

Georgian Bay Land Trust has a new partner in stewardship

GBLT is pleased to announce that it will be partnering with the Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council (EGBSC) on their Spawning Habitat Rehabilitation Program.

EGBSC's goal is to be an effective facilitator of community participation and voluntary efforts that foster the establishment of healthy, productive and self-sustaining natural ecosystems. One of EGBSC's strong interests is supporting healthy fish populations in Georgian Bay. A key ingredient for a healthy population is the restoration and enhancement of spawning habitat. As a result, the council is launching a Spawning Habitat Rehabilitation Program dedicated to addressing this need. Any fish species present in Georgian Bay or inland waters can be part of this vital program, however, walleye in Southern Georgian Bay has been identified as a top priority.

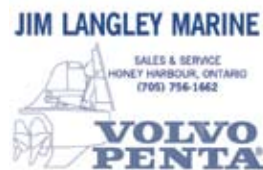
Wendy Cooper, Executive Director of GBLT says "stewardship of the Georgian Bay is a core activity of the GBLT. By assisting the EGBSC in this project, we enhance our own program and are able to combine our resources with another organization also dedicated to stewardship. This is an effective way to increase all of our abilities to protect Georgian Bay. GBLT is pleased to be providing administrative support for the EGBSC to assist with this worthy project".

For additional information on this program see www.helpourfisheries.com or contact Eric McIntyre at eric.mcintyre@ontario.ca.

Thanks to our generous sponsors



**Glenn Burney
Marina**



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Amy Furness
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Julie & Rich Bringelson



Volunteer Opportunities

If you are interested in helping with this year's art auction, please contact Janet Loughheed at 705-735-2600

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LANDSCRIPT

Preserving
our Unique
Archipelago

Winter 2008

www.gbtl.org

Protecting a piece of Giant's Tomb

written by Linda Swainson, assisted by Kevin Gillen and Wendy Cooper

Giant's Tomb slumbers on the lip of the horizon, its verdant shores a beacon for those in search of beauty and solitude. While 1100 of its 1200 acres are contained within Awenda Provincial Park, 100 acres on the northern end of the island have been owned by Kevin Gillen and his family since 1956. At that time, Kevin's father, Henry Edward "Ted" Gillen, and his business partner, Joseph Varina, bought the property from Edna Breithaupt. Edna Breithaupt, with the assistance of her lawyer, William Davis, had drawn up a draft plan of subdivision, which Ted Gillen and his partner intended to implement. They began by building two Panabode cottages for their families in 1957. Kevin Gillen, only three years old at the time, spent the next seven summers of his childhood knitting the fabric of the island into his bones as he grew. All of it was his playground; the cobble beach, the environmentally protected lagoon, the deep, grassy-bottomed anchorages rich with pike, the fine, white sand beaches lining the southern edges of the island, the forests characterized by young deciduous trees on the northern end and the trademark windswept pines of Georgian Bay to the South.

A plan of subdivision, occupying roughly 40% of the 100 acres, was eventually approved and registered in 1958. However, with the advent of the recession of the mid-seventies, the ambitious plans for the island were abandoned. So it remained until Kevin bought it from his father and his father's partner in the early 1980's. An avid boater at the time, Kevin gave up the open water and anchored his feet once more on the familiar island soil where he built a cottage for his young family. Following an environmental survey of the property, which identified flora and fauna considered rare for Eastern Georgian Bay, Kevin approached the Ministry of Natural Resources and a land exchange was completed by 1999 which saw 14 lots plus approximately 23 acres of land transferred to Her Majesty the Queen and appended to Awenda Provincial Park.

The following year the Township initiated an Official Plan review which proposed to rezone most of Giant's Tomb. Unhappy with the restrictions implicit in the new rules, Kevin embarked on a lengthy series of studies and negotiations with the Township. They, like the MNR, recognized the unique nature of the flora and fauna on the property, and as a result, required protection of 15 acres under a Heritage Easement. With this in mind, Kevin approached the GBLT and by December 2007, Block 12, a fifteen acre parcel of land adjacent to Awenda Provincial Park, was registered under a Conservation Easement held by the Trust.

Giant's Tomb is both geologically and biologically unique.

Formed of glacial till, it is within the transitional area between the Precambrian bedrock of the Canadian Shield and the sedimentary bedrock of Southern Ontario. This diverse geology, along with the climate, leads to a concomitant diversity of vegetative types. Living on the island are three national species at risk: the Eastern Foxsnake, the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake and the Eastern Hognose Snake. Also present and listed on the Provincial Imperilled Species list are the Cerulean Warbler, the Caspian Tern and the Black-crowned Night Heron. It is also worthy of note that the area is bounded to the north by an active cobble beach, a globally unique geological formation.

As a result of the recent Conservation Easement granted by Kevin Gillen to the Georgian Bay Land Trust, the Trust will become the permanent steward of this environmentally rich and diverse piece of the Archipelago. The GBLT undertakes to maintain and enhance the significant woodland and associated habitat contained within Block 12 and to work with local residents and The Giant's Tomb Cottage Association to protect the natural values of the property. This usage is consistent with the zoning of the neighbouring portion of Awenda Provincial Park as a nature reserve where public use is restricted to two small water access areas.

It is through active partnerships like this one between Kevin Gillen and the Georgian Bay Land Trust that significant areas of Georgian Bay are being protected for the future to ensure that islands like Giant's Tomb continue to be a green haven on the horizon.



An aerial view of the north end of Giant's Tomb Island

Thank you John!



On January 1st John Stark completed his tenure as President of the Georgian Bay Land Trust after 2 ½ years in the role. Under John's leadership, the GBLT has experienced amazing growth in all areas. One of the most significant was the beginning of the transition of our Board of Directors from a working board to a governance board, removing day-to-day operations from the Board level and moving them to the committee and staff level. This has allowed for an incredible increase in activities, resulting in among other things:

- The creation of a Development Plan to give us some overall direction for our fundraising & communication programs
- The creation of annual operating plans for each of the GBLT's program areas (land protection, stewardship, communications, and fundraising)
- Greater emphasis on building an increased awareness of the GBLT and its activities through a refreshed brand, including a new logo and brochure
- A dramatic increase in the number of properties at some stage of acquisition, and more proactive land protection leading to projects like the Port Severn wetlands and Sandy Island, allowing GBLT to be in a position to more than triple the acreage protected in 2008
- Increased fundraising initiatives including projects like Sandy Island, and the Leaders of The Bay program which have raised more than \$800,000
- A dramatic increase in the number of volunteers, including stewards, event volunteers, committee members, and many more
- The creation of regenerate GBLT, a group formed to reach out to younger members of the Georgian Bay community
- The successful publication and launch of the Trees of Georgian Bay poster last fall

John has made it clear that "ALL of the accomplishments result from the hard work of many at both the staff and volunteer level. The President may give initial direction, but the rest is history as they say, with all the hard work done by others." This is true of course, but significant accomplishments in an organization usually come during a time of excellent leadership, and I think we owe at least part of GBLT's great success over the last few years to John's enthusiasm, encouragement of others, and many many hours of plain hard work. Luckily, John is not lost to us but remains on the Board as Past-President. Thank you John!

Welcome to our newest President, Tom Scoon

by John Stark, Past President

GBLT welcomes Tom Scoon as its new President. It has been my privilege to work closely with Tom in his role as Vice President – his valued advice and strong enthusiasm have been beyond the call of duty. We are fortunate that Tom has committed

his expertise to GBLT at this critical time in its history as it experiences incredible growth.

Tom and his wife Pamela live in Toronto and summer in the Pointe au Baril area, often joined by their sons Tim and Andrew and many friends. If you were to ask Tom what his interests are, they would include athletics, the out of doors, and "canoeing at dusk" – we're assuming on Georgian Bay!

Tom is a Real Estate Developer specializing in the renovation of older buildings in downtown Toronto. He is also very active in the community, having served as Governor, Trustee, and Chair of Outdoor Environmental Education at Upper Canada College, is a recipient of the Stephenson Award for Volunteerism, and presently serves on the Brickworks Advisory Committee with the Evergreen Foundation.

In the Georgian Bay community, Tom has served on the Ojibway Building Committee and at GBLT initially as Chair of the Stewardship Committee, and recently as Chair of the Land Protection Committee – the two committees whose work is at the core of GBLT's mandate. Tom has made a significant contribution to these important GBLT activities, and has very effectively led the new pro-active Land Protection stance at GBLT. We look forward to his continuing leadership.



Tom Scoon

Introducing our newest Director, Richard Stark

by Caroline Duncanson

We are pleased to welcome our newest Board member, Richard Stark. Richard has been working with the Land Trust for the past number of months, charring one of our new pilot neighbourhood communities in the community of Carling. In addition to joining us as a Director, Richard will also be taking over from Tom Scoon as our Chair of Land Protection. Welcome aboard Richard!

Richard has a degree in Urban Planning, and a degree in Law, together with a certificate in Dispute Resolution. Richard has owned and operated a custom residential construction business in Toronto for 23 years together with several other related businesses.

During his three terms as an elected Councilor in the Township of Carling on the shores of Georgian Bay, Richard had primary oversight over areas of General Government, Municipal Finance and Planning.

As a constant advocate on Council for stronger environmental controls, Richard spearheaded the complete overhaul of the outmoded planning regime in Carling. This process continues today with his involvement as a director of the West Carling Association and as a ratepayer contributing directly to Council on the current review of the Carling Official Plan.



Richard Stark

Poster Event Huge Success

by Janet Lougheed

We would like to thank to all those who came out on November 20 to the Capitol Theatre in support of our "Get Bent Tree Event", launching our new Trees of Georgian Bay Poster.

Over 150 people were in attendance to see the unveiling of the 25 winning photographs and pick up their own copy of the poster.

Many thanks to our committed team of volunteers who worked extremely hard, particularly our chairs Catherine MacNiven and Liz Kerr. We would also like to thank all of those who sent in their photos and our main sponsor, Mark Payne of Payne Marine.

Posters were on sale at Mountain Equipment Co-op for the month of December and are now available at Artistic Dimensions in Midland, Parry Sound Book Store, Sojourn in Barrie, or by contacting Janet Lougheed at 705-735-2600. Stay tuned for more locations where you can purchase the poster this summer.



With the new poster unveiled, people browsed some of the winning photographs.

Making a gift of BCE shares is a good idea

by Janet Lougheed

On September 30, 2007, BCE Inc., Canada's largest telecommunications group, announced that it had reached an agreement to be bought by a group led by the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan for \$51.7 billion, making it the largest takeover in Canadian history. The good news for current shareholders is that they will receive a reported \$42.75 cash per-share as part of the deal.

For those of you who hold BCE shares and are interested in making a contribution to GBLT in 2008, or a contribution to our Sandy Island project, we thought you would like to know about potential opportunities to benefit from relief from the capital gains that will be realized in 2008 on BCE shares.

For examples produced by ScotiaMcLeod illustrating the net tax savings, visit our website at www.gbtl.org.

Winterlude '08



by Sue Russell

Winter came with a vengeance on our Winterlude evening, Wednesday, February 6. However, over forty hardy Georgian Bay folk ventured out in the storm in true Bay character to attend our annual festival. This year, besides having a very interesting speaker, we conducted the raffle draw for the cedar strip canoe.

The subject of Andrea Curtis's talk was in fact about a deadly Georgian Bay November storm which sank her great-grandfather's boat, the S.S. J.H. Jones. Captain Jim Crawford set off for Manitoulin from Wiarton in November 1906. As we all know November gales are the most treacherous and more boats have been sunk in the Bay in November than any other month of the year.

Shipping was a very competitive business in 1906. Few roads or railways existed on the Bruce peninsula and every captain wanted to be the last boat sailing to the far shores of the Bay. The S.S. Jones ran into gale force winds just past the Cape Crocker lighthouse and it was forced to run into the wind. It wasn't long before the boat began to flounder and it went down with all hands. Only one body of the thirty passengers and crew was ever recovered. Quite a tale for a stormy night.

Following the meeting, Curtis autographed the books bought by those keen on following the historical story of her grandmother, Eleanor Crawford, who had to endure the repercussions of the fateful day when thirty people went to their watery grave, people from Wiarton who held Captain Jim Crawford responsible for their deaths. Eleanor Crawford left the small town when still a teenager to escape the whispers and glances of the surviving family members of those lost on the S.S. J. H. Jones.

The draw for the canoe was anxiously awaited by all those with tickets, which meant the whole audience. Congratulations to the winner, David Wright of Toronto. The second prize, a GBLT paddle, was won by Michael Owen, a member of GBLT's Board of Directors. A plaqued Trees of Georgian Bay poster, our third prize, was won by Diane Nagasaki of Richmond Hill and the fourth and final prize, an autographed copy of Andrea Curtis's book, "Into the Blue", was won by Peter Andrews of Lakefield.

Congratulations to all the winners. Thanks go to the many people who supported the Georgian Bay Land Trust by purchasing tickets and also to the sellers of more than 1,000 tickets that were sold. The net profits from our canoe raffle amounted to over \$7,000.00.



Janet Lougheed, Director of Development for GBLT with Jane Kelly and Brian Clarke of Cognashene