

PRESENTATIONS AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE GEORGIAN BAY ASSOCIATION APRIL 2021



Your Voice on the Bay

YOUR DIRECTORS

Association	Director		Association	Director
Bay of Islands	Liz Phillips		McGregor Bay	Bill Steiss
Blackstone Lake	Andy Metelka		McGregor Bay	Doug Whitton
BNIA	John Lavis		Northern Georgian Bay	Freda Klassen
BNIA	Doug Ferguson		PaBIA	Dave Sharpe
Cognashene	David Matthews		PaBIA	Mark Gwozdecky
Cognashene	Rolfe Jones		Sans Souci & Copperhead	Katherine Denune
Honey Harbour	Bonnie Blanchard		Sans Souci & Copperhead	Eric Armour
Honey Harbour	John Maynard		South Channel	Steven Sprague
Key River	Andrew Hurlbut		Twelve Mile Bay	Brett Harris
Madawaska Club	Andrea Proctor		Wah Wah Taysee	John Carson
Manitou	Jamie Drayton		West Carling	Allison Needham
			Woods Bay	Kathleen Kilgour

YOUR OFFICERS

President	Rolfe Jones
Treasurer	John Maynard
Secretary	Liz Phillips

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5	Coastal Protection	John Carson
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24	Fisheries	Rupert Kindersley/Kathleen Kilgour
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GBA Coastal Protection Committee Report 2021

Responding to Planning & Development Threats



Coastal Protection – Background



Goal: Promote the protection of the Bay's unique land and waterscapes, environment and ecosystems in the face of increasing development pressures.

Actions:

- ❖ Promote and safeguard the sound planning principles & standards in place today.
- ❖ Identify and promote more consistent protections and higher standards going forward.
- ❖ Knowledge and information sharing with municipalities, GBA member associations & GBA members.
- ❖ Member education on rules and standards.
- ❖ Develop an ongoing dialogue on the issues with stakeholders.

Coastal Protection Committee

Mandate:

- Advise GBA Board on coastal protection projects & issues
- Guide and promote project work
- Liaise with local member associations and municipalities

Members (15):

- 8 reps of coastal communities / areas
- GBA President (Chair) & Executive Director
- ToA, TGB, NEMI & Killarney represented by Council members
- Carling tba

ToA



TGB



Municipality of Killarney

Stakeholders

- ❖ GBA members and member associations
- ❖ Local municipalities
- ❖ First Nations on the coast
- ❖ Other residents in the region
- ❖ Partner organizations
 - Georgian Bay Forever
 - Georgian Bay Land Trust
 - Georgian Bay Biosphere
- ❖ Local businesses



Coastal Protection Initiatives

1. Municipal Official Plans & Comprehensive Zoning Bylaws Review

- Archipelago, TGB, Killarney & NEMI participation confirmed
- Applications for govt. subsidy to hire a new graduate to do review filed
- GBA budget approved
- Add land use / site alteration by-laws

2. Municipal Septic Inspections and Septic Management

- Educate members on managing their systems
- Encourage adoption of best practice septic inspection program
- Budget for educational content approved



Coastal Protection Initiatives

3. Planning policies guide for member associations

- Guide on addressing planning policies & responding to development applications
- Roles of municipalities, GBA & member associations
- Many member associations have community OPs and zoning by-laws that are part of township OPs & by-laws



Actions



Engage

Engage with municipalities & member associations on projects



Research & Analyze

Carry out research and knowledge gathering and analyze results



Share

Share findings and collaborate on uses



Develop & Deliver

Develop and deliver presentations and reports



Roll Out

Roll out communications and education plans

Audience: Municipalities & Authorities, Member associations & their Members, Other Stakeholders

Coastal Protection Initiatives



Benefits:

- ❖ Protect the environment & ecosystems
- ❖ Inform and educate
- ❖ Foster collaboration
- ❖ Develop ongoing dialogue on the issues
- ❖ More consistent approach across the region
- ❖ Higher standards
- ❖ Conserve nature and all we love about the Bay

Your ideas and input are welcome



GBA Communications Report 2021

AGM
PRESENTATION
April 10, 2021



Your GBA Communications Team



Eric Armour
SANS SOUCI /
COPPERHEAD
Web Editor



Allison Needham
WEST CARLING
Advertising



Rolfe Jones
COGNASHENE
Chair & Editor



Doug Whitton
MCGREGOR BAY
Interactive Design



John Carson
WAH WAH TAYSEE
Past Editor



Jamie Drayton
MANITOU
Social Media



Liz Phillips
BAY OF ISLANDS
Deputy Editor



Shannon Farquharson
Communications & Executive
Services Coordinator

GBA UPDATE – A Record Breaking Advertising Year



Generated almost \$44,000 in revenue

GBA Website Performance - 2020 Recap

User Statistics

Web users:

40,523



74%

Pageviews:

110,815



23%

Time on site:

1.4 mins



32%

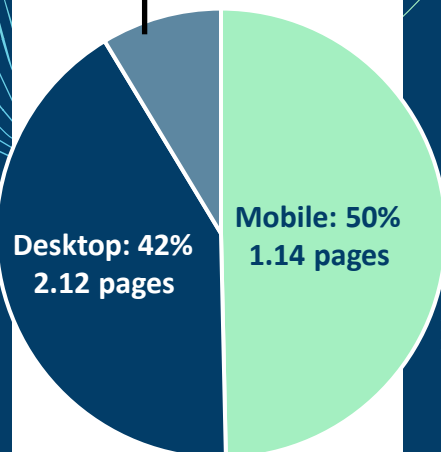
Avg. page views per user

2.6



2

Tablet: 8%
1.9 pages



Advertisers' Web Banners:

Impressions:

640,934

Clicks:

1,071

Click through rate:

0.16%

Top Content Destinations



Water levels report



Home page



COVID-19

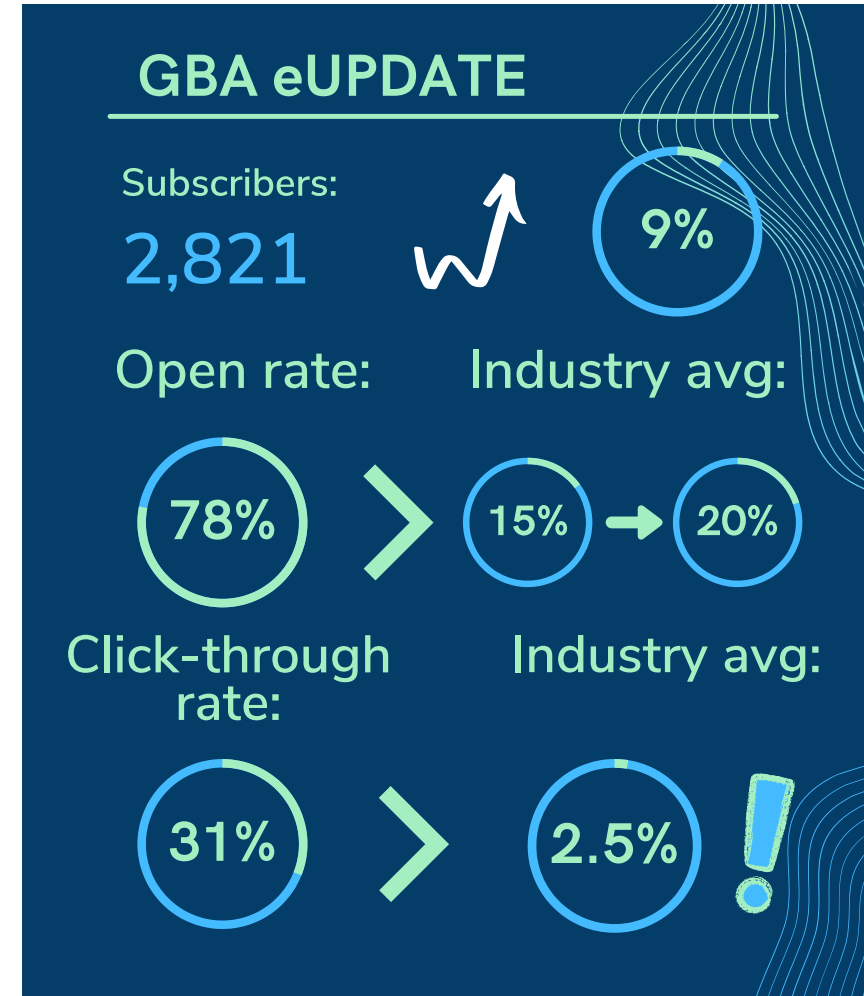
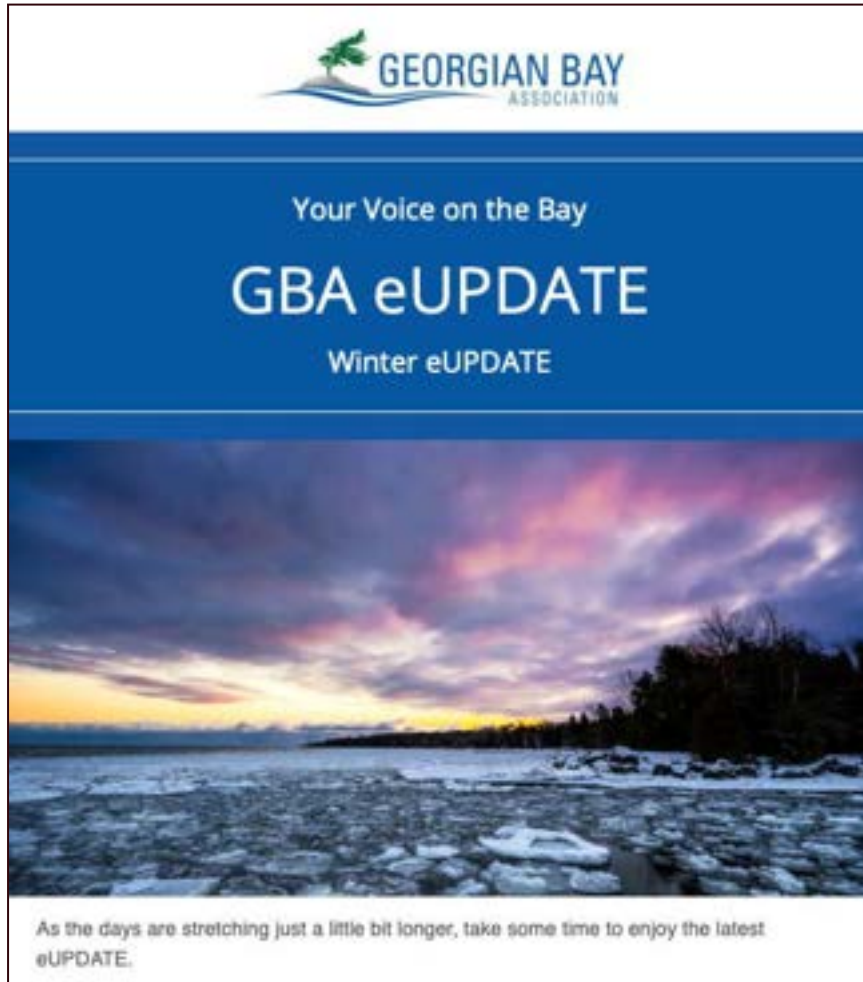


Water levels symposium



Private navigation buoys

eUpdate 2020 Recap



Top stories, in order:

- Water Levels; Digital version of UPDATE; Issues related content

Social Media 2020 Recap

Facebook remains primary social media channel:

- 1,957 followers
- 1,706 page likes
- Post reach and interactions are stable

Most engagement/reach:

- Photos and water level content

Stand-out post April 5, 2020:

Marinas in Ontario are now closed to seasonal residents until further notice

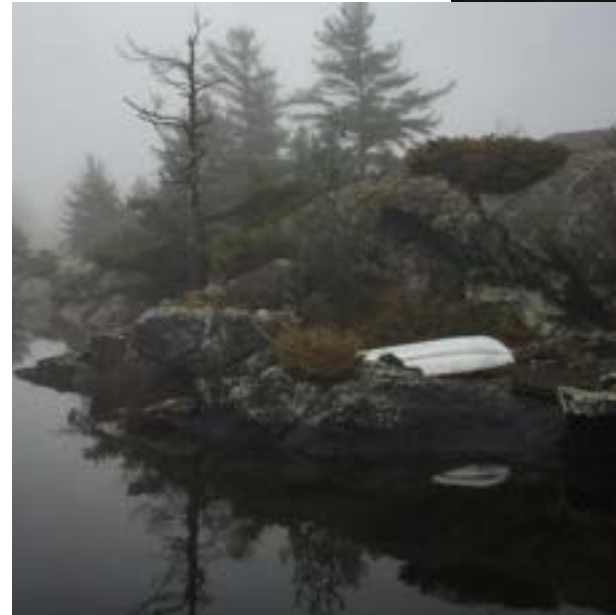
- 32,000 users
- 5,000 post clicks
- 1,200 reactions, comments, and shares



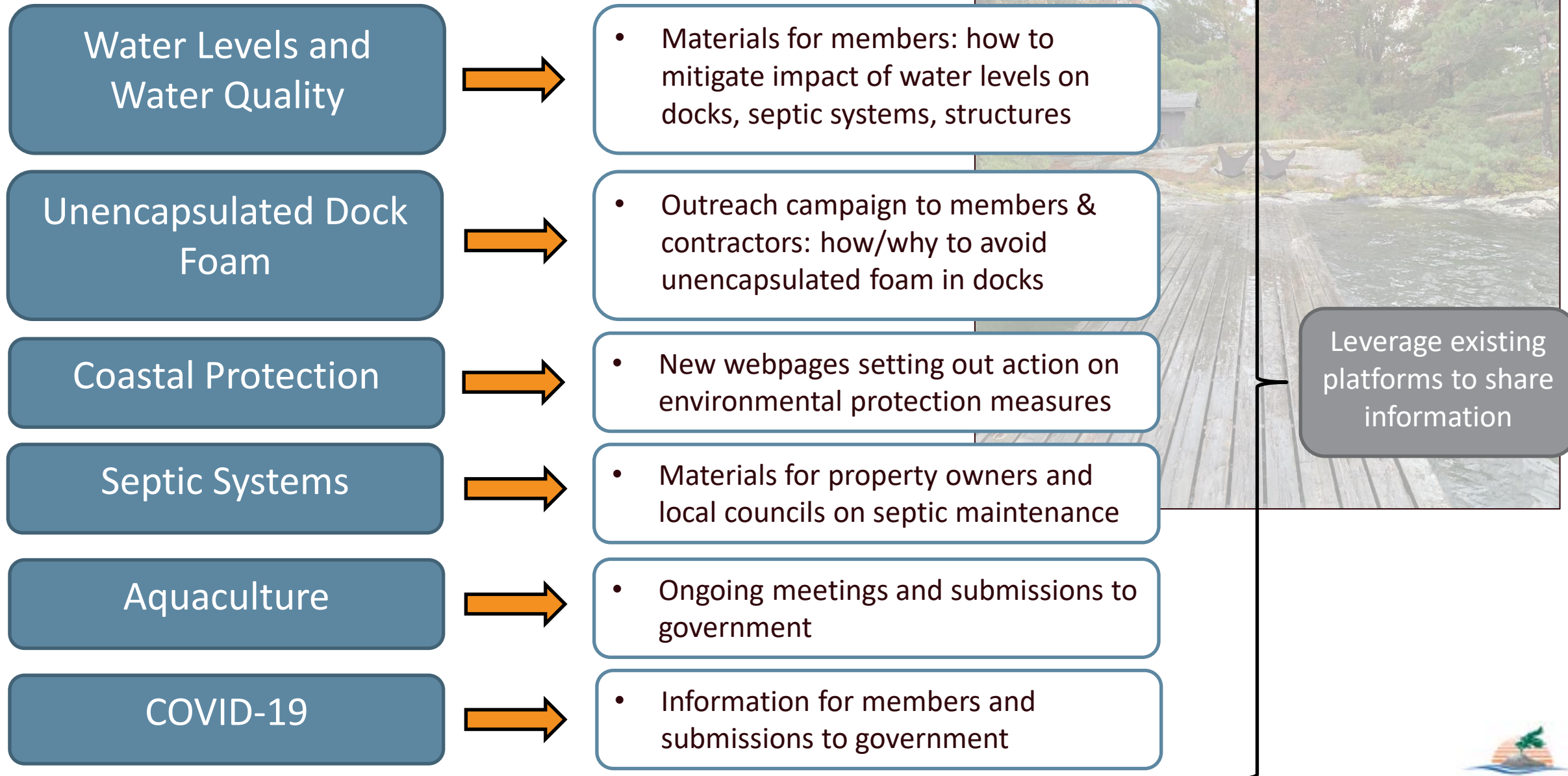
Thank You Junction 59 for contributing so much to GBA's success!

Stakeholders

- GBA member associations and their members
- Federal and Ontario governments
- Coastal municipalities
- Partner organizations
 - Georgian Bay Forever
 - Georgian Bay Land Trust
 - Georgian Bay Biosphere
 - Many Other NGO's
- Local businesses
- First Nations on the coast
- Other residents in the region



Communication Committee Initiatives - 2021



Your New 2021 Editorial & Publishing Team



Liz Phillips
Your new editor
of UPDATE



Allison Needham
Deputy editor of
UPDATE



Thank You – May We All Get Back to Doing this Again Soon!



GBA 2021-22 Fisheries Committee Report

Fish are our Friends



Your Voice on the Bay

2021-22 Fisheries Committee Objectives

- ▶ Report current and emerging issues facing the fishery and the various steps to control these threats.
- ▶ Monitor regulations and legislation pertaining to Georgian Bay and Lake Huron's fisheries.
- ▶ Promote the recreational and commercial value of Northern Lake Huron and Georgian Bay's fishery.
- ▶ Provide annual updates on commercial catch and harvest statistics for Northern Lake Huron and Georgian Bay.
- ▶ Develop relationships with public and private partners.



Promote and Protect Recreational Fishing Opportunities

- ▶ **Report on *new Ontario's 2021 Recreational Fishing Regulations for Zone 14* (spring 2021)**
 - Learn to Fish Online campaign
 - Free Family Fishing Days
 - *Fish Along with TackleShare –weekly videos*
- ▶ **GBA updates on sustainable fishing guidelines:**
 - No fish zones -Fish Sanctuary locations
 - Correct handling of caught fish (spring 2021)
 - Techniques for recreational catch and release (spring 2021)
 - Proper selection and use live bait fish (spring 2021)



Promoting a Viable Commercial Fishery

- ▶ **GBA report (Spring 2020) *State of Lake Huron and Georgian Bay's Commercial Fisheries* - Highlights include:**
 - 61+ local commercial fisheries and 5 native fishing agreements.
 - Catch worth \$4 million+ wholesale value at the dock.
 - Predominant catch - Lake Whitefish (1.4 million lbs), Lake Trout (420,125 lbs), Yellow Perch (313,000 lbs), and Walleye (245,000 lbs).
 - 2019 Walleye numbers holding and Yellow Perch up by 3%
 - Catch estimated at a \$36 million retail store value.
 - GBA's seven suggestions for assisting commercial fishing operators (see GBA's report *State of Lake Huron and Georgian Bay's Commercial Fisheries*).



Threats to the fishery

► Invasive species - GBA's Fisheries reports:

- *"Don't Let Them Catch a Ride" (website 2020-2021);*
- *"New regulations for selling and using live bait in Ontario" (winter 2020)*
- *"Asian Carp: Preventing a Threat to a \$7 Billion fishery" (spring 2021)*
- *"Grass Carp: Encouraging news on actions to prevent Asian carp" (spring 2021)*
- *Future reporting: "Continuing threats facing Lake Whitefish (fall 2021)*
- *Future reporting: 2020 Commercial fishing statistics (fall 2021)*

► 2019 Commercial catch down by 16% from previous year:

- 21% decline in high value Lake Whitefish since 2018
- Lake Whitefish decline began in 2010
- Covid upsetting 2020/2021 commercial harvests - restaurant closures, limited freezer capacity, transportation to international markets
- Competition - foreign operators and aquaculture (lower operating costs)

Develop relationships with public and private partners

1. Fisheries Stewardship Framework – led by Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve

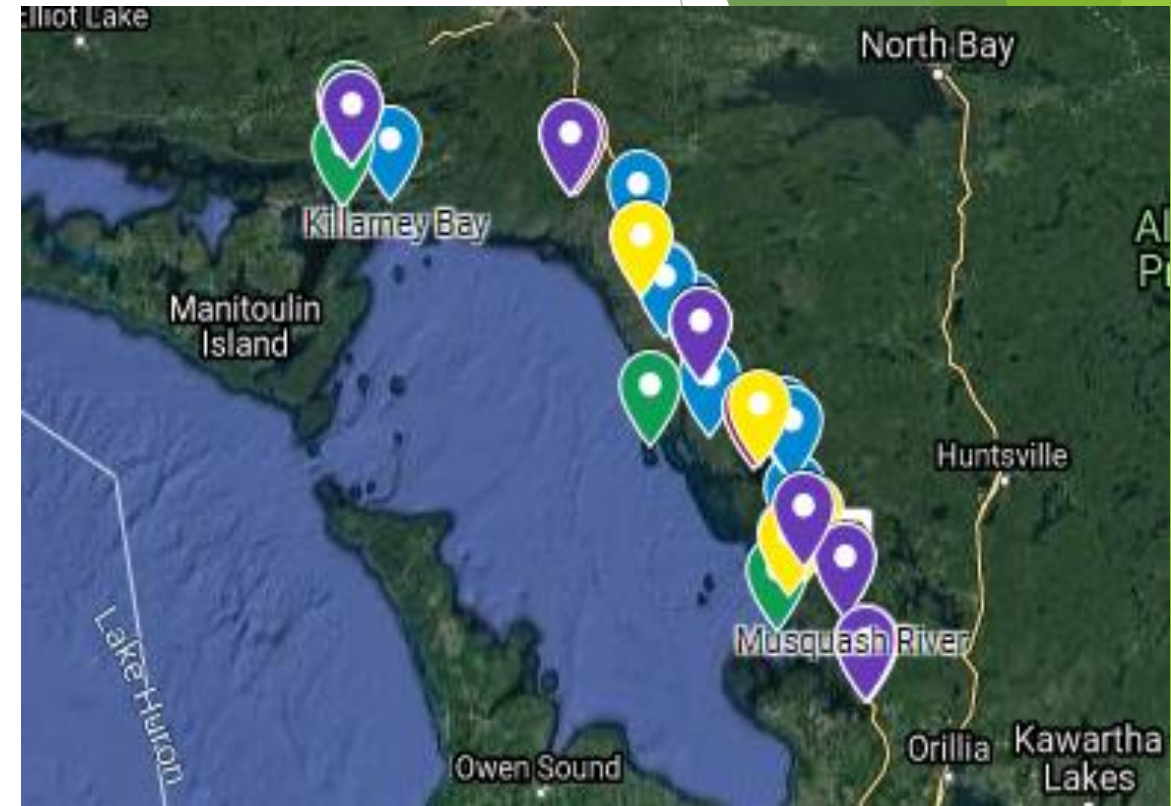
- ▶ First coordinated effort since 2016
- ▶ Still in exploratory stage
- ▶ Objective: Reach long-term achievable goals

2. Building Communication links:

- ▶ Upper Great Lakes Management Unit
- ▶ Ontario Commercial Fisheries Co-operative
- ▶ Great Lakes Fisheries Commission

3. Ontario Commercial Fisheries Association:

- ▶ Working together to promoting a strong
- ▶ and sustainable commercial fishery



Long-term research and monitoring sites.

GBA Aquaculture Committee Report 2020-21

Status of Cage Aquaculture in Georgian Bay & North Channel



Your Voice on the Bay

Aquaculture Committee Changes

- New members added to committee in 2020
- New co-chairs appointed to the committee



Aqua-Cage Fisheries

Cage Fish Farming Current Status

- 10 open-cage aquaculture operate in Georgian Bay and North Channel, 5 First Nation and 5 subject to licenses/leases
- The 5 licences/leases are set to be renewed in March 2022 and plan to expand their boundaries
- Lake Wolsey site has officially closed (license has been cancelled) but fish still being held there
- One of the FN sites not in operation



Cage Fish Farming Current Status

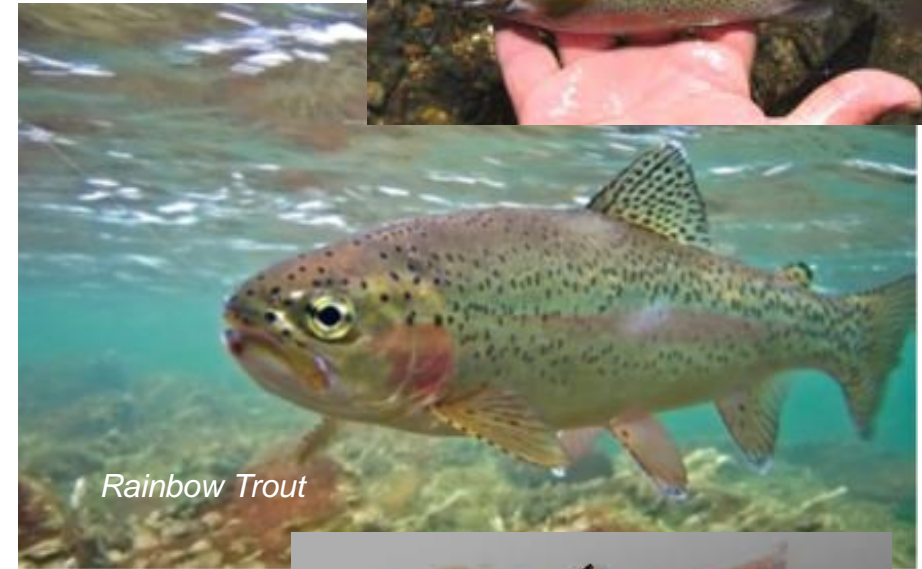


- Open-cage farms produced 5,360 tonnes (metric tons) of Rainbow Trout in 2019
- This represents 96% of all Rainbow Trout produced and >90% of all commercial aquaculture in Ontario (2019)
- Provincial licencing and LUPs to go from 5 to 20 years

- New licences will have more rigorous EA and only be sited in Type 3 waters

Cage Fish Farming Slated to Grow

- The principal species for aquaculture is still and will remain as Rainbow Trout
- Future candidates for cage culture include Lake Whitefish
- One site now rearing Lake Whitefish for a local market
- Federal government proposes to transition marine salmon farms into land-based operations by 2025



Cage Fish Farming Slated to Grow

- OAA objective is to expand open-cage fish farming by up to 30,000-50,000 tonnes annually within next 10 years
- Industry plans to establish and expand moderate-scale cage sites in northern Great Lakes waters, including Lake Superior



GBA Concerns

- Reductions in water quality from nutrient loading and hypoxic events
- Effect of nutrient loading on algae production, particularly blue-green algae (cyanobacteria)
- Impacts of nutrient loading and sedimentation on the benthic invertebrate community
- Effects of invasive species (e.g., dreissenid mussels) attracted to the farms
- Effects on native fish stocks by escapements and disease pathogens
- Possible effects of introducing contaminants and/or chemotherapeutants (e.g., antibiotics) into the environment
- Future climate change effects that could impact water quality and the risk of escapements from storm damage

GBA Major Concern

- Of the listed concerns, nutrient loading into water and sediments is still primary
- Existing cage aquaculture was designated as a Category A activity (“little environmental or social concern”) under Ontario’s Class EA in 2015
- New applications will have stricter EA screening and be restricted to Type 3 sites
- By comparison, Lake Wolsey with its algae problem considered as Type 1



Committee Activities in 2020-21

- Provided comments to MNRF and MECP stating GBA position (push to Category C) in their review of the Class EA for RSFD
- GBA submission re: Class EA reviewed and approved by EcoJustice
- Met twice with government regulators (MNRF, MECP, DFO, OMAFRA)
- Met with IJC Science Advisory Board re: their Lake Huron 2022 report
- Provided additional input to DFO for development of federal *Aquaculture Act* (AA)
- Held meeting and established dialogue between GBA and DFO with plans for future meetings re: the AA
- Engaged with others to consider support of studies on aquaculture impacts using AUV (“glider”) technology

Committee Plans for 2021-22

- Continue to advocate for designation of cage aquaculture as a Category C activity, once it becomes subject to MNRF's Class EA for RSFD projects
- Further meeting with MNRF, MECP, DFO, OMAFRA in April
- Continue to request release of water quality and fisheries data from MNRF
- Continue to develop relationship with DFO regarding the new AA
- Continue to advocate for greater oversight from DFO re: treaty and other agreements with USA, e.g., Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement
- Continue to reach out to GLEC in advance of the Lake Huron 2022 report
- Engage and capture interest of the public through news and social media
- Provide input into plans for aquaculture research studies in Georgian Bay/North Channel

Future of Aquaculture in Great Lakes

- Ontario is only jurisdiction that allows open-cage aquaculture in Great Lakes
- All are in North Channel and Georgian Bay
- Global trend is transition of open-cage fish farms to land-based systems
- This trend includes marine farms in Canada
- GBA will continue to support the transition of open-cage farms in Georgian Bay/North Channel to enclosed systems or land-based fish farms
- Fish farming impacts on the aquatic environment can be best minimized using recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS), but the capital cost is high



GBA Water Committee Report

Water Levels & Water Quality



Your Voice on the Bay

Committee Members

Chair:	John Lavis	Bayfield-Nares
Directors:	Katherine Denune	Sans Souci & Copperhead
	Andrew Hurlbut	Key River
	Andy Metelka	Blackstone Lake
	Bonnie Blanchard	Honey Harbour
non-board members:	Alan Waffle	Honey Harbour
	Gord Forstner	Wah Wah Taysee
	Jim Carson	Wah Wah Taysee

Water Levels

- 2019/2020 - all Great Lakes set record highs.
- High water levels impacted, marinas, other businesses, ports and municipal infrastructure, + shoreline and island residents.
- Higher highs & slightly lower lows, with shorter durations between extreme levels, predicted - climate change impacts.
- No certainty – predictions rate the probabilities.
- Good news: drier weather & low ice cover over the last 6 months; expected normal precipitation levels in 2021; water levels likely to be ~18 inches lower than in 2020 through this year.



Water Levels - GBA Action in 2020/21

Joint GBA/GBF Symposium

Registrants	700
Attendees	400
Presenters – Senior Scientists & Policy Makers	12
Q&A – all incisive/excellent questions answered	259
Detailed Synopsis includes post-symposium research	
Summary & UPDATE article cover all the main takeaways	
https://georgianbay.ca/water/water-levels/water-levels-symposium-2020/	



Thanks to the major effort of numerous volunteers and GBF/GBA staff, the Symposium and its deliverables were an outstanding success that has provided seminal documentation, and important information that will inform our water levels strategy and knowledge for years to come.

Water Levels 2020/21 – fact vs fiction

- Governments do not control water levels – determined by precipitation, evaporation, ice-cover and run-off etc.
- IJC and control boards not responsible for wider water level range in M-H vs Superior – determined by topographical and hydrological differences.
- Water management plans @ Long Lac/Ogoki basin - no potential flow rate adjustment to manage water levels.
- Control boards managing water levels correctly throughout the system, including Plan 2012.
- The truth is that we simply do not have sufficient tools available to make any significant impact on mitigating extreme high or low water levels. More tools are needed.



Water Levels – Comprehensive 12 Point Action Plan

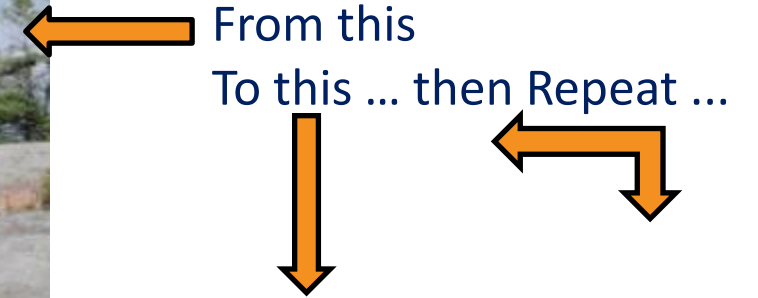
Implications of ever wilder swings from extreme highs to extreme lows. What is achievable? Stop pointing fingers. Focus on what can be done.

Short Term:

- Release of ECCC projected water levels analysis study;
- Improve: modelling techniques & data sources - add scientific expertise;
- Improve/coordinate/expand data collection, frequency, formatting, availability & ease of interpretation; and
- Comment on revised Plan 2012 – St Clair River considerations - expand Lake Superior Board of Control membership.

Longer Term:

- Revive Great Lakes Water Levels Advisory Board concept; and
- Develop (major) new tools (investments) to address water levels fluctuations – cost/benefit analysis.



Water Levels – Next Steps for 2021/22

Affirmative Action vs Impacts and Adaption

Follow up (October) GBF and GBA symposium on impacts and adaption to fluctuating water levels:

- Actual impacts on wetlands, habitat, flora and fauna – how adaptable are they?
- What to do (not do) on shorelines - erosion
- Docks/boathouses configurations/regulations
- Impacted structures – raise or move?
- Vulnerable septic systems - options
- Adaption investments for marinas, other shoreline businesses, ports, and municipal infrastructure – what to do?
- Long term planning vs short term reactions
- Wakes – what can be done? Waves - increasing wind strength
- Navigation issues and technologies – rules for channel markers
- Review municipal high water marks? Impact on planning regs.
- Insurance issues – information sources – government grants



How do
you
Adapt to
This?
Or This?



Water Quality – Lake Partner Program

- GBA continues to promote the Lake Partner Program – all members can help – citizen science – Ph and Ca
- LPP's data set goes back to 1975, so associations can compare water quality metrics over several decades.
- It is a cost effective program with continuing govt support and many volunteer hours.
- More test sites are needed to improve the GB data set – see website on how to join:
<https://georgianbay.ca/articles/recreational-water-quality>
- LPP lead at GBA - Bonnie Blanchard will be reaching out to coordinate/establish association leads & expand testing sites & volunteers



Water Quality – Dock Foam

GBA joined GBF, ToA and MPP Norm Miller – Bill 228 - ban unencapsulated polystyrene foam for dock construction/repairs

Why?:

- The major plastics pollution source in the Great Lakes
- ~95% of shoreline clean-up materials/Seabin contents

Impacts:

- Litter – foam broken down by animals and sunlight
- Wildlife – endangered by foam chewed and consumed
- Bioaccumulation - particles accumulate in food chain
- Degradation - releases chemicals into ecosystem

Reasonably priced alternatives are available:

55-gallon plastic drums - resin-encapsulated foam billets - steel floats.

ACTION:

- Continue to support Bill 228 ➡ Law ➡ Regulations (key phase)
- Get ON govt, municipalities, FOCA, Boating Ontario, GBA & GBF to work together to - continue gathering scientific information - support transition to alternatives - provide education materials to individuals, manufacturers, contractors and suppliers



Water Quality - GBA Action and Submissions in 2020/21

- Participation in Canada Water Agency strategy and planning process
- Attended and provided input on GBA issues at:
 - GLEC meetings
 - ECCC coastal wetlands project update,
- Advocated to ON govt for:
 - no erosion of Conservation Authorities powers
 - no relaxation of pollution legislation/fines
 - no destruction of wetlands using MZO's

Much of the ongoing work on coastal protection issues, such as sewage system inspections & management and coastal municipality planning matters, such as docks over sensitive fish habitat, involve advocating for the protection of water quality.



Water Quality Plans for 2021/22

- Submission to Canada Water Agency
- Continue work with CELA on Chemicals of Mutual Concern Binational Screening Criteria
- Continue to participate in the various Canadian and International Great Lakes (water & wetlands related) agreements & projects and monitor progress
- Work with our partners to make submissions that help protect Georgian Bay waters & wetlands when needed



Lands and Forests

Stewardship
Invasive Species
Species-at-Risk



Lands and Forests Committee Members

Katherine Denune (Chair) – Sans Souci and Copperhead

Freda Klassen – Northern Georgian Bay

John Lavis – Bayfield Nares

Bonnie Blanchard – Honey Harbour

Priority Areas & New Webpages

- Species-at-Risk
- Invasive Species
 - Phragmites
- Forest Health
 - Native Species
- What Can I Do?
 - Citizen science (iNaturalist)
 - Living with wildlife



Native Species

- GBB 5th Annual Native Plant Fundraiser
 - Order by May 28th, Pick up on June 12th
 - Seeds collected from local indigenous plants



Phragmites

- Continue to support GBF and community efforts to manage Phragmites
- Encourage continued monitoring and management
- Highlight efforts of community members and expand participation via the Phragmites Network



Education Materials

- Top Ten Guide for New Cottagers
 - Maintaining natural shorelines
 - Planting native species
 - Living with wildlife



GBA Committee Report

Boating, Safety & Emergencies



Your Voice on the Bay

Boating, Safety & Emergencies

Our Committee Members:

Andrew Hurlbut Chair	Key River Area
Freda Klassen	Northern Georgian Bay
Jamie Drayton	Manitou
Peter Frost	Bayfield Nares
Doug Ferguson	Bayfield Nares
Stephen Sprague	South Channel

With honorary mention to Rupert Kindersley and Shannon Farquharson

Our Partners Include:

- OPP
- Canadian Coast Guard and Auxiliary (CCG)
- Transport Canada Office of Boating Safety
- Safe Quiet Lakes (SQL)
- Canadian Safe Boating Council (CSBC)
- Boating Ontario
- Federation of Ontario Cottage Associations (FOCA)
- Canadian Power & Sail Squadrons
- National Marine Manufacturers Association
- Sail Canada
- Ontario Recreational Canoeing and Kayaking Association

2020 – A Summer Like No Other...

With COVID-19 came an unanticipated explosion in boating interest

Issuance of Pleasure Craft Operator Cards:

- **73.4% increase**

2019 was 145,294 and 2020 was 251,992

Issuance of Pleasure Craft Licenses (June – Dec):

- **53.5% increase**

2019 was 77,969 and for 2020 was 119,680

- Calls to the Transport Canada's Ontario Office of Boating Safety doubled

Anecdotally, it was difficult to buy any sort of vessel (motorized or human powered) or get repair parts. Transport Canada and Boating Ontario expect this to continue.



2020 – A Summer Like No Other...

According to OPP statistics:

- **Fatalities were up 78% (2 in Georgian Bay)**
- **91% of fatalities were NOT wearing PFDs**
- **About 50% were on human powered vessels**
- **Over 50% were in the cold-water seasons (Jan-June and Sept-Dec)**
- **94% of fatalities male and 25% in the 45 to 55 age group**
- **66% of fatalities occurred when conditions were clear**

Complaints were up - PWCs and aggressive vessel operation were most common charges (and warnings) were up substantially; except for impaired



BS&E 2021 Priorities

what3words

- OPP announced on December 1, 2020 that they would be using the app what3words in emergency response
- This is a game changer that will improve emergency response
- It has already been used successfully in rescue situations
- It is free and easy to use
- Please encourage your membership to download the app and familiarize themselves with it.
- GBA will continue to push the message for the app. Check out the [what3words page](#) under Boating, Safety & Emergencies.



BS&E 2021 Priorities

Georgian Bay for Everyone



With the surge in boating complaints and issues, we thought that revamping our pamphlet and the messaging for courteous use of the Bay made sense.

Objective

- Promote respectful use of Georgian Bay lands and waterways
- Highlighting the environmental pressures on Georgian Bay
- Provide recommendations on critical safety and watercraft operation to cottage and recreational users

Distribution

- Posters, 5x7 laminated handouts, and electronic delivery (websites, social media, eBlasts, and email)
 - Through GBA channels, associations, marinas, and our boating and sailing partner organizations.
- This is being done in conjunction with Boating Ontario
- Big thanks to Stephen Sprague for all his hard work putting this together

BS&E 2021 Priorities

Modernization of PCOC and Pleasure Craft Licensing

Transport Canada is proposing the modernization of the Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOC) and Pleasure Craft Licensing Program.

Comments will likely be requested this fall, with a look to implement the changes in the fall of 2022.



Proposed Changes that affect us:

Pleasure Craft License:

- New licenses will have a 5-year term from the current 10-year term and licenses issued prior to 2010 that were considered “lifetime” will have a 5-year term as well
- \$15 fee
- Sail-only vehicles larger than 6m will require a license (Human powered vessels are not included)

Pleasure Craft Operating Card:

- No direct changes for us as users
- Changes to fees for course providers
- Boat rental establishments will require a PCOC card rather than the existing (limited) rental checklist to prove competency

BS&E 2021 Priorities

Safe Quiet Lakes on Operation Decibel

- The plan is to have legislated permissible noise levels from boats as they have in Europe and the US
- In 2020 the GBA with board approval joined the Decibel Coalition and in July wrote to our Associations in support of the program
- GBA is also helping connect with municipalities
- Thanks to Andy Metelka who is assisting with decibel devices and the science of sound



BS&E 2021 Priorities

Fire Danger Awareness

Ontario's Wildland Fire Season began on April 1st and runs through to the end of October

- Last summer we began posting a weekly update, just prior to the weekend, detailing the fire ratings for our Georgian Bay municipalities and outlining what is allowed under those ratings. We will continue this again this year.
- Par033 - Freedom of information request for the MNRF report on the fire continues in the adjudication stage.

Please remind your members to check out the website – there is a lot of helpful [fire information](#).



...Since Last Year's AGM...

- **Organized OPP Board presentation**
- **Attended Ontario Recreational Boating Advisory Committee meetings**
- **Attended Transport Canada webinars on Vessel Operation Restriction Regulations and Private Buoys**
- **Attended the Canadian Safe Boating Council's Cold Water Boot Camp**



Potential Programs for Associations

Safe Quiet Lakes - June survey

- SQL has conducted surveys in 2013, 2017 and will again this June and have approached GBA for member participation. This survey takes a snapshot of stakeholders, how they use the Bay and what their concerns are to enable GBA & SQL to better target educational programs and advocacy.

Canadian Coast Guard

- Will not have in-person safety presentations and courtesy checks,
but virtual sessions are available.
- We also have CCG decals available.
Contact Shannon if your association is interested.



Canadian Power& Sail Squadrons

- With their marina partners will be hosting safety check and expired flare exchange days.
Covid and public health permitting.

Website Changes...

A lot has been done to update the BS&E pages this past year to prioritize information on emergency response, fire risk and response , PFDs, Cold water risks, boating safety.

Please take a look and let us know what is good, what needs improvement and what content you think should be added.

Some priority posts...

- [what3words](#)
- [Cold Water Boating](#)
- Weekly Fire Danger Report
- [Have a Plan](#)
- [FireSmart Manual and Videos](#)
- [Watch your Wake](#)
- [PWCs : things you need to know](#)



This Coming Year BS&E Will...

- Continue to push the **what3words** app to encourage as wide a usage as possible
- Roll out **Georgian Bay for Everyone**
- Continue weekly **Fire Danger Reports**
- Produce a **BS&E eUPDATE** to reacquaint readers with boating, fire and emergency information
- Report on this summer's **OPP Safety Campaigns** - Life Jackets, PWCs and Cold Water Awareness
- And finally, we will continue to work with our partners to monitor and report on **emergency response and boating issues**



Issues You Would Like Us to Investigate?

Contact Andrew Hurlbut or
Rupert Kindersley



Membership

GBA Membership Matters



GBA Associations Membership Numbers Full Members (as at Dec 31)

Year	1995	2009	2019	2020
	2,850	3,179	2,790	2,697

Decrease from Dec 31 2019:	(3.3%)	(93)
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Other Membership Categories:	363	362
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Decrease from Dec 31 2019:	0.0%	(1)
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Membership Numbers

- Ebb and flow of Association membership numbers is a regular and normal occurrence.
- Often decreases are offset by increases in subsequent years.
- In 2020, much of the membership attrition traced to Associations with high proportion of US members who opted not to renew following pandemic border restrictions. Longer term implications hopefully should rekindle US membership.



Membership Numbers

- Association and GBA membership growth “spikes” follow major galvanizing Georgian Bay residents’ issues (i.e., water level extremes, over-development, etc.)
- Despite normal fluctuations, stemming membership attrition in some Associations and reinforcing the importance of GBA membership generally, are the 2021 GBA Membership Committee priorities.

Membership Committee Objective

- Stabilize GBA Full Membership Attrition



Membership Committee 2021 Strategies

- Strengthen the perception of the high value of GBA membership across all Association members (the important work being done)
- Add incremental GBA Membership added-value benefits (“membership has its rewards”)
- Heighten the profile and prominence of GBA within our membership communities (celebrate local successes and individuals)

2021 Membership Committee Initiatives

1. Let's "blow our own horn"

(the importance of GBA membership)

- Publish "What Is GBA Doing for You!" via UPDATE, eUpdate, website content, social media channels, and member Associations' publications
- Elevate awareness and uptake of available GBA administrative benefits for Associations:
 - website template and social media guides
 - efficient "piggyback" mailings
 - access to the GBA Zoom account (subject to availability) for meetings and conferences

2021 Membership Committee Initiatives cont'd

2. Bolster GBA Membership “Added-Value” Benefits

- Augment the excellent existing benefits with cottager-relevant savings (i.e. Honda fire pumps, Kidde domestic and marine use fire extinguishers)



2021 Membership Committee Initiatives cont'd

3. Elevate awareness, interest and participation in Guardians of the Bay nominations, awards and published stories.
 - Redouble efforts to engage Association uptake, nominations and local celebration of award recipients
 - Specific Guardians of the Bay annual targets set for nominations and awards



Membership Committee



If you have any questions,
thoughts or suggestions,
please feel free to contact:

Dave Sharpe

dave.w.sharpe@gmail.com

Guardians of the Bay

April 10, 2021 AGM

Presented by Jamie Drayton, Chair



Mandate & Committee Members

Mandate

- To promote the 'Guardians of the Bay' ethic with an objective of raising awareness and generating more action to protect and preserve Georgian Bay

Committee Members

- Rolfe Jones, David Sharpe, Jamie Drayton

Continued to Collect & Publish Guardians Stories in 2020/21



Several new Guardians have been profiled since the 2020 AGM and added to the GBA website here: <https://georgianbay.ca/gotb/>



Helen Bryce, PaBIA

Peter
& Judy
Hatcher



L-R: Ben, Peter, Judy, Stuart, Beau Hatcher



Sandy Thomson, Cognashene



Looking Ahead

- **Guardians Council**
 - Intended to create a Council from across associations
 - With Covid, paused the initiative
 - Waiting until time is right to re-launch
- **Collaborate**
 - Greater coordination with GBB, GBF, GBLT, First Nations on initiatives like Bay Day, shoreline clean ups, etc.
- **Merge committees?**
 - Currently discussing merging Guardians and First Nations committees

GBA First Nation Liaison Committee Report

AGM April 10, 2021



Your Voice on the Bay

GBA First Nation Liaison Team Members

Doug Whitton (Chair)	McGregor Bay
Liz Phillips	Bay of Islands
Freda Klassen	Northern Georgian Bay
Doug Ferguson	Bayfield Nares
John McMullen	Bayfield Nares
Bob Duncanson	Madawaska Club of Go Home Bay

Indigenous Learning Workshops Proposed Organizational Change

- GBA organizational change/transformation through Indigenous Learning Workshops (on hold until post Covid)
- Indigenous education (experiential education) can have the effect of shifting organizational culture and mindset
- Workshop(s) led by an Indigenous leader(s) could bring the GBA into alignment with current practices of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, as practiced in government and industry.



Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action 2015 -
refers to the need for education required by government institutions

Indigenous Learning Workshops



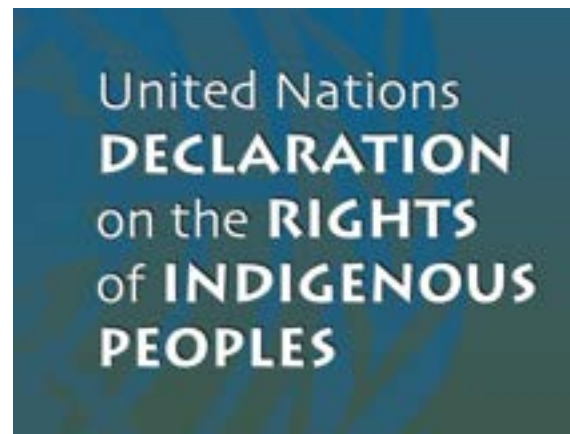
**Wampum
Teachings,
facilitated by
Brian Charles
March 2020,
GBB**

Indigenous Learning Workshop



GBA **will** improve and enhance communication and dialog with Georgian Bay Biosphere — First Nation initiatives are part of the GBB mandate for UN Biosphere.

" Welcoming the fact that indigenous peoples are organizing themselves for political, economic, social and cultural enhancement and in order to bring to an end all forms of discrimination and oppression wherever they occur"



Land Use in Georgian Bay

- GBA will inform membership on the formation of any Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) and Crown Land status issues.
- GBA to provide associations and membership with reliable information to better understand any changes in land use in Georgian Bay.



Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCA)

Potential model for protecting crown land and adding to parkland

Alignments with GBA on:

- Preservation of biodiversity
- Conservation economies (Food harvesting and Ecotourism)
- Sustainability models/principles
- Responsibility to maintain the land

Ways to create an IPCA:

- Top down designation (government)
- Within an indigenous community at a grassroots level when the community makes it happen
- As a mind set - create your own Protected and Conserved Area



Biodiversity Goals and Targets for Canada

Target 1: By 2020, at least 17% of terrestrial areas and inland water, and 10% of marine and coastal areas of Canada

Next Targets: Protect 25% of land and oceans by 2025 and 30% by 2030.

IPCAs are an integral part of this strategy

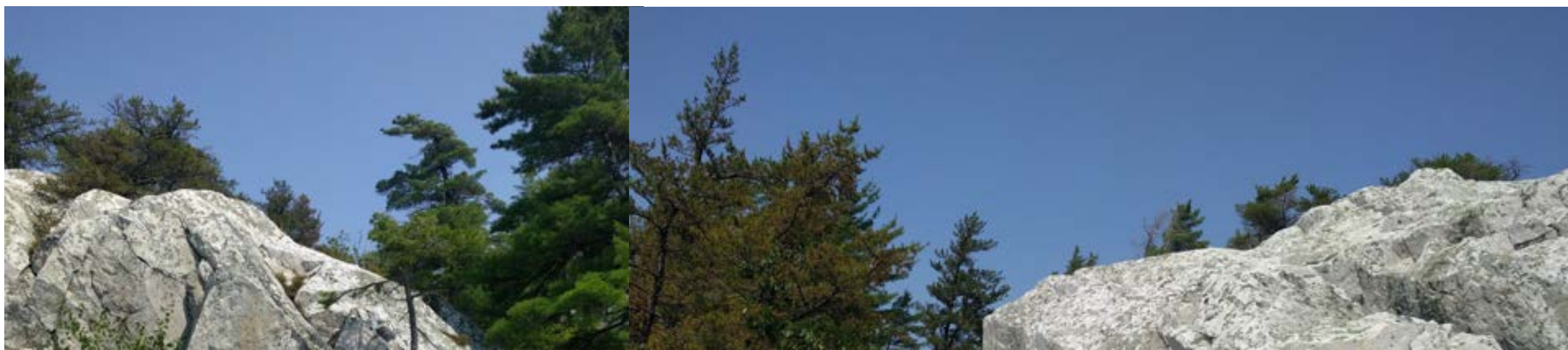
<https://www.conservation2020canada.ca/the-pathway>



"The time is right for all Canadians to embrace a collaborative approach to biodiversity conservation— one that recognizes the integral role of Indigenous Peoples as leaders in conservation, and respects the rights, responsibilities, and priorities of First Nations, Inuit and Metis Peoples."

FNLC — 2021 moving forward

- Organizational **change** from inside, aligning FN principles with GBA initiatives
- Communicate to membership on how to be **Guardians** by Protecting and Conserving their own land and water
- Remind membership of collective **responsibilities** to Indigenous People from UN and Canadian initiatives



Food For Thought

- Do you have any new ideas or information on any of the topics covered?
- Are there other issues that GBA should be focusing on?

