



Message from the President

By Richard Stark, West Carling

One of the remarkable natural experiences we have on Georgian Bay is watching the dramatic change that each season brings. For many of us, our experience on the Bay ends in October and begins again in May. While we are not at the Bay, the Bay is not forgotten, nor far from our hearts.

This is a time of year for reflection on the challenges and triumphs of the past year and a time for a reinvigorated vision for the year ahead. It is the same at the GBLT; we have been busy this year and have great plans for 2011.

A year ago our then President, Tom Scoon, talked in these pages about our work in 2009 in completing our new Strategic Plan and hiring additional staff to build the capacity that we need to support our increased responsibilities brought about by our successes. Now we have completed our first year of our new plan and I am pleased to report that we have substantially met our targets for that first year, both on the Plan but also with our new staff. Now we are reflecting on our progress and actively planning for the coming year.

Our overriding organizational focus is always the preservation of unique properties all along our archipelago. This is accomplished in several ways including primarily land protection, stewardship and through communication and education. Our Land Protection Committee, under the capable guidance of Ian MacLeod has been active in protecting more land this year and pursuing dozens of potential future protection opportunities.

Our Stewardship Committee has a new leader at the helm, Jim Cooper. We welcome Jim in his new role. Jim is a long time Cognashene cottager and has been active on the Committee for many years. He is no stranger to the challenges that his role entails and is taking over the Chair from John Catto who has accepted the role of Treasurer for the organization. We congratulate John on all of his past work as Chair of Stewardship and welcome him to his new role as Treasurer.

John has taken over as Treasurer from Jim Beatty who retired from the Board in the summer. On behalf of the Board, staff and all of our supporters, we thank Jim for his years of prudent advice



Richard with John Agnew and John Stark at the Bayscapes Art Auction

and supervision of the financial affairs of the organization. Jim remains at our beck and call as one of our valued Advisors.

Our Communications Committee under the inspired guidance of Jen Kernaghan and our Fundraising Committee, fearlessly triumphed by Peter Cooper, have had a very busy year of activities. Starting with Winterlude 2010 and ending with the hugely successful Art Auction, we have had record turn outs for all of our events. If you haven't checked out our new website, you should! I guarantee you will find it fantastic!

We are thrilled at the success of these two Committees at getting our message out, providing fun and educational events, increasing our support, and substantially meeting our ambitious funding targets in these challenging times.

Just as with the seasons on Georgian Bay, change is inevitable on our Board as well. On behalf of everyone at GBLT, I wish to thank our retiring Directors, Cathy MacNiven, Karl Schiefer and retiring Treasurer Jim Beatty for all of their years of devoted service to our mission and our Board. In addition, thank you to our remarkable staff whose devotion to our cause is a constant inspiration. Lastly, a thank you to all of our dedicated volunteers without whose efforts, we would not be where we are today.

Enjoy the winter, it is short and see you at Winterlude 2011.

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The Joy of Nesting Loons



By Stoney McCart, Go Home Bay



Photo by Stoney McCart

Two of the gifts that have graced my life have been the joy of working with youth across Canada and the joy of a pair of loons nesting on an old swimming raft smack in front of our cabin in Go Home Bay. My book, *Loonatic Perspectives*, celebrates these two worlds.

We closely watch the loons, from mating in May, to nesting throughout June, to the hatching of chicks. The loon head turns almost 360 degrees; therefore, it can see every potential threat approaching from its position on the raft. What looks exposed is protected by that very exposure.

Some Words on Winter Birds

By Brooks Greer, Land Protection Program Manager

Most of the birds that leave our latitudes for the south (those that migrate great distances), such as warblers, vireos, swallows, swifts and whip-poor-wills, feed almost exclusively on insects. Since this food source isn't available during the freezing months, these birds are forced to move; it's not intolerance to cold that necessitates migration.

Other birds, such as the seed/fruit eaters (e.g., finches, robins, blue jays), birds of prey and some waterfowl, are still able to forage and so don't "migrate" per se, although many move from more northern climes to more urban habitats where food is more plentiful.

Hawks and owls remain quite active over the winter and are more visible because they roost in bare deciduous trees in open country against a white background. During harsher winters, when the local rodent food source is low, northern-ranging predators will often stage major incursions into southern Ontario in search of prey. Examples of these include great gray, snowy, boreal, and hawk owls.

Thanks to reintroduction efforts, wild turkeys have enjoyed a huge population comeback in recent years and are now a common sight, especially during the winter, throughout rural

Observation reveals that the raft bobbing on the waves is safer than nesting on our shoreline, as the raft rises and falls with boat wakes—a gentler ride for the egg. Yet boat speed and size create wakes that can wash an egg out of the nest or knock a chick's skull against its shell. We put a sign on our point: "Loons Nest, Gentle Wake Please". Word spreads, and quickly passing boats slow to "no wake." People look from a respectful distance, they point out the sitting loon to their children, and our loons became community loons.

In this photo, it's July 2, and the loons are still restricted to the raft with a new chick and an egg to hatch. The second egg has always hatched one day after the first. Then they will immediately depart and our "Gentle Wake" signs will disappear for another year. The loons have much to teach us about nurturing our young and adapting to environmental change.

Loonatic Perspectives combines photos and observations about loons and young people. Copies/and or loon prints are available through donations to *The Students Commission*, a charitable youth organization. You can donate at www.canadahelps.org/CharityProfilePage.aspx?CharityID=d85257. For more information or inquiries please go to: www.studentscommission.ca or <mailto:stoney@tgmag.ca>.



Photo from Google Images

southern Ontario. Other upland game birds that overwinter are ruffed grouse and the non-native ring-necked pheasant.

Many birds can be attracted to feeders during the cold winter months, especially when deep snow buries the natural food supply. Depending on the location of the feeder, the type of feed provided and the cover available nearby, typical Ontario "feeder birds" include:

- Northern cardinals and American goldfinches
- blue jays and, further to the north, gray jays
- black-capped chickadees and dark-eyed (formerly slate-colored) juncos, which like to forage on spilled seed on the ground
- "winter" finches, including pine siskins, purple finches, common and hoary redpolls, pine and evening grosbeaks, and red and white-winged crossbills
- red-breasted and white-breasted nuthatches
- downy and hairy woodpeckers (will feed on suet blocks)

Birds in Boxes



By Brooks Greer, Land Protection Program Manager and Donald Fraser, Go Home Bay

Although there are about 20 species of breeding birds native to Ontario that can be attracted to man-made nesting boxes, there is probably only a handful that you can realistically hope will occupy a box on the eastern Georgian Bay coast.

The commentary on the list below was written and put into taxonomic order by Donald Fraser of Go Home Bay. Donald underlines that actually getting the target species into the next box provided is a hit-and-miss proposition, and it won't necessarily happen for a few seasons. Box location is critical to success, and you may well get an unintended tenant.

Wood Duck

A good target species because it does not excavate its own cavity and readily uses artificial nesting structures. However, the key with Wood Ducks is placing the box in the proper location, such as on a dead snag in the middle of a beaver pond (this is where I've seen nesting 'woodies' in the Go Home Bay area). The boxes seem to work best when suspended above water, which makes putting the box up a bit of a logistical challenge (not to mention a safety issue if working from a small boat).

Hooded Merganser

Most of the above commentary about Wood Ducks also applies to Hooded Mergansers. While they are present along some of the small streams that drain into our very back bays and inland swamps, they are not as common as Wood Ducks and, being a secretive species, are very hard to find during the nesting season.

Great Crested Flycatcher

This is a real cavity nester and will use artificial structures. They are common near woodland edges and openings throughout eastern Georgian Bay.

Purple Martin

A member of the swallow family, the Purple Martin is probably the best known example of a bird that inhabits artificial nest structures. However, martins are very gregarious and take up residence in multi-unit martin houses rather than occupy individual swallow boxes. Many cottagers have put up martin houses only to find that they were taken over by starlings. Don't give up – clear out the squatters and with luck you may eventually be rewarded with a very attractive (and free!) aerial mosquito removal service.

Tree Swallow

This is probably the only species for which the maxim "if you build it, they will come" truly applies. The only thing that limits Tree Swallow nesting in eastern Georgian Bay is the availability of nest sites. However, Tree Swallows are also likely to occupy nest boxes that are not specifically designed



An example of a Brooks original!

for them (although not applicable to our part of Ontario, Tree Swallows and Starlings are a scourge to people who erect eastern Bluebird boxes).

Black-capped Chickadee

Chickadees are very common in our area and will readily utilize boxes, if placed in the woods. Unlike swallows that prefer wide, open spaces, chickadees need a bit of forest cover.

House Wren

This is also an excellent target species that readily uses nest boxes provided that the entrance hole is the right size. I'm sure that many of you as children had a school woodworking project that involved building a wren house, which was put up at the cottage or in the backyard at home. A word of caution, however: be aware that House Wrens often build several "dummy" nests in addition to their real nest, as a means of confusing would-be predators. So don't be surprised if a wren constructs a nest in your wren house but does not lay eggs in it. My advice? Put up several houses around your cottage.

Please see the www.gblt.org website for instructions for building a Wood Duck box.

Endowing the Future of the Georgian Bay Land Trust

By Glenn Davis, Senior Vice-President, Marsh Canada Ltd.

The GBLT has had great success in soliciting donations of land. However, as landowners know all too well, with ownership comes the financial responsibilities of stewardship and that requires cash. Funding those responsibilities is where building a charitable Endowment Fund for the GBLT comes in; creating a pool of capital to provide a permanent, stable source of funding for future operations. Each donor's situation is different, but creatively integrating life insurance structures into an estate plan can often enable a significant charitable gift. In fact, because insurance plans can often multiply the value of simple cash gifts, money that would otherwise be lost to taxes (and more) can frequently be diverted to charitable good works.

There are several ways that existing, or new, insurance policies can be used to make a charitable gift:

Donate the *proceeds*. Designating the GBLT as direct beneficiary of a policy you own results in making a charitable donation, on death, of the life insurance proceeds. Depending on the amount of the proceeds, the resulting tax credits can offset 100% of income taxes in the year of death and also reduce taxes in the year prior to death.

Donate the *premiums*. A donor preferring annual tax relief, rather than a large tax credit upon death, can donate the premiums on a life policy owned, or acquired, by the charity. The policy could be on the donor's own life, a family member, or any other policy owned by the charity. The ordinary rules about charitable donation receipts apply.

Donate the *policy* itself. A recent change in the tax rules means a charitable receipt may be available based on the 'fair market value' (FMV) of a donated policy and not just the "cash surrender value" (CSV). Even policies with a very low CSV could have a high FMV. Official valuation of a policy will require an expert actuarial opinion, discounting the future death benefit value to reflect a variety of factors, including the age of the life insured and his or her life expectancy. Donors with policies they no longer need should investigate donating them, instead of cancelling them. (Please note that the donor and the GBLT will also need to address the ongoing payment of premiums in deciding whether or not the GBLT can afford to accept such a gift.)

These are the conventional uses of life insurance in charitable giving but another powerful strategy is available to donors seeking to unlock some of their wealth tied up in illiquid, private company shares.

Most share donations involve publicly-traded securities. To prevent perceived abuse of the charitable system, the income tax rules contain restrictions on making gifts to charities of 'non-qualifying' securities, such as private company shares. Essentially, if the non-qualifying securities (NQS) rules apply, the shares must be turned into cash within five years of receiving the gift before a charity can issue a donation receipt. Using life

insurance to fund that liquidation can result in a very powerful, tax-efficient charitable giving strategy.

Here's an example of how it works:

Doris and her late husband Don were strong supporters of the objectives of the GBLT.

Doris owns shares valued at \$1 million dollars in a private family company. (In this example, they happen to be fixed-value preferred shares, created as part of an 'estate freeze'). As part of her estate plan, Doris wants to make a substantial gift in his memory.

With the help of the GBLT and her advisors, Doris takes two simple steps: she amends her Will, making a specific gift of her private company preferred shares to the Georgian Bay Trust Foundation (the legal name of the GBLT) Don and Doris Endowment Fund. She then gives her permission for the family company to acquire \$1 million in insurance on her life, payable to the company. It also pays the premiums.

Years go by. Doris passes away, and her carefully-designed estate plan is triggered.

1. The GBLT inherits her private company shares under her Will.
2. Within a few weeks of her death, the company receives \$1 million, tax-free, through the insurance policy.
3. A few months after Doris's death, the company uses the insurance proceeds to buy the shares back from GBLT.

The result? The Don and Doris Endowment Fund gets \$1 million cash to fund future works. Provided that the NQS rules do not apply,¹ Doris's estate gets a \$1 million charitable donation receipt.

Doris has made a magnificent legacy gift to the GBLT and, indirectly, the company has paid for it. Doris would also be delighted to know that the charitable tax credits created will help offset taxes in her estate helping to keep the treasured Georgian Bay cottage in the family, and enabling another generation or two of GBLT supporters!

Doris would also be pleased to know that shareholders of the family company will get an additional benefit from her planning. Based on the income tax rules, the life insurance payable to the Corporation will generate a credit to its 'Capital Dividend Account' (CDA) for some, or all, of the death benefit amount. This means that the shareholders can now receive a *tax-free* capital dividend, rather than an ordinary taxable dividend. That's another nice legacy for Doris to leave behind and a wonderful, finishing touch to a powerful charitable giving strategy using life insurance.

To discuss leaving a legacy to the Georgian Bay Land Trust, please call Janet Loughheed at 416-440-1519, extension 2.

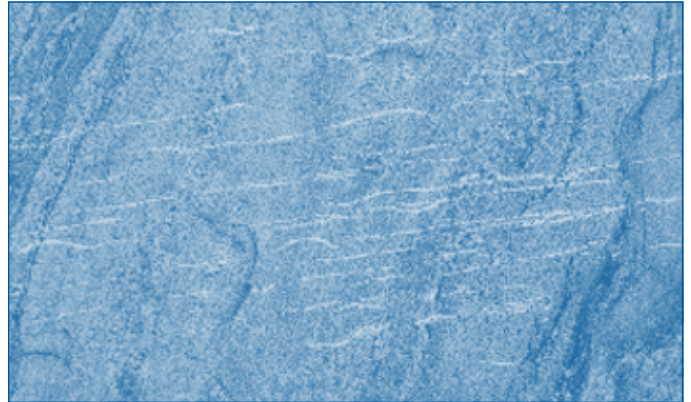
¹ The NQS rules do not apply to gifts of shares of private companies to public foundations and charitable organizations as long as the donor (here, the estate trustee of Doris's estate) acts at arm's length to the charity and to each of the charity's directors or trustees and officers. If the rules do apply at the time of the gift (Doris's death), as long as the shares are disposed of within 5 years of the date the gift was made, a receipt for the lesser of the FMV at the time of the gift and the FMV at the time of the disposition can be issued. In our example, these would be the same amounts, \$1 million.

Please Don't Ride on the Rock

By Jim Cooper, Cognashene

The metal studs in a snowmobile track can do long-lasting damage to the beautiful rock along the shores of Georgian Bay. Accelerating or braking on bare rock or on a thin layer of snow causes the damage. Although the granite along the shore of the Bay seems pretty hard, the carbide studs are much harder. If they are scratched across the rock, they mark it with deeply scored lines. If you have to cross the rock somewhere, try to avoid accelerating or braking. Dr. Nick Eyles, Professor of Geology, estimates that it will take many decades for these to weather away.

The Georgian Bay Land Trust rules do not allow the use of any motorized vehicles on any of its properties. If you are out on the Bay this winter, please leave your snowmobile on the ice and walk to the rocky areas.



Scoring of the rock on The Lizard Island, Cognashene

Land Protection FAQ's

By Wendy Cooper, Executive Director



Lizard Island, Cognashene, photo by Ralph Grose

One of the best parts of my job is meeting with landowners who express an interest in working with the GBLT to protect their piece of Georgian Bay. In a typical year, I'll talk with anywhere from 5 to 25 landowners that contact the GBLT to determine if there's a way of working with us to achieve our mutual goal of protecting the natural and cultural values of their property.

It is during these meetings, that I have learned the most about Georgian Bay. I have learned so much from these landowners who I meet on the dock, at their cottage, or through a walk in the woods. During these visits I hear about why this part of Georgian Bay is so special to them and what creatures, small and large, visit at which time of year. Regardless of whether they are "naturalists", Georgian Bay landowners have an intimate knowledge of their property that clearly demonstrates their passion for this incredible place.

After 7 years of meeting a variety of landowners with a range of questions, concerns and desires uncovered during these chats, I realized that there are some very common questions that arise in these meetings as landowners make their decision about how they will move forward.

As a result, the GBLT has put together a "Frequently Asked Questions" (FAQ's) flyer, available on the website at www.gbtl.org. Click on "Donations" to read more about our FAQ's, contact our office at 416-440-1519, extension 4 or email brooks.greer@gbtl.org.

This FAQ provides landowners, at any stage of exploring the future of their property, with some general answers to questions they are probably wondering about. The questions include how long the process takes, how the property will be used under the GBLT's ownership, and how to ensure that the property will stay protected.

If you're a landowner exploring your options, I encourage you to check it out and see if working with the GBLT to protect all or a portion of your property will work for you.

Celebrating our 20th Anniversary in 2011



By Jessica Bartram, Communications-Development Administrator

As the New Year draws closer, the GBLT is gearing up to celebrate its 20th anniversary. The past two decades have seen a profusion of important milestones, from the acquisition of our first property in 1991 to the volume of work in obtaining and stewarding new lands, including our most successful acquisition year so far in 2008, when 12 properties were closed.

It was in 1991 that, under the leadership of Wally King and with the generosity of our founding donors, the incorporation of the GBLT as a tax-exempt corporation was completed. In the same year, Friend Island in Pointe au Baril became the Trust's first property, followed closely by Thomson Reserve in 1992. Since then, the GBLT has grown to own or manage 25 properties totalling over 1,150 acres, and assists in the stewardship of thousands more acres. The GBLT's biggest achievement in stewardship, both in terms of acreage and the fundraising effort that led to its acquisition, occurred in 2008 with the addition of Sandy Island, one of the many properties obtained that year. We are also proud to have over 75 volunteer stewards who donate their time to the preservation and monitoring of our properties.

Our partnership with the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), initiated in 2002, has raised money through events such as the First Founder's Lunch, established Stewardship Funds, secured properties including the Alexander Islands, and continues as the NCC and GBLT collaborate on projects of mutual interest.

The GBLT is now involved in another important partnership with the GB5, which includes the Georgian Bay Association, Georgian Bay Forever, the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve, and the Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council. Beyond the NCC and the GB5, we work with over 20 partners to meet our mission.

Over the years, our events have helped educate those interested in the efforts of the GBLT. Our Bayscapes art and photo auctions celebrate the beauty of the Bay through the eyes of the area's talented artists, which have helped raise awareness, attracted volunteers and encouraged gifts of land and funds for the ongoing success of the GBLT.

Along with these and many other milestones, the GBLT will also be celebrating its most successful accomplishment—bringing together a community of Bay lovers who appreciate its unique landscape and stunning biodiversity. Our stewards, donors and volunteers all form the vibrant GBLT family that now numbers in the thousands, every one dedicated to helping us preserve Georgian Bay for future generations.

While the GBLT will be celebrating the past two decades of stunning successes in 2011, the future potential of the organization remains the first priority. With a brand new website and 25 properties in the process of being negotiated, there is no doubt that the next 20 years will be just as fruitful.

Moments from the Past



By Wally King, Sans Souci, Advisor, Founding Chairman

The above picture was taken on April 9, 1991, at the World Trade Centre in Toronto, on the occasion of the 75th anniversary reunion of the founding of the Georgian Bay Association.

The presentation of \$10,000 represents a gift from the Sans Souci and Copperhead Association (SSCA) in memory of Elmer I. Phillips, long-time President of the SSCA, in order to fund the founding of the Georgian Bay Trust Foundation Inc. (Land Trust).

Stephen Griggs was uniquely responsible for the Land Trust's incorporation and obtaining approval from the Canadian Customs and Review Agency (now Canadian Revenue Agency)) for charitable registration, within a very short period of time (about six weeks).

Nancy Christie, then President of the SSCA, presented the cheque to Wally King, the Founding Chairman of the Land Trust.

Nancy Christie, former Past President of the Land Trust, Wally King, and Stephen Griggs, all currently serve on the Advisory

Group to the Land Trust, along with Sandy Phillips, the son of Elmer I. Phillips.



At time of photo: Wally King, President, GBA; Stephen Griggs, Legal Counsel

Caring for the Land You Love



By Janet Loughheed, Director of Development, GBLT

The Georgian Bay Land Trust (GBLT) and the Huronia Community Foundation (HCF) announce a new partnership as part of *Care for the Land You Love*, a province-wide campaign created by Ontario Land Trust Association and Community Foundations of Canada to raise awareness and funds for the ongoing stewardship of protected properties in Ontario.

The partnership also offers donors an opportunity to multiply the impact of their gift. Community foundations will match every dollar raised, up to a maximum of \$20,000. When the program is completed, it will provide enough income to steward approximately 50% of the land cared for by land trusts in Ontario.

The new Georgian Bay Land Trust Huronia Stewardship Fund will directly support the stewardship for the GBLT only. The GBLT and HCF will work together to identify potential donors to contribute to a new local fund that will be held by the HCF. The endowment funds, established by the local community foundation, will create a permanent source of revenue for local stewardship activities on the eastern shore of Georgian Bay.

Stewardship activities include documenting natural and cultural values, signage, education of visitors, rare species monitoring, invasive species management, and regular monitoring visits by stewards to ensure their protection in perpetuity. This fund will also support the GBLT's summer student program and 75 volunteer stewards actively working for the GBLT to assist in the management of over 1200 acres of protected lands.

"We are so excited to be part of this innovative partnership opportunity", states Wendy Cooper, Executive Director of the



Janet Loughheed and Jim Cooper meet HCF supporters to discuss the partnership.

Georgian Bay Land Trust. "The work really begins when transfers of ownership or easements are completed, and the GBLT is committed to ensuring proper stewardship of all its properties so that current and future generations will have the opportunity to enjoy and appreciate this incredible part of the world. This new Stewardship Fund will support that commitment."

"We are very excited to be working with the Georgian Bay Land Trust on this important project," says Garry Morehouse, Executive Director, Huronia Community Foundation. "By helping to secure this endowment fund we can ensure the long-term protection of the lands our community treasure. This partnership is an exciting opportunity to make a really positive impact on the natural areas around Georgian Bay

If you wish to find out more about this project, please call Janet Loughheed at the GBLT or Garry Morehouse at the Huronia Community Foundation.

GBLT Huronia Stewardship Fund Donation



A Gift in Memory of Butch LaFrance



The late Butch LaFrance in his beloved Georgian Bay.

"Before he died of a brain tumor in May of 2010, my husband Butch was an avid Georgian Bay sailor. He particularly loved the North Channel and was saddened one year to discover new cottage development encroaching on the once unspoiled shore of his favourite anchorage. He always felt strongly that special places like these should be protected."

Stories like Butch's are not uncommon in Huronia. As citizens of this naturally beautiful area, we sometimes take Georgian Bay's splendour for granted—until it is threatened, or more sadly, destroyed.

Butch's wife, Lu LaFrance, knew very well how important preserving Georgian Bay was to him. So upon his death, she could think of no better tribute than making a sizable financial contribution to the Georgian Bay Land Trust Huronia Stewardship Fund.

Endowment funds are an increasingly popular and meaningful way to create a lasting legacy of giving. The beauty of this approach is flexibility. Funds can be allocated to a charity that has strong personal significance to donors and their loved ones, something Lu LaFrance will not forget.

"I made this donation as a fitting memorial to Butch, as a means to honour him and his wish that the shores of Georgian Bay be preserved in their natural beauty and wonder, forever."

Georgian Bay Query: What is the Threat from the Asian Carp to the Great Lakes?

By Jessica Bartram, Communications-Development Administrator, GBLT



Photo from Google Images

Known as an 'aquatic bully' and seen as a menace to North American waterways, the Asian carp is the latest invasive species causing panic across the continent. Originally introduced to the southern United States in the 1970s to control the spread of algae in fish farms, the carp escaped into the wild during flooding in the 1990s and have been working their way north ever since.

The current Asian carp population consists of two species originally from China and eastern Siberia—the bighead carp (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*) and the silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*), both of which can grow to over a metre in length and weigh more than 40kg. The fish feed in the top few feet of the water column, each one consuming nearly half its weight in plankton each day. This feeding efficiency leaves less food for the fry of game fish (such as bass and walleyes), prompting fears that the success of Asian carp will lead to severely reduced biodiversity in North American waters.

An added downside of the presence of the silver carp in waterways is its dramatic reaction to danger. When panicked, the carp leaps madly into the air, sometimes reaching heights of 15 feet, and often colliding with unsuspecting fisherman, breaking noses and leaving fish-shaped bruises.

From its lower Mississippi River origins, where it starved out 90% of the river's native population, the carp has since turned up in the Missouri, the Tennessee, the Ohio and, most recently, the Illinois, where scientists are working to prevent the population

from spreading into the Great Lakes. On Tuesday, October 5th, an 18-month, bi-national program was introduced that will assess the risks the carp poses to the Great Lakes and examine the most vulnerable pathways the fish could use to enter the Lakes.

The carp are currently being held at a bay near Chicago thanks to a system of electrical barriers that are meant to prevent two-way movement of invasive fish species between the Mississippi River and the Great Lakes, though DNA has been found in waterways near Lake Michigan.

In the October 25th, 2010 issue of *The New Yorker*, Ian Frazier noted that scientists are not sure if the carp would thrive in the Great Lakes themselves, but have concerns about the rivers within the system. He writes, "[a] study has identified twenty-two rivers in the Great Lakes system that might be as vulnerable as the Illinois. Some of these are major rivers with important salmon runs...[so] Asian carp in those rivers could become a disaster really fast."

With a carp being discovered downstream from an electrical barrier near Chicago this past June, just kilometres from Lake Michigan, officials on both sides of the border consider the fish the greatest invasive threat to the area.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada recently dedicated \$415,000 to the Great Lakes research project, adding to U.S. efforts already underway in the battle against the spread of the invasive carp.

The Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake

(Part 3 - Summer follow-up)

By Ian and Maureen McGibbon, Cognashene, GBLT Land Stewards with input from the West Parry Sound Health Centre

In the Winter 2010 issue of *Landscript*, we covered many facts on the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake.

In the Summer 2010 issue, we provided information on what to do in case a family member, friend or dog is bitten by a rattlesnake. These can be viewed at:

www.gbtl.org/sites/default/files/Landscript_Winter_2010_singles.pdf page 6, and

www.gbtl.org/sites/default/files/Landscript_Summer2010_singles.pdf page 4.

As a follow-up from 2009, which was a near record year for the number of rattler bites (over 15), we asked the *West Parry Sound Health Centre* for a 2010 status report. This was their issued statement on the status of the Ontario Provincial Antivenom Depot: *"With the Provincial Antivenom Depot re-established at the West Parry Sound Health Centre, officials tallied the status of bites and inventory levels without any difficulties in the summer of 2010. Antivenom moved easily and quickly around the province. The scheduled movement includes rotating stock to ensure sites with higher need receive the product with the shortest remaining expiration date. This process eliminates inventory waste. Between June 18th and August 30th ten people reported bites and nine were treated between three hospitals—Midland, Orillia and West Parry Sound Health Centre. The age of victims ranged between 12 and 60 years old. Interestingly, nine of the ten bite victims were males and two were bitten on the hand."*

We asked for some amplification on some of this information but WPSHC felt some answers could infringe on patient confidentiality. One observation was the "10th bitten person" did not seek treatment. Our speculation is that that person received a "dry bite" and did not receive any venom from the bite. However, as stated before, we would still strongly recommend a person seek treatment even if there are doubts as the symptoms can appear later and become debilitating very quickly, as covered in Jim Bowden's story mentioned below. Second, we are not sure how one of the persons ended up at the Orillia hospital. Rattlers do not range in the Orillia area. Our speculation is that the person was bitten in the Georgian Bay area and traveled to the Orillia hospital because of familiarity. The good news in all of this was that there were good antivenom stock levels in the province because of the new program and they were well managed, as the stock does have a finite shelf life.

We were unable to obtain any information on 2010 dog bites.

Although most of the 2010 bites appear to have been relatively moderate in severity, there was one case which was particularly severe. Jim Bowden is a long time cottager in the Cognashene area, former Georgian Bay Township Councillor and active with many Georgian Bay associations. On June 18th of this summer,



Jim Bowden dressed properly for a walk in snake country!

Jim was walking back to his cottage in the dark when a rattler bit him three times on his foot. Various accounts of his story are at:

- www.wpschf.com/newsletter.html?action=view&id=29#top2
- www.georgianbay.ca/pdf/update/vol20no3.pdf page 14.
- www.georgianbay.ca/index.html (click on "Lands & Forest" then "Rattlesnake story")

As recounted in the story, Jim followed all the recommendations covered in our material in the Summer *Landscript* issue. In particular: contact 911 and be transported by someone other than yourself (in this case, his brother and niece went with him to the marina and an ambulance took him to the hospital). Of particular note, within 60 minutes of the bites, Jim was losing consciousness and would not have been able to transport himself. As recounted in the story, Jim needed considerable medical support to recover and over 38 vials of antivenom. Speculation is that a juvenile snake, which does not regulate its venom, bit him or he overly startled the snake and he received a large dose.

Resources

Canadian Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake Recovery Team

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

Canadian Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake Recovery Team Stewardship Guide

Available on line at www.massasauga.ca/html/stewardship/index.htm. In particular, read Section 4 on Rattlesnake Safety.

Georgian Bay Association

www.georgianbay.ca/pdf/update/vol20no3.pdf page 12. Bob Duncanson, GBA Executive Director, also provides some additional information on rattlers in this issue.

Pay Cash, Grow Slowly, Give Back— The Payne Marine Story

By Donna Douglas, Pointe au Baril

This summer Payne Marine will celebrate its 50th birthday with half a century of giving great service and growing a thriving business. When Vince Payne died in 2005, his marine business was nearly 45 years old and, at age 95, he could look at what he'd started and shake his head in wonder.

Today, a third Payne generation is at the helm of Payne Marine and it's continued to grow with the same modest attitude: pay cash, grow slowly, give back. Mark Payne grew up pumping gas and learning motors from the time he was in public school. He completed high school in Parry Sound and went to Georgian College's Orillia campus for Marina Management, a 3-year continuous course offering marketing, business law, finance, insurance, welding, and mechanic—topics that were important to run a marina.

Today he's at the helm of an operation that offers full marine services, sells and ships 22 and 24-foot boats all over North America, and provides summer dockage for 100 boats and winter storage for triple that number.

Mark oversees 3 employees in the winter and an additional 13 in the summer, as Payne Marine is a year round business now. With a structured buyout of the business from his father, Mike, in 2002, Mark now shoulders full responsibility. However, he still counts on his dad to help out and stay involved.

Mark is well suited to the business and is absolutely in love with Georgian Bay. While he's seen great changes in the bay at Pointe au Baril, he's philosophical about growth. "Ours is a multi-million dollar business and we've maintained that growth without debt. The philosophy was ingrained in me," says Mark. "Today we offer a full mechanic service and sales of new boats and motors as well as used equipment." By carrying on his grandfather's tradition of paying cash and never leveraging debt, Mark says his working life has a lot of choice in it. "I'll never be forced to run the marina 20 hours a day."

While Mark is busy serving customers, he's also generous with his community. He served on the Pointe au Baril Islanders Association for a number of years and it was through his volunteer work with PAVIA that he came to know about the work of the Georgian Bay Land Trust. "I was approached to be a donor and to take on a minority sponsorship in their art auction three or four years ago. "I decided to do the whole sponsorship. It's the same reason I like to buy a full-page ad instead of a quarter-page.

Janet Lougheed (GBLT Director of Development) answered all my questions, helped me understand the day-to-day working of the GBLT and how and why they acquire properties. The more I learned, the more I felt compelled to get involved."



Mark Payne

For the past four years, Mark has been writing a cheque for \$5,000 to the Georgian Bay Land Trust. It's money that he sees as an investment in his community's future. "I feel fortunate that I could grow up here; when I wanted to go for a boat ride or have a picnic or go camping or go for a swim, it was never an issue. The more I see this area change, the more I see how difficult it can be for the average person to have a piece of property at Pointe au Baril. For the average person to buy a cottage here, well, it's not going to happen. It's out of financial reach. That's great for my business, but it bothers me that it's out of reach for the ordinary person."

It's because there's less and less unoccupied land that Mark contributes to the GBLT purchase of properties so people can rent a boat and enjoy the sunset, have lunch, have a swim and enjoy the Bay.

Mark Payne's position is well rooted in his past. The simple philosophy that gave birth to Payne Marine keeps it ticking along in a growth position today. Mark respects the old mentality of Pointe au Baril, the simplicity of life of yesteryear. He also recognizes that new cottage owners want different kinds of amenities and sees the region as a blend of old and new.

That is what drives him to continue to support the Georgian Bay Land Trust. He sees himself as a steward of the past, for those who are here in the future.

Bayscapes Art Auction Another Great Success!



By Tim Wilson, Cognashene, Chair, Bayscapes Art Auction

The 2010 GBLT Bayscapes Art Auction was a smashing success again on every front. Close to 200 enthusiastic Georgian Bay lovers, artists and art buyers attended the Capitol Event Theatre on Friday, November 5th. The evening generated net proceeds of over \$50,000 thanks to generous bidding but also to the artists for the donation of their superb works. None of this would have been possible without the support of our tremendous sponsors, A&A Services & Marine, Active Green and Ross, the Napoleon Appliance Corporation, The Gilder, Thornbury Home Hardware and, last but not least, our main sponsor, Payne Marine, who are in their fourth year of supporting this fantastic event. We would like to thank everyone who attended, the enthusiastic assistance of the volunteers and especially the Art Auction Committee for another fantastic job.

Please continue to spread the word that this is "the event" of the year for lovers of Georgian Bay art in support of the Land Trust's activities.



A selection of live auction works of art

The GBLT Gets Social (Media)



By Laura Sunderland

Facebook is a social networking website with more than 500 million active users around the world. Over 50% of active users log on to Facebook every day to connect with individuals and organizations around the world based on their common interests. One of the many ways users interact is through Facebook groups.

There are hundreds of Facebook groups dedicated to Georgian Bay, with thousands of people publicly declaring their love for the Bay, their interest in Georgian Bay photography, fishing, snowmobiling, canoeing and kayaking, and their passion for cottaging and boating. There are groups dedicated to Go Home Bay, Sans Souci, Cognashene, and Pointe au Baril, to name just a few.

With so many people who care about Georgian Bay already sharing their stories and photos on Facebook, the GBLT launched

a Facebook group to promote the importance of land preservation and stewardship to a wider audience. The GBLT's Facebook group has a growing membership of over 260. As an online network, Facebook easily crosses geographic and demographic boundaries. People from as far away as Queensland, Australia, have joined the GBLT Facebook group to share stories of local land preservation success, and artists with a special interest in Georgian Bay have come online to share photos of their work.

The GBLT Facebook group is a great place to connect with others that support the GBLT, find out about upcoming events, view photos from GBLT activities and the Bay, and share information about the ecological, geological and historical importance of Georgian Bay.

Please come join us on Facebook!



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!



Thanks for your support in 2010. We wouldn't be a success without you!

Winterlude, February 3rd, 2011

By Pinky and John McAllister, South Channel Parry Sound

Friends of the Georgian Bay Land Trust are invited to an off-season reunion to help celebrate winter at the Bay. Join in the discussions with Don and Marion Wheeler who have spent over 60 years on Georgian Bay, which has always included a few weeks in the winter wonderland; Brent Warga who has become a year long resident at his water access cottage; and Cory Trepanier, a Canadian artist who brings the beauty of the Bay, in winter, to canvas.

Winterlude will be held at Bishop Strachan School on Thursday, February 3rd, 2011. Join your Bay friends for some food and drinks at 6:30 pm before the talks start at 8:00 pm.

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

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



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