



GEORGIAN BAY VISION 2050 PROJECT Q&A

Bringing communities and stakeholders together to develop a vision for protecting the Georgian Bay coast and natural environment into the future.

1. What is the Vision 2050 Project?

The project's mission is to preserve and protect the unique natural environment and ecosystems of the eastern and northern coasts of Georgian Bay in perpetuity. Recognizing existing strong pressures for development in Ontario, the project will set out the rationale, policies and actions required to achieve that objective.

2. What is Vision 2050's purpose?

- To develop a vision and roadmap for development planning and environmental protection for the eastern and northern Georgian Bay coastal area over the next 25 plus years.
- In phase 1 we are retaining a reputable, highly credible planning and environmental team to write a white paper as a basis for promoting the need for a regional vision and plan for the coast to governments and stakeholders.

3. Isn't Georgian Bay well protected now?

The region lacks a comprehensive regional planning and development framework. Ontario does not have a regional vision nor plan for the Bay region, unlike the Niagara Escarpment and the Greenbelt for example. A patchwork of provincial policies, park regulations, divergent municipal by-laws, NGO projects and First Nations governance is in place on the Bay today. This fragmented approach provides inadequate protection for the future of this world-class natural asset in the face of southern Ontario's rapid growth and intensifying development.

4. What are the main objectives of the project?

- Preserve and protect the Georgian Bay coastal region – the Biosphere and beyond.
- Expand conservation of natural and environmentally valuable areas.
- Improve protection of those areas with stronger and more consistent policies.
- Strengthen planning standards in municipal official plans and zoning by-laws.
- Support and build on current key projects & priorities like:
Canada's commitments to protecting natural areas and habitats under the Global Biodiversity Framework, GBLT ecological corridors project, GB Biosphere natural asset management project and Indigenous conservation areas.

5. What will be the outcome of phase 1 of the project?

- The white paper will be created by an internationally recognized consulting firm and will form the foundation for advocating for the need for a regional vision and plan. It will propose approaches and a process for developing a regional plan. The advocacy and engagement with authorities and stakeholders will be led by experts from the consulting firm, with input from the Vision 2050 team.
- The paper will be evidence and science-based and draw on national and international principles and best practices for conserving large, high value natural areas. In developing the paper, the consultants will engage in broad-based consultations with communities and stakeholders, including residents, First Nations, and Georgian Bay NGOs.

6. What will happen in phase 2 of the project?

In phase 2 we hope to develop a comprehensive, highly professional scientific and environmental report that sets out a detailed vision and plan for the Georgian Bay coastal region for implementation by governments, communities, and stakeholders.

7. Who are the main stakeholders in the project?

Georgian Bay residents and communities (including GBA member associations), First Nations and indigenous communities, the local business community, Georgian Bay NGOs, regional municipalities, the provincial and federal governments and the wider public.

8. Has GBA talked to Georgian Bay partners about the project, like the Biosphere, the Land Trust, GBF and GBGLF?

Yes, we have talked to all these organizations and will continue to meet, share information with, and collaborate with them. We need the whole Georgian Bay community to pull together to help to better protect this incredible natural region and asset that is recognized on international, national and provincial levels.

9. What about municipalities and the province?

Yes, we will be engaging with municipalities, the province and the federal government and relevant departments (such as parks authorities) on an ongoing basis. Planning is underway for these meetings.

10. Why do you need to raise funds for the project?

- We need to raise \$150k plus to retain the environmental and planning consultants with the profile, professional reputation and high level of credibility needed to make the project successful. GBA annual dues covers GBA's ongoing operating projects but does not allow for projects that require a major investment.
- To this end, we launched the *Vision 2050 Fund in memory of Wally King*. See below for more information.

11. Why not partner with another GB organization so you can issue charitable donation receipts?

In fact, GBA talked to two organizations about partnering in this way, but we were not able to work out all the arrangements in a mutually beneficial way, largely due to new stricter CRA regulations and requirements for charities and use of donations. But partnering is an option we could consider again in the future.

12. What happens if you don't raise all the required funds?

We're confident we can raise the funds, but if not, contributors will get their money back.

13. Sounds like a great initiative. How can I help?

- Help to spread awareness and knowledge of this project in your local member association and Georgian Bay community.
- Contribute ideas to your local member association on how to better protect our coastal region while meeting the needs of local communities, residents and visitors.
- Consider donating to the *Vision 2050 Fund in memory of Wally King*.

14. How can I find out more?

- See the [Vision 2050 web page](https://bit.ly/GBA2050) on the GBA website: <https://bit.ly/GBA2050>
- Look for upcoming articles in the GBA *e-Update* and printed *Update* newsletter.
- Contact one of our Vision 2050 team:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| John Carson (Wah Wah Taysee) | icarson@georgianbay.ca |
| Rolfe Jones (Cognashene) | rolfescottjones@georgianbay.ca |
| Liz Phillips (Bay of Islands) | lizphillips@georgianbay.ca |
| Tom Scoon (Pointe au Baril) | tomscoon@yahoo.ca |
| Steve Sprague (South Channel) | stespr@gmail.com |