



## *Mark Carabetta - New Executive Director of the GBLT*

By Peter Cooper, Chairman, GBLT

The Georgian Bay Land Trust rolls out a warm welcome to our new Executive Director, Mark Carabetta. Our hiring group reviewed over 75 applications and interviewed several candidates before finding the perfect fit for the GBLT. Mark joined our team on Wednesday, November 16, 2011.

Mark has over 17 years of experience with the conservation community in both the United States and Canada. His career includes working as an Ecologist and Director of Conservation Science at the Connecticut chapter of The Nature Conservancy and, for the past five years, he has worked as the Conservation Science Manager for Ontario Nature. In his recent role with Ontario Nature, he built and managed their nature reserve system, including 22 nature reserves and two conservation easements, and provided expertise and support on stewardship, restoration, mapping and multi-stakeholder initiatives. Mark has a M.A. in Botany, from Connecticut College, New London, Connecticut.

Mark also currently serves as a Governor on the Ontario Land Trust Alliance Board, leading the Board Development committee and has volunteered with a variety of conservation organizations including the Field Botanists of Ontario. Mark has a profound love of nature and the outdoors and has enjoyed hiking and camping with his family along the eastern and western shores of Georgian Bay.

Mark has joined our team and worked through a short overlap period with our outgoing Executive Director, Wendy Cooper, who completed eight successful years with the GBLT on Tuesday, November 22, 2011. We thank Wendy for her incredible efforts and support of the GBLT and know she will remain an ongoing friend and supporter of the GBLT.

Mark can hardly wait to get out on the Bay and see all of our properties next spring and summer. We know everyone will give him an enthusiastic welcome to make him feel part of the GBLT family.



*Mark Carabetta in the field*

*Help us build a strong community of Bay lovers by becoming a GBLT Property Pal!  
Share your stories and pictures of what you love about our properties by visiting [www.gbtl.org](http://www.gbtl.org).*

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# Goodbye and Good Luck to Wendy Cooper

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By John Stark, Advisor, West Carling

Thank you Wendy!

What a remarkable success story for GBLT! Founding volunteers laid the groundwork starting in 1991 but not until Wendy Cooper's appointment as GBLT's first full time Executive Director did GBLT's successes begin to rapidly accumulate, continuing unabated to this day.

Simply stated, without Wendy's enthusiasm, dedication, and perseverance it would not have happened.

Many of us enjoy serving community organizations and working with fellow volunteers sharing our interests; but few experiences compare to the quality of that of working with GBLT and the excellence for which it stands. Wendy Cooper has systematically built a quality of experience for supporters, partners, staff and volunteers beyond the expectations of us all, bringing out the best in everyone.

I recall meeting Wendy several years before her appointment as she and an NCC colleague stayed at our island while working their way north researching their coastal study. We knew of Wendy from others who had hosted her previously; it soon became a competition to see who would have the privilege of the next visit. Founding Chairman Wally King gave us all – as he was often wont to do – glowing reports in too much detail of the excellence and skill of this young woman, wondering aloud whether she might be our Executive Director one day.

Early on – perhaps during an annual review – Wendy made a remarkable statement that I have always remembered. Her objective for her position was to develop and elevate it through achievements into one that she would not be able to qualify for herself in a job search. You be the judge.



Wendy Cooper

We are sorry to see her go, but knowing she will always be a member of GBLT's family, we wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

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## The Young People of Cognashene Visit the Lizard

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By Molly Giroux, Cognashene

The Young People of Cognashene (YPOC) is a group of teenagers from the Cognashene Recreation Program who get together and do activities one afternoon a week, all summer long. Activities include jumping off the Cognashene bluff, swimming at Artist's Island, picnicking at Giant's Tomb and exploring the Lizard.

One of the most memorable days with YPOC this past summer was the day we spent at the Lizard. It was one of the hottest days of the summer and there was no breeze. Spencer Davis and Martin Till, GBLT summer student interns, met us at the Lizard right after lunch. Spencer had organized a scavenger hunt for us so we could learn all the species on the island.

He divided us up into several teams. Each team was given a camera and list of items to find. The items included things such as water lilies, lichen, fallen over pine tree, animal bones, quartz

and pinecones. We were sent off to find as many of the items as possible in 45 minutes.

After 45 minutes, Spencer called us back. Each team presented their finds to Spencer and Martin who then tallied up the results. The team with the most items from the list won and got the first pick of the candy prizes that Spencer and Martin had brought. My team won!

It was a great day not just because of the fun we had on the scavenger hunt but also because we got to be at the Lizard. Without the GBLT who owns the Lizard and people like Spencer and Martin who look after it, we wouldn't have such a great place to spend the day. It was so hot when we finished that everyone went in for a swim.



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# The Payne Challenge was a Huge Success!

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By Janet Lougheed, Director of Development

The first time I visited Mark Payne in 2006, I had never been to the marina or met anyone connected with it. I was looking for a sponsor for our Bayscapes Art Auction, and our board member, Tom Scoon, kept his boat there so it made sense to make a visit.

I barely got in the front door of the office and was immediately met by Mark. I introduced myself to Mark, asked a few questions and then I proceeded to talk to him about sponsorship options. I started at \$500 (a mistake I won't do again) and Mark said to go to the top and explain about the different choices. I went over the opportunities with a \$5,000 sponsorship for the Bayscapes Art Auction and Mark said, "I'll take that one".

That was the beginning of a great partnership, and very collegial relationship focused on preserving the Bay. Mark has continued to generously support us every year and has been to our events, spoken some years and been a call away for advice and assistance.

Last December, we got together for our annual lunch in Parry Sound. It started as usual finding out what was new with each other and letting him know how the GBLT was doing in preserving land. Mark explained that the coming year, 2011, was the 50th anniversary for Payne Marine. His grandfather has started the business by camping on the property all year in those first years while building his business. Mark felt it was time to thank his community in a special way for all those years of support.

He explained to me he would like to take \$20,000 and donate it to a charity in honor of this special year. He asked me to step outside my role at the GBLT and suggest what to do with this. I suggested that he select a charity of choice either by himself or to present a survey to his customers asking which charity they would suggest. I also suggested that he change the gift to \$25,000 and ask his community to match that gift for a total of \$50,000 for 50 years of business. I told him the money should be directed to either an endowment or a capital project that would give it longevity.

We kept talking and then he turned to me and said he would like to give that money to the GBLT. He decided to have the funds

directed to the Capital Acquisition Fund with funds directed to land acquisitions costs and purchases.

So started the Payne Challenge. The first gifts came from the south end of the Bay with people like Roger Ashton in Go Home Bay saying, "it was such a great idea, I just wanted to support it". Mark's own community came out in full force but gifts ranged up and down the Bay. This initiative brought new people to the GBLT and our committed supporters also dug in and gave even more generously.

The GBLT would like to thank Payne Marine for their generosity; they have made a huge difference to preservation on the Bay. We have gone over the top. In addition to Mark's very generous \$25,000, we have raised an additional \$28,000, for a total of \$53,000. This great partnership has created a tremendous success story. This isn't the end for Payne Marine and the GBLT; keep posted for more updates in the future!



Mark Payne

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# The GBLT 20/20 Vision: A Look Ahead

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By Richard Stark, West Carling

As part of our 20th anniversary year celebration, the Board took the opportunity to reflect on the successes of the first 20 years of the GBLT. It begged we ask the questions: "What does it mean to be successful in the next 20 years and where are we going to be in the next 20 years?"

The organization rose to the challenge and embarked on a long term visioning process that involved the distribution of a

questionnaire developed with input from directors, advisors, staff and supporters of the GBLT followed with a Board visioning exercise led by a facilitator. The result is the first ever long-range vision for the GBLT, a piece that will be a great tool for charting our course and reviewing our progress over the next 20 years. This is a dynamic vision, designed to evolve over time, reflecting the current views of a changing leadership. We look forward to introducing the vision piece on our website soon.

# Bayscapes Photography Auction



By Barbara Greer

On November 4th, 2011, 140 of our friends and supporters came out to the Capitol Event Theatre in Toronto to attend the GBLT's annual fundraising event in support of the Land Trust's activities. The Photography Auction generated net proceeds of over \$40,000 thanks to enthusiastic bidding and over 20 photographers who donated their works. The success of the event was made possible with the support of our generous sponsors, volunteers and everyone who attended the event.

There's a song written by Noel Coward in the 1920's or 30's called "I Went to a Marvelous Party" and the lyrics are a list of the people who were there like Reggie and Nickie and Susie and Nigel (very Brit) and goes on in typical Coward vein. That song got into my head on the way home from the GBLT Photography Auction and for good reason.

It really was a marvelous party. The Capitol Event Theatre has a beautiful room for a start and has all the good bits for a party venue: stand up bar, comfy chairs, enough space but not too much. The arrangement of the raffle items and the photography was perfect for viewing and the raffle items were lavish and the art was beautiful.

A very jolly man at the entrance was selling raffle and drink tickets and managed to give the impression that he would give them to you; he liked you and his job so much. Wine appeared on trays and tasty food was served by efficient staff – it was easy

to catch a server's eye and snag more of whatever you liked. As time went on the unmistakable sound of a party in full swing developed – the lovely noise of people having a good time. I was glad to contribute my decibels in the spirit of sharing.

The annual GBLT poster was for sale – a contest to get your photo on it is a tradition. The winners who were in attendance were honoured with a complimentary plaqued poster. The winning bird photos and a selection of appropriately framed photographs of Georgian Bay scenes showed the ability of the contributors to conceive an image, get the technical details right and produce an arresting composition. I found them all compelling – the collection had the feeling of a curated show. They were the work of supporters of the Georgian Bay Land Trust and were offered silent auction style at good prices.

The live auction was lively and fast. Notable examples of sophisticated camera work were on offer including works by Thaddeus Holownia and Andrew Wright's iridescent picture of the classic pine on rock but in vibrant green and inky black. Some of these and the 2011 poster can be seen online at [www.gblt.org](http://www.gblt.org).

Next year the Georgian Bay Land Trust will hold another fundraiser, this time the auction will be of paintings and drawings. It's bound to be another great party. Don't miss it!



*Poster Contest winners*



*Peter Cooper with Sue and Fred Dalley*



*Enthusiastic bidding*



# Reflections of a Bird Photographer

By Cecile Gambin



*I cherish this picture for the bond between mother and infant. He looks so comfortable and relaxed and I thought to myself, "he's knackered"!*

As a photographer, I must admit this contest was not an easy challenge! Learning about bird habitats and routines was paramount in getting that 'perfect picture'. My research taught me where and when would be the best times to find my chosen subjects. I also discovered that not only does a bird photographer require a LOT of patience and luck but camera equipment is also essential (but not always necessary) for a pro-quality image that is something I always strive for. Most of the images I took were from a boat, as I just couldn't get close enough with my 400 mm lens! I can tell you taking pictures and desperately trying to keep the eyes (at least the body) in focus out of a rocking boat was not easy.

My most memorable picture, however, was of our local loons in the Upper Shawanaga Bay and their 'baby'. I often saw the little one paddling away beside its mother while the father was off fishing. I followed the loons around our island for a few weeks but they were always too far for my lens. Finally, when the baby loon was a bit older, I decided to follow it around in the water at a very safe distance while I observed them. They observed me but sensed no danger as they continued paddling around with comfort and ease. I watched how the male loon would dive for fish and feed it to his offspring. The baby loon was too small to dive, and as I later learned, it was definitely born at a later

date than other baby loons around the Bay as they were already much larger and starting to lose their down. I learned that the parents would soon fly south and leave their infants to fend for themselves. I just hope this one will be strong enough to survive when the time comes!!

The other 'lesson' I learned was about the Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*). These birds get a bad rap... and, let's face it...they are not the most attractive birds on the Bay! After researching them on the web, [www.on.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/factsheets/fs\\_cormorants-e.html](http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/factsheets/fs_cormorants-e.html), I came to appreciate these birds and even felt a bit sorry for them. I always see them with their wings stretched out but never knew it was because they were drying off their wings as their feathers are not water repellent like that of a true water bird. Now I understand why their wings look scrawny. As a photographer, however, I always try and find the beauty in something. The myriad of colours from their jet black feathers, green eyes, orange beaks and the blue of the Bay shows, in my opinion, a beautiful side of this bird that is not always seen.

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity and incentive to learn more about the birds in the Georgian Bay area. I had many pleasurable, as well as frustrating, moments during this assignment.



# 30,000 Islands: Gneiss Scenery in Georgian Bay

By Dr. Nick Eyles, Professor of Geology and Environmental Science, University of Toronto



Nick Eyles with GBLT supporters

The *Thirty Thousand Islands* is the name given to the largest archipelago of freshwater islands in the world, extending over 250 km of rock-strewn coastline on the eastern side of Georgian Bay between the French River in the north and Honey Harbour in the south. Strikingly beautiful outcrops of complexly folded billion-year-old gneiss dominate these remote rocky islands and their wind-bent stands of white pines. The low-lying islands appear to dissolve into

the sky and lake water, creating the surreal and eerie landscape immortalized by the Group of Seven. The area has been named a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve for its aquatic and terrestrial habitats but its geology is no less worthy of global note as it records the deep roots of billion year old mountains that dwarfed the Himalayas.

According to legend, the Huron giant Kitchikewana, overcome by grief at being spurned by the princess Wanakita, hurled rocks into Georgian Bay creating the many islands. The dominant rock

type throughout the 30,000 Islands is gneiss and the islands result from glacial erosion along narrow bedrock structures such as faults and fractures. The dissected topography was then flooded by the relatively recent (last 8,000 years) rise of Lake Huron isolating thousands of islands large and small. At that time much of the floor of what is now Lake Huron was dry land. This may be because the climate was drier and much warmer (a brief time period geologists call the 'Hypsithermal'). Also, much of central Canada to the east was still tipped down under the weight of the recently melted ice sheet, allowing the Great Lakes to essentially drain out through the St. Lawrence (sea level was low also). As the land slowly rebounded back, the level of the Great Lakes has grown higher over the past 8,000 years and the 30,000 Island areas came into existence.

The 30,000 Islands are the smoking gun of plate tectonics and a reference point for all geologists. They are part of the Central Gneiss Belt (CGB) of the Grenville Province. The latter extends from Texas to Labrador and the CGB marks intense crustal deformation when continents were colliding together to form the supercontinent *Rodinia* starting about 1,400 million years ago (1.4 billion).

On Friday, August 5th, members of the GBLT and Dr. Nick Eyles of the University of Toronto spent a very pleasant afternoon



Gneiss in Carling



'geologizing' out on the Pancake Islands; small islands that lie at the entrance of Parry Sound. Here are classic Georgian Bay scenes with windswept pines growing right out of glacially smoothed rock on clusters of tranquil whaleback islands made famous by the Group of Seven. The flat low-lying Pancakes are just five minutes by boat from Killbear Provincial Park and Killbear Marina and 3 hours away from Toronto, but the landscape is out of this world. We were there to transport ourselves far back in time when the geography of Ontario (and our planet) looked dramatically different. It's an opportunity to see ourselves for what we are; a 'Johnny-come-lately' species who somehow misguidedly think the entire planet was created just for us. It's good to be humbled and have our existence put in perspective now and again.

The rocks on the Pancakes are banded, pink-coloured gneisses and look like stirred bread dough, kinked and contorted into beautiful folds. Hence the names of the islands or so it is believed. These deformed rocks provide a graphic illustration of the processes that occurred more than 1 billion years ago some 20 kilometres below the Grenville Mountains. These formed when a large piece of northern Southern America (called Amazonas) collided with then eastern North America (the coast lay somewhere around Sudbury at that time). This collision was the opening shot in a multiple of plate tectonic collisions (called orogenies) that culminated in the formation of Rodinia. The modern day Himalayas are a good analog for what Ontario would have looked like then. Of course, the mountains were later eroded down to stumps and their deep roots now exposed at surface. The area lies within the so-called 'Parry Sound Shear

Zone,' an ancient suture (or join) between colliding blocks of continental crust (think India ploughing northwards into Asia today). Deeply buried beneath the weight of the Grenville Mountains these rocks moved and deformed like warm toffee. The complex folds and bends in the gneiss on the Pancake Islands record multiple phases of deformation of metamorphic rock where folds were refolded and refolded again and again. Some rocks are so thoroughly sheared out that they are finely laminated (mylonites); others are blurred by partial melting (migmatites). The planet worked then the way it does today which is great news for geologists trying to understand the past; we'd have a tough time otherwise.

*Rodinia* later broke apart (about 700 million years ago) and this part of Ontario found itself facing a new ocean (the Iapetus) and interior seaways which flooded over the eroded roots of the Grenville Mountains leaving thick limestones beautifully exposed on the Bruce Peninsula. Today, these highly fossiliferous examples only survive out on the Limestone Islands but south of Barrie they entirely cover the Grenville rocks; in Toronto these old, hard 'basement rocks' are found about 500 metres below the ground surface. The Niagara Escarpment is the hard edge of one such layer of limestone.

The Georgian Bay Land Trust aims to ensure that the 30,000 Islands remain a viable ecosystem in the face of relentless development. To many folks it is simply 'cottage country', a yet-to-be developed extension of Muskoka. In fact, it is a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in recognition of its unique landscapes, flora and fauna, cultural history and, of course, its geology.



Rock talk at the Pancakes

# The Sans Souci Hotel and Property



By Ted Christie, Sans Souci



*Hotel Property aerial*

John Pearce, who was from Hamilton, Ontario, purchased 100 acres on an island "down the South Channel" from the Crown in 1894. To further his several business interests, including ownership of the steamer Chicoutimi, he built a hotel that same year and a large (by the standards of the day) cottage in 1896. The only other hotel in the area, Copperhead, was built in 1879. The name Sans Souci is said to have been suggested by Pearce's wife, Ellen, perhaps after the palace of Fredrick the Great of Prussia near Berlin.

Pearce had been to the island many times before, the first in 1880 when he and a friend faced a major Georgian Bay "blow" and sought shelter for their sailboat. They could not have happened upon a better harbour, protected on all sides and deep enough to take a substantial keel. Pearce visited the island almost every summer to take advantage of the excellent harbour, the abundant blueberries and almost limitless fishing. His two little cabins were the first in the Sans Souci area except for Sir John A. Boyd's encampment at Good Cheer Island. Pearce was instrumental in establishing the South Channel by having the narrows at Two Mile and Seven Mile blasted in 1885.

The hotel was considered a substantial operation for its day consisting of two main buildings. One was a dining hall separate from the main hotel building as a fire safety practice, common at that time. There was also a store, post office, a large boathouse (for storage of over 30 rowboats), a large pump house, a freight shed, icehouse, extensive docks and a caretaker's house. A laundry building was built on the shore of the harbour and consequently the area on the bay was given the chart name Laundry Bay).

The interior had plaster walls (a very unusual thing for an island structure then) with bedrooms on two floors and a hall down the middle with the only two bathrooms at the end of

each. There was an open fireplace at the foot of the stairs (the base of which is one of the few remnants to be found today) and a small foyer but no lobby "which in the end proved to be a serious defect as there was no comfortable place for the ladies to sit on windy days while their men folk were off fishing; ladies didn't fish in those days," quoted from *Island Odyssey*.

John Pearce sold the hotel in 1898 for reasons that remain a mystery but probably the result of some financial reversals and it changed hands several times thereafter. One of the owners was Didace Grise whose descendants at one time owned the Delawana Inn in Honey Harbour. During World War I there was a major fire in the dining hall and subsequently the hotel was sold to William McArthur of Chicago in 1921. In May of 1924 McArthur died in an upstairs bedroom in the hotel when a gun he was cleaning went off. Suicide was suspected. In any case, after McArthur's death, the hotel was abandoned and never operated again.

In its heyday, the Sans Souci Hotel served as the focal point of the community for several miles around - thus the name Sans Souci now applies to an island area running from about Amanda Island to almost Twelve Mile Bay. In addition to accommodation it also became the community centre for local cottagers and campers where they could meet the steamers (the last of which was the Midland City) to pick up mail and groceries and at the same time chat with neighbours. When the hotel closed, the operation of the docks was taken over by the Sans Souci and Copperhead Association until 1927 when the Association acquired land on Frying Pan Island and thereafter their dock (where the steamers landed) became known as 'Sans Souci' even though it was no longer part of the Sans Souci Hotel or even on Sans Souci Island.

In May 1946, Wellington Welsh began bidding against John Pearce's grandson, Hector Sanderson, for the derelict hotel and property, to build a marina on the old site. Wellington clinched the deal by flying to Chicago (quite a feat at that time) to personally negotiate with McArthur's estate administrator. Hector did not want a marina in Laundry Bay where the Pearce (by then Sanderson) family cottage was located so he traded property on Frying Pan Island for the hotel property. Part of the deal involved Wellington tearing down the old hotel buildings which he used to build what is now the Sans Souci Marina on Frying Pan Island including housing for several of his brothers and other marina employees. So ended the life of the Sans Souci Hotel.

In 1968, Nancy Christie (nee Hogarth) obtained the family cottage of her grandfather on Sans Souci Island and partly on Laundry Bay adjoining the hotel property. During the 1970's and 1980's Nancy and Ted Christie, with their two sons Tim and Glen, spent many mornings wandering over the old hotel property finding old relics and other flotsam. In 1990 when the then owner (also interestingly from Chicago but not related



to McArthur) retained Jim McMahon (the lawyer husband of Maryl McMahon, the great-granddaughter of John Pearce) to see if he could find a buyer for the property. Jim called Ted. While Nancy and Ted had no interest in developing the site, they did not relish the thought of another cottage so close, so they bought the property. Then along came the Georgian Bay Land Trust in 1995 and the idea of holding the hotel property (an historic site) in a natural state forever was appealing to the Christie's. Thus a donation of the land to the Trust is the final resting place for the land upon which once stood the famous Sans Souci Hotel.

Nancy and Ted and their sons are the stewards of the old hotel property pursuant to a Stewardship Agreement with the Land Trust.

## SUMMER STUDENT PROGRAMS

### Interested in working on the Bay this summer?

The GBLT will be continuing its summer student program this year, hiring two individuals to help us with our stewardship, education and outreach programs based primarily in the communities of Wah Wah Taysee, Go Home Bay and Cognashene. In addition, the GBLT will be partnering with other summer student programs throughout the Bay. If you are interested in applying for the GBLT's summer student program or one of our partner programs, visit our website at [www.gblt.org](http://www.gblt.org) or email us at [info@gblt.org](mailto:info@gblt.org) for more information.

## Camp Hurontario to American Camp – A Day Trip to Remember!

By Clem Filewod and Russell Marston



Rock jumping!

Following a great breakfast and a quick cabin cleanup, the campers of Cabin 8 at Camp Hurontario climbed aboard the boat for an amazing day at American Camp (aka Alexander Islands). The sun was shining and there was a fairly stiff west wind, promising good weather for the trip south. Doctor Dave's Grew led the way out of Camp Bay towards the open and

O'Donnells Point. The waves provided a bouncy ride south to Indian Harbour, where the lee of the islands gave us shelter for the final leg down to American Camp.

None of the boys knew exactly what to expect – they had only heard about the islands a few days before, but they were all impressed as we slowly motored into the harbour. The boys climbed off over the bow onto dry land and Russ and Doctor Dave set the anchors before swimming to shore in the incredibly clear water.

Brooks Greer and the summer students from the Georgian Bay Land Trust met us with a wave and we gathered on shore before beginning a tour of the site. The campers were amazed by the smooth flat rocks, wind-swept trees, and clear blue waters of the islands. The GBLT students filled the tour with lots of interesting information, from the history of the islands to the local biology to battles with invasive species.

Following the tour, everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch packed by the camp chef before saying goodbye to Brooks. We then headed to the western side of the island for a terrific art lesson from Rosie, the camp artist, before spending the rest of our time jumping from the cliffs into the refreshing waters of Georgian Bay. What a great day! Thanks so much to Brooks and the students for making it possible.



Hurontario campers enjoying American Camp



Hurontario Campers sketching their favourite view from American Camp

# Reflections of my Favourite Place on Georgian Bay

By Joyce Newell Chesnut, West Carling



Top L: The cabin in 1946 Top R: The new privy  
Bottom L: The cabin in winter of 1960 Bottom R: Len & Henrietta Newell

The year was 1937. The Great Depression hovered over the land. I was eight years old as I was born in Ohio the year the Depression began. I had a younger sister and brother and two courageous parents who took a gamble and bought a four acre island in Georgian Bay that year. The next year they had Mr. Michaelis build a simple cottage on Island 234-C, and Roy Legg construct a stone fireplace in its heart. That rustic home, perched on a lovely knob of scoured rock, has remained in the family and in the hearts of five generations of the Newell family.

Henrietta and Len Newell, my parents, are long since gone, but their thoughtful input of time, energy, money and soul were well invested. They reaped boundless joy from the island during the days of their lives and we, their descendants, are continuing to bless them and appreciate them for having done so. They gave us a heritage of priceless value which the four generations now sharing the island continue to treasure.

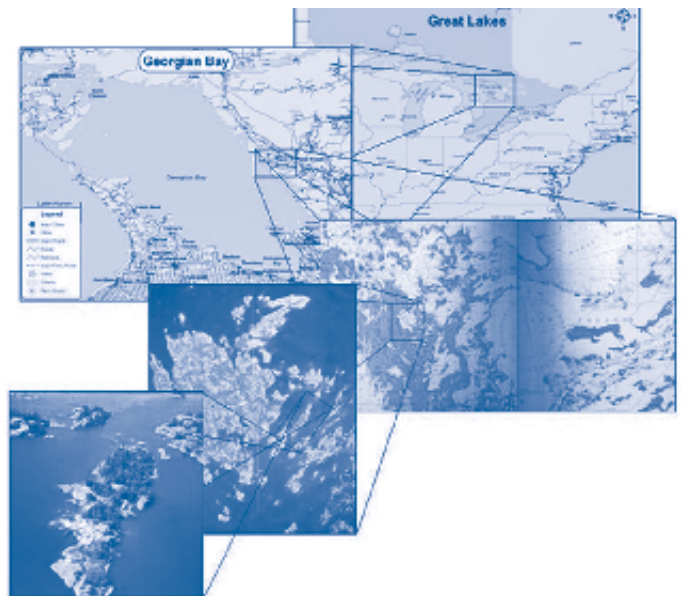
The cottage remains much the same as it was originally. We've added a generous deck to the porch and a dock to the flat rocks below. The icebox and wood stove are gone, replaced by ones that use propane. We've replaced the old outhouse at the end of the boardwalk with a new outhouse. We have chosen to keep the old rustic way of doing things. My siblings and I enjoy returning to the place and the ways of our childhood when we're at the island. We feel that it's a good teaching tool for children, grandchildren and now great-grandchildren to learn to enjoy life in very simple forms. No TV or video games entertain us there. All generations enjoy fishing, swimming, hiking boating and exploring. Family games around the "big blue table" that

Dad constructed in 1938 are looked forward to from one summer to the next.

My parents now have seventy-four descendants if you count the spouses who have married into the family. In order for that many folks to share one small island, we divide the summer into thirds; my siblings and I each taking our share. What we do with our allotted time is up to us. Sometimes my sister and brother-in-law are there all by themselves. Oft-times not. I have by far the biggest family and I always have a large group of descendants with me. Sometimes we have to pitch tents on the deck if there are too many for the beds in the cottage. It's often crowded but we love it. Each family group has traditions that it looks forward to doing every summer.

This small lump of rock in Georgian Bay is a focal point in the lives of nearly all these 74 people. I say "nearly all" because not everyone enjoys the island's primitive lifestyle. Those who don't like it don't go. The rest of us plan our lives around it. Our island is the one thing that has stayed the same for most of my siblings and me and the entire lives of our descendants. We've moved from house to house, city to city, state to state, nation to nation, throughout the world. All of life changes but our island changes very little. That beautiful spot in Georgian Bay is the sun around which revolves much of our lives.

Last summer one of my granddaughters was 12 when she was at the cottage with me. She's built like a willow whip and wishes for curves in places where there are none. She yearns for stiletto heels and glamorous earrings. But, at the island she wore sandals, a baseball cap and had a long handled net over her shoulder much of the time. "Grandma", she called gaily, "I just got another crawdad!" I'm a happy camper!



A series of maps showing location of Nutz Knob



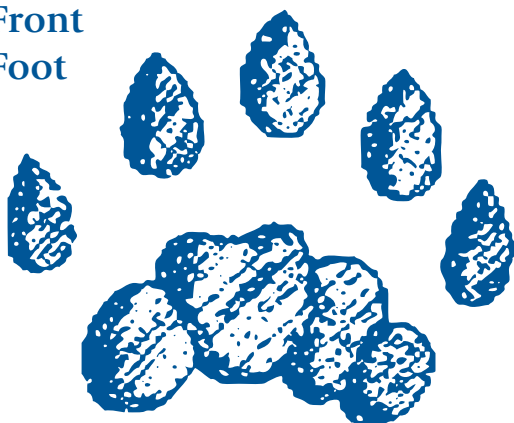
# Georgian Bay Query



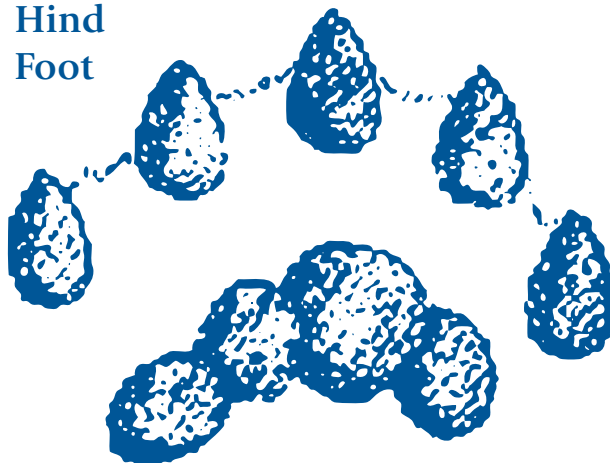
## Who made these odd tracks along the lakeshore?

Answer by Mark Carabetta, Executive Director of GBLT

Front  
Foot



Hind  
Foot



Identification of animal tracks can be a fun and challenging activity for nature lovers. While animal tracks can be found any time of year, searching for them is most rewarding during the winter months when signs of various critters' movements can be found printed in the snow.

The tracks shown above were made by the river otter (*Lontra Canadensis*), a playful member of the weasel family. The best place to look for otter tracks is along riverbanks and shores of ponds and lakes. Otter tracks are five-toed and measure about 7.5 cm wide. The tracks are paired and the toes appear pointed. The stride can range from 28 to 60 cm depending on whether the otter is walking or running. If the prints are fresh

and clear, webbing may be visible between the toes. The print left by the otter's dragging tail is also sometimes visible. A sure way to distinguish river otter tracks from those of other, similar weasels, such as the fisher or marten, is to find evidence of an otter slide in the mud or snow, running down the bank of a river, lake or pond.

River otters can be found in many areas of Canada and the United States, although agricultural and urban development has depleted its range. While common in the Georgian Bay area, river otters are quite secretive and, because they spend most of their time in the water, their tracks can be challenging to find. They eat frogs, crayfish and fish.

## Birds Poster

**Birds 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), Barrie; Parry Sound Books, Parry Sound; Pioneer Handcraft Furniture, Port Severn; Sojourn, Barrie and through our website [www.gbtl.org](http://www.gbtl.org).

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





Thanks for your support in 2011. We wouldn't be a success without you!

## Winterlude, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012

Friends of the Georgian Bay Land Trust are invited to an off-season reunion and viewing of "West Wind: The Vision of Tom Thomson", a visually stunning and thoughtful documentary of Tom Thomson with introduction and Q & A with film writer, Nancy Lang.

Filmed in Algonquin Park, Georgian Bay, Toronto and Seattle, "West Wind" is a portrait of Thomson as a young, developing artist and is as beautiful to look at as Thomson's interpretations. This 90-minute documentary features never-before-seen paintings by this gifted Canadian artist and rare archive recordings and written memories of those who knew Tom Thomson.

Winterlude will be held at Bishop Strachan School on Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012. Join your Bay friends for some food and drinks at 6:00pm before the movie starts at 7:30 pm.

*This event is sponsored by Desmadons Boatworks and Mountain Equipment Co-op.*

## Thanks to our generous sponsors



*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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## Tribute Gifts

Received from May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011 until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011

### In Memory

Saille Abbott  
Bob Anderson  
Ragna Bersenas  
Angela Clark  
Joan Vera France-Murray  
George German  
David Glassco  
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Robert and Della Labrecque  
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(Mary) Madge Miller  
Doreen Morrison  
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Elisabeth Plain  
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Frank Spangenberg  
Gus Strachovsky  
Nick Vandenburg  
Joan Watson  
Jinny Weekes  
Betty Wells

### In Honour

Tom and Virginia Atkins  
John, Jenn, Caitlin and Eric Bate  
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Fred Beck  
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