



# GBA UPDATE

News and Information from the Georgian Bay Association

## Open Net Fish Farming Still a Threat to Georgian Bay

### GBA's Aquaculture Committee has an active year

By Gerry Quinn, Chair, GBA Fisheries Committee  
and Bob Duncanson, Executive Director

**T**he Georgian Bay Association, on behalf of its 20 member associations, has been active in opposing the expansion of open net fish farming in Georgian Bay for 13 years now. Claudette Chabot, Chair of the GBA's Aquaculture Subcommittee, has led a group of scientists in our responses to proposed government policy for the majority of this time, including: preparing scientific calculations, attending government workshops as the only public representative and communicating with the government and industry. In the last 10 years no new fish farms have been licensed in Georgian Bay. Currently 6 licensed fish farm operations plus 3 unlicensed native operations are active. All use open net systems.

GBA understands that several applications are pending with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR&F) to expand some of the existing operations and even start up in new locations. The industry aims to approximately double the production of farmed fish in Georgian Bay in the foreseeable future. Our calculations show that the existing fish farms contribute 46 tonnes of phosphorous on an annual basis to the Bay so a doubling of production would result in 92 tonnes of phosphorous being released into public waters each year.

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Closed containment fish farm  
system from AgriMarine  
Holdings off the BC coast.

Photo courtesy of AgriMarine Holdings, Vancouver, BC

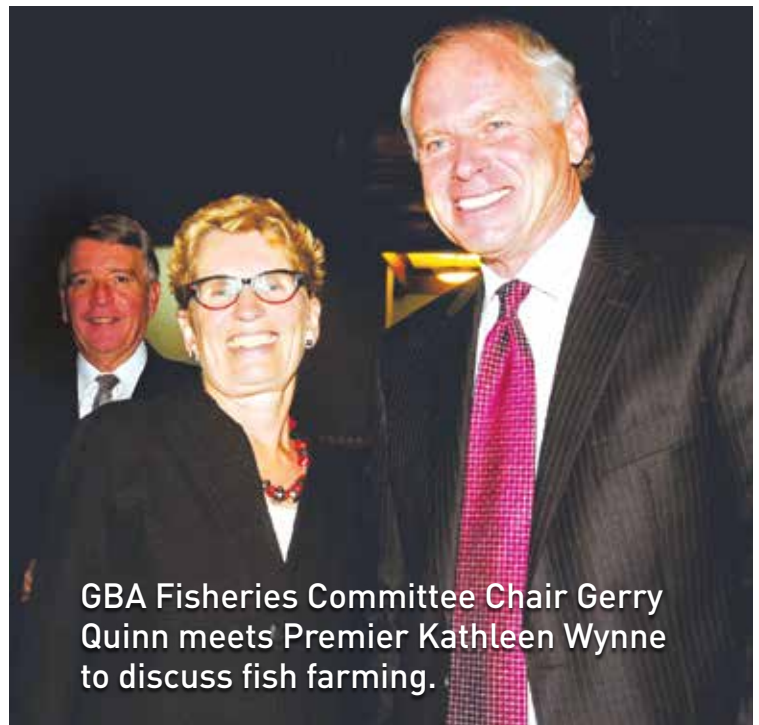
The GBA strongly opposes expansion of open net fish farming. We are not opposed to the growth of the fish farming industry but we feel that should only be permitted using sustainable, environmentally friendly closed pen or land-based systems. Technology has come a long way in the last 13 years and closed containment operating systems are now economically viable. They have a higher initial capital cost, but reduce feed costs, escapees and disease. Revenues from the sale of waste as fertilizer can help offset the energy costs for the pumps in closed containment systems. There are now over a dozen closed pen fish operations in the world, as operators seek out ways to increase production in a more environmentally sustainable and economically viable manner.

Open net fish operations are located in Georgian Bay because the water is deep and pristine. The Northern Ontario Aquaculture Association and the MNR&F seem to believe the Bay can assimilate pollution from fish farms. Their answer to pollution is dilution, which is an outdated and discredited policy. Furthermore this policy contravenes the objectives of the bi-national Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

The GBA is not advocating that any of the existing fish farms be closed because we do not think that this is realistic or achievable, although we favour converting them to closed pen systems over time. We are, however, strongly opposed to any expansion of the existing operations, or any licensing of new farms using open net technology.

In support of the GBA's stance, our Aquaculture Committee was active on a number of fronts last year:

1. Gerry Quinn met with Premier Kathleen Wynne in Sudbury on September 25th and discussed the risks that the



**GBA Fisheries Committee Chair Gerry Quinn meets Premier Kathleen Wynne to discuss fish farming.**

Government will be exposed to by allowing any expansion of open net fish farming. In our view, the Government could be severely criticized for allowing the proposed expansions because they would add significant pollutants to the Great Lakes. Some of the Lakes (particularly Lakes Erie and Ontario) already have excessive amounts of phosphorous, which have triggered algae blooms. The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement between the US and Canada identified nutrient loading as a significant threat across the Great Lakes, particularly in the near shore areas.

**AgriMarine System closed containment fish tank**



Photo courtesy of AgriMarine Holdings, Vancouver, BC

2. Gerry Quinn and Bob Duncanson met with MNR&F Minister Bill Mauro on several occasions last fall to discuss GBA's concerns with any expansion of fish farming in the Great Lakes. Minister Mauro was provided with a briefing binder

to educate him on our concerns and the importance of the Great Lakes, along with many published articles on the environmental impacts of open net fish farming in other countries and on both Canadian coasts.

3. In 2004 the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters endorsed the GBA's stance on, and serious concerns with,

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We are strongly opposed to licensing of new fish farms using open net technology.

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the potential proliferation of cage aquaculture operations. The OFAH has advised GBA that its policy on aquaculture remains the same: fish habitat degradation through environmental contamination and nutrient loading remains an important issue and must be prevented. They do, however, support the MNR&F's commitment to

publicly post any proposals for new cage aquaculture facilities on the Environmental Registry for public scrutiny and comment. The OFAH remains committed to ensuring that Ontario's aquaculture facilities are well managed and that any expansion of the industry in Lake Huron is compatible with recreational fishing and other lake uses. In other words, they have not taken as strong a stance as GBA.

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**GBA Mission Statement:**  
To work with our water-based communities and other stakeholders to ensure the careful stewardship of the greater Georgian Bay environment.

The Georgian Bay Association is a volunteer umbrella group representing 20 community associations with over 3,200 dues paying property owners and over 18,000 residents.

**Patrons of GBA:**

The Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D.

John Ralston Saul, C.C.

President: **Sue Grundy**,

email: susan.grundy@sympatico.ca

Executive Director: **Bob Duncanson**,

email: rduncanson@georgianbay.ca

Editor: **John Carson**,

email: johnwcarson@sympatico.ca

Advertising: **Richard Crouch**,

email: rwcrouch@me.com

Webmaster: **Eric Armour**,

email: e.s.armour@gmail.com

GBA website: **www.georgianbay.ca**

Facebook: **facebook.com/GBAAssociation**

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Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses To:

**GBA c/o SUE ANDERSON,**

**Administrative Assistant**

**302-561 Avenue Road, TORONTO, ONTARIO, M4V 2J8**

**gba@georgianbay.ca**

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# 2014 was an Active Year for GBA



**What a difference a year (or two) makes!** Two years ago at this time we were coping with record low water levels on Georgian Bay. Many people with water access cottages were worried they would not even be able to reach their cottages. Then we had two years of above-average rain and snowfall and cooler than average temperatures. This year, the forecast is that water levels in Georgian Bay will be the highest in 15 years!

So does this mean that we don't need to worry about water levels any more? Not at all. Georgian Bay, Lake Huron and Lake Michigan are really all one big lake. In an area this big, there are no quick fixes. Two years ago, we urged governments to begin the process to address low water levels. That process involves identifying the appropriate measures to hold back some water in times of high water so that water levels don't fall back to crisis levels when we have drier years again. Our message is the same now – the time to take action to protect against low water levels in the future is when water levels are high.

Dealing with water levels is a long-term process, and more cycles of high and low water can be expected. But we are told the general trend is towards lower levels because of global warming, past dredging and other factors, so we are continuing to call for government action. We will have a federal election in Canada in 2015, and water levels are a federal issue, so please raise this with your candidates. The GBA will be preparing a list of questions to ask your candidate on several topics, including water levels.

## 2014 was also an active year for the GBA on several other fronts.

**Boating:** The GBA's Boating and Safety Committee has worked in collaboration with Boating Ontario, the OPP and cottagers who have faced challenges in sharing bays with mooring boaters to prepare "Georgian Bay for Everyone", a pamphlet to remind boaters and cottagers of the importance of courtesy when sharing Georgian Bay. Copies of this pamphlet were distributed in some areas last summer and will be distributed this spring to each marina around the eastern and northern Georgian Bay. They will also be made available to each cottagers' association for their members, because courtesy and mutual respect when sharing the Bay with other users must be a two way street.

**Invasive species:** Many Georgian Bay cottagers and cottagers' associations are concerned about the appearance of Phragmites, an invasive type of reed, in a number of areas along the Georgian Bay shoreline. The experts agree that Phragmites is a serious problem and that the plants are very hard to get rid of once they are established, but there have been differing views on the best way to do this. The GBA has set up an Ad Hoc Committee to work with other organizations on the Phragmites issue with a view to coming up with recommendations that we can share with our members on how to deal with these plants. The Committee includes members of GBA's Lands and Forests Committee and representatives of several member associations. The Committee is working with other organizations including



Georgian Bay Forever, the Ontario Phragmites Working Group, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, and Stop the Invasion. We hope to have a workshop this spring so cottagers with affected properties can get advice from the experts on how best to deal with this problem. We'll provide details shortly on [www.georgianbay.ca](http://www.georgianbay.ca).

**Fisheries:** Our Executive Director, Bob Duncanson, and Claudette Chabot, the Chair of GBA's Aquaculture Subcommittee, testified before a Senate committee looking at the aquaculture industry in Ottawa last fall. They told the Senators that we are very concerned about the long-term environmental impact of the pollution created by the discharge of phosphorus into the water from fish feces and uneaten fish food. The GBA does not oppose the growth of aquaculture in Canada or in the Great Lakes region. We believe, however, that the only way forward for freshwater aquaculture is to transition the open net cage farms to environmentally responsible closed contained systems. For more information, see the article on Open Net Fish Farming in this issue of *UPDATE*.

**Government Affairs:** Following the municipal elections last fall, the GBA organized a meeting of a number of local organizations in the Township of Georgian Bay, including the cottagers' associations, with a view to providing a forum for these organizations to provide input on issues of concern to the Township's municipal Council. This group will be making a deputation to the Council in February.

**GBA's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** An historical note about the GBA – The Georgian Bay Association was founded in 1916, so next year will be our centennial year. We are beginning the planning process for what we hope will be some interesting and fun events to celebrate our anniversary next year. We'll provide more details over the course of this year, and will run several anniversary articles for you to read in *UPDATE* this year and next. In this issue, we include a reprint from a 1936 edition of *Honey Harbour Hoots* that provides a bit of the history.

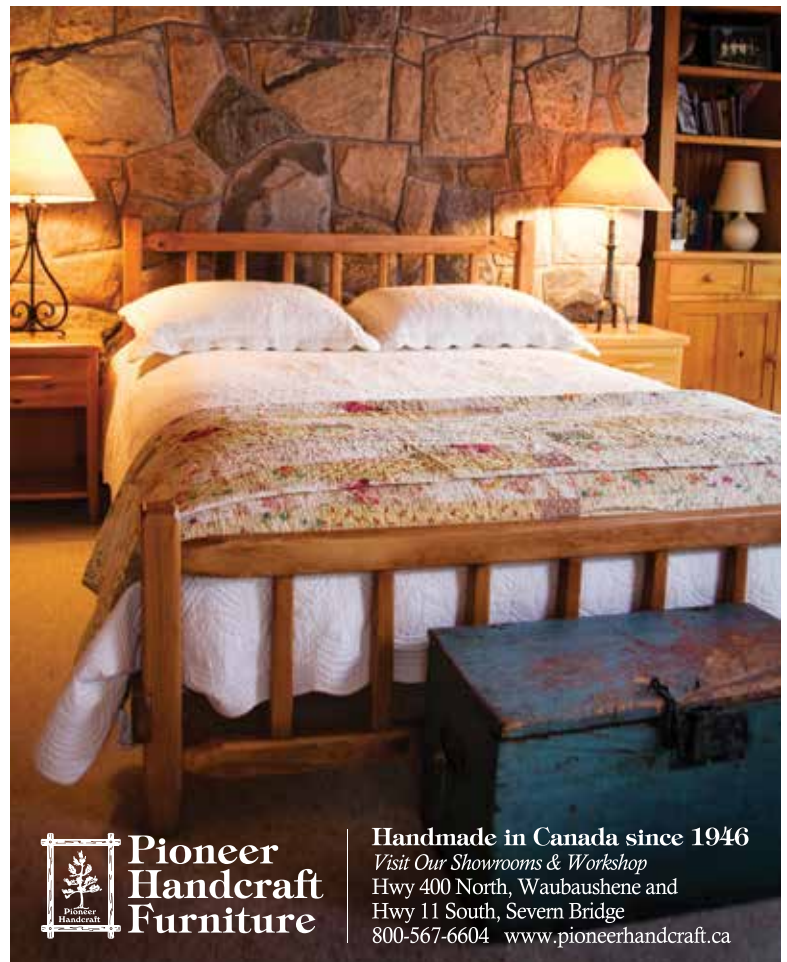
Finally, I want to take this opportunity to thank Ian MacLeod for his contributions to the GBA Board. Ian will be taking on increased responsibilities in his home cottage association so has had to step off the GBA Board. We appreciate the time that Ian devoted to the GBA over the past few years. We are delighted to welcome Tonia Blenkarn to our Board in Ian's place as one of the representatives from


PaBIA. Tonia and her husband Andy run Desmasdons Marina in Pointe au Baril. They have been great supporters of GBA over the years. We look forward to working with Tonia in this new capacity.

We are also pleased to welcome Rolfe Jones to our Board. Rolfe joined us last June as a second representative from Cognashene and has already been a valuable contributor to the Board.

As always, we appreciate your feedback and suggestions. If you have any comments or suggestions on anything the GBA is doing or on any initiative you think we should pursue, please feel free to contact me, Bob Duncanson or your local association representatives. Our contact details are on the GBA website at [www.georgianbay.ca](http://www.georgianbay.ca).

I wish all of you the best for an enjoyable year at the Bay. ■



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# Phragmites Threatening Georgian Bay, and what you can do about it!

With thanks to



**W**e all have a common love for the Bay. Our families have chosen to cottage or even live here for the best part of a century.

As a unique and iconic Canadian ecosystem, the Georgian Bay coastline was designated in 2004 as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. It is the world's largest freshwater archipelago and contains over 1000 distinct habitat types including such vulnerable habitats as fens and wetlands. These habitats are ideal colonization sites for *Phragmites australis*.

The reed *Phragmites australis* subsp. *australis* first arrived on the east coast



of Canada as a ballast stowaway around 100 years ago. Its name is derived from the Greek word phragma, meaning fence, which refers to its fence-like growth along waterways. *Phragmites* is now categorized as an aggressive invasive species that can dominate a site indefinitely. In 2005, it was ranked as Canada's worst terrestrial invasive plant by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. *Phragmites* can completely disrupt an ecosystem, affecting nutrient cycling, altering food webs, displacing native species, decreasing biodiversity and encouraging lower water levels. Records of larger animals such as deer and turtles becoming immobilized within the reeds are not uncommon. The faster we tackle new invasions the easier it will be to stop the spread of this threat.

In the Great Lakes region each year, there are reports of new stands appearing further and further north. *Phragmites* management programs are in place along the shores of Lake Erie (Rondeau Provincial Park), Lake Huron (Lambton Shores and Saugeen), and in 2013, a program was initiated on the Bruce Peninsula. In 2014, we saw *Phragmites* stands throughout Collingwood, Wasaga Beach, Midland, Georgian Bay Islands National Park, the islands of Sans Souci and Parry



**Project Lead Katrina Gaibisels demonstrates the *Phragmites* plant**

Continues on page 8

# You are Invited to GBA's Phragmites Workshop

Saturday April 25, 2015

GTA Location to be confirmed

Hear from Experts on how to identify and deal with this invasive plant

Space is limited,  
so please RSVP at [www.georgianbay.ca](http://www.georgianbay.ca)

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Watch [www.georgianbay.ca](http://www.georgianbay.ca) for details.

## GBA to Host Spring Workshop on Phragmites instead of a Spring Public Meeting

For many years, the GBA has held an Annual Spring Meeting for members of the broader Georgian Bay community. The Annual Spring Meeting has been a forum for the GBA to inform the general membership and others about our activities. Except for the meeting in 2013, when low water levels produced a large turnout, the meetings have generally attracted about 80 people plus GBA directors. While historically the public meeting was one of the main ways for GBA to communicate with our stakeholders, today we communicate much more effectively and continuously through our Update newsletter, our redesigned website, and regular

email reports to the presidents of our member associations.

This year the GBA had decided to host a workshop on managing Phragmites instead of a Spring Public Meeting. We feel this will be more relevant to more of our members and stakeholders. See the notice of the workshop on this page for details.

Next year, the GBA is planning some special events in conjunction with the GBA's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We are consulting with our member associations on the best way to commemorate GBA's centenary. ■

Sound, Killbear Provincial Park, the French River and even reports to be confirmed from the Bay of Islands.

Last summer Georgian Bay Forever launched our Phragmites Management Project from Collingwood to Pointe au Baril. This project was developed through research and discussion with the Ontario Phragmites Working Group, the District of Muskoka, the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve, the Ontario Invasive Plant Council, The Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation and Parks Canada. Our Phragmites Management Project has been refined by incorporating volunteer feedback and practical experience.

In the pilot season we saw huge success. Residents, NGOs and cottagers came together in a series of workshops designed to educate in the proper techniques for eliminating Phragmites. This coming summer we are excited to work with the GBA

and to provide opportunities to those interested in gaining the hands-on experience required to preserve our stunning native biodiversity. The workshops, situated in the very environment we strive to conserve, provide all the tools and training needed to arm the volunteers for the task at hand. Individuals of all ages are encouraged to participate in community building while meeting new friends and preserving the integrity of their wetlands.

This project is continuing next year thanks to funding from Environment Canada's Lake Simcoe-Eastern Georgian Bay Clean-up Fund. Georgian Bay is an iconic symbol of Ontario's beauty. Help us ensure that it can be enjoyed for many more generations.

Contact [executivedirector@georgianbayforever.org](mailto:executivedirector@georgianbayforever.org) if you would like to volunteer in your area. ■



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Phragmites can completely disrupt an ecosystem...

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4. GBA representatives regularly attend the Fish Management Zone meetings for Georgian Bay. At the last meeting we attended, we were advised by an MNR&F representative that their current mandate is to expand open net fish farming. We will circle back to Minister Mauro on this, as we feel that mandate may be out of step with his current thinking.

5. GBA recently commented on the MNR&F's new collaborative sediment policy, which is to come into effect on April 1, 2015. This policy tries to regulate the industry to reduce sediment deposits onto the lake bed, which have a deleterious impact on the native biota. We believe that this new policy is not stringent enough, because it calls for self-monitoring of the sediment by the fish farm operations and does not require the rigorous science we feel is necessary to fully understand the impact caused by this waste.

6. Last summer Gerry Quinn and Bob Duncanson met with Ken Lacroix, the new Lake Manager for Lake Huron at MNR&F. At the time of the meeting, Mr. Lacroix was new to the position (having been transferred from the parks section), so he was not aware of the fish farm operations in Georgian Bay. We provided him with materials that GBA has published over the years for his information.

7. Last November Claudette Chabot (Chair of the GBA's Aquaculture Subcommittee) and Bob Duncanson presented

“ Alternative fish farming technology using closed floating containers is now quite viable. ”

GBA's position on open net aquaculture to the Senate Standing Committee of Fisheries and Oceans, which continues to study the regulation of the aquaculture industry in Canada, and its current challenges and future prospects. GBA's presentation appeared to

be well received by the Senators and many questions were asked. The Senate Committee will be tabling a report on their findings this spring. We hope this document is released to the public so that we can determine if the Senators took our message to heart.

In summary, the GBA continues to oppose any expansion of open net fish farming in Georgian Bay, or for that matter anywhere else in Ontario. Since none of the US states bordering the Great Lakes allow open net fish farming in their portions of the Lakes, GBA is far from alone in taking this position. There is no reason that the Great Lakes should be used as repositories for the industrial waste from private fish farming operations.

Our position is that alternative farming techniques using closed floating containers in the water or containers on land are now quite viable and should be used by this industry as it expands. One encouraging fact is that a Canadian company, AgriMarine Holdings ([www.agrimarine.com](http://www.agrimarine.com)) builds closed containment fish rearing systems. These are in use in BC and China where the company has successfully demonstrated the economic and environmental advantages of this technology. In December the company initiated a pilot study and evaluation project in Ontario involving new floating trough technology for the commercial production of trout. ■

For further information:

<http://www.farmedanddangerous.org/solutions/closed-containment/>

<http://agrimarine.com/agrimarine-holdings-provides-operational-update/>

or search the internet for “environmental impacts of open net fish farming”.

# Winter 2015



**4**00 years ago this summer, on July 29 1615, Samuel de Champlain first stepped foot on the shores of Georgian Bay. He entered the Bay through the French River and paddled south to the Huron settlement near modern day Midland. His diary shows that the journey south took his party 3 days. It is something to imagine looking out your cottage window toward the open to see a small fleet of voyageur canoes plying their way southward. Champlain would have looked at some of the very same rocks and islands that we enjoy each summer. He may have even set up camp near your cottage! This fascination with history led the Georgian Bay Association to work with the Province of Ontario and with local Associations to fund and erect a number of monuments dedicated to Champlain in the 1940s. We know that there are monuments at Pointe au Baril, Sans Souci, Cognashene and a plaque affixed to a prominent rock point in Honey Harbour. We are considering a rededication of one or more of these monuments this summer in honour of the 400th anniversary of Champlain's arrival on the Bay. Please stay tuned for further developments.

## Winter is a time for planning at the GBA.

As we look ahead at the 2015 cottage season we know that there will be ongoing challenges that we must face. Fortunately low water will not be one of these. Current predictions are that we will enjoy water levels that are 12 – 15 inches higher than they were last summer. We have even heard some grumbings about the water being too high!

On the other hand, dealing with Phragmites will be a challenge for many cottagers. We are working with all the organizations that are engaged with the Phragmites threat in order to develop specific recommendations for our Member Associations and individual property owners on how best to deal with Phragmites when it rears its ugly head on your shoreline. Stay tuned for more information from GBA in the spring.

Boating and Safety present ongoing challenges. Boat noise and wake are particular problems that we are trying to address through collaborating with our friends and neighbours in Muskoka who founded the Safe Quiet Lakes initiative.

## Winter is also a time for us to meet with politicians and their staff.

On the Provincial front we have started to make the rounds to get to know the newly elected Ministers. As you will read

elsewhere in this newsletter, Gerry Quinn and I have met a few times with the new Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, Bill Mauro. We shared our thoughts and concerns with Minister Mauro on endangered species, Phragmites and cage aquaculture.

We hope to have a similar meeting with the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Glen Murray. Minister Murray's staff have given us a heads up that a new and stronger version of the Great Lakes Protection Act will be tabled by the Ontario government this spring. We will once again provide comment to the government on what we like and do not like in this new piece of legislation. Look for news on this on our GBA web site.

On the Federal level we have been active on water levels, water quality and aquaculture. GBA has observer status at meetings of the Great Lakes Executive Committee which is a bi-national group charged with implementing the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. We work with other non-governmental groups to provide comment to the two Federal governments to encourage them to protect our shared water resource.

Last fall we were invited to appear before a Senate Committee in Ottawa as an expert witness on aquaculture. This committee is reviewing the future of aquaculture in Canada. They appreciated hearing a perspective on aquaculture in the Great Lakes as most of their focus has been on maritime activities.

We continue to stay in close contact with the IJC (through Gordon Walker) and the Canadian government (through Tony Clement) on water levels. While the immediate low water crisis has passed we are concerned about the longer term predictions of even lower water levels brought on by climate change. We believe that the time to put plans in place to safeguard against another and deeper drop in water levels is when there is a surplus of water in the system – ie now. There will be far less resistance to introducing changes to the Great Lakes system when stakeholders aren't fighting over a declining resource.

2015 is an election year at the Federal level. We will meet with the key candidates running in this election and prepare questions that can be shared with our members in order to keep Georgian Bay issues front and centre in the minds of the politicians. ■

# Lyme Disease: What You Should Know



Recently, Lyme disease has been getting media attention. There is greater awareness now amongst the general public and the medical community about the disease than there was a few years ago, yet Lyme disease has been in Ontario for at least 30 years.

It is important to be aware of Lyme disease and to catch it early. If the bacterium becomes well established in the body, short-term treatment with antibiotics is not likely to be successful. Long term, chronic symptoms are serious and may include arthritis-like joint problems and neurological issues, which at worst can lead to disability.

Lyme disease is most common in the northeastern United States and parts of the Midwest. While not as common in Canada, it is most likely to be found along the shores of the St. Lawrence River, Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. However, because migrating birds carry infected ticks, it is possible to contract Lyme disease almost anywhere in Ontario. What is the risk in Georgian Bay country? The good news is that the probability of contracting Lyme disease in the Bay area is low.

## Prevention

Lyme disease is caused by a bacterium transferred by the bite of an infected Blacklegged Tick. The most widely reported indicator of possible infection is a tick or tick bite surrounded by a "bulls eye" rash. However, this is NOT a fully reliable indicator. Up to 50% of patients who tested positive did not report a tick bite and the rash may not appear. When there is a rash, it may not be bulls eye-shaped. Worse, the blood test often used to detect the disease is not 100% reliable – false negatives are possible.

Consequently, prevention of tick bites is the first line of defense. If walking through high grass, brush or wooded areas, wear long pants tucked into socks, long sleeves and a hat (ticks love hair). Use of insect repellents containing DEET may discourage ticks. Blacklegged ticks are very small and hard to see. They are usually found low to the ground, on tall grass or on shrubs.

If you find a tick, lift it off with tweezers gently and quickly and secure it in a small container or clear bag. It may take as long as 24 hours for the bacterium to be transferred to your body, so the sooner it is removed the better. Avoid squeezing the tick when removing it since that can cause serum to be transferred to the body. If you are concerned, you can take the

tick to a doctor or the local public health unit, who can arrange for species identification and testing for Lyme disease.

## Symptoms and Treatment

You should also be aware of the symptoms because, as noted above, you may not know a tick has bitten you and typical indicators of a bite may not appear. Symptoms usually appear after 1 or 2 weeks, but may take as long as a month. They could include fever, headaches, body aches, and muscle and joint pain, as well as the not-always-present rash. If you experience these symptoms you should see your doctor. One source advises that, if you experience flu-like symptoms at a time of year when flu is not prevalent, you should suspect Lyme disease.

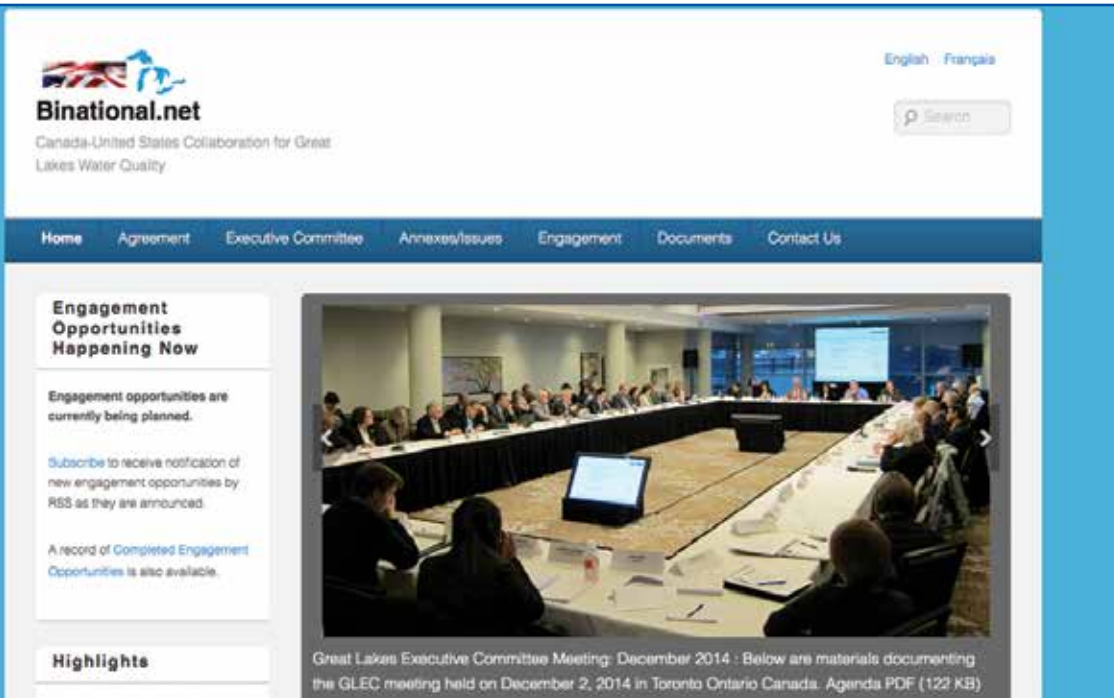
**Early treatment is essential.** A doctor can arrange a blood test that is generally (but not always) able to pinpoint the presence of the Lyme disease bacterium in your body. Treatment with antibiotics is highly effective in treating Lyme disease if administered soon after contact. Some doctors may administer antibiotics even if tests are negative, provided that symptoms are present.

Once the bacterium is well established in the body, short-term treatment with antibiotics is not likely to be successful and the long term, chronic symptoms are serious. In the United States some doctors specialize in treatment of chronic Lyme disease; they employ multiple antibiotics and other drugs over long periods of time. Ontario's medical authorities do not support such treatment, because it has not been clinically demonstrated as effective (possibly because research is not well-funded). This reinforces the need for PREVENTION of tick bites and EARLY TREATMENT.

Pets may also get tick bites and contract Lyme disease. Unlike humans, pets can be protected against fleas and ticks by administering medication proactively. Talk to your veterinarian if your pet is not protected. If you find ticks on your pet, remove them as described above or see a veterinarian immediately. If you are concerned about the potential for Lyme disease, contact your veterinarian. Effective treatment is possible with antibiotics.

For further Ontario government information check <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/ms/lyme/default.aspx>. Also, the website of the International Lyme and Associated Diseases Society ([www.ilads.org](http://www.ilads.org)) provides useful information. ■

# Great Lakes Water Quality Update



detailing activities and actions captured under the Lake Wide Management plans. We understand that these important reference documents will eventually be linked to the Binational.net website.

## 2014 Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Quality and Ecosystem Health (COA)

On December 18, 2014, the Ontario and Federal governments renewed their commitment to restore, protect and conserve the Great Lakes through the signing of the COA. This 5 year agreement

## Binational.net – Redesigned website

Environment Canada and the United States Environmental Protection Agency have redesigned the Binational website to support the 2012 amended version of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA). The website is the single window reporting on joint work undertaken by both governments under the GLWQA.

The website will document Canada/USA engagement opportunities, updates on joint implementation actions and document progress towards commitments under the agreement.

See: <http://binational.net/>

Last year the two Governments established “priorities for science and action” to address threats to water quality in the Great Lakes over the next two years. The ten priorities are detailed in annexes to the agreement and include areas such as addressing “areas of concern”, drafting ecosystem objectives for each of the Lakes, and designating “chemicals of mutual concern”.

The old website contained reports about the Binational Toxic Strategy (1997 – 2009), as well as historical documents

commits Canada and Ontario to:

- Take action to address algae blooms, including blue-green algae.
- Complete action on historical Areas of Concern including the Niagara River, Nipigon Bay, Peninsula Harbour, The Bay of Quinte, and the St. Lawrence River (Cornwall).
- Help prevent aquatic invasive species from entering the Lakes.
- Protect the Lakes from harmful pollutants.
- Conserve important fish and wildlife habitats.
- Strengthen collaboration with Great Lakes communities.

The COA contains 14 annexes, mirroring somewhat the GLWQA Annexes, but goes further by promoting innovation and engaging communities such as First Nations.

For more information see this Environment Canada website page: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/grandslacs-greatlakes/default.asp?lang=En&n=B903EE0D-1>

Continues on page 13



## New Asian Carp Canada Website

In January the Invasive Species Centre announced the launch of a comprehensive Canadian website on Asian carps, in partnership with Fisheries and Oceans Canada. *Asian Carp Canada* – [www.asiancarp.ca](http://www.asiancarp.ca) – provides information on all aspects of Asian carps, including the most recent prevention, warning, response and research efforts to address the threats of Asian carps to the Great Lakes and beyond.

The website describes the four different species of Asian carps, their history in North America and the ecological and socio-economic risks if they were to become established in Canadian waters. It also reports on efforts toward monitoring, prevention, and responding to the threats.



“Asian carps” refer to four species of carps (Bighead, Black, Grass, Silver) that are native to China and southern Russia. All four species have escaped into the wild in North America and three have established self-sustaining populations in the Mississippi waterway system in the United States. The establishment of Asian carps in Canadian waters poses a threat to native species and overall biodiversity because Asian carps are likely to alter fish habitat, compete with native fish for food and space, and act as carriers for diseases or parasites. ■

## GBBR Awarded \$191K by Environment Canada



**T**he Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve (GBBR) was awarded \$191,350 under the Lake Simcoe South-Eastern Georgian Bay Clean-up Fund to undertake coordinated nutrient monitoring in eastern Georgian Bay. The award is part of the second round of funding under the expanded Clean-up Fund, which aims to restore the ecological health of Lake Simcoe and southeastern Georgian Bay and improve water quality for the residents and wildlife of the region. In total, the Government is investing \$8 million in funding for 32 environmental projects to improve the ecosystem health of the Lake Simcoe and southeastern Georgian Bay watersheds.

This project will involve three municipalities – Archipelago, Carling and Georgian Bay – and volunteers to monitor the conditions in Georgian Bay. The project will ensure consistency in how nutrients are measured and monitored by various stakeholders. Activities will include volunteer training, Best Management Practices workshops in 10 communities in the region and developing a nutrient monitoring portal/web platform that maps all nutrient monitoring activities, as well as research and stewardship activities. Trends will be reported through the State of the Bay ecosystem health report card program. The Georgian Bay Association was pleased to write a letter of support for GBBR’s application for this grant and we look forward to supporting GBBR in executing the project. ■

# What is the Georgian Bay Association?

Honey Harbour Hoots' answer in 1936 is surprisingly relevant today, and provides a bit of history.

*With thanks to the  
Honey Harbour Association*



What is the Georgian Bay Association? This is a question sometimes asked by interested Honey Harbour-ites who read the reference to it on Reward Posters and wonder just what the Georgian Bay Association represents and what are its activities.

The Georgian Bay Association had its origin in February 1916. Its founders were convinced that definite advantages would be afforded by the establishment of a centralized body to co-ordinate the activities of the various local cottagers' associations of Georgian Bay. At the early meetings, four organizations were represented, namely those of Honey Harbour, Cognashene, Go-Home Bay and Sans Souci. Predominant among the organizers were Mr. M. H. Ludwig, K. C. of Sans Souci, the late Dr. Wishart of Go-Home Bay and the late Colonel T.A. Duff of Honey Harbour. The membership of the Association was not to be made up of individuals but of the constituent cottagers' organizations which are to be found at various points along the shore.

It was felt that a great deal of good work could be done by way of concerted action through the medium of the Association. Each of the local organizations had peculiar individual problems but there were also problems of a broader character which affected all of the localities alike. Such problems were control of fisheries, lighting and buoying of channels, police protection, sanitation, transportation services and other matters of common interest. The Georgian Bay Association was not intended to interfere with the activities of local Associations but rather to co-operate with them in the handling of general business leaving each organization free to deal with its own affairs.

One of the early endeavours of the Association was the urging of better railway service to northern points and while this was eventually solved by changing conditions, a vast amount of time and effort was spent on it by Association officials. As one moves around in Georgian Bay there is ample testimony of other good works done. Many channels have been deepened, many navigation lights and buoys have been placed and we are enjoying the use of these facilities, in many cases, without the knowledge of the efforts that have been made in the past to secure them. Our own Colonel Duff was a tower of strength to the Association and through his sponsorship many improvements were arranged.

In recent years the necessity for improvements has not been so urgent and the Association has devoted its attention to such matters as property protection and safeguarding the interests of cottage owners in regard to taxation. With property owners being besieged with taxes from every quarter, the Association is doing what it can in co-operation with local organizations to keep a watchful eye on cottagers' rights. There is every reason to believe that, as valuable work has been done in the past, there will be scope for further valuable work in the future.

The Georgian Bay association is now made up of six members. In addition to the Honey Harbour Association, the following are affiliated:

- Cognashene Cottagers' Association
- The Madawaska Club (Go-Home Bay)
- Sans Souci and Copperhead Association
- Pointe au Baril Islanders Association
- Parry Sound and Shebeskekong Cottagers' Association

All of these organizations give their support to the Georgian Bay Association, have a voice in its management and enjoy the benefits of its activities. ■

# Upcoming Events

We have received the following information from our sister Georgian Bay organizations on upcoming events.

## Georgian Bay Forever

### GBF Vital Signs IV Speakers Series –

Saturday, April 11, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Metro Toronto Reference Library, Bram and Bluma Appel Salon.

## Georgian Bay Land Trust

### Winterlude – Thursday, March 5, 6:30 pm

Bishop Strachan School, Toronto. Hear UofT geologist Nick Eyles and renowned artist Ed Bartram share their passion and expertise about Georgian Bay's unique rockscapes and fascinating geological history. Free admission.

**Rossiter 14 Boat Raffle** – The GBLT is excited to launch a fundraising raffle for a 14 ft Rossiter and 40 hp Yamaha motor, sponsored by Rossiter and Desmasdons. Tickets are \$25 each or 2 for \$40. Contact [sarah.koetsier@gblt.org](mailto:sarah.koetsier@gblt.org) or call **(416) 440-1519 x102** to purchase. The draw will take place at the January 2016 Boat Show.

## Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve

### Saving the World With Honey Bees –

Saturday, May 23, 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Free workshop at Canadore College, 1 College Drive, Parry Sound. Participants learn about pollinator gardens, the value of pollinators to growing food, and get to take home free plants! Register at [beefoodplants.eventbrite.ca](http://beefoodplants.eventbrite.ca)

### REEL Paddling Film Festival – Saturday, March 7, 5:30 pm

The Stockey Centre, Parry Sound, co-hosted with White Squall Paddling Centre. Tickets \$20 adults; \$5 students. **(705) 746.4466** or at [www.stockeycentre.com](http://www.stockeycentre.com)

### One Forest Conference – Friday, February 20

The Nottawasaga Inn, Alliston.

Visit [www.forestsontario.ca](http://www.forestsontario.ca) for details.

## Georgian Bay Association

### GBA Phragmites Workshop – Saturday, April 25

Learn from experts like Janice Gilbert of the Ontario Phragmites Working Group. Registration required. See notice on page 7.



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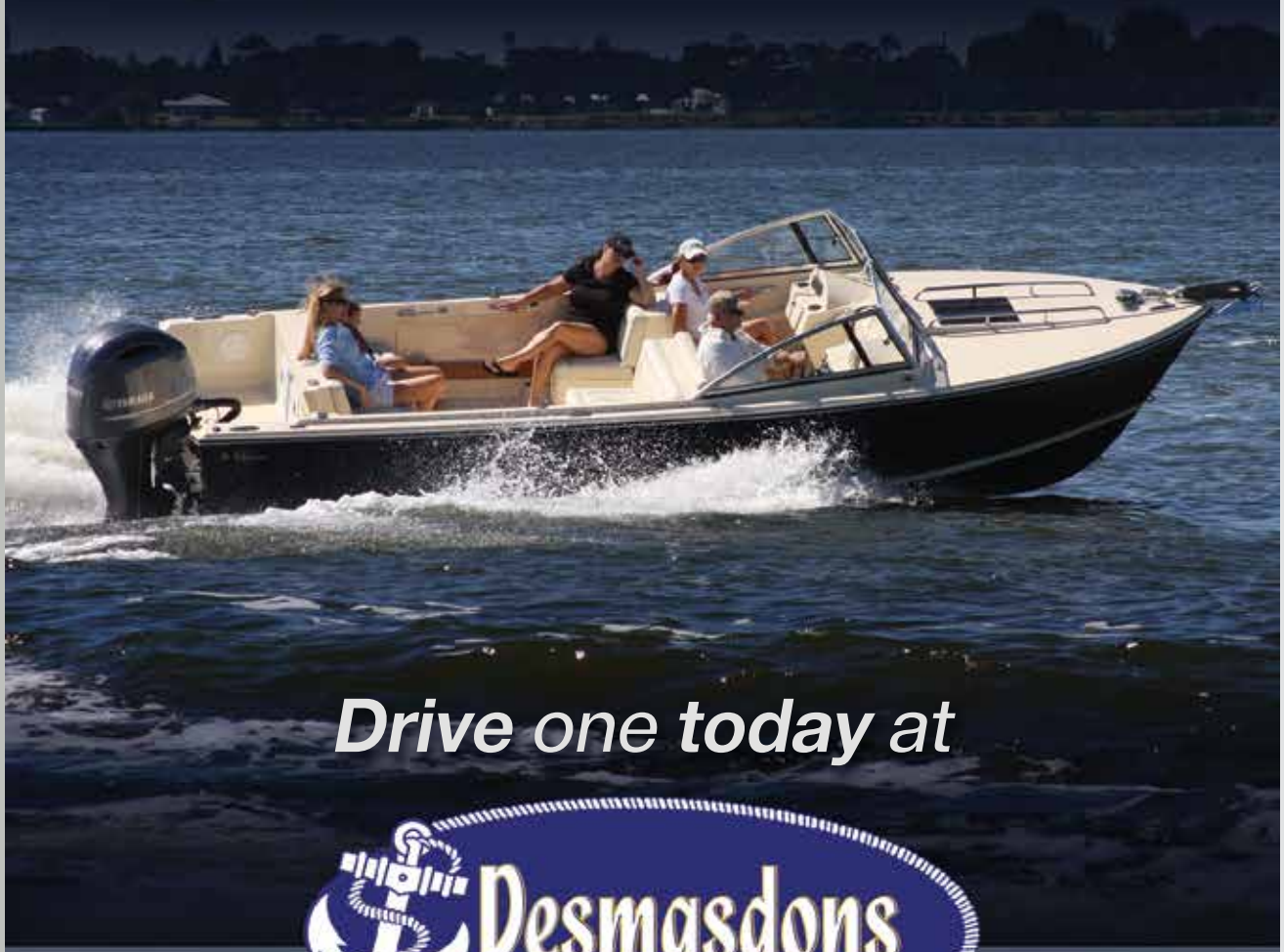
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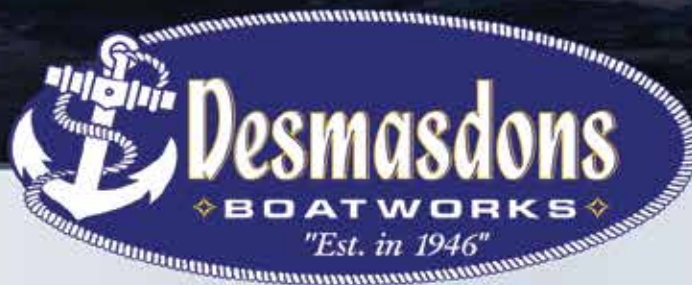


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