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SUMMER 2016

# LANDSCRIPT

PROTECTING the WILDERNESS of our UNIQUE ARCHIPELAGO

## *A Plan to* Protect Georgian Bay

12 Summer  
Adventures

The Reforestation of  
Oldfield Lake Reserve

Howling Hybrids: Wolves,  
Coyotes, and Coywolves

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS



# Fellow lovers of Georgian Bay,



Please join me in taking a moment to reflect on how fortunate we all are to have a connection to our magnificent and incredible bay. Year round residents, seasonal residents, boaters, campers, hikers, canoeists, fishers and more...we all feel a deep and profound pull from this ecological treasure recognized as such by the United Nations.

Twenty five years ago, in January of 1991, a small group of forward-thinking conservationists began to realize the pressures a growing population and urbanization were bringing to the Bay. Today, much of southern Ontario is engulfed in urban sprawl, yet for the last 25 years your land trust has been making a difference to the eventual outcome on Georgian Bay.

In the past 25 years the Georgian Bay Land Trust has been instrumental and crucial in ensuring that large and increasing expanses of the coast are being preserved in their natural state forever.

Islands like Little McCoy, South Pine, American Camp, Sandy, West Lookout, Friend, The Lizard, and Umbrella are special places where we can all go to breathe in the quiet, breathe out the stress and rejuvenate ourselves—both body and mind. How lucky we all are to have such wilderness places. How fortunate are our grandchildren and their children's children.

A great many of Georgian Bay Land Trust-protected reserves (Port Severn Wetlands, Gull & Gilead, and Tadenac Coastal Lots, for example) give species other than our own a chance to survive by protecting their natural habitats, creating buffer zones, and ameliorating habitat fragmentation.

We have come a long way in 25 years. We now steward or help steward over 6,000 acres of wilderness. But we still have a long way to go. While municipal official plans limit over-

densification in the shorter term, continual pressure is exerted on these attempts to balance conservation with development. The history of land parcels in Ontario tells us that story well.

Without you and your involvement in this most important cause during our first 25 years, these great achievements would simply not have happened. Over the next 25 years, your belief and your passion for wilderness and its conservation will make a difference to this special place we all love.

Our next 25 years of land conservation work on Georgian Bay will be exciting and rewarding. The protection of open spaces and wilderness places forever and for all society is our mantra, and we have a scientific plan to achieve that. Guided by our Natural Area Conservation Plan (see page 4) we will preserve biodiversity, maintain wetlands, old and older growth forests, protect significant expanses of rock barrens, colonial waterbird nesting sites, habitat corridors, and habitat buffers, and reduce habitat fragmentation.

We thank you all for your support of the Georgian Bay Land Trust's exciting future.

Wishing you a wonderful summer on the Bay,



Janny Vincent  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Georgian Bay Land Trust

# 25 Years of Conservation on Georgian Bay



On January 31, Georgian Bay Trust Foundation Inc. is officially registered as a charitable organization. In April, the Trust receives its first major gift: a \$10,000 donation from members of the Sans Souci Copperhead Association in memory of long-time Georgian Bayer Elmer I. Phillips.



Dedication ceremony for Friend Island, officiated by Hon. Hal Jackman, then-Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.



The generosity of the local community enables the Land Trust to protect Sans Souci's Umbrella Island, our 5th protected property.

1991

The Land Trust receives its first two properties: Friend Island, a 3.6 acre island at the south end of Pointe au Baril significant for its coastal meadow marshes, which support amphibians, butterflies, and dragonflies; and with the donation of a 3/4 acre island, the start of the Thomson Reserve in Nares. It has now been expanded to 17 acres through generous additional donations.

1993

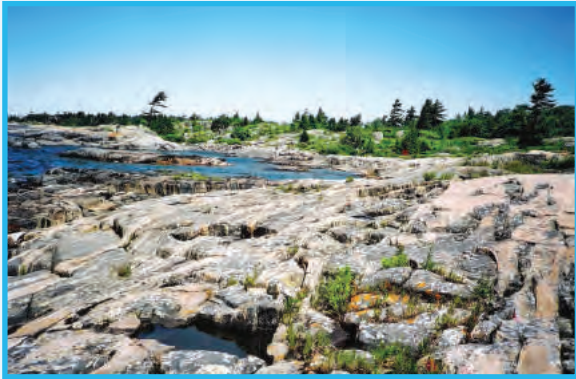
Partnership work begins with the Nature Conservancy of Canada, later leading to key accomplishments such as our Natural Area Conservation Plan and the protection of Southeast Wooded Pine Island, West Lookout Island Reserve, and Little McCoy Island.

1997

Our first regular newsletter is introduced, thanks to the hard work of Nancy Christie. By 2000, it is named *LandScript* and is still published twice yearly.







Truax Island in Sans Souci, notable for its spectacular multi-coloured gneiss and feldspar, becomes the Land Trust's first conservation easement.



One of the most ecologically significant islands in the entire archipelago, the 425 acre Sandy Island is protected by the Land Trust. This was our 18th protected property, and it is still our largest.



Our first logo!

Our Stewards program launches with 15 volunteers monitoring our protected wilderness properties. Today, more than 100 volunteers serve as stewards.

Andrew Williams of Go Home Bay is our first Summer Conservation Intern. The Land Trust now trains two interns each year to help monitor our protected properties and deliver education and outreach programming along the Bay.

1998

1999

2003

2005

2008

The Kemerer family hosts their first Shakespeare on the Rocks fundraiser in support of the Land Trust.



Our current logo is launched as part of a refresh of our overall identity.



The Land Trust hires Wendy Cooper as our first full-time Executive Director.

Patrick Stark embarks on his Paddle for the Bay fundraiser, a 40 day journey that raised over \$7,500 for the Land Trust.





Geologist Dr. Nick Eyles leads the first rock walk. Now a much-loved Land Trust summer tradition, this first walk was at the Pancake Islands in West Carling. *See the back cover for this year's scheduled rock walks!*



Conservation Quest launches. This program engages children aged 8-12 in fun, educational activities to help them become better ambassadors for the Bay and our environment. So far more than 650 children have taken part in the program. *See the back cover for this year's public Conservation Quest dates.*



Writer Andrea Curtis and printmaker Tim Laurin are the inaugural winners of the King Family Bursary. The bursary, awarded annually, supports projects that promote knowledge and appreciation of the eastern shore of Georgian Bay.

2011

2012

2013

2014

2016

Generous commitments from the McCoy family, the local community, and the federal government through the Nature Conservancy of Canada help the Land Trust protect the 35 acre Little McCoy Island in Pointe au Baril, bringing our total number of protected properties to 35. Little McCoy is an important stopover site for birds migrating along the coast and home to a number of species-at-risk.



# 25

The Georgian Bay Land Trust celebrates 25 years protecting Georgian Bay wilderness. We have grown to protect 45 wilderness properties and present an ever-expanding series of educational events throughout the year. Our work is supported by over 100 volunteer property stewards and an amazing network of volunteers and donors with a passion for Georgian Bay. Thank you all!

## *Eastern Georgian Bay's Natural Area Conservation Plan:*

# **A Plan for the Future of Georgian Bay**

*How science is driving the protection of the Bay's ecological health and your enjoyment of its wilderness places*

by Bill Lougheed, Executive Director, Georgian Bay Land Trust



*The cobble 'tiger tail' shoreline of Giant's Tomb was just one ecological feature that made it a priority for protection*

A conservation plan is a vision for maintaining the ecological health of a region or country.

It is an extremely important tool as we look toward the future and work to ensure that environmental protection is conducted in a strategic, responsible, and science-based manner. Conservation plans provide a vision of how each parcel of land fits into the overall ecological integrity of the area, and allow us to prioritize the land most critical for conservation in order to maintain an area's environmental health.

Canada's environment received a boost in 2007 when the federal government launched its first-ever National Conservation Plan. To date, this initiative has helped conserve more than 4,000 square kilometres of wilderness for the benefit of all Canadians.

Leadership from the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) took the initiative a step further, working with land trusts and conservation organizations from across the country to develop

conservation plans more specific to individual communities and regions.

Conservation of land, wetlands, and other natural features and resources is critically important for the health of Georgian Bay. To implement conservation in a manner that protects wilderness values requires a plan grounded in science. To be effective, such a plan needs to be based on an inventory of the features and resources in the geographic area of interest.

Our Land Trust partnered with the NCC from 2007 to 2011 to develop *Eastern Georgian Bay's Natural Area Conservation Plans (NACPI & NACPII)* – seminal works that serve as blueprints for science-grounded conservation in our region. The study of our area and the resulting NACPs were made possible through previous pivotal studies such as the *Ecological Survey of the Eastern Georgian Bay Coast*, published by the NCC and Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF). Both NACPs involved scientific experts from multiple disciplines and the completed Plans were vetted by external reviewers.



**The Goals of the NACP**

- 1. *To conserve high priority shoreline, wetland, rock barren, and forest ecosystems and habitat for turtles, reptiles, and migratory fishes on private lands.*
- 2. *To support research and monitoring initiatives to improve biodiversity and conservation information.*
- 3. *To provide landowner groups and land and water-use planning initiatives with sound biodiversity and conservation information to support stewardship and conservation efforts.*
- 4. *To support the coordination of conservation partnerships.*

Overarching principle: To conserve natural spaces for the benefit of all.

An NACP begins with scientific study, taking inventory of all of the important natural attributes of a landscape. The Georgian Bay study (and resulting NACP) assessed the natural heritage values listed in this table. These conservation targets were analysed, scored, and mapped.

Target	
Islands - Biodiversity	Cobble Shorelines
Islands - Physical Diversity	Acidic Rock Barrens
Old Growth Forest	Colonial Waterbirds
Coastal Wetlands	Reptiles & Turtles
Inland Wetlands	Migratory Fishes
Sand Shorelines	

This process allowed the project team to understand, prioritize, and focus conservation efforts on the most important areas in our region. 22,000 acres of ecologically significant land on Georgian Bay were identified. The NACP also analysed various identified threats to Georgian Bay providing a framework to mitigate these threats.

The Georgian Bay Land Trust collaborates with the NCC and established and potential partners, including local conservation organizations, township planners, cottage associations, and community groups to effectively implement this comprehensive plan to conserving the area’s key biodiversity features and wilderness places for all to enjoy.



*The coastal wetlands of the protected Jean G. Northey Conservation Reserve are among the highest quality in all of the Great Lakes*



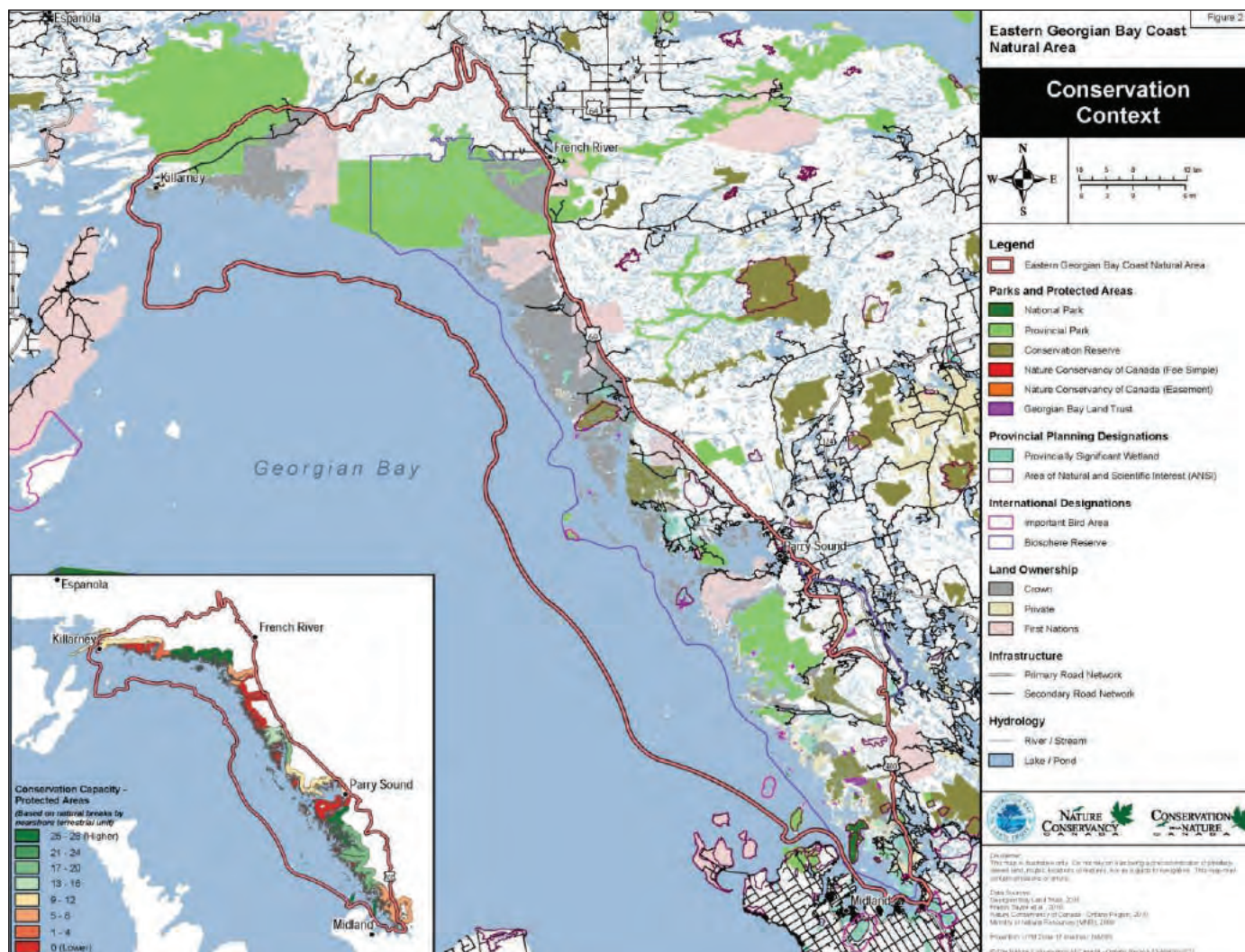
The plan supports the creation of additional protected spaces in and around communities. With this conservation plan as a guiding document, your Georgian Bay Land Trust is able to scientifically assist conservation-minded individuals and communities with an in-depth evaluation of the ecological significance of their land. We bolster our NACP by doing inventories of flora and fauna and where appropriate, send a submission to the Government of Canada's Ecological Gifts Program for applicable capital gains and tax relief for the landowner.

As depicted in the map below, our region's NACP is vast and covers the entirety of the Bay's UNESCO Biosphere Reserve area and additionally those lands on the northern side of the North Channel. Both the Land Trust and the NCC use this scientific document to guide all of our efforts in conserving Georgian Bay's wilderness, its habitats and species, and humankind's enjoyment of it.

- *Ecological Survey of the Eastern Georgian Bay Coast* (NCC)
- *Great Lakes Conservation Blueprint for Terrestrial Biodiversity* (NCC & MNRF)
- MNRF's Forest Cover Database, Wetland Data, and Natural Heritage Information Centre (an expansive database tracking the location of many species, plant communities, and natural areas)
- *Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas*
- *Ontario Plant Atlas*
- Greater Georgian Bay Reptile Awareness Program
- Parks Canada
- Ontario Parks

In closing, *Eastern Georgian Bay's Natural Area Conservation Plan* is a living scientific document that guides our ecological work and allows conservation-minded individuals and communities the ability and choice to preserve our biosphere's open spaces and natural places.

By offering that option, the Trust allows perpetual protection of wilderness lands from Port Severn to the North Channel.



*The map above shows our Natural Area – the area also extends into the North Channel (not shown)*



# Planning a Legacy for the Bay

by Jason Wagar CFRE, Director of Development, Georgian Bay Land Trust



Ralph and Caroline Grose



Turtle Island, by Ralph Grose

Ralph Grose, a retired dentist whose interest in photography started in childhood with a box camera, has an excellent eye, especially for the Georgian Bay landscapes that have inspired so many artists.

He has developed his photographic skills and talents over a lifetime. As a youngster, Ralph would take the train through the largely untouched bush to Key Harbour to visit the Downer cottage not far from the mouth of the French River.

Later in life, Ralph and his wife Caroline bought a cottage at Moore Point, between Honey Harbour and Port Severn.

From their place on Moore Point, the Groses have explored much of the Bay, with Ralph taking compelling photographs along the way. Visits to Land Trust-protected properties, such as American Camp Island, have been highlights.

It is their connection to the Bay that led Ralph and Caroline to include a donation to the Georgian Bay Land Trust when writing their wills.

"We want to preserve the unique character of Georgian Bay," Ralph says. "To paraphrase the photographer Christopher Siou, 'if photographs can raise awareness and help preservation of natural habitats, we hope that we can play a small part in that process for future generations.'"

Working with the staff at the Land Trust, Ralph and Caroline have directed their legacy gift so it will establish an endowment fund to help protect more ecologically significant wilderness—creating an enduring legacy for the Bay they love.

The Groses are already planning their next Georgian Bay excursion cameras in tow. We know the results will be spectacular.

## You too can create a legacy for the Bay you love

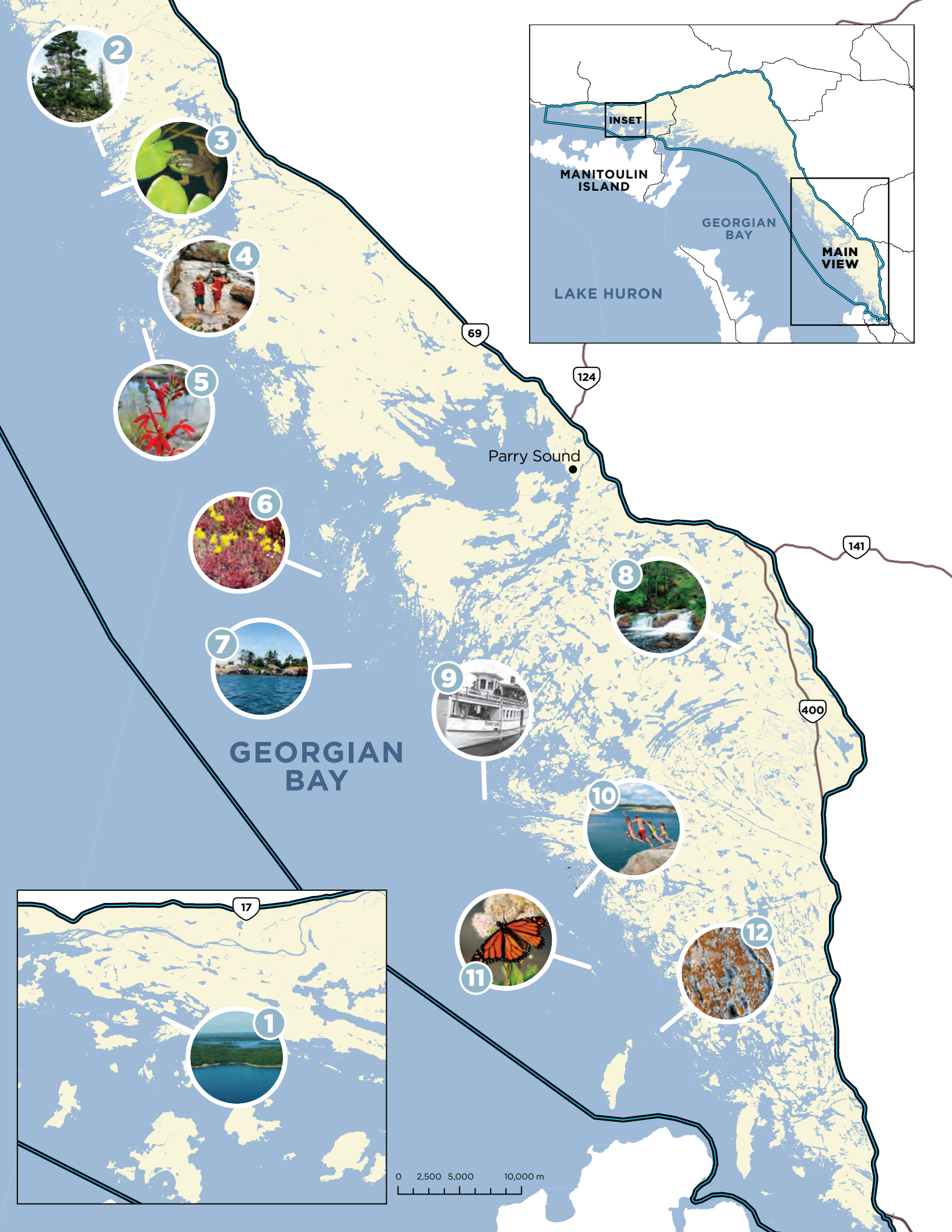
*Planning your gift can be as simple as including the Georgian Bay Land Trust in your will, establishing a life insurance policy or trust, or naming the Land Trust as the beneficiary of your retirement savings plan.*

*Your gift will help protect the wilderness of our unique archipelago for generations to come, and provide you with immediate or deferred tax benefits, customized to suit your personal goals.*

*Contact Jason Wagar at 416-440-1519 ext 104 or [jason.wagar@gblt.org](mailto:jason.wagar@gblt.org) to learn more, on a confidential basis.*



Photo by Ralph Grose







## 12 Spots to Connect

## with Nature this Summer

These dozen Georgian Bay Land Trust properties are great destinations for family excursions this summer. Please remember to always follow the Land Trust's Visitor's Guide, available at [gblt.org/visitorsguide](http://gblt.org/visitorsguide).

**1** If you're exploring the pink-granite Benjamin Islands—one of north Georgian Bay's most popular boating destinations—grab a pair of water shoes and visit the wave-washed cobble beaches of **Campbell Reserve** on the North Channel's Hotham Island. There's a protected forest of red pine and oak trees to enjoy as well. (46.1275, -82.2438)

**2** An easy kayak from Nares Inlet, the **Thomson Reserve** features a small lagoon where you'll often spot basking turtles. This property is something of a community hub for Nares Inleters and was a wonderful gift from the conservation-minded Thomson brothers. Stay until dusk to catch an incredible, classic Georgian Bay sunset. (45.5724637, -80.5136787) *Please note that Islands A499 and A516 are still occupied and not yet open to the public.*

**3** Ancient geological potholes are a draw to the three-island **West Lookout Island Reserve**, which boasts over 5km of shoreline. Shoal-hop to spot frogs and turtles, then cool off with a quick swim. Pair this with a trip to the nearby Thomson Reserve for an informal sunset tour! (45.552, -80.5121) *Uncover West Lookout's fascinating geological secrets with a guided tour on July 21. See the back cover for details.*

**4** A boat ride through the narrow and shallow Hemlock Channel in Pointe au Baril takes you to the flat, open **Friend Island**. Getting there is half the fun—it'll feel like you can reach out and touch the landscape as you cruise by. Enjoy a nice picnic (strictly no fires or stoves on any of our properties, and please collect any and all refuse!) with panoramic postcard views. (45.5153, -80.4842)

**5** Good weather is required for a visit to **Little McCoy**, so check the forecast before heading out. 10 miles offshore, this large 35 acre island has great expanses for a few throws of the Frisbee. In mid- to late-summer, watch for the blooms of the showy Cardinal Flower, a favourite for hummingbirds and many species of butterflies. (45.4574, -80.4816)

**6** **Sandy & Ingersoll Islands** are among the Land Trust's most important protected properties. Sandy and Ingersoll are oddballs to the core; they feature geological characteristics and vegetation communities completely uncommon for this area. In some ways, they have more in common with the more southern moraine than the Precambrian Shield. A naturalist's haven, their healthy, provincially significant wetlands support an abundance of species. Walk sections of the shore for excellent bird watching. (45.2689977, -80.3011213) *Delve into the unique ecology of Sandy Island with a guided nature tour on August 10. See the back cover for details.*

**7** Make sure your camera's memory card has plenty of space for a visit to **Umbrella Island**. An important resting stop for migrating birds, it's also home to a terrific range of amphibians and reptiles. Umbrella has specimens of American elm which may be benefitting from its remote offshore location. Watch for wind—its exposure makes it an easy spot for a "big lake" boating experience. (45.208, -80.2529)

**8** Only for the intrepid, **Oldfield Lake Reserve** is a large inland property just south of Blackstone Lake. At one time heavily logged, its acquisition by the Land Trust protects a great diversity of more inland vegetation communities, including examples of recovering sugar maple and rich mixed hemlock forests. Access is via a snowmobile trail off Healy Lake Road. (45.2153, -79.8653)

**9** **Manitou Dock Island** is small in stature but big in history. An interpretive plaque marks this site where steamboats used to dock—so popular, it was one of the few Georgian Bay sites identified on the earliest National Geographic maps of Canada. Keep an eye out for the dock cribs, still there after all these years. This spot was one of Group of Seven painter Arthur Lismer's favourites, and it's easy to see why. (45.1113, -80.1163)

**10** On just about any fair-weather Saturday you can expect to see a number of families enjoying a picnic, game of Frisbee, or a swim at **American Camp Island**. Kids love jumping from the rocks into the water below. So popular is this spot that a hoisted red flag means it is at capacity—please don't land when the flag is up. Also watch for Environmentally Sensitive Area signs—these areas are off-limits to people and pets. (45.0410611, -80.0305172)

**11** Butterfly aficionado? Take flight to **Southeast Wooded Pine** to enjoy seeing a variety of species. This outlying island is a refuge habitat for birds as well, including the handsome killdeer, which is still spotted here from time to time. Bring along your paint set, find the spot where A. Y. Jackson painted *Night, Pine Island*, and try your hand at your own interpretation. (44.9876, -80.0169) *Explore the geological history of Southeast Wooded Pine on July 20 or join us for Cocktails & Canvases on August 17. Details on the back cover.*

**12** As soon as rain clears, head out to **The Lizard** to see its raised ponds give start to waterfalls, which follow lugers carved into the granite over thousands of years. This island's unique shape has made it a Cognashene favourite for many years, and a stroll from end-to-end feels as though you're walking an elevated runway. (44.933, -79.9411)

*Oldfield Lake Reserve:*

# Protecting Inland Diversity

by Brooks Greer, Land Protection Program Manager, Georgian Bay Land Trust



*Coastal meadow marsh, north shore of Oldfield Lake*

At 247 acres, the Oldfield Lake Reserve is the Georgian Bay Land Trust's second largest property and is one of only two located inland from the coast of Georgian Bay. With the exception of a couple of short interruptions along the south shore, the Reserve contains the entire 50 acre Oldfield Lake.

Oldfield Lake Reserve was acquired on July 16, 1997. The property came to us as three parcels, one of which was purchased, while the remaining two were donated. The parcel purchase was made possible through the generosity of the Blackstone Lake community via a fundraising campaign led by John Hackett.

Due to its inland location, Oldfield protects a number of vegetation community types either uncommon or unrepresented on other Land Trust reserves, and also in existing provincially- or federally-protected areas. It is part of a large continuous natural area covering thousands of hectares of predominantly undesignated Crown land. The Crown area surrounding the Oldfield Lake Reserve is almost devoid of roads and extends west to connect to both the Crane Lake Forest Conservation Reserve and the Massasauga Provincial Park. The surrounding area has a number of small watersheds that include Crane Lake and the south end of Blackstone Lake, all of which drain eastward into Georgian Bay. Access to the property is restricted to a snowmobile trail that runs along the eastern and southern boundary of the Oldfield Lake Reserve and provides winter access and limited year-round access north of Healy Lake Road.

The Oldfield Lake Reserve protects recovering sugar maple forests, mixed forests dominated by hemlock, mixed hemlock and black spruce swamps, buttonbush thicket swamps, and various shoreline fen and meadow marsh communities, many of which are found along the shoreline of Oldfield Lake. The shoreline fen and meadow marsh communities support significant Atlantic coastal plain flora. Eighteen different vegetation communities have been identified on the property, and they support habitat for at least 229 vascular plant species. This floral diversity is possible due to the deeper soil found inland from the Georgian Bay coast. Of the flora and fauna identified from baseline visits, 4 provincially rare species were observed, as well as 4 provincially rare vegetation community types, one of which is also globally rare.

The most evident human impact on the Oldfield Lake property is the heavy logging of its sugar maple forests, a vegetation community uncommon along the eastern Georgian Bay coast. Logging had brought canopy cover down to approximately 15 percent, and an extensive raspberry cultural thicket took over the clear-cut land.

Fortunately, after 20 years' protection by the Land Trust, these thickets are gradually reverting to early stage sugar bush. The deciduous forests surrounding Blackstone Lake were among the richest in species composition of the sites surveyed during the Georgian Bay Coast Project in 2001. Protection by the Land Trust and careful monitoring by our stewards will allow for the recovery and reforestation to continue on the Oldfield Lake Reserve.



## Disjunct Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora on Georgian Bay



Virginia Meadow Beauty (*Rhexia virginica*) by Joshua Mayer

Southern Georgian Bay is one of three areas in the Great Lakes that provides habitat for disjunct Atlantic coastal plain floral species. “Disjunct” means that these areas are separated geographically from the east coast maritime region where the species are traditionally found.

All three areas contain sand deposits associated with postglacial lakes and drainage channels. There have been 62 disjunct floral species documented in the Great Lakes basin, and they typically grow on shorelines in sandy, gravelly or “peaty” soils where water levels fluctuate. The plants vary in classification from herbs to graminoids (grasses) and many are annuals, meaning they must continually re-seed themselves from the previous year’s growth. This, coupled with their isolated locations, means

that the removal or disturbance of an area of disjunct Atlantic species growth would likely be permanent. Setting aside the Oldfield Lake Reserve as a conservation property has protected several generous-sized wetlands where these species thrive.

There is some debate about how these species reached the remote Great Lakes from their original Atlantic coast. The most widely supported theory is that the species gradually “jumped” varying distances from one major postglacial drainage channel to the next in a westward direction, and were most successful in areas with extensive drying shorelines.

Two examples of disjunct Atlantic coastal floral species protected by the Oldfield Lake Reserve are *Xyris difformis* (Yellow-Eyed Grass) and *Rhexia virginica* (Virginia Meadow Beauty).

## A Brief History of Extraction in the Blackstone Lake Area



Blackstone Lake and its environs have been subject to the extractive uses common in this area, beginning with logging in the late 1800s. The Conger Lumber Company logged pine and cedar from the Blackstone Lake area, sending logs from Horseshoe, Blackstone and Crane lakes towards and into Georgian Bay. A little later, farming became common in the area. William Lincoln Powell from Illinois began farming in Lawson Bay in 1908, likely within or adjacent to the current Oldfield Lake Reserve. The farm included a sugar bush that produced maple syrup, and cattle, which were known to graze along the southern shore of Blackstone. Remnants of a wind driven water pump still remain along the southern shore of the bay.

In 1910, the Ojaipee Silica Feldspar Company opened a mine one kilometre east of Lawson Bay, in close proximity to the northeastern boundary of the Oldfield Lake Reserve, for the purpose of mining a small but rich deposit of feldspar, quartz, allanite and biotite. Mica was also found in this location. The mine was not open for long, and the remains of the quarry are still present. In 1922, the Robinson and McQuire Mining Company collected high quality uraninite crystals near Oldfield Lake. Although it was hoped that the deposit would contain enough uranium to be commercially viable, this was not the case. A few hundred pounds of uraninite were collected and sent to various museums and sold to collectors, but the mining activity ended there.

# And this Year's Grenville Volunteer Award Goes to... **the Amazing Brothers Cooper!**

*by Janny Vincent, Chair, Board of Directors, Georgian Bay Land Trust*



*In this archive photo from 2006, the always helpful Coopers and fellow volunteer Craig Bowden pull chives on the Lizard (from left: Craig, Peter, & Jim)*

For the past decade, the Georgian Bay Land Trust has benefited from the tremendous support, energy, and wisdom provided by two brothers from Cognashene: Peter Cooper and Jim Cooper. Each has contributed greatly to the success of the organization's goals and conservation efforts.

Georgian Bay seems to have been bred into the Cooper family's blood; their "very Irish great grandfather" on their mother's side purchased Cognashene Point and built Blarney Castle around the turn of the last century. Jim's family now makes the Castle their summer abode.

Raised in Midland, the Cooper brothers boated from there to the family compound on Mullabuoy Island in outer Cog at any and all opportunity. Peter and other Cooper family members still have summer places on Mullabuoy.

The lessons learned as young boys and men have served the Coopers well; they show in how the brothers give back to the community and to the Land Trust. Jim started helping out as a Steward and has subsequently served as a very hands-on and involved Stewardship Chair since 2009. Jim was for a time Lead Steward at both the Lizard and American Camp, two of our busiest properties. Jim's enthusiasm and "roll up the sleeves" attitude is demonstrated by how he mentors the Summer Conservation Interns each year. Jim loves to explore the Bay, and will go out of his way to see that the important task of stewarding the properties is done properly. Dr. Jim Cooper

lives and practices ophthalmology in Lindsay, but will always travel to attend both Board and Steward meetings in Toronto throughout the year.

Peter served as Chair of the Land Trust from 2012 to 2013, and has served on the Board in a number of other capacities for many years on top of stewarding at both the Lizard and American Camp. Peter has used his background in human resources to greatly benefit the organization when recruiting directors and working on search committees. Peter is currently a Council Member for the Township of Georgian Bay.

Peter's outgoing and helpful demeanour is described by Brooks Greer when he recounts a story about when he was first hired by the Land Trust. On a weekend early in the season, Peter picked him up and they toured north to visit Southeast Wooded Pine, American Camp and North Wooded Pine. The entire time, they discussed Georgian Bay, the role of the Land Trust, and what the Trust needed to accomplish. Peter gave him some pointers about how to get around by boat. Brooks reports, "it was a very kind and helpful thing to do for a jittery newbie."

For many of us (newbies and oldies alike), the Brothers Cooper have done so much, and so they continue. We thank them from the bottom of our hearts for their tremendous commitment and are very pleased to present them with the 2016 Grenville Volunteer Award to mark our appreciation of everything they do for the Georgian Bay Land Trust.



# ? Georgian Bay QUERY:

*Where did the sawflies that are eating our white pines come from? What can we do about them on our property?*



*Introduced Pine Sawfly Larva, by Lisa Brown*

LandScript spoke to Mike Henry, a Registered Professional Forester (and a steward of our Oldfield Lake Reserve), for his expertise on these persistent pests.

There are more than a half-dozen species of sawfly on the Bay, but the troublemaker is the introduced pine sawfly (IPS). It's believed to have arrived in North America in 1914 as a stowaway on European ships and made its way to Georgian Bay in the 1990s. It has no natural enemies here, which explains the population boom. White pine is the sawfly's preferred entrée, though in a pinch they'll settle for other pine species.

After a cozy winter in cocoons, adult sawflies first appear in April and lay their eggs in the pine's needles. After hatching, voracious IPS larvae chow down on needles and can defoliate a single pine by 30 to 50%—sometimes more.

Come late July, second-generation adults lay down their own eggs. From them, another set of hungry larvae will emerge. They'll start to spin cocoons in early August in anticipation of winter, but during a warm season some of these may hatch early for a third generation of adult flies.

Pines under drought stress are particularly susceptible to damage caused by the IPS. When the fire hazard warning reaches moderate, high, or extreme, water your most treasured pines to give them a boost to help fight the effects of these destructive invasives. Always buy local firewood to help prevent spread.

Your best bet for controlling these pesky invasives is when they're larvae. Spot them by their shiny black heads and green-coloured bodies featuring yellow dots and a brown double stripe down their backs.

On small trees, pluck the larvae right off and dispose in plastic bags (or if you're feeling especially vengeful, throw them right into a fire). Hose larger trees with water to knock larvae down. For stubborn infestations, consult with a certified arborist or specialist about TreeAzin, a botanical insecticide. Never apply insecticides yourself.



*Empty sawfly cocoon*



*Have a question for our experts? Send your Georgian Bay Query to [info@gblt.org](mailto:info@gblt.org) and we may answer it in the next LandScript!*



# Wolves, Coyotes, and their Hybrids

## on Georgian Bay

by Don (Sandy) Sutherland



Eastern wolf in Algonquin Park by M.W.P. Runtz

It's likely that most readers of the *LandScript* will have had little or no first-hand experience with wolves along the Georgian Bay coast. The few that have may only have heard distant howls, or observed paw-prints on the surface of frozen bays and inland lakes. Still fewer will have been fortunate enough to have actually seen a wolf.

Occur they do, but what species exactly are the wolves found on Georgian Bay, and why are they so infrequently observed? The answer to the second part of the question is relatively straightforward: wolves are both relatively rare, occurring at low densities, and highly secretive, typically shying away from human presence. The answer to the first part of the question however is far from straightforward, and at least two and as many as three entities may be present in the Georgian Bay region: the eastern wolf (*Canis lycaon*), the eastern coyote (*Canis latrans*) and intermediate forms resulting from continuing hybridization events between the two.

### Eastern Wolf

The eastern wolf is a relict species, closely allied to the critically endangered red wolf (*Canis rufus*) of the southeast United States. Its evolutionary origins have been the subject of considerable debate among mammal taxonomists for almost two centuries, and it has been variously recognized as a distinct species, a subspecies of the larger gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) and a hybrid between the gray wolf and the small western coyote. Modern genetics, however, have allowed this question of lineage to be largely resolved and the eastern wolf is now widely acknowledged as an eastern North American-evolved entity distinct from both the more northerly gray wolf and the western coyote. The contention that it arose through hybridization events between the gray wolf and the western coyote has been successfully refuted as recent genetic evidence indicates that in the wild, at least, such crossings are rare.



Prior to European settlement, the eastern wolf was widespread in the temperate forests of much of eastern North America, including the southern portions of Ontario and Quebec.

### **Eastern Coyote**

Historically, the small western coyote was restricted to a relatively narrow, north-to-south belt in the Great Plains. Following European land clearance, however, it expanded its range eastward, rapidly occupying newly created prairie-like habitats in eastern North America. Entirely absent from Ontario prior to the arrival of Europeans, its presence in the province wasn't documented until 1919 when it was discovered in Lambton County in the vicinity of Lake St. Clair. Once in contact with the resident eastern wolf, it successfully interbred producing a hybrid intermediate in size between the two. This new and highly adaptive wolf, the eastern coyote, expanded rapidly in eastern North America occupying both open and semi-forested habitats, including agricultural and urban landscapes. It now occurs throughout southeastern Canada, including the island of Newfoundland.

Continued deforestation of the landscape has benefited the eastern coyote at the expense of the eastern wolf, the range of which has retracted to the continuously forested Algonquin Uplands particularly within Algonquin Provincial Park. A shrinking range and continued genetic dilution through interbreeding and backcrossing with the eastern coyote contributed to its designation as "Special Concern" in Canada in 2001, and to an elevated status of "Threatened" in 2015.

So what is known of the genetics of wolves occurring along the Georgian Bay coast? Researchers from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry and Trent University's Natural Resources DNA Profiling and Forensic Centre are responsible for much of what is known of the evolutionary history of the eastern wolf and its interrelationship with the eastern coyote in eastern Canada. In an effort to understand the population size and extent of range of the imperilled eastern wolf in Ontario, genetic samples from nearly 600 individual wolves from across the province, including the Georgian Bay area, were collected and analyzed. The results indicate that the purest, genetically uncontaminated eastern wolves are restricted to the Algonquin Uplands within Algonquin Provincial Park. Outside that area almost all individuals have been identified as either eastern coyotes or eastern wolves demonstrating high degrees of genetic introgression with eastern coyote. Away from Algonquin, only within Killarney Provincial Park and the Magnetawan area of Parry Sound District have relatively pure eastern wolves been identified.

Given the prevalence of sparsely vegetated Precambrian rock barrens along the eastern Georgian Bay coast, it should not be surprising to find that the highly adaptable eastern coyote is the wolf most likely to occur. That is not to say that the eastern wolf does not or could not occur, as the species is capable of long-distance dispersal, particularly in winter, but at least in southern Georgian Bay such individuals would represent only transitory individuals or vagrants, rather than individuals from a relict population.

### **Q: Is it possible to distinguish an eastern wolf from an eastern coyote by sight?**

**A:** Short of a genetic test there's really no way to positively distinguish these two. Identification in the field is often problematic, as views are usually brief and it often isn't possible to obtain a photo of sufficient quality to judge physical characteristics. Also, because eastern coyotes are themselves the result of hybridization with eastern wolves the two tend to share physical characteristics. Both share similar overall coloration, being generally grizzled gray above, tawny below and with reddish-brown coloration around the neck, head, and on the fronts of the legs. Experienced researchers can more confidently identify individuals using differences in muzzle width and the breadth of the skull as judged by the distance between the base of the ears relative to the ears themselves, as well as the space between the eyes. Eastern wolf is larger than eastern coyote in all these respects. However, because these differences may be slighter in backcrossed individuals, it's not possible to confidently identify every individual.

### **Q. How can one increase the chances of encountering a wolf in Georgian Bay?**

**A.** Probably the best way to make contact with wolves is through howling. Before the advent of sophisticated GPS-enabled telemetry collars, researchers used imitations of pack howls to contact wolf packs and thereby establish their presence/absence and judge their relative position on the landscape. Post-denning, the still dependent 6-18 week old pups are left in open areas, such as beaver meadows and bogs, while the rest of the pack hunts. These areas are referred to as "rendezvous sites". Particularly in late summer and early autumn there is increased vocal communication amongst members of the pack. The pups are particularly responsive to imitation wolf howls and even embarrassingly poor imitations can elicit responses! Visitor services staff in Algonquin Provincial Park use this technique during conducted public wolf howls to increase the chances that park visitors will experience the sound of a pack of howling wolves. Presented several times annually since the 1960s, more than 160,000 park visitors have participated in these public howls.



Eastern Coyote by Eric Bégin

*Congratulations to our*

# King Family Bursary Winners

by Sarah Matthews, Honey Harbour

The Wally and Marilyn King Endowment Fund was created by the Kings to support special projects that promote the appreciation of the eastern shore of Georgian Bay, the North Channel, and its unique environment. Two bursaries of \$3,500 each are awarded annually. One is provided by Wally and Marilyn, the second is from an anonymous donor who shares the Kings' generosity and recognizes the need for local project funding.

In March 2016, the Georgian Bay Land Trust awarded the King Family Bursary to two applicants who will now be able to complete their proposed projects via the bursaries. The bursary panel considers proposals from any visual artist, writer, poet, musician, playwright, curator, scientist, or person who plans to create original work or projects about the eastern shoreline of Georgian Bay, its communities, history, natural environment, or culture. Congratulations to our two 2016 Bursary winners, Sylvia Galbraith and Melanie Gausden.



Sylvia Galbraith is a Canadian artist whose work includes landscape, documentary, and commercial photography. She has spent years photographing the Great Lakes, Northern Ontario, and the geology of Newfoundland. Through her landscape photographs of the Georgian Bay coast, Sylvia has been examining the relationships

between science, history and art with visual references to rocks that have been transformed by natural forces. With the award Sylvia plans to spend the summer photographing Georgian Bay, develop an exhibition of her photographs, and publish a book of images.

#### **Sylvia's statement:**

*Georgian Bay has always held a special place in my heart for as long as I can remember. As a photographer, I can never spend too much time amongst the remote islands and coves. It is a place that demands humility and respect. I am thrilled and honoured to have been chosen as a King Family Bursary recipient. My project requires that I spend a significant amount of time around Georgian Bay, and with this award I will complete this series of photographs to inspire others to appreciate this place as much as I do.*



*Untitled by Sylvia Galbraith*



Melanie Gausden is a Canadian artist from Guelph, Ontario. In her work, she uses landscape as a medium to explore ideas of memory and self while using colour to highlight the distortion inherent in our memories. For her project, Melanie will spend time exploring different communities along Georgian Bay by foot and kayak, and will produce a

series of paintings that will form an exhibition portraying the interaction between people and Georgian Bay.

#### **Melanie's statement:**

*I am excited to be working on a project that I'm so passionate about. I have spent many summers enjoying the beautiful shores of Georgian Bay and creating memories which are integral to who I have become. It's an honour to have the chance to communicate the importance of preserving the life and community of Georgian Bay through my work.*



*Blue Spruce by Melanie Gausden*

Thank you to the 2016 jurors for their time: Elizabeth King, Jennifer MacDonald, and Bill Lougheed. We look forward to seeing Sylvia and Melanie's completed works, and to the Georgian Bay Land Trust carrying on the annual King Family Bursary tradition.





## Thank You to Our Georgian Bay Land Trust Property Stewards



Stewards Don Buchanan and Dougal Macdonald

There is a love of nature shared by many Georgian Bayers. It's likely the by-product of time spent immersed in Georgian Bay's spectacular natural beauty, and it is a wonderful part of Georgian Bay's culture. The progression beyond this love and appreciation of nature in many cases is the development of Georgian Bay lore, the gathering of knowledge of the local species of the land, water, and air, and a passion for their preservation.

Our property stewards definitely belong to this group, and we thank them for committing their time, talents, and energy to stewarding the Land Trust's properties. We currently stand at 105 members, and this is the Georgian Bay Land Trust Stewards Honour Roll:

Andy Alexander	Gill Cameron	Kevin Gillen	Linda Heron	Ian Milne	Dave Russell
Peter Andras	Jane-Anne Campbell	Jane Glassco	Clare Holton	Patrick Monaghan	Carolyn Rymell
Ian Baines	John Catto	Clare Glassco	Geoff Honsberger	Scott Moody	Karl Schiefer
Robert Baines	Margaret Catto	Graeme Grant	Jeff Hunter	Ellen Moody	Tom Scoon
Charlie Ballantyne	John Cawley	Brian Greene	Duncan Jones	Patti Muir	Pamela Scoon
Shirley Ballantyne	Nancy Christie	Jonathan Groten	Mike Joy	Ron Mulholland	Gregg Scott
Jim Ballantyne	Ned Coates	John Hackett	David Ketchum	Molly Mulloy	Tom Smellie
Shannon Beddoe	Jim Cooper	Elizabeth Hackett	Mike Ketchum	Robert Murray	Bill Stevenson
John Berg	Peter Cooper	Barb Hale	Elizabeth MacCallum	Evie Newell	Audrey Stratton
Sandra Boeckh	Jennifer Dattels	John Hamilton	Joan MacCallum	Rob Ogilvie	Duncan Stratton
Sue Bongard	David Dattels	Richard Hamilton	Dougal Macdonald	Nathan Pape	Bob Suter
Susan Boothe	James Davidson	Bruce Harbinson	John McAllister	Tom Payne	Tim Topornicki
Craig Bowden	Caroline Duncanson	John Hartman	Sandy McCoy	Gary Phillips	Gillian Uy
Doug Brock	John Eakins	Beau Hatcher	Ian McGibbon	Gord Phippen	David Wilkinson
Don Buchanan	Andy Fabens	Nancy Havens	Maureen McGibbon	Norm Playfair	Rob Woodrooffe
Maureen Buchanan	Leigh Fabens	Phil Havens	Fraser McKay	Lindsay Potts	
Darin Buckland	Andrea Ferin	Ian Hayes	Blair Meisner	Corey Ramsbottom	
Patti Bunston Gunn	Helen Garber	Michael Henry	Ian Melhuish	Brian Rohde	

We are always looking for new property stewards. You may choose a favourite Land Trust property near to you, or better yet take on a property that needs stewarding attention. The commitment is minimal, and you can think of it as an excuse for an excursion and a picnic. We are currently looking for stewards for:

- Loudon Island, Pointe au Baril
- Price Island, Pointe au Baril
- Russell Lords Bay, Port Severn
- Russell Reserve, Port Severn
- Port Severn Wetlands
- Martin Reach, Go Home Bay

For more information, please contact Brooks Greer at 416.440.1519 x 103 or [brooks.greer@gbt.org](mailto:brooks.greer@gbt.org)

## Georgian Bay Snapshot

Snug Harbour  
by Doug Brock

"Summer is finally coming!" were Doug Brock's words when he sent us this photo on April 15th of this year. Doug is a steward for Little McCoy Island, and his cottage looks out onto the Snug Harbour Lighthouse.

Submit your best Georgian Bay shots to [info@gblt.org](mailto:info@gblt.org) for a chance to be featured in the next Georgian Bay Snapshot.



## Welcome Summer Conservation Interns



Anne Hughes is currently studying Psychology at Ryerson University. She spent all of her summers growing up at her family's cottage in Cognashene. Anne is a graduate of Greenwood College School, where she developed her love of the outdoors and learning. She spent many years participating

in, then working at the Cognashene Recreation Program and was the head of the program for the past two summers. Anne loves photography, traveling, skiing, and music. Anne is extremely excited to be working with the GBLT this summer. She loves Georgian Bay and is passionate about its preservation. She is looking forward to sharing this passion with others and doing her part to maintain the Bay for future generations.



Tilly Cook has spent all of her summers in Go Home Bay. She has just completed a History degree at University College London and has been an active volunteer in many environmental initiatives. Over the last 6 years Tilly worked at the Go Home Bay sailing club and is now looking

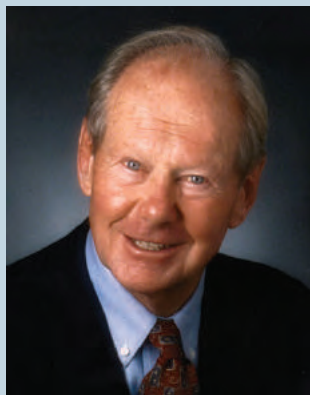
forward to a change of scene as she takes on the role of Georgian Bay Land Trust conservation steward. She is excited to be involved in the preservation of this most beautiful part of the world. The Land Trust properties are some of Tilly's favourite parts of the Bay and she can't wait to spend the summer enjoying them.



# Remembering Bill Prior

by Tom Scoon, Advisor and past Board Chair, Georgian Bay Land Trust

February 14, 1931 –  
February 28, 2016



The Georgian Bay Land Trust has lost a great friend in Bill Prior. The Georgian Bay Association, Georgian Bay Forever, the Great Lakes Basin Conservancy, the Ojibway Club, the Pointe au Baril Islanders' Association (where he served as President), and the whole Pointe au Baril community have lost a great friend too.

Bill was a self-described dreamer and entrepreneur. Whether it was designing and building a hydrofoil sailboat, or building two companies dedicated to respecting and treating water, Bill led with his dreams and his determination to make things happen.

Bill and his artist wife Carol have been enormous supporters of organizations dedicated to the environmental health of Georgian Bay. When the GBLT was scrambling to raise funds to acquire Little McCoy Island, the 35 acre jewel just south of Pointe au Baril, Bill and Carol gave a significant gift at a critical time. This enabled the Land Trust's acquisition of Little McCoy and the fulfillment of a Land Trust dream.

*Dreaming and doing... lessons worth learning. Smooth and fast sailing, Bill. We will miss you.*

## Tribute GIFTS

Received from December 17th 2015 – May 27th 2016

### In Memory

Marylon Alexander	Joy Kitchen
Buffy Ash	Norm MacLeod
Forbes Black	Barb Morgan
Maida Campbell	Leonard & Henrietta Newell
Peggy Dale	Bill Prior
Helen & Bill Dane	Moe & Sylvia Rosen
Dr. Joan E. Harrison	Gerry Stanley
Michael Henderson	Edward Topornicki
Margo Vorys House	David Howard Yeigh
Vincent Ketchum	

### In Honour

Fred Beck & Susan Woods	Robin Heron & Louis Nabigon
Swith Bell & Geordie, Louisa, & Marigold Dalglish	Donald & Lorraine Lawson
Kerry & Brenda Benson	Bill Loughheed & Family
Jim Cooper	LaRea Moody
Barb & Loren Crabtree	Catherine Robbins
Heron Family	John & Chris Stark
Michael Heron & Dorothy Chan	Dr. Kirkland W. Todd Jr.

## Sponsors

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gbt.org

SUMMER 2016

# SUMMEREVENTS

PROTECTING the WILDERNESS of our UNIQUE ARCHIPELAGO

## Upcoming Events July & August 2016



### 25th Anniversary Celebrations

Celebrating 25 years of land conservation, featuring a guest speaker and refreshments.

**Sans Souci:**

Saturday, July 16, 4-6 pm, SSCA Community Centre, Frying Pan Island

**Honey Harbour & Cognashene:**

Saturday, July 23, 4-6 pm, Honey Harbour Schoolhouse

**Go Home Bay & Wah Wah Taysee:**

Sunday, July 24, 4-6 pm, Jim Ballantyne's cottage, Firth Island, Go Home Bay

**Pointe au Baril:**

Friday, August 5, 4-6 pm, Ojibway Club movie hut



### Rock Walks

Join "rock star" geologist Dr. Nick Eyles for a fascinating tour of the geological secrets seen in the rocks beneath our feet. Join us an hour before each walk for a picnic (bring your own).

**Southeast Wooded Pine (Go Home Bay):**

Wednesday, July 20 (rain date Monday, July 25), 1 pm

**West Lookout (Pointe au Baril):**

Thursday, July 21 (rain date Tuesday, July 26), 1:30 pm

**The Bustards (Key Harbour):**

Wednesday, July 27 (rain date Thursday, July 28), 1 pm



**Kids' Conservation Quest**

Kids ages 8-12 will love learning about Georgian Bay flora and fauna and how to be a good steward of this precious environment.

**Honey Harbour Schoolhouse:**

Tuesday, August 2, 10:30 am-12:30 pm

**American Camp Island, Wah Wah Taysee:**

Thursday, August 4, 10 am-1 pm

**Saturday, August 6**

**Rock the Bay:** 3 pm, Arthur Island, Cognashene.

This very popular dock concert is back for a second year! More details at [gbt.org/rockthebay](http://gbt.org/rockthebay).

**Wednesday, August 10**

**Nature Walk on Sandy Island:** 11 am. Join us for a guided nature walk from the southeastern side of Sandy to the Western shore. If you're feeling extra keen, bring a lunch and stick around after the walk to help us take care of a patch of Phragmites.



**Thursday, August 11**

**Phragmites Removal Workshop on Giant's Tomb:**

10 am-1 pm. Learn all about identifying and removing invasive Phragmites with Kristyn Ferguson and Laura Robson of the Nature Conservancy of Canada, and help us protect Giant's Tomb from a fledgling invasion.



**Wednesday, August 17**

**"Cocktails & Canvases" on Southeast Wooded Pine Island:**

3-5 pm. Bring your art supplies and/or a cocktail, and join us for an informal afternoon enjoying this beautiful property.



For more information about any of these events please visit [gbt.org/events](http://gbt.org/events).