



President's Report

by Tom Scoon

It has been an honour and privilege to serve as your President of the Georgian Bay Land Trust for the past two years. Thank you.

We have had great success in all of our Program Areas. Land Protection managed to double the number of properties and area of land under our protection. Stewardship has necessarily expanded to care for our increased property portfolio and now includes more than 50 volunteers. Communications is responsible for this publication, attracting a record number of readers to our GBLaT, promoting our wonderful events throughout the year and will soon bring us our new and improved web site. It has significantly increased awareness of the GBLT. Fundraising, which continues to provide the funds and revenue necessary for the GBLT to operate, grew those revenues in both 2008 and 2009. Our growth last year was remarkable in that most charitable organizations experienced shrinking revenues.

Other developments include a new 3-year Strategic Plan that was approved by the Board in December and the establishment of a new and improved Board Development Committee chaired by one of our new Directors, Adam Howard.

The rapid growth has necessitated an increase in our staff and we welcomed two new members in November. Jessica Bartram will assist in Communications and Fundraising and Brooks Greer will help in Land Protection and Stewardship.



Tom Scoon, Past President



Richard Stark, President

My successor as President is Richard Stark who has served as Land Protection Committee Chair for the last two years. Richard and his family are cottagers in Carling. I hope and expect that you will give him the same wonderful support and encouragement that you have given me over the past years.

Our success is no accident and is a result of a remarkable team of Board Members, Advisors, Staff and Volunteers dedicated to the notion that they can make a difference in protecting the Bay. I sincerely wish to thank them all for their commitment to and support of the GBLT.

An idea whose time has come is a very powerful force and a dedicated group can make a difference. The Georgian Bay Land Trust is a living example of this. Thank you all for your support in the past and I sincerely hope that you continue that support in the future. Let's keep protecting the magnificent Georgian Bay together.

See you on the Bay!

What's inside... Winterlude • Bayscapes Photography Art Auction • Winter on the Bay

• New Staff • New Chair Appointments • Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake • What's up with Wendy? • Tributes

Georgian Bay Query



Why do Georgian Bay rocks have so many layers to them?

Answer by Nick Eyles, Professor of Geology, University of Toronto

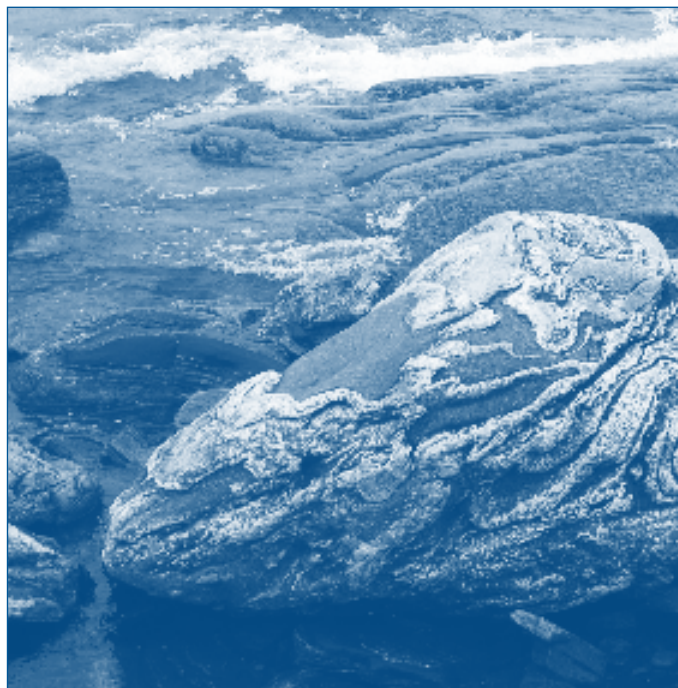


photo by Keith Rodgers

The following answer is an excerpt from Nick Eyles' speech that he gave at Winterlude on February 3, 2010.

This short answer will explore the geological evolution of the Georgian Bay region from Killarney in the north to Collingwood over the last 2 billion years and how it reflects broader global plate tectonic and climatic events.

The foundations of the area were created during the Penokean Orogeny some 1.8 billion (1800 million) years ago when the distinctive white quartzites of the Killarney area of northern Georgian Bay area were deposited and folded into mountains akin to the modern day Rocky Mountains. This event records the growth of an ancestral (and much smaller) North America as crust was added to its outer margins. During the subsequent Grenville Orogeny that began about 1100 million years ago, the northern part of South America collided with eastern North America creating a high Himalayan-type mountain range. This collision saw the formation of a massive global super continent called *Rodinia*. The high mountains were slowly worn down to create the low relief surface of the Canadian Shield which exposes the deep roots of the former mountains in the form of beautifully banded gneisses.

After the breakup of *Rodinia*, the flat-lying Shield was flooded by warm shallow seas between 600 and 300 million years ago, leaving thick layers of limestone and shale rich in marine organisms. Slow uplift and erosion of these rocks over the last 200 million years left broad valleys underlain by the softer shales and a prominent escarpment (the Niagara Escarpment). In the last 2 million years, ice sheets formed over northern Canada during successive ice ages and the Great Lakes basins, including Georgian Bay, were eroded by fast flowing ice streams; elsewhere, thick glacial sediments were left behind and the topography of the Escarpment much modified.

The last glacier left the Georgian Bay area about 11,500 years ago resulting in dramatic changes in lake levels in Georgian Bay and allowing the entry of humans.

Winterlude



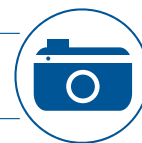
by Jessica Bartram

The sixth annual Winterlude event was held at the Bishop Strachan School Theatre on Wednesday, February 10, 2010. It was graced by the geologic knowledge of speaker Nick Eyles who provided Georgian Bayers with a respite from the February weather, as well as an opportunity to discover some of the science behind the rocks on which they walk each summer. This was our best-attended Winterlude yet, with nearly 200 people turning out to listen to Eyles, a geology professor and researcher at the University of Toronto and one of the stars of the *CBC's Geologic Journey*. The talk spanned aeons and delved far into the depths of the earth as Eyles traveled back in time to show the audience how our beloved rocks came to be. It was a fascinating evening, leaving attendees with a more profound perspective on the geologic marvels that surround them each summer. Thank you to those who turned out and made this such a successful event!



Left to Right: Ed Bartram, Peter Cooper, Nick Eyles, photo by Jessica Bartram

Bayscapes Photography Art Auction



by Tim Wilson, Cognashene
Chair, Bayscapes Art Auction

If you missed the GBLT's Photo Auction this past November, you should plan to attend 2010's Bayscapes Art Auction next November (date to be announced). Close to 200 enthusiastic Georgian Bay cottagers, boaters and photo collectors crammed into the University of Toronto Faculty Club for 3 hours of 'raucous' silent bidding, live bidding and good cheer.

The eastern shore of the Bay was well represented from Honey Harbour to the North Channel with at least a handful of bidders from virtually every community on the shore.

The auction itself was a huge success thanks to a generous crowd of participants. The highlight of the evening, though, was reserved for Edward Burtynsky's photograph which went for \$15,000 in the live auction. Total net proceeds of the whole event were \$37,000!! Thank you and congratulations to everyone!!

A special thank you to John Hartman for providing background information on each Live Auction photograph and its' artist and to Heather Pagat for another entertaining evening of auctioneering.

I would also like to thank the Photo Auction Committee for their many hours of planning and attention to all the details of the event as well as all the volunteers for their support throughout the evening. Everyone went above and beyond the call of duty, with a smile on your face. Thank you.

Looking forward to seeing all of you next November!



photo by Mark Heisey

Winter on the Bay



by Lesley Breeze, Wah Wah Taysee

I always say that Georgian Bay is as beautiful in the winter as it is in the summer. Our family is extremely fortunate to partake in year-round cottaging on Georgian Bay; due in no small part to my husband who ensures all the various "machines" (and the water!) are running.

We tend to ski-doo into the cottage as it is primarily a water-accessed location - only a fifteen-minute ride from the marina. Mother Nature isn't always on our side, however, and we have found ourselves, many times, confronted with huge amounts of snow, squalls or even rain! These are the days that we hike in. You can never be sure what the Bay will hold for you weather-wise during the winter months!

I have spent roughly 20 New Year's eves up at our place, alongside our family and friends. We all gather on the ice at midnight, right in front of the cottage. The snow is crisp and the air clear, and, no matter what the weather brings, it is always breathtaking.

We love that we can be there and that we are truly a part of winter.

Our kids have grown up at the cottage with many a winter spent tobogganing and making snow forts. We know they will always keep Georgian Bay close to their hearts.

Just as we all do.



Winter in Wah Wah Taysee, photo by Lesley Breeze

New Staff

by Wendy Cooper, Executive Director



Brooks Greer

This past fall, the Georgian Bay Land Trust (GBLT) was excited to welcome Jessica Bartram and Brooks Greer as the newest additions to the GBLT team.

For the last number of years, the GBLT has been fortunate to see tremendous growth in its activities, allowing it to achieve significant conservation success. With that growth however, came more opportunities than our small but efficient staff of 1.5 could reasonably manage, including tremendous growth in the number of generous volunteers interested in lending a hand.

At the GBLT's Annual General Meeting in June 2009, the Board of Directors enthusiastically supported the addition of two new positions, the Land Protection Program Manager and the Communications-Development Administrator, focused on supporting the programs of the GBLT.

In October 2009, Jessica Bartram was hired as the Communications-Development Administrator and quickly jumped in to help with our Bayscapes Photography Auction in early November. Jessica is a life-long Georgian Bayer, having grown up on her family's island



Jessica Bartram

in Manitou and similar to her father, renowned artist Ed Bartram, is an artist herself. Jessica's position will focus on supporting our Communications and Development programs, including GBLT's newsletters, print materials, website, events, and donor support. Her enthusiasm for the Georgian Bay and the GBLT has been a tremendous addition and we look forward to Jessica helping us ensure all of you are up to date and taking advantage of opportunities to help the GBLT achieve its goals.

Soon after Jessica joined us, Brooks Greer came on board as the Land Protection Program Manager, taking on the role of managing our Land Protection and Stewardship programs. Brooks comes to us with a passion and appreciation for both Georgian Bay and the natural world, which he dedicates to his years as a Camp Hurontario camper. Brooks has a strong background in customer service and management that will serve him well as he works closely with landowners and our incredible group of volunteer Stewards to support our efforts to secure and steward significant natural habitats throughout our area.

Please join us in welcoming Jessica and Brooks to the GBLT team.



Rocks Poster

Rocks of Georgian Bay posters are available at the following locations:

Artistic Dimensions, Midland; Georgian Bay Country, Parry Sound; Jackson's Toyota, Barrie; Mountain Equipment Co-op (MEC), Toronto; Parry Sound Books, Parry Sound; Pioneer Handcraft Furniture, Port Severn; Sojourn, Barrie and through our website www.gbtl.org.

Posters make great anniversary, birthday, graduation and retirement gifts!

New Chair Appointments



The Georgian Bay Land Trust is excited to announce the appointment of two new Chairs to support our Land Protection program and Board Development.

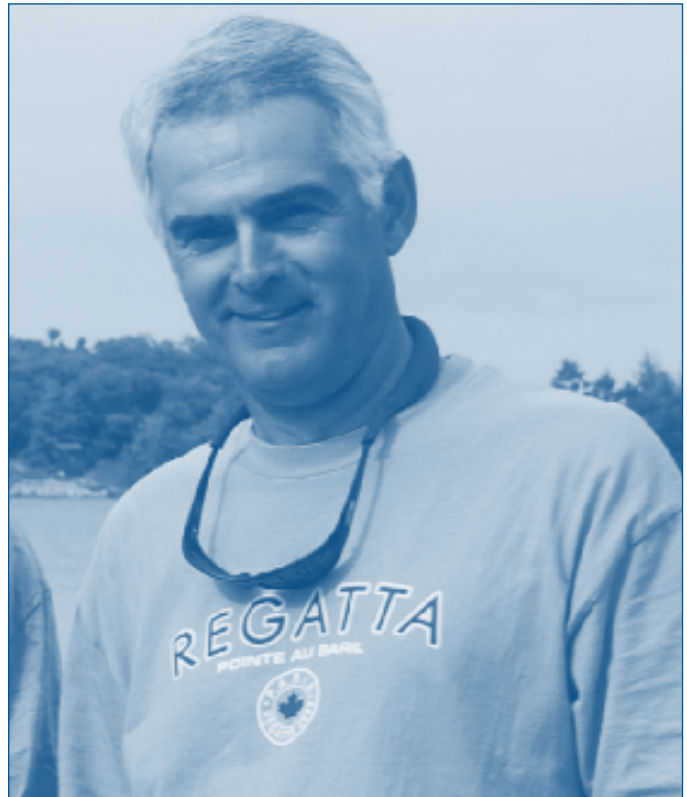
Ian J. MacLeod, Director
Chair, Land Protection Committee

The GBLT welcomed Ian MacLeod to its Board of Directors last February.

Ian has been involved in the building and development industry for over 25 years and is the president of Thistle Point Properties Inc. He is also a registered real estate agent.

Ian has been cottaging in Pointe au Baril for the past 6 years. He is a member of the Ojibway Club and is currently the Junior Regatta Chair for the Point au Baril Islander's Association. He is also vice-president of the Sturgeon Bay Pointe au Baril Ratepayers Association and an active member and co-chair of fundraising for the PABIA sailing club. In 2007, Ian was the head of fundraising for the Pointe au Baril neighbourhood for the GBLT. Ian is married with five children ranging in age from 21 to 7.

"I am pleased to be asked to chair the Land Protection Committee and look forward to working with them and landowners to protect significant lands along the eastern coast of Georgian Bay and the North Channel."



Ian J. MacLeod

Adam Howard, Director
Chair, Board Development Committee

I am very pleased to be taking over the Chair position of the Board Development Committee from John Stark. John, who is retiring after several years on the Board, has made a great contribution to the governance process.

One of the priorities for 2010 will be to make sure that the Board's needs are identified based on the objectives of the Strategic Plan and to develop and implement a process for identifying the skills required for the Board. We also need to ensure that the committees are appropriately staffed in order to fulfill their mandates.

"I look forward to working with existing board members and the broader GBLT community in 2010 to meet these objectives."



Adam Howard

Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake

by Ian and Maureen McGibbon, Cognashene, Land Stewards
With input from Dr. Andrew M. Lentini, Toronto Zoo

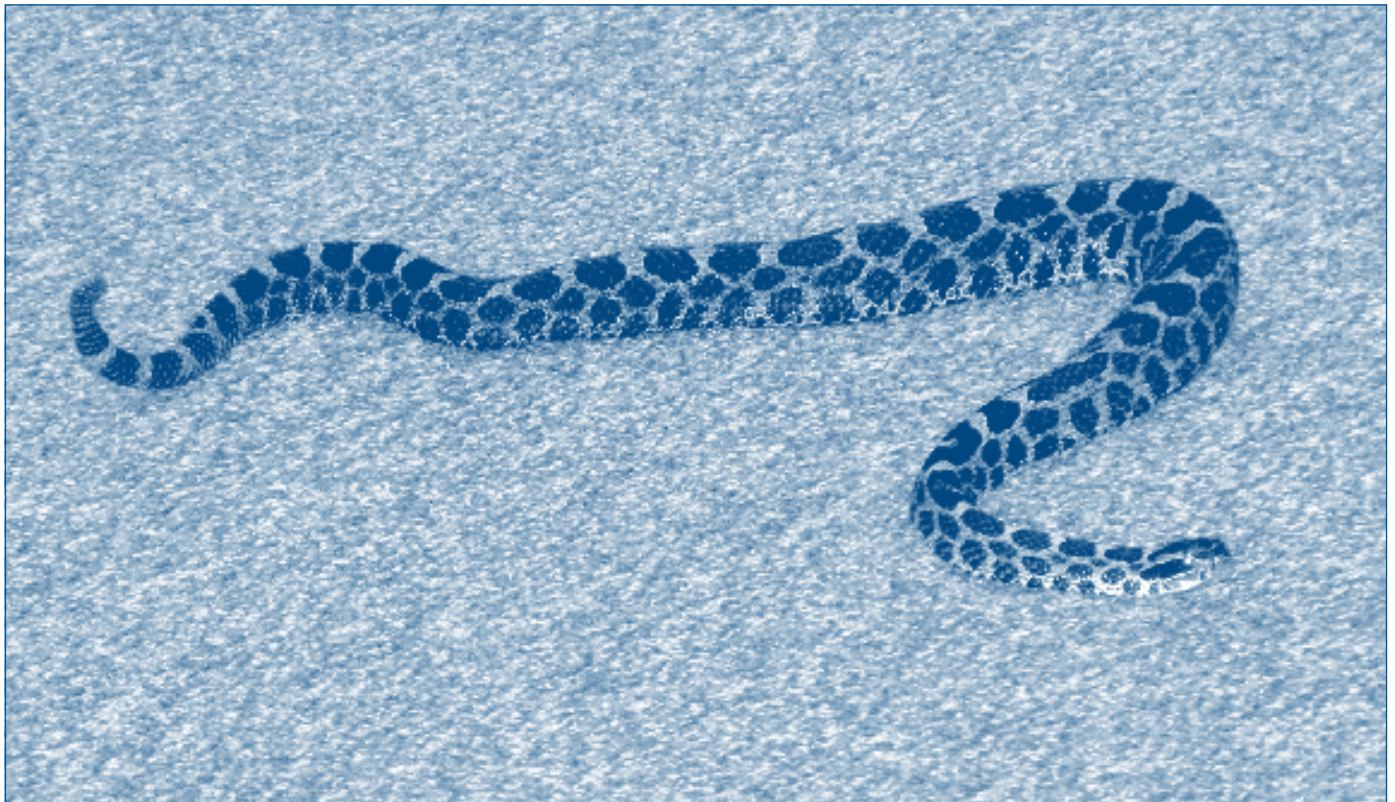
This past April, we were invited to attend a half-day seminar about the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake at the Toronto Zoo. They reviewed a number of snakes in Ontario including the Rattlesnake, the Milk Snake, the Fox Snake, the Water Snake and the Hog-nosed Snake. These were emphasized because they are often mistaken for the Rattlesnake. In the afternoon, Dr. Andrew M. Lentini, Toronto Zoo Curatorial Keeper, Amphibians and Reptiles, brought in a live Massasauga Rattlesnake, a Milk Snake, and a Fox Snake. We were allowed to handle the latter two. He placed the front part of the rattlesnake in a clear acrylic tube and allowed us to touch the lower body, tail and rattle.

Some interesting and important facts about the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake^{1, 2}

- “Massasauga” is from the Ojibwa language and means “great river-mouth” and likely refers to the marshy habitat of the snake
- They are the only remaining poisonous snake in Ontario
- Their main diet is small rodents (e.g. mice), small snakes, birds and frogs. They will lie in ambush for hours to catch one. They forage at night, so be careful.
- They feed between May and September. To survive the winter, they must hibernate from November to April in a location

protected from freezing temperatures (typically a burrow in the ground under the snow). They find their winter hole close to where they were born and always return to it every year.

- They have a very short range for hunting, gestation and hibernation; typically less than 250m. If they are moved a greater distance, they usually perish. Thus, only if they **must** be moved, it should be less than 250 m. As they are designated a threatened species, there are fines for killing them or moving them over greater distances.
- Females typically only produce 6 to 12 young, about 20 cm long, every two or three years. They typically mate in May or June. After a gestation period of 2 to 4 months, the young are born live (even though they begin life in eggs within the mother) in late July or August. Within a few days, the young are on their own, must fend for themselves and find a hibernation location. Rattlesnakes can also mate in the fall and the females can store sperm over the winter. They then gestate through the following summer and give birth late in the summer.
- They are very shy and will avoid humans and animals. They will usually hide or run. If they are stressed, they will shake their rattles quite loudly. They will strike only as a last resort.



Live Rattlesnake



The only time they strike without warning is if we suddenly surprise them.

- Due to human development, their current range is much reduced in Ontario. Their major ranges are now the east and west shores of Georgian Bay. They also still exist in 2 very small pockets near Windsor and near Port Colborne.
- The prime purpose of their venom is to immobilize the prey and to initiate the breakdown of the prey's tissue for easier digestion. A mature Eastern Rattlesnake is capable of controlling the depth of the bite and the amount of venom during a strike. Indeed, during defensive strikes, they often give "dry bites" with no venom.
- Only 2 people have died from an Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake bite and the last occurrence was almost 50 years ago. On average, more people die from bee stings every year
- If you must travel in covered bush, walk carefully and wear heavy rubber boots with heavy long pants. Their fangs are short and they can only strike less than half their body length.

In the next issue of Landscript, we will provide information on what to do in case a family member, friend or pet is bitten by a rattlesnake.

Resources

¹ Canadian Eastern Massauga Rattlesnake Recovery Team

This body brings together almost everyone in Ontario involved in the study, education and preservation of the Eastern Massauga Rattlesnake including the Toronto Zoo, Parks, universities, and government agencies. There is a wealth of information on their website at <http://www.massasauga.ca/>

² Toronto Zoo Fact sheet on the snake :

<http://www.torontozoo.com/animals/details.asp?AnimalId=632>



Rattlesnakes mating in August in Cognashene, photo by Ian McGibbon

What's up with Wendy?

by Wendy Cooper, Executive Director



Many people wonder what I do in the winter... given that the craziness of summer is long past and visits to Georgian Bay are infrequent. Surprisingly, winter is a busy time for the GBLT and for me in particular this winter as several transitions are underway.

First, as you will have read, we have two new staff that have joined us so I am busy helping them get up to speed before the chaos of summer arrives and we all head up to the Bay. We are also experiencing a transition in leadership as we thank Tom Scoon for two very busy years of service as our President and

welcome Richard Stark as our new President who will guide the organization for the next two years. This change in leadership is coupled with a new Strategic Plan that was developed by our Board, advisors, staff and other stakeholders. Work is underway to incorporate these priorities into our day-to-day efforts to implement this three-year plan.

I look forward to reconnecting with everyone as spring arrives and we start planning for the summer ahead. Thank you to all those who have supported us in 2009, making it another great year for the GBLT.



Thinking of making a planned gift to the GBLT? Please contact Janet Loughheed at 416-440-1519, ext. 2, for more information on joining the **Wally King Legacy Circle**.

In Memory of John Cox



The Township of The Archipelago has lost one of its founding councillors. John Cox, who served his constituents with diligence and dignity, passed away September 1, 2009.

By virtue of a resolution passed February 21, 1981, John Cox became the second Reeve of The Township of the Archipelago. He served until November 1985, when the municipal elections were held and a new reeve was elected.

The Township was the recipient of outstanding leadership and all its constituents were beneficiaries of his guidance. Our condolences go to Joan Cox and her sons and family.

Condensed from original obituary by Lillian Racher and Wally King

By including Georgian Bay Land Trust in your will you are helping to create a legacy of nature conservation for future generations.

Thanks to our generous sponsors



Watch for GBLasT updates in the coming months in regards to summer student positions.



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Tribute Gifts

Received from September 15, 2009 to February 10, 2010

In Memory

James W. Bennett
Wilfred Bigelow
John V. Cox
Ernest Clayton Daniher
Peter Arthur Deeks
Flora Catherine Featherstonhaugh/Deeks/Strickland
Peter Fisher
Robert & Della Labrecque
Jennifer Martin
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Gerald Stahn
Carol Swanbergson
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Noni Lohr
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In Honour

Laureen, Graeme, Alex & Brendan Bate
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Mr. and Mrs. George F. Wood
Wally & Marilyn King, 50th Wedding Anniversary

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