

# Go Home Bay Phrag Fighters are Winning!

In 2014 we became aware that the invasive species Phragmites had invaded our Bay, and we quickly organized our first cut on one site, but the "Phrag" returned in the following summer, so we realized the need to refine our approach.

In 2015 David Sweetnam, Executive Director of Georgian Bay Forever (GBF), presented at a workshop organized by the Madawaska Club on controlling Phragmites. Our Go Home Bay volunteers were taught how to identify Phrag and David explained the correct protocol for cutting Phrag underwater. We organized 13 Go Home Bay Phrag Fighters

who identified and cut 10 sites of Phragmites, some as small as one bag and other sites that yielded more than 10 bags of cut Phrag. We recut the original patch that was cut in 2014, making an underwater cut. After drying the cuttings, they were burned.

This summer, we were pleasantly surprised to find the site of our original 2014 cut remained clear of Phrag and the sites that were cut in 2015 were much reduced in size. Near the end of July we again organized our volunteers and, through their efforts and those of some cottage owners, over a few days were able to map and cut all the remaining Phragmites stands in Go Home Bay that were identified.

We have benefitted from wonderful support from our Go Home Bay community. Using our social media, we advertised

By Kelly Killoran,  
GBA Director,  
Madawaska Club at Go Home Bay



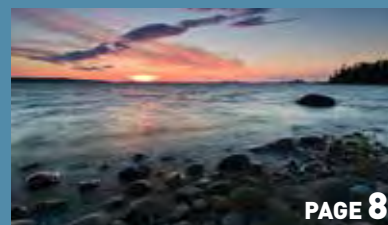
Photos by Kelly Killoran

Continues on page 2



PAGE 6

## Plastics: A Major Threat to Our Water Quality



PAGE 8

## Amazing Places on Georgian Bay

BOOK REVIEW .....	12
ED NOTEBOOK .....	10
GBA DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS	
GAIN TRACTION .....	11
JOHN PEPPERELL .....	5
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE .....	4
SYMPOSIUM ON THE FUTURE OF GEORGIAN BAY .....	5
THE MADAWASKA CLUB OF GO HOME BAY .....	14
UPCOMING EVENTS .....	13
UPDATE ON LAND USE PERMITS FOR DOCKS AND BOATHOUSES .....	3

PM # 40038178





our cut dates and locations. This year a number of new volunteers came out, as well as many from our team last year. On our first cut, we were pleased to have Robert Davies and Kristen Koetsier from GBF join us. As well as getting wet in the field, they helped set up our Google Maps to track the areas of invasion, the size of the sites and annual cutting dates.



Photo by Kelly Killoran

It is important to properly dispose of cut Phrag; otherwise you risk spreading the seeds more widely. Fortunately, a member allowed us to dry the bags of cut Phrag in their boat house. The dried cuttings will be burned this fall in a fire pit.

The Go Home Bay community continues to get more involved in the identification of Phragmites, and our members are constantly on the lookout for new stands of the plant. In late August, we were advised of a Phrag stand and found that the Phrag had regrown at one of the sites that we cut in July, with some plants over 2-3 metres high. We immediately visited all our cutting sites and found similar results, with single tall plants dispersed throughout the sites. We re-cut those areas and, based on that experience, have decided to cut later in the summer next year.

Our community is very pleased with the results of our Phragmites control program. With some education and organization, we are successfully controlling the spread of Phrag in Go Home Bay. We hope that other Member Associations and communities will be inspired to launch their own programs by this success story! ■

## THE HARRIER 25



## THE ULTIMATE LUXURY SUV

  
**HUNT YACHTS**  
When you know better.



Visit Payne Marine Ltd. at the Toronto Boat Show,  
January 2017 and learn more at [www.hunt-yachts.com](http://www.hunt-yachts.com).  
P 705-366-2296 E [sales@paynemarine.com](mailto:sales@paynemarine.com)

# Update on Land Use Permits for Docks and Boathouses

**A**s reported in our Summer issue of *GBA Update* the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR&F) require Land Use Permits for docks and boathouses, as these structures extend into public waters and over lakebeds that are the responsibility of the Crown. As they were explained to us earlier, the rules were that all docks and boathouses, new or existing, that have a footprint greater than 15 square meters require a Land Use Permit.

The GBA wrote a letter to the Minister of MNR&F objecting to this regulation stating that, in our opinion, it was too onerous for both the cottager and for the regulating agencies. We suggested that existing docks and boathouses be "grandfathered" from this regulation provided they are in compliance with local municipal rules and that the size of new docks or boathouses that require Land Use Permits be increased to greater than 30 square meters.

In his response to us the Minister did allow that for replacements, "authorization is only required if the

replacement structure is greater than 15 square meters and is to be placed in a different location than the original or, if the replacement/repairs structure is expanded in size by more than 15 square meters." We still believe that this is overly restrictive but at least there seems to be some recognition that for most existing and replacement docks Land Use Permits are not required.

We contacted the Parry Sound office of the MNR&F to determine how they were able to cope with the influx of applications for LUPs this summer. They advised us that "turnaround times ranged from about 2 weeks to a maximum of 6 weeks and our current turnaround time is 3 to 6 weeks once a complete application is received."

They further advised us that the Ministry has updated its website and more information is provided about authorizations for docks and single-storey boathouses. For more information please go to: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/crown-land-work-permits>. ■



## Cottage Insurance Program



**At RICE Inc., we are committed to providing quality service to meet all your cottage and other insurance needs.**



**We specialize in:**

- serving Americans and Canadians (including LLC, Corporation and Family Trust)
- all cottage locations
- broad form (all risk) coverage
- very competitive premium rates
- top claim service

**Get coverage for:**

- wood stove heating
- boats, motors, water vessels
- damage from bears
- collapse from snow/ice load
- building replacement costs

**>> Extra Discount for GBA Association(s) Members <<**

Call us Toll free at **1-800-579-7423** and speak with Ray or Chris for more information  
 Rice Inc. Insurance Brokers • 690 Belmont Ave.W.,#301, Kitchener, ON N2M 1N6 • 1-519-745-2530  
 [www.riceinc.ca](http://www.riceinc.ca)  [rayfaust@riceinc.ca](mailto:rayfaust@riceinc.ca) • [chrisrice@riceinc.ca](mailto:chrisrice@riceinc.ca)



# Summer 2016: Cruising on the Bay



As I start to write this article, Beth and I are anchored for a couple of days in our home waters of Nares Inlet, our personal piece of paradise. When this article will be finished will depend on the weather, hospitality that we are willingly subjected to on various stops, and how much progress we make as we slowly wend our way back to Penetanguishene after nearly three months aboard *Annie's Song*, cruising the waters of Georgian Bay and the North Channel.

This summer, we visited some of the same places and friends as last year, but also explored new places, attended and presented at a few association AGMs, and made many new friends. There are so many stories to tell - boaters, especially sailors, are prone to this. A fish fry in Beaverstone Bay with past GBA Board member Harvey Mierke and his wife Lorna, where we also got the chance to meet Dr. Pat Chow-Fraser and her delightful McMaster wetlands research crew. A very lively squall in Cognashene, thankfully without damage to boat or body. An engine water pump that gave up the ghost in the long reaches of Baie Fine, North Channel,

and necessitated an unplanned four-day stop in Little Current. A hike up Frazer Bay Hill, aka Casson Peak, where the Group of Seven painter created his iconic piece that captures the splendor of the La Cloche Mountains, Baie Fine and McGregor Bay. And many more experiences that will engender memories to sustain us over the winter. All the while, the GBA flag flew proudly from *Annie's Song's* back stay, although after two years it's getting a little faded and may need to be replaced.

Canadian and US cruisers in the northern Bay and the North Channel are all the more aware of GBA and the work we do thanks to a couple of occasions when GBA was featured on the Little Current Cruisers Net, a daily VHF broadcast that connects boaters in those waters. Beth and I also had the opportunity to tour part of northern Manitoulin Island, visit the lands of Sheguiandah First Nation, one of the six bands on Manitoulin, and learn more about the intriguing history and the occupants and their ancestors, indigenous and non-indigenous, of this area.

We were unable to take *Annie's Song*

around to Smith Bay and visit the Wiikwemkoong village. However, we are happy to report that in late August Duke Peltier was re-elected Chief. This is very fortunate, for the Northern Georgian Bay Association and GBA have developed a constructive dialogue with Chief Peltier and we were concerned about starting afresh with a new chief.

You will have heard of eXXpedition and the August 20<sup>th</sup> day focused on raising awareness about microplastics in water. GBA members participated in events centred at Sail Parry Sound and in adjacent areas. We ourselves, along with many other North Channel cruisers, participated in a plastics clean-up day. The North Channel is an expansive area with an extensive shoreline and many bays and coves. It was pleasantly surprising how little plastics refuse was found. Trolling was done to see how much microplastics are contained in the local waters; at the time of writing the results of sample analyses have not been published.

Earlier in the summer an issue reared its head concerning a proposed trailer park development in Macey Bay, in the southern end of Georgian Bay and adjacent to the Honey Harbour Association's membership territory. The GBA is closely monitoring the situation and is working with both the HHA and the Cognashene Cottagers' Association, the two GBA member associations that would be most impacted by this proposed development. We will provide whatever support we can, including advocating for a full and proper environmental assessment of the project, and the opportunity for extensive public input.

We did come across stands of Phragmites during our travels, some which are well known to the local cottager associations, others in more remote areas. I wouldn't say that all

On Top of Casson Peak



cottagers – or boaters - are sufficiently aware of Phragmites, the threat to wetlands that it poses, and what needs to be done. The fight against Phragmites is an excellent example of how the GB5 work together – in this case, to provide information, action and research to address this scourge, so those within the GB5 “family” are, for the most part, aware of this issue. However, others are not, and a sustained effort will be required to increase awareness, educate, and most importantly, to ensure that sufficient public interest and engagement is created to continue with the volunteer efforts that will be required to eradicate Phragmites stands wherever they are found.

Everywhere we went we made a point of ensuring that people were made aware that this is GBA's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and acquaint them with the highlights of the Association's history and accomplishments. Rounding out the year's celebrations will be a symposium involving a broad range of stakeholders, the objective of which will be to: craft a vision for Georgian Bay a hundred years hence, examine the threats posed to that vision, and, perhaps most important, what actions will be taken to combat those threats.

Joining the GBA Board as we move forward are three new board members: Linda Watts and Mike Berton from the Pointe au Baril Association, and Andrew Hurlbut from the Key River Area Association. They replace Tonia Blenkarn, David Ballentine and Alan Burke, respectfully. Our sincere thanks to Tonia, David and Alan for their valuable contributions over the years, and a very warm welcome to Linda, Mike and Andrew.

At the beginning of this piece I mentioned that Nares Inlet is our own personal piece of paradise. We grew up there – and yes, we are of course biased. However, what we have come to appreciate, this summer and last, is the expansive area that makes up Georgian Bay and the North Channel. There are differences from one area to the next - the topography, vegetation, density of cottages, or camps as they are called in the north, and more. But it is all beautiful. A truly special and essential ecosystem that is worthy of all our efforts to protect, not just for ourselves as cottagers, but for all stakeholders, now and into the future. ■

## Thank you John Pepperell

Recently John Pepperell stepped down as Councillor of Ward 4 in the Township of the Archipelago. John is a true friend of the Bay. John and his wife, Penny, are long time Sans Souci and Copperhead Association cottagers and both served extensive terms as directors of SSCA. John stepped up to be the President of the Georgian Bay Association in 2003 and led the organization for two very busy years, particularly on water levels issues. For all of his hard work on our behalf John was awarded an Honourary Life Membership in the GBA in 2007. Thank you John for all the time you have devoted to protecting the Bay. ■



**100<sup>TH</sup>**  
1916 - 2016  
**ANNIVERSARY**

## GBA 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Symposium on the Future of Georgian Bay

The GBA Board decided that in marking our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, one initiative should focus on the future of Georgian Bay. To this end, the GBA is organizing a meeting of the GB5 organizations and local municipal politicians this Fall to start a dialogue on the coming threats to the Bay and actions we can take to address these challenges. Since the Symposium is designed to foster discussion rather than provide a forum for presentations, it will not be a public event. We will report on the sessions in the next issue of *GBA Update*. ■

## CREATING MEMORIES FOR GENERATIONS...



If you would like to start making your own memories in a Rossiter visit **[www.rossiterboats.com](http://www.rossiterboats.com)** or phone **866-251-3280**. Or better yet, contact one of our area dealers to experience the quality, craftsmanship, performance and enjoyment of a Rossiter, or order a boat built to your specifications and colour, as all Rossiters are, by hand, one at a time.

*Rossiter*  
CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF BOATING



# Plastics:

## A Major Threat to Our Water Quality



We all appreciate Georgian Bay because of its very good water quality. The Bay's water quality was reported on in the *State of the Bay Report* [gbbr.ca] that compares factors such as bacteria, nutrients, algae, nuisance weeds, and others that impact our water quality. But, the Bay has good water quality *compared* to other places, which might not be very good at all. If I go abroad during the winter, when I come back to Georgian Bay in the spring I appreciate the Bay's water even more because it's so much better than so many other places.

### Stressors on Water Quality

Even if our water quality is relatively good, a recent World Wildlife Foundation Watershed Report<sup>1</sup> states that in Eastern Georgian Bay the "overall threat is very high" due to pollution, invasive species and habitat fragmentation. If so, what is impacting water quality? Of course human impact is one factor but plants, animals, water levels and climate change are others. There is a huge difference in nutrient levels and species detected in the inner embayments compared to the

outer Bay. Some scientists say that invasive species and climate change are the biggest stressors.

Does this mean that we don't need to control our own impacts on water quality? Not at all! The ecological system is very complex, with many chemical processes and interspecies dependencies. Our ecological system may be at a tipping point and small anthropogenic (that means human impact) changes may have significant repercussions. Much has been written about best practices such as not bathing with soap in lakes or the Bay, choosing the least toxic household cleaning products and ensuring proper treatment of wastes from residents, cottages and boats. All of these points are very important.

### Plastics in the Water

What about plastics? If you have not heard of the Pacific Garbage Patch, it is hard to believe. This blob of plastic debris – mostly microplastics – near the centre of the Pacific is at least 700,000 square kms (Wikipedia) and growing. Many volunteer and environmental efforts are targeted at cleaning it up. Some amazing volunteer and community cleanup

efforts are taking place in the oceans; for example Sailors for the Sea and the Waterkeeper Alliance. One very positive example is the world's largest beach cleanup project on Versova Beach, Mumbai, India – YouTube link: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=naEqan7FI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=naEqan7FI)

GBA Update readers may say this is all interesting, but not what I see in Georgian Bay. True, but we have all seen the blue chunks of styrofoam from floating docks on our shorelines. That is polystyrene and its detrimental health effects are well documented. We have all seen plastic bottles, clumps of tangled nylon fishing line and coffee cups by the dozens. In fact, 80% of the litter in the Great Lakes region is plastic.



“Overall threats in the Eastern Georgian Bay Watershed are very high”

Photo by Andy Murray

## Types of Plastics

All plastics are polymers of carbon bonded to other ingredients to make thin, pliable, and strong items. All plastics are carbon based: some are petroleum based and some are not; for example bioplastics are made from corn or soy-based polymers. Some plastics do not mold very well and tend to be stiff until various “plasticizers” (phthalates) are added. Between the plasticizers, and the plastic compound itself, some fear that we will be harmed by progress<sup>2</sup>. Many plastics, or their components, volatilize (enter the atmosphere as a gas) at normal temperatures or above. Plastics and their components include: Polystyrene, phthalates, Poly-Vinyl Chloride (PVC), Bisphenol-A (PBA), and Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP).

## Health Effects

Plastics, or some of their components, have been found in every organ in the body, in bone marrow, and in the blood. Some chemicals released by plastics have been shown to cause cancer in some species of animals, and some act like hormones in other animal species. Several new studies have proven the link between high amounts of phthalates during pregnancy and children’s health issues.

A unique property of petroleum polymers is that they are hydrophobic (they dislike water, but have an affinity to oil); this is why in the human body they attach to fatty tissue and are sometimes hormone mimickers. DEHP is linked to asthma and is thought to mimic hormones.

Some say plastics are an environmental threat of immense proportion, as well as a human biological threat. PVC (polyvinyl chloride) plastic, commonly referred to as vinyl, is one of the most hazardous consumer products ever created<sup>3</sup>.

## Microplastics and Microbeads

Microplastics are small but harmful plastic particles that can damage lakes, rivers, fish and wildlife. The Georgian Bay Association participated in “the world’s largest simultaneous sampling for microplastics in history” on August 20 as part of eXXpedition Great Lakes 2016. For those of you who were involved – thank you. See stories and photos of the day at [www.loveyourgreats.com](http://www.loveyourgreats.com). For a global perspective, Adventurers and Scientists for Conservation (ASC) has mapped worldwide plastics pollution at [www.adventurescience.org/microplastics.html](http://www.adventurescience.org/microplastics.html) as part of their Global Microplastics Initiative.

## What We Can Do?

The US has banned microbeads and the EU is considering such a measure. In August 2015, the federal government announced its intent to add microbeads to its list of toxic substances<sup>4</sup>. But it does not make sense just to ban or control microbeads. Plastics very rarely break down in the true sense of decomposition – plastics just break down into smaller bits of plastic. Micro just means small (scientifically micro means smaller than 10<sup>-6</sup>) and nano means even smaller (10<sup>-9</sup>).

A recent article argues that better designs to encourage recycling and reducing the use of wasteful single-use containers could have a bigger influence than bans on the amount of plastic in our waters<sup>5</sup>. For many applications plastic is not needed, or we could use less plastic or a better plastic with fewer plasticizers.

“Plastics, or some of their components, have been found in every organ in the body...”

Of course, nano-plastics and plastic in general have been put to some very laudable applications (medically, for example) because plastic is able to be put to uses that other materials cannot. So plastics will always be with us – we just need to find better ways to manage their use.

## Learn More

Learn more about Great Lakes Health at:

➤ Lake Scientist Summary of Microplastics in the Great Lakes has a lot of interesting science.

➤ The Watermark Project is a community effort to collect and archive true stories about the ways people interact with water. Started by Lake Ontario Waterkeeper in 2015, the Watermark Project aims to collect one story from every Canadian household.

Several of your GBA directors will soon be attending a 3-day conference, *The Great Lakes Public Forum 2016*, hosted by Environment Canada, so stay tuned for more information. ■

## Footnotes

1 World Wildlife Fund, Watershed Reports, Sub-watershed: Eastern Georgian Bay; <http://watershedreports.wwf.ca/#intro> and <http://watershedreports.wwf.ca/#sws-02E/by/threat-overall/threat>

2 Messmer, John, The Medical Minute: Food Safety - what about all those chemicals?, Penn State, Feb 2, 2005, <http://news.psu.edu/story/212278/2005/02/02/medical-minute-food-safety-what-about-all-those-chemicals>

3 Healthyhomesnet, Alliance for Healthy Homes, [www.afhh.org](http://www.afhh.org).

4 Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Microplastics and microbeads, <https://www.ontario.ca/page/microplastics-and-microbeads#section-0>

5 Scientists call for better plastics design to protect marine life, The Guardian, <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/jul/14/scientists-call-for-better-plastics-design-to-protect-marine-life>



# Amazing Places on Georgian Bay:

## A Bucket List for the Biosphere



**A** *mazing Places* has arrived on the Bay! The Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve (GBBR) has introduced the program with 10 sites that highlight the unique biodiversity, topography and landscapes of the Biosphere region. Here's the list:

- 1. French River Gorge:** Check out the pedestrian bridge for an incredible view.
- 2. Twin Points Trail:** This trail showcases the breathtaking scenery of Killbear Provincial Park.
- 3. Hole in the Wall:** Take a local cruise through this narrow channel of steep rock cliffs.
- 4. Lynx Loop:** Venture over to the Georgian Nordic Activity Centre to find 30 km of year-round trails.
- 5. Waterfront Trail:** An accessible 8 km trail on the Town of Parry Sound's shoreline.
- 6. Tower Hill Lookout:** Climb 30 meters up to enjoy a spectacular 360° view of the Sound.
- 7. Park to Park Trail:** Stretching 230 km in total, this multi-use trail invites hiking and biking.
- 8. The Massasauga:** Paddle through this extensive cluster of islands to witness incredible geological patterns.
- 9. Johnston's Cranberry Marsh:** Provides tours and trails of the vast cranberry bog, year-round.
- 10. Christian Beach:** The stunning west side of Beausoleil Island in Georgian Bay Islands National Park.

Inspired by a program launched by the Fundy Biosphere Reserve in New Brunswick, three Biosphere Reserves in Ontario have launched *Amazing Places* programs: Long Point (Lake Erie), Frontenac Arch (Thousand Islands), and Georgian Bay. The Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, and Mountain Equipment Co-Op provided support.

The GBBR's objective in introducing the program on the Bay is to blend conservation and cultural education with responsible tourism and travel as part of its UNESCO mandate to support sustainable development. *Amazing Places* is both a community-based tourism product and a public education program. The first 10 sites were selected based on criteria that included public and year-round accessibility, ecological and cultural significance, and the ability to support increased public use.

As the program grows, it will encourage more people to get out and explore the *Amazing Places* in eastern Georgian Bay. Ten more sites are planned for 2017, including coastal camping and kayaking in the French River Delta. First Nations were invited to name sites of indigenous cultural significance. Remote sites will provide safety warnings, low-impact camping guidelines, and lists of local outfitters that provide equipment, maps and guides.

Find your way at [visitamazingplaces.ca](http://visitamazingplaces.ca)



# Bogs and Beaches in the Fall



Island Queen entering Hole in the Wall



The Massasauga



Wreck Island



Christian Beach sunset view. Photo courtesy of PARKS CANADA

Autumn in the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve is an amazing time — colourful leaves and cool, fresh air makes it a perfect time to explore. The ten *Amazing Places* in the Biosphere are fantastic destinations for an autumn adventure.

Autumn is peak harvest season at **Johnston's Cranberry Marsh** and Muskoka Lakes Winery. "We start picking two weekends before Thanksgiving and continue every day until the end of October," says Wendy Hogarth, Proprietor of Cranberry Products. Located near Bala (50 km southeast of Parry Sound), the Johnston family has been growing cranberries for three generations. The farm runs drop-in tours daily at 11, 1 and 3. Visitors can see harvesting, taste wine, buy fresh cranberries and check out some of our other harvest activities.

You can easily spend a full day at Johnston's Cranberry Marsh learning about the harvest and exploring the six trails at no charge. "Our trails are picturesque at that time of year with the changing fall leaves," says Wendy. "We have a self-guided eco tour trail with signs that point out ecological features of the area. We also have a self-guided cranberry trail with signs explaining all aspects of cranberry growing. There's a self-guided trail for kids as well with cranberry facts, jokes and a puzzle to solve."

Autumn is a truly beautiful season at **Georgian Bay Islands National Park**. "Autumn at the Park is for those who seek tranquility, comfortable temperatures for exploring the trails and no bugs," says Ethan Meleg, Promotions Coordinator. "If you're a nature lover, pack your binoculars to spot migrating songbirds, or your camera to snap photos of the changing forest colours."

**Christian Beach** is an *Amazing Place* in the Park, located on the west side of Beausoleil Island, which boasts spectacular sunset views over the Bay. "Beausoleil is the largest island in the Park and has a very rich history. When you hike the trails to Christian Beach, you'll be walking in the footsteps of thousands of years of human history," says Ethan Meleg. Artifacts from as early as 7,000 years ago have been found on Beausoleil Island. Archaeologists have determined that the Saugeen, Odawa and several other indigenous groups used the island as a summer camp.

The Park is located in a transition zone where species of trees commonly found in the north mix with trees from the south. The southern half of Beausoleil Island consists mainly of deciduous trees such as maple, yellow birch, and white ash creating peak colours of crimson red, rich burgundy and deep orange.

Most people start their exploration from Honey Harbour aboard the "Day Tripper" boat shuttle operated by the Park. On the island, you can cycle or hike wooded trails and camp overnight at a secluded campsite or waterfront cabin. Bring or rent a bicycle on the island. ■

Check out our current sites and plan your trip at [visitamazingplaces.ca](http://visitamazingplaces.ca). ■

# Summer Reflections



Where did the summer go? That is a question I hear a lot lately. But what an incredible summer it was! There were prolonged stretches of picture-perfect days followed by fabulous sunsets. The early dry period (dare I say drought) resulted in poor berry crops in most parts of the Bay. Disappointing as that was for pie lovers amongst us, it will likely prove to be devastating for our local bear population. At our cottage we have had a young and very thin bear hanging around for most of the summer scrounging through old compost and overturning every rock on our island looking for grubs. My prediction is that this bear will not survive the winter. And our experience is not unique based on the posts on Facebook and conversations with fellow cottagers up and down the Bay.

Many people are also asking, why haven't water levels declined as a result of the dry summer? The short answer is that, while we have experienced long stretches of drought this summer, a few major storms have delivered a lot of rain across the Great Lakes basin. In fact we received an average amount of rain overall thanks to these storms.

Watching this drought and storm cycle play out reminds me of a Great Lakes workshop that I attended a few years ago. Former US Vice-President Al Gore was one of the keynote speakers. He explained that one of the side effects of climate change has been a significant increase in moisture in the atmosphere as hotter parts of the world experience increased evaporation, which feeds storms that result in heavy rains. Sort of like pulling the plug out of a full bathtub.



Small Island, Front of Long Island, Go Home Bay – JW Duncanson, 1989

Lake Superior is another major source of water for Georgian Bay. Water levels in Lake Superior are at the high end of their historic range, so the authorities have maintained a high flow of water from Superior through the St. Marys River locks. This bodes well for water levels in the Bay heading into this winter.

This summer I had the privilege of attending summer meetings of several GBA Member Associations despite being hampered by being on crutches for the first half of the summer and the passing of my father in the middle of the summer. I was still able to attend six meetings, which were a great opportunity to celebrate GBA's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the contribution of each local association and some of the people who played important parts in GBA's history.

The meetings were also a great opportunity for me to hear about local initiatives and concerns. Phragmites is a common challenge but it was encouraging to hear how community members are rising to this challenge. In some cases, for example at Go Home Bay, cutting programs have produced noticeable reductions in the size of Phragmites stands. Local planning issues, septic inspections, water quality and MPAC property valuations were also common themes at these meetings.

As you will read in this *Update*, GBA plans to start a dialogue amongst a wide range of Georgian Bay stakeholders this Fall to identify the actions that will be needed to ensure that our grandchildren's grandchildren will be able to enjoy the Bay as much as we have had the privilege to. We feel that this will be an appropriate legacy stemming from GBA's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.

A tribute to my father – John William Duncanson. My father passed away on July 30<sup>th</sup> after spending 94 wonderful years on Earth. Dad was the epitome of a Georgian Bayer. He spent his boyhood summers mucking about in boats and making lifelong friendships. He raised a family to experience and appreciate all aspects of the Bay; swimming, sailing, canoeing, carpentry, fishing and art. He adored watching as his grandchildren and even great-grandchildren fell in love with the Bay. His passion for the Bay was captured in the dozens and dozens of pictures that he painted of landscapes around the Bay in the style of the Group of Seven. His paintings adorn walls on many Georgian Bay cottages and will remain a testament to a Georgian Bay life well lived. ■



# GBA Digital Communications Gain Traction



A little over six months ago the GBA launched its new digital communication strategy. Our goal was to find the right channels and the right frequency to better communicate with our members and reach a wider audience. After some discussions with member associations, advertisers and representatives of the next generation of property owners on the eastern shores of Georgian Bay we landed on five communication channels – an email newsletter and four social channels: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. Our plan is to collect and post relevant information for our audience on our website, [www.georgianbay.ca](http://www.georgianbay.ca), and then to highlight that information across our social channels and an email newsletter. You pick your preferred channel then read, enjoy and share.

We are pleased to report that we have had some considerable success with our plan. In fact, our email newsletter (eUPDATE) has increased its subscriber base from 140 to 735 subscribers – a 525% increase since inception. If you have not subscribed to it yet, you likely missed our March overview of the \$19.5 million in the Canadian 2016 federal

budget to address water quality and water levels, or our April article on Dock Permits, or perhaps you missed our July article on The Ins and Outs of Septic Tanks. Not to worry, visit [www.georgianbay.ca](http://www.georgianbay.ca) where you can read back issues and subscribe today.

We still have some work to do on our social channels. For them to be effective we believe the information needs to be posted in near real time and as it happens. We are working hard to gather information on upcoming events as well as overviews of things we participate in. To keep you current we will continue to give you access to the GBA's perspective on news, important articles and other releases that come from private and public sources. And of course we are not above sharing pictures and stories of the big one that got away, or the world's best sunset, picnic spot or heroic conclusion to the under 10 paddle board race.

Subscribe to our email newsletter on our website, or join the conversation on Facebook, Twitter, or [Instagram @gbayassociation](#) or search for us on YouTube. ■



WE ARE ALL OVER GEORGIAN BAY AND SOCIAL MEDIA

**STAY CONNECTED AND JOIN THE CONVERSATION TODAY:**



/GBayAssociation



@GBayAssociation



search "Georgian Bay Association"



/GBayassociation

COTTAGES AND COUNTRY PLACES



HARRY MORISON LAY

ARCHITECT INC.

1.416.929.7933

[harrylayarchitect.ca](http://harrylayarchitect.ca)



#### 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 19 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: **John McMullen**,  
email: john.mcmullen@teksavvy.com

Executive Director: **Bob Duncanson**,  
email: rduncanson@georgianbay.ca

Editor: **John Carson**,  
email: johnwcarson@sympatico.ca

Advertising: **Marc Cooper**,  
email: mcooper@agency59.ca

Webmaster: **Eric Armour**,  
email: e.s.armour@gmail.com

GBA website: [www.georgianbay.ca](http://www.georgianbay.ca)

Facebook: [facebook.com/GBayAssociation](https://facebook.com/GBayAssociation)

#### 2016 PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Issue	Distribution Date
Spring	February
Summer	May
Fall	October

**GBA UPDATE** is mailed to all members of all GBA member associations, friends, other stakeholders and interest groups. Bulk copies can be made available to full member associations to include with their mailings. Material may be reprinted in GBA member association newsletters provided that the source is acknowledged. Letters to the editor are welcome. Please send address corrections and changes to the address below.

Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses To:

**GBA c/o SUE ANDERSON,**  
**Administrative Assistant**  
302-561 Avenue Road, TORONTO, ONTARIO, M4V 2J8  
[gba@georgianbay.ca](mailto:gba@georgianbay.ca) • 416-860-0100

Distributed under Canada Publication Mail  
Sales Agreement # 40038178

**GBA UPDATE** is printed for the Georgian Bay Association by Annan & Sons on Rolland Enviro100, 100% recycled, Ecologo, Processed Chlorine Free and FSC certified paper, an uncoated stock. While great care has been taken to ensure that the products and services advertised in Update are consistent with GBA's objectives, it is beyond the scope of the organization to provide endorsements of the same.

# Passion for Georgian Bay

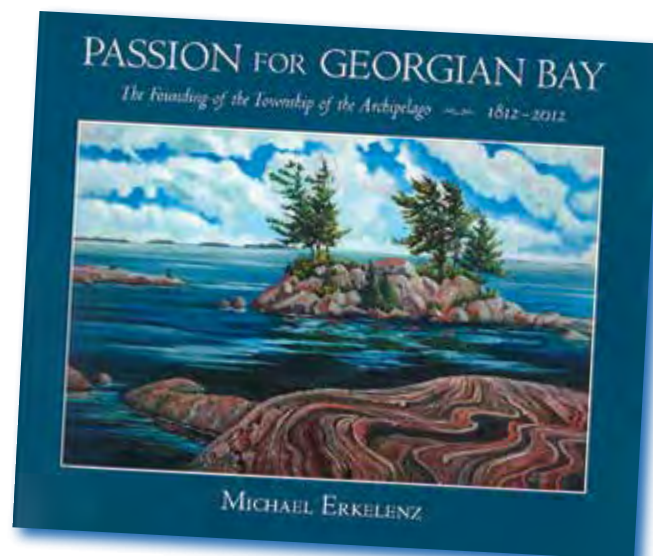
## The Founding of the Township of the Archipelago 1812-2012

Last spring Tom Martin, former GBA Director and lifelong Nares Inlet cottager, alerted me to the publication of a new book about the founding of the Township of the Archipelago. The book's development is a collaborative effort among Tom, Gary French and Wally King, amongst others. Knowing the passion that these three have for the Bay I knew that we were in for something special. When the book arrived I was not disappointed!

*Passion for Georgian Bay's* author, Michael Erkelenz, has skilfully drawn on public and personal archives to craft a book that is both a repository for historical information and a compelling read, even to the uninitiated. The book chronicles the times before, and during, the formation of the Township of the Archipelago. Erkelenz lays out the political and social landscape that existed on the Bay which triggered a small group of dedicated citizens to contemplate the formation of a new water-based Township. He introduces us to the personalities whose combined imaginations, skills and drive would bring the Township into being. It is a tribute to the author and the book's development team that the back third of the book is dedicated to appendices that catalogue technical information that might otherwise be trapped in filing cabinets, computer disks, or worse, lost to time.

From a GBA perspective, *Passion for Georgian Bay* and the story behind it, provides a tangible example of how

GBA, as an umbrella organization for communities that have common interests on the Bay, can make a difference. There are dozens of mentions of the GBA and personalities attached to it throughout the book, and the roles that they played in the formation of the Township of the Archipelago. The role that GBA and former GBA President Wally King played in helping found the Georgian Bay Land Trust 25 years ago is also mentioned.



*Passion for Georgian Bay* –  
a must have for all Georgian Bay bookshelves.

I recommend *Passion for Georgian Bay* to all who have a love for the Bay and an interest in how we arrived at where we are today. It also provides lessons and thoughts for those who do not reside in the Archipelago Township, as we all struggle with many of the same issues.

The publisher of *Passion for Georgian Bay* is working on distribution plans for this book. As soon as we have details on how one can purchase copies we will post them on the home page of our website, [www.georgianbay.ca](http://www.georgianbay.ca). ■



# Upcoming Events

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

## Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve

### Eat Around The Sound: Fun with Fermentation Workshop

Sunday November 27, 10am – Noon at Canadore College, Parry Sound

Learn the simple tradition of preserving food. Use local ingredients to make healthy foods such as sauerkraut, kimchi, and others. By donation. Space is limited, register at 705-746-9222 or [gbbr.ca/food](http://gbbr.ca/food)

### Brew-Ha-Ha 5th Annual Craft Beer & Comedy Night

Saturday, October 15 at Seguin Valley Golf Club

Sample flavours from seven craft brewers. Light dinner. CBC's Elvira Kurt performs. Tickets \$60 at [gbbr.ca](http://gbbr.ca) or 705-774-0978

## Georgian Bay Land Trust

### Bayscapes Bash + Auction

Friday, November 25, 7-11pm at Artscape Wychwood Barns, 601 Christie St., Toronto

Join us for a night of great art and entertainment in support of wilderness conservation on Georgian Bay!

More information and tickets at [gbllt.org/bayscapes](http://gbllt.org/bayscapes).

## Annual General Meeting



### Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council

**West Parry Sound District Museum, Tuesday, October 25, 6:30pm**

The Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council will be holding its AGM on Tuesday, October 25 at 6:30pm. The AGM will feature a presentation summarizing EGBSC's spring fish habitat assessments on the Seguin, Shawanaga, Shebeshekong and Magnetawan Rivers, and Sucker's Creek.

**Please RSVP: 705-783-5098  
[egbaystewardship@gmail.com](mailto:egbaystewardship@gmail.com)**

If you are interested in helping out with stewardship projects that benefit Eastern Georgian Bay, EGBSC is looking for new members! Please contact us for more information. ■



## THE ULTIMATE BOAT FOR THE BAY

  
**HUNT YACHTS**  
When you know better.



Visit Payne Marine Ltd. at the Toronto Boat Show, January 2017 and learn more at [www.hunt-yachts.com](http://www.hunt-yachts.com).  
P 705-366-2296 E [sales@paynemarine.com](mailto:sales@paynemarine.com)

# The Madawaska Club of Go Home Bay



By Sue Grundy  
Past President, GBA



The Madawaska Club of Go Home Bay is a long-established cottage community on Georgian Bay. Founded in 1898 by a group of professors from the University of Toronto, the Club acquired its name from the Madawaska River east of Algonquin Park, where the group originally planned to buy property. When that plan was unsuccessful, they found property on Georgian Bay but retained the Club's name. Its origins as a club rather than a cottagers' association make the Madawaska Club, and Go Home Bay, a unique member of the GBA.

The Go Home Bay community is located on the eastern shore of Georgian Bay, north of Cognashene and south of Wah Wah Taysee. It is a water access only community. The original cottagers in the area came by train from Toronto to Penetanguishene and then by steamer to Go Home. Today people boat from marinas in King Bay to the north and Honey Harbour to the south.

## History

As university professors with a limited budget, the founders of the Madawaska Club initially tried to persuade the provincial government to grant the land to them without charge by promising to do academic research on the plants, animals, fish and other natural features of Georgian Bay. After some negotiation, the government agreed to sell the land to the Club for half of the usual price of \$1 per acre. But to prevent the professors from speculating on land instead of doing research, the discount came with a catch: the land could only be sold to a staff member or a graduate or undergraduate of the University of Toronto. This restriction had the desired effect of limiting sales of property in the area. However, over time the

restriction became a problem as it prevented family members of cottage owners from buying or inheriting a cottage if they did not have the required University of Toronto connection. The restriction was removed at the Club's request by special act of the Ontario Legislature in the 1990s. The Club also had to pay the balance of the original purchase price at that time, that is, the other 50 cents an acre!

For the first few years, members and their families stayed in a clubhouse. Before long, families selected sites for cottages and purchased the land from the Club. The Club eventually sold most of the waterfront property for cottages. It still owns about 1,300 acres of land – mostly inland property and some waterfront property used for community activities. A large part of the Club's fees cover municipal taxes on the Club's lands.

## Group of Seven

Dr. James MacCallum was one of the earliest supporters of the artists who became known as the Group of Seven. Starting in 1912 he invited them to use his cottage at Go Home Bay as a base for their work, and a number of well-known Group of Seven paintings are of Go Home scenes. Two of the most famous paintings, *Stormy Weather, Georgian Bay* by Frederic Varley and *A September Gale* by Arthur Lismer, show the view from just outside the MacCallum cottage. *The Supply Boat* by J.E.H. MacDonald is a picture of the steamer that brought passengers and supplies to Go Home at the community dock, and *Night, Pine Island* by A.Y. Jackson is a scene of an island near the MacCallum cottage.

Dr. MacCallum also supported the Group of Seven artists by commissioning them to do a series of paintings on the walls of his cottage living room. In the 1950s, the Jackman family, who had purchased the MacCallum cottage a few years earlier, donated the wall panels to the National Gallery of Canada. The cottage living room now has reproductions of the paintings.

## Today's Community

Over time, the Go Home Bay community has grown beyond the boundaries of the original Madawaska Club and currently has about 175 cottages. A majority of families still have a connection to the original Madawaska Club members, partly because of the University of Toronto restriction that applied for many years. Go Home remains a seasonal community, with only one permanent resident and no retail businesses, though winter weekend use is growing once the ice is in.

Go Home Bay has a community land use plan developed



Steamer at main dock



in 2006 that is incorporated into the Township of Georgian Bay's official plan and zoning bylaw. The plan reflects a strong local consensus to maintain Go Home as a remote access community, to preserve the natural environment and to maintain the community's historic values. The plan aims to maintain the shoreline in a natural state and sets out requirements for lot size, frontage, cottage size, docks, boathouses, and so on.

## Community Activities

The Club's lands are used for community activities, with a small library building and a multi-use building at the community dock, a community diving board, a shoreline area that is used as a community park, and walking trails in some of the inland areas.

Go Home has a very active sailing school that runs for five weeks and provides sailing lessons and race training to children from ages 7 to 15. The library is run by volunteers and is open two afternoons a week during the summer. Craft classes for young children are held once a week at the main dock. There is a weekly family picnic, and a popular women's wine and cheese event on Tuesday evenings.

The annual Go Home Bay regatta features canoe and rowboat races, swimming and diving events, and a community picnic and dance in the evening. The regatta is a treasured

and longstanding tradition that has changed very little for generations. The weekend before the regatta is "Marathon" weekend for longer-distance canoe, rowing and swimming events.

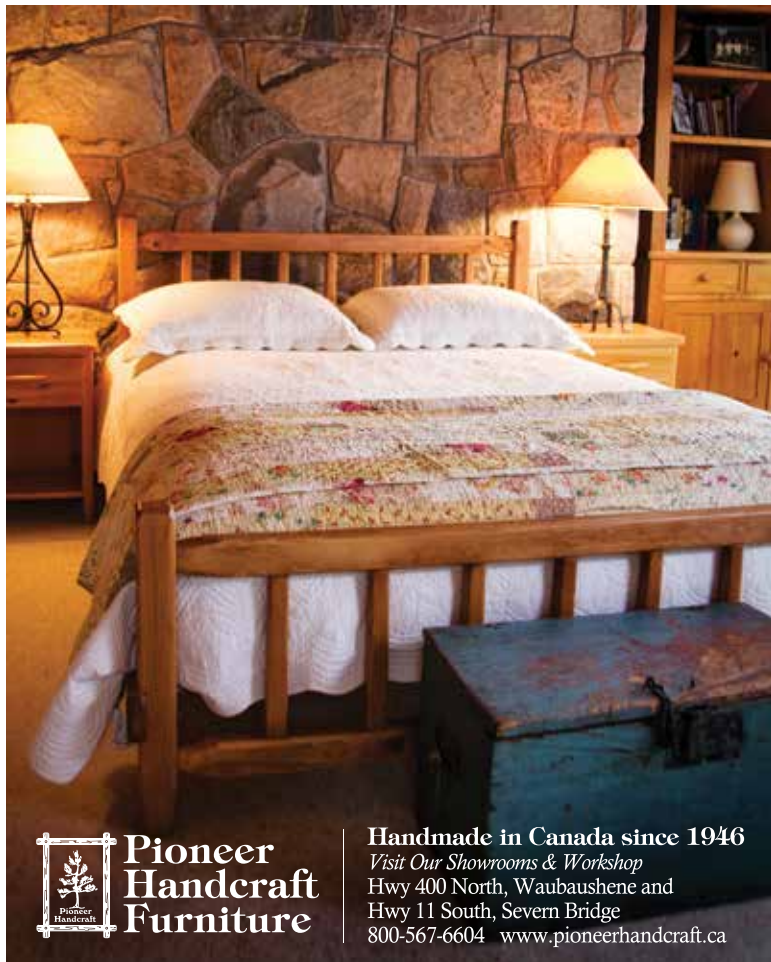
## Communications

The Club sends "Mad Mail" emails to members weekly during the summer and periodically through the year to provide updates on upcoming events and recent news such as a fire ban this summer. This summer's Mad Mail included a series of tips about land use planning. In addition, members receive an electronic newsletter in the spring and fall. The Club has a robust website ([www.gohomebay.org](http://www.gohomebay.org)) that includes a webcam view of the Bay so members can check the weather conditions. There is also an active community Facebook page.

The "Cottage Tree" is a popular publication that provides information about all of the cottages in the Go Home community. Each listing includes a photograph of the cottage, the name of the owner(s) and their family members, as well as the names of each of the former owners of the cottage and their family members.

As we approach our 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Madawaska Club of Go Home Bay is a thriving cottage community that is determined to preserve its values and honour its history. ■

 <b>VINCENT ASSOCIATES</b> Providing Data Management Solution <a href="http://www.vincentinc.com">www.vincentinc.com</a>	
	<b>1-800-387-3419</b> High performance data storage and data protection specialists, <a href="http://www.openstore.com">www.openstore.com</a>
	<b>Christopher Baines, Mediator</b> <b>416.932.1334</b> Family Estate Conferencing <a href="http://www.relative-matters.ca">www.relative-matters.ca</a>
This issue of GBA UPDATE prepress and final colour proofs prepared by <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">     </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: small;"> <span>Tel: 416-234-1552</span> <span>Fax: 416-234-9396</span> <span><a href="http://www.theariesgroup.com">www.theariesgroup.com</a></span> </div>	
This issue of GBA UPDATE printed by <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 20px;"> <b>(416) 536-6156</b> </div>  </div>	
This publication designed and layout by <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 20px;">         Helping you to achieve your vision  <b>705-636-7319</b>  <a href="http://www.jcldesign.ca">www.jcldesign.ca</a> </div>  </div>	



**Handmade in Canada since 1946**  
 Visit Our Showrooms & Workshop  
 Hwy 400 North, Waubesa and  
 Hwy 11 South, Severn Bridge  
 800-567-6604 [www.pioneerhandcraft.ca](http://www.pioneerhandcraft.ca)



**Safe, Unsinkable,  
Smooth,  
Award Winning  
Construction...**

What else could you ask for?



**GRADY-WHITE**



**The  
best riding boat  
available!!**

Come see us  
for a test trial today!



*Where Relationships Matter!*

P.O. Box 70, Pointe au Baril, Ontario, P0G 1K0 (705) 366-2581 [desmasdons.com](http://desmasdons.com)  
email: [matt@desmasdons.com](mailto:matt@desmasdons.com)