

President's Report



The Georgian Bay Land Trust is a wonderfully active volunteer organization. Its strongest asset is its skilled and experienced volunteer base – whether serving as Directors, volunteers on committees, stewards of our lands or the many who volunteer with our partner organizations. Georgian Bay connected volunteers have been attracted by the very strong leadership provided to GBLT by its Presidents and volunteer Directors from its inception in 1991, together with belief in the mission that GBLT serves.

Growth at GBLT has been so dramatic that more and more volunteers are joining to participate in the varied activities needed to manage a land trust such as ours. Executive Director Wendy Cooper and Director of Development Janet Loughheed would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in joining this team.

After less than 15 years, GBLT has emerged as one of the most successful land trusts in Canada. And a good thing too, as our Georgian Bay is in urgent need of the very protection that GBLT is able to offer as it resists the pressures of a growing population and stronger and stronger

interest in recreational activities within its natural features.

Over the past several months, as its influence and resources have continued to grow, GBLT has been reaching out to its partners, peers and communities as well as within its volunteer group. We need help to develop a better understanding of how the organization can best fit into its various communities on eastern Georgian Bay and the North Channel and how best to contribute to the protection of the Bay and Ontario's natural values.

A summer follow-up meeting with our volunteer Stewards was convened to get a sense of how the stewardship program is working and how best to improve it for next year, highlighting the very successful monitoring program in the Wah Wah Taysee community this past summer.

As part of an escalating communications and awareness initiative, GBLT has conducted a series of focus groups in order to learn from our communities how they see the organization and how best to grow with us in the future.

GBLT also participated in a number of partnership meetings including the Biosphere Reserve, Lake Huron Binational Partnership, and Directors attending the Ontario Land Trust Alliance conference.

Critical to GBLT's future growth is the beginning of a new phase of the partnership with the Nature Conservancy of Canada with GBLT now taking the lead role. NCC will continue to provide science and fund raising support for joint projects as GBLT's partner in protection of the Bay.

The final meeting of the Joint Venture committee was recently held and followed by a celebratory dinner hosted by committee Chair Stephen Griggs.

Stephen was proud to announce that since its creation in 2002, the partnership has raised \$4.5 million in cash and land, raised the profile of land trust activities along the coast, assisted families in creating long term land stewardship funds and helped GBLT take the next step towards achieving greater regional conservation successes. Significant lands were acquired, and research was completed as part of the Georgian Bay Coast Project, helping to identify the region's ecological values. The Legacy Stewardship Fund evolved and three family stewardship funds were created to ensure that stewardship resources are in place to protect GBLT lands in perpetuity.

There are just too many activities to list them all, so watch future LandScripts for more in future. Thank you to all those who are supporting our efforts to protect Georgian Bay together.

John Stark

**DONATIONS HAVE
BEEN RECEIVED IN
CELEBRATION OF
THE MARRIAGE OF
Jannie Vincent and
Peter McCann**

of Sans Souci
Dec 3, 2005

Stewarding our lands

Stewardship on West Lookout Island

by Margaret & John Catto

West Lookout Island Reserve at Pointe-au-Baril, a recent GBLT protectorate, consists of 6 peninsulas separated by deep inlets, and 3 islands; unbelievably its 12.5 hectares are bordered by over 5 km of shoreline. Summer 2005 marked the first organized stewardship programme to protect this property, while previously the owners had patrolled occasionally to deal with fires, camping and, rarely, vandalism. As a result of this year's more regular patrols, we were surprised to discover new fireplaces, particularly on the outer islands and points. These were systematically removed and the areas restored.

In August, the remains of a recent fire burn of an area over 100 square metres was found on Mackenzie Point which is also a GBLT property. This was of particular concern because of its proximity to heavily wooded areas of Lookout Island. A total of 12 permanent GBLT signs were erected at the burn site and at other popular picnic sites in the hope that they will deter visitors from camping or building fires.

Because most of the Reserve is not visible from nearby cottage properties, it is difficult to observe all visitor activity. Those we talked to were very understanding and supportive of the aims of the GBLT in protecting the property. Consequently we enlisted several volunteers, Anna and Rayna Edels, Tom Scoon, Bob Murray and Gail Glassco, to whom we are indebted for their assistance in patrolling the Reserve this season.



Aerial view of the West Lookout Island, taken by Kathy Sutton from Harold Blower's plane, showing the many indentations around the shore

Stewards' jobs invaluable

by Duggan Melhuish

The thirteen pristine island and mainland properties that constitute the **Georgian Bay Land Trust's** current portfolio do not sustain their pristineness all on their own. They need help and it comes in the form of stewardship.

The Land Trust's management structure includes a stewardship committee. A primary steward is assigned to each property location. His/her role is to monitor goings on to assure compliance with the Trust's standards for use: - daytime picnicking, swimming, sporting activity, touring – all mild indulgences of the natural state of the island. Fires, overnight camping, noise pollution and motorized vehicles are

beyond limits. Stewards periodically visit the site to assure all is well and to perform janitorial service, as required, to remove debris and to do clean ups. For instance, Peter Cooper, steward for the Lizard in Cognashene, in June, removed the dead heads from the forest of chives that Duggan's mother planted in her garden eons ago and which have spread throughout the community.

Infrequently the ever watchful steward finds it necessary to bring non-compliance activity to the attention of visitors. Even more infrequently they may find it necessary to call marine authorities to deal with offensive behaviour.

You will recognize your area steward when he/she steps ashore wearing a standard issue T-shirt and baseball hat bearing 'STEW-ARD' inscriptions. Welcome them. They are your pals and they are there to help.



One of the GBLT islands in Wah-Wah-Taysee which is stewarded with the help of GBLT's summer student and local volunteers.

GBLT's first summer student as steward

by Wendy Cooper

This summer **Georgian Bay Land Trust** hired its first summer student and the lucky candidate was Andrew Williams, a cottager from the Go Home Bay community. Andrew served as **GBLT's** Property Monitor, whose main responsibility was monitoring new **GBLT** properties where volunteer stewards have not yet been established. He also provided general support for **GBLT's** newly established Stewardship Program. His other responsibilities included monitoring and educating users of new **GBLT** properties, helping to take ecological inventories and complete environmental assessments for potential properties. He monitored easements and provided support for the land trust's volunteer stewards established on other **GBLT** properties.

Andrew spent most of his time visiting the Alexander Islands, one of **GBLT's** newest properties. He endeavored to educate those using the islands on the property's ecological significance and how they can help to ensure it's protection by following **GBLT's** property use policy. Andrew also worked diligently to put up new signs educating users on **GBLT's** ownership of the property and assisted other stewards with signage on **GBLT** properties in the area. Andrew also assisted our Executive Director, Wendy Cooper in visiting several new properties up and down the Bay and meeting with landowners and stewards who share an interest in the protection of the Bay's fragile environment.

When asked about his experience Andrew reported, "I really enjoy being apart of a team that looks after keeping **GBLT** properties in a natural and beautiful



Andrew Williams beside one of the many signs he posted on the Alexander Islands reserve, a property managed by GBLT.

state. Our goal is to let visitors have the most enjoyable experience they can, without hindering the enjoyment of others or impacting the places everyone has come to love. One of my favourite aspects of my job is talking with visitors, answering their questions and discussing their concerns. There are always curious visitors that inquire about the island flora and fauna, or current happening in the **GBLT** community."

Thank you to all of those who helped make Andrew welcome wherever he visited, especially all of the visitors to the Alexander Islands who let Andrew interrupt their picnics! Our thanks to Andrew for being a great first summer student and his family for all of their support.

Georgian Bay Fisheries Stewardship Council

Helping to protect our fish

by Wendy Cooper & Karl Schiefer

This past year, the Georgian Bay Land Trust, with support from the Tadenac Club, provided a donation to the Georgian Bay/North Channel Fisheries Stewardship Council in support of their Walleye restoration program. This contribution will help the Council's efforts in restoring the traditional spawning areas of the Walleye within the Moon River Basin and the Tadenac area.

The Council is a multi-stakeholder group made up of representatives from a wide range of communities including cottage associations, marina operators, municipalities, lodge owners, fishing guides, sportsman groups, and First Nations to help protect the fisheries of Georgian Bay and the North Channel. The mis-

sion of the Council is "To provide guidance for the protection, enhancement, and utilization of healthy, sustainable fish populations, habitats and aquatic ecosystems."

The Council was formed in 2000 by the Upper Great Lakes Management Unit, in response to a growing number of concerns being expressed about the status of fish populations in the area. The Council has been instrumental in contributing to the development of new recreational fishing regulations that were implemented in 2003. These new regulations are recognized as some of the most progressive in North America, providing a significant level of protection for rehabilitating fish stocks in the area.

Last year you may have met members of the Council as part of their efforts in promoting the Bass Nest Creation Project. This project involved conduct-

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Celebrity Sarah Richardson chooses GBLT



by Janet Lougheed

Sarah Richardson, designer featured on HGTV program Design Inc.

This year Canon Canada engaged 13 Canadian celebrities to take pictures of a Canadian summer, reversing their usual roles and letting the celebrities take the picture, not be the picture. Celebrities included Sarah Richardson, host and co-producer of Design Inc and Room Service,

and owner of the successful design firm, Sarah Richardson Designs. The event was called "The Other side of the Lens - a Canadian Summer" which was exhibited this past fall.

Sarah has a history of cottaging on Stoney Lake but in 1999 her then boyfriend now husband took her to Georgian Bay. Since then Sarah has spent every summer on Georgian Bay.

She and her husband have built on a small island near the Umbrellas and the cottage was designed with little impact on the environment they treasure. The cottage is solar powered and designed for efficient use of space. Sarah and her husband are regular visitors to the Umbrella Islands, a property that is owned and stewarded by GBLT.

Because she spends the month of August on

Georgian Bay every year Sarah chose to take pictures of Georgian Bay as her summer pictures for the Canaan event.

These pictures were provided to Canon for the exhibition. Canon then made a gift on behalf of each participant to their favoured charity.

Sarah wants to support the maintenance of the special spaces of Georgian Bay in a meaningful way and promote awareness of the importance of conserving property of Georgian Bay. So when Sarah was asked by Canon to choose the charity of her choice she decided on the **Georgian Bay Land Trust**.

Thanks so much Sarah for supporting the work of the **Georgian Bay Land Trust**. It is gifts such as these that are contributing to the success and credibility of **GBLT**.



Sarah submitted this photo of Georgian Bay rocks to the Canon exhibition as her picture of Summer, entitled "ROCKS".

G. B. Fisheries

Continued from p 3

ing workshops and the distribution of handouts that demonstrated simple ways of creating enhanced bass habitat out of local naturally occurring materials. Cottagers were shown how to enhance this species' reproductive success by constructing bass nests directly in front of their properties. Through their actions, cottagers are able to help nature by enhancing their local aquatic environment. In turn, they will be provided with future opportunities of observing bass go through their full reproductive cycle, right in front of their cottages.

This year, the Council will be focusing its efforts on a Walleye restoration project in order to enhance traditional spawning areas up and down the coast. Karl Schiefer and Wendy Cooper have been personally involved in this effort in the Tadenac area, working with the Tadenac Club to enhance the conservation of

the flora, fauna and fisheries that are found in this region.

For more information on the Georgian Bay-North Channel Fisheries Stewardship Council, please visit their website at, www.helpourfisheries.com.



This walleye was caught in Cognashene in 2001 on an outside shoal. The fisherman didn't recognise it, as they are seldom caught around there anymore.



Winterlude 2006

Barbara Zimmerman and the Kayapo Indians

Hear the story of Barb and the Kayapo Indians and how they are saving the largest tract of tropical wilderness in the world.

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

7.30 pm

Badminton & Racquet Club

25 St Clair Ave. West,

parking underneath and across the road

Subway station: St. Clair



Barbara Zimmerman

Barbara Zimmerman, PhD, has been a member of the Georgian Bay Land Trust Board of Directors since 2002. She is currently Director, Kayapo Project, Conservaçã do Brasil where she designed, implemented, supervised and raised funds for Conservation International's program. She then was able to build up the capacity of the Kayapo to protect and sustainably manage 11 million hectares of their traditional and official lands, southern Para and northern Mato Grosso, Brazil.

Following her degrees, Hons.BSc. and MSC in Zoology at University of Guelph Barbara did her PhD in Ecology at Florida State University.

Barbara has published widely in refereed journals and in book chapters. She is also a multi-linguist being fluent in English and Portuguese with reading skills in French and basic speaking ability in the Kayapo Amerindian language.

Since 1983 Barbara has been working in the Amazon region of Brazil, originally as a zoologist and then more recently with the Kayapo, first with CIDA and now with the Conservação Internacional do Brasil.

Barbara will illustrate her talk with slides taken in the beautiful Amazon region of Brazil.

Mark this special date on your calendar. You don't want to miss this exceptional speaker.

Ontario Land Trust teaches Canadians

by Sue Russell

On a beautiful Fall weekend five GBLT Directors, the Executive Director and the Development Officer attended the annual Ontario Land Trust Alliance conference. It was held in Barrie on Kempenfelt Bay at the Kempenfelt Centre, a lovely site for a weekend conference. There were over 30 Land Trusts from Ontario represented at the conference, as well as representatives from PEI, Nova Scotia, British Columbia, Alberta and Manitoba. This shows how well regarded our own Ontario Land Trust Alliance is by the rest of Canada.

The workshops which we attended varied greatly and included, Building a Better Board, Mobilize Your Board to Raise More Money, Finding Donors, Engaging an Appraiser, Insurance Coverage, Developing Messages that Motivate, Volunteers, Where Are

They? and more. An innovative workshop was the one on Accreditation and Training program for Land Trusts. The U.S. Land Trust Alliance is leading the way in the development of this voluntary accreditation program as they believe it is important to the long term sustainability of land trusts.

A very serious matter was presented in another workshop – "Don't let this happen to you – Easement violations in Canada." Although conservation easements have been used for several years in Canada, we have yet to see the violations and court cases that our neighbours to the south have seen, We must be prepared to face our

future opponents – landowners and their challenges to the restrictions placed on their land. The workshop focused on the standards and practices that land trusts should be using to prevent future easement violations.

Your seven representatives from the **Georgian Bay Land Trust** learned a great deal and will put into practice their new knowledge and skills in the coming year for the benefit of Georgian Bay.



From left, John Agnew, John Stark, Janet Loughheed, Wally King, Sue Russell, Chris Baines, Wendy Cooper, GBLT reps to OLTA

Thank you

We receive an amazing amount of support from many people up and down the Bay, helping us get around, visit properties, and get the work done that is necessary to ensure the successful protection of our properties. At this time we wanted to specifically thank Harold Blower, Kathy Sutton and Don Scale, 3 members of our community that have provided invaluable in-kind services over a number of years.

Harold Blower, a local contractor based in Parry Sound, has provided us with the wonderful opportunity to see our properties and some potential properties from the air, a perspective that is both breathtaking and practical in our assessments & documentation of a

property's natural & cultural features. Harold also donates a high demand item to the Silent Auction, held each summer at Sans Souci - a flight over the whole of the Sans Souci area.

Kathy Sutton, a local photographer and cottager from Sans Souci, has assisted the GBLT in getting aerial pictures of our properties and potential properties, images that are instrumental in helping raise support and complete our management planning process. Kathy too has been a regular donor to the Silent Auction of her photographic work, and was a key member of the Art Show and Auction in the fall of 2004.

Don Scale, a local contractor in Pointe au Baril, has assisted with the posting of signs and commemorative plaques for many of our properties. Don even traveled to the south end of the Bay so that we could have a plaque installed for one of our newest properties this fall!

Our thanks to Harold, Kathy & Don and all of the other people up and down the shore that support us in so many ways.

Wendy Cooper

TRIBUTE GIFTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED IN MEMORY OF:

Robert Adair
Pointe au Baril

Gordon Dennis Bacque
Friend of the Bay
August 15, 2005

Louis Paul Breithaupt
Cognashene
June 9, 2005

Adrienne Edward
Parry Sound
June 1, 2005

Dick Hafner
Moore Pointe
August 30, 2005

Donald Harrison
Go Home Bay
August 15, 2005

Major F.E.(Ted) Hetherington
Sans Souci & Copperhead Association
October 30, 2005

Dorothy E. Leonard
Cognashene
November 13, 2005

James B. Prendergast
Sans Souci & Copperhead Association.
August 11, 2005

John B. Veach
Pointe au Baril
October 18, 2005

Alexander (Koerner) Yeo
Cognashene
2005

John Trumbull Band
Wah-Wah-Taysee
September 18, 2005

Dan Miller
Friend of the Bay
2002

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Karl Schiefer,bus 905 794 2325 ex 213

Barbara Zimmerman,.....res 416 487 0879

Editor LANDSCRIPT: Sue Russell.....res 416 923 4919

Executive Director: Wendy Cooper.....416 440 1519

Advisory Board:

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