Georgian Bay Association
138 Hopedale Ave.
Toronto, ON M4K 3M7

Georgian Bay Aspiring Geopark
c/o Tony Pigott
24 Rusholme Rd.
Toronto, ON M6J 3H4

March 2, 2026.

Dear Tony,

Thank you for your presentation to the Board on January 13, and for the follow-up documents.

After discussion and consultation at the Board level and with our member associations, the Georgian Bay Association is not prepared to endorse or support the Geopark project at this time.

GBA's mission is grounded in the protection, preservation, and responsible stewardship of Georgian Bay's fragile environment. We share the significant concerns that have been raised by other interest holders, including:

> First, and most crucially, no comprehensive plan has been presented to address the adverse impacts that additional tourism would bring to the sites that the Geopark team has identified around Georgian Bay (pollution, overuse, habitat disturbance, and risks to sacred cultural sites).
>
> The enormous extent of the proposed Geopark requires the demonstrated support of municipalities, First Nations, and other groups across the region. We see growing objections from those communities rather than the broad support that UNESCO designation requires.
>
> Any application for UNESCO designation must reflect meaningful engagement and consent from affected First Nations, and we do not consider that this standard has been met.
>
> Finally, Georgian Bay is already home to many dedicated conservation and stewardship organizations. Adding to this crowded landscape would exacerbate problems that we work hard to avoid, including the duplication of effort, competition for limited funds, and public confusion between organizations.

For all of these reasons, GBA must decline to support the Georgian Bay Aspiring Geopark. We share the view held by a growing number of townships, First Nations, and organizations around Georgian Bay that the current project does not meet the requirements for the level of community co-creation and consent that UNESCO Geopark designation demands.

Yours sincerely,

M. Denning

Meredith Denning
Executive Director, Georgian Bay Association