

An aerial photograph of Georgian Bay, showing a vast expanse of water with numerous small, rocky islands and peninsulas. The water is a deep blue, and the land is covered in dense green forest. The sky is clear and light blue. The text is overlaid on the center of the image.

# Vision 2050: Protecting Georgian Bay's Future

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

# Georgian Bay Means the World to Us

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“Georgian Bay is a unique, largely pristine waterbody and region featuring a UNESCO world biosphere reserve, a proposed UNESCO Geopark, the world’s largest freshwater archipelago, many significant national and provincial parks, nature reserves and conserved lands, and numerous First Nations.

It’s time to do our part to nurture, protect, and preserve it.”

*Liz Phillips / President, GBA*



# The World is Changing

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Our world is an ever-evolving canvas, boasting a host of natural wonders. Each reminds us of the beauty, complexity – and fragility – of our planet.

Unfortunately, natural disasters and human activities such as climate change, unfettered development, and pollution are threatening the very existence of the Earth's – and by extension Georgian Bay's – special wonders.



# Growth Brings Change

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- ◆ Ontario is growing rapidly and development is intensifying.
- ◆ GTA region population projected to increase by 50% by 2050.
- ◆ Simcoe County is projected to grow by 50%.
- ◆ The District of Muskoka by 30% to 40%.



# GBA: Advocating for You for Over 100 Years

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- ◆ The Georgian Bay Association has been advocating for our members since 1916.
- ◆ We've advocated on a wide range of issues related to environmentally responsible development to ensure Georgian Bay's natural landscapes and ecosystems are protected.
- ◆ Our aim is to ensure that the Bay is protected for many generations to come.



# Coastal Protection Initiatives

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- ◆ GBA created the Coastal Protection Committee to preserve and protect the environment, lands, waters and wildlife on the eastern/northern coasts.
- ◆ The team has created the *Planning Regulations Guide*; the *Municipal Planning Comparison Report* and a *Septic System Guide*.
- ◆ We also initiated important advocacy work on floating homes.



# Moving Forward

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- ◆ Development pressures are increasing all around Georgian Bay.
- ◆ Growth in cottage communities is intensifying.
- ◆ There is a clear need to propose a vision and roadmap to protect the Bay and ensure responsible planning & development standards.
- ◆ We need a new regional plan that recognizes today's new realities – a challenging environmental, social, political and development landscape.



# Being Better Stewards of the Bay

- ◆ It is vital for governments, communities and stakeholders to come together to develop a comprehensive regional vision and plan to guide future development.
- ◆ Step 1 is to retain a reputable, highly credible planning and environmental team to write a white paper as a basis for promoting the need for a vision and plan for the coast to governments and others.

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VISION 2020:

A NEW PARADIGM FOR EASTERN GEORGIAN BAY

### 1.) THE NEED FOR A NEW PARADIGM

#### NEED FOR VISION

Eastern Georgian Bay needs a compelling new vision for the next 25 years, to the year 2020 AD, and beyond, if the future of this remarkable landscape is to be both protected and enhanced, and if the people of the area are to prosper.

#### NEED FOR A NEW PARADIGM

We have come to the end of the old road. In the past, the natural unity of this area has been deliberately ignored and it has been regarded as an appendage to inshore areas, against the historic pattern of simply exploiting resources and piecemeal development. Ample research shows that the old paradigm is no longer adequate. The southerly areas most easily accessible to the Toronto metropolis are clearly under stress. A recent indicator is the University of Toronto research showing the permanence of dangerous pollution in favoured anchorages. The central section, as the super-highways extend northerly, will also be increasingly subjected to a further wave of development, bringing it also under added stress. In due time, as transport technology improves further, even the more northerly area will undergo the same transition.

#### THE PROGNOSIS

#### THE RESEARCH

The research is summarized in Appendix 1: THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE OF GEORGIAN BAY, which gives the evolution and current trends in the area, and, in Appendix 2: EASTERN GEORGIAN BAY PLANNING POLICIES: AN OVERVIEW, which clearly shows the piecemeal approach and the lack of comprehensive policies for the successful evolution of the area, despite considerable concern in each segment.



# Objectives

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- ◆ Preserve and protect the Georgian Bay coastal region – the Biosphere and beyond.
- ◆ Expand conservation of natural and environmentally valuable areas and ecological corridors.
- ◆ Improve protection of those areas with stronger and more consistent policies.
- ◆ Strengthen and reinforce planning standards in Official Plans and Zoning By-Laws.
- ◆ Support and build on key projects & priorities; eg. Canada's commitments to Global Biodiversity Framework, First Nations IPCAs, and Georgian Bay NGOs' projects.



# Making it Happen

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- ◆ GBA's Vision 2050 white paper will recognize Georgian Bay's unique world class environment and propose how best to realize the vision of preservation and protection based on recognized principles for conserving significant natural areas.
- ◆ We will share our vision with the Ontario and federal governments, Indigenous communities, municipalities, park authorities, GBA members, NGOs, and Georgian Bay residents.
- ◆ The white paper will form the foundation for advocating for the need for a regional vision and plan – a discussion that will be led by an internationally recognized environmental and planning consultancy.



# Commemorating a Great Friend of Georgian Bay

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Wally King inspired countless people to go the extra mile to do what they could for the Bay.

- ◆ He was a driving force behind making GBA a strong voice
- ◆ Played a key role in creation of the Township of the Archipelago
- ◆ Founding Chair of Georgian Bay Land Trust
- ◆ Past president of Sans Souci & Copperhead Association





Don't let the sun set on your dreams for protecting the Bay for future generations.