



SPRING 2024 NEWSLETTER

CCA BOARD

President - Sue Carter

Vice President - Kara Hunter

Past President - Tom

Halpenny

Treasurer - Andrew Carr

Secretary - Meagan Carney

Membership - Vacant

Communications -

Matthew Hawley

Rec. Program - Jenna Lynde

Services - Cam Allen & Jim

Bowden

Technology - James Maynard

Community Events - Nancy

Bennett

Municipal Affairs - Gregg

Badger

GBA Representative - David

Matthews

GBA Representative - Rolfe
Jones

Planning - Marc Kemerer

Environment - Jack Giroux

Cottager - Barb Russell

Members at large:

Laura Jarvis

Catherine Gillespie

President's Message

As the days grow longer and begin to warm up, I am pleased to welcome our members back to another cottage season on the Bay. This season marks a time of renewal, growth, and the promise of countless memories waiting to be made among friends and family.

Over the winter months your Board has been busy with membership rate review and renewals, ongoing bylaw reviews and updates for compliance of ONCA, planning and hiring of Recreation program staff, our annual Cottager preparation and printing and of course the planning of our annual community events. New this year is an Environmental Day planned for young and old. You will hear more about that event from Jack Giroux and Nancy Bennett. Included in the spring mailing will be our summer calendar. Please be sure to make note of these dates.

Also included in the spring mailing is the always anticipated Cottager full of stories, news and pictures of the summer, contributed by many of our community members. I would like to take this opportunity to thank once again, Barb Russell for taking on the responsibility of gathering, organizing and editing our treasured annual publication. It is no small task and Barb does a brilliant job of putting it all together for us. A thank you as well to our Cottager advertisers. Let's support them where we can!

Another date to make note of is our Annual Meeting of Members on Saturday, July 6, 2024 at the Cognashene Community Church on the Freddy Channel. This is your chance to have your voice heard, learn about upcoming projects and events, and elect new board members. If you're interested in running for a position or joining a committee, please reach out to the board for more

information.

I would like to mention that registration for this summer's Rec program opened up April 1st. The staff has been hired and is eagerly awaiting the return of campers to the beach. I encourage everyone to sign up as soon as you know your summer plans. There is another great program ahead including the addition of sailing one day a week! Don't be disappointed, ensure your place on the beach! We extend our thanks and gratitude to Jenna Lynde, our Recreation Director who has poured so much of her time and energy into delivering a tremendous program each summer. Our community thrives on the active participation of its members. Whether you have ideas for events, skills to contribute, or simply want to lend a helping hand, we encourage you to get involved. Thank you for your continued support of our association. See you on the Bay!

Sue Carter
CCA President

Past President's Note

My experience and perspective of being a CCA Board member.

My entrance onto the Board of directors of the CCA was at the annual meeting in July 2017. Bob Snider presented the new board members but there was a vacancy in services. Feeling that I would be a good candidate to fill the role I decided to put my name forward. I spoke to Bob after the meeting and of course I was welcomed, as any volunteer is at the CCA, with open arms. I was not sure exactly what the portfolio included so I started to ask questions. After a while I realized that what the best thing to do was to take on things that made sense and benefited the members. Quickly my thoughts went to the fire pumps and winter patrol. The winter patrol was then handled by Brian Neely who gladly handed me the file as his term on the Board was complete.

For the next two years I spent helping Dennis Robitaille deal with many different issues as we slowly improved the software and hardware that we used. That experience I relished as I learned a lot, succeeded in getting things working better but most importantly I gained a solid friendship with Dennis. That friendship was the reward from all the hard work and beats getting a trophy. This is perfect example of how better life becomes when you join the CCA Board.

As well as gaining Dennis as a friend I gained friendships with all of the other Board members which broadened my social circle and increased my knowledge of the Cognashene Area. The fire pumps, I learned, are not the responsibility of CCA. Thus, it became more of a reporting function than a management piece of the portfolio. The Township of Georgian Bay fire department was very open with information and always wanted to get CCA's opinion if there were changes or upgrades to be considered.

One of the pieces of the portfolio that I took on was dealing with the District of Muskoka to get garbage barges available to CCA members during the summer. To facilitate this, I found that communication directly with the District staff was the best approach. There were a few logistic challenges but in the end the barges are back visiting our community sporadically. Covid took the rhythm out of the yearly cadence. It was frustrating that there was not more use of the garbage barges partly because our membership only penetrates to around 40 to 50% of the taxpayers in the Cognashene community and the District did little to advertise to the tax payers about the service. This just emphasized to me why all cottagers in the community should be CCA members. During my time as services director, I was being watched by the President and Past President. They were in stealth mode in the background. Once I had proven my dedication, they quietly approached me to take over from Bob as President. I gladly accepted but was too busy at the time,

so Bob stayed on for another year. In July 2019 at the AGM I was passed the baton from Bob. I was glad that they asked me and did not regret it at all.

One of the perks of being President of the CCA is that you draw a lot of attention from members who have questions, politicians looking for input, other organizations wanting to collaborate and of course lots of parties and meetings. It opened up new avenues of people to meet and get to know for both Beth and me. I will say that I did not make all the right decisions and I learned from my mistakes. One thing special about the CCA board members is they will have your back if you lean the wrong way or mistakenly say the wrong thing. Being the CCA President is a very good experience for people who want to learn about the skills needed to lead. In the end I felt that I made a positive contribution to the CCA and the community and I recommend others consider becoming part of the volunteers that run our association.

A lot of my time as President was during COVID . The problems we had to deal with were different, but it developed interesting problems that we had to solve. Unfortunately, we had to cancel in person meetings, recreational programs, annual meetings and a few other things. We had to pave new ground which brought challenges that we all solved together.

My parting thoughts are that we should all encourage our children and young adults to volunteer as CCA Board members. It really does not take a lot of time investment and the pay off is more knowledge, more friends and the gain of self esteem by doing something for the good of our community and protection of the fragile natural environment we use.

Cheers see you soon.

Tom Halpenny
CCA Past President

Recreation Program

We are very excited to announce the return of the Cognashene Cottagers Recreation Program for the Summer of 2024. Our staff have been working hard to plan an excellent and engaging summer program for the families of Cognashene and surrounding communities.

This summer we welcome back Sophie Hilliard as our Head of Program. She will be working with Nathalie, Swimming Lead Instructor, and Lucas, Watersports Lead Instructor, to plan, execute and deliver programming in collaboration with our talented staff - Katie, Allison W, Sedona, Eileen and Nora. We also welcome Maddie, Neve, Maeve and Alison M who will be supporting us as volunteers this summer.

This year the Recreation Program will run Lifesaving Society Swimming Lessons, Watersports, Y.P.O.C, Camp Cognashene and Cognashene Kinders. Additionally we are thrilled to re-introduce a **dedicated sailing program** for our senior campers on Tuesday afternoons. While this program is not CANSail accredited we hope it will allow our campers the opportunity to learn the basics of sailing small recreational craft and give them the confidence to participate in the Ryestone Cup. There will also be two canoe trips this summer. One in July for our younger campers (age 7 -9 years) and one in August for our most senior campers (age 10 – 13 years). Please refer to the Recreation Program Calendar on our website for the specific dates/weeks that these trips are scheduled to occur.

Registration for the Recreation Program is open and accessible via the CCA Website (<https://www.cognashene.com/>). We offer programming for two main age categories. Please see the list below

to see what programs are available for what age of campers.

Kinders & Juniors (infants to 6 years old)

*must have completed Grade 1

- Swimming Lessons
- Cognashene Kinders

Senior Camper (Age 7 - 13 years old)

*entering Grade 2

- Swimming Lessons
- Sailing
- Watersports
- Camp Cognashene
- Y.P.O.C (ONLY ages 10 – 13)
- Canoe Trips

We are asking that registrations are completed by Sunday June 9th, 2024 so that staff have ample time to review the list of participants, purchase supplies and finalize lesson times for swimming.

All specific program information and descriptions for the CCA Summer Recreation Program is hosted on our website: sites.google.com/view/cca-rec-program/home

We encourage families to bookmark the Recreation Program website as well as follow us on our social media channels for up-to-date information and announcements.

The CCA Recreation Program will be continuing our partnership with Georgian Bay Public Libraries TD Summer Reading Program. Please see the blurb below regarding how to sign up your children (and yourself) for this excellent literacy boost this summer!

Recreation Program Website: sites.google.com/view/cca-rec-program/home

Instagram: @cogrecreation

Facebook: Cognashene Recreation Program

TD Summer Reading Program

The CCA Recreation Program is continuing our partnership with the Georgian Bay Public Library (GBPL) to support summer literacy for our community. Campers in the CCA Rec Program will be able to pick-up and drop-off pre-packaged/customized reading materials from Arthur Beach throughout the summer on a bi-weekly basis.

The joy of arriving to the swim beach and receiving a hand-selected/customized package of books was a big hit for campers who participated last summer.

Summer 2024 Pick Up/Drop Off Dates from Arthur Beach:

- Wednesday July 3 – Friday July 12
- Monday July 15 – Friday July 26
- Monday July 29 – Friday August 9
- Monday August 12 – Friday August 23

Registered campers and their families will be able to visit and access the GBPL independently at any time if these dates do not work for you.

Campers who participate in the program will have their progress tracked and shared with the GBPL so that they will be entered into the raffles and draws at the GBPL at the end of the summer.

How to Register in FIVE EASY STEPS:

Step 1: Ensure you have a GBPL Library Card (FREE).

Step 2: Sign up for the GBPL TD Summer Reading Program.

Step 3: Let the CCA Rec Program know you have registered so we can facilitate book pick-up and drop-off.

Step 4: Pick Up Books from Arthur Beach (on pre-determined dates - see above) or manage yourself as a family.

Step 5: READ!

(Step-by-step instructions and live links can all be found on the Recreation Program Website under the heading TD Summer Reading Program)

REGISTER NOW: SAILING PROGRAM

Tuesday: 1:00-3:30pm (Weeks 2 - 7 only) @Arthur Beach

The CCA Sailing program is an **add-on** to our regular weekly programming. Senior Campers (age 7 and up) can sign up to participate in this weekly program on Tuesday afternoons at Arthur Beach. There is an additional charge of \$40.00 per week for this program.

Campers will learn the basics of sailing Laser PICO's. This will involve learning the following basic sailing skills:

- common sailing knots;
- wind and weather awareness;
- boating rules (including right of way, boating safety, and parts of the boat);
- how to rig a sail boat;
- positioning in the boat;
- capsizing and righting a sail boat; and
- sailing at points of sail

Campers should come to this program prepared to get wet while on the water. There will be a dryland and on-water component to all sessions.

Please Note: we are not a CanSail (Sailing Canada) certified program. This program is intended to teach campers the basic fundamentals of sailing small recreational craft in local waters and encourage participation in the Rystone Cup and recreational sailing on Georgian Bay.

Jenna Lynde
Rec Program Director

ENVIRONMENT DAY

SATURDAY, AUG 17, 2024

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ARTIST ISLAND (E08)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DAVID BYWATER

DIRECTOR OF LANDS AND WATERS PROGRAM - GEORGIAN BAY BIOSPHERE

WITH SUPPORT FROM



**GEORGIAN BAY
FOREVER**



**Parks
Canada**

**Parcs
Canada**

You are invited to Environment Day on Saturday, August 17th. Join us for an afternoon of fun on Artist Island as we explore the most important environmental issues facing our community. Come learn from our amazing community partners and find out what they are doing to protect the bay.

A Call to Action

There are three CCA Board positions open, or will be open in the coming months. Please review the positions, roles & responsibilities and email pastpresident@cognashene.com to submit your application.

Membership Director

Description

- Supports and grows CCA membership
- Promotes the benefits of CCA membership to members and encourages non-members to join.
Primary contact for new members and all member inquiries.

Responsibilities

- First point of contact for new membership inquiries
- Sets up new member applications in CCA database
- Assists members with database updates as required
- Reports key membership metrics and trends to the Board
- Manages the annual membership renewal process beginning each November, monitors renewals and sends out renewal reminders
- Liaises with the Treasurer to track renewals in the membership database, reconcile membership inquiries, and resolve issues with renewals/new members
- Answers queries, provides information, and maintains the membership records.
- Assembles and distributes new member packages
- Liaise with other Directors to improve the membership experience and help to promote membership loyalty.

Time Commitment

- Prepare CCA Membership renewal e-blast campaign every November
- Attendance at 2 in person and 4 telephone CCA Board meetings plus AGM
- Membership submissions for CCA Newsletters, the Annual Report and the "Cottager"
- Responds to member inquiries in a timely manner (year-round).

Qualifications

- Passion for Cognashene and Georgian Bay
- Member of the CCA
- Experience with Excel/spreadsheet to sort, track, analyze and report key metrics from the membership database

Secretary

Description

- Records and maintains minutes, motions and official records of the CCA

Responsibilities

- Attends all CCA meetings and records minutes
- Maintains a motions database
- Provides draft minutes and action items to the President in advance of next meeting
- Arranges the Board agenda and distributes ahead of meetings
- Provides guidance and advises on Board governance
- Responsible for maintaining all official records of CCA
- Other duties as assigned by President

Time Commitment

- Attendance at 2 in person and 4 telephone CCA Board meetings plus AGM

- Preparation of minutes after each meeting
- Preparation of Board agendas
- Recording minutes at the Annual General Meeting

Qualifications

- Passion for Cognashene and Georgian Bay
- Member of the CCA
- Previous organizational, meeting management experience an asset

Treasurer

Description

- Monitors the financial status and sustainability of the CCA and administers cash inflow/outflow activities on behalf of the CCA

Responsibilities

- Administers the collection of membership fees, Recreation Program fees, donations, and any other payments made to the Association
- Reconciles membership fees collected and uploads payment confirmation to the CCA membership database regularly to maintain up-to-date membership numbers
- Works with Membership Director to resolve issues with renewals/new members fee collection.
- Liaises with Membership Director, Vice President and President for annual review of membership rates for rate recommendations to the Board for the upcoming year
- Administers the payment of expenses incurred for, or on behalf, of the association
- Develops financial budgets for Board approval; tracks and communicates variances to budget to the Board
- Works with Director of Recreation Program to administer the payroll of 7-10 summer employees and resolve any issues with recreation program fee collection
- Liaises with external government parties (CRA, WSIB, etc.) on any association matters
- Administers all book-keeping of transactions in accounting software to generate annual financial statements
- Coordinates a review of the financial statements by appropriate third party and provides any required supporting documentation/explanations required

Time Commitment

- Attendance at 2 in person and 4 telephone CCA Board meetings plus AGM
- 5-10 hours in Dec/Jan for organizing financial statement package for reviewer
- 3-10 hours monthly for on-going cash tracking responsibilities, bookkeeping, and membership data uploads (Busier in Nov/Dec, June-September)

Qualifications

- Passion for Cognashene and Georgian Bay
- Member of the CCA
- Proficiency in Accounting and Bookkeeping
- Proficiency with Microsoft Excel

Membership

Hello Fellow Cottagers, Spring is here with cottage season underway, early I might add, and summer fun in Cognashene is around the corner!

Update on Membership

The membership base continues to be strong at close to 400 members. Growing our membership is valuable to our cottaging community. You can help spread the word about the impact you can have and the benefits you and the community enjoy by being a member. There are paths to becoming a CCA member, including an Associate membership. Many of our community member properties are shared by multiple generations of families. Associate memberships are for those who use a cottage owned by a Full member. An Associate membership offers the same benefits as a Full membership, except the winter patrol is for Full members only.

The CCA provides benefits to its members:

- Three post-season winter cottage patrol visits with email confirmation (Full members only)
- Annual Cognashene Cottager publication
- Member-only quarterly newsletter information and in-season email updates to keep you informed
- Inclusion in the Membership Directory publication and inclusion on the CCA community map
- Member-only access to the CCA website
- Fun community events such as the Regatta, Long Distance Swim, and Art on the Rocks
- Membership includes a Georgian Bay Association membership

CCA membership provides benefits to our community:

- Advocacy in areas such as taxation, water quality levels and the environment.
- Environmental stewardship and supporting organizations like Georgian Bay Forever
- Active representation with government on important issues including planning applications and amendments to the Official Plan and the Comprehensive Zoning By-law
- Community fire pumps and coordinating the large garbage pick-up
- Recreation Program special member rate (fee service with membership discount rate) With the summer season ahead, there is still time to apply for an Associate membership. For Full Members, an Associate membership can make a great gift for your adult children and relatives. Please visit the membership section of the CCA website to find the membership application form.

CCA Membership Who we are

Membership is long-term, with the majority of memberships over 10 years and half of memberships exceeding 25 years. Many of our members spend considerable time at the cottage with half spending at least 60 days over the season. Our members have indicated the most important benefits centre around the collective needs of the community, notably the winter patrol, other services, and municipal affairs. CCA publications stand out as a valued benefit, including the cottage map, directory and Cottager. These are extremely important communication tools and our members have expressed a keen interest in these communications. We believe that the benefits of membership and the social aspect, including the Recreation Program and events, will continue to expand. Programs and events geared at bringing people together, especially young people, are an important way to build cottage connections and build memories, in turn fostering a sense of belonging in Cognashene and building the next generation of CCA members.

In summary, the CCA provides essential leadership, stewardship and coordination for the community and delivers benefits that are valued by members.

Update on the CCA Recreation Program

The CCA Recreation Program is a terrific program and is a fantastic community resource. For decades, the Recreation Program has been providing opportunities for the younger and teenage members of our community to build friendships and develop a love and respect for our small part of Georgian Bay. In order to meet the anticipated demand, the Program has nine paid staff and several beach volunteers. The Program has qualified swim instructors from Parent & Tot to Bronze levels. There are water-sports and boating, canoeing, kayaking and more. Y.P.O.C. - Young People of Cognashene is MEMBERSHIP - Continued for senior campers to explore the best swim spots and hang-outs in Cognashene, as well as Camp Cognashene for fun on the beach with friends. At Cognashene Kinders junior campers do fun arts and crafts projects with story and snack time. There is an offering for everyone and encourage you to take advantage of it!

New Members - 2024

We are pleased to introduce our new members below and welcome back prior members who have rejoined.

Ben and Robyn Kungl

Barrie and Saengdao Otton

Robert Archambault and Jane Shaw Archambault

Scott and Bethany Murray

Dan Pinault and Carrie Anderson

Cam Allen and Nikki Mills

Tim Breithaupt and David Hinton

Don Cameron and Paula Anderson

Kate and Rob Ballantyne

Tristana and Johnny Reid

Dr. Gordon and Dr. Heather Crabtree

Dr. Christina Crabtree-Ide and Michael Ide

Bruce Johnstone

Dave Murray

Angela and John Petro

Volunteer Opportunities – A Fun Way to Get Involved! We find that over a quarter of our members would like to volunteer! If you are a current or past volunteer and would like to do more, or have not yet volunteered, please reach out to me or anyone on the Board. Keep an eye out for volunteer opportunities such as Recreation Program Beach Winter Clean-Up (helpers of all ages), Long Distance Swim (registration and boat patrol), Regatta (pre-event set-up, raffle contributions, baking, start and finish line helpers and more), Art on the Rocks (boat jitney drivers).

Membership

Municipal Affairs

Greetings all. You will soon receive your tax bills, reflecting a 6% increase from last year. While TGB Council is being diligent so far about keeping to Budget, they have not come back to us with an official response to our letters (which can be found on the CCA website). We continue to hope that our local councilors, once summer is upon us, will take opportunities to hear from our membership about the budgeting and reporting process, the services we value, and how the TGB will help eliminate future tax increases and come up with ways to make TGB's budgets more sustainable going forward.

Marina bin sites has come up a lot at Council and it does not appear that an acceptable solution is forthcoming, despite TGB efforts. The Province, through the District of Muskoka, is being insistent on having manned, approved Waste Depot Sites. Efforts continue, but hope is fading that Bin Sites will be not be gone as of Fall, 2026. The District has undertaken to cost out some options for TGB, but most will likely involve increased TGB costs and a system that is far less convenient than what we enjoy today.

In an effort to be more fiscally responsible as a municipality, at least in terms of cost recovery, the TGB enacted By-Law 2024-004 in February. This takes the fine and penalty system from the Provincial Offences Act (a judicial process) to the Administrative Monetary Penalty System ("AMPS") which means the TGB can impose fees and penalties for by-law infractions on their own, with limited rights of appeal. This is consistent with what many other municipalities do. These fees and penalties can apply to anything a by-law covers, from dog tags to short term rentals, noise, parking tickets and Property Standards. Scheduled fees look to be more or less reasonable at the outset, but AMPS is new to us and it remains to be seen how its administration will work, and whether the fees imposed for various infractions are indeed reasonable to taxpayers. Any feedback on this as it is implemented would be welcome.

In terms of the Short-Term Rental By-law, for example, of some 217 offerings (on AirBnb, VRBO etc.) only 6 have registered as of early April. Whether there will be fines for non-compliance, or the registration fees simply collected through property taxes remains to be seen. An accommodation tax on rentals is anticipated to be in place this summer.

On a lighter note, Pickle Ball lessons will be offered to the community by Taylor Pickleball Academy on municipal courts. And an off-leash dog park has been approved at the Baxter Ward Community Centre, so on our way in and out, we can let our dogs out for a run!

If you are interested in what is going on at TGB please see Council Connect on the TGB Website under Township Hall. <https://www.gbtownship.ca/en/township-hall/council-connect.aspx>. The TGB Website also has a host of information, including Frequently Requested By-laws.

Any comments or questions can be directed to MUNICIPALAFFAIRS@COGNASHENE.COM. All best to everyone for a happy and healthy summer!

Gregg Badger
Municipal Affairs Director

Regatta & Long Distance Swim

Long Distance Swim: Saturday, July 27th 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. on Portage Island (M69) Start at Rob and Val Thompson's dock. Remember, each swimmer must be accompanied by a competent support person operating a non-motorized vessel - kayaks, paddleboards, canoes or floatation devices. A big Thank You to the Thompsons for their docks and shoreline and to John Visser and David Hopper for their much-needed turn-around dock.

The 99th Annual Cognashene Regatta: Saturday, August 3rd 12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. on Townsend Islands (E21,22,23,24) A big Thank You once again to the Endress, Davis and Kohler families for allowing us the use of their properties for the event.

If you'd like to volunteer to help with the regatta or long distance swim, please email Carolyn Wilson at carwilson41@gmail.com

Raffle contributions for the Regatta Raffle are greatly appreciated. Proceeds from raffle tickets are used to buy supplies to support the recreation program. As you are getting ready to head to the cottage over the coming weeks, please consider items for donation. Smaller items will be combined with other donations so please don't worry if it is too small. Ideally, we'd like all of the prizes/baskets/contributions finalized by July 27th. To donate and coordinate drop-off or pick-up, contact Annie Nicholls at annie.nicholls1493@gmail.com.

Trophies from past years: if you have one, please have it engraved and bring it to Carolyn Wilson (Whalen's Island) or to the Recreation staff in July.

Annie Nicholls
CCA Regatta

Services

Finally, spring has arrived in Cognashene and I, as I am sure you all are as well, am thrilled to be back at the cottage for another season.

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, Scott Murray did a tremendous job in his inaugural year as CCA patroller, despite the inclement weather. As you can imagine, ice conditions were quite dangerous for most of the year but somehow, he was able to complete (3) patrols for each member!

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, we have redesigned and updated the CCA member map for the 2023 season. Those maps have been printed and will be available at Jim Bowden's boathouse from now, through until Labour Day. Please call or text Jim at 705.627.7891 prior to dropping by. These large format maps are available to full and associate CCA members as part of their membership benefits.

We look forward to seeing you all at our AMM July 6th.

Cam Allen
Services Director

Cognashene Church

We have a full church "season" lined up. Every Sunday at 10:30 at the church on the rocks.

Our service on Sunday, 28 July (Art on the Rocks) is a shorter service and will be a Christmas carol service.

Kiddie crafts at every service.

You can volunteer helping with boats arriving and leaving, with nametags, with lemonade, or with kid crafts. Email cognashenechurch@gmail.com

Nancy Setchell
Cognashene Church

Art On The Rocks

JULY 28 12-4:30

This event continues to astound people with the quality and quantity of the art presented as well as the quantity of the visitors. It has become one of the largest and most diverse community events in the area. Some cottagers and boaters come to support the artists, others come to browse and others come just to visit with their island neighbors. Some people are looking for a one of a kind wedding present or something unique to add to the cottage décor. Well over 900 people attend each year, which is astounding. It is great to have a mix of local cottagers and boaters.

If you never have had the chance to come and enjoy the show, it takes place on the "inside" of Maxwell Island (M42 on Cognashene map or GPS 44°55'17.7" N 79°55'00.1" W), as you go North on the main channel towards Cognashene and Go Home, it is obvious on your left shortly after the channel narrows, near where the old Whalens store was many years ago.

We still have room for additional creative artists and artisans. One of the goals each year is to attract new talented artists, which keeps the event growing stronger and more exciting. The CCA board and the organizers of AOTR decided this year to concentrate on artists who can provide their own transportation. There are an incredible number of very talented artists and artisans who either cottage or boat in the area as well as those who are friends of community members. We can arrange free car parking in the harbour.

If you are interested in participating or know someone who is a talented artist, please contact Catherine Gillespie (text or call 716.517.0855) or AOTR@COGNASHENE.COM. the cost to participate is \$95. OR YOU CAN GO TO you can go to Cognashene.com events page and complete the ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM.

The young people of Cognashene are an integral part of the event. Visitors and artists can anchor their boats while the youth run a free jitney service in their "tinnies" to and from the dock. They ably navigate around anchored boats and rescue boats which are not anchored securely and assist people dropping off at the dock. The CCA Rec program kids provide lots of pop and drinks on the hot summer day. The young people are definitely one of the things that makes the show work year after year. We are still looking for some folks to come forward to do the jitney driving. Please contact aotr@cognashene.com if you or your 13 plus family member is interested.

Catherine Gillespie
CCA Member at Large



Georgian Bay Biosphere Water Quality Note



Ways our Water is Changing

Good water quality is essential for ecosystem health and human enjoyment. Without clean water, aquatic food webs suffer and many of our favourite summer activities are compromised. In 2004, Georgian Bay Biosphere (GBB) was recognized by UNESCO as a globally ecologically significant region with the potential to promote sustainable development – striving for “a balance between people and nature” and the potential to coordinate conservation efforts along the coast.

As the largest freshwater archipelago in the world, monitoring water quality and sharing key issues and threats to Georgian Bay is a big part of our work. Since 2013, we have been involved in supporting and reporting on various indicators of water quality. In 2023, we tested water quality at 22 sites across the Biosphere region to better understand trends and changes.

Our State of the Bay ecosystem health program began in 2008 as a way to gather the best available research about water, wetlands, fisheries, and habitats in this unique landscape and share trends and recommendations with those who want to take action. As part of the program, we hold conferences and workshops along the coast, deliver classroom lessons, and release a magazine every five years.

In 2023, we released our third edition of State of the Bay – both the technical report and the public magazine - to provide an overview of the health of eastern Georgian Bay, share information about key issues and threats, and weave Anishinaabek perspectives throughout.

The latest edition detailed numerous changes observed in the waters of Georgian Bay and inland lakes in the last several decades. Here is a summary of three notable changes.

1. Decline in offshore total phosphorus concentrations. The nutrient phosphorus is the foundation of life in the waters of Georgian Bay and inland lakes. Phosphorus feeds the smallest organisms (e.g., algae) which in turn feed zooplankton, prey fish, and predator fish.

In the deep offshore waters of Georgian Bay, phosphorus levels have naturally been low. However, long-term trends show significant total phosphorus (TP) declines, with the most dramatic declines observed since the mid- to late-1990s. This decline is believed to be linked, in part, to the introduction of invasive zebra and quagga mussels.

TP concentrations have since levelled out at around two micrograms per litre, but this low-nutrient environment means the offshore waters of Georgian Bay can no longer support the same abundance and diversity of species they once did.

2. Water level fluctuations. The past 20 years have brought record highs (2020) and lows (2013) in Georgian Bay water levels. Seasonal and annual water level fluctuations are a normal part of life on the Bay and are important for maintaining healthy coastal wetlands and biodiversity. However, sustained extreme high or low water levels can have negative impacts on some habitats

and species, not to mention shoreline properties.

Environment and Climate Change Canada recently conducted an extensive study to better understand the resiliency of Great Lakes coastal wetlands to changes brought on by the impacts of climate change, including varying water levels. In general, the study found that wetlands in eastern Georgian Bay showed greater vulnerability to the effects of climate change under higher water levels when compared to the same wetlands under more stable or lower water levels. Many climate change scenarios for the Great Lakes predict “higher highs” and “lower lows” in terms of potentially an increasing range in the fluctuating lake levels.

3. Increasing chloride levels. Chloride levels measured in Ontario waterbodies near or downstream of areas of road salt application (winter-maintained roads, residential areas, near businesses) are rising.

In the Muskoka River Watershed, which empties into Georgian Bay, eight locations were sampled monthly for one year in 1983 and again 35 years later. The sampling locations range from areas high in the watershed with less development and roads, to the lower, more developed end of the watershed. The results show that as you move downstream through the watershed, chloride and sodium levels increase. While other indicators of water quality have improved over the last 35 years, chloride levels have almost doubled in the lower, more developed reaches of the watershed. Similarly, chloride levels in undeveloped lakes have fallen, whereas in developed lakes with nearby winter-maintained roads, chloride levels have increased.

Read the magazine to understand the changes scientists and communities have observed, what Indigenous perspectives can help us learn, and how you can get involved in local stewardship efforts. Find it online at stateofthebay.ca or free throughout the region.

To become a Biosphere member, make a 20th anniversary donation, or learn about upcoming events, click [HERE](#) or visit georgianbaybiosphere.com

Submitted by:

Katrina Krievins, MSc.
Aquatic Conservation Programs Manager
Georgian Bay Biosphere

CCA COMMUNITY BULLETIN

FREE LASER SAILBOAT - some work required

I have a Laser sailboat that has been under our cottage for many years that is available for free to a good home. Sailboat includes mast, standard-sized sail, rudder, tiller, centreboard and fittings. However, the deck has delaminated from the hull around the cockpit drain hole so this would need to be repaired to make the boat sailable. BoatLocker.com lists a copper "Cockpit Bushing Assembly" for 30 USD that should correct this leak. IntensitySails.com also lists the same part for 27 USD. The bushing connects the cockpit to the bottom of the boat. Use silicone sealant when placing the bushing.

If interested phone or text Frank Hedley in Cognashene Lake, Island 100 at 236-655-6648.

14' Springbok aluminum fishing boat/ 9.9hp 2 stroke Johnson outboard motor/ approx 25' 2 piece aluminum roller ramp with winch

The boat and motor are 35+ years old and were purchased new by me . Neither has given any trouble. The boat has never leaked water and has never been in an accident. The motor has been regularly serviced annually by mechanics and has worked well. The motor is currently stored at the HHBC. The roller ramp was purchased new by me 6+ years ago and is in good condition.

The boat and roller ramp are now outside out of water at our Penetang home and the motor is in marina storage. All are available for inspection. Included are the gas tank, 2 oars, 4 seat cushions, lines, bumpers, motor lock and anchor.

We no longer need these items and I'd like to sell them as a package for **\$2500**

Please contact me by email or phone 705 549 3224 if you know anyone interested. - Doug French



1963 Bertram Sport Convertible 25'

1963 Bertram twin cruiser known for its safety and stability in big water. Built for the waters off the Florida coast, this boat has been a Georgian Bay islander for the past 10 years. The owner wants to downsize as he is now in retirement.

New 135hp, 3.0 MerCruiser TKS twin engines, outputting 270 HP with Alpha I/O drives, installed in 2015. New gauges, blower, bilge pump, canvas top and seats, installed in 2016. Dual, 200 litre fuel tanks, scuppers, large Garmin GPS EchoMap 65, Eclipse ship-to-shore radio with DSC and dual 12 volt batteries. Minimal seating allows for lots of hauling space or some additional seating. Very spacious.

Full marine survey available from 2017, along with all restoration, engine, and technical documentation.

On the hard at Hewitt Marine Services for viewing. Please contact Jamie Hewitt for further information at 705.756.2785. Asking \$40,000.00 CDN.

