Rob Short, C.A. is a financial and tax advisor who would welcome any questions you have at 416 628 5028, e-mail: rshort@srlg.net He is with Stephenson, Leftwick & Short.

*A Flow-Through Share is an investment in a number of Canadian Resources Companies that allows you to write off 100% of your investment for tax purposes

Knowledgeable guides lead nature walk

by *Jane-Anne Campbell*

On Saturday, August 7th, under beautiful sunny skies, eighteen cottagers participated in Sans Souci's first guided nature walk. While the Sans Souci Cottagers Association has held nature seminars in the past, the idea behind the walk was to enjoy and learn about nature in a hands-on manner. The walk was led by Wendy Cooper, Executive Director of GBLT, Glenda Clayton, Director of the Georgian Bay Reptile Awareness Program, and Burke

Korol, bird expert. Our guides could not have been more wonderful. The broad-based knowledge that each of them demonstrated blew us away, and the three often engaged in lively debates about the correct identification of a particular plant or bird.

Over coffee and muffins at the SSCA Community Centre on Frying Pan Island, Glenda Clayton began the morning with an update on reptile conservation. Burke then talked about birding, including the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas Project, and made a number of suggestions of



good guides, binoculars and other resources. Wendy recommended helpful plant guides, especially the Lonely Pine Wetland Plant book that always accompanies her on field trips (except when people like me borrow it on nature walks and forget to return it to her!)

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Nature Walk

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With our bags of delicious trail-mix prepared by Anne Maher we headed off along a beautiful trail, freshly marked for the occasion by Sandy Phillips. We stopped frequently to examine a plant, or to listen to a bird call. With three guides, all participants were able to ask lots of questions, regardless of their level of expertise. We were amazed at how Burke was able to identify several birds at once, and even tell us what the birds were up to! Bird species identified included a Sharp-shinned Hawk, Caspian Tern, and a fledged young Yellow-rumped Warbler. There was lots of discussion about the misunderstood Double-crested Cormorant, bird feeding, and the decline of aerial foraging species like the Common Nighthawk, Whip-poor-will and swallows.

The trail took us through a variety of terrain, including a beaver pond, where Wendy was able to help us identify many wetland plants. We didn't locate any snakes, despite Glenda's best efforts, but talked a lot about snake habitat and our concerns that cottagers continue to kill Eastern Massasaugas and other reptile species.

We highly recommend this type of event to other cottage associations. We limited the number of people who could attend the walk so that the ratio of people to guides would be low. The event was only planned a couple of weeks in advance, but was booked solid within a few days! We held the event from 9:30 to 12:00, were rushed towards the end, and finished late. An earlier start would have been ideal, especially for birding. Participants were enthusiastic about the event, and hoped that we would organize others regularly. Besides general walks, the participants suggested that we have others dedicated to specific subjects, including birds, reptiles, mushrooms, plants, and geology.

We are currently planning bird-watching days in Sans Souci for May and/or June to observe breeding and nesting behaviour. Burke has volunteered to help us get started gathering data in the Sans Souci area for the Ontrio Breeding Bird Atlas Project. As well as all the interested cottagers we can accommodate, we'll be needing experienced birders (from anywhere on the Bay) to get involved in this event! A bug repellent manufacturer might also like to sponsor us. Please contact Jane-Anne Campbell for more information at campbelljag@sympatico.ca or (416) 922-8405.

Many thanks to our guides, Wendy, Glenda and Burke, to Sandy Philips and to all the nature-loving cottagers who made this terrific morning possible!

**Tribute gifts have been received
in memory of**
Owen Jones
Cognashene
Kenneth Hayes
Carling Township

Membership renewal

Please give a thought to renewing your membership with the Land Trust (if you have not already done so). We rely on you, our members to finance our endeavours. And you can rely on us to save those parts of the Bay not yet developed for your everlasting pleasure. You will receive notice of our upcoming events as well as our quarterly newsletter *Landscript*. And you will receive the satisfaction of knowing you have contributed to the conservation of the Bay

Please give this Landscript to a friend.

Web manager needed

The Georgian Bay Land Trust has a great web site - easy to read and loaded with information about land conservation in the Bay. Now we need someone to look after it - to add information and update the current events. If you have any expertise in this area please contact Sue Russell, 416 923 4919, or: sewell508@aol.com

And visit our web site: www.gbtl.org

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